

FRIENDLY NEWSCASTER

October 2025 (V15-10)

1. *Message from Pastor*
Dave

2. *Scripture Readings*

3. *Events &*
Announcements

4. *Monthly Mission*
Offering

4. *Nurses Notes*

6. *Prayer List*

7. *Contact Information*

YA newsletter

We are gathered together
as a family of faith to
share God's love by:
Inviting and welcoming all
people of God's creation.
Worshiping and praising
God. Teaching and
preaching the Good
News. Caring for the

Calendar

October 2025 Newscaster

We Were Aliens and Refugees



"You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt." – Exodus 22:21

On *Sunday, October 12*, we will be celebrating the 300-year anniversary of the first Communion in German Reformed Church in Pennsylvania—a predecessor group to the United Church of Christ and part of the lineage of our own congregation.

On October 15, 1725, the German Reformed Church held its first documented Communion service at what was then Faulkner Swamp Reformed Church in Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania – now Faulkner Swamp UCC. The sacrament marked the formal establishment of this influential branch of Reformed Christianity which grew to hundreds of churches in Pennsylvania and surrounding areas.

Our ancestors in faith found Pennsylvania to be a land of opportunity and tolerance very much unlike what they had experienced in New York and in the German principalities. For much of the 1600's, mercenary armies marched against the growing number of Protestants, destroying thousands of villages and many more innocent lives—leaving scenes of total destruction in their wake.

A ray of hope from England appeared in the late 1600's with the passage of the Tolerance laws during Queen Anne's reign. Protestant England opened her arms to Protestants desiring to flee the warring German principalities. Hundreds, then thousands, then tens of thousands fled to London. In London, they did not find war, but neither did they find peace. Left to starve in the streets, the common folk in England saw them as unwanted competition driving down their wages and taking the charity that should have gone to them. One 24-page diatribe ended saying, "We're poor enough among ourselves, Need no encroaching foreign elves." Riots broke out in the streets.

Within three years the English government rescinded its welcome and aimed to rid London of these foreigners. Many sought to escape across the Atlantic. In 1710, 3,100 refugees found passage across the ocean by indenturing themselves. Over 400 died on the trip, and new widows and widowers married even though they spoke many different dialects of German—the earliest origins of Pennsylvania Dutch. The Governor of the colony sent the refugees to serve as a buffer between the French and native Americans near Albany,

NY. If either of them attacked -- the refugees would be killed first. The Governor also required them to prepare turpentine, rosin, tar, pitch, and hemp for the British Navy to pay off the cost of their passage—but the only tar bearing tree in America, the Georgia pine, did not grow north of Virginia. The refugees simply could not produce what the Governor required. Hunger set in. People were boiling grass, and children were eating leaves off the trees. In the winter of 1712, the British government ended this arrangement, and told the refugees they would have to fend for themselves.

Nearby Iroquois took pity on the refugees, and helped to care for them that winter, and to settle on their land near the Mohawk River, which nearly half of them wound up doing.

A decade later, in 1722, the Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania traveled to Albany for a meeting of colonial representatives. When he heard of the plight of the refugees he told them of "the freedom and justice accorded to

their countrymen in Pennsylvania.” One of these refugees traveled down the East Branch of the Susquehanna to see for himself, and returned in praise Pennsylvania’s farm lands. Soon bands of refugees were heading south, even as others continued to flee from the German principalities, and to find their way to what is now York County.

“In that first Communion in 1725,” the Rev. Bill Worley, Conference Minister of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference said, “I imagine German refugees who longed for the stability of home, the resonance of their grandparent’s language, the assurance that God had not abandoned them in a new wilderness. Communion gave them belonging – that they were not just scattered immigrants, but the body of Christ knit into a story stretching back to the first communion.”

“The first communion reminds us that the church’s strength has never been in numbers, wealth, or power. Its strength is at the table. In every age, including ours, the question is not whether the bread is enough, but whether we are willing to be broken and shared in the same way,” Worley said. “The table waits for strangers who are claimed as family. Wounds are noticed and blessed. Hunger is not shamed, but fed. Across centuries and languages, across continents and cultures, the miracle is the same: Christ is here. Christ is for you. Christ is enough.”

