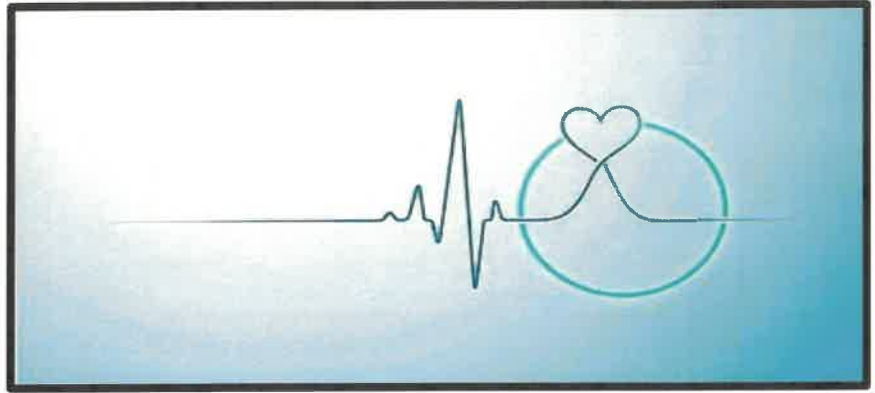


St. Paul's United Church of Christ
47 S. Whiteoak Street
Kutztown, PA 19530

(610) 683-3393

Sunday School for all ages 9 AM
Sunday Worship 10:15 AM

office@stpaulskutztown.org



The Pulse

JUNE VOL 57 #6

OF ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Kutztown, PA

Always pray ...

*To have eyes that see
the best in people.*

*A heart that forgives
the worse.*

A mind that forgets the bad.

*And a soul that never loses
faith in God.*

Power of Positivity

10 Blessings of God

1. I am breathing.
2. I have water to drink.
3. I ate today.
4. I have a home.
5. I have clean clothes.
6. I have a kind heart.
7. I wish well for others.
8. I am getting better each day.
9. I have a dream.
10. I am content.

If you are grateful for all of God's blessings, share this with someone you love. Do not forget, Amen.

(Graceful Faith)

B TEAM - PENNY PARTY

The Penny Party held here at St. Paul's in May was a huge success. Christina Stillo has reported a grand total of \$5,016.00 was raised. This far exceeded any year prior. This group will be able to purchase 912 backpacks filled with school supplies.

Thank you to all who supported this mission of St. Paul's.

APRIL 2026

\$14,929.00



\$23,411.80

Sunday, May 24, we celebrated Pentecost Sunday – the birthday of the Church! The Church universal was born when God sent the Holy Spirit upon those earliest disciples, just as was promised. The Risen Christ tells his followers, “See, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so, stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” Then he withdrew into heaven, Luke writes. (Luke 24)

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, those early followers traveled near and far preaching the Good News, teaching, and performing acts of power and healing. As a result, Luke reports in the book of Acts, many people came to God – the Divine Presence - in new and life-giving ways through Jesus Christ.

We, too, can tap into this life-giving Spirit, albeit, in more interior ways. Intentional spiritual exercises can help attune us to the Divine Presence – in this case, the Risen Christ – in fresh ways. The Examen is one such practice. My colleague, Rev. Henry Schoenfield, writes, “The Examen, or Review of the Day, was a daily prayer included by St. Ignatius Loyola in his Spiritual Exercises. It offers a practical help to become more attentive to God’s presence and activity in our daily life, finding God in all things, noticing the patterns of our interaction with God in our experiences.”

Henry continues, “It can be especially good for busy people – ten minutes at some point in the day – bedtime, before supper, at lunch. It is the most important ten minutes in the whole of the day. It is asking God to show us moments of the day that God invites us to pay attention to.” (Jim’s note: you could substitute “Jesus,” or “Risen Lord” or other, for “God” in this prayer.)

