

Saint Paul's Possibilities

April 9, 2026

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

Easter morning. Before dawn. Twenty of us gathered on the porch of our big red barn, facing East.

The rain was starting. Just a mist at first. The birds were singing. And we stood there in the half-light, waiting for the sun we couldn't see, yet knew was appearing behind the clouds, joining our voices in song and listening to Mary's story one more time.

The tomb. The stone rolled away. The angels. The risen Jesus calling her name.

"Mary."

And then we went on to prepare for our morning, we gathered in Fellowship Hall for breakfast.

People kept coming. Filling the tables. Finding seats and it spilled over into our morning worship. The back row filled up first—it always does—but there were visitors happy to sit on the front row too. We added chairs. We filled every seat. Some gathered in the classrooms with children. Some sat bravely on the porch in the damp cool morning air.

The choir, singing Processional Allulia, brought us in beautifully, and we joined our voices and sang together too. And we worshiped. And we celebrated resurrection.

My heart was so full I thought it might break open.

Not because of the numbers—though yes, 431 people (including 35 first time visitors) joined us for worship between Maundy Thursday and Easter Resurrection as we walked Holy Week services together. Not because we had record attendance—though we did. Not because everything went perfectly—it didn't.

My heart was full because of what I saw.

I saw people welcoming each other. First-time visitors greeted like old friends. People returning after being away for the winter, or longer, embraced. Strangers finding their way to a seat and someone saying, "Here, sit with us."

Please Pray for

Linda Beaver
John & Stephanie Bondhus
James Bowman
Culbertson/Stieler Family
Traci Eschbach
Hafer/Lucente Family
Jayce Heckman
Robin Huffman
Nicole Kister
Katy Mahon
Dan & Peggy Neuhard
Chuck Schworer
Amanda Unzueta
Tommy Ward
Troy Woodruff
All service personnel
Unrest in our world



APRIL
AUTISM
Autism Awareness Family Night
Date: April 19, 2026
Time: 5:00 PM

Join your Saint Paul's family for a special family night to raise awareness and celebrate the amazing individuals with autism in our community!

We will have crafts, games, and sensory activities. The theme for dinner is comfort food with chicken nuggets and pizza - bring your favorite dessert or side if you wish!

Come learn, engage, and show your love for the autism community!

I saw the congregation once again becoming what we always pray for without even realizing it was happening.

A bigger table. Not a bigger building. A bigger and warmer welcome for all. A safe and open sacred place.

The whole week felt like that.

Palm Sunday, we watched Jesus enter the city on a young donkey—through the back gate, not the front. Humble. Unexpected. Recalculating everything we thought we knew or the world tries to tell us about power.

Maundy Thursday, we sat with Jesus in the upper room. We watched him wash feet. We watched him share a meal with the one who would betray him. We asked ourselves: What would it take for us to love like that?

Good Friday, Amy Armstrong beautifully read the Passion. We walked with Jesus to the cross. We heard his words—human, raw, forgiving. We sat in the silence of that death.

And then Sunday came.

- The rain. The birds. The dawn. Mary at the tomb. Jesus calling her name.
- And all of us—gathered around tables, around the meal, around each other—hearing our names called too.
- The music was beautiful. The bells rang out. The trumpet sounded. The piano and organ led us in hymn singing. All of it felt woven together in a way I can't quite explain.
- But what I'll remember most isn't the music or the sermons or even the sunrise.
- It's the way people looked at each other.
- The way someone reached out a hand to a visitor and said, "Welcome" or "I'm a "hugger."
- The way this community moved together—setting up tables, serving breakfast, making space, making room.
- The way we became exactly what we seek to be: a place where everyone belongs.

We didn't plan this, we are just open to becoming this, always.

When we moved to the farm in May of 2023, we were three months away from having nowhere to gather. We'd searched for properties. Made offers. Lost bids. Toured spaces that didn't work. And then I saw a small black and orange "For Rent" sign. We moved here out of necessity. But somewhere along the way, necessity became grace. We purchased this farm. We're still building it. Still learning what it means to be a community here.

And in the process, our food pantries have grown. Our shelter program has grown. Our commitment to housing the unhoused, to welcoming everyone—it's deepened in ways we couldn't have planned. Ninety-nine percent of the congregation moved with us. That's not just loyalty. That's faith. That's trust. That's a community saying, "We don't know where this is going, but we're going together."

So, when I stood on that porch Easter morning, watching the rain fall and the light come, I realized something. This is what resurrection looks like. Not just the empty tomb. Not just the story we tell once a year.

But this: A community becoming something it didn't plan to become. A table growing bigger without anyone deciding to make it bigger. A welcome so real that strangers feel it the moment they walk through the door.

That's what filled my heart. Not the numbers. Not the attendance. Not even the beautiful music or the perfect sunrise. It was watching all of you become the framing story for someone else.

The person who showed up. The person who welcomed. The person who made space. The person through whom someone encountered the risen Jesus for the first time, and everything recalculated.

