

St. Paul's Happenings

A Publication of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Manheim

September 2026

Making a Difference Through the Love of Christ – to Know God, Love God & Serve God

The Blessings of Summer by Karen Brandt

"You have fixed all the bounds of the earth; you made summer and winter." — Psalm 74:17

When we think of summer and the changing of seasons, William Shakespeare is not the first name to come to mind. Yet, in one of his writings, he left us with a quote that is true even today.

"Summer's lease hath all too short a date."

That rings true for most of us. Here we are, another summer has come and gone.

Despite the sometimes unwelcome heat, summer offers many busy pleasures, such as planned vacations or family visits. Add in the kids' and grandkids' activities and sports, that busyness tends to make the season fly by. The end of summer sometimes seems to come around way too fast.

And yet, there is also something soothing about the summer season. We watch the flowers bloom and grow. We may spend some time at the beach (if you're close enough), the lake, or by the pool. The days are longer. We enjoy more outdoor activities. There is a lot to like about summer, and sometimes it's hard to get back into shorter days, earlier nights, school activities, colder weather – and, perhaps preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas looming right behind the fall.

Sometimes, we may be regretful and remorseful over plans that weren't fulfilled. But a new season brings with it the air of fresh starts and new opportunities. We have a brand-new opportunity to re-establish what might have been lost in the hustle and bustle of summer.

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The Blessings of Summer Continued

The end of summer offers us a powerful opportunity to look back on the past season with joy and look forward to a bit of spiritual renewal. Let us move into the new season, living our lives intentionally as Christ-followers. Let us grow into who we are in Him.

Lord, thank You for the blessings of this summer. As the days grow shorter, help us carry Your light into the new season. Keep our hearts steady and close to You. Amen.

A Letter from Christ

Paul the Apostle gave a beautiful compliment to the believers in Corinth. He wrote:

“And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts” (2 Corinthians 3:3, ESV).

What a meaningful picture. A letter carries a message, and Paul reminded the church that their lives were sharing the message of Christ with others.



The same is true for us today. Through our words, actions and faith, people can see evidence of God at work in our hearts. None of us is perfect, but living faithfully can point others toward Him.

What a wonderful goal for every Christian: to be known as “a letter from Christ.”

- From the October 2026 issue of Church Art Online.



Feel free to enjoy a delicious cup of Whiff Roasters coffee in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings after worship! You'll have a chance to grab some tasty treats, and mingle and get to know a great group of people that make up the heart of St. Paul's. You'll even have a chance to chat with Pastor Bill Long.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be celebrated next on Sunday, September 6, 2026. A Communion Service, open to all, will also be held at Pleasant View Retirement Community on **Wednesday, September 16 @ 1:30 pm.** Also, if you worship from home and need communion elements, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447.

September Scripture Readings

Sunday, September 6 – Pentecost 15:

Ezekiel 33:7-11/Psalm 119:3-40/Romans 13:8-14/St. Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday, September 13 – Pentecost 16:

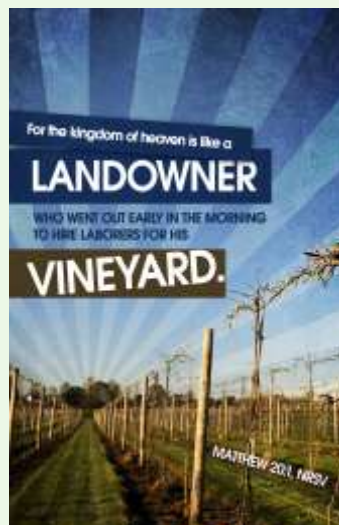
Genesis 50:15-21/Psalm 103:1-13/Romans 14:1-12/St. Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday, September 20 – Pentecost 17:

Jonah 3:10-4:11/Psalm 145:1-8/Philippians 1:21-30/St. Matthew 20:1-16

Sunday, September 27 – Pentecost 18:

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32/Psalm 25:1-9/Philippians 2:1-13/St. Matthew 21:23-32



Happenings @ St. Paul's

Bible Study

The Wednesday Night Bible Study will return **now starting on Wednesday, September 23 @ 6:30 pm** with a study on the minor prophets. Study guides are available to pick up – see Pam Herman for more details.

Communion @ Pleasant View

A Communion Worship Service will be held in Pleasant View's Hoffer Auditorium on Wednesday, September 16 @ 1:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

FREE Community Breakfast

The FREE Community Breakfast will be held on Saturday, September 19 from 8:30-10 am in Fellowship Hall.

On the menu this month is Hawaiian Roll Breakfast Sandwiches and Berry Yogurt Parfaits served with your choice of beverage.

