

# FRIENDLY NEWSCASTER

September 2024 (V14-9)

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## YA newsletter Calendar

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 needs of one another, the community, and the world.

## September 2024 Newscaster

### *Season of Creation: Our Common Home*

The Season of Creation is a month-long time (September 1 to October 6) to celebrate God as Creator, the ongoing gift of God's creation, and our role as lovers and caretakers of God's creation. Inspired by a rich tradition of the Orthodox Church, it was later embraced by the World Council of Churches in 2008 and the Catholic Church in 2015. Along the way, Protestant churches and denominations around the world began encouraging that the Season of Creation be honored. Our church began honoring the Season of Creation in 2019.

Of course, like the households of many of our members, we began honoring God's creation long before that. The labor of many has shaped our beautiful church grounds and gardens. We situated a gazebo to afford fine views of the fields, woodlands, and high hills around us, and tiny aspect of the beauty of the world, our common home.

So it is appropriate that this year our theme is "Our Common Home." The theme has its roots in the Greek word, *oikos*, or household. In the first century, individuals and nuclear families for the most part did not live in their own homes. Rather, extended families lived together with servants under one roof as a household. Maintaining family relationships was one purpose of a household; producing goods and services was another purpose, whether the family ran a farm or a masonry workshop. Every household had to manage their business.

So it might not surprise you that the Greek words for household (*oikos*) management are the root of the modern term, *eco-nomy*.

What if God's created world was a household (*oikos*), our common home? How could we understand the logic of this household, this common home? We would study *eco-logy*.

What if we believed that church households around the world should be in conversation? *Ecumenism*, from the Greek word "*oikoumene*," (see *oikos* hidden in that word?) meaning "the whole inhabited world," is the promotion of cooperation and unity among Christians.

These different ways that the Greek word for household can be employed gives us a window to see the connections between our financial economy, the web of life that God is creating, and Christ's Spirit which is in and through our Common Home.

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Sept. 1  | Season of Love of our Common Home               |
| Sept. 8  | Economy: God's rules for our Common Home;       |
| Sept. 15 | Ecology: Protecting our Common Home             |
| Sept. 22 | Ecumenism: The family of God in our Common Home |
| Sept. 29 | Pray and act for our Common Home                |
| Oct. 6   | Hope for our Common Home                        |

Let us center our hearts, minds, and spirits on God our Creator, and on the gifts and needs of our God-given Common Home.

Peace, *Pastor Dave*

## Worship Helpers, September 2024

Date	Acolyte	Streaming; Sound	PowerPoint Projection	Read Scripture	Greeter	Head Usher	Communion Preparation
Sept. 1	Josh B.	Chip H. Terry M.	Holden G.	Luke M.	Darlene H.		na
Sept. 8	Holden G.	Chip H. Terry M.	Luke M.	Sharon S.	Terry & Cindy G.		na
Sept. 15	Grant H.	Chip H. Terry M.	Kayla T.	Kathy S.			na
Sept. 22	Luke M.	Chip H. Terry M.	Josh B.	Darlene H.			na
Sept. 29	Josh B.	Chip H. Terry M.	Holden G.	Meredith H.			TBD

### Events & Announcements

[Food Pantry Shopping Cart requested for this month:](#) Pasta Sides and Hamburger Helper

[Consistory Highlights:](#) Consistory took the first step in our sanctuary renovations by voting to contract with Heather Rineer Designs, and authorized the \$500 deposit that is required to retain this firm.

[Soup Sale:](#) We will be having a soup sale on Saturday October 5. There will be chicken corn soup, gluten free chicken corn, and ham and bean soup. We will be preparing the soup on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 3 and 4. and will need help. Orders will be due by September 28. We are not planning to have a spring sale; so order for your needs. Questions call Maryann @717-515-6359.

### [Upcoming Fellowship Events](#)

*August 25:* Outdoor worship at 10:15 am and **picnic** to follow. Bring lawn chairs! Activities will be moved inside in case of poor weather. Corn on the cob, paper products, and drinks will be provided. Please bring any side dish or dessert to share.

*September 1:* **First Sunday of the month fellowship** and recognizing September birthdays will be held after the 10:15 service. The Fellowship Committee will offer fruit and veggie trays, dessert bread and beverages. Hope you can join us on that Labor Day Sunday!

Our September birthdays include the following: Amanda Carmichael (1), Sara Hartman (2), Averleigh Fake (2), Caitlin Hoffman (4), Kevin Baum (6), Wesley Brooks (8), Kira Hull (8), Denise Harlacker (10), Isaac Young (10), Mike Fake (12), Mike Senft (12), Larry Riddle (13), Drue Allison (14), Chris Wilhide, Sr. (20), Thatcher Stough (21), Ameira Pritt (25), Joshua Brenneman (27), Kayce Gentzler (28), and Mike Bollinger (29).