- Take a few moments to recognize that you are here with the Lord, to have a few minutes quiet time together.
- Feel the warmth of God’s love as God looks upon you. Bask in that experience. God is inviting you at this moment into an ever-deeper relationship of love.
- With this loving God, think a bit about the day that has been. What in this day am I thankful for? What moments come to mind that led me to say “Thank you” to God?
- What in this day might I be sorry for? What are the moments of selfishness and unkindness and any other times when I did not manage to be Jesus’s hands, feet, eyes, his love, his compassion for the people around me? I say “sorry” to God. And hear God say, “You’re forgiven.”
- I ask God now to nudge me if there was something God was trying to tell me today when I was not paying attention. As I look towards tomorrow, these are some of the people and events that I want to pray for....
- Finally, please help me to be more attentive to you tomorrow. Amen. Our Father, who art in heaven...

In Christlove,

Rev. Jim

PASTOR SEARCH

Daryn Keim – Pastor Search
Committee Chairperson
Mandy Boyer – Secretary
Keith Wuchter – Chaplain
Sue Kunkel
Barbara Krause
Ray Oswald

Greetings from the Pastor Search Committee! During the month of April our team met two times, once on April 12th and again on April 26th. At our April 12th meeting we started the meeting reviewing St. Paul's Annual Report. In case you are not aware what the Annual Report is, it is a report that includes year end summary reports from each of our committees, such as Finance, Pastor, Fellowship, Missions, Deacons, Elders, Woman's Guild, Consistory, Christian Education, Music Department, Worship Committee, etc. All these reports will help the Pastor Search Committee write the Long Profile, as the profile includes each committee and a summary of what they do.

We also took time to listen to a 30-minute audio recording by Steve Chandler, Executive Coach, entitled: Agreements vs. Expectations. Let me tell you, we learned a lot about the vast difference between an agreement vs. an expectation. You have two choices when you converse with another person or group. You can have an agreement, or you can have an expectation. The big difference is that having an agreement with someone is much healthier and takes two or more people. Expectations can be individual based without another person even knowing an expectation was placed on them. People are likely to keep an agreement with each other because it is something that was agreed upon by both parties. An agreement also prevents you having to go back and fix things, whereas if an expectation was set, you may not even produce an outcome. Also, people like to keep agreements. They feel by keeping an agreement they will not let that person down. People resist an expectation and really resist an expectation that is placed on them without first discussing the expectation. Expectations can be like cancer. They overtake the person with unhealthy ideas, thoughts or even behaviors. Overall, it can consume the person or even a whole committee. If you agree to create an agreement with someone, you are taking the time to have an open discussion to meet each other's needs, creating a healthy relationship. Simply put, agreements create healthy expectations!

At our April 26th meeting we met and discussed that our committee needs the congregation's help in answering a few simple questions. We are still brainstorming on when, where, and how these small gatherings will occur. Once those details are worked out at our next meeting, which will be held on May 17th, you will be notified.

As always, we appreciate your patience with this big undertaking. Our committee is working hard to create an updated profile that will show St. Paul's innerworkings and future goals. Reverend Jim continues to provide our group with thought-provoking ideas and wisdom for which we are thankful. Most of all we thank God for the light He continues to shine, not only on our committee, but on St. Paul's!

And the people said: AMEN!

Daryn Keim

Pastor Search Committee Chairman

PASTOR SEARCH

CHOOSE YOUR DATE

JUNE 14TH, 2026

OR

JUNE 28TH, 2026

The Pastor Search Committee needs your help! We are starting the process of writing the Long Profile, and as you know, the last profile was completed in 2020. Therefore, we would like your help in answering a few questions.

At our last meeting we discussed ways of meeting with each of you. As you know, YOU, the congregation, play a big role in helping us complete our church profile. After some brainstorming, we thought we would hold a “Help the Pastor Search Committee” gathering, similar to what Reverend Jim did with his “Meet and Greets.” Our gatherings will be based on three questions. Those questions are:

- What qualifications and skills do you require for a new Pastor?
- What energizes you and discourages you here at St. Paul’s?
- How can each of us individually or collectively help a new Pastor feel comfortable and successful with our congregation; what must we do to assure his or her success?

