

St. Paul's Happenings

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

May 2026

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

“Woman, here is your son”

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10. It got me thinking of the research I did for this past Maundy Thursday service. If you attended the service it focused on the Seven Last Words of Christ. I needed to reflect on the third word from the cross - “Woman, here is your son”. I would like to share with you an article by Robert Cornwall, Minister Emeritus of Central Woodward Christian Church. Even though he is talking about the third word from the cross I feel it is relevant for Mother's Day.

From John 19: 26-27: *When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.*

The mother of Jesus stands before the cross in the company of several women, along with the Beloved Disciple. This is the second time Jesus' mother is mentioned in the Gospel of John. In both cases, John doesn't name her. Jesus simply addresses her as “Woman.”

On the first occasion, Jesus joined his mother for a wedding. When the wine was about to give out, she asked Jesus to take care of the situation. He responds by addressing her as “Woman.” He tells her his hour has not yet come. Of course, that doesn't stop her from directing the stewards to do as Jesus directs, and as the story goes forward, water gets turned into wine (Jn. 2:1-12). This is his first miracle.

Now the hour has come, and in this second appearance of his mother in John's Gospel, Jesus isn't turning water into wine. He's hanging on a cross, with death near at hand. Although he must be experiencing great suffering, John pictures Jesus reaching out with compassion to his mother. He says to her: “Woman, here is your son.” Then, turning to the Beloved Disciple, he says to him: “here is your mother.” These two people aren't biologically related, but they will form the foundation of a new kind of family rooted in Jesus's message.

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Woman, here is your son Continued

I hear this conversation between mother and son as a mother's son. How might I respond if I were in a life and death situation like this? How might I provide for my mother? Now, I have a brother, so my mother's welfare doesn't depend solely on me, but I understand the claim the biological family has on our lives when times become difficult. There are few times more difficult than when a parent watches as their child dies, even an adult child.

We understand the power of family, though Jesus wasn't always family-friendly—just check out the Gospel of Mark. While Jesus' own family is largely absent from John's Gospel, in this moment of the story, we find ourselves at the foot of the cross, in the presence of Jesus, with these two individuals related to each other only in the Spirit. Though not directly related, it is said by John, that the Beloved Disciple took the mother of Jesus into his home from that time on. Perhaps, he took her away from the cross so she wouldn't have to watch her son die. John doesn't say one way or another, but that's the way I want to read it.

While John doesn't say anything about Jesus having a family other than his mother, nor does he say why Jesus chose to bequest the care of his mother to the Beloved Disciple, John's first word from the cross concerns matters of family. It also suggests that Jesus has a broader sense of family than simply those who share our bloodlines. So what does this encounter say to us about family and community on this Good Friday?

I will leave you with these words from Leonora Tubbs Tisdale, who suggests that "in this simple act, Jesus sows seeds of the new community to come, in which family is redefined in ways that are not restricted to blood kin and in which members of the family are called to be responsible caretakers of one another.

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms, bonus moms, grandmothers, and nurturing figures who fill the world with love.

Blessings, Karen Brandt,
Council President



Feel free to enjoy a delicious cup of Whiff Roasters coffee in the new 3 C's Café on Sunday mornings! 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

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on all Sundays in May.

A Communion Service, open to all, will also be held at Pleasant View Retirement Community on **Wednesday, May 20 @ 1:30 pm.**

Also, if you worship from home and need communion elements, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447.

May Scripture Readings

Sunday, May 3 – Easter 5: Acts 7:55-60/Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16/1 Peter 2:2-10/ St. John 14:1-14

Sunday, May 10 – Easter 6: Acts 17:22-31/
Psalm 66:8-20/1 Peter 3:13-22/St. John 14:15-21.

Sunday, May 17 – Easter 7: Acts 1:6-14/Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35/1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11/St. John 17:1-11

Sunday, May 24 – Pentecost Sunday: Acts 2:1-21/Psalm 104:24-34, 35/1 Corinthians 12:3-13/
St. John 20:19-23

Sunday, May 31 – Trinity Sunday: Genesis 1:1-2:4/ Psalm 8/2 Corinthians 13:11-13/ St. Matthew 28:16-20



May Happenings @ St. Paul's

Bible Study

The Wednesday Night Bible Study is currently studying The Heidelberg Catechism on Wednesday nights in May @ 6:30 pm in the 3 C's Café. All are invited to come and study the roots of our foundational beliefs.

Women's Fellowship Sub Sale

Remember to pick-up your sub orders on Thursday, May 7 in the 3 C's Cafe from 2-4 pm.

Honoring Moms & Women

On Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 10, we will honor all moms and women during worship with a special treat. We know that all women have a special place in serving God, and we honor them on this very special day!

FREE Community Breakfast

The FREE Community Breakfast will be held on Saturday, May 16 from 8:30-10 am in the 3 C's Café. On the menu this month is Egg and Cheese or Sausage, Egg and Cheese wraps served with fresh fruit and 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.

