

JULY 2024



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St. Paul's United Church of Christ

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE GOOD NEWS

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



<i>Date</i>	JULY 7, 2024
<i>Time</i>	10:30 AM
<i>Location</i>	LENAPE PARK SCOUT CABIN

In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held at St. Paul's UCC

A FREE-WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN FOR THE
PENNRIDGE FISH FOOD PANTRY

THERE WILL BE A COMBINED CHOIR REPRESENTING
THE PENNRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCHES AND
RESIDENTS

Parking: Lenape Park at the entrance on
E. Walnut Street, near Temple

Please bring lawn chairs



THANK YOU TO OUR



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

On Tuesday, June 18th, I had the pleasure of hosting the monthly meeting at St. Paul's for the Pennridge Ministerium – a gathering of colleagues and ecumenical partners in Christian ministry. The ministerium has gone back to rotating between our local churches for our meetings and the host church shares a bit of church history with the group. I printed off the history that is on our church's website and gave a copy to each one in the small group of my colleagues that came to the meeting that day. As we gathered in Fretz Hall and I shared highlights from our church history with them, I found myself once more in wonder at the rich history of St. Paul's. My deep respect of the labors of the servants of God that blazed the trail of St. Paul's formation simply grows each time I read or share Her history. In our overall discussion at the ministerium meeting – we affirmed that so many of our churches have a deep and rich history – and we remember and honor the men and women, matriarchs and patriarchs and workers - that labored in service to the Church.

But there was something else that 'popped out' to me this time – as I read our "history" - and maybe it's because of the ongoing conversations around the wonderful 'living museum' project that continues to come to life in the alcove off of Fretz Hall; what I noticed was the one line at the bottom of our history which simply states: "St. Paul's in the 21st Century is coming soon!" Our 'narrative' history is in definite need of being updated – because you, St. Paul's – have a story that goes beyond: "On New Year's Day, 2007, Reverend Patti Thomas began her pastorate. 'Pastor Patti' is the first woman pastor at St. Paul's."

We do have more to share in our story – right? There were events, activities, special services that you and I know occurred between 2007 and 2024! I know there has to be a "list" of things to record in Pastor Patti's time of serving at St. Paul's. Just in my call to serve as your pastor which began on August 5, 2019 (number 12 pastor in a 153 year history 😊 – which amazed my colleagues) there have been details that we want to make sure we record in this brief narrative that appears on our website – so many joys that I believe far exceed the concerns: a successful capital campaign (only one of two churches in our conference during a pandemic that took on such a challenge); celebrating our 150th Church Anniversary – our Sesquicentennial celebrations; the non-profits we support growing beyond FISH to providing space for a *RamPacks Food Pantry* and *An Upper Bucks Fostering Hope "Foster Share Closet"*; the installation of a fire suppression system in our church kitchen (a commercial size and equipped kitchen) that beckons us for use beyond breakfasts/brunches and two yearly fundraiser dinners. This isn't a new idea – but the idea of providing some type of meal for our community neighbors facing food insecurity would be grand – a very visible sign of Jesus' love for those in need. And the list goes on with the completion of the work needed on the bell tower and the automatic handicapped accessible doors; and the ribbon cutting ceremony held for *The Little Free Library* (so much there to build upon too as literacy mission work in our community). Maybe we need a new "We Are Family Album" too, because we remain a church family with a story and pictures to share that doesn't end in 2007. Let's celebrate today and the possibilities of what God will show us in future days!

God said, "*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.*" God is with us! God will always be with us! Believe it! Live it! Our narrative – through God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – will go on and on...Praise be to God!

In His Grace,
Pastor Trudy

JULY WORSHIP SERVICES

Services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel via our website.

Summer worship is held at 9:00 in the sanctuary now through August 25.

Kingdom Kids is available for preschool and elementary-aged children during worship.

**July 7 | Pennridge Community Day Ecumenical
Worship Service, 10:30am**
Lake Lenape Scout Cabin
(see front page of newsletter for more information)

July 14 | 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Job 2:11-13; 2 Timothy 4:9-18

July 21 | 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Ruth 1:1-22; Acts 10

July 28 | 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Psalm 14 and Ephesians 3:14-21

**Kingdom Kids is our children's church experience for kids ages 3 through 5th grade.
This time of play and learning will continue throughout the summer!**

To maintain this program, according to our Safe Church Policy we need a second volunteer each Sunday.