These gatherings will take place after worship and will last about an hour or so. **You have two dates to choose from, June 14th or June 28th.** Each date has two sign-up sheets, as each gathering will include up to twelve people, with one group gathering in the lounge and the second in fellowship hall. We will have sign-up sheets placed outside the office, or you can email one of us. Should the need arise, we may add additional dates.

We want to thank you for your patience as we navigate this process together. We are blessed and grateful to have the prior Search Committee’s Long Profile to act as our guiding light. You, the congregation, are what makes St. Paul’s a church.

The Bible teaches that the church is not merely a building, but a living body of believers united in Christ, called to love, serve, and grow together. We ask that you prayerfully consider these questions that we are asking as God prepares you to participate in these important discussions. May God bless St. Paul’s United Church of Christ.

Sincerely,

The Pastor Search Committee

Do You Love Surprises?

Some people adore surprises – the unexpected party, the unannounced gift, or the sudden good news. Others prefer the comfort of a predictable plan, finding security in knowing exactly what comes next. Regardless of our personal preference, life is full of surprises. When we think we have our path perfectly mapped out, a sudden turn can change our direction entirely. These moments can be unsettling, but for those who walk with God, they can also be thrilling invitations to witness His divine creativity and goodness at work.

Our human minds tend to operate in straight lines, but God's ways are far beyond our limited understanding. He often works outside the box of our expectations, crafting a story for us that is richer and more beautiful than anything we could have planned for ourselves. The job we did not get might lead to a more fulfilling career down the road. A relationship that ended might make way for one that is healthier and more aligned with His will. A challenging diagnosis could open doors to a deeper faith and a new community of support. We may not understand the detours in the moment, but from God's eternal perspective, every surprising twist has a purpose.

Trusting God means embracing the mystery of His plan. It is about holding our own desires with an open hand, confident that His thoughts and ways are higher and better than our own. When life brings an unexpected turn, it is an opportunity to lean into faith rather than fear. Look for His hand in the unexpected. See it not as a disruption, but as a divine interruption, a sign that God is doing something new in your life.

Thought of the Day

Be open to His surprises, for they are often the very channels through which His great blessings flow.

- Dr. Joe Pettigrew

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. James Latimer.....Interim Pastor
Barbara Merkel Admin Assistant
Judy Heffley Organist
Donna Sheaffer Bell Choir Director
Cathy Dill.....Bell Choir Director
Sue Kunkel.....Custodian

Church Officers

Kathy LandisConsistory President
Sherry Leinbach..... Consistory V.P.
Gerald Silberman.....Consistory Secretary
Laraine Wuchter..... Treasurer
Marjorie WeidaFinancial Secretary

St. Paul's UCC belongs to the Covenant Association, Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Association Website:

<https://covenantassociation.org>

Keystone Conference Website:

<https://keystoneucc.org>

United Church of Christ website:

<https://www.ucc.org>

I DON'T KNOW PRAYER

You just go somewhere quiet and you sit at the feet of God, and you say, "I don't know." I do not know where to go from here. I do not know what is happening. I do not know what to do with these emotions, I do not know how to handle this situation. And then with whatever little grain of faith you have, you say, "but You know," and you leave it there. God most certainly hears your prayer. Amen.

Faith & Grace Ministry



Pastor Susan was the lead pastor for the May 3rd worship service. The theme was Pentecost-Happy Birthday to the Christian Church. Carl read Acts 2:1-21, 36-42 from the Sparks Bible. Jesus's disciples were celebrating Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon them.

Pastor Susan and Pastor Chris explained the message using an entertaining skit which ended with them singing happy birthday to the church. This led us into singing happy birthday to several of the volunteers and family members.

At the request of Hannah, one of our Rejoicers, we had walking tacos with all the fixings for snack. Everyone enjoyed the tacos. Thank you Louise for bringing the supplies and Jan and Barb for setting everything up.

Our next worship service will be June 7th with Pastor Jim Schlegel as the lead pastor. Please join us!

