



# Saint Paul's Possibilities

July 18, 2025

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

*a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo*

Dear Faith Family,

Below is an edited version of what I shared with Consistory this past week as we reviewed the state of the church through the first half of 2025. So, I wanted to share a bit of that communication with you all.

Let me begin by sharing a word of thanks for the ways I get to participate with you in being the church. Today, just as always you welcomed family home. A long-ago Saint Paul's family brought their mother and sister back to Saint Paul's, as was her wish, for her celebration of life. A dozen or more members came together to help welcome, feed, and offer comfort to her family by doing what we do, be the church. So, I begin this month's report as I have so many times before, saying thank you.

Since we last met, we have marched in the Union County Fourth of July Veterans Parade, where more than a dozen people helped us thank our veterans with this year's float built to pay tribute to Union County Veterans. The float was met with cheers and thanks for our presence as our messaging was about love and freedom for all.

This summer's attendance and giving has thus far mirrored last summer's trends in many ways, we are nothing if not consistent. Our actual attendance continues to show about a 10% increase, and we have welcomed just over 30 first time visitors since the beginning of June. Some have already returned, and others have reached out to tell us they will return, and still others have told us they are just checking out churches this summer seeking either a new faith community or a church home for the first time.

Myself with your Music Ministry Team and Christian Education teams are all working to prepare for a great fall ahead. We will be planning new offerings at each age level and our music ministry will kick off with a luncheon, immediately following worship on Sunday, August 24. Additionally, on that same day I will be meeting with usher teams over a continental breakfast to plan ahead for the upcoming Fall and share ideas to better serve our community.

New groups to consider in the coming season include an autistic family support group and a grief support group as well. These things are greatly needed in our faith and broader community, and I have been approached by those wishing to offer such groups here @ The Farm and we are in the process of talks now.

While there's still lots to see, do, and experience this Summer, there's a great Fall season on the horizon here @ The Farm. Watch for some exciting upcoming news about our space and place and activities here. And please join us whenever you can because we are not the same when you are not here.

Finally, it is with grateful heart for all the love and support you always offer that I say thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve alongside you all.

## **Join Us in Prayer for**

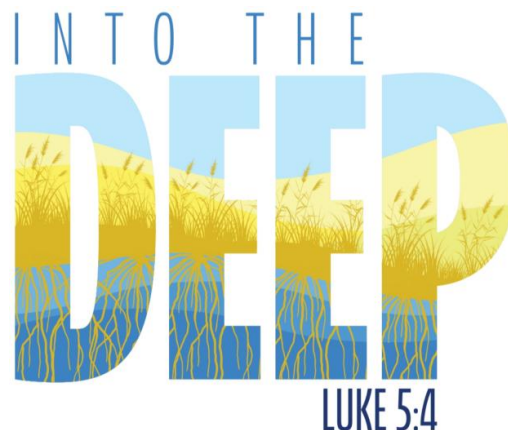
Linda Beaver  
Gloria Brandt  
Brasher/Thorn Family  
Gary Chambers  
Nicole & Dale Cuer  
The Engle Family  
The Faust Family  
Greyson Greenawalt  
Celeste Hampton  
John "Tad" Hampton  
Family of Joan Helwig  
Al & Ruth Henry  
Pat Korizno  
Kathy Lahr  
Gloria Lehman  
Katy Mahon  
Elsie Pardoe  
Mary Renninger  
Canaan Robinson  
Savanah Spacil  
Ralph Ritter  
Chuck Schworer  
Gary Smith  
Tommy Ward  
Ron Wenning  
Russ & Donna Wynn

*Peace and Blessings, Pastor Tim*



# The Farm Report

**Into the Deep!** This year's United Church of Christ Tri-Annual Synod was held this past week in Kansas City, Missouri. Resolutions are received and voted upon by representatives across the nation from UCC congregations just like ours. In the United Church of Christ, while the churches operate as congregational bodies--meaning self-governing--the support for the churches come from a local Association, area Conferences, and the National setting of the United Church of Christ. Until Monday morning, at 9:50 a.m. Central Time, Pennsylvania operated with four distinct Conference offices, each with Conference Ministers and staff. After a two-year study, discussions and meetings, a motion went before the Synod to combine these conferences to form the Keystone Conference. Below is a message to the Conference concerning this event and vote.



