



**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

*A welcoming Christ-centered community...*

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
9:30 am Worship

April 28, 2024

## **We're Glad You're Here!**

**Welcome:** *St. Paul's creates experiences of joyful fellowship where children, youth, adults, and the elderly build open and honest relationships of mutual support. In welcoming the ongoing transformative power of the Holy Spirit, we find freedom from social stigmas and shame. This in turn empowers us to address isolation and marginalization in ourselves and in our wider community.*

## **Today's Scripture Readings**

1 John 4:7-21

## **Worship Leaders**

Ministers of the Gospel – All Who Gather for God's Worship

Worship Leader – Rev. Kevin J. McLemore

Reader – Nancy Dragan

Ushers – Dave & Diane Johnson

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – John Herold

## **Flower Dedication**

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## **Join us for Sunday Morning Music & Worship**

**9:30 – 10:30am Sunday In-Person / Zoom Worship**

Connect online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86359317508>

Or by phone to listen to the service:

Call 1-646-876-9923 and when prompted, enter the meeting ID: 863 5931 7508

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610-582-8461 + [office@stpaulsbirdsboro.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbirdsboro.org) + [www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org](http://www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org)  
Pastor: Rev. Margaret Ernst + [pastore Ernst@stpaulsbirdsboro.org](mailto:pastore Ernst@stpaulsbirdsboro.org)  
Church wifi: StPauls / havefaith

## Welcome

### Prelude

#### Call to Worship

(credit to “written by Katherine Hawker”)

L (Leader): Come with what you have.

For you who grieve this day

know that you are invited to bring the broken pieces of your heart.

**P (People): Loved by one another,  
we discover God's love for us.**

L: Come with what you have.

For you who come with gladness

know that your melody will find harmony.

**P: Accepting God's love for us,  
we are called to love one another.**

L: Come with what you have.

For you weighed down by too many 'shoulds' and 'what-ifs'

know that here you may lay down the burdens of guilt and shame.

**P: Loved by one another,  
we discover God's love for us.**

L: Come with what you have.

For you who have the answers,

know that new questions await you.

**P: Accepting God's love for us,  
we are called to love one another.**

L: Come with what you have.

For you who come seeking,

know that your questions are safe in the presence of God.

**P: Loved by one another,  
we discover God's love for us.**

**Opening Hymn      “Help us Accept Each Other”      NCH #388**

**Announcements**

## **Call To Confession and Assurance**

*("written by Thom Shulman, with modifications")*

### **Call to Reconciliation**

L: There come those moments when we stand exposed, our failings, our hurtful words, our harmful ways open for all to see. But God takes these moments, and these sins, redeeming them through compassion are love, making us new people, children of the Living God. Let us come, in these moments, with our prayers to the One who waits to forgive us and make us whole. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

### **Unison Prayer of Confession**

**ALL: We carry our fears around with us like so much pocket lint, Compassionate Heart, when you would take them and toss them aside, spent and useless. You invite us to sit and chat with someone who wants to know more about you, but we are busy running errands. You give us a simple command—to love—and we complicate it with rules, worries, and doubts.**

**Forgive us, Loving One. You have planted those seeds of mercy, of hope, of grace deep within us, so we might bear rich and nourishing fruit for others. May we not get in the way of your Gardener, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who will use the Holy Spirit to bring forth an abundant crop.**

*Silence is kept*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

L: God abides in you! God is breathing, living, forgiving, restoring you in this moment, and in the days to come. This is the good news for us!

**P: As God is in us, so we can live, work, care for others, so that love, hope and joy might touch all people. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

*— written by Thom Shuman, and posted on his excellent [Lectionary Liturgies](#) blog. Visit that site for many other excellent worship resources.*

### **Passing the Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

### **We Listen For God's Word**

**Scripture**    **1 John 4:7-21** (*pg. 188*)

**Sermon      Love and God’s Existence**

**Offering**

**Gathering the Prayers of the People**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**P: Our Creator, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn      “Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers “      NCH #397**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

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**Announcements**

**Bible Study** is held in the upper room in the church each Sunday beginning at 8:30am. Join us for good conversation and discussion about the books of the bible. The group is currently discussing the Book of Mark.

**Spring Congregational Meeting – Official Call** - Our spring congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2024 following the 9:30am worship service. This is the time to hear about our congregation’s ministry and lift one another up in our common call of being the living Body of Christ.

At this meeting we will hold Consistory elections, quick review of YTD financials, receive an update on the pastoral search, and hear about some aesthetic updates that will help to spruce up the church.

**Consistory Leadership Nominations** – If you are interested in joining Consistory, please connect with a Consistory member to have your name added to the nominations list that will be presented and voted on at this June’s Congregational meeting. Being a member of Consistory is a very important role in the leadership and life of this church. If you have any questions about the

expectations and responsibilities please feel free to speak to one of the current members: Doug Johnson, President – Dave Johnson – Sandi Swavely – Janeen Adil - Stuart Wells.

