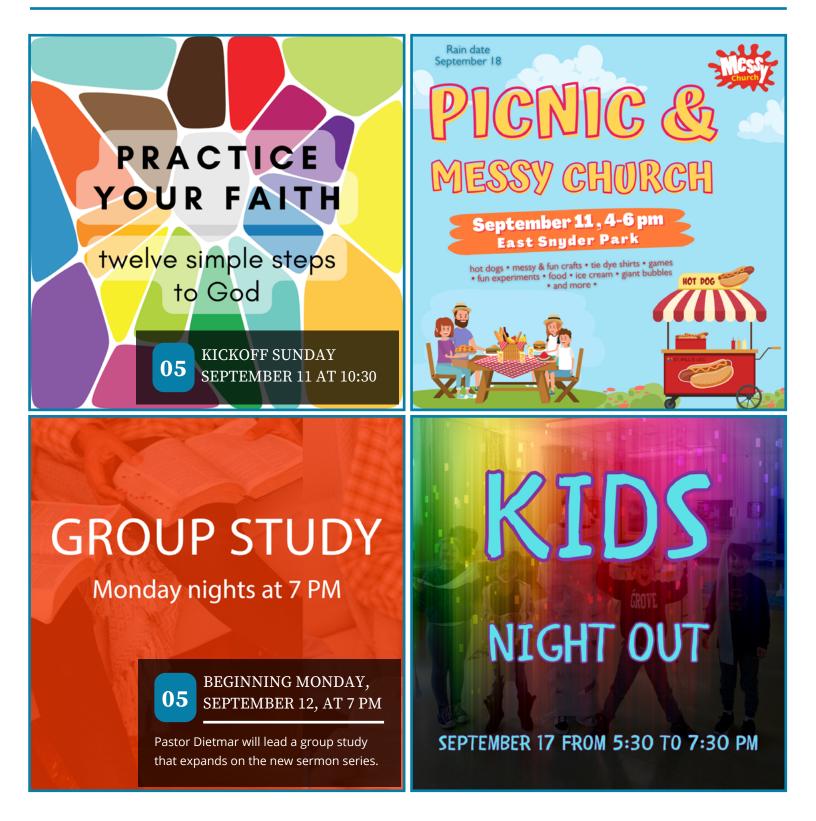




OUR MISSION IS TO GROW IN FAITH, TO WORSHIP GOD, TO SERVE OTHERS, AND TO WELCOME ALL.





### **RETURNING TO MINISTRY**

It is with great joy that I'm returning from my sabbatical refreshed and renewed. My first Sunday back will be Kickoff Sunday, September 11, for our 10:30 AM worship service. I am looking forward to seeing you then.

What did I do during my sabbatical?

For one week in June I retreated to a Franciscan Hermitage in Aston, PA. There I read, meditated, reflected, and "let go." Also, during the time there, I did some painting. I breathed through deeply and reconnected with my soul.

During the second half of June, Sigrid and I travelled to visit with her parents in Germany. Brigitte and Kurt are turning 79 this year. They are slowly declining and becoming more frail. As we visited, we became aware that it may be the last time that we saw them still living independently in their apartment.

For a week following our visit in Germany, we rented a boat in the Netherlands, navigating on their expansive canal system. We traveled with the houseboat through some of the scenic cities and amazing landscapes. Highlights on our boat tour were Utrecht, Gouda (that's from where the cheese got its name), Leiden, Haarlem, and Amsterdam. Leiden is the city where the Pilgrims gathered as a congregation for two years before departing for the new world, landing at Plymouth Rock in 1620.

In July I participated in a colloquy for clergy colleagues from Germany and the United Church of Christ at Elizabethtown College. We focused on "Building a Just Peace in an Unjust World: Learning with and from Our Anabaptist Colleagues." The presenters were representatives from the Mennonite Church, from the Church of the Brethren, our UCC General Minister, Rev. John Dorhauer, and our Penn Central Conference Minister, Rev. Carrie Call. We visited an Amish buggy builder and an Amish farm where we were served lunch in traditional style.

During July I also took up pottery again. I discovered small unfinished bowls from 2019, which I had not touched since before the pandemic. Creating pottery is rewarding. It's hands-on, centering, and with tangible results. I tried some new forms and figures. Some turned out disastrous, glued to the shelves of the kiln due to running glazes. I had to chip them off. And some turned out just like I envisioned. In August I focused mostly on spiritual practices, reading, and my dreamwork. I read "Bittersweet: How Sorrow and Longing Make Us Whole" by Susan Cain (the author of Quiet). I resonate deeply with her book. I got the sense that she understands me. I returned to some of my treasured authors and spiritual guides like Anthony DeMello, Henri Nouwen, Barbara Brown Taylor, Brian McLaren, and C.G. Jung, engaging in soul work with them.

