



Saint Paul's Possibilities

February 20, 2026

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

Wednesday evening, 50 or more of us began a journey together—a journey to explore what recalculating our lives to Jesus' way of living looks like. We acknowledged that sometimes we lose our way, that we need honest redirection, and that God loves us enough to say, "There's a better path. Let me show you." We talked about the internal work of transformation—the kind that happens between you and God, not for an audience, but in the quiet, sacred space of your own heart.

And if you're wondering, "How do I actually do that?" "Where do I start?"—I want to offer you something.

Some time ago, one of you in our Bible or Book Study group shared a book with us: "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill. In it, Merrill has rewritten each of the Psalms as a prayer—intimate, honest, deeply personal. This past Wednesday, I used her version of Psalm 51, one of the traditional Ash Wednesday readings, and it touched my heart in a way I wasn't expecting. It continues to tug at me. It's becoming something I'm praying daily during my Lenten studies.

Why Psalm 51? Because it's the prayer of someone who's willing to be honest. It doesn't pretend. It doesn't perform. It simply asks God for help—for a clean heart, for transformation, for the courage to face what's broken and ask for what we can't do alone. For me, it's the perfect companion for the internal recalculation we're doing together.

I want to share it with you now:

Psalm 51 (Psalms for Praying, N. Merrill)

"Have mercy on me. O Gracious One, according to your steadfast love. According to Your abundant kindness, forgive me where my thoughts and deeds have hurt others. Lead me in the paths of justice, guide my steps on the paths of peace! Teach me, that I may know my weaknesses, the shortcomings that bind me, the unloving ways that separate me, that keep me from recognizing Your life in me. For, I keep company with fear, and dwell in the house of ignorance. Yet, I was brought forth in love, and love is my birthright. You have placed Your Truth in my inner being; Therefore, teach me the wisdom of the heart.

Forgive all that binds me in fear, that I might radiate love; cleanse me that Your Light might shine in me.

Fill me with gladness; help me to transform weakness into strength. Look not on my past mistakes but on the aspirations of my heart. Create in me a clean heart, O Gracious One, and put a new and right spirit in me. Enfold me in the arms of Love and fill me with the Holy Spirit. Restore in me the joy of Your saving grace and encourage me with a new spirit. Then I will teach others Your ways and prisoners of fear will return to You.

Deliver me from the addictions of society, most Gracious One. O keep me from temptations that I may tell of Your justice and mercy. O Gracious One, open my lips and my mouth shall sing forth Your praise. For You do not want sacrifice. You delight in our friendship with You. A sacrifice most appropriate is a humble spirit, a repentant and contrite heart, O Merciful One, is the gift You most desire.

Please Pray for

Linda Beaver

James Bowman

Carol Engle

Traci Eschbach

Robin Huffman

Dick Knobel

Randy Kessler

Katy Mahon

Chuck Schworer

Greg Seibert

Tommy Ward

Barclay Wilson

Unspoken Requests

Updates to our Prayer List are made by calling the church office, filling out a prayer request card located in our sanctuary, or by posting on our prayers and love FB page.

Let the nations turn from war and encourage one another as good neighbors. O Most Gracious and Compassionate Friend, melt our hearts of stone, Break through the fears that lead us into darkness, and Guide our steps into the way of peace."

Here's my invitation to you: not to do everything, but to do this one thing deeply. Each day of Lent, spend 5-10 minutes with this prayer. Read it slowly. Let it work on you. Let it ask you the hard questions. Let it remind you of God's love. This is the internal recalculation—the honest reckoning—I talked about Wednesday night.

I'm praying it daily. It's tugging at my heart in ways I didn't expect. I'd love for it to be your companion too—not as a checklist, but as a genuine pause to ask: Where am I? Where am I being called? Will you spend just a few moments the next 40 days and pray this Psalm with me?



