

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

AUGUST VOL 57 #8

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



TRUST IN **HIS** TIMING
RELY ON **HIS** PROMISES
WAIT FOR **HIS** ANSWERS
BELIEVE IN **HIS** MIRACLES
REJOICE IN **HIS** GOODNESS
RELAX IN **HIS** PRESENCE

GOOD MORNING LORD,
THANK YOU FOR THIS DAY.
LORD, GUIDE MY FEET AND
MY WORDS TODAY.



JUNE 2026

\$12,336.73



\$19,215.28

Be Like the Bear

A few years ago, a black bear was wandering across narrow Rainbow Bridge near Donner Summit in northern California when two cars startled it. In a panic, the bear jumped over the concrete barrier and somehow caught the massive arch beneath the bridge—about 100 feet above the Yuba river. While it averted immediate disaster, it now found itself seriously stuck as it could not climb back up onto the bridge, nor get off it.

Wildlife officials assessed the situation and concluded there was nothing they could safely do until morning. The bear was stranded.

When they returned the next day, they expected to find a frightened, exhausted animal desperately clinging to the bridge. Instead, they found the bear... fast asleep.

Here was a bear in an impossible situation, and it had apparently decided, “Well, I cannot fix this tonight. I might as well get some rest.”

I like to think the bear knew his scriptures well, and so was drawing guidance and strength from Jesus’ words to his disciples during his final night with them when they were perplexed and anxious:

- “Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give you.” (John 14:27)

Jesus also tells a parable about a farmer who scatters seed and then sleeps and rises day after day while the seed grows. The farmer does not know exactly how it happens. God simply does what God does (Mark 4:26-29).

We, on the other hand, often believe that if we just think hard enough, worry long enough, or plan carefully enough, we will somehow solve every problem. Sometimes that works. But sometimes we are simply stuck and anxious.

When no amount of thinking can change the situation, anxiety only wears us out. As a colleague put it, “What is absent when anxiety is present, is faith; faith that God will be God and that Life can be trusted.” (Barbara Brown Taylor)

Faith invites us to do something different. Faith invites us to rest—not because we are giving up, but because we are placing ourselves in God’s hands. It is not laziness. It is an active decision to trust that God is still at work even when we cannot see a way forward.

The bear’s story has a happy ending. Wildlife officials stretched a large rescue net beneath the bridge, gently tranquilized the bear, lowered it safely to the ground, and before long it woke up and wandered back into the forest. The bear could not rescue itself. But it did not need to.

So, the next time life leaves you feeling stranded on a ledge, be like the bear.

Do what you can. Then let God do what only God can.

Put differently, when you are in a bad spot and cannot think your way through it, be like the bear. Do not give in to anxiety. Rest in the hope of God. Rely upon the sustaining power of God.

“Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

Christlove,

Rev. Jim

From the Desk of our Interim Pastor

WHY DON'T PEOPLE GO TO CHURCH?

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.” Hebrews 10:24-25

When we look around our sanctuaries on a Sunday morning, we often notice empty seats where friends and neighbors used to sit. It is natural to wonder why so many people choose to step away from the church. For some, the answer lies in deep, unhealed wounds. They have experienced harsh judgment in places where they expected unconditional love, leaving their spirits bruised and entirely unwelcome. Others simply feel overwhelmed by the frantic pace of life, viewing Sunday as their only chance to finally catch their breath. Still, others struggle with feeling completely disconnected, believing they do not quite fit into the community. It is easy to respond to their absence with quiet criticism, but Jesus asks us to respond with profound empathy.

The church was always designed to be a safe harbor for weary souls, not a showcase for perfect lives. When we take time to truly understand the heavy burdens keeping people away, our perspective completely changes. We realize our vital mission is to become the hands and feet of Christ outside the building walls. We must bring the love of God directly to those who feel isolated, bridging the gap with genuine compassion. By extending extraordinary grace we show them that our shared faith is about gentle healing rather than rigid perfection.

Think about someone in your life who has drifted from the fold. Reach out to them today with a warm, supportive heart. Offer a quiet listening ear without applying any pressure to return. Let them know they are deeply cherished and truly missed. As we nurture our spiritual growth together, we can cultivate an incredibly welcoming environment. Step out in faith, offer a gentle invitation, and watch how God uses your love to guide hurting hearts back to His comforting presence.

