



Saint Paul's Possibilities

June 5, 2026

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

I want to start simply: all are welcome here at Saint Paul's. That includes this month of June, when many in our community celebrate Pride Month.

If your first instinct is to wonder why that even matters or why we're talking about it—I'm glad you're reading this. Let me explain.

Last Sunday I preached from Genesis 1:27-31: "God created humanity in God's own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female God created them. God blessed them and said, 'Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and master it.'... Then God said, 'I now give to you all the plants on the earth that yield seeds... These will be your food.'... God looked over all that God had made, and God saw that it was supremely good."

Very good. That's how God sees creation. That's how God sees every one of us. All of us.

At Saint Paul's, or at any church for that matter, our job is not to tell you who God made you to be. Our job is to love you where you are and create space—safe, sacred space—for you to figure out with a loving God who that is. As followers of Christ, we're called to love one another. And loving one another has never meant correcting someone to live as we believe. It means meeting people with grace, hope, and compassion.

For many people, for me personally, Pride Month is not about sinful pride. It's about something much simpler and much more powerful: it's about saying "I am who God made me to be, and that's good."

And if you've never had to experience hearing judgment for who you are—if you've had the privilege of simply being without fear—that's wonderful. That's the world we're building for everyone. But until we get there, understand this: when someone is proudly celebrating who God made them to be, they're not just celebrating for themselves. They're sending a signal to every other person who has faced judgment: You are not alone. You are not wrong. You belong here. Your role, then, is to celebrate that courage. To amplify that visibility. To stand with them in the way that is most comfortable for you.

Here at Saint Paul's, we are called to be a place where all God's children know they are safe, seen, and sacred. We don't need a label to prove that. We don't need a rainbow flag on our doors—though I deeply respect churches that fly one. What we need is to live it: to welcome all people, to love one another, and to create space for everyone to be who God made them to be.

Whether you're celebrating Pride Month or not, your choice is the same as mine: To love. Not to judge. Not to correct. Not to segregate. Simply to love. That's the only instruction Jesus gave us: Love God. Love one another. Everything else flows from that.

So, this Pride Month, let's all commit to that. Let's celebrate people being who God created them to be. And let's remember: we are all God's children, and we are all welcome here.

We create this safe, sacred space together. That means we all commit to love and respect. It means we don't judge. It means we welcome one another. And I'm grateful to say: this has never been an issue in our community. You have consistently shown up for one another with grace and love. That's who we are. It means—as it always has—that we hold each other accountable to that standard.

Thanks be to God for this church and this faith family, for all of you.

Please Pray for

Linda Beaver
Patti Faux
Rebecca Foote
Ellie Guerrero
Robin Huffman
Priscilla Lanks
Morris Family
Chuck Schworer
Amanda Unzueta
Tommy Ward
All service personnel
Unrest in our world

In Christ, with peace and blessings, Pastor Tim

The Farm Report



VBS Saint Paul's Style.

It's time for Vacation Bible School and what a joy-filled treat Miss Colleen has in store for the kiddos this summer. Beginning Sunday, June 7, and for 12 weeks, the children will put on their GLAD SCIENTIST goggles and explore the hypothesis: I can do whatever I want. JOY EXPERIMENTS will start during Time with Our Children in worship and carry through to the classroom as the children listen and watch and discover God's TRUTH: We experience JOY when we follow God's way! Each week the children will have a craft that they may choose to do on the porch following worship (along with drinks and snacks) or the craft can be taken home to complete during the week. Finley and Maeve already look like scientists in this picture that was taken during worship last week!



Congratulations Graduates! We honor a great group of graduates this year and are so excited to see where life leads for each of them, from first grade to starting careers, oh the places you will go! Congratulations parents and youth. *Pictured: Maeve Gault, Pre-K graduation headed to Kelly Elem.; Finnley Moyer, Pre-K graduation headed to Baugher Elem.; Delilah Sample, Pre-K graduation headed to Kelly Elem.; Ryan Arnold, Lewisburg HS attending Bloomsburg University to study Cyber Security; Elias Franciscus, Milton HS attending Millersville University to study Music Industry; Aaden Stottlemeyer, Central York HS attending Penn State Berks; and Isaiah Franciscus, Bloomsburg University with a B.S. in Biology focused on Ecology and Field Conservation.*



