



“White to the left, red to the right. White to the left, red to the right.” These words have been going through my head quite a bit here recently. A few weeks ago, I learned that in my front yard buried under decades of weeds, ivy, and sod were several styles of landscaping rock. With time, sweat, and good ole fashion hard work, I have been revealing more and more of the buried rocks. Over the years the different rocks have become mixed and mingled, and rather unorganized. To make the yard look nice, I literally have crawled on my hands and knees over the newly exposed rocks picking them up one or two at a time saying, “white ones to the left, and red ones the right.” This has created a nice defined line between the two styles of rocks. The process is slow, but the effort is rewarding.

As I’ve done this, I have been amazed that the root structure that I have had to fight. It also makes me fret about the likelihood of the weeds and grass returning. According to the Parable of Sower (Luke 8:4-8), it tells the story of a farmer who sowed his seeds on the path, in the rocks, in the thorns, and then finally in the good soil. The rock-sown seeds sprout quickly but die equally fast because they have no roots. Clearly there is a difference from the fertile Lehigh Valley and the area of Israel-Palestine. The seeds that fell upon the rocks in my yard developed some really deep roots!

In worship I mention on a regular basis that we repeat things because we practice a spiritual discipline. Discipline means we need to make an effort to exercise certain spiritual muscles. If we do not tend to the weeds they will become the norm. Forgiveness is not for the weak. Forgiveness takes great courage and strength. Self-reflection takes rigorous honesty. Weeding out sin and working to improve our moral character takes tenacity because poor decision making, bitterness, anger, pettiness, and greed, all have deep roots. They keep growing even if we take the time to dig down as deeply as we can to get the roots as well as separate the red from the white rocks. Weeds and sin do not care how good we make things look. We need endurance and commitment to grow in the ways of Christ.

Upon learning of my rocks, I was aware of all the above. Was I willing to take on this project for the long haul? Getting the weeds out of the rocks and separating them will take a few weeks if not months. Keeping them orderly and weeded takes commitment. I pray that each of us are committed to the journey of growing in the ways of Christ. Do weed out self-righteous indignation by opening our minds to new learning? Do we keep greed in check by sharing our financial resources? Do we mitigate the sin of self-centeredness by taking care of others and lending a hand as best we can?

I wish I could weed one time and be done with my landscape project. No such luck. As we journey through the fall season and head for the joy of birth of the Light of the World, I pray you can increase your attendance and commitment to joining us for worship. As Christ’s disciples, we need each other for encouragement and strength, and the challenging task of keeping the weeds at bay.

~ Pastor Joel



Adult Education Offered

Living the Questions (LTQ) is coming in October! LTQ is a DVD based series that first came out in 2005. In my opinion, it features some of the best scholars and theologians of our time discussing options in how to read and understand the Bible as well as live our faith. The series relies heavily on the work and wisdom of scholars like Bishop John S. Spong, Dr. John D Crossan, and Dr. Marcus Borg. This series will challenge all participants to think, rethink (repent), and develop a more meaning relationship with God and Jesus. It may also upset you along the way.

The class will be offered on Thursday nights at 7:00 PM, in the fellowship hall of St. Peter's. We will begin on October 9 with an introduction class on the Bible in general led by me, Rev. Joel. The series is 15 weeks long and will be even longer with my introduction. We will meet so long as Thursday nights are available. We will not meet on 10/16 as that night we have the Jack Frost Parade. With the coming holiday season, I suspect the series will run into January. Each class is a stand-alone event so do not feel you need to attend them all. However, there will be a special prize for those who have perfect attendance.

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## Neighbors in Need Offering

On October 5, we will collect the Unted Church of Christ's Neighbors in Need special offering. This offering supports ministries of justice and compassion across the U.S., including the Council for American Indian Ministry and UCC justice initiatives like advocacy, direct service, and community organizing. Your gifts enable change in our communities, uplift those whose voices often go unheard, and reflect God's call to compassion and justice.

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Dig Into Sunday School!