Working in the garden, biking with Sigrid on the Isle of Que, and exercising complemented my spiritual and educational work. Together with Sigrid, we have been tent camping a couple of days at the Hickory Run and Colonel Denning State Parks.

During the last two weeks, I've been gearing up for our program year, planning for a new worship series and group study.

I am deeply grateful for this sabbatical time of renewal and for all of you who made it possible. A special thank you goes to Rev. Darin Namminga who filled in during my absence and to Linda Turner and Sigrid Plajer for their amazing work in the church office. I return refreshed and renewed. I hope and pray that with Kickoff Sunday, September 11, you will engage in the wonderful opportunities outlined in this newsletter. We want you and we need you. I hope you will make growing in faith a priority during this fall season. And I hope to see you, if not before, on Kickoff Sunday, September 11, at 10:30 in worship and at our Picnic with Messy Church from 4-6 PM at the East Snyder Park.

Blessings,

Pastor Dietmar

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS**



#### **KIDS NIGHT OUT**

On Saturday, September 17, we will have our first monthly Kids Night Out! The program is from 5:30 - 7:30 PM for children in preschool through 5th grade. Advanced registration will be required each month and will be available on St. Paul's <u>website</u>. We will start at the beginning with the Creation story and even have a creation-themed meal! The kids will have fun and parents can have some time together. Hope your child can join us!



#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our first Sunday school meeting will be after the Children's Message on Sunday, September 11. We will be using the popular Holy Moly curriculum & videos to learn about stories from the Old Testament this fall. Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for any of the programs, please contact Torri Stark at youth@ saintpauls-ucc.org.



#### **TEEN GROUP**

Our first Teen Group meeting will be Sunday, September 25 from 5:30 - 7:30. We are excited to be using **re:form - a curriculum to strengthen and affirm our faith**. Join us and have fun while tackling thought-provoking questions like "Is the Bible true?" and "Why does God let bad things happen?" Bring a friend (or 2 or 3) and join us for fun games, yummy food, and meaningful discussions. This is not going to be your typical Bible study and we promise we'll make you laugh!

## ST. PAUL'S PICNIC WITH MESSY CHURCH



All are invited for an afternoon of being God's family and celebrating God's creation! Bring a friend or two! Please sign up on our website. We will meet at the larger pavilion at East Snyder Park from 4-6 PM on September 11 with a rain date of September 18. There will be grilled hot dogs & buns, ice cream, and drinks. Messy Church will provide properly messy fun crafts and activities. Please bring a lawn chair, a dish to share, and your own reusable plates and utensils to take home and wash. We would like to produce as little trash as possible.

## THE END OF SUMMER

I can't really explain it, but late August feels like Sunday evening. Both are on the cusp of a new time period, both have this waning feeling, both have this reflection period as you look backward at what has been done over the previous period and a reflection of looking forward to the upcoming time period. For some, these periods are times of anticipation of what is to come, for others it is a time of anxiety, feeling as though you didn't accomplish all those things that you had hoped for. I remember my friend Bill who always told our group on Fridays that Monday was the best day of the week for accountants because you have new balance sheets. And so as we wind down here at the church we turn our attention to our next tasks, our next season, our next adventure. But before we anticipate, let us reminisce and reflect upon our summer together.

Often in ministry it is challenging to determine what was successful because



success cannot be always measured on paper and in numbers; sometimes success in the Kingdom of God is the measure of our compassion, the love we poured out on others, the people we earnestly listened to and empathized with. But for me and my family, this summer felt like a success here at St. Paul's. Everyone I encountered this summer was very welcoming, they embraced the worship that we crafted, they took on challenges, they picked up the gaps for an interim, and they shared God's love in big and small ways. I was impressed by all the people I encountered and all the stories I heard. I am ending this position with a much deeper understanding of who St. Paul's is and how it functions on a regular basis. And I am convinced that, in my short time, I only was able to engage in a

small percentage of what happens here throughout the year. And of course, I will continue to be around, whether that is filling in for Pastor Dietmar when he needs a break, sharing more Linky and Rex stories with the young and young at heart, or just being part of the community at worship and events. We will continue to live life together and look for ways to share God's love with our neighbors. So to all who spent their summers with us, I want to give a big thank you. I appreciate your guidance and your willingness to be flexible as we were the church this summer. May God continue to pour out their grace and love upon you and all who you encounter.

