



“ The Epistle Pauline ”

St. Paul's Digital Newsletter

Volume 59, Number 10

October 2025

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.

What kind of pet do you have? From Rev. Epps

As minister of St. Paul's I have seen and heard all about member's pets. Today I saw a pet that lives the life of Riley! Pictured here is Oliver who belongs to Penny and Steve Lauer.

My dad raised pigs but we never wrapped them in a blanket or bought them their own swimming pool! Our pets become part of our family and I think God created some of them to bring us comfort and unconditional love.



For Penny and their family who just lost her dad Larry Mensch, I say praise God for Oliver and a dog called Misfit. We might just have to have a blessing of the animals someday! Rev. Epps

September Consistory Highlights from Curt Clifford

Consistory met on Wednesday evening, September 10th beginning at 7 p.m. in room 8 of the church. Michele Ross presented a devotion.

Treasurer's Report –Total 2025 income at the end of August was \$374,310, which was \$180 more than expenses.

Endowment Fund – Marln Spotts reported that the Committee reviewed the proposed annual distribution calculation, confirming that the fund income is \$4,309.39 and authorizes the distribution from the Endowment Fund as follows: \$2,154.67 for capital improvements, debt reduction, and/or building programs; and \$2,154.68 to enhance the mission outreach of St. Paul's.

Worship Committee – Judy Reitz reported that there will be a Thanksgiving Eve service in the chapel at 7:00 pm on November 26, 2025.

Capital Campaign Challenge - President Clifford had asked the Capital Campaign Committee to propose some action to repay the loan of \$65,000 made by the Endowment Fund last year. He would like to see us repay that loan before our annual meeting in November. Consistory then took action and authorized an offer of a 1-to-1 match of member payments of outstanding pledge contributions in September and October, up to a total match of \$6,000.

HVAC - The air conditioning in the upper level of the Chapel has been installed and is now operational. A plaque will be placed in the Chapel commemorating the donation by Ned Selwyn Jr. in memory of his parents Louise and Ned Selwyn, Sr.

Missions -Michele Ross reported Missions Committee is very busy:

Planning for the Live Nativity has begun. We will be visiting Mary's Shelter to help sort donated clothing and supplies. The CROP Walk is scheduled for October 12. Rob and Kendra Hettel will once again chair the event. Our church is helping several local families in need, and the Committee feels that our focus at this time should be on serving needs in our own "backyard".

● **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be held in Room 8 of the church starting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 8 th.

HVAC Campaign Pledges: A Match Opportunity

Update: Through September 24th, member Capital Campaign contributions for September totaled \$2,435. That leaves \$3,565 left of the \$6,000 goal to be collected by the end of October. Everything up to \$6,000 will be matched by the Campaign challenger!

The Opportunity: Consistory took action at its September session to offer a 1-to-1 match of member payments of outstanding pledge contributions in September and October, up to a total match of \$6,000.

Purpose of the Fund Match Offer: Consistory decided to accept a philanthropic donor's offer to fund-match in order to accelerate the pledge repayments and pay back the Endowment loan by the beginning of November. That would provide an opportunity for legitimate consideration of funding sanctuary air conditioning by the Congregation at our November 16th Annual Meeting.

HVAC Program History: At a special meeting in February of Last year, the Congregation approved starting a Capital Campaign for funds to complete Phases 1 and 2 of a five-phase program for work on heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) at the church. Phase 5 of that program was to be air conditioning our main sanctuary and was to be addressed in the future.

The Campaign for Phases 1 and 2 solicited members for pledges, which could be paid over a two-year period ending in January of next year. While completing the first two phases in early 2024, we discovered the equipment due for replacement in the Phase 3 was not reliable enough to use safely over the 2024-25 winter.

Therefore, at a second special Congregation meeting in August of last year, the Congregation approved a plan for funding HVAC Phase 3 work using a \$65,000 loan from the Church's Endowment Fund, to be repaid out of funds collected from pledged Campaign contributions. The Endowment Committee did not specify the term of the loan, but they stipulated that the loan must be repaid before the church would fund HVAC work beyond Phase 3.

