



Saint Paul's Possibilities

September 4, 2026

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

"As I walked through the door I sensed his presence, and I knew this was a place where love abounds, for this is the temple, Jehovah God abides here, and we are standing in his presence on holy ground."

These are the words Sergio sang so beautifully Sunday afternoon as the Ordination Service began. I chose that same song for my father's funeral. From the very first note, I felt the memory rise up in me, and the tears came before I could stop them. I wanted to include him in that way, on this day of all days. Sitting there between Chip and my mom holding each other's hands, the service filled with poignancy began.



That same thread ran through everything. Every hymn. Every voice. Every scripture. So much of my life was woven into that afternoon. "Blessed Assurance" my favorite childhood hymn. "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" one of my greatest mentor's favorites. Amy Armstrong sang at our wedding. Richard stood beside me as my best man. Lisa and Brad wise and wonderful leaders and dear family with shared vision on this journey. Rachel was the very first to offer special music when I began as an intentional interim pastor at Saint Paul's. And hanging in my office, a gift from a mentor, friend, and pastor who walked much of this journey with me, is a plaque bearing the Hebrew texts that remind me of my calling—the same texts Richard read so powerfully that afternoon.

Twenty years in the making, I stood for full ordination. And you were there too, each of you. Together we listened, celebrated, prayed, and cried—our beautiful, faithful family.

What a weekend it was. It began Friday evening at Word, Wine and Wisdom, where two dozen of us gathered to explore and share thoughts on peace. First-time visitors joined us, and one shared a moving story of peace and God's presence in the midst of September 11th at Ground Zero, twenty-five years ago. That story set a tone that would carry through the whole weekend—a reminder that even in our hardest moments, God is present, and that presence is often carried to us through one another.

Saturday evening brought more than three dozen of us together for music on the porch, where we sang, laughed, and simply paused—if only for a few hours—to set aside the chaos of the world and be present with one another.

Then came Sunday. We welcomed fourteen new members into our church family and explored together what it means to live in interdependence: to love people enough to feel what they feel rather than remain comfortably at a distance, and to take intentional steps toward reconciliation and peace in our relationships. It was a fitting word for all that would follow.

And then, Sunday afternoon. Even now, days later, I still find myself without adequate words for all I felt: the music, the meal, the words of love and support, the laying on of hands, the embraces, the shared communion. This was not simply my ordination. It was Saint Paul's celebration—a moment made possible by the prayers, patience, encouragement, and love this whole church family has poured into me over the past 10 years. Whatever I stood for on Sunday, you helped build.

Over the course of the weekend, we welcomed more than two dozen first-time visitors into our midst. We wrestled with hard questions. We searched for peace—true peace—even, and perhaps especially, in the chaos so many of us carry.

What I keep returning to is this: holy ground is not simply a place. It is what happens when people gather in love, when we make room for one another's stories, songs, doubts, grief, and celebrations. This past weekend, you made that kind of space—for visitors, for new members, for each other, and for me. You reminded me, once again, that God's presence is most often made known not in solitude, but in community.

So, I carry this weekend forward with deep gratitude, and I invite you to carry it forward with me. May we continue to welcome the stranger, sing through our sorrows, pause for laughter, seek reconciliation where relationships are strained, and remember that wherever we gather in love, we are standing on holy ground—and no one among us has to carry their world alone.

*With a full and grateful heart,
Your Pastor, the now Rev. Timothy Hogan-Palazzo
(just Pastor Tim or PT, please)*



The Farm Report

Music Is in the Air @ The Farm. There's something about this time of year—when the Chancel Choir returns rested and ready to serve, and the Bell Choir has begun rehearsing—that signals a beautiful reawakening. It's not the formal liturgical new year (that arrives with Advent), but it matters deeply. It matters a lot. This is when we reignite our shared life together. When we rejoin our voices and hands in service. When we remember that being the church means showing up, sharing our time and talents, and worshiping from the heart.



To all who have decided to sing or play bells: thank you. Your commitment to this ministry shapes us all. You are the heartbeat of our worship, and we hope you will consider joining one of these groups.

Upcoming Worship

September 6 ~ 15th Sunday after Pentecost
"Reach Out"

Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

Worship Leader: Drew Faust

Lector: Ashley Rosboschil

Acolyte: Piper Dressler

Flower Sponsor: Dennis Burns

Offering Counters: A. Mahon, D. Spear

Communion Assistants: Jenn Van Horn,

Louise Litzy, Donna & Gary Bennett

September 13 ~ 16th Sunday after Pentecost
"You're In My Way"

Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Worship Leader: Drew Faust

Lector: Richard Armstrong

Acolyte: Lucy Rosboschil

Flower Sponsor: Church & Lisa Bernard

Offering Counters: S. Brown, D. Spear

*September Usher/Greeters: Earl & Terri Fisher,
Sue Mahon, Carol Oberlin, Amy Mahon, Steve Brown,
Bob Gift, George Mull, Shelly Sholley*

Wednesday Interactive Begins This Week. We're thrilled to invite you to join us for Wednesday Interactive, September 9, in the Gathering Room—a fresh approach to faith exploration this fall. This year looks a bit different—instead of working through an assigned text, we'll be engaging in weekly intentional practices and invitations designed to help you notice and experience God in new ways. Each week, you'll receive a practice or experiment to explore during the days ahead. Then we'll gather together to debrief and share what you discovered—the joys, the questions, the challenges, and the everyday moments of faith. It's a chance to learn from one another and grow deeper in your relationship with God and this community.

Our first gathering will be a time of welcome and introduction, where we'll share what this study journey looks like and talk together about our hopes, dreams, and what we're longing to discover.