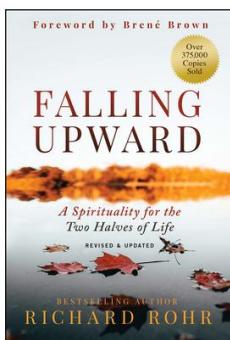
Peace and Blessings for the Journey, Pastor Tim

The Farm Report



Our Love Offering to the World.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) campaign collection begins today! Grab your coin boxes and let's collect change to change the world! There is an old saying that to the world it may not seem like much, but to one person what you do may mean the world. To flood victims who are fed from these funds, to victims of wild fires who may need shelter or clothes, to ones who don't have clean drinking water and need a well dug, your change can change their lives. Pick up your coin boxes today. We will collect them in five short weeks on Palm Sunday morning. Thank you for helping us help our neighbors in this way as we join other congregations and denominations to raise funds for One Great Hour of Sharing.



Falling Upward: A Reflective Lenten Book Study. Over four weeks this Lenten season, we'll journey together through Richard Rohr's insights on how heartbreak, disappointment, and failure aren't obstacles to spiritual growth—they're gateways to it. We'll rediscover the wisdom of our inner child. We'll embrace our "shadow-self" as a teacher. We'll learn to mirror our God-self in thought and action. And we'll do it together, in community beginning March 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room. As Chaplain Kate says, "Father Rohr has a way of writing simply and prophetically, both at the same time and in this century." Join us March 4, 11, 18, and 25. Come early for tea, bring your beautiful heart, and let's explore this together.

Upcoming Worship

February 22 ~ First Sunday of Lent
"More Doing"

Matthew 5:43-48

Worship Leader: Drew Faust

Lector: Frank Wetzel

Acolyte: Emerson Counsil

Kitchen Coordinator: Kathy Showers

Breakfast Sponsor: Barb Wagner

Flower Sponsor: Available

Offering Counter: K. Showers, D. Spear

March Usher/Greeter Team: Earl & Terri Fisher, Sue Mahon, Amy Mahon, Carol Oberlin, Steve Brown, Bob Gift, George Mull, Shelly Sholley

March 1 ~ Second Sunday of Lent
"A Lasting Legacy"

John 15:12-17

Worship Leader: Kelly Kazibwe

Lector: Christine Parker

Acolyte: Nelle Parker

Kitchen Coordinator: Kathy Showers

Breakfast Sponsor: Parker Family

Flower Sponsor: Available

Offering Counter: P. Emory, D. Spear

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...

Diana Longan - 2/22

Piper Stahl - 2/22

Priscilla Lanks - 2/28



Happy Anniversary to ...

Jane Rowe & Michael Humphrey - 2/22

Richard & Amy Armstrong - 2/26

Mark & Dianne Covert - 2/28

Please check out
the current needs
for our little red
wagon mission
assistance ...
listed on page 4.



Words of Thanks! A huge thank you to Gloria Lehman and team, including Jon Hagan and Mark Neilson, along with Chip Palazzo and kitchen crew helpers all, for making this year's—our 10th Annual—Spaghetti, Meat Balls and Talent Show such a great success! Dinner was fabulous, the desserts were almost as sweet as all the talent, ten acts to be exact and a great "Cruise Ship" theme led by our own Captain TeNiel! If you weren't one of the thousands to watch it already online you can check it out on YouTube or on our Facebook page and start planning now for your talent next year when the event will take place on Sunday, February 7, 2027!



Stay Connected: Follow Saint Paul's on Instagram. Have you followed us yet? Find us at @saintpaulsfarm to stay in the loop between Sundays. On Instagram, you'll get a behind-the-scenes look at some great videos, snapshots of our mission and outreach ministries in action, volunteers making a difference in our community, our Bible and Book studies event announcements, and the real moments that make Saint Paul's special. Whether you've been with us for years or you're just discovering Saint Paul's @ The Farm, following us is a great way to see our faith lived out—and to be part of the story. Come say hello!



Coffee / Breakfast Time. Each Sunday morning from 10 to 10:20, the breakfast and coffee bar are open in Fellowship Hall, and we thank you for helping provide items for breakfast. There are still Sundays available to provide breakfast. You may sponsor a Sunday by yourself or with another family. Here are some suggestions: crockpot oatmeal, mini (and or full size) muffins, fruit, breakfast casseroles, yogurt parfaits, cookies, danish, crackers and cheese ... or be creative! The sign-up sheet is just inside the doors of Fellowship Hall and the dates available begin March 8 through June 7.



