



THE EPISCOPAL MESSENGER

JUNE-JULY 2026

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Beloved Child

In the Bible the words love, loved and loves appear 769 times and in the Book of Psalms, the hymnal/prayerbook of the Old Testament they appear well over 100 times. Most significantly for us, in chapter 13 through 17 of the Gospel According to John (the farewell discourse in the Last Supper) Jesus uses those words 31 times.

Are there words that appear in scripture more frequently than love? Yes! Is this one of the most significant themes in scripture? Yes indeed!!! All of scripture is a story of God reaching out to humankind because God loves us in general and loves each one of us as individuals. Each of us is a beloved child of God. Can I explain why out of the vastness of the universe that God has chosen to love us? No; however, it is clear God loves us and calls us to follow the example of the Triune God. We are called to live our lives as God exists with a loving relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We hear this call in the Summary of the Law contained in the Gospel According to Matthew, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the

Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." We also hear it in Jesus' farewell discourse, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. ***Just as I have loved you***, you also should love one another."

How can we fulfill that calling which is so far above our abilities and strength? In the words of our baptismal covenant, "I will with God's help."

We are all beloved children of God who are called to proclaim the Good News by living as disciples of Jesus and sharing his love in the world. I close with the words of my favorite dismissal sentence: "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord."

– Deacon Jim Jenkins



It is wonderful to see the line for communion extend to the back of the church!

A Summer Song Of Gratitude

As we come to the close of another choir season at St. Paul's, I find myself once again filled with gratitude for the faithfulness of our choir, the warmth of this congregation, and the many ways music continues to shape and support our worship together.

One of the final anthems of the season, *"I'm Goin' to Sing,"* arranged by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw, captured the joyful spirit of this ministry so beautifully. Rooted in the American spiritual tradition, the piece is full of energy, conviction, and hope. Its message is simple but powerful: singing is not merely something we do; it is a way we proclaim, remember, endure, and rejoice.

There is something wonderfully fitting about ending the choir season with a piece that declares the intention to keep singing. Even as the choir steps away from its regular Thursday evening rehearsals for the summer months, the song continues. It continues in the hymns we sing together, in the special music offered by members and friends of the congregation, and in the quiet melodies that accompany us through ordinary days.

This past season has been filled with meaningful musical moments; familiar favorites, new repertoire, rich liturgical seasons, and anthems that helped illuminate scripture and prayer. I am deeply grateful to each member of the choir for their commitment, flexibility, and

heart. Their role in worship is not simply to provide music, but to help lead the congregation in prayer, praise, and reflection. Their voices are woven into the fabric of our worship life, and we are blessed by their presence.

As we enter the slower rhythm of summer, may this be a season of rest, renewal, and joy. Summer gives us permission to breathe a little more deeply, to notice beauty around us, and to be restored in body, mind, and spirit. Just as music needs both sound and silence, our lives need seasons of activity and seasons of quiet.

During June and July, we invite individuals to share special music during worship. These offerings are a meaningful way to continue enriching our services while the choir enjoys a well-deserved summer pause. If you are interested in offering music, I would be glad to work with you as your schedule allows.

May this summer bring peace to your spirit, joy to your days, and perhaps even a song that stays with you long after worship has ended. After all, as our anthem on Pentecost Sunday reminded us: we are still *"goin' to sing."*

– *Dr. Alan Hack, Music Director*

THE EPISCOPAL MESSENGER

A newsletter for the parish family of

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Bloomsburg

Please send articles and other correspondence to

Doug Hippenstiel * Dch17846@gmail.com

Scenes from indoor picnic On Mother's Day







Blessing Backpacks4Bloom

St. Paul's collected three large boxes of supplies and five new/gently used backpacks for Kendra Granado's BlessingBackpacks4Bloom project. In addition to the congregational collections, Outreach purchased five new backpacks and 25 sets of bath towels and washcloths. We delivered the items on May 1. We plan to follow up with Kendra over the summer to see how it all came together.