These volunteers need valid clearances on file with St. Paul's for safety and security purposes. Please consider serving the families in our church by volunteering. There is a sign-up sheet located in the Narthex.



2024 ALTAR FLOWERS

We are looking for sponsors! Sign up in the Narthex on the *St. Paul's Sign-Ups* bulletin board. Brenda Clark will contact you with more details as the date of your sponsorship approaches. You may contact her at 215-285-0294.

Available July date: 7/28

FROM THE CONFERENCE MINISTER

Last weekend's 4 PA UCC Conference was amazing! Thank you to everyone who showed up, in person or online, at State College to experience the church at its very best! The positive spiritual energy was palpable. Thanks to our PSEC staff, volunteers, committee members, artisans, musicians, singers, worship leaders, tech folk, and especially to Sue Creswell, for all your hard work. The time together was a blessing that began with the always inspiring Rev. Cean James and ended with equally inspiring UCC General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson.

There is much more news to share and more opportunities for conversation and discernment about the potential future of a Keystone Conference lay ahead. For now, I want to share this story from the weekend...

Days before the event, the Penn Stater Conference Coordinator emailed our Planning Team Representative (PTR) asking for information about the UCC. She wanted to prepare her Penn Stater staff with some knowledge about their guests.

On Saturday, the Conference Coordinator shared with our PTR that our UCC delegates were the most kind and caring group that The Penn Stater hosted during her long tenure -- a sentiment shared by the entire staff. The following day, she shared that when our UCC contract was given to her, she didn't want it. Her faith experience growing up was not good and she felt like she was the least capable candidate for a church conference contract. She explained that her husband was raised in church and has been wanting to find a local faith community, but she has been very reluctant. She just could not bring herself to give church another try. Until now.

After meeting almost 500 UCC people, she said that she was overcome by how we not only talk about our faith but walk our faith. She wanted more information about local UCC churches from our PTR when standing next to her was Rev. Jes Kast, Pastor, Faith UCC in State College. Rev. Jes's extravagant, hospitable, welcome in that moment was just what was needed to open the door of possibility and hope. It was a moment that had the Conference Coordinator telling this story of acceptance and connection in tears with those fortunate enough to receive it.

I began the Conference meeting wondering with the representatives of each Conference board what miracle we were going to see during the weekend. This was just one.

Thanks be to God. Great and small, miracles happen. Everyday.

In the peace that only Christ gives,

Pastor Bill

Rev. Bill Worley

Conference Minister

*The above Conference Minister letter was taken from our UCC Pennsylvania Southeast Conference e-News of June 14, 2024.

THE KEYSTONE PROJECT

To stay updated, go to this link - <https://psec.org/keystone/>

More "town hall" meetings will be available over the summer via Zoom regarding the ongoing conversation, questions and answers, around the merger of our four UCC Pennsylvania conferences into one Keystone Conference.

OLD TESTAMENT **OVERVIEW**

TUESDAY JULY 9

TUESDAY JULY 16

5:30-8:30PM | meal PROVIDED

FACILITED BY JEREMIAH LINK

Have you ever wondered why the symbols for apps on a screen are called icons? Or why church goes casually throw out phrases like "washed/covered in the blood"? Join us as we follow the timeline of the Old Testament from beginning to end - stopping to consider these and many more themes and questions.

All are welcome and all questions encouraged! July 9th OR 16th from 5:30 to 8:30 in Fellowship Hall - dinner included as well.

We look forward to having you join us!

Sign up in the Narthex or email Jeremiah to RSVP (jeremiah@stpaulsucc.net)



**Keep an eye out for
further information
on how St. Paul's will
be involved in this
project this summer!**



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



215-257-7616

WWW.PENNRIDGEFISH.ORG

800 W CHESTNUT ST, PERKASIE

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY 3-5 PM

THURSDAY 6-8 PM

FRIDAY & SATURDAY 9-11 AM

Pennridge FISH will be preparing extra shopping bags for families with school age children who will need lunch and breakfast while at home for the summer. During the school year, many of these families receive reduced or subsidized school breakfast and lunches along with assistance from RamPacks. During the summer, these resources are not available to them. Families need to have extra food to feed their children during this time. I would like us at St. Paul's to aid FISH in supplying these items as best we can so during the months of July and August, I ask that we focus our aid to FISH with the items listed above.