*September 8:* **Covenant (potluck) Picnic** at noontime. Join in with our congregation and our sister congregation, St. Paul's Lutheran, at the park in North Codorus Township as we celebrate our Covenant! Bring along a covered dish to share. Drinks, paper goods and table coverings will be provided. Bingo and prizes, along with other games planned! Bring your lawn chairs. We plan to close around 2:30 with a brief vesper and singing time. Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex for the planners. In the event of rain, we will move to St. Paul's Lutheran's Fellowship Hall.

*October 6:* **First Sunday of the month fellowship** and recognizing October birthdays will be held after the 10:15 service.

*October 26* at 4:00 pm: **Chili Cook-Off.** We'll have fun sampling the different chili recipes that we have prepared.

## Harvest Home Announcement

Our annual Harvest Home will be celebrated *Sunday, September 8*. We will be collecting nonperishable food items and fresh produce, which will be given to York's LifePath Christian Ministries. Nonperishable food items may be brought to church over the next weeks and put into a box in the narthex that will be labeled Harvest Home. Fresh produce and nonperishables may be brought the day before (church will be open from 10 to 12) or on Sunday morning. LifePath will receive our Special Monthly Mission gifts as well for September. Thank you for recognizing the needs of people in our local community who struggle with food security!

## Sunday Morning Intergenerational Faith Discussions

Starting on *September 8*, we'll be meeting at 9:00 am to reflect on the fundamentals of our faith. We'll be using a video-based resource called Animate Faith. It's a resource designed to put you on the edge of your seats. Come and join the conversation!

God | Faith is a Quest | Brian McLaren (September 8)

Religion | Spirituality Is Not Enough | Lillian Daniel (September 15)

Jesus | The Revolution of Love | Mark Scandrette (September 22)

Salvation | Abundant Life Now | Shane Hipps (September 29)

Cross | Where God Is | Nadia Bolz-Weber (October 6)

Bible | A Book Like No Other | Lauren Winner (October 13)

Church | An Imperfect Family | Bruce Reyes-Chow (October 20)



## Thank Yous

Thank you to Barb and Josh Brenneman, Braden, Darren, Holden and Matt Gobrecht, Chip and Darlene Hoover, and Mackenzie Fritz for building a much-needed ramp for Maryann Brenneman's sister-in-law, Pat Rauhauser.



Thank you to Chip Hoover and Holden Gobrecht for putting the finishing touches on the first part of our Heritage Grove walkway.

Thank you to the Classic Four Trombone Quartet: Kevin, Larry, Jim, Steve, for so joyously enhancing our worship on August 18!

Mike Senft for putting new burners on the church stoves.

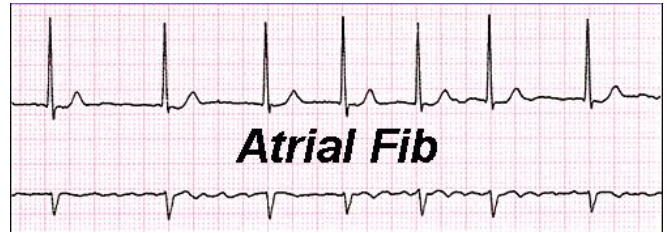
### **Monthly Mission Offering: Hoffman Home for Youth (Harvest Home)**

Hoffman Home is a behavioral health provider, offering services to youth and young adults to include a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Program (PRTF), a Transitional Living Program (TLP) and a Shelter. These programs are committed to treating youth and young adults ages 7-21 who struggle with severe mental health conditions due to experiencing trauma, abuse, neglect, or loss in their young lives.





Dear Friends,  
 This month I'm writing about atrial fibrillation (AFib), a common heart condition that often goes undiagnosed.

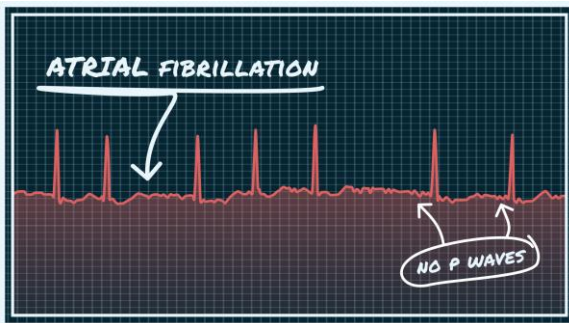


AFib is the most common type of irregular heartbeat that often causes the heart to beat too quickly. One of the biggest concerns of AFib is the risk of strokes. In fact, people with AFib have at least 5 times greater risk of stroke than those who do not have AFib. In fact, it is projected by 2030 approximately 12 million people in the United States will have AFib.