Sincerely, Rev. Darin Namminga

### A Note from our Senior Choir Director



It's time to think about bringing choral music to the congregation again! We've had some new members join and we welcomed some confirmands, so I know there's got to be St. Paul's family out there who would enjoy singing with the Senior Choir.

I choose a varied selection of music, from differing genres and time periods. We always enjoy each other's company as we lift our spirits, doing something we love! We rehearse on Wednesday nights at 7pm and this season we will begin on August 31st. We will prepare to join together in celebration and song on Kickoff Sunday, which is September 11th. Please get in touch with any questions by emailing <u>deeberdoo@gmail.com</u>.

See you soon!

Amy Caron Senior Choir Director

## **PRACTICE YOUR FAITH: 12 SIMPLE STEPS TO GOD** New Worship Series

and Group Study



Hands-on and practical, that's how we learn best. Our new worship series and group study will introduce you to simple spiritual practices, things you can do, that will help you come alive, grow in faith, and experience the living God.

Based on a book by Brian McLaren, "Naked Spirituality: A Life with God in 12 Simple Words" we will explore what you and I can practically do to grow spiritually and come closer to God. This is the best time of the year to start again, focusing on the core of our faith, and making God and growing in faith a priority.

We invite you to join us in worship on Sundays at 10:30 (beginning on Kickoff Sunday, Sept. 11) and/or for the group study which Pastor Dietmar will facilitate on Mondays at 7 PM, starting on Sept. 12 in the Council Room and via Zoom. Please share the invite! Thank you!

# **GROUP STUDY**

Monday nights at 7 PM

### HOW TO GROW IN FAITH? -GROUP STUDY MONDAYS AT 7 PM

If I want to run or walk a 5K, I start walking one step at a time, each day a few more steps, moving toward the 5K goal. The best way to run or walk a 5K is to start walking and running.

I cannot play the guitar. If I want to learn how to do that, I borrow or buy a guitar and find a teacher. If I practice with the teacher's guidance, I will learn step by step how to play the instrument.

I do not speak Spanish. If I want to learn Spanish, I'll get an app, computer program, book, or teacher. Listening and learning how to pronounce, speaking one word at a time, step by step, I learn to speak Spanish.

How do you grow in faith? There are things you can do to grow spiritually. One step at a time, following tried and time-proven ways, you can grow closer to God. That is what our new worship series and group study will help you do.

Grow your faith in practical

ways by joining us in worship beginning with Kickoff Sunday, September 11, at 10:30 AM and/or by participating in our group study on Mondays at 7 PM beginning with September 12. Pastor Dietmar will facilitate the study, which will be in person in the Council room and via Zoom.

Also, we invite you to consider participating in the Sunday school class on the same theme which Lois Bruno and Marty Blessing will facilitate on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM starting with October 2.

The series is based on a book by Brian McLaren, "Naked Spirituality: A Life with God in 12 Simple Steps." You can purchase the book online or through our church office. You do not have to read the book to participate.

Share the invite and make growing in faith a priority. It's one of the best things you can do for yourself.

### **SEPTEMBER**



#### BIRTHDAYS

9/01	Tom Dahlmann
	Jason Taylor
9/02	Matt Burd
9/03	Dolores Bressler
	Mary Dahlmann
9/04	John Fischer
9/06	Melissa Laniewski
9/07	Jamie Gentile
9/09	Joe Cabe
9/11	Daisy Thomas
	Wyatt Smith
9/13	Beth Derr
	Kathleen Gunning
	Jack Stark
9/14	Page Lybarger
9/15	Jodi Cope
9/16	James Cope
	Beth Deckard
	Dick Marshall
	Sophia Namminga
9/17	Abigail Wolfe
9/18	Brian Witkop
9/19	Daniel Brouse
	Theo Feiler
	Stella Gentile
9/20	Hailey Bingaman
	Eve Caron
	Olivia Lybarger
	Shane Spriggle
9/21	Barry Siegfried
	Joshua Wenrich
9/22	Roger S. Haddon, Jr.
9/23	Derek Wolfe
9/24	Tami Long
	Anthony Martello
9/26	Ashley Minier
	Steven Sees
	Bruce Witkop
9/27	Rick Hawk
	William Hockenbrock
9/28	Jevan Beaver
9/29	Bill Mull