Current Status of HVAC Program: Subsequent to completion of Phase 3 work in time for last winter, the church was blessed to receive an individual donation that enabled us to repair this summer the HVAC system in the Chapel in Phase 4. Therefore, sanctuary air conditioning in Phase 5, the final HVAC program phase, remains to be considered, but only after the Endowment loan is repaid.

Status of the Endowment Loan: After receiving the loan, we began sequestering pledge payments into a separate bank account from which we will repay the loan when the account reaches \$65,000. At this time, the pay-back account stands at approximately \$54,000 and the pledges still to be paid by January are approximately \$15,000. Therefore, we are on track for loan repayment, but probably not until January, 2026.

In Summary: The opportunity to match up to \$6,000 in pledges is only open during September and October so if you have outstanding pledges still due, please consider paying them during this time if you are able to do so.

Committee Spotlight!

What is Consistory's Nominating Committee and Why is it Important from Curtis Clifford

Consistory's Nominating Committee is set up by a stipulation of our bylaws. It is responsible annually for assembling a list of members who are qualified for and ready to serve as church leaders. Positions the Committee must consider for filling are: Deacons, Elders, Standing Committee chairs and fillers of vacancies due to term expirations, resignations, etc. among the various church boards.

The list is to be ready for publication in the Church Annual Report, which is prepared and distributed in advance of the Church Annual meeting in November. At the Annual Meeting, the Congregation has the opportunity to nominate others for the positions listed, and the Congregation then votes for candidates. Without the Nomination Committee list, the Congregation would be asked to provide a nomination for each position, which would be a very long and arduous procedure.

Our bylaws provide for the president to appoint four members of the committee and authorizes it to begin work in August. Appointees are the Vice President, who serves as chair of the committee, one Elder, one Deacon and one committee Chairperson. This year, the committee is chaired by Jackie Hertzog, and includes Deacon Martha Sitler, Elder Doug Reinert and Evangelism Committee Chair Kathy Weller.

This process has worked well over the years for the church by presenting willing and able members in positions of church leadership. Without action by the Nominations Committee, vacancies could remain unfilled and the committee structures would begin to crumble.

All members should make themselves aware of the opportunities to serve and have an idea of how to express their interest and to whom they can speak to do so.

Turkey Supper Prep Week – Oct 27th through Nov 2nd

Keep an eye out for Turkey Supper week schedule of chores coming in the Weekly Word.

White Elephant Sale

Table Set Up

We could use help setting up tables on Sunday Oct 26th after fall fest

Packing Up and Table Tear Down

We also need help on Sunday Nov 2nd packing up items before church and taking tables down after church.

White Elephant Donation Dates

We will accept items from 8-12 noon on: Monday Oct 27th, Tuesday Oct 28th, Wednesday Oct 29th

White Elephant Sale Hours

Friday Oct 31st open from 8am to 2pm – Note New New closing time.
Saturday Nov 1st from 8am until.....

[300th Anniversary of the German Reformed Church](#) from the PA [Southeast Conference Newsletter](#)

This year we will celebrate the 300th Anniversary of the German Reformed Church in the United States which began with the first communion at Falkner Swamp, Oct. 15, 1725. This celebration of our immigrant heritage is particularly meaningful and instructive given the current conversations about immigration happening around the nation.

To celebrate, a series of events and worship celebrations are planned, including (among other things) quarterly presentations of German Reformed History, a liturgy for congregations to share on the morning of Sunday, Oct. 12 and a Festival of Celebration on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

Registration is now open...[click here](#) to register for all presentations.

[300th Anniversary of the German Reformed Church in the United States](#)

[October 12:](#) 300th Anniversary of the German Reformed Church in the United States in Gilbertsville (Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson) The correct address of our host Falkner Swamp UCC is 2077 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville.

[October 15:](#) 300th anniversary of the German Reformed Church in the United States "Festival of Celebration" at Wentz's UCC in Worcester

[October 28:](#) Gifts of the Reformed Church Going Forward on Zoom son on Zoom (Part of the 300th Anniversary Celebrations of the First Communion of the German Reformed Church in America)

[Meet our Newest Members](#)

The following people will be joining our church family on October 5 th . Please welcome them and make them feel comfortable.

