



Saint Paul's Possibilities

October 3, 2025

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Family,

This past Thursday, around the world, our Jewish brothers and sisters observed the highest Holy day of the year for them, Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur is also known as the Day of Atonement and is marked by a day of fasting, prayer, and reflection.

At its heart, Yom Kippur invites an unflinching moral inventory asking of oneself:

What harm have I done?

Whom have I failed to see?

Where has my silence become complicity?

As Cameron Trimble reminded us this week in her Thursday devotion, "This is not shame work. It is soul work." It's not experienced as a form of punishment. Instead, it is a clearing out of the clutter that keeps us from living fully with integrity, into our relationship between us and God.

I believe we would all do well to follow this sacred rhythm. And I dare say - at a minimum - we would do well to follow this lead. In an age of blame and vengeance, Yom Kippur teaches us to look inward before casting stones outward. It dares us to believe that change is still possible, that forgiveness is real, that we can begin again, reset.

Though while many of us reading this are not Jewish, we still have the same needs and desires to be connected one to another, and we are all in need of atonement. For many:

- Our relationships cry out for mending.
- Our systems are corrupt with injustice.
- Our lives often veer from our deepest values.
- Our politics pit neighbor against neighbor.
- Our language wounds more than it heals.
- Our economy rewards greed over generosity.
- Our institutions prioritize power over people.
- Our culture forgets the sacredness of the Earth.
- Our attention fractures across a thousand distractions.
- Our spirits grow numb from too much noise and not enough meaning.

So even if we do not fast for a day or our practices are different, in an age of blame and vengeance, Yom Kippur teaches us to look inward before casting stones outward. It dares us to believe that change is still possible, that forgiveness is real, that we can begin again. And I believe we need to find time, to take time, to pause and reflect. The benefit of this time seems to me to far outweigh the costs of our time.

Recently I walked the Dale Engle Walker trail, leaving my phone behind. It offered me a short stint of this reflective time, enough that it left my soul longing for a bit more. It reminded me that I would love to see us have a labyrinth, a place to walk and intentionally reflect on our own well-being and faith relationship, here @ The Farm. For I believe we all need to "repair what is broken, to renew what is holy, to begin again" just as our Jewish siblings do so intentionally and beautifully. And done with intentionality, walking a Labyrinth offers these things for us.

Please Pray for

Linda Beaver

Patricia Beck

Paula Cooper

The Engle Family

Ferguson Family

Al & Ruth Henry

Kasey Milheim

Ed & Eileen Prowant

Ben Spickler

Tommy Ward

Russ & Donna Wynn

Zimmerman Family

Zook Family

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.

For we are in this life together, so why not work to offer the best as we can offer. I invite you to join me on the trail, at the labyrinth, by the creek, in the woods, wherever you find space to be still, reflect, refresh, and renew. May this time be sacred and holy for you.

Shalom, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report

Warmth for Body and Soul. We asked and you delivered! Thank you for helping provide more than 75 coats for the 2025 Milton Coat Drive, hosted by St. Andrews United Methodist Church Milton. Your donations of gently used coats will certainly keep our neighbors warm this winter. We say thank you to St. Andrews in allowing us to participate in this way, and we say thank you to all who brought coats in to donate.

Confirmation 2024/2025. Sunday, November 16 will be our next Confirmation Sunday. On this day we will confirm our latest confirmands and welcome them into official membership of this faith family. The youth joining that day have been meeting with Pastor Tim and Lisa for a little more than a year and we look forward to celebrating this milestone in their faith journey with them and their families. We hope you can join us on this day!

Share Your Story. We are looking for 38 individual stories of your favorite Christmas memory. The stories will be compiled in a booklet and shared as a part of this year's Advent and Christmas celebrations for daily readings. If you would like to title your story, you are welcome to and if there is a scripture you want to include, you may do so as well. We ask that the stories you share be between 250 and 400 words. It would be ideal to have all stories sent to Donna (admin@spuccfarm.org) no later than Monday, October 27, 2025, so they may be compiled and formatted for the booklet that will be available to all families by November 23. Please prayerfully consider sharing your favorite Christmas story in this way. Questions, please reach out to Pastor Tim. Thank you in advance for your willingness to share in this way.



**Saint Paul's
ANNUAL
HAYRIDE**

**chicken BBQ meal,
bonfire, s'mores, and
a beautiful hayride!**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 AT 4 P.M.
NORTHILL ORCHARD, WINFIELD**

Please sign up at the
Sanctuary Welcome Desk by
Sunday, October 5.



**FAMILY NIGHT
PUMPKIN
CARVING
Contest**

OCTOBER 12, 5-7PM

Potluck meal, please bring
a dish to share!

Families will work together
to carve one pumpkin.
Voting will take place
online. Winning family will
receive a fun prize.



It's time to refresh our lists for the ways in which you share your talents in service, fellowship, worship, and Christian Formation with your faith community. And, let's make sure we have updated information for our Church Directory for all of our families. Please take a moment to complete the green survey and return to the Sanctuary Welcome Desk by October 26.