To help out at the breakfast, please feel free to contact Erica Hoffman at 717.203.1449 or by email at ejhoffman826@gmail.com.

Fellowship Breakfast

The Fellowship Breakfast will be held on Thursday, September 24 @ 8:30 am @ The Kountry Kitchen Family Restaurant. Please RSVP to Claire Reed at 717.951.4325 by Monday, September 21 if you plan to attend.

Women's Fellowship

The next meeting of Women's Fellowship will be held on Thursday, September 24 @ 1 pm in St. Paul's 3 C's Café. See page 4 for more details.

Check Out Our Website

As we continue with the 2nd floor renovations, please be aware that some events in the church may be moved to another area.

Be sure to check out our website for up to date event information, or for information on cancellations or delays due to construction.

To access our website, go to www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org



Women's Fellowship Sub Sale



Women's Fellowship is holding their sub sale. Place your orders on Sundays, September 6, 13 & 20 before or after worship at the table outside the church office.

Subs are \$7 each and will be ready for pick-up on Thursday, October 1 from 1-3 pm in the 3 C's Café.

Choose your favorite: Ham, Turkey, Roast Beef, Italian, and Honey BBQ Chicken Breast. Payment is due at time of order.

Be sure to stop by and place your order so that no one has to cook at your house on October 1! For more information, see June Smith.



Women's Fellowship

The next meeting for Women's Fellowship will be held on Thursday, September 24 @ 1 pm in St. Paul's 3 C's Café.

All ladies are invited to attend this great time of catching up with friends.

Women's Fellowship will be selling subs on Sundays, September 6, 13 & 20 for pick-up on Thursday, October 1 from 1-3 pm.

At the meeting, we'll also discuss upcoming events. including the Veterans' Dinner on November 7, and how we can best support St. Paul's church ministry and Manheim community.

As always, please remember our homebound members. Phone calls, cards, and notes are always appreciated by our homebound members so they know they are remembered. Our faithful though homebound "St. Paul's Warriors" always need your caring cards, thoughts and prayers.

In His Love,
June Smith & Dottie Drumheller

Bell Choir News



Come Join the Bell Choir!

No musical experience necessary. Rehearsals are held on Thursdays @ 7 pm starting September 10 in the Bell room.

Call or text Erica Hoffman at 717.203.1449 in advance if possible so we can be ready for you!



Mission of the Month

The September Mission of the Month is St. Paul's Shepherd's Fund.

The Shepherd's Fund helps members and friends of St. Paul's who are having a rough time financially. The fund helps out with housing, utilities, medical, or transportation needs.

Please use your September Special Envelope to help out a friend or member to feel supported in their time of need.

Food Pantry Update

Food assistance is available to anyone living in the Manheim Central School District through the Manheim Central Food Pantry. For more information, call Ruth Ellen Brown at 717.664.1097.

Current needs are:

- Beef Stew
- Canned Potatoes
- Garden Produce
- Canned Sliced Beets
- Chili

- Chef Boyardee Products
- Diapers, Sz. 5-6
- Baby Wipes
- Pull-ups
- Feminine Products
- Plastic and Reusable Grocery Bags

Please be sure your donations are not expired, opened, or used. For more info, go to <https://manheimcentralfoodpantry.org/>

Donations may be dropped off on Mondays and Thursdays from 9-11 or call the office 717-664-1097 to make other arrangements.

If you need food assistance, please call Ruth Ellen Brown, the client coordinator, at 717-664-1097.



Council Highlights

Church Council met last on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 – there was no August meeting. July meeting highlights are shared before the minutes are approved by council at their next meeting, when corrections to details may occur.

Endowment Fund: Endowment fund is performing well. \$17,300 has been received in gifts year to date.

Treasurer's Report:

Benevolence: \$1,926 was received for St. Paul's Mission Team which was the June Mission of the Month, and \$643 was received for OCWM in June.

Operating: \$9,355 was received in June for current operating expenses; budget is \$10,417/month.

Capital: \$3,906 was received in June for the capital fund.

June's giving was \$9,141 over last year's giving.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Bill Long will be on vacation – pulpit and emergency coverage were discussed.
- Entrance doors will now be locked starting August 2 once worship begins.
- Discussion re: individuals wanting to donate for renovated spaces –

please contact Property Board or Council **BEFORE** donating.

Committee Reports:

Property Board: A new kitchen refrigerator has been installed. Furnace replacement is done.

Music Team: A new job description will be revised by the team.