- Dr. Joe Pettigrew

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. James Latimer.....Interim Pastor
Barbara MerkelAdmin Assistant/
Editor

Judy Heffley Organist
Donna SheafferBell Choir Director
Cathy Dill.....Bell Choir Director
Sue Kunkel.....Custodian

Church Officers

Kathy Landis Consistory 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>

Accept what
is, let go of
what was, and
have faith in
what will be.



Sunday, July 5th, was a busy day for Rejoicing Spirits. At 1:30 pm, volunteers and members of the Rejoicing Spirits core team met with Pastor Angela Zimmann. Pastor Angela is the Vice President for Church Relations and International Programming with MOSAIC. One of her areas of responsibility is Rejoicing Spirits. She visited with us to hear our stories, share in worship and meet our Rejoicers and their families. She also shared some of her ideas for the future.

Pastor Chris was the lead pastor for the July service. The theme for the service was Freedom in Christ. Hannah read the scripture, John 8:36, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." Pastor Chris used visuals to explain. She presented a rope with a big knot in the middle. She asked Chris R to undo the knot. Chris struggled to untie the knot without success. Pastor Chris snipped the rope explaining that God can undo our knots! With God, we are free! We sang My Country 'Tis of Thee and Happy Birthday to our country.

We had picnic food for our snack, but hot dogs, macaroni salad, veggies, fruit, cookies, and cupcakes can hardly be called a snack! Fellowship time was filled with conversation, laughter, and sharing stories with Pastor Angela.

A HUGE thank you to our wonderful volunteers and worship service participants. You are amazing!

Feeling blessed,

Erin Webb, Co-Chair

Church.

@saltandlight words

You can come curious.

You can come skeptical.

You can come sad, messy, or late.

You can come broken, weary, or searching.

You can come with questions or even with doubt.

Because here, you don't have to be perfect – you just have to be willing.

This is where grace meets you.

This is where love welcomes you.

This is where Jesus is waiting with open arms.

This is your invitation.

Won't you come?

Submitted by Ann Burrows



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

Greetings from the Pastor Search Committee.

June was a busy month for our committee. As most of you know we held two gatherings, one on June 14th and the second on June 28th. It was great to meet and talk with each of you, to hear your stories and listen to your thoughts and concerns. These gatherings have really helped energize our group. Some of you shared a few tears. Some shared concerns. Most all of you shared how deeply rooted your love for God, Scripture and the overall well-being of St. Paul's means to you. It is clear to us that everyone, within these walls, has a dedicated passion to continue to see St. Paul's grow, not only in faith but in future generations.

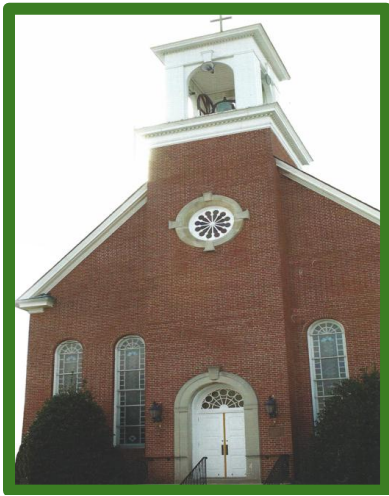
With your help we are now able to start writing the Long Profile. We hope to be able to compose a profile that will highlight St. Paul's committees, community outreach, and future goals. This process, as I have stated many times before, is time consuming and detail oriented. I feel we have a great team, who together, will do our very best to create the best profile we can.

Our next meeting will be held on July 12th. At this meeting we will discuss all the information we have gathered from you and chart our course of action to start writing! We also plan to reach out to every committee: Worship, Finance, Woman's Guild, Consistory, Missions, Fellowship, VBS, Music, Christian Education, Personnel, Property, Technology, and Home Visitation. By reaching out to each committee we hope to gain insight into the inner workings of each committee so we can correctly represent them in the profile.

As always, we appreciate everyone's patience and prayers. Our universal love for this church shines as bright as the sun. Each ray of light that flows from our hearts to the Heavens above shall continue to guide this church forward. Forward to new beginnings that will help St. Paul's grow.