[Rhonda Bernard](#)

Rhonda has lived in Boyertown for five years. She grew up in Ohio. She is a School Bus Driver and Driving Instructor. She loves to read, do crafts, sew, garden, and help others.

What brought you to St. Paul's? "I have been wanting to restore my faith in God and try to trust him. I know a few people who come to this church and I have been here for a few services".

Bruce DeLong

Bruce has lived in this area his whole life. He is a Systems Analyst at Carpenter Technology Corp in Reading. He has been married to his wife Kathleen for 18 years. He likes to hike, bike, kayak, and watch the Philadelphia sport teams.

What brought you to St. Paul's? "My sister, Joan Adams, and a need to reconnect with the body of Christ."

Jackie Hoffman

Jackie was born and raised in Pottsville, PA – the Coal Region! Reading Radio Y102 brought her here where she raised her two children, Katie and Eric, both married now. When not working with boys and girls at Daniel Boone as a Progress Monitor, she loves being with her two granddaughters. Full circle, she pre-records a mid-day show in Pottsville where she began her radio career 40 years ago. She enjoys going to the mountains, hiking, yoga, her 2 dogs and her life partner, John. What brought you to St. Paul's? "St. Paul's reminds me so much of my home church and I feel it's the perfect fit to continue building my faith in Christ."

Kathy McNeely

Kathy was born and raised in Amityville. She lived in New Jersey for 2 years and also in Birdsboro. She is retired from the Daniel Boone School District for 2 years. She loves movies, reading, and spending time with friends and family.

What brought you to St. Paul's? "I came back because Pastor Epps reminded me it's always been my home."



Jen (Jennifer) Mentzell

Jen lives in Douglassville with her husband and two children. After working with children for many years as a Registered Behavior Technician, she made the decision to make a change and stay home with her family. She enjoys a quiet lifestyle of reading, doing puzzles, and hiking. Recently she has been feeling a little "lost" in her faith. She started attending St. Paul's thanks to a friend. She immediately felt welcomed by the congregation and felt that the sermons spoke to

her. “I feel at peace and think that I have found my place”. Jen looks forward to meeting new people, getting closer to God, and helping others in any way that she can.

Renée Morris

Renée has lived in Amity Township for 38 years. She is a Software Engineer. Her interests include community involvement.

What brought you to St. Paul's? “In search of a comfortable church home. My oldest son was baptized at St. Paul's.”



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Bridget Scogna

Bridget has lived in the area since 2004. She is a Special Education Teacher at River Rock Academy. She and her husband Ed have two children.

What brought you to St. Paul's? “The Leady family.”

Paula Weirbach

Paula is originally from Lancaster County, moving to Berks County about a year ago. She is a widow, losing her husband almost 6 years ago. She has 2 children, daughter Christina and son Ryan. She has 5 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

What brought you to St. Paul's? Partner Joe Aguiar, also a member, brought her to St. Paul's a few months ago. “I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and become a part of this wonderful family”.

Crop Walk - October 12th

The South East Berks CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, October 12, 2025 at the Daniel Boone Area Homestead to help neighbors facing hunger around the block and around the world. With recent cuts to federal nutrition, healthcare, and humanitarian aid programs, this year's Walk is more urgent than ever.

The St. Paul's UCC Amity team has set a goal of \$2,000. 25% of all funds raised will support local food pantries, including Hopewell Love, with the balance supporting CWS (Church World Service) programs worldwide. The event kicks off at 12:30 in the North Pavilion with a community picnic. Main dishes will be provided; side dishes may be

brought to share. Registration begins at 1:30 and the walk steps off at 2:00 PM from the North Pavilion.

Across the United States, reductions to key safety net programs - including SNAP (food stamps), Medicaid, and the Child Tax Credit - are pushing more families to seek help from community food programs. At the same time, the withdrawal of U.S. foreign assistance has shuttered lifesaving services abroad, leaving organizations like CWS to keep vital food, health, and shelter programs running in refugee and crisis-affected communities.