## PRAYER LIST

Russ Delp Chyrl Gemberling Gene Greiner Kim Haizlett David & Helen Hannah Bill Hockenbrock Ginny Lloyd The Family of Gibby Mease Cheryl Reddinger The Family of Kim Scartelli All who keep working in critical situations, especially the health care workers All who are grieving Those in leadership positions Our country - for peace, respect, understanding Those who are dear and close to our hearts and those not named above The people of Ukraine and Russia and all those suffering from the raging war

### THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you so much to my church family for the cards, texts, e-mails, gifts, through this journey of breast cancer. Having to stop chemo the end of March due to toxicity and pneumonia was a challenge. Having two surgeries in 5 weeks recently was an unexpected surprise. Soon it will be radiation. This has been a very humbling journey. I had to realize that God is in control. Thank you so much for your continued support; it is priceless.

#### Kim Haizlett

#### Thank you Letter from Snyder County Children & Youth Backpack Program

Dear Donor, thank you for your contribution to the annual Back to School Fair hosted by Snyder County Children & Youth! Due to the wonderful support of people like you, we were able to serve more than 170 local children! This time of the year can be especially stressful for those who struggle to make ends meet. There are a lot of demands on families to provide certain school items for their children and with the rising costs of everything, this can be a real concern. With your help we were able to provide a backpack full of supplies to every child who participated. Nearly every one of those children also received a new pair of sneakers. We will be extending the giving beyond those who were able to make it to the fair when we take supplies to every public school in the county. We will also provide backpacks to the school to assure that anyone who arrives without one could be treated to a backpack for the new school year. Thanks again for your support in helping to set children up for a successful new school year! We truly appreciate the efforts you put into assisting families in need!

Sincerely, Snyder County Children & Youth Services Staff

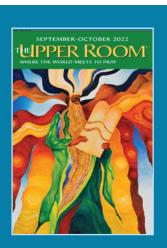
### **NEW NAME TAGS**

Signd St. PAUL'S UCC Signid Plajer Beginning with Kick-Off Sunday, September 11th, we are asking everyone to start wearing name tags. Name tags are a great way for everyone to get to know each other, especially our new members and those of us who are good at faces but not so good with names. Name tags will be in the cabinet in the foyer.

## THANK YOU NOTES CONTINUED



Thank you, thank you to all the generous givers who made our wishes come true. We express our deep gratitude to those who donated generously toward two new laser projectors for our sanctuary, a media cart with flat screen tv and the installation of an electric garage door opener. Here are the donors listed in alphabetical order: Marty Blessing, Terry and Deb Burns, Rev. Jack and Pat Snook, Linda Turner, Shirley Varner, and Anna Mary Wetzel. On behalf of St. Paul's, thank you!



#### UPPER ROOM SEPTEMBER/OCTO-BER

You can pick up the Upper Room Devotional at the church on Sunday mornins or Tuesday to Thursday, 9-2, right inside the Mill St. door. If you cannot pick up your copy, please call the church office at 570-374-8749.



It is once again time for Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser to benefit our Messy Church ministry. For a \$5.00 donation to St. Paul's, you can shop at Boscov's on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 and get a 25% discount on most purchases (15% and 10% on certain items) that day. Passes will be available from Linda Turner in the church office, from Randy Tanner, from Shirley Varner, and from me, Jack Lewis. You can call me at (570) 374-9732 or (570) 860-3295. I will even deliver the passes to your door. Please help support the Messy Church ministry.

Jack Lewis

### **SEPTEMBER**



#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

9/02	Wilbur & Cheryl Reddinger
	Randy & Tracey Wolfe
9/03	Sara Adams & Morgan Lewis, Jr
9/04	Tom & Mary Dahlmann
9/05	Randy & Melissa Laniewski
9/06	Lyle & Nancy Mercer
9/10	Beth & Harry Derr
9/12	Jenelle & Ben Moyer
	Charlie & Jane Ruhl
9/14	Brian & Laurie Derr
	Matthew & Melisa Kelly
9/16	Jevan & Christine Beaver
	Brian & Amy Caron
9/18	Justin & Betsy Womer
9/20	Carey & Jeremy Napp
9/22	Michael & Ann Aurand
9/24	Scott & Jennifer Bernstein
	Rev. Jack & Pat Snook
9/25	Max & Pam Gemberling
9/27	Keith & Sue Minier

## ST. PAUL'S COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 9, 2022

**In Attendance:** Sara Adams, Sigrid Plajer (as guest), Bev Heinemann, Allen Wetzel, Michael Zettlemoyer, Josh Wenrich, Amy Caron, Randy Tanner, Linda Turner, Kathy Ulrich.

