



Saint Paul's Possibilities

November 7, 2025

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Family,

It's been an emotional week, from celebrating the lives of those gone before us to the loss of two more saints this week. There have been quite a few tears shed.

So many of us try not to show our tears. I know it's hard to believe—given how often you see me with tears running down my cheeks—but I try not to cry, too. Sometimes I just give up. There's not much I can do about it.

In seminary, professors used to warn us: "Never let your tears show. It will distract from your ministry." They meant that crying would shift the focus from the message to the messenger. I never want that. But controlling tears seems nearly impossible, at least for me. One mentor advised, "Whenever you feel tears coming, think of something else—worms or something startling."

Here's what I've learned: we're not weak when we cry. We're emotionally connected.

Tears Are Love Made Visible

Society has long viewed tears as weakness. But I'm coming to believe they're actually a sign of strength—evidence that we're fully alive and present to the world around us. I once had a pastor in my young adult life, a six-foot-something, bearded, lumberjack-looking guy dressed in a three-piece suit, who cried almost every time he preached. I soon came to learn, those tears came from love—a great love of God and of us, his faith family. He wanted us to experience what he had found: love, grace, and peace in the midst of life. He'll always be someone I admire.

Consider Jesus. Scripture records three times he wept, and not once was it from weakness.

He wept over Jerusalem because its people rejected the peace he offered: "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace... But now it is hidden from your eyes." He loved them and wanted them to know what he offered was good for them. (Luke 19:41-44)

He wept at Lazarus's tomb, moved by his own grief and the grief of Mary and Martha. The shortest verse in the Bible captures it: "Jesus wept." He cried despite knowing he would soon raise Lazarus from the dead. Love made him vulnerable to their pain. (John 11:32-36)

And in the Garden of Gethsemane, facing crucifixion and the weight of the world's sin, Jesus "offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears" to God. (Matt. 26:38-39)

Jesus wept because he loved deeply. His tears weren't a distraction from his ministry—they were part of it.

Let Your Emotions Flow

I once had a mentor who would say, "If you come in here crying, someone better be dying." She wasn't about trivial tears. I understand her point: not everything warrants tears. But if something touches your soul, let the tears flow. Don't bottle up your emotions just because someone might see. Those tears come from your passion, your heart, your connection to what matters.

I often get to be with people during life's most emotional moments—births, deaths, diagnoses, reconciliations. It's an honor to experience those emotions alongside my faith family. And I've learned this: when we bottle up emotions, they come out sideways. We get grumpy. We say things we don't mean. Better to let the tears flow when emotions run high.

Crying doesn't make you look weak or uneducated. It shows you have a heart for the situation you're in and the people you care about. Jesus did it.

Please Pray for

Linda Beaver
Beshore/Kister Families
Jennifer Boughner
Paula Cooper
The Engle Family
The Henry Family
Tom & Priscilla Lanks
Dottie Leiser
Ed & Eileen Prowant
Michele Pryor
Ben Spickler
Dave & Barb Wagner
Tommy Ward
Carolyn Wuerdeman
Russ & Donna Wynn
Unspoken Requests

Yes, we hear all the time: "Don't cry. Stop your crying. They've just got a bleeding heart." But you know what? Jesus had a bleeding heart, and his heart bled for all.

So, the next time tears well-up in your eyes, let them. Let your emotions show. Your pastor certainly does—and I'm grateful to be on this journey with a faith family that leads with their hearts of compassion and not afraid to let our love show, even if it streams down their cheeks from time to time. Have a blessed day.



Peace and Blessings, Pastor Tim

The Farm Report

Now What? If you haven't heard yet, we have news worth celebrating: for the first time since Covid began in 2020, we have a permanent home. We bought The Farm!

This is a milestone moment for our faith community—a chance to be the church in bold, tangible ways. The Farm consists of 14 rentable buildings, and all 14 available units are currently occupied. We're negotiating new leases with each business as we prayerfully discern our next steps together as a faith family.

Now we are offered anew, an "Invitation to Dream Together."

In early January, we'll launch our Cottage Meetings—and everyone is invited. In fact, the vision for this place, our new home here at The Farm, first emerged from our original Cottage Meetings back in January 2020. In those gatherings, you shared dreams of having space to expand our ministries and explore new ways of serving. Your prayers, combined with the Holy Spirit's gentle nudging, have been felt, heard, and realized.

The upcoming Cottage Meetings will take place at various times to accommodate as many people as possible—some on Sunday afternoons after church, some on Sunday evenings, some on Wednesday at noon, and others scattered throughout the week. These won't be lectures or presentations; they'll be two-way conversations where we want to hear your hopes, dreams, wishes, and desires for our life together at The Farm.

We want to know: How should we best use this space to serve our community? What offerings would benefit you, your family, and our neighbors most?

We'll explore these questions together by asking each participant:

1. Why Saint Paul's? What brought you here?
2. What are your hopes and dreams for your faith community?
3. How will you support your faith community in achieving the goals we set forth together?

For now, though...Breathe.

For this moment, let us simply breathe in and breathe out. With each breath, give God thanks for all we've been able to accomplish and all we get to share and serve. Let us faithfully live into this Advent season, preparing our hearts anew to receive God incarnate—making room for Jesus in every part of our lives.

The journey continues in January. And we want everyone to be part of it.