Blessings,

Daryn Keim
Chairman, Pastor Search Committee



Greetings from Consistory

Kathy Landis, Consistory President

The Kutztown Fire Department was not available to give instruction on how to properly use a fire extinguisher, but the firefighter instructor should be here on August 12. Before the business meeting, other members of the congregation who are not on Consistory will be invited to listen to the presentation.

Rev. Jim opened the devotions based on the song "Simple Gifts," sung and played on guitar.

Jerry reported on the Financials and the Treasurer's Report.

Financial Report - The total value of our trust funds, including the memorial fund monies, increased by \$4,462.59.

Treasurer's Report - The church's current contributions are 56% of the total contributions annual budget and is about \$3,600 ahead of last June. We're on budget for expenses, but slightly higher than last year.

Finance Chair - The resignation of Carl Mantz from the Finance Chair position was accepted.

Pastor's Report - Rev. Jim summarized his activities for the month. A recent highlight was his assisting the Pastor Search Committee with the congregational gatherings which included 33 members. While he is away July 15 through August 7, we have coverage by Rev. Homer Royer, a Hymn Sing, and Rev. Sara Hertzog.

Deacon Counting - A motion passed to allow both current and past deacons to assist in counting the offering. This proposal was introduced since sometimes current deacons are not available, and the bylaws require that two deacons accompany the Financial Secretary in counting.

Personnel - Jerry Silberman introduced changes to the Policies and Personnel Handbook provided by the Personnel Committee. Motion carried.

Membership - Barbara presented the update on the membership rolls. 244 was last year's number of members. After the recent updates, the revised membership number is anticipated to be 200 by year end.

Communion/Visitation Process - Marj and Kathy met recently to discuss the Communion/Visitation process. Marj drafted a list of procedures documenting the process to aid people in the future who are involved in the process. Marj and Kathy will review and distribute as needed--another church process that has been clarified.

Exterior Church Enhancements - There are various improvements that could be made to signage at the church. Kathy contacted Fegely Signs and received a proposed design and estimate for an outdoor sign at the Lambert Alley entrance. A team will review and make recommendations to the Consistory for approval. Memorial donations may be used to pay for it. Since new visitors are sometimes confused where to enter the church, a sign should be placed at the entrance to the front vestibule to indicate that the main entrance is at the rear alley where parking is available. Other possible improvements were mentioned. Kathy asked if anyone would like to join a team to explore the possibilities, let her or the office know.



YOUNG AT HEART

On Wednesday, June 17, Young at Heart featured Dr. Dave Valuska, a recent member of St. Paul's and former History Professor at Kutztown University. Topics included the PA Germans' emigration from Europe and their valuable role during many Civil War battles.

Before the opening prayer, Sharon Kozlowski enthusiastically recited the Gettysburg Address ending with:

"...that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain-that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom-and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

The stage was set for the captivating presentation by Dave who shared details about the PA Germans, where they came from, how they got to America, where they settled, and why they came. Many came for economic reasons and some for religious freedom. Since they came with no money, they often sold themselves for a work contract until they could eventually become independent. Also, Dave elaborated on other religious sects that had broken off from the Catholic Church after Martin Luther declared his Ninety-Five Theses.

During the Civil War many of the newly emigrated PA Dutch volunteered for service in the Armed Forces. They were ready to serve their new country and help their friends. Did you know that they became the first military police for the George Washington Army and many were from Reading? The Civil War was fought by the Northerners primarily to save the union. Only about 10% were in favor of abolishing slavery at the time.

In addition, Dave spoke about many of the battles of the Civil War, especially ones in which the PA Dutch were highly involved from local areas, such as Reading and Pottsville. Dave used handouts to explain battles and the tactics of the North and South in the battle of Gettysburg. Some artifacts were displayed, which were typical at the time of the Civil War, and even a photo of Dave in a reenactment uniform.

Lots of delicious refreshments were served including homemade cookies, meat and cheese tray, fresh fruit, and strawberry shortcake with ice cream. Great for a hot day!

Thank you, Dave Valuska, for leading a lively and educational presentation for the 37 attendees, 22 from the community and 15 from St. Paul's.