On the Journey Together

Sundays @ The Farm. At 9 a.m. our coffee is brewing, and the nursery and sensory rooms are staffed and open. Our **Faith Connections** classes run from 9 to 10 a.m. and include Pre-K to 3rd Grade **Explorers**; 4th to 8th Grade **Pathfinders**; and 9th Grade to Age 99 **Travelers**. From 10 a.m. to 10:20, please enjoy breakfast, coffee, and fellowship then worship begins at 10:30. Following the “Time with Our Children,” during worship, kiddos aged 3 to 2nd grade head back to the classroom for “**Children’s Church**” and return to worship following Pastor Tim’s sermon. On the first Sunday of each month, we celebrate **Holy Communion** together. And, monthly on the 2nd Sunday, we enjoy **Family Night** from 5 to 6:45. On the **3rd Sunday of each month**, we gather around the tables in fellowship hall for a meal together. *Pictured above: We welcomed new members last Sunday Robert, Summer Renee, John, Amy, Deb, and Steve as well as Andrew, Michelle, Masen, and Piper. (not pictured).*

Weekdays @ The Farm. Each Monday at 10 a.m. a group gathers for **Monday Morning Reflections**, a relaxing time with Pastor Tim to dig deeper into the scripture from our Sunday service. On Wednesdays is **Lunch with the Pastor** from 11:30 to 1:00. Pick up lunch at the Farmer’s Market across the bridge from the farm or bring your own and join Pastor Tim. Then on Wednesday evenings, we offer **Wednesday Evening Interactive**, a seasonal book/bible study. On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month is **Friends Who Breakfast**, a popular time to gather to catch up over conversation and breakfast at Street of Shops (9:45) on the 1st Wednesday and Silver Moon Restaurant (9:30) on the 3rd Wednesday. On the 4th Friday of each month, you can find a Saint Paul’s group gathering at Union Cellars Winery for **Word, Wine, and Wisdom**, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Always a fun time as Pastor Tim tosses out a bible word to discuss with laughter and love.

*Pictured:
Neighbor, Judy Bertram, stopped by on Wednesday for imposition of Ashes.*



Music @ The Farm. Our **Chancel Choir**, directed by Patty Wagner with Sharon Styer, pianist, rehearses each Sunday morning from 9 to 10. Our choir averages 25+ singers and there’s always room for more! We also have a **Hand Bell Choir** which rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 5:15 to 6:15 and plays for worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. The **Children’s Choir** practices during a portion of the Faith Connection classes with Miss Sharon and Miss Ashley and they bless our worship time once a month with their selections.

Serving @ The Farm. Mission and Outreach is an integral part of us “being the church” at Saint Paul’s. On the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, we offer a **Fresh Express Food Distribution** in partnership with the Central PA Food Bank. Volunteers join us from 1 to 5 p.m. at Grace Place @ The Farm as we receive, sort, and distribute fresh food and groceries to our neighbors. All are welcome as we have a wonderful time serving together. Next distributions are February 12 and 26. We also participate in **Community Harvest**, a monthly distribution on the 3rd Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at St. John’s UCC and in conjunction with Bucknell’s Center for Community Engaged Leadership, Learning & Research. And, Saint Paul’s has a long history of offering an **Emergency Food Pantry** that we lovingly refer to as our “Little Red Wagon” Our needs at this time are for: **Local Grocery Gift Cards to: Aldi, Giant and Weis. Gas Cards: Sheetz, Wawa, and Weis, any canned fruits and vegetables with pop tops, shelf stable milk, small bottles of vegetable oil, and canned proteins and box dinners, i.e. hamburger and tuna helper.** You may drop food items in the little red wagon on the porch outside the Sanctuary door and gift cards may be dropped in the offering plate on Sunday morning or to the church office throughout the week.