OOM Dessert Mission

We will post the July-November dessert schedule in June. To sign up, or if you have questions, contact Elaine Pongratz @ mdmep@ptd.net

Our Orangeville Manor

We are working on possibly having a gathering at St. Paul's for the residents from OOM. Although we did provide a meal at Christmas, we did not get to socialize with our friends at OOM. Depending on availability of the congregation to socialize and help, we are tentatively planning a gathering in July or August.

In Our Prayers

O God of all mercy, look with favor on your servants who are in sickness, danger, sorrow or any other kind of trouble, especially:

LONG TERM PRAYERS (As of June 3, 2026):

Brian, Tom, Nate, Lori, Rosemary, Ray, Christian, Faisal and family in Bahrain, Mary, Richard, Craig, Elizabeth, Emily, Bryan, Dan, Amber, Bob, Mike, Sherry

Give them, we pray, courage and hope, and a happy issue from all their afflictions, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lectionary for June-July

June 7 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 5:15-6:6

Psalm 50:7-15

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 11 – St. Barnabas, Apostle

Isaiah 42:5-12

Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3

Matthew 10:7-16

Psalm 112

June 14 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 19:2-8a

Psalm 100

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 21 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalm 69:8-20

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

June 24 – Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Isaiah 40:1-11

Acts 13:14b-26

Luke 1:57-80

Psalm 85

June 28 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

June 29 – St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles

Ezekiel 34:11-16

2 Timothy 4:1-8

John 21:15-19

Psalm 87

July 5 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 145:8-15

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65:1-14

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19

Or Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalm 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 22 – Mary Magdalene

Judith 9:1, 11-14

2 Corinthians 5:14-18

John 20:11-18

Psalm 42:1-7

July 25 – Saint James, Apostle

Jeremiah 45:1-5

Acts 11:27-12:3

Matthew 20:20-28

Psalm 7:1-10

July 26 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

*If you haven't been
to Sunday service recently,
We miss you!*

Senior Warden's Message

As we move together through this Summer of ministry, I continue to be grateful for the faithfulness, generosity, and compassion that define our congregation. Serving as your Senior Warden is both an honor and a reminder that the strength of our parish is found not only in our worship on Sundays, but in the relationships we nurture throughout the week.

St. Paul's church remains a place of prayer, welcome, and hope because of the people who faithfully give their time and talents. From those who prepare the altar and music, to those who serve in outreach ministries, teach our children, visit parishioners, maintain our buildings, or simply offer a kind word to someone in need — each act reflects the love of Christ in meaningful ways.

The Vestry continues to focus on the health and future of our parish family. We are prayerfully considering how best to support our ministries, care for our facilities, and strengthen our financial stewardship while remaining grounded in our mission. These conversations are guided by hope and by confidence in God's continuing work among us.

I encourage all of us to remain engaged in the life of the church. Attend worship regularly, participate in fellowship opportunities, volunteer where you are able, and keep our parish leadership in your prayers. Every person has an important role in the life of this community.

Especially in uncertain times, the church can be a steady place of grace and belonging. Thank you for the many ways you contribute to that spirit here. Your

presence matters, and together we continue to build a parish rooted in faith, compassion, and service.

Faithfully,

Katherine Staller, Senior Warden



Kids' Sunday School

The Kids' Sunday School class recently completed a five-month study on the life of Moses. At our most recent class, the students did a wonderful job recounting the story of Moses using familiar visual cues we have built upon throughout the study, including a baby in a basket, the parting of the Red Sea, the Ten Commandments tablets, and our Lego Tabernacle.

During the summer months, Kids' Sunday School will begin a new series on the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23. Along with enjoying a variety of summer fruits for snacks, the children will learn about the work God does in the hearts of His people as He grows love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Kids' Sunday School is for school-aged children and meets in the downstairs Parish Hall during the 10:30 a.m. service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

May Vestry Report

Deacon's Report

- St. Paul's is maintaining a high level of Sunday attendance. There were 65 attendees on Mother's Day.
- Morning Prayer at noon on Ascension Day was not well attended.