**Excused:** Rev. Dietmar Plajer, Shane Sanders, Rev. Darin Namminga, Peggy Peeler, Bob Engel, Kim Burkhart.

Randy Tanner, Vice President presided over the meeting.

**Minutes of July Meeting:** A motion was made by Bev Heinemann, seconded by Allen Wetzel, and approved by Council to accept the minutes as submitted.

**Financial Report:** The Financial Report was presented by Linda Turner. Income for July included 5 Sundays; expenses 2 pay periods. Of special note was a \$750 donation for garage door openers and an additional \$500 donation for the laser projectors (for a total of \$5,500) on our Wish List. We had Net Income for July of \$5,258.74. Josh Wenrich made a motion, seconded by Kathy Ulrich, and approved by Council, to approve the Financial Report.

**Kick-Off Sunday:** Worship service returns to 10:30am beginning on Kickoff Sunday, September 11th. Sigrid Plajer will place information in the August newsletter and in eNews. A picnic with Messy Church is planned on September 11th in the large pavilion at East Snyder Park from 4-6pm. Property & Grounds will provide grills, hot dogs, buns, and condiments; Loaves & Fishes will provide ice cream and drinks; Messy Church and Christian Ed will provide activities and games. Sigrid reported that Jevan Beaver will bring a grill. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to share and their own dinnerware and utensils. Dinnerware and utensils should be items that can be taken home and washed and not paper or styrofoam.

**Central Association (UCC) 60th Anniversary Celebration:** Celebration will be held September 18th from 2-5pm at St. John's UCC in Lewisburg. They have asked that each church provide a brief history of their church, photos of the church and events, and that the church have representatives attend. Randy Tanner said he may be able to attend.

**Financial Other:** John Fischer has been writing checks while Bill Hockenbrock is recovering from surgery. It was noted that we needed another person authorized to sign checks who is readily available. Currently, Bill Hockenbrock, Allen Wetzel, Peggy Doak, Sally Lauer and Susan Bolig are authorized to sign checks. S&F recommended that we add John Fischer to the list. Linda Turner made a motion, seconded by Michael Zettlemoyer, and approved by Council to accept S&F's recommendation. S&F also made a recommendation to update who is authorized to pick up the money bag from Northumberland Bank. Currently, those authorized are Bill Hockenbrock, Allen Wetzel, Cindy Martin and Sue Nentwig. A motion was made by Allen Wetzel, seconded by Josh Wenrich, and approved by Council to update the list to Cindy Martin, Linda Turner, John Fischer, Allen Wetzel, and Bill Hockenbrock. Linda Turner will prepare the necessary letters to Northumberland Bank for signature and notify anyone who is required to go into the bank to sign paperwork. There has been some confusion on whether or not a church credit card has been approved by Council. At its meeting, S&F recommended a credit card in the church's name, with Linda Turner as authorized user of the card (Sue Nentwig had a card but it was cancelled). They also recommended that Randy Tanner sign as Authorized Officer for the church. Allen Wetzel made a motion, seconded by Bev Heinemann, and approved by Council to accept S&F's recommendation and to proceed with the application.

Music: Amy Caron announced that choir practice will begin August 31st at 7pm. She is attempting to get in touch with the Joyful Noise Director to determine a performance schedule beginning in the fall. There was some discussion as to whether or not the current Joyful Noise Director would be returning in the fall as she had accepted a position in Lebanon. Council gave the Personnel Committee approval to begin a search as soon as Amy had more information. The Music Chairperson recommended to S&F that, in the summer, non-member guest musicians be paid \$50 per performance. Council agreed that a cap in the amount of \$200 be put on the amount paid out through the end of the year. Linda Turner made a motion, seconded by Amy Caron, and approved by Council to pay \$50 per performance and to cap it for the year at \$200. Once the \$200 cap was reached, if a guest musician performed, he/she would not be paid.

**Bridal Shop:** The Letter of Understanding drawn up by Marv Rudnitsky was sent to all Council members prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Sara Adams, seconded by Bev Heinemann, and approved by Council to accept the Letter as written. Linda Turner will notify Marv of Council's approval and have him send out the letter.

**Property & Grounds, Other:** No updates on open items. Shane Sanders (through email) said she had a conversation with Rick Campbell about the energy audit and they are in conversation with a company and actively working to get that set up. It was her understanding that they were looking at next year for making a decision about the boiler. Allen Wetzel provided some information on the efficiency of the boiler but, again, they are waiting on the audit. Randy Tanner purchased black-out curtains for the upstairs bathrooms and will be getting them installed soon. The curtains should provide more protection from the heat.