Peace, Pastor Dave

Scripture Readings for October

Date (YC)	Notes	Scriptures
Oct. 5	Free to Grieve, World Communion Sunday	Lamentations 1, 3; Psalm 137; Philemon 1:1-21; Luke 17:5-10
Oct. 12	Planting Life (300th Anniversary of German Reformed Church in U.S.); Re-dedication of sanctuary	Jer. 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 17:11-19
Oct. 29	Ask boldly; Live justly, Children’s Sunday	Jer 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 18:1-8
Oct. 26	Take Heart	Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 18:9-14

Worship Helpers, October 2025

If you would like to serve in worship as a Scripture reader, please let Pastor Dave know. And if you would like to help with our audio-visual system, please talk with Chip Hoover. We would love to have your assistance.

Date	Acolyte	AV & Streaming	Read Scripture	Greeter	Head Usher	Communion Preparation
Oct. 5	Emily H.	Chip H. Terry M.	Jen M.	Jen M.	Jim K.	Sharon S.
Oct. 12	Grant H.	Chip H. Terry M.	Sharon S.		Jim K.	na
Oct. 19	Josh B.	Chip H. Terry M.	Joy G.		Jim K.	na
Oct. 26	Lauren H.	Chip H. Terry M.	Darlene H.		Jim K.	na

Events & Announcements



Our Daily Bread: We will be preparing a meal for Our Daily Bread on *Wednesday Oct. 29* and making Tuna salad. Asking for dessert item made with *pumpkin breads, muffins, cookies* etc. They can be brought to the church any time up until 8 p.m. on the 29. or put in the freezer earlier. Thank you.

Items Needed for Spring Grove Schools Hygiene Kits: During the month of October we will be collecting items for the Spring Grove schools Hygiene kits. We are asking for *25 chap sticks* and *400 band aids*. These are due by *Sunday October 19th*. We are planning to pack on *Tuesday October 28th*. If you have any questions See Maryann.

Community Aid Donations: It's time for our semi-annual clothing drive for Community Aid. During the month of October, we will be collecting gently used clothing. On any Sunday morning throughout the month of October, bring along your clothing to worship in boxes or garbage bags and deposit them in the vehicle specified for collection in the parking lot. Have clothing you want to donate throughout the year? You may drop off clothing at any local Community Aid drop

off center. Use our partner number 20089 and the church will get a monetary donation back. In addition, Community Aid will now accept items with padding. All donation centers were equipped with the necessary capacity to accept and sterilize items with padding and cushions, such as sleeping bags, pillows, quilts and more.

Women's Bible Study: Our Women's Bible Study group will be held on October 21 at 1:00. If you have questions, please contact either Joyce Kain at 717-817-0914 or Jane Bankert at 717-225-3738

Intergenerational Confirmation Faith Discussions

Join us in our Intergenerational Confirmation Faith Discussions, an opportunity to support the needs of diverse youth and adults seeking to grow in faith and to be confirmed. What had been in the past separate Sunday morning groups, a youth-focused Confirmation program, and an Intergenerational Faith Discussion group, is now fused together, but with two tracks over the next two program years: a high commitment track for those seeking to be confirmed, or to have a renewed confirmation experience, and a low commitment track for those who seek enjoyable and compelling faith conversations and fellowship, including those who wish to be able to come when they can. *We meet every Sunday at 9:00 am. You are welcome to join us for any or all of our discussions at any time!* If you have questions, please contact Pastor Dave.

Upcoming Fellowship Events

The Fellowship and Outreach Committee hopes you can join us on *Sunday, October 26 at 4 PM* for a fellowship gathering. Subs (and some sides) will be provided, and we are asking everyone to bring an apple or pumpkin dessert to share. Depending upon the weather, also bring indoor or outdoor games to play! It is sure to be a good time with delicious food! Questions? Contact Jen Miller.

Also, please put the following dates on the church calendar if they are not already on it.

