



Saint Paul's Possibilities

June 13, 2025

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

We have just celebrated Pentecost, the reception of God's Spirit upon us, within us, a Spirit that brings us to awareness of the needs of others, of God's presence with us, and is called to reenergize us to do for others. And I can't help but think we need the Spirit to fall upon us more than ever to pull us from our distractions, any chaos around us, and nudge us from mindsets influenced by the world around us.

Stick with me here for a moment.

Maybe you remember the movie, "Elf." Yes, it's a Christmas movie. If you do or don't, let me describe a bit of it for you. In the movie, belief in Santa and in Christmas has fallen so low that the elves had to install a turbo booster engine on Santa's sleigh, because it could no longer run on the "Christmas spirit" of others--a spirit of belief in magic or good in the world.

The elves have also installed a "Spirit Claus-O-Meter" on the light-up dashboard of Santa's sleigh. The "Spirit Claus-O-Meter" tells Santa how much Christmas spirit is left in the world. Toward the end of the movie, the "Spirit Claus-O-Meter" falls to its lowest level ever--almost to zero--as Santa is making his rounds on Christmas Eve. When the turbo-booster engine is turned up to its max, the vibration causes it to fall off the sleigh, and the sleigh crashes in Central Park.

I am reminded of this story as people--even the most faithful people, I am afraid--begin to lose sight of the Holy Spirit at times. I read a devotion today about how people can become numb to what is going on around them. The call for division can become louder than the call to community. Communities begin to silo, and silos divide and we don't end up looking like God's people of faith, who I believe the true church is called to be. Our "Faith-O-Meter," if you will, begins to run low.

When we fall into the 'he said,' 'she said,' 'they did,' 'they don't,' 'they can't'--all the judgement of others--it separates us from God and our faith begins to wane because we can't do both. We can't judge AND be faithful at the same time. In Revelation 3:15-16, we find:

"I know your works. You are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I'm about to spit you out of my mouth."

I am reminded of the story of Virginia Commonwealth University Men's Basketball Coach Mike Rhoades, who is famously known for his community building work with his team. Mike says: "You have to get to know one another, you have to know each other's history, heroes, heartbreaks, and hopes, and you can't know any of that if you don't listen."

Unfortunately, we are living in a time when listening is not valued. Everyone wants everyone else to know their opinion, and if we are listening, we need to listen to understand where the person is coming from--not just listening, waiting to share our own opinion. It makes me wonder, is anyone listening? Is society so spun-up that no one is listening to one another? We repeat talking points and don't value the individual?

Join Us in Prayer for

Earl Amaker
Linda Beaver
Diane Bettleyon
Earlene Brasher
Gary Chambers
Nicole & Dale Cuer
The Engle Family
Greyson Greenawalt
Celeste Hampton
John "Tad" Hampton
Joan Helwig
Al & Ruth Henry
Robin Hoffman
Kathy Lahr
Katy Mahon
Nancy Jean Snyder
Savanah Spacil
Joanne Oister
Chuck Schworer
Emily Schworer
John Waldron
Barb Wagner
Tommy Ward
Flo Warner
Russ & Donna Wynn

You know we hear all the time, we can read it in the stories of Jesus, we live it in our own daily lives that compassion is the heart of Jesus' ministry, and it is who we are called to be--one with compassion, offering hope, serving and caring for our neighbors, loving one another, not judging one another.

It's odd to me that society seems to be driving us to a place of group-think, siloing groups, separating individuals. While Jesus called us to look at every individual through the eyes of truth and compassion, of understanding and hope, of love and deep care and concern. Where are we on this spectrum of love for neighbors? Are we fully engaged or comfortable hanging out on the fringes with one foot in our worldly view and another in our faith?

Eventually one will win out. We can't stay both in a place of faith in Christ and a place of societal judgment of others. My prayer is that in this church, in this place, we stay in a place of Christ-centered focus. A place of deep care and concern for others, reenergized daily by the Holy Spirit in a way that our "Faith-O-Meter" continually runs high.

Stay strong in your faith, and may the Holy Spirit continually rescue us from ourselves.

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report

Going Bananas! Week 1 - Join us for Vacation Bible School when on Sunday mornings this summer we "taste and see that the Lord is good" while discovering more about a bunch of yummy fruits that God created. Fruit is sweet to eat and also gives us the vitamins and minerals our bodies need to stay healthy. Through fruit, we'll discover the great blessings God has given us in this world, as well as ways for us to stay connected to Him. This week ... ask your child what they learned about bananas and the Fruits of the Spirit! Bananas are possibly one of the most well-known, and commonly used fruits. Whether or not it's your favorite fruit, bananas are used in desserts, breads, pancakes, and even ice cream. Just like the banana can be used in many ways, God gave us the Fruits of the Spirit to guide us no matter what situation we face. Galatians 5:22-23



Flowers for a Cause. Sponsoring flowers for worship in honor, memory, or celebration of a loved one or friend in June or July? Our own Susie Gearhart of the Blooming Rooster (322 Market Street, Lewisburg) will be donating a portion of the cost of the flowers, back to Saint Paul's to help "Fill, Phil the Freezer" for our food distribution pantries. Order flowers online via the website (spuccfarm.org) or by calling the church office. Multiple flower arrangements can be sponsored each week.

Dodging the Rain Drops for Youth & Young Adults. Watch this space for some great summer fun events for youth and young adults as we try to dodge the raindrops and schedule some specific events for our high school and college age family members. Events will include but are not limited to swimming, a trip to Knoebel's, mini-golf, drive-in movie night, and maybe some indoor activities if the weather doesn't cooperate. So, watch this space for some extra Summer Fun starting next week.