**Christian Ed:** Sara Adams reported that plans are underway for the first Kids Night Out scheduled for the third Saturday of

each month from 5:30-7:30pm. The first event will be on September 17th. Christian Ed has approached Mercedes Nadal to assist with Kids Night Out since her position as Kids Group helper has been eliminated. Mercedes does want to continue her employment with the church and S&F recommended accepting Christian Ed's proposal. There should be no added expenses to the budget. Mercedes' job description will be updated to reflect the change. Linda Turner made a motion, seconded by Sara Adams, and approved by Council, to accept the recommendation. **Pool Party:** Pool party was held Sunday, August 31st from 2-4pm at the Rudnitsky home. Randy Tanner asked, and Council agreed, that Council sign a Thank You card and send it to Marv & Raven thanking them for their hospitality.

**Chair Project:** All 11 chairs needed for the project have been donated and Shane Sanders is busy getting them painted. A banner was designed and ordered for the project. Sigrid showed Council a picture of what the banner will look like.

PFLAG: The first meeting is September 15th and it will be a hy-



#### UCC CENTRAL ASSOCI-ATION 60TH ANNIVER-SARY CELEBRATION

Central Association (UCC) is planning a 60th Anniversary Celebration, "Festival of Fun, Fellowship, and Faith: Celebrating our Association's Life

Together" to be held September 18th from 2-5pm at St. John's

brid meeting. Procedure to sign up to attend are being put in place to ensure the safety of everyone who attends. More information will follow.

**Newsletter:** Newsletter deadline is August 19th. Sigrid asked if we should do a paper newsletter, rather than digital, for September and perhaps several times per year. After discussion, it was decided to continue with digital with paper going out to those who request it. Instead of a paper newsletter for Kickoff Sunday it was decided to send out a postcard to everyone.

**Next Council Meeting:** September 13, 2022 - in person and Zoom.

Devotions for next Meeting: Randy Tanner

Prayer concerns were mentioned and the meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Turner Council Secretary

UCC in Lewisburg. There are 30 UCC churches in the Association and the planning committee is hoping to get all churches involved. The event will be held in the church's pavilion and will be a festival/carnival atmosphere with a firepit, booths, and desserts! If you plan to attend, please call or text Ruth Laudermilch at 570-764-5007, or Rev. Amelia Price at 570-850-7739 – and also bring a dessert to the event to share! There will be a slide show at the event, so if you have any special pictures you would like to share, please either scan and email to office@ saintpauls-ucc.org or bring in and Linda will scan them.

## A NOTE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Summer is always a wonderful time of relaxation and rejuvenation for me; my work responsibilities are much lighter and we have time to travel and visit with family and friends. That's been especially true this summer, as concerns about the pandemic are thankfully lessening. But, there's a feeling of excitement that I start to sense about this time in August-maybe it's triggered by the earlier sunsets, the somewhat cooler temperatures, the sound of the whistles on the sports fields at the schools, or the back to school shopping ads that are everywhere. But whatever starts it, I begin to feel eager to make the transition from summer to the start of a new school year. There's always something uplifting about returning to the things we were happy to put away for the summer.

I feel the same excitement about the start of our new church program year. Sunday September 11 will be Kickoff Sunday, and will include a special service in the morning (back to the 10:30am start time) and a celebration at East Snyder Park in the afternoon, including our first Messy Church of the new program year (if you haven't experienced Messy Church before, you are in for a treat!). It will be a great way to reconnect with old friends, meet some new friends, and join together to celebrate all that makes our St. Paul's community so special. And it will be great to have Pastor Dietmar back from his sabbatical! Although we've missed him, on behalf of Church Council, I'd like to thank all those who helped fill in for him so capably, especially Pastor Darin. We've been in good hands!

Let's use Kickoff Sunday as a way to bring our collective energy to the work that lies ahead, as we consider the ways that we can Be the Church this year to help make a difference in our community. Hope to see you there!

Peggy Peeler



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

400 North Market Street, Selinsgrove, PA 17870 Tel 570-374-8749 <u>office@saintpauls-ucc.org</u> <u>www.saintpauls-ucc.org</u>

#### Worship Sunday at 10:30 AM (new worship time starting September 11) also on Facebook, YouTube, and our website

"God is Still Speaking"

#### CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

We thank God for...

