

# ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## THE GOOD NEWS

*Sharing Life's Journey by Building Our Relationships with Jesus and Each Other*

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### Steven Says . . . What is Lent all about?

Lent always begins with Ash Wednesday which this year falls on February 18. I invite you to come and worship and receive the imposition of ashes at a special evening service at 7:00 in the sanctuary. We receive ashes as a way of remembering that “you are dust and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19).

# Lent



Lent continues for 40 days (a significant amount of time in the Bible representing a time of testing, trial, purification, or transformation. Jesus himself spent 40 days in the wilderness where he fasted and endured temptation from the devil (Matthew 4:1-11).

During this season we will travel with Jesus, hear the stories of Jesus' life leading to the cross, and join with brothers and sisters from our St. Andrew's UCC and St. Stephen's UCC on Wednesdays to encourage one another on the journey (see page 3 for more details).

**Steven Says, *Let us journey with Jesus these 40 days!***

## FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

*Services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel via our website.*

*Worship is held at 10:15am in the sanctuary.*

**Lay Reader for February:** *Nancy Ziegenfuss*

### **February 1** | Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Text: *Matthew 5:1-12*

Sermon: **Who is Blessed?**

Jesus started his most famous sermon with a series of “Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_.” We can learn a lot about God’s plan for his people through these *Beatitudes*.

### **February 8** | Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Text: *1 Corinthians 2:1-16*

Sermon: **The Mind of Christ**

The Apostle Paul reflected on his ministry with the Corinthians and shared with them that he there was a single organizing principle to his whole approach. He resolved to know nothing while he was among them, “except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.” Giving up strength and wisdom as the world knows it, he talked about having the mind of Christ.

### **February 15** | Transfiguration Sunday

Text: *Matthew 17:1-9*

Sermon: **Transfigured Before Them**

On Transfiguration Sunday we listen to the story of how Jesus brought Peter, James, and John up a mountain and was transfigured before them.

### **Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 pm** | Ash Wednesday

Text: *Psalm 51:1-17, Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10\*, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

Sermon: **Be Reconciled to God**

Lent begins with Ashes and repentance and the call to be reconciled to God.

### **February 22** | First Sunday in Lent Communion

Text: *Matthew 4:1-11*

Sermon: **Jesus Was Tempted**

On the first Sunday in Lent we hear about how Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness where he was tempted by the devil. What are we to make of this strange story?

## 2026 ALTAR FLOWERS

A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex to sign up to sponsor altar flowers. If you are sponsoring flowers in honor of a person or a special occasion, such as a birthday or anniversary, please call or email the office with the information you would like in the bulletin by Tuesday of the week you are sponsoring the flowers.

St. Paul’s provides silk flowers on the altar at no charge; however, if you’d like to purchase real flowers you may pay a florist directly to do so. We strongly recommend **Perkasie Florist** (101 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St. Perkasie) for real flowers as they have inserts for our vases and will deliver your flowers to the church. They are happy to accommodate color choice. Order at least one week in advance: 215-257-7011.



## MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES SCHEDULE

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18 and continues through Holy Saturday, April 4. During this time our Wednesday afternoon Bible Studies will be on hiatus. They will resume on April 8.

St. Paul's will observe **Ash Wednesday** with an evening service in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm on February 18.

The following week we will begin a series of five Wednesday night Lenten services with two

other local churches for a series of Lenten programs for the next 5 weeks. Each of these Wednesdays there will be two services offered:

**11:30am – 1:00pm:** Mid-day with a bag lunch

**5:30pm – 7:00pm:** Soup and sandwich evening meal provided by host church,

Pastor Steven is working with Pastor Barb and Pastor Jeff to organize services around the common theme of The Tree of Life. Each week there will be a different focus.

<b>February 25</b>	<b>The Tree of Life: Seeds</b>	<b>at St. Andrew's UCC</b>
<b>March 4</b>	<b>The Tree of Life: Roots</b>	<b>at St. Paul's UCC</b>
<b>March 11</b>	<b>The Tree of Life: Branches</b>	<b>at St. Andrew's UCC</b>
<b>March 18</b>	<b>The Tree of Life: Leaves</b>	<b>at St. Paul's UCC</b>
<b>March 25</b>	<b>The Tree of Life: Fruit</b>	<b>at St. Stephen's UCC</b>

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

<b>April 2</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday Service</b> Evening service only; 5:30pm meal in Fellowship with Tenebrae service to follow in the Sanctuary; soup only for this evening meal	<b>at St. Paul's UCC</b>
<b>April 3</b>	<b>Good Friday Service</b> Time TBA	<b>at St. Stephen's UCC</b>