Symptoms can come and go. They include *irregular heartbeat, racing heart, chest pain, shortness of breath, fatigue and light headedness*. If you have these symptoms, you should discuss them with your physician. You need to see your health care provider to determine if it is AFib or another condition.

Risk factors include *age 65 or older, high blood pressure, diabetes, sleep apnea, heavy alcohol use, heart disease such as congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease, prior heart attack, smoking, obesity and overactive thyroid*.

Atrial fibrillation is most often caused by changes to the heart's tissue or the electrical signaling that helps the heart to beat. Drinking lots of water helps with AFib. Adequate water intake ensures optimal blood circulation, delivery water removal, blood pressure regulation, heart rate, and electrolyte balance. All vital functions. Dehydration can increase AFib by starving the heart and disrupting electrolyte balance.



Keep up to date with all your health checkups.

Maryann

Revised Common Lectionary Scripture Readings for September		
Date	Themes	Scriptures
Sept. 1	15th Sunday after Pentecost	Song of Sol 2:8-13
Sept. 8	16th Sunday after Pentecost	Proverbs 22 & Psalm 125, James 2; Mark 7:24-37
Sept. 15	17th Sunday after Pentecost	Proverbs 1 & Psalm 19, James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38
Sept. 22	18th Sunday after Pentecost	Proverbs 31 & Psalm 1, James 3:13-4:8; Mark 9:30-37
Sept. 29	19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Esther 7:1-6,9-10; 9:20-22 Psalm 124; James 5:13-30; Mark 9:38-50
Oct. 6	20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; World Communion Sunday:	Job 1:1; 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16



## *Please pray with us!*

*Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—  
Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,  
Who redeems your life from the pit and  
crowns you with love and compassion.*

—Psalm 103:2-4

### *Holy One, we pray for:*

#### *Those with new children or grandchildren:*

Our Administrative Assistant, Sharon Warner-Smith's third grandchild, Remington, was born on August 7 at 3:30 am, weighing 8 lb. 3 oz. Mom and child are healthy.

#### *Those shut in their homes/assisted living:*

Liz Chubb, Norma Foye, Claire and Mary Ellen Fritz, Sarah Senft

#### *Those who need healing:*

Rylan Borys, Ken Church, Robin Gentzler, Fay Herman, Linda Herman, Sue Howes, David Klinedinst, Jane Miller, Larry Thoman, Erin Trayer

#### *All those longing for peace in the world, refugees escaping terror, people suffering from disasters and all soldiers serving their country in the military, especially:*

Chris Glass, Jason Moncuse

#### *Our college and graduate students:*

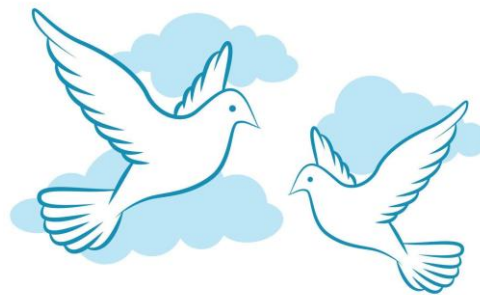
Mackenzie Fritz, Darren Gobrecht, Hannah Mansfield, Rachel Miller, Emily Ramsay, Bryce Thoman, Chris Wilhide, Johnny Wilhide

#### *Those in hospice care:*

Tom Beringer's mother. Tom is Jody (Miller's) husband, and Terry's son-in-law.

#### *Those grieving the loss of loved ones, especially:*

Family and friends of the Rev. Julie Beall (Zwingli UCC in East Berlin), Vivian McCoury, and Phyllis Mosebrook



A gift was made towards the Heritage Grove trees and stones in memory of Richard and Ruth Klinedinst by Terry and Cindy Gruver.

## Contact Information

### Church Office Hours

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

### Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, and 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).

### 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.

## 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.



**ADDRESS:** St. Paul's United Church of Christ Stoverstown  
2173 Stoverstown Rd, Spring Grove PA 17362-7829

**WEBSITE:** [www.stpaulsstoverstown.org](http://www.stpaulsstoverstown.org)

**E-MAIL:** [stpaulsstoverstown@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulsstoverstown@comcast.net)

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

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

**CHURCH OFFICE E-MAIL:** [stpaulsstoverstown@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulsstoverstown@comcast.net)

**CHURCH OFFICE PHONE:** (717) 225-6357

*Please "like" us on Facebook and refer us to your friends.*





# NEWS of the 24 Churches of the York Association

**Partners in Blessing - Cooperative Mission,  
Cooperative Ministry**

Like us on Facebook: [yorkucc](https://www.facebook.com/yorkucc)  
Website: [www.yorkassociationucc.org](http://www.yorkassociationucc.org)  
YA Email: [info@yorkassociationucc.org](mailto:info@yorkassociationucc.org)

## SEPTEMBER 2024 – Newsletter

### Mission Statement

We, the members of the York Association of the United Church of Christ, are called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to represent Christ by:

