



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE GOOD NEWS

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

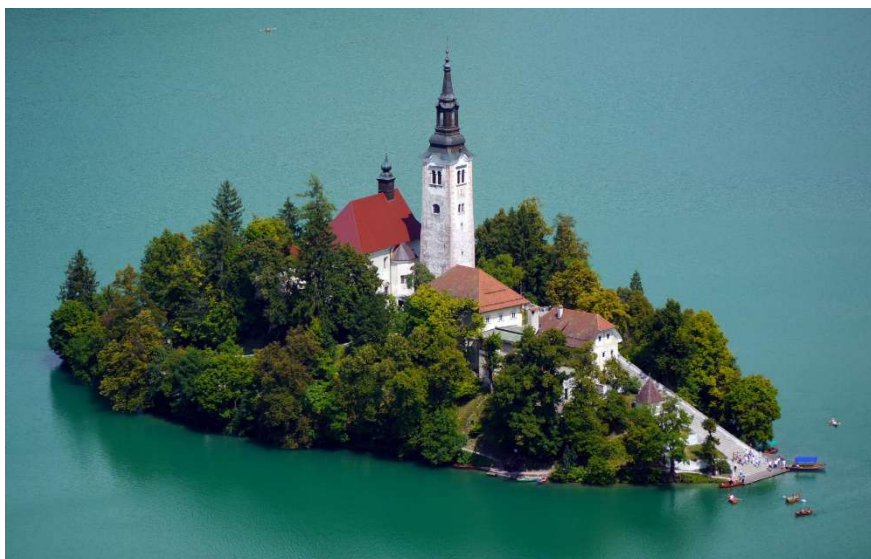
Steven Says . . . No Church is an Island

The great English poet and cleric, John Donne (1572-1632) told us that

No man is an island.

The concept extends to churches: if a congregation thinks it can BE the church and DO the work of God's church in isolation from other churches, it is making a fatal mistake.

In the coming weeks we'll have a number of opportunities to live out the truth that we are connected to other congregations—that we need them and they need us. You can read about some of these opportunities in this edition of *The Good News*.



■ Sunday, September 7—we'll join with four other local UCC churches, their leaders, and their pastors for **Sunday morning worship**. We've gotten together in Lent and at other times, but never before on a Sunday morning. The service will begin at 10:00. See the article on page 3 for more information.

■ Sunday, October 5—**Youth Event**. A local Lutheran pastor graciously reached out to me, inviting me to be part of a planning meeting for a multi-church Youth Event on the first Sunday afternoon in October. I'll be sharing information with young people in our congregation about this event organized around the story of Jesus' feeding of the 5000. (See page 6).

■ Sunday, October 12—**Pennridge CROP Hunger Walk**. Robin Frank is the Walk coordinator for St. Paul's. See her letter on page 4 and look for registration materials in church over the coming Sundays.

In what ways does St. Paul's as a congregation exemplify this truth? I'd like to hear what you think. Toward that end, I'm inviting everyone to a church Town Hall Meeting after worship on Sunday, September 28. Details on page 8. I hope you'll plan to be there—and to share your thoughts.

Steven Says, *But now you belong to Christ Jesus* . . . (Ephesians 2:13a)

- Pictured is The Church of the Mother of God on the Lake in the middle of Lake Bled, Slovenia.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

*Services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel via our website.
Worship is held at 10:15am in the sanctuary beginning September 14.*

Lay Liturgist for September: *Nancy Ziegenfuss*

September 7 | 13th Sunday after Pentecost | at St. Andrew's UCC at 10:00am

Texts: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Luke 14:25-33; Jeremiah 18:1-8

Sermons from Rev. Barb Pence, Rev. Steve Hamilton, Rev. Jeffrey Wargo, and Rev. Steven Simpson

We will gather with congregations from St. Andrew's UCC, St. Luke's UCC, and St. Peter's UCC at St. Stephen's UCC, Perkasio, for a joint Rally Day Worship Service. There will be activities for children. More information on page 3.

September 14 | 14th Sunday after Pentecost | return to regular 10:15am worship time, choir returns

Text: *Luke 15:1-10*

Sermon: **More Rejoicing in Heaven**

Today we get two parables Jesus told to underscore how joyful it is when one sinner comes home to God. One has to do with sheep; the other with lost money. What causes you to rejoice?

