

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE GOOD NEWS

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

Do you have a favorite season of the year? The days of Fall are quickly approaching – the first day of Fall arrives already on September 22nd. I imagine there are mixed reviews on every season as we pass through the calendar year. Some anticipate the beauty of the changing leaves of Fall into their bursting and varying tones of orange and gold. The cooler temperatures, as we begin Fall, are also welcome especially after a hot and humid summer. But as we progress into Fall and the colored leaves turn a dismal brown and fall to the ground – our spirits, too, can easily spiral downward. Winter brings the first bite of even colder temperatures and possibilities of snow and ice. We anticipate the first silent snow fall and the sense of peace and calm that those gentle flakes falling from the sky, as they blanket the ground, bring to our spirits. But the winter grows long – and we become anxious and impatient for the burst of new life, for a return to vibrant grass and leaf greens and the varying array of colorful spring flowers. Then we become restless once more – for the days of Summer – which are now quickly passing. Summer days filled with sunshine and lemonade and much needed time of rest and renewal.

Joyce Rupp & Macrina Wiederkehr in their book *The Circle of Life: The Heart's Journey Through the Seasons* write that the four seasons tell a story of transformation every year. Macrina wrote the prayer found at the closing of this letter, and reflecting upon this notion of transformation every year, wrote the following poem entitled *I Arise Today*:

I arise today with spring in my eyes: clear circling air, shining inspiration, wings of hope, unfolding buds, happy roots, blossoms of joy, necessary storms. This is my inheritance in this vibrant new season. I arise today in the wings of spring. I arise today with summer in my heart: fire of enthusiasm, burning sun, abundant life, playful spirit, nesting birds, lush meadows, growing gardens. This is my inheritance in this vibrant new season. I arise today in the arms of summer. I arise today with autumn in my soul: waters of wisdom, graceful aging, transforming colors, crunching leaves, fruitful harvest, sweet surrender, life-giving death. This is my inheritance in this vibrant new season. I arise today in this vibrant new season. I arise today in the breath of autumn. I arise today with winter in my being: resting earth, gracious darkness, dreaming seeds, barren trees, frosty breath, glowing fireplaces, empty spaces. This is my inheritance in this vibrant new season. I arise today in the heart of winter.

Which is your favorite season of the year? Do you think our life cycle can be compared to the seasons of the year? I think there is beauty in every season of the year (Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter) – just as there is beauty in every season of our lives. If you were to choose a scripture passage with a Spring, Summer, Autumn or Winter theme, what text would you choose?

Let us pray: Dear seasons that pass over our fields and through our hearts, you are the word of God spoken to us from the cathedral of the great outdoors. Stir up our love for life. Fill us with joy and passion, wisdom and stillness. Reveal to us our own endurance, patience, and ability to trust. Lead us into reflection and solitude as we move through the years held in the arms of mystery. Teach us to say “Yes” to the unfolding work of the Creator in our lives. Amen.

Journeying through the seasons, *Pastor Trudy*

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

Services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel via our website.

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

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



Lay Liturgist: Sam Clark

September 1 | 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome Sunday

Scripture: James 1:17-27

September 8 | 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 7:24-37

September 15 | 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah Link preaching (Pastor on vacation)

Scripture: Mark 8:27-38

September 22 | 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 9:30-37

September 29 | 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 9:38-50

Worship and reflection resources: Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2, Trinity Sunday through Reign of Christ, Worship Companion, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor, © Westminster John Knox Press; Worship & Praise Songbook; New Century Hymnal.

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 September dates: 9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29

Did you know?

The lighting of the Peace Candle began sometime in 1998, a decision made by Spiritual Life. Initially, there were real candles used until Karl Schoeller wired the Peace Candle for electricity. Jerry Fosbenner's husband, Ken, made the wooden board for the Peace Candle yearly chart that is located in the narthex area as you enter St. Paul's. We have yearly sponsors that pay \$10 for their designated month; their sponsorship funds go to the General Fund.

**NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE,
OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY,
YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!**



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2024

Save the date for the 41st year for the Penridge CROP Walk to end hunger. Walkers may walk the Golden Mile or the 5-Mile walk – which will follow the same route as last year, walking past the FISH building. Both routes start at St Andrew's Lutheran Church at 20 Dill Ave in Perkasio. Registration begins at 12:30pm and the walk begins at 1:00pm. It is held rain or shine. Canned goods will be collected for Perkasio FISH.

Last year the CROP Rock was added for people who want to participate but cannot walk either route. It was so successful that they are doing it again this year. The rockers will participate by rocking in rocking chairs throughout the duration of the walk and be sponsored to "rock". Both St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Sellersville and St. Stephen's UCC Church in Perkasio will host rockers. Registration will be at those churches.

Last year Penridge CROP Walk was 64th in the country out of 100 – raising a total of \$24,298.00. St. Paul's walkers and rockers raised \$1,888.04. Great job to everyone!

We are doing the "Count Your Blessing" calendar again this year. Calendars will be in the Narthex if you would like to take one. Sponsor forms for the walkers and rockers will also be in the Narthex.

Please help support the Penridge CROP Walk/Rock by walking, rocking, or sponsoring someone. 25% of all the proceeds go to Penridge FISH for local hunger. The remaining funds are used by Church World Service and its partner agencies for hunger in the US and the World.

