

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

OCTOBER VOL 57 #10

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



DID YOU KNOW OR WONDER?

- I wonder sometimes, if we ever give God a headache.
- Did you know, the phrase "Do not be afraid" is written in the Bible 365 times?
- Did you know, Faith is not about everything turning out okay? Faith is about being okay no matter how things turn out.
- Did you know? Forgiving yourself is completely free, yet we often treat it like a luxury item we can only afford after we've suffered enough to earn it.

ONE

One tree can start a forest;
One smile can begin a friendship;
One hand can lift a soul;
One word can frame a goal;
One candle can wipe out darkness;
One laugh can conquer gloom;
One hope can raise your spirits;
One touch can show you care;
One life can make a difference,
be that **One** today.

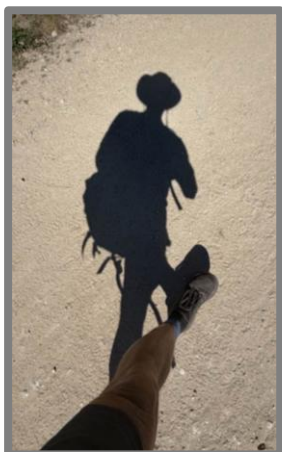
AUGUST 2026

\$12,874.45



\$22,642.25

“Pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago”



According to the Cambridge Dictionary, a pilgrimage is a special, purposeful journey made to a sacred or holy place for religious, spiritual, or deeply devoted reasons. Typically, a pilgrimage is a physical trip—often walked on foot—leaving behind daily life to seek personal transformation, healing, or closeness to the divine. A pilgrimage is a simple way of being, thereby allowing time and space to explore one’s mind, being, life challenges and the like. The combination of simple physical exertion, namely walking, and being away from one’s everyday environment, stimulates one’s overall being in fresh, though challenging ways.

By definition, a pilgrimage has a destination. Muslims travel to Mecca. Hindus and Buddhists visit sacred rivers, temples, or shrines. Popular destinations for Christians over the centuries are legion, including the Holy Land and Rome. Typically, each location has a historical relic or building that is meaningful to the pilgrim, such as locations of Jesus’s birth (Nazareth), or crucifixion (Golgotha).



Another, significant pilgrimage destination for Christians throughout the ages is Santiago de Compostela in Spain, where tradition has it that the body of the Apostle James was carried and interred there after his martyrdom in Jerusalem in the first century. Over the centuries, a large, amazing, beautiful cathedral

has been built to mark the spot. Consequently, Christians have made pilgrimages to Santiago for over a thousand years.

Many paths – or caminos – lead to Santiago. The scallop shell has long been the symbol of the Camino de Santiago. A stylized scallop shell, shown here, marks the modern signposts of the Camino.



Pilgrims (called “Peregrinos” in Spanish, from the Latin word “peregrinus” which means being away from home or a foreigner in foreign lands) follow its routes as a form of spiritual path or retreat for their spiritual growth.

Created and established in the beginning of the 9th century, the Way of St. James became a major pilgrimage route of medieval Christianity from the 10th century onwards. Pope Alexander VI officially declared the Camino de Santiago to be one of the “three great pilgrimages of Christendom,” along with Jerusalem and the Via Francigena to Rome.

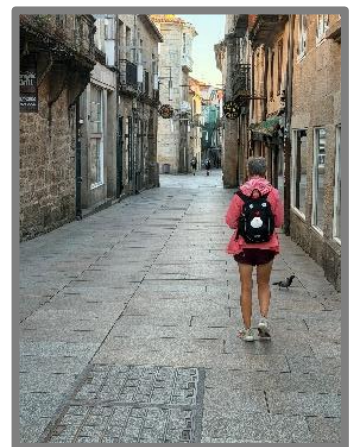


Brooke and I took a pilgrimage of our own for the first two weeks of September on the Camino de Santiago. While the most popular route begins in southern France, and then leads west to Santiago, Spain (located in the Spanish province of Galicia is northwest Spain) for about 500 miles, we traveled up from the south via the Portuguese route, starting in Porto, Portugal, and walking about 180 miles north mainly along the coast. It was truly a physical and spiritual time for us: our bodies were pushed physically, our spirits were inspired by the beautiful landscapes, seascapes and village-scapes we walked through, and our hearts were enlarged by the many new friendships created along the way.