**Message to the Conference.** Dear Keystone Friends... With full hearts and joy-filled spirits, we are thrilled to announce the historic passage of the motion to create the Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ! **By a vote of 98%** (640 in favor, 8 opposed, 6 abstentions), delegates of the 35th General Synod approved the realignment of our Conference boundaries. This moment marks the culmination of several years of faithful discernment, courageous conversation, and a shared vision for the future of our ministry in Pennsylvania. Together, we have dared to believe that God is still speaking--and calling us into something new.

The creation of the Keystone Conference is more than a structural shift; it is a bold witness to our commitment to covenant, collaboration, and the continuing call of the Holy Spirit. We honor the legacy of those who have gone before us in each of our four Conferences and rejoice in the new pathways and possibilities now open to us. We give thanks for the Keystone Working Group, Conference staffs, and all who labored, prayed, and dreamed this into being. And we move forward with gratitude, humility, and a renewed passion for the Gospel.

We trust that the One who began a good work among us will be faithful to complete it.

In faith and hope,  
Bonnie, Bill, Carrie, David (Conference Ministers)



Special note, our own Rev. Dr. Carrie Call will continue as the interim Conference Minister for the Keystone Conference and Rev. Dr. Nora Foust will continue as an Associate Conference Minister as well.

**More Notes from This Year's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Synod!** Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister & President of the United Church of Christ, delivered her State of the Church Address at General Synod drawing on the Luke 5:4 text: "When he finished speaking to the crowds, he said to Simon, 'Row out farther, into the deep water, and drop your nets for a catch.'" Use this link to watch the address on YouTube:

<https://tinyurl.com/uccsynod35>

**Parents, Asking for Your Help.** The Farm is sacred safe space and open to all, especially our youngest family members. Please help us keep the children's spaces ready and welcoming for everyone by keeping the following guidelines in mind:

- Nursery and Sensory Rooms are staffed and open only during Church (Sundays, 10:15am-11:45am), Family Night (2nd Sunday, 5-7pm), and Sunday School (early Sep-mid-June, 9am-10am).
- Both of these rooms are set up to be used by age or needs-appropriate families and children only during staffed hours, with age-appropriate supervision.
- These rooms are not to be used as open, general free play spaces during fellowship meals or other open church events (*Sensory families may use the Sensory room during church events as needed, with age-appropriate supervision*).
- If you use the space for a specific event, please be mindful of using each area for age and needs-appropriate children, and return them clean and organized.
- We ask that no one access teaching supplies unless given specific permission by a teacher or a staff member.

By helping us maintain these safe spaces, you help us to maintain welcoming sacred space for all.

**Summer Fun Continues!** It's time to come together for:

Every Sunday Morning ~ Coffee & Conversation before and after Worship  
 Every Monday Morning ~ Reflections at 11:30 a.m. (a 2<sup>nd</sup> look at the week's texts)  
 Every Wednesday ~ Lunch with Pastor Tim on the Porch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
 July 20 ~ Cookout & Ice Cream Freeze off, Following Worship  
 July 24 ~ Fresh Express (volunteers from 1-5 p.m.)  
 July 25 ~ Word, Wine & Wisdom, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Union Cellars  
 July 27 ~ Special Teen & Young Adult Event TBA  
 August 10 ~ Take Me Out to the Crosscutters, 4:05 p.m.  
 August 16 ~ Back to School Chicken Barbeque & Swim, 4 p.m.

*Thank you*  
 From Barb and Dave Wagner  
 "Dear Saint Paul's Family, Our heartfelt thank you for reaching out to us with prayers, love, concern, flowers, food, cards, calls, visits, and all the special blessings you extended to Dave and me after my recent fall! You are one beautiful family that shows love without boundaries, and we are fortunate to be a part of it all! We feel so very blessed to be a part of this very wonderful family! Praise God! Our Love, Barb & Dave

## Celebrations

### Happy Birthday ...

July 19 – Laurie Anderson  
 July 19 – Autumn Faust  
 July 19 – Flo Warner  
 July 24 – Frank Wetzel  
 July 25 – Bill Gill  
 July 26 – Mike Haven  
 July 26 – Al Henry  
 July 27 – Justin Kozick

### Happy Anniversary ...

July 21 – Heather & Brent Sechrist  
 July 25 – Laurie & Kris Anderson  
 July 26 – Mallory & Brent Sample



**Vacation BIBLE SCHOOL 2025**



**SUNDAY JULY 20**

THE PINEAPPLE GROWS OUT OF A STRANGE PLANT THAT SEEMS TO PUSH THE FRUIT UP TO THE SKY. WHEN MOSES LIFTED HIS ARMS TO THE HEAVENS, GOD DEFEATED ISRAEL'S ENEMIES, SHOWING THAT HE CAN HELP US WHEN WE TRUST AND OBEY HIM, EVEN IF WE DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S TELLING US TO DO. EXODUS 17:8-16

ASK YOUR CHILD WHAT THEY LEARNED ABOUT PINEAPPLES AND THE DEFEAT OF THE AMALEKITES!