September 21 | 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: *Luke 16:1-13*

Sermon: **A Godly Lesson from an Ungodly Source**

In Luke 13 we read a parable of Jesus that has perplexed Christians and scholars through the ages. It has to do with a dishonest employee who does unscrupulous things with his owner's goods in order to benefit himself.

September 28 | 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: *Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15*

Sermon: **Jeremiah Buys a Field**

The Prophet Jeremiah put himself at God's disposal and preached whatever message God gave him. But in one instance, God called Jeremiah to make a business transaction—to purchase a plot of land.



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 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. Perkasio) 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.

JOINT SERVICE SEPTEMBER 7

Join St. Andrew's UCC,
St. Luke's UCC Ottsville,
St. Paul's UCC,
St. Peter's Tohickon UCC, and
St. Stephen's UCC



At St. Stephen's UCC
110 N 6th St. Perkasie
Sunday, September 7, 2025
at 10:00am

UCC Cooperative Ministries
Fall Back to Church/Rally Day
Joint Worship Service



There will be something for everyone!
Traditional music, contemporary
music, Sunday School songs,
interactive message,
communion, and fellowship. Offering in
envelopes will go to the respective churches.
Loose offering will be donated to RamPacks.
We will share in lunch afterward.



Please make plans to share in this special service on September 7. There will be a special joint service choir singing under the direction of Caroline Dunleavy. Anyone interested in being a part of this choir should be at St. Stephen's for a "pick-up" rehearsal at 9am that morning. **There will also be an optional rehearsal at St. Andrew's UCC on Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30pm.**

Members of St. Paul's who have volunteered to be ushers, readers, or children's ministry volunteers are asked to be at St. Stephen's by 9:30 Sunday morning.

PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS FOR A SHARED MEAL AFTER WORSHIP.

PENNRIDGE CROP HUNGER WALK

Sunday, October 12

Save the date for the 42nd year for the Pennridge CROP Walk to end hunger. Walkers may walk the Golden Mile or the 5-Mile walk. Both routes start at St Andrew's Lutheran Church at 20 Dill Avenue in Perkasio. Registration begins at 12:30pm and the walk begins at 1:00pm. It is held rain or shine. They are also collecting canned goods for Perkasio FISH.

They are also doing the CROP Rock for the people who want to participate but cannot walk with route. The rockers will participate in rocking chairs throughout the duration of the walk and be sponsored to "rock". I believe both St Michael's Lutheran Church in Sellersville and St Stephen's UCC in Perkasio will host the rockers. Registration will be at those churches.

We are doing the "Count Your Blessing" calendars 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 Pennridge CROP Walk/Rock by walking, rocking, or sponsoring someone. Please remember 25% of all the proceeds go to Pennridge FISH for local hunger. The remaining funds are used by Church World Service and its partner agencies for help end hunger in the United States and the World. Please help end hunger one step at a time. Any questions, please ask me.



Robin Frank, St Paul's CROP Walk Coordinator

PENNRIDGE FISH

NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS NEEDED

CANNED VEGETABLES – CANNED FRUIT – CANNED TUNA
CANNED CHICKEN – CANNED FOODS (SPAGHETTIO'S, ETC)
SOUP – RICE – CEREAL – PASTA & SAUCE – PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY
BABY FOOD

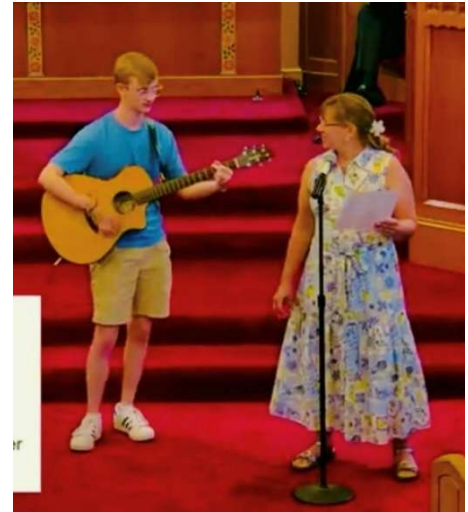


OTHER ITEMS NEEDED

TOOTHPASTE – TOOTHBRUSH – DEODORANT
SOAP – PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS – DIAPERS
CLEANING PRODUCTS – PET FOOD



MUSIC MINISTRY at St. PAUL'S



In August we continued to draw from the diverse musical gifts of the congregation.

