

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

Have you ever noticed that every time Jesus gathered with a small group, others showed up wanting to hear the good news? People were drawn to something they couldn't quite name—hope, healing, belonging, love. That's what's happening here at Saint Paul's @ The Farm. People are coming for a reason, and we need to honor and respect that reason.

This week at our Consistory meeting, I heard a sentiment I hear occasionally: "I love how we have grown; however, I never want to lose the intimate feeling we have here." My response was what I have always felt: "Neither do I."

My desire has never been to grow a bigger church for the sake of being bigger. My desire is to stay out of the way of the Holy and offer a table to all those seeking a place to gather—a hospital for those hurting and needing sacred space for spiritual care and healing, a space of safe fellowship for all God's children. Not just the ones any of us believe deserve it, because we all deserve it, because we believe it's what Jesus freely offered and taught us to offer.

Here's what I'm learning: growth does not have to mean we lose intimacy. But that's not up to just me—that's up to us all.

Intimacy is how we welcome and get to know one another. It's calling each other by name, showing up and listening, gathering together and not becoming complacent with only those we already know. A growing church keeps intimacy by intentionally creating smaller community hubs—our Bible and book studies, choirs, Friends Who Breakfast, Word Wine & Wisdom, Family Nights. It's maintained through radical transparency and vulnerability, face-to-face connection, shared prayer and honest God moments (take a lesson from some of our smallest members here if you aren't sure how to do that). It's fostered when people feel seen, known, and truly cared for—not just like attendees.

Here's my invitation to you in order to keep that intimate feeling: Meet new people. Welcome those who may be strangers to you. Let your conversations be more than a quick hello. Try "I'm glad you're here," or "How are you today?" or "Are you new here, or am I?" or simply, "Would you like to sit with me?" And listen, truly listen to one another.

Keeping that intimate feeling isn't rocket science. It's about welcoming every person the Holy leads to our doors. It's about listening, true connection, and loving people right where they are.

So don't stop showing up—for worship, events, and gatherings. Don't be afraid to speak to someone, listen and share stories, discover connections. Don't just always slip in the side door, attend or participate in your thing and slip out, learn someone's name. I used to be bad at names too, and sometimes still am, but the Holy offers grace and continues to work on me. Come in and be prepared for the Holy to use you too.

Want an intimate, safe, sacred space where all God's children are welcome? You too need to offer that same love and care that brought you here and let the Holy be concerned about how we grow.

Please Pray for

Laurie & Kris Anderson
Linda Beaver
Colleen Brandt
The Bole Family
The Burns Family
Engle Family
Traci Eschbach
Robin Huffman
Dottie Leeser
Todd Miller
Ed & Eileen Prowant
The Uber Family
Dave & Barb Wagner
Tommy Ward
Russ & Donna Wynn
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.*

I pray that people continue to find safe, sacred, loving, intimate space every time they walk through these doors. I also pray it for every church. But to do that means we all have to find our way to create that space with each person coming through our doors. Will you continue to walk with me on this journey? Show up, just be and allow others to be, welcome and love one another right where they are.

For I believe, as long as we continue to act as Jesus taught, welcoming every person, serving every neighbor, loving people right where they are, I believe the Holy will continue to bring this crazy, warm, funny and loving family together, and other crazy, lost saints and sinners alike will keep showing up. Our responsibility is to love everyone who does. And I believe, that's how intimate space continues to be intimate space.

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report

Thank You for Your Faithful Generosity! Every gift we have is a gift from God—and we are so grateful for your faithful generosity in giving back a portion of what God has so graciously given us. Your gifts make it possible for Saint Paul's @ The Farm, your faith community, to live out our mission and care for one another and our neighbors. *The 2025 Contribution Statements have been emailed to those who requested and hard copies are ready to be picked up at the church starting Friday, January 23, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.* As you review your giving statement, we pray it reminds you of the incredible partnership we share in God's work being the church for all God's people.

Is This Thing On? Welcome! Please know that we livestream our services on Facebook and YouTube, and we capture special moments to share across our social media platforms. By joining us in this space, you are part of our shared worship. If you have a special case for legal or safety purposes in which you cannot appear in video, please notify a greeter / usher so that we may make accommodations for you. We are committed to making sure everyone feels safe and honored in this space.



A Room That's Become So Much More. It started as a space for The Travelers on Sunday mornings. But then something magical happened—it became essential to who we are. The Gathering Room (located behind the Sanctuary piano) hosts: The Travelers (Sunday morning Faith Connection Class for ages 9th grade to 99). Monday Morning Reflections, a time to meet with Pastor Tim to take another look at Sunday's scripture and its meaning for our lives in today's world. Wednesday Evening Interactive seasonal book study (shown in the picture). Board and Consistory meetings, staff meetings, lunch meetings and many more gatherings.

We added a fireplace. The light is warm. The walls hold conversation. And so many of you have told us: This room feels sacred. If you haven't been yet—come see what we built together. Whether you're looking for a quiet place to think, a welcoming space to learn, or just a room that feels like it was made for gathering—the Gathering Room is waiting for you. Stop by on a Sunday morning. Join us for Monday Reflections. Wander in and sit by the fireplace. This is what happens when a community decides to build something together. This is what we create when we say yes to each other. We aren't the same when you're not here—and we can't wait to see you in the Gathering Room!