Each Sunday During the Worship Service

Join us this year in Sunday School as we dig into the stories of the Bible! Get excited about Jesus-centered discoveries as we use a variety of hands-on activities to equip kids with a solid faith foundation. Registration forms are available on the church website at stpaulsnorthamptonpa.org or in the classroom.

We hope you will join us as you are **able!**



Dig In!



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Jack Frost Parade

Thursday, October 16th

St. Paul's is entering a float in this year's Jack Frost Parade and we'd love your help!

- * be part of the team decorating the float
- * walk along with the float to hand out goodies to people along the parade route

Interested in helping?

See Mindy Does or sign up on the sheet on the Mission Table.

Candy Donations Requested



Last year, we ran out of toss candy and glow-sticks before the mid-point of the parade. Can you help us make it to the end this year? We are looking for donations of small, toss-style candies (tootsie rolls, "Child's Play" mixed assortments, dum-dum's lollipops, etc) that we can toss to the children. Donations can be placed in the marked box on the Mission Table. If you would prefer that we do the candy shopping, cash/check donations can be given to Mindy.

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Miracle League Trick or Treat

Wednesday, October 22

Set up 4:30; Trick or Treat 6-8

This is our 14th year hosting a table at the Miracle League Trick or Treat night. Our theme is "Western." Donations of snack bags (*chips, pretzels, etc*), candy/chocolates, Rice Krispy treats, etc are needed.

Thank you for your continued support of this outreach to the children of the Miracle League who, because of their health conditions, don't get to experience trick or treat in their own neighborhoods!



St. Paul's UCC Community

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 26

2:00 – 4:00 pm



This is our fifth year hosting this event for our community. We had a great turn-out of decorated cars (and tables) last year and we're hoping to get even more this year! Want to help but need decorations? We have extra halloween/themed decorations available. Just indicate the need when you sign up.

To reserve your spot for a decorated car/truck, table or other space, please use the Sign Up Sheet on the Mission Table, sign up via the church website, or contact Mindy Does.

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### Cookbook Update

The cookbook took a bit longer in the proof-read stage than anticipated. It is currently on track for release later in October. Thank you for your patience!

Those who have pre-ordered their cookbooks will receive the first printed books. The remaining cookbooks will then be sold on a first-come basis. Haven't pre-ordered your copies yet? You still have time! Add your name to the reservation list at the Mission Table or contact Mindy. Payment is not due until you receive your cookbooks.

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The Sounds of Worship



Have you ever paused to listen — really listen — to the world around you?

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" (Psalm 98:4, ESV)

The hum of morning birdsong. The laughter of children. The comforting voice of a friend. Even the quiet moments of stillness. These aren't just background noise — they're invitations to worship.

God designed a world that sings. Worship isn't limited to Sunday mornings or formal songs; it's woven into the everyday moments that tune our hearts to Him. And when we pause to truly hear it, we are drawn into praise, right where we are.

What sound lifts your heart toward God today? Take a moment to listen. Let it remind you of His love and nearness.

SHOOFLY PIE SALE



A Shoofly Pie Sale hosted by the Bakers will be held on Saturday, October 11. Pick up is between 11-5 pm in the church fellowship hall. These delicious homemade pies are perfect for fall gatherings, gifts or just treating yourself! The deadline for ordering is Sunday, October 5. The cost is \$7 each. Sign up in the narthex or call 484-629-4233 to order.

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SANDWICH SALE

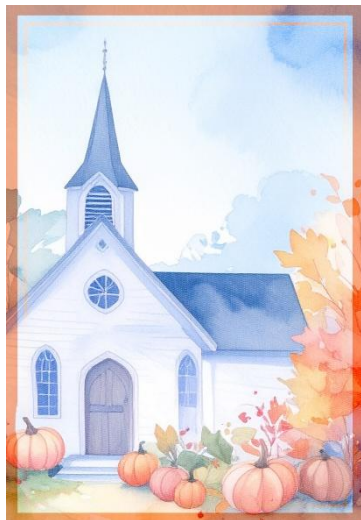
The Women of St. Paul's are taking orders for freshly made Ham & Cheese Sandwiches. These hearty sandwiches are packed with thin sliced ham, cheese and served on a bakery kaiser roll (mustard packet included). Pick up is Wednesday, October 15 between 11-1 & 5-6 pm. The cost is \$4 each. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, October 5. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex or call 484-629-4233 to order.