Celebrate Father's Day with Us @ Central Oak Heights! Mark your calendars to join your faith family on Sunday, June 21, for worship at 10:30 a.m. under the open-air tabernacle at Central Oak Heights followed by a Father's Day picnic lunch, yard games, swimming, and the kind of day that reminds us why we're here. This Saint Paul's tradition started back in 2017, and we're thrilled it's returning. What's on tap for the day: after worship, we're providing Fried Chicken, Iced Tea and Lemonade, bring a picnic side to share—it's the old-fashioned way of saying "I'm part of the greater community." Then come ready to play: sack races, cornhole, horseshoes, ladder ball, maybe even wiffle ball if we're feeling ambitious. The pool will be open for anyone who wants to cool off. It's the kind of day that builds memories—the kind that seven-year-olds talk about for years, that grandparents remember with joy, that reminds us what it means to be church together. Faith family, food, games, and laughter in the sunshine, what a way to celebrate! See you at Central Oak Heights, Sunday, June 21, 10:30 a.m., at 78 Heritage Road, Lewisburg (accessible from 15 Southbound only – go to West Milton exit and come south on 15 from there).

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...

Elaine Waugh - 6/5
 Cyndy Kister - 6/6
 Emily Bernard - 6/10
 Carolyn Wuerdeman - 6/10
 Bonita Bossert - 6/12

Jesse Swanger - 6/12
 Rachel Henry - 6/13
 Steve Brown - 6/14
 Lisa Bernard - 6/15

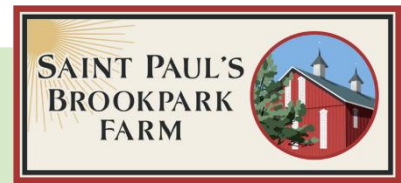
Happy Anniversary to ...
 Chip & Sylvia Eschbach - 6/6
 Ron & Kris Wenning - 6/7

What is an Ecclesiastical Council? On June 14 at 3 p.m. here at The Farm, we will host Pastor Tim's Ecclesiastical Council. But what exactly is that? Here's what you need to know. In the United Church of Christ (UCC), an Ecclesiastical Council is a formal meeting convened by the Association (in our case, the Central Association) to examine and approve a candidate for full ordination. The council brings together clergy and lay delegates from regional congregations to evaluate the candidate's fitness for ministry. Pastor Tim has traversed an intentional path to this moment—first through ordination in the United Methodist Church of West Ohio and now seeking full ordination in the UCC. Along the way, he has completed: Polity and history coursework in the UCC; a formal psychological examination, both in the UMC and the UCC; mentorship and interviews with the Committee on Ministry; and a comprehensive Ordination Paper: *"The Long Road to Yes: Ordination as a Sacred Commitment to Build Bigger Tables, Exhibit Radical Welcome & Share Unconditional Love"*—where he articulates his faith journey, theological statement, and understanding of the marks for ministry. The local Committee on Ministry has approved Pastor Tim's candidacy. Now it moves to the Association for final review and vote. What Happens at the Council? Each church in the Association receives two delegate votes and one pastoral vote. However, all are invited to attend and participate in the examination by asking questions. After the candidate has had ample time to answer questions, a vote will be "called to question," and will take place. Results will follow, and refreshments will be available for all attendees. You are Invited. This is a significant milestone in Pastor Tim's ministry and in the life of our church. And all are welcome to attend. Should Pastor Tim receive the approval of those gathered for the Council, a formal Ordination Service will take place on August 30, here @ The Farm.

Look closely at who is checking out the new picnic pavilion view as demolition began this week, Pastor Tim, Bob Gift, and Jen Van Horn (not pictured Don Emory).



Cottage Meeting Dates are Set! We hope to see you there! Members, Friends, Visitors... In a few weeks we will begin Cottage Meetings, a time to talk about your hopes and dreams for this faith community and explore how you might support the work that stirs your heart. We will gather to share news of the health of our church, offer a corporate report, present an initial vision for the barn, and ask you to share your hopes and dreams for this faith community. We'll participate in conversation about how we make those dreams a reality together. Whether you have been here ten years or more, less than five, or maybe even only six months or a year, everyone has something to contribute. Your voice matters. The Details: The meetings are designed as small group gatherings—12 to 14 people per meeting—to keep them timely and intimate, allowing everyone space to speak and be heard. Cottage Meetings will be offered throughout the week: Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays, with some gatherings during the day and others in the evenings. We hope this variety gives you the flexibility to choose a time that works best for you and your family. We are excited for this sacred tradition as we dream our way forward and listen to how the Holy is calling us. Sign-up sheets for 11 dates and times in June and July are on the sign-up bar.



