

JULY 2025

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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 . . . we're building our relationships

The byline under the title of this publication of *The Good News* is "Sharing Life's Journey by Building Our Relationships with Jesus and Each Other." Is that a mission statement for the congregation or just a byline and description of the newsletter? Either way, it is a good description of what we are supposed to be doing as God's people and as the church.

I am enjoying getting to know you—hearing your stories and history and learning about your interests and passions. Keep it coming. This sharing is an important part of our process in building our relationships with one another and with God. And each one of you has a unique story to tell.

This summer is also a time to try some new things. Choir is out and I'd like to coordinate some "special" music (all music is special if you ask me) during morning worship. You'll notice that on the next page I'm sharing a little more about upcoming services: Scriptures, sermon titles, a short description of the message for the day, and a tentative song title for special music. I encourage you to read ahead of time—read the Scripture for the Sunday—and consider how God's Word might speak to the issue I'll be preaching about. Listening to sermons is a learned skill and the more you put into it the more you get out of it. God has so much to share with you that speaks to your situation if you are ready to listen.

I'm also sharing the tentative special music song titles in case you might want to be involved on a Sunday morning. At this point the plan is to see who's interested in any given song and have a quick rehearsal after worship the previous Sunday during Fellowship Hour. We can use singers, instrumentalists, and rhythm players. Whatever your skill and experience level, there will be an opportunity for you. Most of the songs are Gospel folk songs or simple Praise songs.

Oh, by the way—I'm very pleased that Fellowship Hour is continuing throughout the summer. There was some discussion about this at our last Consistory meeting and your leaders see this as important and healthy and conducive to us building our relationships. I'm also looking to the *future*—this *fall* to be specific. I'm interested in having a few "town hall" meetings to be in conversation with one another about the church—where we're coming from, where we are now, and where we see God leading us in the future. I believe God has big plans for St. Paul's.

In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young will see visions. Your elders will dream dreams. -Acts 2:17 CEB

Some other ideas I'm testing are the possibility of forming a prayer team ministry and of starting weekly adult Bible studies. Let me know if you might have interest in any of these. I want to be a resource to the congregation through this time of transition. Are there other ministries that are "ripe" for being planted at this time? I'd like to know your thoughts.

Steven Says, [Let's keep the lines of communication open!](#)

JULY WORSHIP SERVICES

Services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel via our website.
Worship will be held at 9:00am throughout the summer

July 6 | 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-17 | *Namaan washes in the Jordan*

Sermon: **God Works through Humble Servants**

Naaman was a powerful Aramean general, but his heroism in battle was no match for the leprosy that struck him. His Jewish servant girl suggested he ask the Prophet Elisha for help. He asked, but the answer he received was not what he had expected.

Special Music: *River of Jordan*

July 13 | 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37 | *The Parable of the Good Samaritan*

Sermon: **Who is my Neighbor?**

Luke tells the story of an expert in the law who wanted to justify himself. The ambiguous part of the law had to do with identifying who was one's "neighbor" that he should love as himself. Instead of debating definitions, Jesus told a parable.

Special Music: *If You Want to Be Great in God's Kingdom*

July 20 | 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Colossians 1:15-28 | *Once you were Enemies—now you are Reconciled*

Sermon: **Holy in His Sight**

The Apostle Paul laid a lot of theology on the Colossians in the first chapter of his letter to them. He presents a sort of "before and after" picture of the people in relation to God: "once you were alienated from God...now you are...holy in his sight." What was the secret to the miraculous transformation?

Special Music: *Beautiful*

July 27 | 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 11:1-13 | *The Parable of the Neighbor after Midnight*

Sermon: **Is God Bothered by my Prayers?**

One of the disciples saw Jesus praying and asked him to teach them how to pray as well. Jesus gave them the Lord's Prayer as a pattern, but he also told them a parable.

Special Music: *Ring the Bell*





CELEBRATION Sunday

Sunday, June 8

High School Graduates:

Jocelyn Ziegenfuss is a recent graduate of Souderton Area High School. She was a member of the National Honors Society. In her free time, Jocelyn is involved in various musical groups for both church and school. She enjoys reading, hanging out with friends, playing the piano, and paddle boarding. In the fall, she will attend Susquehanna University, majoring in Special Education. Congratulations to Jocelyn and congratulations to her proud parents, Chris and Nancy Ziegenfuss!

Zachary Hauptert
Tessa Hawkins

Confirmands:

Jaxon Moyer
Simon Ziegenfuss

New Members:

Carol Bonsted
Joey Loffio

20 Year Ordination Anniversary:

Kevin Weikel

2025 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 (brianna@stpaulsucc.net) 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.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/1 – Jocelyn Ziegenfuss

7/5 – Helen Roth

7/11 – Jude Weideman

7/15 – Jerry Fosbenner

7/23 – Pete Ziegenfuss

7/25 – Knox Link

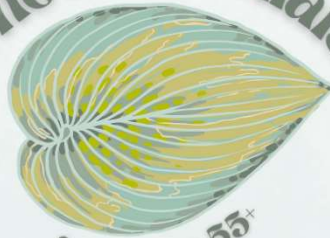
Marie Runkle

7/27 – Debra Koehler

7/31 – Taylor Hawkins



The Perennials



for seniors 55+

A TIME OF FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP

Summer Gathering

Thursday, July 10

11:00am - 1:00pm

Hosted at St. Paul's UCC
104 Green St. Sellersville

Join us for a picnic-themed lunch
and musical entertainment.