What the CROP Hunger Walk makes possible

Here at home: Funds help stock local food pantries and meal programs, support refugees and newcomers facing hunger, and bolster agencies strained by increased need following cuts to federal nutrition and health programs.

Around the world: Donations sustain emergency food assistance, healthcare access in refugee settings, climate-smart agriculture, and long-term solutions that strengthen food security when public funding is withdrawn.

How to participate

Register/Donate and Join Our Team:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/st-pauls-ucc-amityville> or by visiting the Crop Walk information area in the Library before and after worship.

Can't walk? [Donate or sponsor a Walker](#); every step and dollar helps.

Last year, St. Paul's UCC Amity Walkers raised over \$1,100 through the South East Berks CROP Hunger Walk. We hope to surpass that total this year to meet the growing need.

About CROP Hunger Walks

For more than five decades, CROP Hunger Walks have united neighbors of all faiths and backgrounds to raise funds and awareness to end hunger. Walks support local hunger fighting partners and the global work of CWS.

About Church World Service (CWS)

CWS is a global humanitarian and development organization working with communities to end hunger and poverty, respond to emergencies, support refugees and asylum seekers, and build a more just world for all. Learn more at cwsglobal.org.

Christian Ed News from Marlene Dadey

Fall Fest

The Christian Ed Committee invites EVERYONE to join us on Sunday, October 26 in Fellowship Hall after worship for our Fall Fest.

This is a great day to enjoy some time with our Sunday School families and staff and show your support for our Christian Education program. There will be fall activities, crafts and, of course, FOOD.

The main course and drink will be provided. Bring a hot or cold side dish and/or a dessert to share if you can. If you like you may come dressed in your Halloween costume (nothing too scary)!

Bring a friend, or two, or three! Confirmation will not meet on October 26. Join us for the Fall Fest unless you are visiting another church as part of your confirmation requirements.

Committee Spotlight!

St. Paul's Guldin Trust Committee from Wendy Elser

In 1981, our church established the Guldin Trust Committee following the will of Ethel Smith Guldin, a community member who left a large amount of funds to our church, with the specifications that the money given be placed in a trust fund and "the income whereof shall be applied toward the education of deserving persons in the church congregation as may be decided by the church authorities."

Every fall, the committee of five (each committee member being approved by Consistory to serve a five year term) accepts applications for scholarship money from deserving church members. To be eligible to receive funds for an Educational Grant, the applicant must be a full-time or part-time student in the current fall semester and enrolled as a full-time or part-time student in the upcoming spring semester. To be a "deserving church member," an applicant must demonstrate his or her regular participation in the life of the church. The committee wants to see an applicant who attends worship services on a regular basis, takes Communion on a regular basis, contributes financially to the church, as well as participates in Missions Projects, church events, and other activities.

For those who are further away at college, we look to see they have done these prior to going off to college, that they are active here when home on breaks, and that they have become active in a church close to their school. Once the committee looks over all applications following the November 15 deadline, interview dates are set up with the applicant and the Trust Committee. There is no age limit to apply for a Guldin Trust Scholarship and you may receive a Scholarship up to five times, reapplying each fall.

Scholarship money is awarded in January with checks going directly to the institution for tuition purposes only.

So, if you are currently in college, trade school, or any other form of higher education, have been a member of St. Paul's UCC for at least three years, and are active in the life and missions of our church, you should look into applying for a Guldin Trust Scholarship. [Application Deadline is November 15, 2025](#). The Guldin Trust Scholarship Guidelines and Application can be found in the church office or on the church's website. <https://www.stpaulsuccamity.org/forms/Guldin-Trust-Application-Guidelines.pdf>

Prayer Team

Would you like to join the prayer team? We meet the first Monday of each month at 1:30 pm. We would love to have you. The Team Leader is Judi Flickinger.

Bible Study on "The Chosen" - Tuesday Sept 30th

The award-winning TV and streaming series "The Chosen" is much more than entertainment! Each episode depicts events from the life of Jesus and his followers, but also invites viewers to look deeper at the scriptures and principles on which the story is based.