However, recognizing that not everyone has the time or physical ability for this kind of pilgrimage, many European churches in medieval times built labyrinths into the floors of their sanctuaries or gardens for those who could not walk the pilgrimage route. Walking around the labyrinth was an important alternative, particularly those who could not afford the expense of the journey or those with physical disabilities or those too fragile to endure the physical labor. Many churches in the United States have labyrinths today as well – even nearby to us in Kutztown. It's a reminder that the spiritual benefits of a pilgrimage can be available for those who seek them.

Christlove,

Rev. Jim





Our last Consistory meeting was opened with prayer by Sharon Larsen who delivered an inspiring and thoughtful invocation, setting a meaningful tone for the evening's deliberations. Thank you, Sharon, for taking the time to compose the opening prayer for our meeting. Your words beautifully captured our shared mission and helped us focus on serving with humility. Please see Sharon's prayer below.



"Thank you, God for this Consistory meeting. You have been with us since day one. Your presence guiding us, your light leading us even in difficult times when the path was hard to find. You were with us through pastoral changes and challenges. We want to give thanks to those who served and currently serve. We ask for wisdom, unity and kindness during this meeting. We want to empower those who take on new positions. We want to use our money wisely and we thank you for our increase in tithes to meet our budget. Open our eyes to discern new directions and if there are difficult decisions to be made, we know that you will help us.

We want our church to be a witness to you, immersed in scripture, constant in prayer, joyful in worship, generous in giving, a loving supportive community reaching out to those in need.

We know we aren't perfect (only God is perfect.) There are aches and pains in this body, but we trust that your love keeps us together and keeps our church growing. Let everything, we say and do, be for your glory in this meeting. We pray for Pastor Jim to return to us safely. We pray this in Jesus's name. Amen.

- Sharon Larsen

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. James Latimer.....Interim Pastor
Barbara Merkel.....Admin Assistant/
Editor

Judy Heffley Organist
Donna Sheaffer Bell 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 Weida Financial Secretary

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>



Connect to God

The password is

PRAYER



Labor Day weekend, the last unofficial weekend of the summer. Thanks to everyone who joined us on Sunday for our Rejoicing Spirits worship service.

Pastor Jim Schlegel was the lead pastor. His message was "Jesus Sends Us." Carl read from the Spark Bible. Keith Wuchter and Pastor Schlegel did a skit to explain the message. Denise Keim handled the September birthdays and the prayer requests. Well done everyone!

Fern Kline hosted St. Paul's fellowship time after our 10:15 service. She graciously donated the remaining food to the Rejoicing Spirits fellowship time. Thank you, Fern!

Mark Your Calendars!

- **Next Worship Service:** Sunday, October 4, 2026
- **Time:** Worship begins at 3:00 PM, followed by fellowship
- **Special Occasion:** Celebrating our 4th Birthday!

The fellowship theme for the afternoon is "**Faith, Family, Friends, and Fun!**" Enjoy a menu featuring delicious BBQ, birthday cake, and ice cream. Activities will include Bingo, music, cornhole and a Family and Friends craft.

Everyone is invited—please join us as we celebrate this important ministry!

On **September 29th**, pastors and lay leaders from three local churches offering Rejoicing Spirits worship services will meet at St. Paul's to collaborate and share ideas. Along with Charlene and Steve Fisher, I will represent our Rejoicing Spirits group.

Blessings,

Erin



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

Pastor Search Committee Update

Greetings from the Pastor Search Committee. I have wonderful news; the Long Profile is completed. And the people said...**AMEN!** Our next step will be to present the profile to consistory at their October meeting. At that meeting consistory will vote to accept or decline the profile. A copy of the profile will be provided to them a week prior to their meeting, so each member has sufficient time to review it. If approved, the profile will then be forwarded to the Keystone Conference, and our Transitional Regional Conference Minister, Rev. Kevin McLemore, will then provide any further suggestions before it will be posted to the online UCC Minister website.