- Oct. 26 at 4 PM – *Fall fellowship gathering*
- Dec. 13 – *Progressive Dinner*
- Jan. 17 at 6 PM – *Winter Banquet*
- Feb. 1 – *Souper Sunday following worship*

First Sunday Fellowship & Our October Birthdays

Join us for our first Sunday Fellowship and monthly birthday celebration on Sunday, October 5 following worship. Our October birthdays include the following: Our October birthdays include the following: Sally Kern (2), Skylar Chinault (3), Faith Brenneman (3), Jane Bankert (4), Meredith Howard (5), Virginia Thoman (5), Karlee Bosley (5), Bristol Garrett (8), Brook Senft (8), Tom Harlacker (10), Deborah Fake (10), Joy Gobrecht (11), Kyle Chinault (16), Samantha Ripple (19), Noah Church (19), Tanner Hoffman (19), William Webb (30).

Helping with our Christmas Progressive Dinner

Get ready to deck the halls, jingle all the way, and enjoy a night of delicious food and holiday cheer at our *Christmas Progressive Dinner on Saturday, December 13, 2025!* We'll travel from home to home, savoring a different course at each stop—while enjoying sparkling lights, festive music, and plenty of Christmas spirit. We could use some help to make it merry! If you'd like to host (or co-host by helping with set-up or cooking), please let us know as soon as possible so we can firm up the plans. Whether you love setting a cozy table, whipping up your signature dish, or simply spreading cheer, there's a spot for you! Mark your calendars now for the evening of Dec. 13. More details to follow!

Monthly Mission Offering: Neighbors in Need

The Neighbors in Need offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network, Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Nurses Notes



Dear Friends, October is the month when nature's colors are at their peak. We can see God's handiwork in the red, yellow and multicolored leaves. The corn stalks are turning brown and the bright orange pumpkins.

It is also the month for fire prevention. It is time to check your smoke detectors. Make sure you have a least one on every level of the home. Making sure you have a plan if there is a fire as to where your family will meet. Make sure your fire extinguishers are up to date.



It is also National Home Safety Month. It is also time to check your home's exterior. Make sure you do not have any high shrubbery against your home where people could hide. Always keep your window and doors locked at night. Keep your blinds and curtains drawn at night. Never let a stranger into your home if they need to use the phone get the number and make the call for them.

Are cleaning fluids and all other household/garage chemicals stored out of the reach of children and clearly marked. Be sure to keep all medications stored in child-proof bottles and out of reach of children.



Halloween is at the end of the month. If you out driving during trick or treat be sure to watch carefully for children along the street they may not be watching for cars. Have a safe holiday.

Peace, Maryann

Join the Work Against Hunger!



Hanover Against Hunger

Feeding the Hungry since 2012

hanoveragainsthunger.org

Hanover Against Hunger has raised \$160,000 and packed more than half a million meals in the last six events. These meals have helped to feed children in Haiti, Columbia, Malai, Liberia, Burundi, Zambia and the Philippines.

Recently, meals from Rise Against Hunger have been set to Ukraine and to refugee centers in nearby Poland, to aid in the feeding the millions of displaced children and families from war in their home country. Food is distributed through schools, orphanages, and disaster relief.

How Can YOU be a part of it?

We will be participating in the meal-packing event at 9:00 am on November 1 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Hanover. Help pack meals for those in hunger. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

There are three 2-hour packing sessions, at 9 am, 11:30 am and 2 pm. This event is held in the Fellowship Hall of St. Mathew Lutheran Church in Hanover. Let Kathy Sterrett, Darlene Hoover or Pastor Dave know if you want to register to help! For more information visit: www.hanoveragainsthunger.org.

You can also help raise money for this event by eating at the Texas Roadhouse on October 5, 6, 19, or 20.



The next Meal Packing event is set for November 1 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Hanover, PA.

We are beginning to receive donations toward our goal of raising \$44,000, which will enable us to pack 100,000 meals, but many more dollars and hands are needed.

You can help by going to

<https://riseagainsthunger.org/register/>

Regardless of how you choose to help — by packing, donating, or both — we NEED you.



Hunger Meal Packing Event and their efforts to alleviate hunger in our community and around the globe. See the reverse side for the dates this applies.

To learn more visit hanoveragainsthunger.org.
Our next **Community Meal Packing Event** is **November 1, 2025**.



When dining at the Roadhouse on these dates, please tell your server you would like 10% of your tab donated to support local food relief organizations and Hanover Against Hunger. Then, join us to pack 100,000 meals on Nov. 1, 2025. Visit facebook.com/HanoverAgainstHunger.