On August 10 we gathered to worship with residents at Perkasio Park. We were led in worship that Sunday by a Gospel Bluegrass quartet comprised of Pastor Steven (banjo) and Nate Gulla (bass) Pastor Steven's friends Mark Sutherland (mandolin) and Bob Alek (guitar). After the service we received a monetary gift and a lovely card from Ruth Gantz, the Perkasio Park Association's Director of Religious Community, thanking us for a wonderful service.



FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR

Praise The Lord!

Sing to the Lord a new song.

Sing His praises in the assembly of the faithful.

-Psalm 149:1 NLT

Weekly Wednesday night (7pm) choir rehearsals start on September 3rd. I'm looking forward to seeing our veteran choir members when we resume for the new choir season and also new voices are needed and welcome! No experience necessary! We rehearse for about an hour each Wednesday evening and it is fun time of singing, learning and fellowship. As I have mentioned several times over the past several years, please consider joining us even if you can't commit to every week or the entire season. As much as possible, I try to make our rehearsal schedules accommodating to our modern hectic lives.

Please come make a joyful noise with us!

Chris Ziegenfuss

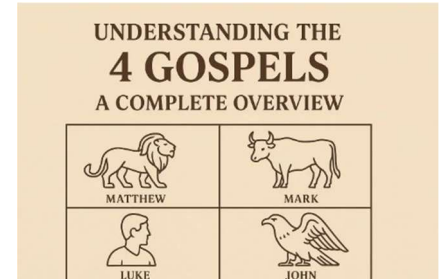
Choir Director

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH NEWS

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES

In response to popular request, Pastor Steven is planning to hold Wednesday afternoon Bible studies, beginning on Wednesday, September 17. All who are available are invited to meet in the library from 2:00 to 3:00 Wednesday afternoons. At the initial meeting we will choose from one of the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John, to study. Students are encouraged to bring their own Bibles.

Study Bibles are encouraged. Pastor Steven will talk about study Bibles at the first meeting. Invite your friends!



ECUMENICAL YOUTH EVENT

**PENNRIDGE CLUSTER
YOUTH GATHERING**

FEEDING THE 1,000

Sunday, October 5th, 4-6pm

Youth (Grades 6th-12th) from all of the churches in the Pennridge Cluster are invited to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 20 Dill Ave., Perkasio, Sunday, October 5th, 4-6pm. There will be a relay challenge, activities, and dinner! Bring a friend and join the fun!

Will you accept the 1,000 bag challenge?

An ecumenical youth event is being planned by several local churches on October 5 at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Perkasio.

The theme will be Jesus' Feeding of the 5000. There will be games and a devotional lesson related to that theme and participating churches are asked to help bring food for Pennridge Fish. If we have youth attend this event, we would like to have adults plan to help as well. This could become a quarterly Youth Event for St. Paul's to get involved with.

For more information, contact Pastor Steven

JOCELYN'S JIM FRANZ AWARD

On Celebration Sunday, June 1, Jocelyn Ziegenfuss was awarded the Jim Franz Award. The award recognizes a young person in our congregation who well represents the kind of service to others that Jim Franz exemplified during his life. Rather than a scholarship that the recipient uses toward their own tuition, the honoree gets to choose a charity toward which a donation will be made in his or her name. Jocelyn has chosen **Special Olympics Pennsylvania** as the recipient of the donation this year. Congratulations to Jocelyn and best wishes as she begins studies at Susquehanna University.

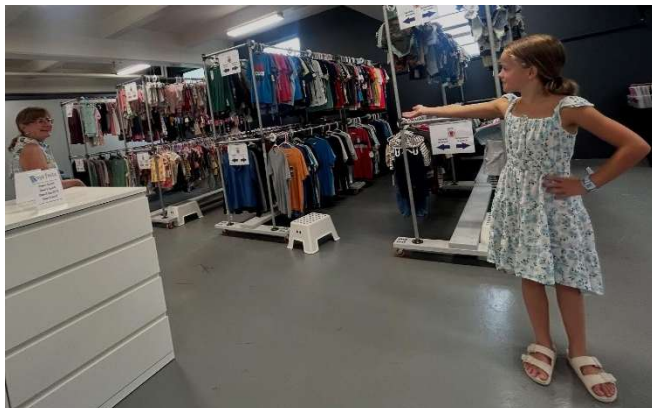
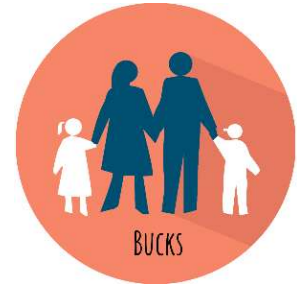


CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Are there young people at St. Paul's who are ready and interested in confirmation classes? We are exploring the possibility of coordinating classes with another UCC church. Please contact Pastor Steven for more information.

FOSTERING HOPE

The Fostering Hope Shop looks great! New racks have been assembled and stocked with clearly marked and carefully arranged clothing. All the walls have been freshly painted. Families of 60 foster children attended the open shop on Saturday, August 12. The following day, Ruby offered tours to church members interested in seeing the progress, including a spacious welcoming lounge/waiting area. Here are some photos taken just before the open shop and during the tour the next day. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped all these things come together.



PARSONAGE FOR RENT



St. Paul's parsonage is currently on the market for rent through Class-Harlan Real Estate. Many thanks to Chris Fosbenner for his tireless work on the parsonage, getting it up to code, and having it inspected.

WORSHIP at the Village at LifeQuest, Quakertown



**The Village at
LifeQuest**

One of St. Paul's members is a resident at the Village at LifeQuest, Quakertown. Pastor Steven recently received a request from the Director of Community Life at the Village to lead a worship service for the residents. Turns out, our church member was the one who initiated the request.

Pastor Steven accepted the invitation and will be leading a worship service at the Village on Wednesday, September 3 at 2:30pm. Pastor Steven is looking for an assistant or two from St. Paul's to come with him and help with the service and to assist the residents. Contact Pastor Steven for more information.

TOWN HALL MEETING

As part of the process of congregational transformation, Pastor Steven is planning a Town Hall meeting of the congregation after worship on Sunday, September 28 beginning after worship at about 11:30. Think of it as a more focused coffee/fellowship hour. It will be a chance to speak freely with one another about our congregation—how we feel about it: things we feel good about and things we wish were different. No agenda to push for any one thing—just a chance to talk and share and listen—to one another and to God.

Won't you plan to be a part of this? Your input is important!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/3 -- Kathryn Clark Dylan Ferris Bonnie Hayden	9/9 -- Karen Nace 9/11 -- Jason Kelly 9/12 -- Ella Ferris	9/19 -- Lucy Chrastina Maria Long
9/7 -- George Schmidt	9/14 -- Gregory Landis Arlene Peters	9/21 -- Julius Hayden
9/8 -- James Chrastina Christopher Ferris Lauren Hendricks Matthew Milkowich Linda Sweigart	9/15 -- Michael Milkowich Clarence Runkle	9/23 -- Nancy Booz
	9/16 -- Rowyn Wells	9/24 -- John Roush Braylon Stokes
	9/17 -- Megan Ferris	9/25 -- Angela Kelly Tracey Molettiere
		9/28 -- Donna Huff

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

CONSISTORY

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

Chris Fosbenner
Scott Huff
Debbie Koehler
Lori Milkowich

Arlene Peters
Carol Bonsted
(pending)
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

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

The Church Secretary position is vacant at the time of this printing



SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Summer Worship 9:00am <i>Pastor on Vacation</i>		Prayer Shawl 1:00–3:00pm	<i>Worship at the Village at LifeQuest</i> 2:30 Choir 7:00pm	Endowment 7:00pm		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Joint Worship at St. Stephen's UCC, Perkasio 10:00am	Finance 7:00pm	Altar Guild 2:00pm Consistory 7:00pm	Choir 7:00pm			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship 10:15am		Prayer Shawl 1:00–3:00pm	Bible Study 2:00pm Choir 7:00pm			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship 10:15am	October Newsletter Submissions Due	Prayer Shawl 1:00–3:00pm	Bible Study 2:00pm Choir 7:00pm			
28	29	30				
Worship 10:15am Town Hall Meeting 11:30am		Prayer Shawl 1:00–3:00pm				