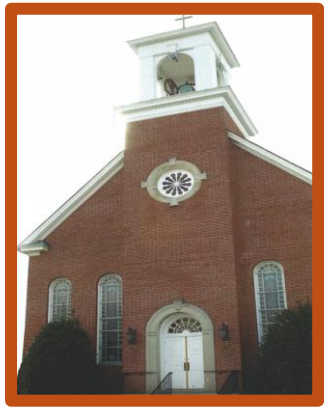
This has been a long process. A process which included you, the congregation's, help. Without your input, suggestions and concerns we would not have been able to complete such an open and honest profile. The Pastor Search Committee put a lot of time, effort, and love into creating a profile that will highlight St. Paul's best qualities, along with some of our "works in progress."

Our next project we are working on is to present the profile to you, the congregation, on October 18th during worship, if consistory approves it. Our committee would like to share with you some highlights of the profile and answer any questions you may have. The committee's goal from the beginning has been to keep this process transparent and open. St. Paul's is moving forward, not only in finding a new settled pastor, but in creating a congregation that communicates by extending grace and love to each other. The walls of our church are stronger today because of the trials and errors of our past. Our past has created a solid foundation for our future. That future may be a little different from our past, but we shall travel that road together, day by day.

Sincerely,

Daryn Keim
Pastor Search Committee Chairman





Greetings from Consistory

Kathy Landis, Consistory President

Opening the devotions, Sharon Larsen read a well-thought-out prayer she had written, and you will see it reprinted in this issue of The Pulse. For the first forty-five minutes of the meeting, Bob Houck, Fire Marshal for the Kutztown Fire Department, shared a presentation on how to extinguish a fire using the extinguishers we have at the church. He demonstrated how to open the extinguisher and sweep back and forth at the base of the flames. In addition, he discussed how to handle a fire, the importance of having an evacuation plan, knowing when to get out, and other critical factors when dealing with a fire.

Financial Report: The total value of our trust funds, including the memorial fund monies increased this month to \$17,423.50 mainly due to Market gains, interest and dividends.

Treasurer's Report: Total contributions were down from July about \$1200. However, compared to last year, they remain about \$6000 higher than this time last year. We remain on budget for expenses, but it is higher than last year partially due to increase in utilities, insurance, and property maintenance.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Jim was away so there was no report. However, we considered his message in the September issue of the Pulse. He expressed that sometimes members of St. Paul's exhibit unhealthy behavior because they don't know each other very well except in their own group. His challenge is for each one of us in the coming weeks to become acquainted with someone outside your group at St. Paul's learning about their "joys and struggles- their humanity."

Christian Education: A Confirmation class will be held this year for several young people taught by the Christian Ed teachers with guidance from Rev. Jim.

Personnel: The revised Personnel Handbook will be distributed to staff members in the coming weeks. For next year, the budget will include a 3% raise for employees. The School-to-Work program will continue.

Prayer Links: Prayer Links held their first meeting on August 25. Anyone who would like to participate is welcome to join the group.

Property: At the request of the Beautification Team, the committee will paint the front doors of the church, add new landscaping to the outdoor sign at the front, and spray the weeds in the parking lot.

Worship: The Committee met on August 10. On October 18 the Pastor Search Committee will be in charge of worship. Rev Royer and Rev Hertzog will be here on October 25 and November 1 respectively.

Beautification Team: At their meeting on August 25, the team agreed on two designs, one for a sign to be in front of the church informing visitors that our main entrance is at the rear of the church on Lambert Alley. The other sign design agreed upon is for the back wall of the church to identify that this building is St. Paul's UCC. Both designs were submitted to the Consistory for a vote. The smaller sign for the front was approved, but the design of the sign for the back wall was not approved. Some suggestions were offered for a revision to create more clarity, so the sign is more easily read. Other plans for landscaping had been decided to embellish the area around the permanent church sign out front. Plans included more perennial flowers and shrubbery. (As of September 20, this has been completed.)

Brass plaques: These are being made to complete the pastor roll of names in the front entrance of the church. One plaque outside the kitchen was completed honoring Emory Fenstermacher and James Ludwick for updating the appliances.



YOUNG AT HEART

- By: Kathy Landis

On Wednesday, August 19, Mary Laub (recommended by a member) presented a variety of topics about the culture of the Old Order Mennonites and compared them to other sects of Mennonites and the Amish.