YAH upcoming schedule for 2026:

- **July 15- Jaunting Abroad (world travels in 1968) by David Bullock, former KU professor and author**
- **August 19- Older Order Mennonites' culture and history (clothing, one-room schoolhouse, PA Dutch language, etc.) by Mary Laub, author**
- **September 16- Weaving a "Witches Hat "with Debbie Zvanut**

Many thanks to the Young at Heart team: Sharon Kozlowski, Sandi Madeira, and Ethel Beck. Also, kudos to Barb Merkel for her valuable support.

Submitted by Kathy Landis



Colin Heffley	August 1
Ronald Newhard	August 1
Jarad Luckenbill	August 2
Barbara Merkel	August 4
Elaine Musser	August 4
Brian Unger	August 4
Erin Webb	August 5
Abbie Kunkel	August 5
Brandi Long	August 6
David Abel	August 12
David Swan	August 12
Karen Rhode	August 13
LeAnn Silberman	August 15
John Kutz	August 17
LaRoy Haas	August 18
Aaron Snyder	August 21
Taynara Rocha	August 25
Tyler Schmoyer	August 27
Ray Oswald	August 31



GRACE NOTES

The Starfish Story

A man walked along the beach. Ahead, he saw a boy dashing back and forth in the sand. He smiled, thinking the boy was enjoying a game on a fine morning, so he hurried to catch up.

As he got closer, he saw the boy picking something up out of the sand and gently tossing it into the sea. As he got closer to the boy, the man called out, "Hello, what are you doing?"

The boy paused in throwing, looked up and replied, "Throwing starfish into the ocean. The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I do not throw them back in, they will die."

"But do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it? You cannot possibly make a difference."

After listening politely, the boy reached down, picked up another starfish, gently tossed it into the sea and said, "It made a difference to that one."

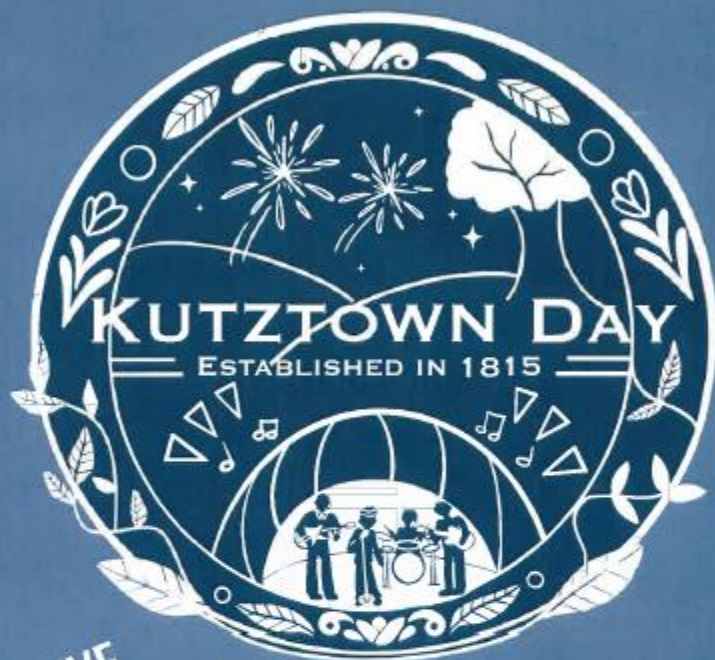


(Adapted from the story, "The Star Thrower by Loren Eiseley).

August 2, 2026

12-9:30 PM

IN THE KUTZTOWN PARK



LIVE

MUSIC:

The Zeptones

12-2 PM, BAND SHELL

Brandywine Colonials Fife & Drum

2-3 PM

The Happy Dutchmen German Band

2:30-5 PM, STROLLING IN PARK

Flamin' Dick & The Hot Rods

5-8 PM, BAND SHELL

Marvelous Marv & The Shoe Throwers

7:30-9 PM, LOWER END OF PARK

**Celebrating
the Kutztown
Community &
America's 250th
ANNIVERSARY!**

GAGA BALL & GAMES

HIT, PITCH & RUN CONTEST

CHILDREN'S CRAFTS/GAMES

LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM

CAKE WALK

PICKLE BALL & TENNIS DEMOS

"OLD TIME PLOW BOYS"

TRACTOR DISPLAY

Play to Win!

DRAWING TICKETS

DISC GOLF

QUOIT TOURNAMENT

BINGO

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Family Safety

FIRE SAFETY ACTIVITIES

KINNER KARDS

VISION SCREENINGS

Food Vendors

Shoofly Pie Sale

Fireworks!