Pastor Steven Simpson will perform a concert of
patriotic songs, sharing stories behind the songs
throughout the program.

**RSVP IN THE CHURCH NARTHEX OR
AT STPAULSUCC.NET/PERENNIALS BY 7/6/25**



Thank you to everyone who donated to Pennridge FISH in May to help "spice up" their pantry and all the other donations that were given. We donated 91lbs of supplies in May! This summer, please help with food donations for the Summer Lunches for kids. The children who receive RamPacks during the school year benefit from FISH donations throughout the summer. Lists of various FISH needs are always available in the Narthex or on their website. Thank you for your continued support of Pennridge FISH. It is greatly needed and appreciated.

Robin Frank

BACK to SCHOOL

at Pennridge FISH!

2025 CURRENT NEEDS LIST FOR SCHOOL SUPPLY PROGRAM:

- School bags with laptop sleeves
- Plastic folders with clasp
- Plastic folders without clasp
- Primary composition books
- Headphones
- College-ruled composition book
- College-ruled notebook paper
- Pointed scissors (secondary)
- Wedge erasers
- Pencil top erasers
- Index cards
- Post-It notes
- Dry erase markers (non-toxic)
- Highlighters
- Crayola Markers Broad and Thin
- Crayola colored pencils
- Glue sticks
- Stylus
- Flash drive
- Earbuds
- Dividers
- Black Sharpie markers
- Pencil sharpeners
- Blue, black, red pens
- Binders
- Hands sanitizers (alcohol-free)

**Drop off
Deadline:
August 5, 2025**



As always, donations may be placed on the FISH shelf in the vestibule



Dear St. Paul's,

Thank you for your help with baked goods for our 2nd annual Food Fest – not only baking but bringing them in the pouring rain! Thank you also for your generous ongoing donations of snacks throughout the school year. RamPacks has so much to thank the congregation of St. Paul's for – we would not be in existence if not for your generous hearts and shared vision.

Sincerely, Donna Huff on behalf of the RamPacks Board



SUMMER LUNCHES FOR KIDS

FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

QUALIFYING PENNRIDGE HOUSEHOLDS WITH SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN CAN BENEFIT FROM EXTRA FOOD DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST

Now collecting the following items for our summer lunch bags:

- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Canned tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Canned chili
- Canned pasta
- Mac and Cheese
- Ramen
- Juice (bottles or boxes)
- Granola bars
- Applesauce
- Fruit cups
- Pudding and Jello cups
- Fruit snacks
- Raisins
- Cereal
- Mayonnaise
- Instant oatmeal
- Snacks



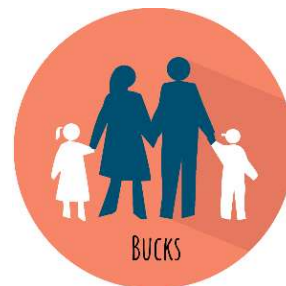
Amazon Wish List



FOSTERING HOPE

At this time, Fostering Hope is asking for **gift card donations** such as Amazon, Target, Old Navy, Dick's Sporting Goods – anywhere teens would have fun shopping! These will be handed out to teens, primarily those in group homes.

Updates: Our closet update is progressing and at our June 7th Open Shop, 25 children were served! We received a grant from the Bucks County Opioid settlement to continue to provide resources to children experiencing foster care. We were able to send a teen to the American Ninja Warrior competition in North Carolina. As always, thanks to St. Paul's for all your support!





**AUGUST NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE:
MONDAY, JUNE 21**

CONSISTORY:

Rick Moyer, *President*
Marie Runkle, *Vice President*
Jim Chrastina, *Treasurer*
Nancy Ziegenfuss, *Secretary*

Chris Fosbenner
Scott Huff
Debbie Koehler
Lori Milkowich

Arlene Peters
Jocelyn Ziegenfuss
McKenna Milkowich
Youth Representative

Consistory minutes are available in the Narthex

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rev. Dr. Steven Simpson, Interim Pastor

pastorsteven@stpaulsucc.net
610-858-0921

Brianna Link, Church Secretary
Summer Office Hours varying

brianna@stpaulsucc.net
215-257-7268

Nathan Gulla, Organist

nathan@stpaulsucc.net

Cindy Bibic, Financial Secretary

cindy@stpaulsucc.net

Christopher Ziegenfuss, Choir Director

chris@stpaulsucc.net

Peter Ziegenfuss, Handbell Choir Director

peter@stpaulsucc.net



