



# Celebrate St. Paul's!



135 years of service

133 Church St. P.O. Box 177 Bowmansville, Pa. 17507 717-445-6256  
www.stpaulsuccchurch.org Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Volume 17, Number 9  
September 2021

## What's Inside?

Learn from Leaves

Promises on Hand

Kitchen Update

Nursery Needs

Food Bank Requests



## *“Teach and Learn”*

“learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Matthew 11:29

As we prepare to send our children back to school, here is a reminder

for all of us adults: learning should be a lifelong endeavor. For all of us.

And it should be an endeavor! Something we choose to put some effort in to.

Here’s an interesting piece of trivia: people called Jesus “teacher” more than any other descriptive title in the bible. And Jesus called himself teacher.

Jesus came to save! Oh yes, we say that all the time (because it’s true all the time). And one of his primary lifesaving methods was his teaching. We need to be on the receiving end, as lifelong learners.

And we should also, all of us, be teachers. Each of us in our own special way.

Listen to the final commandment of Jesus recorded in the very last verse of the Gospel of Matthew:

“and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the ages”.

Phil



## Mission Statement

We, the congregation of St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, who have accepted the gift of love and salvation through Jesus Christ, strive to take this message into the world through our prayers, words and deeds. We invite all people to accept these gifts with us.

## ***Learn From Leaves***

As you're enjoying the fall colors and sipping apple cider, ponder this saying: "Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."

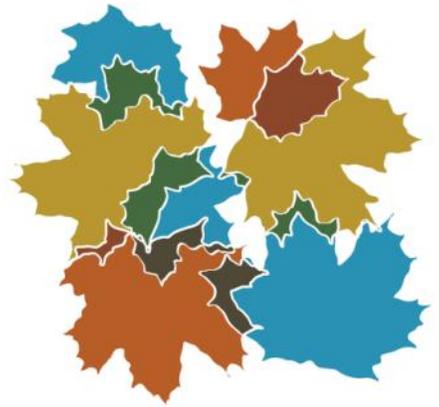
When leaves stop producing chlorophyll, they turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange and red. This yearly spectacle makes way for the leaves to let go and fall. It also serves as a good reminder of things we may need to drop: clutter around the home, a desire for control, commitments that no longer bring joy, personal expectations that cause added stress, a need to always be right and so on.

Just as the Israelites had to let go of their past as slaves in Egypt and Saul-turned-Paul had to abandon his persecuting ways, we, too, can let go of what weighs us down and gets in the way of God's best for our lives. Embrace fall as a season of change and see just how beautiful it is to let things go!

Janna Firestone

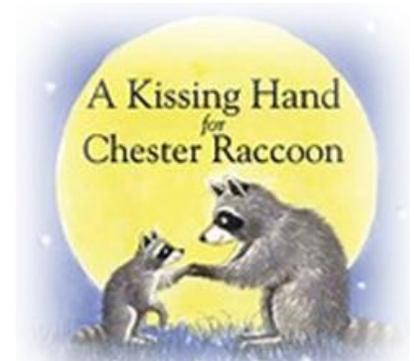
The NewsletterNewsletter

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## ***Promises On Hand***

Audrey Penn's book *The Kissing Hand* features a young raccoon who's nervous about the first day of school. Mom consoles him by kissing his palm, signifying her presence with him. The youngster can simply put his hand to his face any time he needs a kiss from her. If that isn't tear-jerking enough, as the raccoon scampers to school, he returns to kiss Mom's hand so she'll have a Kissing Hand too.



That story reminds me of Matthew 28:20, when Jesus promises to be with us always, and of Psalm 23:4, which says, "I will fear no evil; for thou art with me" (KJV). God gives us a Kissing Hand through baptism, sealing us forever with the Holy Spirit and the mark of the cross of Christ.

Just as the raccoons cherish their kissing hands, may we cherish the promise of our Father's eternal presence. Thanks be to God, whose "goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life" (Psalm 23:6).

Julie Lee

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## Looking Ahead

September 6	Labor Day
September 16	Fill Food Bank Orders
October 3	NIN Offering
October 10	Communion

## Consistory Update

**Thank you** to everyone who helped with our music and movie night. We had a good turnout and hope to do more of these events in the future.



**Kitchen update:** We are currently looking into purchasing new tables for the fellowship hall. The cost will be approximately \$2000. The remaining balance in the kitchen fund of \$900.00 will be used toward the expense and the church will cover the remaining balance. Donations are also being accepted to help offset the cost. If you would like to contribute please mark your envelopes kitchen fund and placed them in the offering plate. Thank you.



**Nursery:** We are still looking for volunteers to stay in the nursery during the worship time with any young children. If you are interested and would like to help please see Gerri, Gretchen or Dee.