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...

Nicole Kister - 11/9

Mallory Sample - 11/15

T.J. Duncan - 11/17

Deann Hansum - 11/17



Happy Anniversary to ...

Hillary & Ethan Cree - 11/10



Saint Paul's @ The Farm Annual Fall Meeting & Thanksgiving Luncheon Sunday, November 23, 2025

Annual meeting to approve the 2026 budget and consistory members then roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, and stuffing provided for our all-church Thanksgiving meal.

Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share!

See you around the tables in Fellowship Hall.

It's Here! You asked for it and we've got it—new Saint Paul's t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies are now available through Out Shine Promotions in Mifflinburg—and ordering is simple.

How to Order Printed Apparel: You can access our personalized online store two ways:

1. Visit our church website and click the t-shirt icon
2. Go directly to <https://www.ospshirtshop.com/saint-pauls-the-farm>

What's Available? Through this local company, you can choose from:

- Short sleeve and long sleeve t-shirts (children's and adult sizes)
- Crew neck sweatshirts
- Hoodies

All shirts feature front and back printing and are available to order now.

How It Works: The website opens for two-week ordering windows. The first window is open now through November 22. Orders placed during each window will be printed, delivered, and then the site will reopen for the next ordering period. These make great Christmas gifts!

Do you prefer embroidered apparel? We've also partnered with Lands' End for premium options including polos, hats, sweaters, jackets, and more. Stay tuned for a link to order those soon!



Intentions for Advent. Have you met Kate Schaeffer yet? Kate is Saint Paul's Church Chaplain and a Board-Certified Spiritual Care Specialist, and you will have a unique and intimate opportunity to get to know her as she offers "Intentions for Advent." This will serve as our Wednesday Evening Interactive during Advent. Sign up now on the sign-up bar in Fellowship Hall.

December 3, 7 p.m. - You Have Hidden Your Face from Us. (Isiah 64:7). Gather in Hope and make a candle to light the journey of Advent. Come for evening tea and time together as we imagine (and share) the emotions of this season. Let's welcome the light in the darkness.

December 10, 7 p.m. - How I Long for All of You. (Philippians 1:8). Gather in Peace and sit in stillness to the story of the Moon. It is always whole.

December 17, 7 p.m. - I am Sending My Messenger Ahead of You, Who Will Prepare Your Way Before You. (Matthew 11:10). Gather in Joy and hear song to make smooth and sturdy our inward spaces, that we may hold the season with less resistance and bear with deeper grace.

It's Wreath Season! Order your fresh Christmas wreaths by November 16! They are \$22.50 each and come with a bow of your choice. All proceeds support the Gene Gilliom Music Fund—helping us make beautiful music together! Wreaths will be delivered by Sunday, November 30. Use a red order form found at the Sanctuary Welcome Desk or call Donna in the church office 570-568-1433.



100 people were surveyed and the #1 thing to do on the second Sunday of each month is to attend Family Night @ The Farm! Join us this Sunday at 5 p.m. for a potluck dinner and an evening of Family Feud!

Upcoming Worship

November 9 ~ 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
"It Won't Be Long Now"

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5; Luke 20:27-38

Worship Leader: Sue Overdorf

Lector: Chris Arnold

Acolyte: Emma Hott

Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan

Breakfast Sponsor: Shirk/Rosboschil Families

Flowers Sponsor: Sharon Foust & Shelly Sholley

Offering Counter: D. Bettleyon, D. Spear

November 16 ~ 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
"Rejoice, Give Thanks & Sing"

Isaiah 12:1-6; Luke 21:5-19

Worship Leader: Sue Overdorf

Lector: Rhonda Newton

Acolyte: Piper Dressler

Kitchen Coordinator: Kathy Showers

Breakfast Sponsor: Harriet Zeyn

Flowers Sponsor: Available

Offering Counter: P. Emory, D. Spear

November Usher/Greeters: Bill & Lisa Bernard,
Joanna Johnson, Louise Litzy, Reba Rohrer,
Chris Warner, Eric Wagner, Kim Ritter

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 (November 9). **Confirmation Class** with meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings at 5 p.m. And, on the **3rd Sunday of each month**, we gather around the tables in fellowship hall for a meal together following worship (November 23 is our Annual Thanksgiving Meal).

Weekdays @ The Farm. Each Monday at 11:30 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 **Pastor on the Porch** from 11:30 to 1. 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 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. (Advent Intentions is December 3, 10, & 17). 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 (November 19). 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. (November 28). Always a fun time as Pastor Tim tosses out a bible word to discuss with laughter and love. (This week’s featured picture finds Doug Kister and Ron Wenning as “husband’s in waiting” at the Preview Barnyard Sale on Wednesday of this week. How much would you pay for the pair??)



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 (November 13 and Tuesday, November 25 this month). 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. We also participate in **Community Harvest**, a monthly distribution on the 3rd Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon (November 15) 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, are all helpful. 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.



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 11/2/2025
Attendance: 172 (13 Visitors)
LIVE Attendance: 774
Virtual Reach: 7,200
Christian Education: 51

Plate Giving:	1,809.00
Loose Plate:	264.00
Online Giving:	889.75
Operational Total:	2,962.75
Restricted Giving:	2,119.00
Total Giving:	5,081.75



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

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