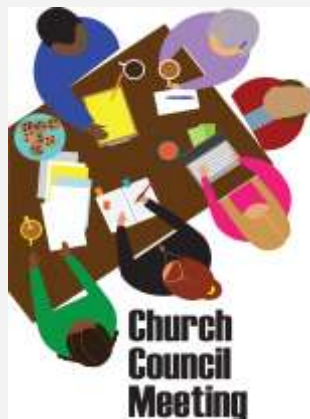
Old Business: Discussion re: using the church as a cooling station during hot summer days – to be sent to New Voices to consider.

A revised Facility Use Fee Scheduled was approved.

New Business: None

Next meeting date is Tuesday, September 15 @ 6 pm.

Council minutes are available through the church office at 717.665.2447.



Renovation Update



Second Floor Renovations are continuing. Both the Pastor's Study, the Church Office and Archive Room are now painted and new flooring has been installed. Hallway work has begun. The boiler replacement is also now finished.

Many of you have been asking, what about decorating the café and hallways? A team will meet soon to discuss options. However, while your donations of money to offset the costs for the décor is greatly appreciated to the capital and/or endowment funds, donations of other items such as used furniture, old décor, etc. would be best donated to other area charities in need so that we can be very intentional in reflecting the purpose and mission of St. Paul's in that décor of these new areas.

Thank you for understanding and supporting these ongoing projects @ St. Paul's!



Connect With Us!

Please contact the church office if your address, email address, phone number, or your family situation has changed. You may contact us at 717.665.2447, or by email at stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net.

If you or a loved one is hospitalized or in need of pastoral care, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447 and leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

The church office will be closed for the Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 7.



Scam Alert

As telephone, texting and email scams become more prevalent and sophisticated, please be aware that St. Paul's UCC and any staff member, including Pastor Bill, will NEVER call, text, or email you asking for donations using gift cards, bitcoin, or other electronic payment methods. Any special church campaigns, will always use giving options using your envelopes, with cash or check made out to St. Paul's UCC only.

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:00pm New Voices Vision Team	2	3 9:00am Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA@ Zion Lutheran	4	5 10:00am Simply Yoga
6 9:00am Sub Sale 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	7 Labor Day - Office Closed 	8	9	10 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA@ Zion Lutheran	11	12 10:00am Simply Yoga
13 9:00am Sub Sale 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	14 7:00pm Property Board	15 6:00pm Church Council	16 1:30pm Pleasant View Communion	17 9:00am Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA@ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	18	19 8:30am FREE Community Breakfast 10:00am Simply Yoga
20 Newsletter Deadline! 9:00am Sub Sale 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	21	22 1st Day of Fall 	23 6:30pm Bible Study	24 8:30am Fellowship Breakfast @ Kountry Kitchen 9:00am Simply Yoga 1:00pm Women's Fellowship 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA@ Zion Lutheran	25	26 10:00am Simply Yoga
27 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	28	29	30 6:30pm Bible Study			

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Blessings to all
celebrating a September
Birthday or
Anniversary!



Worship Attendance

Total attendance = those who worship in the Sanctuary, those in the nursery and those viewing the service online.

6/28 @ Pleasant View – 162

7/5 – 193 7/12 – 107 7/19 – 90

7/26 – 87 8/2 – 89 8/9 – 93

8/16 – 75 8/23 – 69

Christian Symbols



DOOR — A door symbolizes our invitation to engage in prayer and a personal relationship with Jesus: *“Knock and the door will be opened to you”* (Matthew 7:7, NIV). A door can also represent Jesus’ loving invitation to open our hearts to him: *“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock”* (Revelation 3:20, NIV). When we welcome him in, we receive the joy of fellowship and life with Christ.



Requests for Prayer

For prayer requests, please contact Joan Hess at 717.665.4705. Our homebound members will remain on the list permanently as a reminder to keep these individuals wrapped in prayer and to remember them with cards, phone calls, and visits.

Alex & Trish Bairos Jean Gates Mary Sue Herr Jay Hess Bev Hockenberry Jim & Erica Hoffman
Tim Hoffman Bridget Irons Sue Kennedy Ernest & Pat Kohler Jane Laube Maybelle Martin Jane Moyle
Richard Moyle & Lynne Shoemaker Jessica Mullen Glen & Delores Mumma Joanna Schreiber Eric Smeltz
Betty Lou Stoner Gerry Weller Barry & Scott Christ* Linda Coe* Wayne & Camilla Conrad* Wyatt Dull*
Dr. Eugene Engle* Terry Gyenes* Stephen H.* Blakely Kling* Jace Laboranti* Rachel Martin* Shelly Mellinger*
Karen Miller* Verdella Stauffer* Patrick & Kimberley* Teen Central & Bible2school kids/staff

In the Military: Jessie Dutt & Ben Ryan

Thank You Note

Thank you for donating food to the Manheim Central Food Pantry. Your generous donation of food (736 lbs. in the past 6 months) makes it possible for us to provide food for families in need within our Manheim Central Community.