Whether you've joined us before or this is your first time, there's a place for you here. Come curious. Come open. Come ready to explore what it means to live faithfully in this season of your life.

We can't wait to see you Wednesday evening.



Homecoming Sunday—September 13.

It's just one week away! Sunday, September 13 is a very special day here @ The Farm—a day to gather as a church family and invite friends, neighbors, and loved ones to join us in what feels like a true family reunion. After worship, we'll gather around the table in Fellowship Hall to share a meal, catch up and reconnect. Pastor Tim will provide his famous West Virginia meatloaf (the secret is in the sauce), along with mashed potatoes and drinks. We're asking you to bring your favorite family side dish or dessert to share—dig out that cherished old recipe and bring it along. There's something beautiful about breaking bread together, sharing stories, and

remembering what it means to be church family. We hope you'll make Homecoming Sunday an intentional day to be here—and bring someone with you. We can't wait to see you on September 13.

Time, Talents & Gifts Survey Thank you to every family who completed a talent survey last week! What a wonderful response. Your willingness to share your gifts strengthens us all. If your family was away or you weren't able to complete a survey—even if you've filled one out in past years—we'd love to hear from you now. This year's survey helps us keep our online directory current and ensures everyone interested in sharing their time, talents, and gifts has a chance and opportunity to do so. Here's what we are asking: Pick up a yellow talent survey from an usher this Sunday, complete it, and either place it in the basket at the Welcome Desk as you leave or drop it off at the church office during the week. Please include all your current information so we can reach you with opportunities that match your heart. Your gifts matter. And most importantly we can't do this work together without you.



Coming in the Next Two Weeks @ The Farm. There is always something happening @ The Farm! Pick what calls to you, try something new, be here when you can, or be here for every event, because we are not the same when you are not here. **Monday, September 7, at 10 a.m.** come and help prepare the **Wildcat Backpacks** in Fellowship Hall. **Wednesday, September 9, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 5:30 p.m.** and new members are always welcome, then at **6:30 Wednesday Evening Interactive** starts anew for the fall season (see the article for details). **Thursday, September 10, is our Fresh Express Food Distribution** and volunteers have a great time from 1 to 5 p.m. unloading the truck, sorting and packing the boxes, and distributing to our neighbors. Friday night, **September 11**, there are two group gatherings at 6:30 p.m., **The Forge** in the Pavilion for the men and **The Soul Sisters** in Fellowship Hall for the women. **Homecoming Sunday! Is September 13.** Bring a friend to church, stay for the meal following. We will round out the next two weeks with the **Annual Harvest Parade** in Milton on **September 19, at 1 p.m.**

Brookpark Farm Corporate News - Two New Businesses Coming to The Farm. Over the next month, we're welcoming two wonderful new businesses to The Farm, and we couldn't be more excited about what they'll bring to our community. **Executive Level Limited**, a men's fine clothing store with a long-established customer base, will be opening as a second location here @ The Farm. Owner Rob Ferguson previously operated from a storefront in Williamsport and then moved to the lower level of his South Williamsport residence during the pandemic. Rob is thrilled to return to a storefront setting and to be closer to many of his loyal clients in the area. We're honored to have him here. **The British Baking Company**, owned by Jeanne Moulton, will be arriving in late September or early October. Jeanne's shop formerly operated in our area before closing due to space constraints, but she's continued catering throughout the region and is now ready to open a brick-and-mortar location here @ The Farm. The British Baking Company will offer counter service as well as afternoon tea on the porch at the Brick House—a lovely addition to the life of our community. Both businesses bring warmth, expertise, and a genuine commitment to serving our neighbors. We're grateful for their choice to make The Farm their home, and we look forward to welcoming them and the vitality they'll add to this place we all love.

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 for all ages run from 9 to 10 a.m. From 10 a.m. to 10:25, 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** beginning at 5 p.m. (First one is October 11) On the **3rd Sunday of each month**, we gather around the tables in fellowship hall for a meal together. (Next one, though, is September 13, Homecoming Sunday with Pastor Tim’s famous meatloaf!)

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 5:30 to 6:30 and plays for worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. The **Children’s Choir** practices from 9:45 to 10:05 and bless our worship time once a month with their selections.

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 (starting 9/9). 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.

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 September 10 & 24. 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. Our next cooking date is Monday, September 28, from 1 to 4 p.m. See Terri Kremer with questions. Saint Paul’s also has a “Little Red Wagon” which you will find on the porch at the entrance to our sanctuary. This is where you can drop off shelf-stable food items to help keep our emergency food pantry stocked. As well, if you wish to donate grocery or gas gift cards to help our neighbors in need, you may drop those in the offering plate during worship. **The current needs for our emergency food pantry are: cans of soup, boxes of mac and cheese, and bottles of juice.**

Stewardship

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Luke 12:34) Giving thanks for the time, talents, and resources shared here.

Gifts & Offerings ~ 8/30/26

Attendance: 163 (9 visitors)

LIVE Attendance: 900

Virtual Reach: 26.268

Christian Education: 31

Plate Giving: 1,555.00

Loose Plate: 482.00

Online Giving: 1,502.64

Operational Total: 3539.64

Restricted Giving: 1,780.00

Total Giving: 5,319.64



2nd Annual Barn Yard Sale for Missions! It’s time to start planning for our 2nd Annual Barn Yard Sale here at the farm! In conjunction with our annual soup, bake, and craft sale for missions in early November, our barn yard sale is an opportunity to donate your gently-used household items, furniture, tools, etc. (no clothing, please). For now, check in with Cyndy Kister (570-768-0977) with questions and to let her know you would like to help with the sale. And watch for dates and times to start bringing your donated items to the farm.