Barnyard Sale! On Wednesday, November 5, and Saturday, November 8, we are hosting our first ever Barnyard Sale for Missions! Saturday's sale will be in conjunction with our annual Soup, Bake & Craft Sale with all proceeds from both going to support our largest annual Mission & Outreach fundraiser, helping us serve neighbors near and far. Donations of gently used household items, furniture, tools, etc. are welcome (no clothing, please). Times to drop off items are Wednesdays between 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and Sundays after worship. Questions? Check in with Cyndy Kister (570-768-0977).

We Are Looking Good for Our Age! On Sunday, October 19, Saint Paul's will be celebrating our 125th anniversary. From our humble beginnings with 14 people in October of 1900 in a little white church on the hill of West Milton, to our humble home here @ The Farm, we rejoice and give God praise and thanks giving! On this day we will celebrate our history and look forward to our future with hope. Plan now to be here to be a part of this milestone celebration!

Baptisms and New Members, Oh My! Our next official New Member Sunday is November 16, which is also the day we will celebrate two very special baptisms. If you are contemplating official membership within this faith community or would just like to learn more about us and the beliefs, hopes, and dreams of this community, on this journey, please reach out to Pastor Tim. Call for a specific appointment or just stop by as he is around the church daily Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday and of course most other days, too.

October is Here! We start off with our local **Walk to End Hunger**, Sunday, October 5, sponsored by the local Council of Churches, then our annual **Hayride, Chicken Barbeque and Bonfire**, October 11 at Northhill Orchard. Sunday, October 12 is our annual **Pet Blessing** in the Meadow followed by Family Night and **Pumpkin Carving!** And we can't forget our 3rd annual **Monstrous Love Sunday**, October 26, featuring our annual Monster Truck display, Trunk or Treat, a Petting Zoo, hot dogs, and we may have a few more surprises up our sleeve! Start gathering candy and planning your costume for this Monstrous Love Sunday all-church and community event! Oh, and it can't be a month without a meal. October 19 will be our **Octoberfest Luncheon** following worship as well as our 125th Anniversary.



Upcoming Worship

October 5 ~ 17th Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
"Tell Us One More Time, Jesus"
II Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10
Worship Leader: Jen Arnold
Lector: Kathy Showers
Acolyte: Rhett Sample
Communion Assistants: Sam Barbella, Skylar Ritter, Rhonda Newton, Lisa Bernard
Kitchen Coordinator: Kathy Showers
Breakfast Sponsor: Susie Gearhart
Flowers Sponsor: Church
Offering Counter: C. Franciscus, D. Spear

October 12 ~ 18th Sunday after Pentecost
"Are You Taking Those Odds?"
Luke 17:11-19
Worship Leader: Jen Arnold
Lector: Morgan Richard
Acolyte: Charley Jo Kister
Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan
Breakfast Sponsor: Faust/Kazibwe/Oberlin
Flowers Sponsor: The Smallest Gift
Offering Counter: C. Franciscus, D. Spear

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

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...
Cora Kazibwe - 10/3
Andrew Dressler - 10/6
Brent Sample - 10/6
Deene Mathias - 10/7
Jeanie Council - 10/8
Susie Gearhart - 10/8
Kathy Rowe - 10/10
Dean Haven - 10/12
Richard Armstrong - 10/13
Barb Koch - 10/14
Kimberly Adams - 10/15
Rhett Sample - 10/15
Jon Hagan - 10/16



Happy Anniversary to ...
Beth Vincent & Bill Hawkins - 10/5
Dennis Burns & Deb O'Hara - 10/11
Barb & Bob Koch - 10/14

Have we missed your birthday or anniversary? Please let us know in the church office so that we may celebrate with you!

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**" with Miss Colleen, 4th to 8th Grade "**Pathfinders**" with Miss Krysta, and 9th Grade to Age 99 "**Travelers**" with Nicole and Dale Cuer. 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**" with Miss Colleen 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** together from 5 to 6:45 (October 12). **Confirmation Class** with Pastor Tim and Miss Lisa meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings at 5 p.m.

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. All are welcome, no matter your level of understanding of the Bible or biblical text. 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. On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month is "**Friends Who Breakfast**." This has become 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 (October 15). 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 Ashley and they bless our worship time once a month with their selections (Featured picture shows Brigid, Molly, Sadie, Cato, Cora, Finn, Lucy, and Kadence singing and signing "This Little Light of Mine" during worship on September 28.)



Stewardship

Gift & Offerings ~ 9/28/2025

"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: 146 (4 visitors)

LIVE Attendance: 600

Virtual Reach: 2,994

Christian Education: 52

Plate Giving: 3,092.00

Loose Plate: 235.00

Online Giving: 795.55

Operational Total: 4,122.55

Restricted Giving: 115.00

Total Giving: 4,237.55

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** (October 9 & 23) 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. 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" giving. The pantry is located in Grace Place @ the Farm and current needs that can be dropped in the wagon are: **Canned fruits, vegetables, and soups, oatmeal, box potatoes, shelf stable milk, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, mac & cheese, tuna, salmon, canned meats, and grocery gift cards.**



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

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