**Church Picnic:** At the beginning of August we held our annual church picnic at Woodcrest Retreat. We did not have the best of weather, but I am happy to say it was very well attended and everyone had a great time. As always we had a wonderful worship service and plenty of food to eat. Thank you to everyone who helped us to prepare, setup, and cleanup the pavilion.



**Take Note-**We have already scheduled with Woodcrest Retreat to have our 2022 picnic on August 7th. You have plenty of time to mark your calendars so you don't miss this fun event!

### **Answers**

Answers to prayers come in various ways, sometimes in minutes, sometimes in days. And some take years to fully unfold the harvest of love and blessings they hold.

Answers to prayers come in various forms, sometimes in sunlight, sometimes through storms. Some blossom early, and some blossom late, but each one will flower — have faith and wait!

—Helen Inwood, *His Mysterious Ways*



The next consistory meeting is scheduled for  
**Wednesday, September 1 at 7:00 pm**

**Prayer Concerns:** We will be updating our prayer list monthly by starting a new list at the beginning of every month. Please continue to review the list and if there are any updates during the month please contact Phil Shober or Dee Sprecher. We also have prayer request cards located in the parlor room and in the pews upstairs for your convenience. You can fill out the request and turn it in to the church office or place it in the offering plate.



As you continue your own prayers and concerns outside of the sanctuary this week, please remember the concerns we have raised as a community.

**Our list of prayer concerns from August**

Alta, Anna, Barbara, Betty, Bob, Ed, Irene, Mary, Sara, the Fry family, the Wells family, and all the people affected in Afghanistan, the earthquake victims in Haiti, and the fire and flooding victims in the U.S.

Suggested Prayer... “Most gracious and loving God, we lift up our list of prayer concerns this day and every day that all who are listed might know and feel your presence with them in their time of need. God, continue in your support for all of our friends and family listed and those who are forever in our hearts so that they might feel you with them each day, Amen.”



If you would like to ask for prayers for someone please contact Kieran Connelly. Below is a list of the individuals on our Prayer Team that will pray for you throughout the week.

- Kieran Connelly 717-471-5018
- Lynda Cooper
- Gretchen Martin
- Gerri Shober
- Nancy Caffrey-Schafer
- Steve Renninger
- Chris Storms
- Phil Shober
- Donna Ozga

**Caring for Our Members**

Please remember our members and friends in your prayers. Many in retirement villages and their homes are unable to attend church due to the pandemic and other health concerns.



**Lois Kirkpatrick**  
Garden Spot Village  
433 South Kinzer Ave,  
New Holland, Pa. 17557

**Mary Tamerius**  
Faithful Living  
2015 N. Reading Road  
Room 156  
Denver, Pa. 17517

**Hen Lessley**  
Keystone Villa  
100 N. State Street  
Room 112  
Ephrata, Pa. 17522

**Alta Hoshour**  
Manor Care  
100 Abbeyville Rd  
Room# Fulton 009A  
Lancaster, Pa 17603

**Jane Storms**  
3659 Kennel Avenue  
Mountville, Pa. 17512

**Pearl Renninger**  
268 W Maple Grove Rd  
Denver, Pa. 17517

**Bill & Grace Sprecher**  
Fairmount Homes  
2312 Wheat Ridge Drive  
Ephrata, Pa. 17522

**Harold Good**  
Garden Spot Village  
433 S Kinzer Ave  
Apt. 17GW  
New Holland, Pa. 17557

**Linda Summers**  
101 South 2nd Street  
Denver, Pa 17517

**Pastoral Visits or Emergencies**



If anyone is in need of pastoral assistance please contact Phil Shober anytime via text or call at 610-780-3915 or email philipshober@gmail.com. You can also call the church office at 717-445-6256 or email the church secretary at dee@stpaulsuccchurch.org.

# The People's Pantry

Our food drive has been named  
“The People’s Pantry”.

It will be our turn to fill the orders at the local food bank in Terre Hill on Thursday, September 16th. If you would like to help please see Nancy Connelly for more details.

We are still collecting the items mentioned below. Any donations can be placed on the table in the parlor room. Thank you.

Low sodium items for the Terre Hill food bank.

Toiletries items for the Grace House ladies.



## Bible Quiz



How many times in the Old Testament do people cross a body of water on dry ground?

- A. once
- B. twice
- C. three times
- D. four times



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Birthdays

### September

- 6 Jane Storms
- 7 Jeff Sprecher
- 8 Vincent Borja
- 14 Sue Klaassen Kuzniar



## Happy Birthday!

## Anniversaries



Phil & Gerri Shoer –  
40 years on September 12

## Treasurer's Report

The monthly report for July 2021:

### Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$93,190.06
+ Receipts	7,379.46
- Disbursements	13,599.42
- Transfers	0
Ending Balance	\$86,970.10

A copy of this information can also be found at the mailboxes in the slot marked financial reports.