## **RAMPACKS FOOD DRIVE IS FAST APPROACHING FEBRUARY 4 – 25**

RamPacks Food Drive is back for February 4 – 25. We are still operating out of three church pantries: St. Paul's, Blooming Glen Mennonite, and Souderton Brethren in Christ, with each serving different schools in the district. We are currently serving 250+ children in the Pennridge School District as of last week and the number has already increased. We continue to provide weekend meals and snacks, as well as covering meals and snacks on any days off. Please keep our ministry in your prayers, including our generous donors, volunteers, and all of the children and youth that benefit each week. Below is a list of Accepted Food Items needed. Please place your donations in the Narthex. Thank you again for all your support.

### **List of accepted foods:**

1 oz. Chip Bags (Goldfish, Doritos, Takis, etc.)  
 Clif Kid Z Bars  
 Quaker Chewy Granola Bars  
 Nutri-Grain Soft Baked Bars  
 KIND Kids Gluten Free Chewy Bars  
 Special K Pastry Crisps  
 Snack Pack Pudding Cups  
 Microwave Popcorn  
 4 oz. Fruit and Applesauce Cups  
 Kraft Mac-n-Cheese Boxes  
 Canned Pasta (Pop tops ONLY)  
 Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soup (Pop tops ONLY)  
 Individual Boxes of Cereal



## **PERENNIALS GAME DAY**

Please join us from 11:00 to 1:00 on Thursday, February 26 in Fretz Hall for our third annual Game Day!

Bring a bagged lunch, and we will provide coffee, tea, snacks, and dessert.

Bring a favorite board game or card game to play, or play one of our favorites from past years, AND invite a friend!!

We hope to see you there!



## ADDITIONAL GIVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PENNRIDGE FISH

Paige, the Director of Operations at Pennridge FISH wanted to extend their gratitude for St Paul's generous and ongoing support of the food pantry. St Paul's donated 1,024 pounds of food and supplies to the pantry in 2025. She said thanks to our help, in 2025, they were able to fulfill 4,348 requests for food and other necessities in their food pantry. During the year, they distributed 429,00 lbs. of food to families in need in our Pennridge community. Thank you to everyone who donated and continues to support Pennridge FISH.

*Robin Frank*

### Below is the list of current pantry needs:

Our needs this month include but are not limited to:

100% Fruit juice 46 or 64oz

Canned Beets

Pancake Syrup

Pancake Mix

Hot Cereal

Spaghetti Sauce

Spaghetti

Pasta Sides

Canned Chili and Stew

Canned Meats

Cake Mix and Frosting

Flour and Sugar

Instant and Decaf Coffee

Jelly 8 oz

Hormel Completes

Diapers: size 5 and 6 Pull-Ups-all sizes

Diaper Wipes



## CAN YOU BRING SOME COOKIES?



**Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation** is an important part of how we follow God's call to "build up the Body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12). We're always looking for people to "host" by bringing treats to share. Never done it before? Just sign up on the sheet in Fretz Hall. See Donna Huff for more information.



## WE ARE . . . THE KEYSTONE CONFERENCE, UCC!

The Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ was formed by the merger of the four Pennsylvania Conferences – Penn Central, Penn Northeast, Pennsylvania Southeast and Penn West. These Conferences had started in 1962, soon after the birth of the United Church of Christ in 1957. The Keystone Conference UCC was formed on January 1, 2026 and is now one of 38 regional bodies of the United Church of Christ.



Pastor Steven attended a “service of release” on Sunday, January 4, in which our former Conference Minister, the Rev. Bill Worley, after 11 years of faithful service to the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the UCC, stepped down and was released from his role as our conference minister. It was much like the service of release for Pastor Trudy last April, but was attended by many pastors!

Our new Transitional Executive Conference Minister is the **Rev. Dr. Carrie Call** (pictured right) who previously served as the conference minister of the Penn Central Conference UCC. She served there from 2019-2025. Before that she served at Lancaster Theological Seminary as Executive Director of Development and Communication.