Dates Roadhouse 10% Donation Applies

Feb 16 & 17
Mar 2 & 3; 16 & 17
Apr 6 & 7; 21 & 22
May 4 & 5; 18 & 19
Jun 1 & 2; 15 & 16
Jul 6 & 7; 21 & 22
Aug 3 & 4; 17 & 18
Sep 7 & 8; 21 & 22
Oct 5 & 6; 19 & 20

Thank Yous from...

St. Paul's UMC, Reisterstown, MD for the pews we donated to their congregation. They are extremely appreciative. You can find their notes of gratitude and thanksgiving on the bulletin board outside the church office.



Barbara Senft: The proverb “many hands make light work” was well proven during the cleaning up, clearing out, and reorganizing of our church’s classrooms, closets, and storage rooms following the sanctuary renovations. A long time had passed by since those areas of the church were given good old “spring cleaning!” The classroom and storage rooms have all been cleaned. Cabinets, shelves and bookcases have been tidied up. You will find many items are in labeled bins with the hope of making them easier to find, use, and return to their designated storage area.

To all who helped with this work we say,
Thank you, Thank YOU, THANK YOU!

Thank Yous to...

Jen Miller for helping to organize our Covenant Picnic with our sister church, St. Paul's Lutheran, at North Codorus Township Park.

Everyone who pitched in to help serve food, and clean up after, the wedding reception for Scott and Kayla (Thoman) Gross.

Chip Hoover for installing a Communion preparation area with cabinets in the “sink room” on the main floor where it will be much more convenient for our communion preparers.

Maryann Brenneman for organizing our Soup Sale, and for all of you who donated corn and time preparing the soup.

Congratulations to...

Scott and Kayla (Thoman) Gross on your wedding by the church's gazebo on September 7!



Please pray with us!

Then they cried to God in their trouble, and God saved them from their distress. God sent out his word and healed them. -- Psalm 107:19-20

Holy One, we pray for:

Those shut in their homes/assisted living: Liz Chubb, Clair Fritz, Fay Herman, Sarah Senft

Those who need healing:

Sara Bare, Rick Beck, Tom Bering, Bob Brenneman, Rylan Borys, Ken Church, Robin Gentzler, David Klinedinst, Erin Trayer

Those recovering from hospitalization or surgery:

Sue Howes, Sharon Warner-Smith

All those longing for peace in the world, refugees escaping terror, people suffering from disasters

All those struggling to pay their utility bills, rent, mortgage, and groceries.

All those struggling with domestic abuse.

To the families of the police officers who lost their lives on September 17 in service to our community:

Detective Sergeant Cody Becker, Detective Mark Baker, and Detective Isaiah Emenheiser

Our college and graduate students:

Mackenzie Fritz, Darren Gobrecht, Holden Gobrecht, Hannah Mansfield, Luke Miller, Rachel Miller, Emily Ramsay, Bryce Thoman

Contact Information

Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 - 11:30 am.

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday mornings.

Prayer Chain Contact Pastor Dave (716-946-7349), Jane Bankert (717-225-3738), or Darlene Hoover (717-792-3153) to begin the prayer chain. To add a name to our printed prayer list, contact the church office.

Emergency Pastoral Needs For more immediate care, please contact Pastor Dave at 716-946-7349 (cell).

Ways to Support St. Paul's UCC

Grocery Cards Giant, Weis and Kennie's cards are available in amounts from \$10 to \$100. The church receives 5% of your purchase toward our expenses. Call Maryann Brenneman (717-225-4497) for additional information.

Submission due dates:

Newsletter:

Refer to Calendar

Sunday bulletin requests:

Tuesday of each week

Committee minutes:

Tuesday prior to Consistory meeting

Requests for use of the church building:

Forms are in the narthex tray.



ADDRESS: St. Paul's United Church of Christ Stoverstown

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WEBSITE: www.stpaulsstoverstown.org

E-MAIL: stpaulsstoverstown@comcast.net

FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsucc>

CHURCH CALENDAR: <http://tinyurl.com/spucccalendar>

CHURCH OFFICE E-MAIL: stpaulsstoverstown@comcast.net

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: (717) 225-6357

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God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

