

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE GOOD NEWS

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

Steven Says . . . Consider the Tree of Life

One of the blessings of Lent for a pastor is the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues. Sometime in January I responded to an invitation to get together with other local pastors to plan collaborative services with Pastor Barb of St. Andrews UCC and Pastor Jeff of St. Stephen's UCC. We had already worked together in planning the joint Rally Day service in September and the joint Longest Night service in December.



I understood that the three churches had planned Lenten services together in the past. Last year Pastors Barb and Jeff had worked with my predecessor here, Pastor Trudy.

As we began to consider an over-arching theme for this year's Lenten program, someone suggested "Tree of Life." That gave us some direction. Before long we had the idea of focusing on different stages and parts of a tree each week:

from seed, to root, to branch, to leaves, to fruit. Not surprisingly, the Bible is full of passages about trees and these stages and parts. We chose themes for each Wednesday and worked out a schedule to divide the different Wednesdays among the three churches.

I'm excited about this Lenten series because it won't be up to just the pastors to come up with reflections about these aspects of the life of trees—we will share the images and let the people reflect and share their thoughts. It should be a *fruitful* time!

Steven Says, Let grow and be fruitful this season of Lent!

MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES

Services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel via our website.

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

Lay Reader for March: *Jim Derstine*

March 1 | *Second Sunday in Lent*

Text: *John 3:1-17*

Sermon: Born Again

A learned man named Nicodemus came to Jesus at night to talk about religious things. Before the conversation could get off to a good start, Jesus said something that left Nicodemus scratching his head. To this day, some people are still scratching theirs.

March 8 | *Third Sunday in Lent*

Text: *John 4:5-42*

Sermon: The Woman at the Well

Nicodemus was a man—she was a woman; he was a Jew—she was a Samaritan. He was an esteemed religious leader—she was a woman of ill repute. But John records Jesus' interactions with these two back-to-back. In both cases, he pointed to the God who knew them and loved them.

March 15 | *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

Text: *John 9:1-41*

Sermon: A Man Born Blind

This Sunday we'll look at a long passage in John about the healing of a man who was blind from birth. As remarkable as the healing is, what caught the Gospel writer's attention was the theological discussion about whose sin caused the blindness in the first place.

March 22 | *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Text: *John 11:1-45*

Sermon: Lazarus—Come Out!

Hundreds of years before Jesus began his earthly ministry, God gave Ezekiel a foreshadowing of his power to breathe new life into dead bodies. Jesus claimed to be the resurrection and the life, but as we see in today's story with Lazarus, those were not empty words of boasting.

March 29 | *Palm Sunday*

Text: *Matthew 21:1-11*

Sermon: Hosanna in the Highest!

Palms, clothing on the ground, a donkey, shouts of Hosanna. What did these things mean on that first Palm Sunday? What do they say to us today?



MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES SCHEDULE



The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday February 18 and will continue through Holy Saturday, April 4. During this time we are sharing with St. Andrews UCC and St. Stephen's UCC in a series of Lenten Wednesday gatherings. Each of these Wednesdays two services are 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.

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

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

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



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. 5th 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.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, February 22 three people were received into membership at St. Paul's: Dave Bartram, Bob Blackledge, Carol Blackledge. Pastor Steven met with them in a new members class on February 11 and got to know them a little bit.



Dave Bartram moved to Sellersville last year to live with his son, Rusty, and his daughter-in-law, Charity. Previously Dave had lived in Trout Run, PA working for Stroehmann Bakeries from 1974 to 2012. He is transferring his membership from Trout Run United Methodist Church where he was involved as a liturgist and worship host, usher, and greeter and was involved in Promise Keepers Men's Group.

Dave became a widower in 2022 after sharing 49 years with his beloved wife, Ginny. He's a lifetime member of the Trout Run Fire Company, having joined in 1983. He likes American muscle cars and greatly enjoys listening to music and attending live concerts.

Carol and Bob Blackledge are no strangers to St. Paul's. Carol grew up going here after being baptized here as a child. Bob jokes he joined after marrying Carol because membership was required to join the church's softball team. Bob also served on the church facilities committee. For a while Bob and Carol were members at St. Andrew's UCC in Perkasio, but they are now "coming home." They have five grandkids with whom they love to spend time. They've made their home in Sellersville since 1974.



THANK YOU FROM OUTREACH CARE



We received a beautiful thank you letter from Outreach Care, Partners in Building a Stronger Community, extending their heartfelt gratitude for our generous donation of \$1,000.00 this past year from St. Paul's Endowment Fund. Our support has been vital to the ongoing mission of Outreach Care and the work they are called to do in the surrounding communities. This year Outreach Care volunteers responded to urgent requests from individuals and families in Upper Bucks County seeking emergency shelter and financial assistance. One of the most impactful services remains providing homeless clients with access to temporary emergency shelter in local motels, offering a safe environment while they pursue a more permanent housing solution and work toward self-sufficiency.