Here are some quick stats on the Keystone Conference:

Congregations in Pennsylvania	512
Regional Associations	20
Representatives	15
Congregation Members in Pennsylvania	84,738
People who are worshipping	22,675
Weekly Attendance	10-600



Learn more about the Keystone Conference at [keytoneucc.org](http://keytoneucc.org)

## **PRAY FOR OUR NEWLY COMMISSIONED CHURCH LEADERS**

On Sunday, January 11, 2026 we commissioned our new church leaders:

### **Consistory:**

Mary Beth Barringer  
Jim Chrastina (treasurer)  
Chris Fosbenner  
Scott Huff (vice-president)  
Lori Milkowich  
McKenna Milkowich (youth)  
Rick Moyer (president)  
Clarence Runkle  
Nancy Ziegenfuss (secretary)

### **Endowment:**

Cindy Bibic  
Robin Frank  
Paul Koehler  
Marie Runkle  
Terry Weikel  
Chris Ziegenfuss  
Peter Ziegenfuss

### **Delegates to and Keystone Conference UCC:**

Jim Chrastina and Lucy Chrastina

### **Pastoral Search Team:**

Jerry Fosbenner, Fay Gable, Gina Koehler, Greg Landis, Marty Milkowich, Nancy Moyer, Pete Ziegenfuss

Let us keep all of these leaders in our prayers.

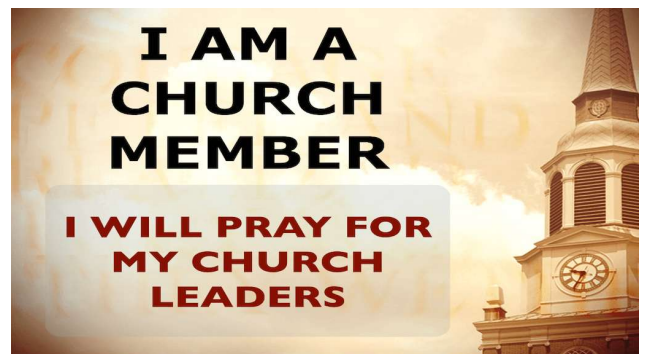


## **ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 22**

On Sunday, February 22, we are planning St. Paul's Annual meeting. This will be held downstairs in Fellowship Hall following our 10:15 morning worship service. Please set your calendar for this date when we will share a luncheon and highlights of the year 2025.

Our church secretary Cathy has begun collecting and compiling the **Annual Report** for this event. If you are the chair of a ministry team or leader of another ministry in the church and have not yet done so, please write and submit a written report to the church office by e-mail as soon as possible. Thank you!

This will be an important time of reviewing the past year at St. Paul's and envisioning our future together.



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/03 -- Jacob Baringer	2/16 -- Cameron Allen	2/23 -- Patricia Guth
2/04 -- Jamie Smetana	Matthew Milkowich	2/24 -- William Benner
2/07 -- Mike Molettiere	2/19 -- Melissa Damm	2/25 -- Faith Hawkins
2/11 -- Matthew Brown	2/20 -- Jay Wenger	2/26 -- Christopher Buckley
Kevin Weikel	2/21 -- Gary Anglemoyer	2/27 -- J. Michael Hendricks
2/12 -- McKenna Milkowich	2/22 -- Walter Brooks	2/28 -- Claire Gulla
2/13 -- Jeremy Yerger	Katelyn Dusza	

## MARCH NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

## CONSISTORY

Rick Moyer, President  
Jim Chrastina, Treasurer  
Nancy Ziegenfuss, Secretary

Scott Huff, vice-president  
Chris Fosbenner  
Lori Milkowich

McKenna Milkowich Youth Rep  
Clarence Runkle  
Mary Beth Barringer

*Consistory minutes are available in the Narthex*

## STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

**Rev. Dr. Steven Simpson**, Interim Pastor  
*Office Hours:* Wednesdays or by appointment

**Cathy Vogeding**, Church Secretary

*Office Hours:* Tues. 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Wed./Thurs. 10:00am – 4:00pm

**Nathan Gulla**, Organist

**Cindy Bibic**, Financial Secretary

**Christopher Ziegenfuss**, Choir Director

**Peter Ziegenfuss**, Handbell Choir Director

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# FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship 10:15am	Handbell Choir 7:00pm	Prayer Shawl 1:00–3:00pm  Finance Committee 6:00pm  Consistory & Search Team 7:00pm	Bible Study 2:00pm  Choir 7:00pm			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship 10:15am	Handbell Choir 7:00pm		Bible Study 2:00pm  Choir 7:00pm	March Newsletter Submissions Due		Happy Valentine's Day  
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship 10:15am	Handbell Choir 7:00pm	Prayer Shawl 1:00–3:00pm	Ash Wednesday Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm  Choir after the service			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship 10:15am  Annual Congregational Meeting following worship	Handbell Choir 7:00pm		Lenten Program at St. Andrew's UCC 11:30 – 1:00 & 5:30 – 7:00	Perennials Game Day 11:00-1:00  Choir 7:00pm		