Updates & What's Happening

Our beloved Farm thrives because of our staff and volunteers! Generous souls who show up with willing hands and open hearts as usual this week. Here's what those hands have been up to this week:

Working on The Farm's New Picnic Pavilion! *It's been a journey. Since last fall, drawings have been submitted, permits filed, and paperwork processed—in every instance more than twice. But diligence and ingenuity prevailed, and this week, we're thrilled to announce: demolition has begun on our new Picnic Pavilion! A special thank you to Jen Van Horn for all the behind-the-scenes work—the phone calls, the coordination, the persistence—that made this possible. When complete, the pavilion will feature a small kitchen equipped with electric and water, plus comfortable picnic space overlooking the meadow. Around it, we're creating space for a firepit, horseshoe pits, volleyball and badminton nets—all the makings of summer gatherings and community fun. We can't wait to see this space take shape and to welcome our faith family and neighbors into it. So, summer @ The Farm just got better. Additional items this week include:*

- *Fixing a tenant's leaky sink drain*
- *Replacing floor tiles*
- *Landscaping and weed eating and flower planting too*
- *Taking a load of scrap metal to be recycled, and*
- *Our summer celebration, honor and memory garden was planted this past weekend (thanks to Deb Frei, Jeanie and Emerson Council and Kathy Showers.) Thank you all! It's all a part of life on the Farm and we are so very thankful for so many hands lightening the workload.*

On the Journey Together ~ Summer @ The Farm

Summer Season Here @ The Farm.

Comes with some new routines...From Sunday, June 7, to Sunday, September 6, coffee is brewed and ready in Fellowship Hall for 10 a.m. and our nursery and sensory rooms are staffed and open. While we do not hold our Faith Connections during the summer season, Miss Colleen provides a robust and fun **Vacation Bible School** and this year's curriculum is **Glad Scientist**. The children will have a lesson during **Time with Our Children**, during worship, and continue with a story during **Children's Church**. Each week

Miss Colleen prepares a fun craft which can be completed on the porch following worship (along with snacks, lemonade, and fellowship for all). We celebrate **Holy Communion** together on the first Sunday of each month, and **Family Night** is monthly on the 2nd Sunday beginning at 5 p.m. Our summer family meals include a **Father's Day Picnic** at Central Oak Heights on June 21. On July 19 is our annual **Ice Cream Freeze Off @ The Farm**. And on August 22 is our **Back-to-School Picnic and Swim**. While our Chancel and Bell Choirs take a much-needed respite, each Sunday we welcome musicians for **Special Music**. This is always a treat and keep watch for a very special addition this summer as our children take a lead in part of our worship time together.



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 on the Porch** from 11:30 to 1:00. Pick up lunch at the Farmer's Market across the bridge from the farm or bring your own and join Pastor Tim. Mid-week, 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. *Pictured is Emerson Council helping this week to prepare the beautiful tribute garden for this season.*

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 ~ 5/31/26

Attendance: 154 (4 visitors)

LIVE Attendance: 876

Virtual Reach: 4,608

Christian Education: 34

Plate Giving: 4,572.00

Loose Plate: 320.00

Online Giving: 1,056.08

Operational Total: 5,948.08

Restricted Giving: 165.00

Total Giving: 6,113.08

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 June 11 & 25. We also participate in **Community Harvest**, a monthly meal program in conjunction with Bucknell's Center for Community Engaged Leadership, Learning & Research. We cook on the 4th Monday of each month from 1-4 p.m. at St. John's UCC and assist on select months with monthly distribution there on the 3rd Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Upcoming Worship

June 7 ~ Second Sunday after Pentecost ~ "Love Child"

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Worship Leader: Sue Overdorf ~ Lector: Doug Richard ~ Acolyte: Kyra Richard

Flower Sponsor: Wennings ~ Offering Counters: D. Bettleyon, D. Spear

Communion Assistants: Ryan Arnold, Elias Franciscus, Nora and Olivia Hockenbrock

Kitchen Setup: Kathy Showers

June 14 ~ Third Sunday after Pentecost ~ "I'll Be There"

Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8

Worship Leader: Sue Overdorf ~ Lector: Reba Rohrer ~ Acolyte: Lucy Rosboschil

Flower Sponsor: Available ~ Offering Counters: K. Showers, D. Spear

Kitchen Setup: Tina Longan

June Usher /Greeter Team: Earl & Terri Fisher, Sue Mahon, Amy Mahon, Carol Oberlin, Steve Brown, Bob Gift, George Mull, Shelly Sholley