- Erin Webb, Co-chair of Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County

Rejoicing Spirits Ministry

For the past three and a half years St. Paul's has been the host church for the Rejoicing Spirits ministry. This ministry provides a worship service for individuals with disabilities. We began this ministry with seven local pastors, three pianists, and many volunteers. Over time, several of our pastors have moved on to other churches and their replacements have not joined our ministry. Two of our pianists and several of our volunteers have moved and can no longer participate.

We are looking for:

Worship service leaders—responsible for selecting scripture, presenting a 3–5-minute message and recruiting volunteers to assist with the service.

Pianist—accompanies the Rejoicers, families and volunteers in singing four familiar songs during the service.

Volunteers—assist with the service, set up for fellowship, clean up after fellowship.

Worship is the first Sunday of the month at 3:00 pm, at St. Paul's. Leaders rotate each month.

Please talk to Erin Webb or Barb Merkel for more information!



Greetings from Consistory

Kathy Landis, Consistory President



In place of Kathy Landis who was in California, Sherry Leinbach, Vice President, led the meeting. Here are the highlights as reported in the minutes by Jerry Silberman, Secretary.

In the Treasurer's Report, it was noted that the total expenses are still exceeding income. However, the total contributions from envelope giving, Church School and Plate, in addition to Facilities/Hall Use Income and Miscellaneous exceeds amount budgeted to date.

The Pastor reviewed highlights of his report. He met with the Pastor Search Team on April 12, 26 and May 17. Also, Rev. Jim suggested that 'faith moments' be shared by members of the congregation during worship once a month reflecting on your faith, significance of your faith, and how your faith affects life (as shared in the Worship Committee meeting of April 7.)

In addition, as a matter of record, the Consistory reaffirmed the allocation of the Pastor's salary and housing compensation for calendar year 2026 as being \$6,000 salary and \$60,000 housing as noted in the October 20, 2025, Consistory minutes.

One important topic under Old Business was the Facility Use Agreement concerning the proposed fees and start date for community organizations who hold their meetings within the church building. A Special Consistory meeting had been held on Sunday, April 19, at the conclusion of worship. At that meeting, a motion passed that all organizations currently using the facility will be grandfathered under the donation policy in place. Only new organizations will be asked to pay a fee effective immediately. The agreement will be reviewed in January 2027.

Delegates are still needed for the Keystone Conference on June 5-7, 2026, at Millersville University. A delegate may choose to attend only one day. For the local Covenant Association, held on April 26 from 3:00 to 5:30 PM, Daryn Keim, Barbara Krause and Kathy Landis attended. Two delegates are required according to St Paul's bylaws to attend all conference and covenant association meetings.

The written procedure for Fire Protection is still under way.

Membership was again on the agenda. It has been 30 days since the letters were sent out; based on responses to date, thirty-eight members have been inactivated and removed as members.

However, their names will remain in the church's records as past members.

In Property Maintenance, Greenawalt Plumbing replaced the water softener, repaired one urinal, and removed two toilets in the basement.

Pastor Search: The Finance Committee will meet to discuss a recommendation for compensation to offer a new settled pastor.

The Bell Choir is continuing under the direction of Cathy Dill until the return of Donna Sheaffer. However, Donna does not know when or if she will be able to return due to the lengthy process of being able to use the prosthesis.

Fellowship Hour: The continuation of the fellowship hour will be evaluated based on conversation with those individuals who have been providing the refreshments for the gathering and with congregants. There is a need for more people to volunteer. Consider volunteering to continue this valuable fellowship time by sharing a small snack. It does not have to be fancy or pricey—keep it simple. You can plan together with another person. Please sign up on the sheet outside the office.

Thanks to all the dedicated members of the Consistory for their support of the congregation's best interests. Next meeting is June 10. Please attend and send your committee's reports to the office the week ahead.



YOUNG AT HEART

What is the Buzz? On Wednesday, April 15, Young at Heart featured Herman (Herm) Danenhower of Danenhower Apiaries, of Dietrich Valley Road, Kutztown.