Communion @ Pleasant View

A Communion Worship Service will be held in Pleasant View's Hoffer Auditorium on Wednesday, May 20 @ 1:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Fellowship Breakfast

The Fellowship Breakfast will be held on Thursday, May 28 @ 8:30 am @ The Kounty Kitchen Family Restaurant. Please RSVP to Claire Reed at 717.951.4325 by Sunday, May 24 if you plan to attend.

Women's Fellowship

The next meeting of Women's Fellowship will be held on Thursday, May 28 @ 1 pm @ The Shack. Order lunch or just ice cream – see page 4 for more details.

Check Out Our Website

For the latest info and weather updates, please visit our website found at www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org.

Pardon our appearance as we have continuing renovations on the first floor. Current planned events may move at the last minute depending on rooms used - check our website or with the church office at 717.665.2447 for updates.



Pentecost Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic



Wear Red on Pentecost Sunday, May 24 for St. Paul's Outdoor Worship Service, held in the church parking lot at 9:30 am. Experience worship in the great outdoors with great music and of course, Holy Communion.

Following worship, we'll switch gears to prepare for the **Church Picnic**, beginning with some fun games, coffee from 3 C's Cafe, moving into a picnic lunch of Andy Ressler's world-famous BBQ Chicken, and finish with Scoops Ice Cream.

Be sure to sign up to bring your favorite side dishes by Sunday, May 17, and get ready for a great day together!



Women's Fellowship

Our next meeting for Women's Fellowship will be held on Thursday, May 28 @ 1pm @ The Shack.

Remember to pick up your Subs on Thursday, May 7 from 2-4 pm! And thank you to one and all for supporting our Spring Sub sale. Your support helps us give aid to many local community projects.

You may not realize, but some of our ladies are becoming "more seasoned" and our ranks are dwindling. We would like to see some of our younger ladies attend and become more active, so that ministry will be able to continue. Please seriously consider attending our meetings to learn more about how we (and you can) serve both St. Paul's and the greater Manheim community.

Ladies, please continue to send those notes, cards, and make telephone calls to our homebound members as they so appreciate hearing from you.

Just a reminder to keep knitting or crocheting those hats and scarves for children. If you need yarn, please see me. We do have a nice supply of yarn to be used for that purpose.

In His Love,
June Smith & Dottie Drumheller

Mission of the Month

The May Mission of the Month is the UCC's Strengthen the Church Fund. This fund supports leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

By your generosity to this fund, you build up the Body of Christ. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Please use your May special envelope to Strengthen the Church!



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 for the Manheim Central Food Pantry are:

Diapers-sizes 4,5,6, Baby Wipes, Pull ups. Baked Beans, Canned Mandarin oranges, Applesauce, Rice Sides, Chef Boyardee products and plastic and reusable grocery bags

Please be sure your donations are not expired, opened, or used. For more information, go to

<https://manheimcentralfoodpantry.org/>

Thank you from for your 1st quarter donation of 463 lbs. to the Food Pantry, and donations of \$2,396 year to date. Your generous donations make it possible for us to provide for families in need within the Manheim Central Community. Your acts of kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated by those who use the pantry. – MC Food Pantry

Order Your Pentecost Geraniums



We're going to blanket worship with RED on Pentecost Sunday, May 24!

If you would like to blanket the worship space in RED with geraniums, please fill out a form found in your bulletin for the next 3 Sundays and return with payment to the church office to place your order. Or call the church office at 717.665.2447 to place your order. The cost is \$9 each and the RED geraniums are in 6" pots wrapped in RED foil. You may place your order in honor or in memory of loved ones.

The deadline to place your order is Sunday, May 17, 2026.

Council Highlights

Church Council met on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Below are highlights of that meeting. Please note that these highlights are shared before the minutes are approved by council at their next meeting, when corrections to details may occur.

Endowment Fund: Due to market fluctuations, the fund was \$10,000 down in March. So far a total of \$91,223 in cash withdrawals were made for operations and capital projects.

Treasurer's Report:

Benevolence: \$1,451 was received for Heifer Project, the March Mission of the Month, \$80 for One Great Hour of Sharing and \$248 for OCWM.

Operating: \$12,659.96 was received in March for current operating expenses; budget is \$10,417/month.

Capital: \$3,409 was received in March for the capital fund.

March's giving was \$5,561.75 over last year's giving.

Pastor's Report:

- An update on visitation was shared. Several funerals held and a baptism is scheduled for May 10
- Outdoor worship will be held on Sunday, July 5 in honor of our country's 250th anniversary

Committee Reports:

Property Board: The estimate for a new boiler came in at \$75,000 – budget is \$50,000. See below article re: upcoming Congregational Meeting for more information.

Music Team: CCLI Lyric Videos will begin in worship to add another song.

Old Business: Check signers were updated with our Fulton Bank rep.

New Business: Council members will be installed on Sunday, May 3.