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FALL FAMILY CONNECTION

As the seasons change and we enter the beauty of fall, we invite all families to reconnect with one another and with our church community. Join us for a season of meaningful gatherings, fun activities, and opportunities to grow in faith together.

Whether it's through worship or fellowship events, this fall is the perfect time to slow down, be present, and strengthen the bonds that matter most.





St. Paul's
June – August 2025

June Income: \$19,280.81
June Expenses: \$(23,980.39)
June income did not
meet our expenses by: **\$(4,699.58)**

July Income: \$12,368.22
July Expenses: \$(16,742.47)
July income did not
meet our expenses by: **\$(4,374.25)**

August Income: \$19,092.58
August Expenses: \$(19,025.52)
August income did not
meet our expenses by: **\$(67.06)**

E-Give Offerings (June-Aug.): \$1,787.66
Strengthen the Church Offering: \$245.00
Reserve fund transfers to cover
our expenses (June-Aug.): \$10,000.00

*Thank you for your generous offerings!
Your support helps us continue God's work
through our church and community.*



PRAY MORE *worry less*

St. Paul's Prayer Partners help to provide hope, spiritual support and help to bring a deep sense of comfort to someone going through a difficult time. If you would like to become a prayer partner, or have prayer requests/updates, please contact Sally Jane by email @ sallyjane1717@yahoo.com

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Karen Correll, Edith Knauss, Joe Richter, Abby Badman, Ami Badman, Alison Delabar, Cathy Bogar, Betty Stolz, John Stolz, Ronald Lobach, Richard Bogar, Joan panik, Lenny Panik, Keith Beil, Lynnel Groller, Peggy Kohler, Consistory, churches, nation and leaders, U.S. Military, many refugees, and persecuted Christians.



Give Hope!

Our local families in need benefit greatly from your donations to the Northampton Food Bank.

Current Items needed: canned soups, canned potatoes, Jello, pudding dried potatoes, mixed vegetables, baked beans, canned meats and beef stew.

Non-perishable food items and monetary donations can be dropped off at church or the church office. Thank you for caring and sharing!



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## Redner's Save-A-Tape Program

Shop at Redner's? St. Paul's receives 1% of the total receipts submitted. **Our last check received totaled \$329.57!** Whole receipts (cut off receipts are not accepted) can be dropped off in the Redner's receipt bag in the narthex or dropped off at the church office. Thank you for your participation!

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Giant Gift Cards

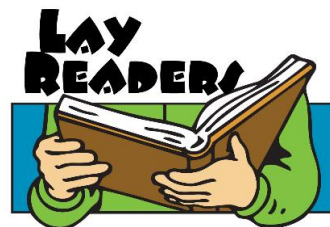
If you shop at Giant, please consider participating in a great fundraising opportunity for St. Paul's through Giant's "Cash for Causes" program. **St. Paul's earns 5% of the face value of all the gift cards sold.** Gift cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100 and can be used like cash at any Giant location. If interested in purchasing gift cards, please contact Cindy Swankoski at 484-560-6542. Thank you for your participation!

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### October:

10/05 – John Kromer  
10/12 – Donald Biggs  
10/19 – Karen Sands  
10/26 – Lori Balliet



### October:

10/05 – Cindy Swankoski  
10/12 – Stacy Knecht  
10/19 – Karen Sands  
10/26 – Mark Bauer





**October:**

10/05 – Penny & Dave Farkas  
                   Marge & Larry Oberly  
 10/12 – Lynne Schlager  
                   Lynne Schlager  
 10/19 – Christine Hostetter  
 10/26 – Cindy Swankoski

**October:**

10/05 – Ron Lobach  
 10/12 – Lynne Schlager  
 10/19 – Brian Saylor  
 10/26 – Open

The cost to sponsor the Altar flowers is \$30.00 and the Bulletins is \$10.00. Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office @ 610-261-2910 if you would like to sponsor.

