

Welcome! Whether you are worshipping with us in-person or virtually, we pray that you and your family are safe and healthy.



This week our card is for Harriet Boyer. Please sign the card on the stand by the greeters.

Serving Today

Scripture Reader: Mahlon Boyer
Greeters: Paul & Judy Leister
Acolyte: Alexander Boyer
Tech: TBD

Last Sunday Attendance: 185
Virtual worship viewings: 77 (as of 2/5)
Giving: \$3,536

BIRTHDAYS ~ this week

February 9: Paul Weller, Kiley Haupt

February 10: Allyson Fleischman

February 12: Mahlon Boyer, Nadine Hummel

February 13: Deborah Reider

February 15: Tyler Griffith

ANNIVERSARIES ~ this week

February 14: Dennis & Connie Morgan

February 15: Wayne & Wendy Elser, Tyler & Ashley Griffith

Next Sunday: *Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*
Guest Preacher: a candidate for First Presbyterian Church
Message: **The Blessed Life-Finding True Joy in Christ**
Texts: *Psalms 1, Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 6:20-26**
**next Sunday's sermon text*

Forgot your envelope?

Scan the QR code to make a contribution.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Amityville, Pennsylvania

February 9, 2025

Ministers: The People of St. Paul's UCC

The Rev. Dr. Steven Simpson, Pastor

Martha Sitler, Minister of Music

Joe Ceklosky: Leader of Technology/Video Team

Marlene Dadey, Director of Christian Education/Office Manager

Emily Dreas, Director of Youth Ministry

Mike Rackey, Sexton

Church Office 610-689-9364

Church e-mail - office@stpaulsuccamity.org

Website: www.stpaulsuccamity.org

St. Paul's United Church of Christ Mission Statement

In its life and mission, St. Paul's UCC seeks to worship the triune God; proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ; practice loving service toward the needy; embody God's reign of peace and justice; establish a Christian community of faith; and be a faithful member of the church universal.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Amityville, Pennsylvania

February 9, 2025

9:45 A.M.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

* = Those who are able may stand

Prelude *More About Jesus* -Sweeney/Kendall
Praise to the Lord -arr. Broughton

Choral Prompt *God of Field and Star* -Bryce

* Processional Hymn *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* Hymnal #293

* Greeting The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
Let us share signs of Christ's peace with one another.

Introit *I Love You, Lord* Hymnal #78

* The Solemn Declaration (from Luke 5:10-11) sung response: **Amen!**

* Call to Worship —based on Psalm 138:1-7

I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart;
before the "gods" I will sing your praise.
**I will bow down toward your holy temple
and will praise your name
for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,**
for you have so exalted your solemn decree
that it surpasses your fame.
**When I called, you answered me;
you greatly emboldened me.**
May all the kings of the earth praise you, LORD,
when they hear what you have decreed.
**May they sing of the ways of the LORD,
for the glory of the LORD is great.**
Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;
though lofty, he sees them from afar.
**Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life.
You stretch out your hand
against the anger of my foes.**

* Call to Confession

* Silent Prayer

* Prayer of Confession (in unison) —based on Psalm 138:7; Isaiah 6; and Matthew 9:21

**O God, though we walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve and deliver us. Though our lips are not
clean and our hearts are not pure, you call us.
Forgive us, we pray, when we wander away from you,
lost and at risk. Forgive us when our lives do not
reflect your glory and the purposes you intend.
Help us to comprehend your ways in the world.
We long to feel your grace and glory,
for in you, Emmanuel, we can be healed and set free;
in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon —based on Isaiah 6:7; 1 Corinthians 15:10, 2-4

In the temple, Isaiah heard these words:
"Your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out."
... we have been saved. **Thanks be to God!**

* Prayer of the Day —based on Isaiah 6:3

Baptism *James Paul Keith Harrison* (see insert)

Choir Anthem *How Can I Keep from Singing?* -Tomlin, Cash, and Redman

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings *Luke 5:1-11, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

Sermon *Of First Importance*

* Responsive Hymn *I Love to Tell the Story* Hymnal #444

Prayers of the People response: *God who calls and listens, hear our prayer.*

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Invitation to the Offering —based on Luke 5:4, 7

* Doxology Hymnal #815

* Prayer of Dedication

* Recessional Hymn *I Will Sing of My Redeemer* Hymnal #309

* Benediction —based on Luke 5: 4, 7, Psalm 138:3

* Threefold Amen

Postlude *Praise to the Lord of Boundless Might* -Scott

SERVICE of RELEASE FEBRUARY 23

Sunday, February 23 will be Pastor Steven's last Sunday with us. A member of the Covenant Association will be present for a "service of release". Light refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall following worship.