Next meeting date is Tuesday, May 19 @ 6 pm in Bright Chapel/Library.

Council minutes are posted

- In the church office,
- On the 2nd floor bulletin board near the elevator.



Connect With Us!

Please contact the church office at 717.665.2447 or at stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net if you or a member you know is hospitalized or in need of care. If you call on the weekend, please leave a message, as calls are monitored daily and your call will be returned shortly.

Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2026 due to the Memorial Day holiday.

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

The deadline to submit articles is the 3rd Sunday of the month before publication. The June 2026 issue deadline is Sunday, May 17, 2026.

Bulletin announcements are due at the church office by Wednesday mornings @ 8 am.

Congregational Meeting Set for May 17!



Congregational Meeting
May 17

Church Council invites all members to a special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 17, 2026 immediately following the 9:30 am worship service.

On the agenda is approval for additional funding support from the Endowment Fund for the Capital Projects,

- Specifically, the additional cost for the boiler repair and
- To consider and approve funding for the 2nd floor renovations of the hallways, creation of an Archive Room and to update the Pastor and Church Offices to take place in Summer 2026.

Please plan to attend this important meeting.



May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 10:00am Simply Yoga
3 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	4 7:00pm Property Board	5 6:00pm New Voices Vision Team	6 6:30pm Bible Study	7 9:00am Simply Yoga 2:00pm Sub Pick-Up 6:00pm Music Team 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	8	9 10:00am Simply Yoga
10 Mother's Day 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 	11	12 6:30am UCC Ministerium	13 6:30pm Bible Study	14 Ascension Day 9:00am Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran 	15	16 8:30am FREE Community Breakfast 10:00am Simply Yoga 3:00pm Chamber using Parking Lot
17 Newsletter Deadline! 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Congregational Meeting 11:30am Coffee Hour	18 6:00pm Election Set-Up	19 Primary Elections 6:00pm Church Council	20 1:30pm Pleasant View Communion 6:30pm Bible Study	21 9:00am Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	22	23 10:00am Simply Yoga
24 Pentecost Sunday 9:00am Prayer 9:30am Pentecost Outdoor Worship 10:30am Church Picnic 	25 Memorial Day - Office Closed 	26	27 6:30pm Bible Study	28 8:30am Fellowship Breakfast @ Kountry Kitchen 9:00am Simply Yoga 1:00pm Women's Fellowship 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	29	30 10:00am Simply Yoga
31 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour						

MAY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Blessings to all
those celebrating
a May Birthday or
Anniversary!



Worship Attendance

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

3/29 – 107 4/1 (Preparatory) – 12
4/2 (Maundy Thurs.) – 38
4/5 – 126 4/12 – 98
4/19 – 85 4/26 - 108

Christian Symbols



TONGUES OF FIRE — Reminiscent of the Pentecost account in Acts 2 when “tongues of fire” rested on the disciples’ heads as the Holy Spirit birthed the church, images of flame symbolize the Spirit. Sometimes a tongue of fire is paired with a dove and set on a red background — other symbols of the Holy Spirit. Fire may also indicate spiritual fervor and zeal in a Christian’s life.



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.

Friends of Gerry Schrawder & Carolyn Knight Alex & Trish Bairos Mary Sue Herr Jay Hess Bev Hockenberry
Jim & Erica Hoffman Bridget Irons Ernest & Pat Kohler Jane Laube Maybelle Martin Jane Moyle
Richard Moyle & Lynne Shoemaker Glen & Delores Mumma Joanna Schreiber Eric Smeltz
Betty Lou Stoner Gerry Weller Barry & Scott Christ* Linda Coe* Wyatt Dull* Dr. Eugene Engle*
Jona Green* Stephen H.* Blakely Kling* Jace Laboranti Rachel Martin Shelly Mellinger Karen Miller*
Verdella Stauffer* Teen Central & Bible2school kids/staff In the Military: Jessie Dutt & Ben Ryan

Celebrating The Church's Birthday

On Pentecost, we remember when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' disciples. As they gathered in Jerusalem 10 days after Jesus' ascension, they saw tongues of fire, heard rushing wind and began speaking in many languages. Because the disciples could then share the good news with all the pilgrims assembled for the Pentecost festival, the occasion marks the birthday of the Christian church. That day alone, about 3,000 people devoted their lives to Christ.

Like the Holy Spirit, Pentecost is important and relevant today. As theologian Henri Nouwen writes, "Without Pentecost the Christ-event — the life, death and resurrection of Jesus — remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now."

- From ChurchArt Online



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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

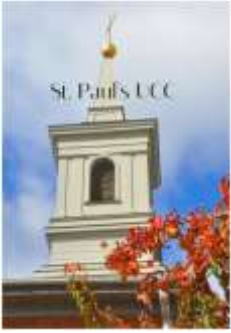


My MOM is...



LOVE:

Her children
arise & call her
blessed; her husband
also, & he praises her.
Proverbs 31:28, NIV



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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www.StPaulsuccManheim.org