Herm was recommended by Jan Lenich, and he gave a very spirited story of how he has developed a new method for processing his “pure” honey and honeycomb. Initially in the presentation, an unexpected challenge with computer access to his YouTube video occurred, but another visiting beekeeper saved the day by using his password to open up the video. Herm spoke of his adventures as a beekeeper. Since 1972, he has developed a unique process to create fresh, pure, and delicious honey. He has twenty apiaries in various places, but not on farms due to pesticide usage there.

Much of his method in harvesting honey is dependent on how it is extracted from the comb. It includes “blowing out” the bees with air to access the honey. Herm usually does not wear protective garb because he can “read” a beehive to know if they are happy. If you would like to learn more about the extraction process, you may check out his website at hermans-honeycomb.com. According to Herm, he delivers “the best and purest quality honey and honeycomb,” raw and organic, packaged right here in PA Dutch country.

To help save the bees, avoid cutting lawns where clover is growing, avoid using pesticides and herbicides, and grow plants and flowers that attract the bees. A few good sources are the natural honeysuckle shrubs, maple, and tulip trees.

Following the presentation, everyone was treated to the opportunity to do a taste-test. Small bread cubes could be dipped into the Danenhower Pure Honey, and all was sweet. It reminded me of communion with a twist.

Here is the YAH schedule so far of planned events occurring in 2026:

- **June 17- Civil War history with artifacts by Dave Valuska**
- **July 15- Jaunting Abroad (world tour in 1968) by David Bullock**
- **August 19- Older Order Mennonites’ culture and history (clothing, one-room schoolhouse, PA Dutch language, etc.) by Mary Laub, author**

Many thanks to our presenters, but also to the Young at Heart team: Sharon Kozlowski, Sandi Madeira, and Ethel Beck. Also, kudos to Barb Merkel for support, printing materials, creating the posters, and advertising. We are low on refreshments so we would appreciate donations. Thank you to those who have contributed. If you place donations in the kitchen, please mark them for YAH.

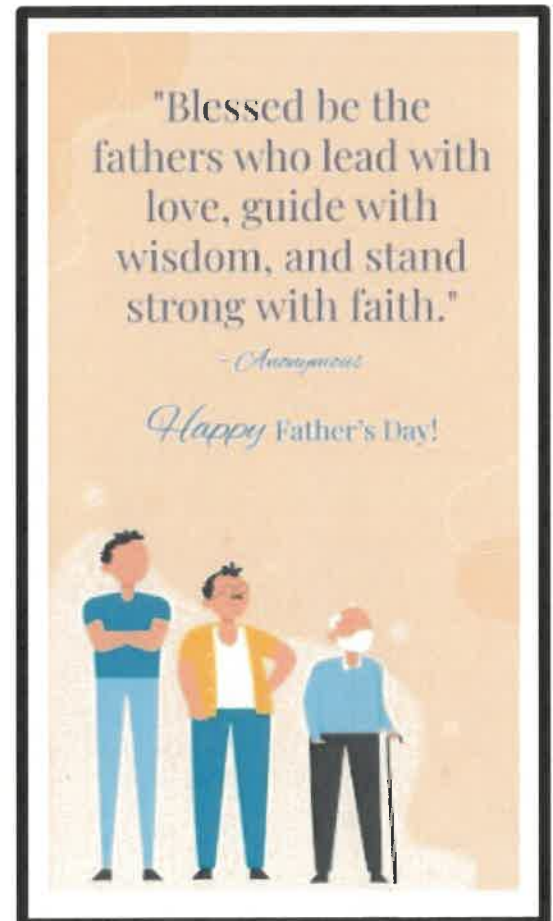
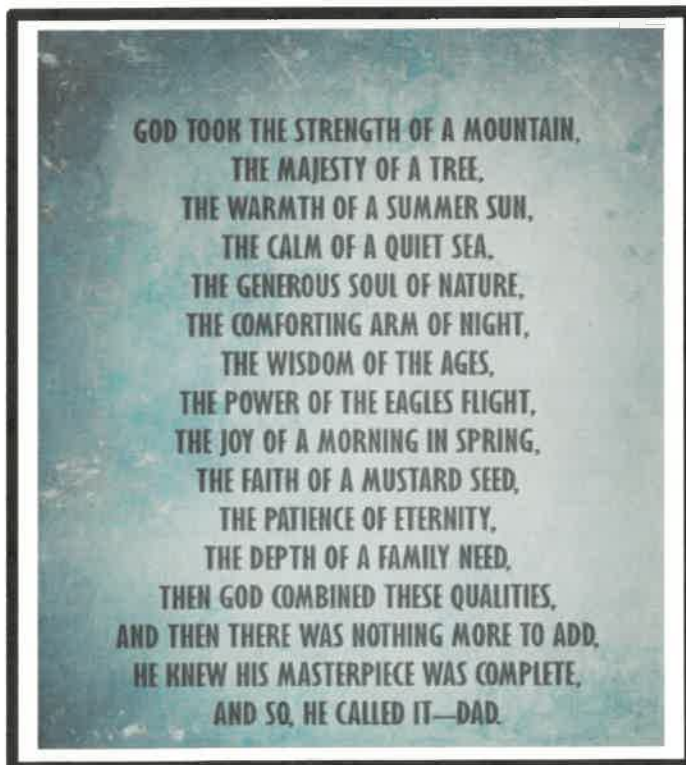
Young at Heart 2026 SCHEDULE: Every third Wednesday of the month, 10 AM – 12 noon. **Come, bring a friend, and enjoy the program and fellowship.** The program is held every month including the summer months. If you would like to attend, sign up on the attendance sheet posted outside the office.