CANDIDATING SERMON

On February 16 we will welcome to St. Paul's Pastor Ramy, who will be preaching a candidating sermon for members of the pastoral search committee from First Presbyterian Church in Pottstown. From time to time churches cooperate with one another in offering a "neutral pulpit." We were approached in early December about this.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

That time of the year is here when we may experience bad weather on a Sunday morning. Cancellation information will be available on Channel 69 (Service Electric channel 11). A decision will be reached no later than 8 AM. We will do our best to live stream a service. You can access the service on our website: stpaulsuccamity.org

SCOUT SPAGHETTI DINNER

All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale Saturday, February 15 from 4-7 PM in Fellowship Hall. \$10 adults, \$5 (10 and under). Tickets can be purchased from any scout or at the door.

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES 2025 DONATIONS

To give through the United Church of Christ for Wildfire relief, you may use a pew envelope and write "Wildfire" on it OR use your regular offering envelope and write "Wildfire" and designate the amount you would like to give to that relief effort.

ONCE UPON a PROM

Once Upon a Prom will again be hosted by the Boyertown Junior Women's Club on March 1, 2, 8, and 9 from 12-4 PM. Any junior or senior high school girl in need of a special occasion dress is welcome to come browse our collection of over 800 dresses, in all sizes, plus accessories. Held at the Boyertown YMCA now located at 31 W. Spring Street in Boyertown. All girls are invited to take a dress or two home for a small donation which benefits our local community. For questions, or to donate dresses/accessories contact Anita Zuber (610.367.0686) or Judy Leister (610.858.6796).

ST. PAUL'S ACTIVITIES—this week

Sunday 2/9	Adult Sunday School	8:30 AM
	Worship & Sunday School	9:45 AM
	Confirmation & Pre-Confirmation	10:45 AM
Monday 2/10	Committee on Ministry	10:00 AM
	Scouts 597	6:30 PM
Tuesday 2/11	Soccer Practice	6:15 PM
	Women's Bible Study	7:00 PM
	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM
Wednesday 2/12	Cub Scouts	6:00 PM
	Youth Group	7:00 PM
	Consistory	7:00 PM
Thursday 2/13	Lifeline Screening	8:00 AM
	Circle of Friends	12:00 PM
	Choir Practice	7:00 PM
Friday 2/14	PAentine Dinner	6:00 PM
	Cub Scout Lock-In	6:00 PM
Saturday 2/15	Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner	4-7 PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We invite adults to join one of the three adult classes Sunday mornings beginning at 8:30 in Rooms 10, 11 or 13. Children ages 3 through sixth grade are invited to Sunday School at 9:45 (during worship) in Rooms 8 and 9.

NURSERY SERVICE

Nursery service is available during worship for infants, toddlers, and twos. Rachael and Crystalynn are downstairs in the Nursery and will be delighted to see your children.

CIRCLE of FRIENDS

St. Paul's Circle of Friends will meet on February 13 at noon in the Social Room. Light lunch will be served. Sheila Martin will present a program, "My Patagonia" featuring the birds and creatures she observed when she visited that country. Come out and share food, fellowship and Sheila's adventures. Everyone is invited.

SACRAMENT of BAPTISM

Words of Institution

People of St. Paul's United Church of Christ:

Let us hear our Lord's command concerning the sacrament of holy baptism in Matthew 28:18-20.

After he had risen victorious from the grave, Jesus said to his disciples: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In obedience to this command, the church baptizes believers.

The Meaning of Baptism

Sacraments are holy signs and seals for us to see. They were instituted by God so that by our use of them he might make us understand more clearly the promise of the gospel and might put a seal on that promise.

Obedying the word of our Lord Jesus, and confident of his promises, we baptize those whom God has called.

In baptism, God claims us and seals us to show that we belong to God. God frees us from sin and death, uniting us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection.

By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice.

Response of Faith

Pastor (addressing the parents): Do you desire to have your **son** baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: **We do.**

Pastor (addressing the godparent)s: Will you support the parents in their commitment to raise this child in a Christian home?

Godparent: **I will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Will you encourage **James** to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents and Godparents: **We will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Will you teach **James** so that **he** may be led to profess Jesus Christ as **his** Lord and Savior?

Parents and Godparents: **We will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parents and Godparents: **We do, with the Help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with **James** in the Christian faith, to help **him** become a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that he may one day come to affirm his baptism?

Parents and Godparents: **We do, with the help of God.**

Pastor (addressing the congregation): Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as **he** lives and grows in Christ?

All: **We promise our love, support, and care.**

The Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of Baptism

Act of Baptism

Presentation of the newly baptized child to the congregation

Hymn

**Baptized in Water, sealed by the Spirit
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King
Heirs of salvation, trusting his promise
Faithfully now God's praises we sing**

**Baptized in Water, sealed by the Spirit
Marked with the sign of Christ our King
Born of one Father, we are his children
Joyfully now God's praises we sing**



Prayer for the Baptized

*James Paul Keith Harrison, son of William and Kristi Harrison
born September 4, 2024 at Reading Hospital
Godparents: Dan Sekulski and Katie Sowers*