She is very knowledgeable about their culture, schoolhouses, clothing, faith, weddings, etc. One of many differences between the Amish and the Mennonites is gas lighting for the Amish and electricity for most Mennonites.

Mary wants to perpetuate the PA German (or Dutch) language by teaching and writing bilingual books called On the Farm (a series of 7). In the books she tells a story using PA Dutch words and shows their pronunciation and the meaning in English. Also, Mary teaches the boys and girls at Shaynah Kinner to recite and sing in PA Dutch.

Formerly, she was a professor at Kutztown University. A student touted Mary online for her teaching methods by naming her the "Queen of Elementary Education." Mary's presentation confirmed her skills through her lively, humorous demonstration of the various permitted clothing for the Old Order and the other more recent Mennonites. She exhibited a great sense of drama and fun. Everyone learned a lot about our Mennonite neighbors and grew in their appreciation of them.

Here's a little ditty by Simon Buster we read at the beginning of the meeting:

*Wear hooks and eyes,
Dear Jesus will save you.
Wear buttons and pockets,
The devil will have you.*

If you would like to read more about the Mennonites, Mary recommended this book available in Berks County Libraries: *Horse and Buggy Mennonites*, Donald Braybill & James Hurd.

YAH upcoming schedule for 2026

October 21: Ludwick Funeral Home, "My Wishes, My Way, Planning for your Final Arrangements"

November 18: Local Folk, Kathleen Walck, a Christmas craft

December 16: Shaynah Kinner, Christmas songs and stories (some in PA Dutch)

January 20, 2027: TBD

February 17: Peter and Jane Wolfe, "Flora and Fauna" from the Rocky Mountains

Many thanks to the Young at Heart team: Sharon Kozlowski, Sandi Madeira, and Ethel Beck. Also, kudos to Barb Merkel for her valuable support. We welcome anyone else who would like to join our team. We meet many new people, learn and have FUN!



Lisa Rarick	October 3
John Schmoyer	October 3
Cynthia Swan	October 4
Austin Wuchter	October 4
Christina Richard	October 5
MacKenna Kalin	October 6
Gail Keim	October 6
Dave Valuska	October 7
Ethel DeMatteo-Beck	October 10
Dylan Thompson	October 10
Sofia Rocha	October 13
Emily Kalin	October 14
Brent Fenstermacher	October 15
Susan Schmoyer	October 26
Keith Boyer	October 27
Brandon Wuchter	October 28
Cheryl Ziegler	October 29
Kristen Angstadt	October 30



GRACE NOTES

Be Careful of the Things You Say!

Be mindful of how you use your words; they can be weapons if you are not aware. You do not always know what other people are going through, so it is best to be gentle. A carelessly crafted thought will linger in someone's mind longer than you will ever realize. Not everyone is strong enough to separate what is said from what you meant. Some people need to hear the truth, no matter how badly it hurts, but you do not need to deliver it in a way that will only hurt them more. Speak love into people. Breathe life into them. Let your words be a soft place for them to land, not another way to leave them bleeding. Communication will never ruin a connection; it is the delivery and the lack of comprehension that will. So, choose your words like you are planting seeds – some will grow, some may never bloom. But even when they do not, let your intention always be to nurture, not destroy. Because truth wrapped in compassion will truly awaken a soul.

- **Moonsoulchild**



The School-to-Work Program is a partnership between employers and high schools to provide opportunities for students to learn about the world of work. It provides exposure to the workplace and also helps them explore a career. By exposing them to the workplace it helps prepare them to work with others and learn communication skills.

As the students return to school, the School-to-Work program will be returning to St. Paul's. Jaisen and Curtis who previously participated in the program, were able to develop social skills, problem solving, and learning employment protocol.

Karen Bruno, coordinator of the School-to-Work Program at Kutztown High School, wrote, "I know Jaisen and Curtis were blessed with the time that they were able to spend at St. Paul's. For Curtis, I think the church experience has boosted his confidence and shown him that he can contribute as a hardworking member to his local community. You and the church have been so gracious and supportive! You are the reason for this immense success." Jaisen, who graduated this year, was successfully interviewed for a part-time job at a local diner and continues to seek full-time employment.