If you use the link (<https://a.co/dXCgaJk>) to purchase items and they ship to you directly, I will be happy to pick them up so you do not have to bring them to church if that may be a hardship. If you would rather, you can make a monetary donation via check to Pennridge FISH and hand off to me or give online via stpaulsucc.net or text and find the option for KIDS SUMMER LUNCH/FISH. Cindy will see that the funds are forwarded to me to get to FISH.

This collection will be the focus of assistance to FISH for the months of July and August so please take home a small flyer to carry with you as you grocery shop and return your donations to the FISH cupboard in the Vestibule at the steps to the balcony. Any and all help is welcome and appreciated. FISH continues to try and feed the children and families of the community but your assistance is greatly needed. **If there is anything I can do to help you help them, please feel free to reach out to me!**

Brenda Clark 215-285-0294



2025 GIVING ENVELOPES

Please notify Brianna if you would like to change the way you give offering in 2025:
If you currently receive envelopes but will not need envelopes in 2025 OR if you do not currently receive envelopes but would like to receive them in 2025.

Pastor Trudy thanks everyone who donated items for the Women's Mission Project for the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference gathering at State College.

Thank you so much for allowing us to use your facility at St. Paul's. Graduation today was lovely and with your support, all went beautifully. Have a wonderful summer,

M. Theresa Condi
Dean of Students – Buxmont Academy, Sellersville Campus

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/1 – Jocelyn Ziegenfuss
7/5 – Helen Roth
7/11 – Jude Weideman
7/13 – Joan Buckley
7/15 – Jerry Fosbenner

7/18 – Kevin Irving
7/23 – Pete Ziegenfuss
7/25 – Knox Link
Marie Runkle
David Renner

7/27 – Debra Koehler
7/31 – Taylor Hawkins

CELEBRATING 40+ YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Fosbenner – June 23, 1984
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Gable – July 1, 1977
Mr. and Mrs. John Delikat – July 2, 1966
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Kuhn – July 3, 1965
Mr. and Mrs. James Chrastina – July 23, 1977

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Patti Stover. Patti passed away on June 18.



JOIN US SEASONALLY FOR A TIME OF FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP!

Summer Gathering

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21 | 12:00PM
PERKASIE CAROUSEL AT MENLO PARK

Join us for a historical presentation followed by a ride on the carousel. Bring a bagged lunch. Beverages and desserts provided.



RSVP BY 8/14 - STPAULSUCC.NET/PERENNIALS

**ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER
ARE DUE BY FRIDAY, JULY 12**

ENDOWMENT

Cindy Bibic
Aaron Clark
Robin Frank
Debbie Koehler
Rick Moyer
Terry Weikel
Chris Ziegenfuss

CONSISTORY

Aaron Clark, *President*
Paul Koehler, *Vice President*
Arlene Peters, *Secretary*
Jim Chrastina, *Treasurer*
Brandon Barndt
Neil Clark
Rick Moyer
Marie Runkle

**CEMETARY
TRUSTEES**

Alex Potoczny
Terry Weikel
Jay Wenger

**CEMETARY
CONTACT**

Carol Nase: 267-374-9045

Consistory minutes are now available in the Narthex

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Trudy Irving, Pastor

Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00am – 12:00pm
Off: Friday

pastortrudy@stpaulsucc.net
267-733-4153

Brianna Link, Church Secretary

Summer Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00am – 12:00pm

brianna@stpaulsucc.net
215-257-7268

Jeremiah Link, Director of Christian Education

Nathan Gulla, Organist

Cindy Bibic, Financial Secretary

Christopher Ziegenfuss, Choir Director

Peter Ziegenfuss, Handbell Choir Director

jeremiah@stpaulsucc.net
nathan@stpaulsucc.net
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JULY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Community Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm	Prayer Shawl 1:00 – 3:00pm Finance Mtg. 7:00pm		4 th of July		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sellersville Sesquicentennial Worship Service 10:30am Lenape Scout Cabin		Old Testament Overview 5:30 – 8:30pm	Bible Study 2:00pm		Newsletter Submissions due	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
 Worship 9:00am		Prayer Shawl 1:00 – 3:00pm Old Testament Overview 5:30 – 8:30pm	Bible Study 2:00pm	Pastor on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation Secretary on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation Secretary on Vacation
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
 Worship 9:00am Secretary on Vacation	Secretary on Vacation	Secretary on Vacation	Bible Study 2:00pm Secretary on Vacation	Secretary on Vacation	Secretary on Vacation	Christmas in July Movie Night 6:00pm
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
 Worship 9:00am		Prayer Shawl 1:00 – 3:00pm				