**CRAFTS AND SNACKS ON THE PORCH FOLLOWING WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES**

**UCC Hartman Center  
 Spirit Camp**  
 Dates: July 27 – Aug 2  
 Ages: K-12  
 5725 Old US Highway 322  
 Milroy, PA



Camp Options:  
 Sunday-Wednesday  
 "Getting Started K-1"

Wednesday-Saturday  
 "Camp of the Heart"  
 Special Needs

Sunday-Saturday  
 Elementary, Middle, and High School

for more information use the QR Code



Scholarships Available



## On the Journey

### Sunday Mornings @ The Farm

- ~ Nursery & Sensory Rooms Open 10:15 a.m.
- ~ Sunday School returns August 31
- ~ Worship 10:30 a.m.
- ~ Children's Church (ages 3 to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
- ~ Breakfast returns August 31
- ~ First Sunday Communion

### Music Rehearsals @ The Farm

- ~ Bell Choir Rehearsal returns September 3
- ~ Chancel Choir Rehearsal returns August 31
- ~ Children's Choir Practice returns September 7

### Christian Formation @ The Farm

- ~ Second Sunday Connections 5 to 6:45 p.m.  
Join us on second Sunday evenings for dinner, lessons, and crafts for all ages.
- ~ Monday Morning Reflections 11:30 a.m.  
Gather with Pastor Tim and dig a bit deeper into the week's texts.
- ~ Wednesday Evening Interactive 6:30 p.m.  
Returns September 3.
- ~ Confirmation Class every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 5 p.m. exploring our faith through class and field trips.

### Fellowship @ The Farm

- ~ Wednesday Lunch with Pastor Tim on the porch, 11:30-1:00 a.m.
- ~ Friends Who Breakfast  
8/6 Street of Shops Restaurant, 9:45 a.m.
- ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Friday Word, Wine & Wisdom, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Union Cellars, 7/25

### Serving @ The Farm Mission & Outreach

- ~ Fresh Express 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays 1-5 p.m.  
7/24, 8/14, 8/28
- ~ Harvest Meal 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays @ St. Andrews, Milton 1-5 p.m. Next date TBA
- ~ Emergency Food Pantry is always available @ Grace Place (little red wagon drop off)

This week's "Little Red Wagon" needs are:  
**peanut butter, jelly, soup, apple sauce, shelf stable milk, canned vegetables, Chef Boyardee canned meals, and grocery gift cards.**



## Stewardship

### Gifts & Offerings July 13, 2025

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

Attendance: 125 (5 visitors)

Attendance on LIVE: 840 Virtual Reach: 9,954

Christian Education: 18

Plate Giving	\$ 3,077.00
Loose Plate	\$ 175.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,341.25
Operational Total	\$ 4593.25
Restricted Giving	\$ 910.00
Total Giving	\$ 5,503.25

## Upcoming Worship

### July 20, 2025 ~ 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

"Martha, Martha, Martha"

Psalm 15; Luke 10:38-42

Worship Leader: Sue Overdorf

Lector: Chris Arnold Acolyte: Kadence Gill

Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan

Flower Sponsor: Available

Offering Counter: S. Brown, D. Spear

### July 27, 2025 ~ 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

"A Master Class"

Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 11:1-13

Worship Leader: Sue Overdorf

Lector: Rhonda Newton Acolyte: Cato Kazibwe

Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan

Flower Sponsor: Available

Offering Counter: E. Fisher, D. Spear

**July Usher/Greeters:** Don & Peggy Emory, Chris & Jen Arnold, Gary & Donna Bennett, Amy Mahon, Sue Mahon, Drew Faust, Betsy Pullen

*Not able to be here in person on Sunday morning? Join us LIVE on Facebook and YouTube. Connect with us online at: [spuccfarm.org](https://www.spuccfarm.org) and follow us on Facebook.*



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

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