**Boy Scout Troop 595 Chicken BBQ Sale!** - On Sunday, June 2 Boy Scouts Troop 595 will be holding their BBQ sale here in Birdsboro. Orders can be placed through this link <https://birdsboro-troop-595.square.site/>. The cost is \$11.50 if you order online or \$11 with cash or check. Troop 595 will be walking around Birdsboro on Monday, May 13 & 20 from 6-8:30pm taking orders so you may get a chance to give them your order on one of those 2 Monday's.

The Boy Scouts will be set up at the lower level of the CE Building on June 2 and pick-up times are 11am-1pm. If you have any questions, please contact the Boy Scouts at this email address [danielboonetrop595@gmail.com](mailto:danielboonetrop595@gmail.com).

**SAVE THE DATE – Church Picnic – Sunday, June 23, 2024 – Rustic Park Picnic Pavilion #2** –It's time for the St. Paul's community to come together for one of our special events – the Church Picnic. We are excited for another year and opportunity to gather as a group of people who share in the love of God and their community.

We are looking for one of the best parts of a picnic – potluck food! Bring out your favorite pasta, potato, veggie, meat, or dessert items. A signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board where you can sign up to bring a covered dish. Also, if you are interested in helping with the setup, please be in touch with Doug Johnson. Thank you, in advance and we'll see one another at the park!

**Rental Space Available at St Paul's** - Do you have an upcoming event? Are you part of a group that is looking for space to hold meetings? Are you interested in a quiet space to work?

If so, there are several options available here at St. Paul's UCC-Birdsboro that may work for you. Both the Christian Education Building and the Church Building have spaces that you can rent. These spaces can be used for, but are not limited to:

Group Meetings, Conference Space, Office/Work Space, Classes, Parties, Receptions

Rates vary depending on the frequency that the space will be used. We also provide special rates for non-profit organizations. If you have questions or are interested in renting a space, please contact the church office.

**Mission Trip Birdsboro and Beyond – MTBB is in its 11<sup>th</sup> year** of living the love of Christ within our greater Community. MTBB Week will be July 17-20, 2024.

**Assistance Applications - DUE May 15** - If you or someone you know needs help with something around their home, they may be able to help. You may complete your application online <https://www.missiontripbirdsboro.org/assistance> or you may download your application and send via email or mail (hard copies are on the table at the side door entrance).

**MTBB Volunteer Registration is now Open** –As you know, participants form an interfaith, inter-denominational team but, common to all, is the desire to live Christ's teaching to love

and serve one another. Anyone who participated 2021-2023 has an account set up. You will need to register by using the returning volunteer link to confirm or update your information. For any **NEW** volunteers, there is a separate link available in order for you to create your account. Both new and previous volunteers can find their respective link at <https://www.missiontripbirdsboro.org/volunteer>

**Boyer's 1% Caring & Sharing** – When shopping at Boyer's don't forget to have the cashier scan your 1% Caring & Sharing card (this card has St. Paul's name printed on the back of it). Every time you use the card Boyer's will give St. Paul's a rebate check totaling 1% of the total purchases made by those who used the card. This is a simple and easy way to help St. Paul's. If you don't have a card but would like one, please contact the church office.

**Redner's Save-A-Tape** – We are still collecting Redner's tapes for which St. Paul's can receive 1% of the total bill (Excluding items controlled by the government such as tax, milk and tobacco products). Redner's accepts receipts for redemption up to three years from their printed date and there is no dollar limit. Start saving tapes today! You can drop your receipts in the weekly offering plate or mailed to the church office.

*Electronic Giving is available with the GivePlus+ App or through our website "Give" page.*

## **We Offer Prayers for...**

The family of James (Craig) Hawk

### **Joys & Blessings**

#### **St Paul's Weekly Calendar**

|                   |                                |                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Sunday, April 28  | Hearts Ablaze Fellowship (CE)  | 9am- 1pm       |
|                   | Worship (C)                    | 9:30am         |
|                   | New Millennium (CE)            | 7pm-8pm        |
| Tuesday, April 30 | Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) | 5:30pm-7pm     |
| Wednesday, May 1  | Disciple Bible Study (CE)      | 9:30am-10:30am |
| Thursday, May 2   | Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) | 5:30pm – 7pm   |
|                   | Sober @ 6:30 (CE)              | 6:30pm–7:30pm  |
| Friday, May 3     | Beginners Meeting (CE)         | 7pm-8pm        |
| Saturday, May 4   | Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) | 8:30am – 2pm   |
| Sunday, May 5     | Hearts Ablaze Fellowship (CE)  | 9am- 1pm       |
|                   | Worship (C)                    | 9:30am         |
|                   | New Millennium (CE)            | 7pm-8pm        |

#### This Week: Church Office Hours

Tues – Thurs 8:30am – 2:00pm