If you have any ideas for presenters, please let one of our YAH team members know about it.



DAD'S FAVORITE SAYINGS

1. Because I said so.
2. Money does not grow on trees.
3. You are grounded till you are thirty.
4. Do not make me stop this car!
5. It builds character.
6. You do not know what hard-work is.
7. Were you raised in a barn?
8. Go ask your mother.
9. A little bit of dirt never hurt anyone.
10. When I was your age....



June Rung	June 2
Daryl Keim	June 2
Garrett Ordway	June 2
Dexter George	June 3
Jacob Moyer	June 4
Steven Steltz	June 5
Mandy Boyer	June 7
Grace Conover	June 10
Fietta Schaeffer	June 16
Jack Moriarty	June 19
Steven Leinbach	June 21
Louise Wessner	June 25
Arielle Levine	June 28

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

GRACE NOTES

IF I GET DEMENTIA

If I get dementia, every time you enter the room, announce yourself. "Hi - It is _____". NEVER ask - Do you know who I am? That causes anxiety.

If I get dementia, I want my friends and family to embrace my reality.

If I get dementia and I think my spouse is still alive, or if we are visiting my parents for dinner, let me believe those things. I will be much happier for it.

If I get dementia, do not argue with me about what is true for me versus what is true for you.

If I get dementia, and I am not sure who you are, do not take it personally. My timeline is confusing to me.

If I get dementia, and can no longer use utensils, do not start feeding me. Instead, switch to a finger-food diet, and see if I can still feed myself.

If I get dementia, and I am sad or anxious, hold my hand and listen. Do not tell me that my feelings are unfounded.

If I get dementia, I do not want to be treated like a child. Talk to me like the adult that I am.

If I get dementia, I still want to enjoy the things that I have always enjoyed. Help me find a way to exercise, read and visit with friends.

If I get dementia, ask me to tell you a story from my past.

If I get dementia, and I become agitated, take the time to figure out what is bothering me.

If I get dementia, treat me the way that you would want to be treated.

If I get dementia, make sure that there are snacks for me in the house. Even now if I do not eat, I get angry, and if I have dementia, I may have trouble explaining what I need.

If I get dementia do not talk about me as if I am not in the room.

If I get dementia do not feel guilty if you cannot care for me 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is not your fault, and you have done your best. Find someone who can help you or choose a great new place for me to live.