Please join us Sunday, February 22, 2026 as we celebrate all that we got to do in 2025. We will recognize our volunteers and staff as we celebrate our year in review Annual Meeting. The meeting will take place immediately following worship and there will be cake. All are invited. #seeyou@TheFarm



And the Winner Is... (All of You!!!) What a COOKOFF we had this January!!! Eight different chilis. Eight different flavors. Eight different reasons to celebrate our faith family of Saint Paul's coming together around food, fun, and friendly competition. And let us tell you—the voting was CLOSE! We're talking just a few points separating all the contenders. That's the kind of competition we LOVE to see!

But here's what made this year extra special: new faces, new recipes, and a brand-new kind of chili that shook things up! This is what community looks like—people bringing their best, their creativity, and their passion to the table. Literally!

So, without further ado, here are your **TOP THREE CHILI CHAMPIONS**:

- 1 #1: Seafood Chili — **Cindy Myers** (Yes, you read that right—seafood chili! Bold move from a first-time competitor. We LOVED it!)
- 2 #2: Timberline — **Jon Hagan** (an annual favorite)
- 3 #3: Spicy Grande Chili — **Deb Frei** (another first timer!)

We will honor these three champions this Sunday morning and present them with their well-deserved ribbons! But real talk—every single person who brought a chili, tasted a chili, and voted is a winner in our book. This is what we do at The Farm. We show up. We celebrate each other. We aren't the same when you're not here! Cindy, Jon, Deb—congratulations!!! 🎉

Socially Acceptable Behavior. Improve your social media positive feed by liking us, following us, and checking us out regularly on Facebook or Instagram. Sergio Fasnacht has begun regular posts on our public page, *Saint Paul's at The Farm a UCC Faith Community*, along with a beautiful video each week. Like and share, help spread the word about your faith home, love abides, love abounds, love leads us home.

Sunday Evening, February 15
Dinner at 5:00 ~ Talent at 6:00

You are invited to come aboard for a Night of Talented Adventure ...

... and our annual Saint Paul's @ The Farm Delicious Spaghetti and Meatballs Dinner!

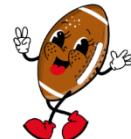
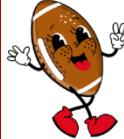
If you've got talent to share, please reach out asap to Gloria Lehman, who's preparing the program to set sail! Come and find out what's ALL ABOARD!

2026 Talent Show!

Family Night @ The Farm

2nd Sundays @ 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 8
Superbowl Party!



Please let us know what favorite party food you'll bring. Sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Upcoming Worship

January 25 ~ 3rd Sunday following Epiphany
"Follow Me"

Psalm 27:1, 4-9; Luke 1:39-56

Worship Leader: Jen Arnold

Lector: Doug Richard

Acolyte: Cato Kazibwe

Kitchen Coordinator: Kathy Showers

Breakfast Sponsor: Cindy Myers & Terri Kremer

Flower Sponsor: Sharon Foust & Shelly Sholley

Offering Counter: A. Mahon, D. Spear

February 1 ~ 4th Sunday following Epiphany
Communion Service

"How to be Human"

Micah 6:1-8; John 1:1-14

Worship Leader: Drew Faust

Lector: Autumn Faust

Communion Assistants: Scott & Tracy Baylor,

Louise Litzy, Jenn Van Horn

Acolyte: Kate Parker

Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan

Breakfast Sponsor:

Flower Sponsor:

Offering Counter: S. Brown, D. Spear

February Usher/Greeter Team: Bill & Lisa

Bernard, Scott & Tracy Baylor, Louise Litzy,

Joanna Johnson, Reba Rohrer, Chris Warner,

Kim Ritter

Open to All. Like our communion table, membership in this faith community is open to all. If you are interested in official membership or just have questions, please reach out to the church office or Pastor Tim directly. Over the next few weeks Pastor Tim will be available in Fellowship Hall just before and during the breakfast hour for informal conversations and questions. Our next new member Sunday is February 8, during worship.

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

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Church Office Contact: 570-568-1433 / admin@spuccfarm.org

Pastor's Email: PastorTim@spuccfarm.org

Church Website: <https://www.spuccfarm.org>

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. Picture Caption: *May all of our children find this safe space to just be.*

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. 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.

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...
Peggy Emory - 1/23
Noah Kozick - 1/24
Cory Mahon - 1/24
Earl Fisher - 1/28
Olivia Mahon - 2/3
April Masker - 2/4
Christine Parker - 2/4

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.

Stewardship

Gift & Offerings ~
1/18/26

"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: 126 (1 visitor)

LIVE Attendance: 1,209

Virtual Reach: 22,455

Christian Education: 45

Plate Giving: 942.00

Loose Plate: 193.00

Online Giving: 1,183.11

Operational Total: 2,318.11

Restricted Giving: 152.00

Total Giving: 2,470.11