Treasurer's Report

- Pledge income fell behind in April but is still ahead year-to-date. Unpledged income and plate income both continue to run ahead of budget. Easter Offerings exceeded expectations.
- Cell Tower lease income has increased by \$205 per month.
- Fund Raising income has come in ahead of projection.
- Other Income: A contribution of \$5,500 from Tom Evans' estate (one-time gift) will be applied to the \$28,000 bill for the new fire system.
- Overall: Total income for the Year-To-Date remains positive.

Old Business

- Approval of by-laws change regarding Vestry term limits: In April, Vestry discussed changes to the by-laws governing Vestry term limits. These changes were presented at the May 10th Parish meeting. It was determined that a Vestry member who had completed a 3-year term would be eligible to serve another consecutive 3-year term. The previous policy mandated an 11-month break between terms. The new policy extends the length of time a person may serve but does not allow a person to permanently hold a Vestry seat. A quorum was present; the motion passed.

- Prayer list: The revised prayer list has been working well. Individuals on the long-term list only need to be added once; the long-term list will be published in the newsletter and Happenings. The short-term list will be published in Happenings.
- Update on replacing the fence: Estimate from Suburban Fences \$3,600-\$3,800 including tear-down and removal.

New Business

Good Samaritan account: It is preferred practice within church communities to have a specific set of guidelines and auditable records for activity related to benevolence accounts like Good Samaritan. We do not currently have a written policy. Once drafted, the proposed guidelines will be presented to Vestry for review, recommendations for revision, and approval. The account is managed by Outreach and Parish Life.

Committee Reports

- Property: On-going painting in the Rectory.
- Worship: Doing well scheduling supply clergy; we are covered until September.

**Next Vestry meeting:
June 21 at 12:15**

**“You can do what I cannot do,
I can do what you cannot do;
together we can do great things.”**

—Mother Teresa

Parish Leadership

The Rev. Jim Jenkins, Deacon
Telephone: 541-306-1215
jim-jenkins@comcast.net

Dr. Alan Hack, Music Director
Hack0621@gmail.com

Patty Creasy, Church Secretary
Telephone: 570-594-4518
saintpaulsbloom@gmail.com

Officers

Katherine Staller, Senior Warden
kesbb@windstream.net

Valerie Evert, Junior Warden
Valerie17815@gmail.com

Victoria Wilcox, Secretary
Victoriawilcox7@gmail.com

Dennis MacMahon, Treasurer
Denmac733@gmail.com

Other Vestry Members

Rachel Bitler
rbitler@ptd.net

Doug Hippenstiel
Dch17846@gmail.com

'Noisy' Collection

In June, the Noisy Collection at St. Paul's will go to the Bloomsburg Food Cupboard. If you do not have the opportunity to place your coins in the collection plate during Sunday services at the church, you may send a check and write "BFC" on the memo line.

In July, the Noisy Collection at St. Paul's will go to the Bloomsburg Women's Shelter. If you do not have the opportunity to place your coins in the collection plate during Sunday services, you may send a check and write "Women's Shelter" on the memo line.

June Baptismal Birthdays

Robert Barton Sr. * Sallie Sitler * John Hobbis * Jean Atherton * Eric Hess * Ken Roszel * Robert Barton Jr. * Leigh Ann Hamilton * Meredith DeWald * Megan Hicks * Ian Lowe * Ian Hicks * Ellen Tyree * Jessica Cooper * Lee Nicholas Johnson * Keira Pringle * Molly Elizabeth Cooper * Harvey Denson Chiado * Emmitt Jack Miller * Jack Charles Buck

July Baptismal Birthdays

Dan Knorr * Cynthia Matzko * Mary DeWald * Kathleen Mohr * Heather Creasy Hyatt * Andrew Fritz * Alexander Lowe * Molly Hopkins * Katherine Staller * Willow Pearl Motyka * Carson George Miller * Stevie Louise Cleaver