What's Happening?

- **Kutztown Summer Concert Series (Kutztown Park Bandshell):**
 - **June 6:** Ben Mauger Dixieland Band (7-9 PM).
 - **June 16:** Flag Day Celebration (7:30-9 PM).
 - **June 18:** Kutztown University Summer Music Festival "Sunset Spectacular" (7-9 PM).
 - **June 20:** Erich Cawalla & The Uptown Band (7-9 PM).
 - **June 27:** TimeWhys (7-9 PM).

June 6th - Annual Blood Drive in honor of Gary Reidenhour & Leona Keim – at St. Paul's 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

June 7th – Rejoicing Spirits – 3:00 PM at St. Paul's

June 13th – Taste of Kutztown Wine & Beer Festival at Kutztown Community Park 11:30 AM – 5:30 PM

June 16th – Flag Day Celebration at Park Bandshell 7:30 PM

June 17th – Young at Heart presents Civil War History w/artifacts presented by Dr. David Valuska 10:00 AM – 12 Noon

June 26th – June 27th – Renninger's Events – Antique and Flea markets – 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

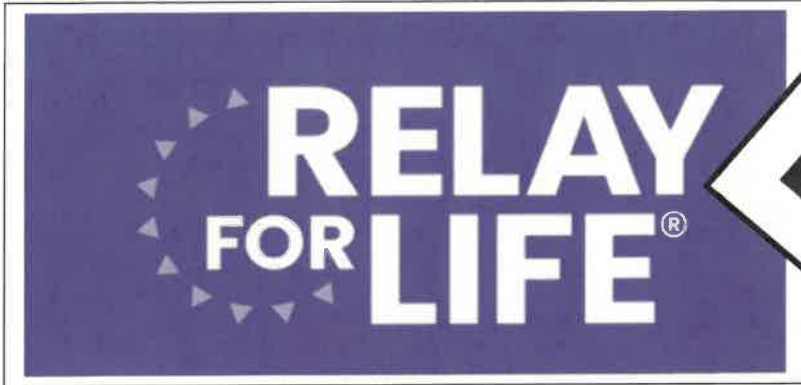
Recipe from the Kitchen of Pal Eckert

Rueben Casserole

20 oz. pkg. frozen shredded hashbrowns, thawed
¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
1 ½ lbs. cooked deli turkey, thinly sliced

¼ cup Russian dressing
16 oz. can sauerkraut, drained
8 slices swiss cheese
Garnish: extra Russian dressing

Directions: Sprinkle hashbrowns into a greased 13" x 9" baking pan. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake at 450 ° for 15 minutes. Arrange turkey slices over hashbrowns, slightly overlapping, spread with dressing. Spoon sauerkraut over dressing. Top with swiss cheese and bake an additional 15 minutes. Serves 8.



HEROES



Relay was a
SUCCESS!!!!
Thank you to all
who helped with
this event and
those who donated.
It is most
appreciated.
- Denise Keim

ST. PAUL'S UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST
ANGELS OF HOPE

JUNE 2026

Worship—10:15 AM

Sunday School—9:00 AM Adult SS 8:45 AM

Office Hours; Tuesday—Thursday 8 AM—12:00 PM



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5-9 PM KB Cougars	2 10 AM Worship Mtg. 5-9 PM K B Cougars	3	4 6-9 PM Lions Club (FH)	5 Keystone Conference	6 Keystone Conference 8AM-2:30PM Blood Drive
7 3 PM Rejoicing Spirits	8 6-8 PM Mice	9	10 7 PM Consistory	11	12	13 9 AM Prayer Walk
14	15 PULSE DEADLINE	16 6-8 PM Relay-K-Town	17 10AM-Noon Young at Heart 2-9 PM H & H Quilt	18 9 AM-4 PM H & H Quilt 6:30-9 PM Lions Club (L)	19	20
21	22 6-8 PM Mice	23	24 6 PM Personnel (L)	25	26	27
28	29 7 PM Property	30				