On September 14th Curtis and another new student will be helping out with various tasks around the church. More important than the facility upkeep, this work experience program connects St. Paul's to the school community and the broader community as well. Church staff and church members interact with the students, building connections beyond our church walls. This is a practical demonstration of St. Paul's mission to serve others and "respond to the needs of our local families. We are a congregation that strives to do our part to spread the love of God."

What is the spiritual impact to St. Paul's? This program is not about obtaining workers but brings transformative benefits that enrich the youth and the entire congregation. It is creating a space where everyone truly belongs, new energy, and heart into church operations.

What is in it for the students? It helps build their confidence and helps them recognize their own worth. It gives them firsthand experience which builds their skills for future growth. It shows to the students they are active members of the community rather than passive participants.

We are excited to be part of the Student-to-Work Program. It is an extremely valuable way to reach out to our community. Their involvement brings a new vibrancy. It fosters a meaningful opportunity for skill-building and independence and offers a sense of belonging, proving that everyone is a member of God's family and has gifts to share. We are not just hosting; we are growing in unity and enrichment alongside them.

Please join us in giving the students in this program a warm and enthusiastic welcome!

Erin Webb, Co-Chair



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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>

October 4 - Rejoicing Spirits Worship and
4th Anniversary Celebration - 3:00 PM

October 9 - Kutztown Folk Music Society @
St. Paul's - Matt Miskie - 7:30 PM

October 11 - Confirmation Class 8:30 - 9:30 AM

October 21 - Young at Heart - Ludwick - 10 AM
"My Wishes, My Way."

October 30 - Fall Association Meeting - Huffs
Church - 3:00 PM

RECIPE FROM THE KITCHEN OF ANN BURROWS

Molasses Crumb Cake

4 cups flour
2 cups sugar
1 cup margarine
1 tsp. salt

Combine all these ingredients
and save $\frac{3}{4}$ cup.

2 cups boiling water
1 cup molasses
1 Tbsp. baking soda

Directions:

- Pour the last three ingredients into the dry ingredients
- Mix well
- Pour into a greased/floured 9 x 13 pan.
- Sprinkle reserved crumb mixture on top.
- Bake at 350° for 30 - 40 minutes

Cupcake Option

- Fill cupcake liners past half full
- Sprinkle reserved crumbs on top
- Bake at 350° for 25 minutes



Books & Puzzles

Looking for a good read or a fun weekend activity for the family? Stop by our borrowing area located right in the church foyer off of Whiteoak Street! You are welcome to browse and borrow from our wonderful selection of books and puzzles.

OCTOBER 2026

Worship—10:15 AM
 Sunday School—9:00 AM Adult SS 8:45 AM
 Office Hours; Tuesday—Thursday 8 AM—12:00 PM
 Key: FH—Fellowship Hall; K-Kitchen; L-Lounge



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5-8 PM KB Cougars 6-9 PM Lions Club (FH) 6:15 PM Bells	2	3
4 3 PM Rejoicing Spirits Fourth Year Anniversary	5 2-4 PM Bazaar Crafts 6-8 PM Mice	6 5-9 PM KB Cougars	7 5-9 PM KB Cougars	8 5-9 PM KB Cougars 6:15 PM Bells	9 7:30 PM Kutztown Folk Music Society Matt Miskie	10 9 AM Prayer Walk
11 8:30-9:30 AM Confirmation Class	12 2-4 PM Bazaar Crafts 6-8 PM Mice	13 10 AM Worship Mtg 5-9 PM KB Cougars	14 5-9 PM KB Cougars 7 PM Consistory	15 PULSE DEADLINE 5-9 PM KB Cougars 5:30-8:30 PM—Relay (FH) 6-8:30 PM Lions Club (L)	16	17
18	19 2-4 PM Bazaar Crafts 6-8 PM Mice 6:45 PM Fellowship 7:00 PM Missions	20 5-9 PM KB Cougars	21 10 AM-Noon Young at Heart 2-9 PM H & H Quilt 5-9 PM KB Cougars	22 5-9 PM KB Cougars 6:15 PM Bells	23	24
25 3:00 PM Fall Association Mtg. Huffs Church	26 2-4 PM Bazaar Crafts 6-8 PM Mice 7 PM Property	27 7 PM Christian Ed	28 6 PM Personnel (L)	29 6:15 PM Bells	30	31