Traveling This Summer--Enjoying God's Gift to You and Your Family? Take Us With You!

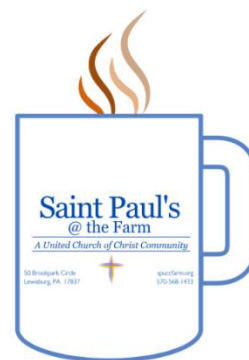
All our services are available on Facebook and YouTube, and with the great job our A/V Team does, we often hear, "watching online almost feels like we're here in person." Of course, it's not the same experience, but close. If you haven't already, subscribe to us on YouTube, and you will get a reminder each time we come online. Sleeping in during your vacation? You can certainly catch up with the service later, on either medium, along with grabbing the Bulletin and Possibilities all via links on our website homepage (spuccfarm.org).

And too, speaking of links on the homepage, we offer a way for you to participate with your *Tithes and Offerings* by clicking the "give" button on our homepage. You may also scan the QR code in the bulletin or onscreen during the offering when watching our service online. While special giving, like Missions and Outreach often continue strong in the Summer, many times Operational giving (Tithes and Offerings) used to cover things like utilities, salaries, and day-to-day expenses, those offerings trail off for the summer sometimes when we need it the most.

So, if you are away, traveling this summer, go knowing you are in our hearts and our prayers, and stay connected with your faith family. And know this too, we will be holding you in our hearts and prayers until you return. Stay safe and have a great vacation this summer.

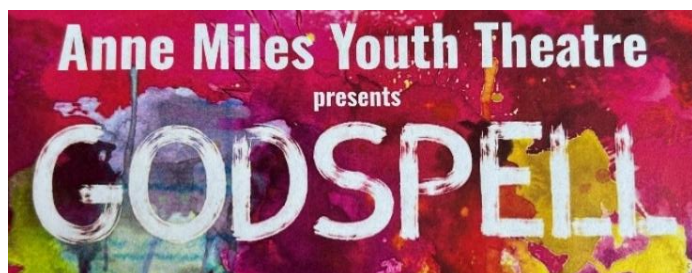
Summer Sundays @ The Farm.

- Coffee & Conversation (on the porch and in Fellowship Hall) begins at 10 a.m. on Sundays.
- Nursery & Sensory Rooms open at 10:15, every Sunday.
- Worship @ 10:30 each Sunday morning.
- Second Sunday Connections, July 13, 5 p.m.
- Third Annual Summer Fun, Ice Cream Freeze-Off, July 20



Many other activities, like Monday Morning Reflections, Fourth Friday Word, Wine, & Wisdom, Take Me Out to the Ballgame, and our Summer Chicken Barbeque & Swim, and other activities are listed on our online special events calendar via our website (spuccfarm.org). Check out all the summer activities and join us when you can, as we aren't the same when you are not here.

Special Note. (especially if you are away) If you are not on our Facebook Prayers & Love page and have access to Facebook, please join us there as prayer requests, any special events or needs, and even God moments show up there and it's a great way to stay connected.



Under the Direction of Sharon Styer...

And Kevin on tech, sound, and lighting, 30 kids ages 11 to 30 will present Godspell on Thursday, June 19, and Friday, June 20, at 7 p.m. Mark your calendars and come on down to the Northumberland County Career and Arts Center in Shamokin. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. All tickets are sold at the door.

Saint Paul's Celebrations

Happy Birthday ...

June 13 – Rachel Henry
June 14 – Steve Brown
June 15 – Lisa Bernard
June 16 – Amy Armstrong
June 19 – Pastor Tim
June 20 – Katie Armstrong
June 21 – Niki Weber



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 2nd 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. 7/13
- ~ 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.
April 23 to June 25 "Searching for the Sacred: Sixty Meditations on Faith, Hope, and Love"
- ~ Confirmation Class every 2nd and 4th 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
6/18 Silver Moon Restaurant, 9:30 a.m.
- ~ 4th Friday Word, Wine & Wisdom, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Union Cellars, 6/27

Serving @ The Farm Mission & Outreach

- ~ Fresh Express 2nd & 4th Thursdays 1-5 p.m.
6/12, 6/26
- ~ Harvest Meal 4th Mondays @ St. Andrews, Milton 1-5 p.m. 6-23
- ~ 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 June 8, 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: 141 (5 visitors)

Attendance on LIVE: 867 Virtual Reach: 3,120

Christian Education: 44

Plate Giving	\$ 2,557.00
Loose Plate	\$ 219.00
Online Giving	\$ 468.13
Operational Total	\$ 3,244.13
Restricted Giving	\$ 355.00
Total Giving	\$ 3,599.13

Upcoming Worship

June 15, 2025 ~ Trinity Sunday

"Handicap Accessible"

Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

Worship Leader: Susie Gearhart

Lector: Jeanie Council

Acolyte: Lucy Rosboschil

Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan

Altar Flower Sponsors: Bill Bernard

Offering Counter: E. Fisher, D. Spear

June 22, 2025 ~ 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

"Think You Got Problems"

II Kings 5:1-15; Luke 8:26-39

Worship Leader: Susie Gearhart

Lector: Tracy Baylor

Acolyte: Kadence Gill

Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan

Altar Flower Sponsor: Carol Oberlin

Offering Counter: P. Emory, D. Spear

June Usher/Greeters: Earl & Terri Fisher,
Kris & Laurie Anderson, Barb Wagner, Steve Brown,
Bob Gift, Shelly Sholley



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

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Pastor's Email: PastorTim@spuccfarm.org

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