So, whether you have watched every episode over the past four years or never tried it, we invite you to join us to start at the beginning and view the series, one episode a week, followed by a group discussion and Bible Study called "What Does It Mean to Be Chosen?", written by the creators of the series.

Please bring a Bible - any translation is fine - or pick one up as you enter.

Sessions begin at 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 pm in the Chapel. Please use the upstairs entrance since there is another organization meeting downstairs.

If you are interested or would like more information, please talk with Martha Sitler, or email her at sitlers@ptd.net.



Prayer Shawl Ministry from Kathy Jones

Prayer shawls are available for all in need: homebound, hospitalized suffering with illness or others who could use a shawl hug for whatever reason.

Yarn and directions to knit or crochet a shawl are available in Room 10 on Sunday morning at 9:30 am or after Church on Sunday. A box is marked with prayer shawl yarn, etc. for you to choose yarn you would like to use. You can also use your own directions to make them and use your own yarn if you wish to do so.

You can drop off finished shawls in the Church office or library. They will then be prayed over by the prayer team, a tag added, and packaged for distribution. Finished and packaged shawls are available for anyone. Contact me, a prayer team member, a church member or the Church office if you would like a shawl. Thank you to all who have made shawls or provided yarn.

Just for fun...!

Do you have memories, photos or stories you would like to share with your Church family? Send them to us and we will include them in the 'Just for Fun!' section of the newsletter for everyone to enjoy!

The Suggestion Box!

What do you want to see in the newsletter? Let us know your thoughts and we'll try to include them in the Newsletter or Weekly Word. eMail us at Communications@stpaulsuccamity.org

We appreciate and need your donations!

Expenses are going up, up, up, for everyone and that includes our expenses here at St. Paul's UCC. Please prayerfully consider giving a little extra in the offering plate each week if you can!

We can't do this without you!



Want to give online? You can support St. Paul's, make a Memorial Donation, help Disaster Relief Victims, and help us with HVAC repairs - all online. It's easy to give on your mobile device at

<https://stpaulsuccamity.churchcenter.com/giving>

Or Scan the QR Code.



October Birthdays

Oct 2 Sue Davidson, Wayne Elser,
Doris Johnson, Marin Krause
Dennis Morgan
Oct 3 Karen Kulakowski
Kelly Yanos
Oct 4 Samantha Armstrong, Madison
Benner, Daniel Spotts
Oct 5 Robert Jones, Charlotte Trejo
Oct 6 William Stutzman
Oct 8 Sandy High, Steven Pauley
Oct 10 Jaime Haupt, June Pissollo
Oct 11 Robert Hettel
Oct 12 Donald Breitenstein, John Hartline
Oct 13 Linda Okuniewski, Tim Prout
Oct 14 Bette Mooney
Oct 15 Tyler Czeiner
Oct 16 Emily Dunning, Betsy Groller
Oct 19 Marlin Spotts
Oct 21 Susan Lincoln
Oct 22 Rich Zuber
Oct 27 Anna Miller
Oct 28 Beverly Breitenstein
Oct 29 Grace Kulakowski
Oct 30 Tanya Weller
Oct 31 Joel Conrad, Sandy Mensc

October Anniversaries

Oct 1 Joseph & Susan Ceklosky
Oct 2 Chas & Nancy Everhart
Rick & Samantha Henry
Scott & Tanya Weller
Oct 5 Billy and Kristi Harrison
Oct 6 Paul & Lynn Eschbach
Oct 12 Pete & Marlene Dadey
Dennis & Virginia Stoudt
Oct 13 Jeffrey & Renee Kline
Garry & Carol Labe
Oct 16 David & Karen (Nuscher) Creasy
Oct 18 Dave & Tiffany Dunning
Oct 23 Pat & Jen Leady
Harold & Heidi Pennypacker
Oct 24 Vernon & Valerie McLean Keller
Oct 28 Mark & Nadine Hummel
John & Diana Yarrish
Oct 30 Brett & Beth Krause

To read the weekly word scan the QR Code here.



This edition of the monthly newsletter was prepared by Kay Nyman

November Newsletter Deadline: Friday, October 17, 2025.

[Click Here to Read More on our Website](#)

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