SEARCH TEAM PROGRESS



Our Search and Call team at St. Paul's United Church of Christ is excited to begin this important journey together. Our first steps will focus on preparation and prayerful understanding as we seek the pastor whom God is calling to join our congregation. In the coming months, our team will meet regularly to review the process, set a time schedule, and seek guidance from Pastor Steven and our conference minister, Rev. Kevin McLemore. A key part of this early stage involves preparing the church profile, a document that tells the story of who we are as a congregation and a community, what we value, and what we hope for in our next pastor. Please participate in any surveys we might ask you to complete to help us with this process. Your trust, your prayers, and your encouragement will be essential as we take each step forward.



The Altar Guild is excited to have your help to create a beautiful and colorful Easter flower display.

We ask that you purchase whatever color or type of potted flower(s) you like and drop them off at church on Saturday, April 4th between 9:00 am and 11:00 am. Please include a tag with your name on your flowers. We will then create a "garden" at the base of the cross with all of the beautiful flowers you provide. You may then take your flowers home after the service on Easter Sunday.

We will also have a sign-up sheet in the narthex for you to indicate if your flowers are In Memory of or In Honor of someone. This list will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

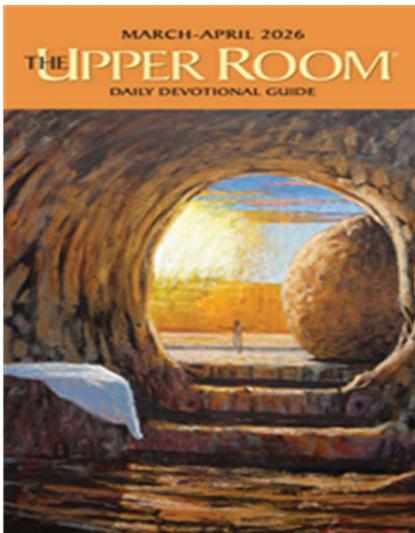
Any questions, please contact Debbie Koehler either by email (debkoehler@yahoo.com) phone (215-206-1743).

SPECIAL REMINDERS

WE LOVE 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.

THE UPPER ROOM



Copies of the March-April issue of The Upper Room daily devotional guide books are available in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one to strengthen your daily walk with God. The Upper Room is a daily devotional magazine published in more than 35 languages and 100 countries around the world. The daily meditations are written by readers of the magazine and others interested in sharing their faith experiences through writing. Every day, readers of The Upper Room around the world read the same story in many different languages and pray the same prayer together.

FOSTERING HOPE FUNDRAISER

Dine at Five Guys March 18 and you'll help out Fostering Hope Upper Bucks.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES

Bible Study group led by Pastor Steven is postponed during the Lenten Season. Bible Studay will resume on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 with a deep dive into Spiritual Gifts. Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall from 2:00pm to 3:30pm. We hope to see you there.

PLEASE JOIN US
at

FIVE GUYS

for a

DINE & DONATE

Bring your family and friends!

WEDNESDAY | 18 | MARCH

FROM 5PM-9PM
4399 W SWAMP RD,
DOYLESTOWN, PA 18902

A percentage of your purchases goes to providing essentials for youth experiencing foster care

IN AND AROUND ST. PAUL'S



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/03 -- Dolores Bibic
Aubrey Gulla

3/05 -- Shary Kissel

3/10 -- Makya Milkowich

3/14 -- Jacqueline Kemmerer

3/16 -- Harrison Gulla

3/22 -- Kian Wells

3/23 -- Martin Milkowich
Marvin Milkowich

3/26 -- Joseph Loffio

3/28 -- Courtney Souder

3/30 -- Ruby Moyer

**APRIL NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE:
Wednesday, March 12, 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

pastorsteven@stpaulsucc.net
610-858-0921

cathy@stpaulsucc.net

215-257-7268

nathan@stpaulsucc.net

cindy@stpaulsucc.net

chris@stpaulsucc.net

peter@stpaulsucc.net



104 GREEN STREET SELLERSVILLE, PA 18960 | 215-257-7268

March 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	Lenten Program at St. Paul's UCC 11:30 – 1:00 & 5:30 – 7:00 Choir 7:00pm			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship 10:15am	Handbell Choir 7:00pm		Lenten Program at St. Andrew's UCC 11:30 – 1:00 & 5:30 – 7:00 Choir 7:00pm	<i>April Newsletter Submissions Due</i>		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship 10:15am	Handbell Choir 7:00pm	Prayer Shawl 1:00–3:00pm	Lenten Program at St. Paul's UCC 11:30 – 1:00 & 5:30 – 7:00 Choir 7:00pm			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship 10:15am	Handbell Choir 7:00pm	Choir 7:00pm	Lenten Program at St. Stephen's UCC 11:30 – 1:00 & 5:30 – 7:00			
29	30	31				
Worship 10:15am	Handbell Choir 7:00pm					