SEE THE FULL KUTZTOWN DAY SCHEDULE:

kutztownboro.org/kutztown-day/





WHAT'S HAPPENING?

August 2, 2026 - Rejoicing Spirits Worship @ St. Paul's

August 2, 2026 - Kutztown Day w/Fireworks

August 3 - August 8, 2026 - Kutztown Fair

BAND SHELL PERFORMANCES

August 6 - KASD Summer Band 7-8:30 PM

August 15 - The Large Flowerheads 7-9 PM

August 22 - Buccaneer Alumni Drum & Bugle Corp. 6-8 PM

August 23 - Kutztown Pipe Band/Kutztown Celtic Session 4-6 PM

August 29 - The Mudflaps 7-9 PM

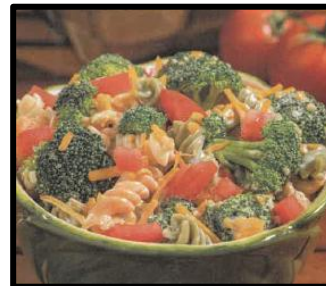
Alburtis Park Country Music Shows

Sunday Evenings: Alburtis Park Opens 12 Noon

- Bingo 12 to 6 pm / Jackpot at 6 pm
- Bands play 2-6 pm
- Pennsylvania Dutch Cooking!
- Free Admission -- Free Parking

<https://www.alburtispark.net/#Info>

RECIPE FROM THE KITCHEN OF JUDY HEFFLEY



CREAMY BROCCOLI MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:

1 cup tri-colored macaroni
2 cups broccoli, cooked
1/8 cup chopped parsley
1 tsp. dried basil

1 clove garlic, crushed
2 medium tomatoes, diced
8 oz. shredded Cheddar cheese

Directions:

In a large mixing bowl combine macaroni noodles, broccoli, parsley, basil, garlic, and mayonnaise; mix well. Pour mixture into a festive bowl. Top with tomatoes and cheese. Refrigerate for several hours. Stir before serving.

Windex Hacks that have nothing to do with windows.

Stove Top Grease

Polish Stainless-Steel Appliances

Brightens Jewelry

Lift Crayon Marks

Clean Keyboards



Remove Sticky Residue

Revive Patio Furniture

HAVE ANTO GOD'S WORD

MATCH THE BIBLE CHARACTER
TO THE WATER



MOSES



JONAH



JESUS



FILL IN THE BLANKS

"This is what the LORD says, he who appoints
the _____ to shine by day, who decrees the _____
and _____ to shine by _____, who stirs up the _____
so that its _____ roar — the LORD _____
is his name!"

Jeremiah 31:35, NIV

FIND THE HIDDEN WORDS

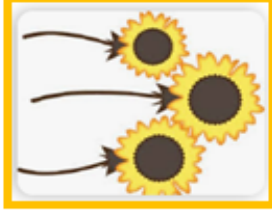
FISH SEA
ARK WAVE
SHIP ISHIP
TIDE JOY
PEARL HPEARL
CRAB CRAB
FAITH SAH

HELP THE
FISH SWIM
ACROSS
THE CORAL
REEF



AUGUST 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 9 AM Pastor Search Committee (L)
2 Worship Rev. Hertzog 3 PM Rejoicing Spirits	3	4 5-9 PM KB Cougars	5 5-9 PM KB Cougars	6 5-9 PM KB Cougars	7	8 9 AM Prayer Walk
9	10 6-8 PM Mice	11 10 AM Worship Mtg 5-9 PM KB Cougars	12 5-9 PM K B Cougars	13 5-9 PM KB Cougars	14	15
16	17 PULSE DEADLINE 6:30 PM Fellowship 6:45 PM Missions	18 5-9 PM KB Cougars	19 10 AM—Noon Young at Heart 2-9 PM H & H Quilt 5-9 PM KB Cougars	20 5-9 PM KB Cougars 6-8:30 PM Lions Club (L)	21	22
23	24	25 5-9 PM K B Cougars 7 PM Christian Ed	26 5-9 PM K B Cougars 6 PM Personnel (L)	27 5-9 PM KB Cougars	28	29
30	31 6-8 PM Mice 7 PM Property					