- Manheim Central Food Pantry



Labor Day: Honoring Work & Rest



Labor Day gives us an opportunity to honor the work of our hands and the many ways people serve their families, churches and communities.

As we pause from our usual routines, may we give thanks for meaningful work, remember those seeking employment and receive God's gift of renewing rest.

Communication Deadlines

St. Paul's Happenings is printed monthly except for the December/January and July/August combined issues.

The deadline to submit articles is the 3rd Sunday of the month before publication.

The October 2026 issue deadline is Sunday, September 20, 2026. Bulletin announcements are due to the church office by Wednesday mornings @ 8 am.



St. Paul's Staff & Leaders

Staff:

Pastor – The Rev. Bill Long

Church Administrator – Pam Herman

Organist – June Smith

Bell Choir Director – Jim Hoffman

Custodian – Mark Lowe

Kitchen Manager – Jerry Weller

Council:

Ministers – All Church Members

Karen Brandt – President

Lynn Brewer

Danette Fair

Ron Forry

Sue Frederick

Mike Givler - Secretary

Gretchen Miller – Treasurer

Carolyn Peters – Vice President

J. D. Young

Non-voting Ex-Officio Member by Position:

The Rev. Bill Long

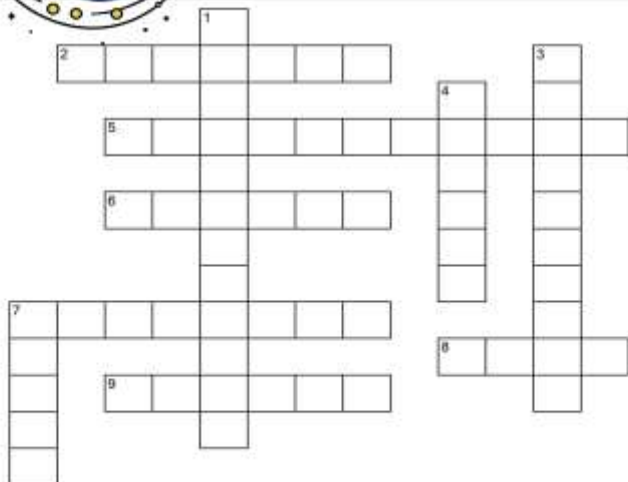


Puzzle!



BEATITUDES

Fill in the blanks below to complete the crossword. Answers are based on Matthew 5:1-13, NIV.



ACROSS

2. _____ and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.
5. Blessed are the _____, for they will see God.
6. Blessed are those who _____ and thirst after righteousness.
7. Blessed are the _____, for they will receive mercy.
8. Blessed are the _____, for they will inherit the earth.
9. Blessed are those who hunger and _____, for they will be filled.

DOWN

1. Blessed are the _____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
3. Blessed are those who are _____ for righteousness' sake.
4. Great is your _____ in heaven.
7. Blessed are those who _____, for they will be comforted.

Answer key: 2 Across: Rejoice, 5 Across: pure in heart, 6 Across: hunger
3 Down: persecuted, 4 Down: meek, 7 Across: thirst, 1 Down: poor in spirit
7 Down: mourn



A sweet reminder that God is always growing something new, no matter the season. As summer winds down and a new school year begins, remember He is at work in your life, helping you grow in faith, kindness and courage. With His help, you can grow in wisdom, build friendships and shine His love wherever you go.

What you need:

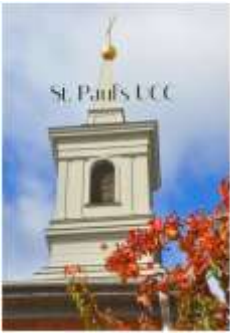
- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving) box chocolate instant pudding mix
- 1 (8 oz.) tub whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) clear plastic cups
- Gummy worms or frogs (optional)



What you do:

1. In a large bowl, whisk together milk and pudding mix for 2 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes until thickened.
2. Gently fold in the whipped topping.
3. Add a layer of crushed cookies to the bottom of each cup.
4. Spoon pudding mixture on top, filling the cups about $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
5. Sprinkle more crushed cookies on top to look like "dirt."
6. Add gummy worms or frogs for fun.
7. Chill until ready to serve, or enjoy right away.

See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it? — Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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