**July's offering only total was \$4,750.00.**



## *Power in Weakness*

In the late 1970s, Henry Smith was struggling to find work after finishing his education. He also lived with a degenerative disease that caused him to become legally blind. But one day he heard a pastor explain that Jesus became poor so we might become rich through him. This idea inspired Smith to craft a song of thanks for God's gift of Jesus. Though Smith wrote more than 300 songs, only this one became widely known (sometimes labeled "author unknown" or misattributed, but finally rightfully credited to him).

"Give thanks with a grateful heart," the song begins exuberantly. One of its most poignant lines urges, "Let the weak say, I am strong ... because of what the Lord has done for us." Across two millennia, Smith's words and faith echo the apostle Paul: "[The Lord] said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me"



(2 Corinthians 12:9, NRSV).

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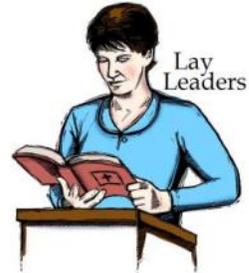
While we are currently holding worship services in person following the CDC guidelines, we also continue to stream our services online.

If you are more comfortable watching from home please use the following link and enter the code 225210 to join the service.

<https://gracehousepa.com/grace-house-blessings/>



# Monthly Volunteers



September 5	Geri Shober
September 12	Mary Renninger
September 19	Sara Renninger
September 26	Cheryl Borja

September 5	Grace House
September 12	Tim Lutz
September 19	Geri Shober
September 26	Mary Renninger

October 3	Geri Shober
October 10	Geri Shober
October 17	Mary Renninger
October 24	Sara Renninger
October 31	Cheryl Borja

October 3	Grace House
October 10	Sharon Blechschmidt
October 17	Kieran Connelly
October 24	Lynda Cooper
October 31	Charlie Storms

\*\* Indicates communion



The following individuals are responsible for counting the offering after worship;

September 5	Gretchen & Brian Martin
September 12	Charlie & Chris Storms
September 19	Sharon Blechschmidt & Geri Shober
September 26	Dee Sprecher & Lynda Cooper

**Want To Help??** If you would like to have the opportunity to volunteer for any of these tasks please see Phil Shober or Dee Sprecher. We can always use more Lay Leaders and Altar guild people. No experience necessary!

## Sponsors



September 5	open
September 12	Dee Sprecher
September 19	open
September 26	open
October 3	open
October 10	open
October 17	open
October 24	open
October 31	open



September 5	open
September 12	open
September 19	open
September 26	open
October 3	open
October 10	open
October 17	open
October 24	open
October 31	open

## Flower and Bulletin Sponsor Sheet

The flower and bulletin charts for **2021 are posted**. If you would like to sponsor a week please sign your name on the chart for any Sunday you wish. Please fill out the appropriate form and see that Dee gets your dedication information at least one week prior to it going in the bulletin. The cost for the flowers is **\$30.00**. We will place silk flowers in the sanctuary and place your dedication information in the bulletin. If you wish to purchase real flowers you may still do so on your own. The cost of the bulletins is **\$10.00** each week. Payments can be given to Dee Sprecher. Thank you in advance for your support.

## *St Paul's UCC Celebrate*

A publication of St. Paul's UCC  
 133 Church St., P.O. Box 177  
 Bowmansville, Pa. 17507  
 Phone & Fax 717-445-6256  
 office@stpaulsuccchurch.org  
 www.stpaulsuccchurch.org



Editor:  
 Deidre Sprecher  
 dee@stpaulsuccchurch.org

St Paul's UCC *Celebrate* is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of programs of the church and to report news about the community and its people.

Deadline for article submissions: The third Sunday of each month.

# September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <b>Consistory 7:00</b>	2 Piano lessons 6-7 pm	3 Piano lessons 8:00-11:30 am	4
5 <b>Grace House Worship 10:30</b>	6 <b>Labor Day</b>	7 Piano lessons 6-7 pm	8 <b>Ladies &amp; Mens Bible Study 7pm</b>	9 Piano lessons 6-7 pm	10 Piano lessons 8:00-11:30 am	11 <b>Patriot Day</b>
12 <b>Worship 10:30</b>	13	14 Piano lessons 6-7 pm	15	16 Piano lessons 6-7 pm	17 Piano lessons 8:00-11:30 am	18
19 <b>Worship 10:30 Newsletter Due</b>	20	21 Piano lessons 6-7 pm	22 <b>Fall Begins</b>	23 Piano lessons 6-7 pm	24 Piano lessons 8:00-11:30 am	25
26 <b>Worship 10:30</b>	27 <b>Book Club 7:00</b>	28 Piano lessons 6-7 pm	29	30 Piano lessons 6-7 pm		