Note: There are **two** spaces available to sign up on the altar flower chart in the narthex. You are encouraged to sign up for any date even if someone else already has.

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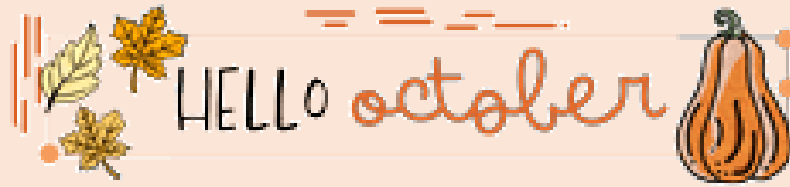


10/02 – Mindy Does
 10/03 – Maurice McNeely
 10/05 – Ronald Lobach
 10/06 – Larry Oberly
 10/07 – Thomas Unger
 10/08 – Paula Spiece
 10/10 – Kim Reichard
 10/11 – Erika Mikovits
 10/17 – Keith Beil
 10/19 – Dennis Michael
 10/22 – Michael Gabovitz
 10/23 – John Stolz
 Jay Sands
 10/27 – Lynne Schlager
 10/30 – Shawn Miller



10/03 – Donald & Donna Biggs
 10/10 – Timothy & Sharon Fronheiser
 10/16 – John & Betty Stolz
 10/20 – Lewis & Sara Szagola
 10/22 – John & Sue Demczynsyn
 10/25 – Kenneth & Peggy Kohler





- Oct. 1** – 7:00 – Scouts (FH)
- Oct. 5** – 10:30 – Worship/World Communion Sunday &
Neighbors in Need Offering/Deadline for
Shoofly Pie & Ham and Cheese Sandwich
Orders
- Oct. 6** – 7:00 – AA (parlor)
- Oct. 8** – 7:00 – Scouts (FH)
- Oct. 9** – 7:00 – “Living the Questions” Series @ St.
Peter’s UCC
- Oct. 11** – 11-5 pm – Pick Up Shoofly Pies (FH)
- Oct. 12** – 10:30 – Worship/Deadline for November
Newsletter Articles
- Oct. 13** – 7:00 – AA (parlor)
- Oct. 15** – (11-1 & 5-6 PM) Pick Up Ham & Cheese
Sandwiches (FH)
7:00 – Scouts (FH)
- Oct. 16** – 7:00 – Northampton Jack Frost Parade
- Oct. 19** – 10:30 – Worship w/Baptism
- Oct. 20** – 7:00 – AA (Parlor)
- Oct. 22** – 6-8 pm– Miracle League Trick or Treat
– 7:00 – Scouts (FH)
- Oct. 23** – 7:00 - “Living the Questions” Series @ St. Peter’s
- Oct. 26** – 10:30 – Worship
– (2-4 pm) Trunk or Treat @ St. Paul’s
- Oct. 27** – AA (Parlor)
- Oct. 29** – 7:00 – Scouts (FH)
- Oct. 30** – 7:00 – “Living the Questions” Series @ St. Peter’s





Pastor – Rev. Joel Biggers
Director of Christian Ed. – Melinda Does
Office Administrator – Christine Hostetter
Custodian – Shea Killeen
Church Office Phone – 610-261-2910
E-mail – stpaulsnorth@gmail.com
Website – www.stpaulsnorthamptonpa.org

Pastor's Office Hours: Thursday & Friday from 9:00-5:00 PM. Pastor Joel can be reached by email joelwbiggers@gmail.com or by calling 732-853-4809.

Church Office Hours: Mon., (8-12) Tues., Wed., Thurs. (8-3)