Any questions please ask me.

Robin Frank, St. Paul's CROP Walk Coordinator



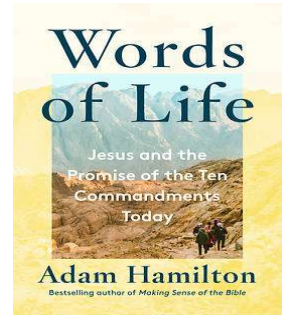
We have resources leftover from last year's promotion of Operation Christmas Child. Being good stewards, we will use these resources to participate once again this year in this mission project. Our hope for 2025 is to develop a Mission Team that will oversee, support, assist in promoting, and make decisions on mission projects supported in the past by St. Paul's church family. More details on Operation Christmas Child will appear in the October newsletter.

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study
Beginning September 18th at 2pm

A Ten-Week Bible Study:

Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today



Nearly everyone has heard of the Ten Commandments, the list of “thou shalt not’s” found in the Bible. Jesus saw these commandments not as burdens but as guideposts to help us experience a good and beautiful life. These ten ancient “words” were given to us by a loving God who longed to set safe boundaries, create order out of chaos, help communities live peacefully, and protect us – often from ourselves. In this Bible study, author, Adam Hamilton, brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history. He examines the commandments in their historical context – considering the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, unpacking how Jesus interpreted them, and showing how every “thou shalt not” was intended to point to a life-giving “thou shalt.”

If you are interested in participating in the in-person Bible Study time and have not signed-up yet, please email pastortrudy@stpaulsucc.net. The cost of the book (hard copy) is \$14; payment is due at the first session. All are welcome!

Adam Hamilton is senior pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in the Kansas City area, cited as the most influential mainline church in America. Hamilton speaks across the U.S. each year on leadership and connecting with nonreligious and nominally religious people. A master at explaining questions of faith in a down-to-earth fashion, he is the author of many books including *Half Truths* and *Making Sense of the Bible*. To learn more about Adam and follow his regular blog postings, visit www.AdamHamilton.org.

*If the Fellowship Hall is not available, we will meet in the Church Parlor. The pastor will notify participants if the study time will be held in the Church Parlor.

LOVE IN ACTION FUND

Did you know?

We have a *Love in Action Fund*! Those members in good standing seeking financial assistance through the *Love in Action Fund* reach out to the pastor with their request, providing the pastor with trusted or verifiable information about their needs. There is a form the pastor completes with the member seeking financial assistance. Depending upon the amount of the request, the pastor will present the request to the *Love in Action* Ministry Team (over \$250) or to the Consistory (if over \$2,500) for their approval. A decision regarding the request will be rendered within seven days; if the requested funds are approved, there will be an additional three days needed for the issuance of a check. The *Love in Action Fund* provided much financial support in years past to our members in need – especially during the pandemic. The *Love in Action Fund* was established in 2019.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/3 – Kate Clark
Dylan Ferris
Bonnie Hayden

9/6 – Wm. Hart Rufe, III

9/7 – George Schmidt, Jr.

9/8 – Jim Chrastina
Lauren Hendricks
Chris Ferris
Linda Sweigart
Matthew Milkowich
Jenessa Bergey

9/9 – Karen Nace

9/11 – Jason Kelly

9/12 – Ella Ferris

9/14 – Arlene Peters
Greg Landis

9/15 – Clarence Runkle
Michael Milkowich

9/16 – Jean Houpert
Rowyn Wells

9/17 – Megan Ferris

9/19 – Lucy Chrastina
Maria Long

9/21 – Julius Hayden, IV

9/23 – Nancy Booz

9/24 – Braylon Stokes
Jacob Bergey

9/25 – Angela Kelly
Tracy Molettieri

9/28 – Donna Huff

CELEBRATING 40+ YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Hayden – September 5, 1959

Mr. and Mrs. Terry Weikel – September 6, 1969

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Moyer – September 25, 1976

**CHICKEN
POT PIE**

family style dinner
featuring homemade noodles

**OCTOBER 19, 2024
4:00 - 7:00 PM**

 **St. Paul's
UNITED CHURCH OF
Christ**

Phone Number Update – Arlene Peters: 215-723-3929

**Thank you to the members of St. Paul's UCC
for being a 5 for 5 congregation of the United Church of Christ in 2023**

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

ENDOWMENT

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

CONSISTORY

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

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

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

brianna@stpaulsucc.net
215-257-7268

Jeremiah Link, Director of Christian Education

jeremiah@stpaulsucc.net

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



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SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<i>Labor Day</i>	Prayer Shawl 1:00 – 3:00pm Growth & Hospitality 1:00pm Consistory Mtg. 7:00pm	Choir 7:00pm			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship 10:15am			Choir 7:00pm	Christian Ed. 7:00pm	<i>Pastor on Vacation</i>	<i>Pastor on Vacation</i>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship 10:15am <i>Pastor on Vacation</i>	<i>Pastor on Vacation</i>	Prayer Shawl 1:00 – 3:00pm	Choir 7:00pm <i>Newsletter Submissions due</i>			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship 10:15am			Choir 7:00pm			
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
Worship 10:15am		Prayer Shawl 1:00 – 3:00pm Finance 7:00pm	Choir 7:00pm			