That's resurrection. That's what we witnessed this Holy Week. And my cup is running over.

Thank you for being the church. Thank you for welcoming. Thank you for showing up, for making room, for becoming something holy just by doing what we are giving ourselves permission to do, and that is to be the love for all God's children.

I can't wait to see what the Holy brings next.

<i>Stewardship</i>	
Gifts & Offerings ~ Holy Week	
Attendance:	
Maundy Thursday:	81 (1 visitor)
Good Friday:	75 (6 visitors)
Sunrise Service:	20
Easter Sunday:	255 (53 visitors)
LIVE Attendance:	1,650
Virtual Reach:	29,421
Christian Education:	60
Plate Giving:	4,160.00
Loose Plate:	632.00
Online Giving:	<u>895.14</u>
Operational Total:	5,687.14
Restricted Giving:	<u>844.00</u>
Total Giving:	6,531.14
"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34) Giving thanks for the time, talents, and resources shared here.	

With a full and grateful heart, Pastor Tim

The Farm Report



50 Day Food Challenge. Churches across the UCC Keystone Conference are being challenged to gather food for our neighbors from Easter (April 5) to Pentecost (May 24). We are encouraging you to participate weekly by dropping your donations in the Little Red Wagon with a different focus each week. Watch how our pantry grows!

April 5–11: Canned Fruit
 April 12-18: Canned Vegetables
 April 19-25: Cereal

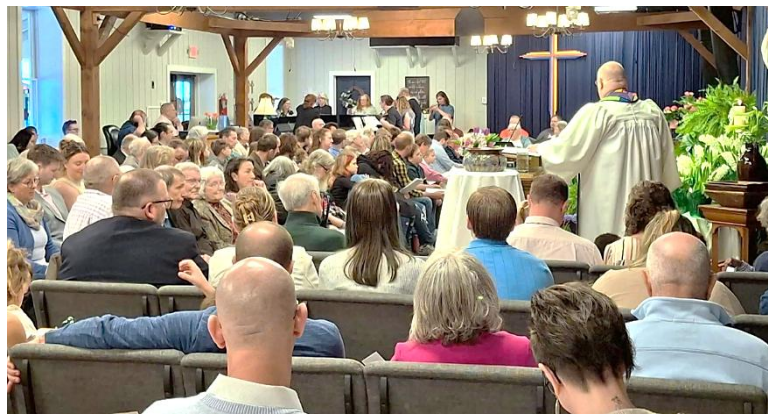


Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...
 Summer Gehrler - 4/9
 Chip Palazzo - 4/13
 Elias Franciscus - 4/16
 Maddie Barbella - 4/17
 Jaime Spickler - 4/19



Happy Anniversary to ...
 Andrew & Michelle Dressler - 4/16



Upcoming Worship

April 12 ~ Second Sunday of Easter
 "What's It Gonna Take?"
 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
 Worship Leader: Jen Arnold
 Lector: Jeanie Council
 Acolyte: Emerson Council
 Kitchen Coordinator: Kathy Showers
 Breakfast Sponsor: Emory, Arnold
 Flower Sponsor: Pastor Tim
 Offering Counter: D. Bettleyon, D. Spear

April 19 ~ Third Sunday of Easter
 "Knock Your Socks Off"
 Luke 24:13-35
 Worship Leader: Jen Arnold
 Lector: Heidi Hagan
 Acolyte: Liam Hagan
 Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan
 Breakfast Sponsor: Arnold Family
 Flower Sponsor: Pastor Tim
 Offering Counter: K. Showers, D. Spear

April Usher/Greeter Team: Don & Peggy Emory,
 Chris & Jen Arnold, Gary & Donna Bennett,
 Amy Mahon, Drew Faust, Betsy Pullen



The awe, wonder, and joy of Easter from the majesty of music to the love across generations, we came together to celebrate Resurrection Sunday. Thank you to all who helped provide an abundant breakfast and candy to fill 2,000 eggs. And, thank you to the Easter Bunny who welcomed us to the hunt in the barn!

On the Journey Together



Making friends at Easter Breakfast!

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.

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.

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.

VOLUNTEER / SERVICE

COMMUNITY HARVEST MEAL DISTRIBUTION

Saint Paul’s assists with this meal distribution at St. John’s UCC from 9 a.m. to noon

NEXT DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 18

REACH OUT TO TERRI KREMER WITH QUESTIONS AND TO SIGN UP!

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 April 23, May 14 & 28. We also participate in **Community Harvest**, a monthly meal program in conjunction with Bucknell’s Center for Community Engaged Leadership, Learning & Research. We cook on the 4th Monday of each month from 1-4 p.m. at St. John’s UCC and assist on select months with monthly distribution there on the 3rd Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Saint Paul's @ The Farm
A United Church of Christ Community

50 Brookpark Circle, Lewisburg, PA 17837
Church Office Contact: 570-568-1433 / admin@spuccfarm.org
Pastor's Email: PastorTim@spuccfarm.org
Church Website: <https://www.spuccfarm.org>