- supporting one another in our covenantal relationship;
- calling clergy and laity to mutual accountability to the faith and order of the church;
- witnessing together to God's redeeming love. (Adopted April 28, 1991)

### Democracy in the Church

Recently, I needed to check on a quotidian question of governance in our congregation. When I found a copy of our church's forty-year-old constitution (I don't look at it very often), the first word of its three-sentence long preface caught my eye: "Democracy." Democracy has been in the news a lot recently. Some say roadblocks are being put in the way of those who should be able to vote; others that there are not enough roadblocks to prevent those who should not vote from voting. Seldom does the news discuss *why* democracy is or is not important. The preface of our church's constitution attempts to address the why question.

"Democracy, in the church as in the surrounding culture, is a way to guide between tyranny and anarchy," the preface begins. In this statement I hear echoes of the battles against fascism in WWII and totalitarian communism in the Cold War. I also hear echoes of the Reformation protest of top-down ways of doing church, and dismay at the decade's long religious wars and chaos that followed the Reformation among the German principalities and in England and Scotland. Democracy is a ship that steers between having only one person's convictions count and having everyone's convictions count, but no way to address differing convictions other than indifference or violence.

The simplest definition of democracy might be "one person, one vote." Sometimes churches habitually use this form of democracy. When differences arise in these churches, there is a vote, and the majority rules—even if the majority is less invested in their vote than the minority, and even if the minority is not encouraged to give full voice to their convictions. The minority may feel unheard and unloved. Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves may go unheeded.

Perhaps that is why the second sentence reads, "The governance of God cannot be equated with democracy, nor the discovery of God's will with any human ordering principle." Here is a caution against worshipping democracy or making an idol out of it. God has engaged and led God's people through all sorts of governing arrangements, even some that were utterly hostile to God's will. That is one reason why I find Christ crucified and resurrected so compelling. Perhaps we should join with Winston Churchill in his humble assessment of democracy: "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others."

So, the preface to our church's constitution concludes: "Rather, God's kingdom exists within us, above, beneath us and beyond us, "that your faith might not rest on the wisdom of men [sic], but on the power of God.' (1 Cor 2:5)" In other words, God's reigning is embedded in the very fabric of life and human relationships. We need to be attentive to God's reigning.

Jesus does not give us step-by-step instructions for how to do this. Rather, in comparing God's reign to a farmer who scatters seed, or to a farmer who scatters mustard seed, or to a woman who leavens a huge quantity of flour with yeast, etc. he invites us to engage in imagining the world God desires, a world shaped by mercy and grace, flourishing and abundance. We are to be attentive to God's ways of kindness and compassion. God's reigning is a vision to for faithful people to live for, and to live by. To live into God's reigning calls for deep listening to God and one another and God's creation. For sharing from the heart. For healing, patience, and kindness. Loving relationships are both the means and the end of our decision-making, individually and corporately. Easier said than done. And often harder than simply "one person, one vote."

How does your congregation assess democracy in its life, and its relationship with our York Association and Penn Central Conference? Your reflections are welcome, especially in time for our October and November newsletters.

Peace, Dave Martin, Pastor  
davidkmartin6@gmail.com  
St. Paul's UCC (Stoverstown)

**An Ecclesiastical Council for  
Dr. Dominique P. Denman  
is scheduled for  
Sunday, Aug 25 at 3:00 pm at  
Trinity UCC, York**

**CORRECTION** - The Rev. Jim Eaton of the Congregational Christian... denomination is serving Locust Grove UCC as a part time interim.

The **UCC Environmental Ministries** is rolling out a **Vote Climate Hope Campaign** this summer and fall.

To help your congregations participate, they have created this toolkit full of best practices, tips and more.

<https://www.ucc.org/vote-for-climate-hope-congregation-toolkit/>

Submitted by: Libby Loser



TRINITY UCC - YORK  
SUMMER MUSIC SERIES!

July 21, 2024 - 1 PM  
Lahoda String Ensemble

August 25, 2024 - 1 PM  
Sterling Overshown - Pipe Organist

FREE ADMISSION

32 W. Market St.  
York, PA 17401  
Rev. Dr. Kellie Turner,  
Pastor

September 29, 2024 - 1 PM  
Mark Anthony Hadley - Vocal Recital

717-848-1775  
www.trinityucc-york.org

## Around the Association

### Hayshire UCC, 100 Haybrook Dr, York

Come out and join us at Hayshire UCC for a youth-led worship on **Sunday, September 8th at 10am** and stay for our end-of-summer potluck immediately after worship. Please RSVP by calling 717-848-4007 by Tuesday, September 3rd if you are planning to attend so we have a headcount for the main course for lunch. Hope to see you there!

### Locust Grove UCC, 1035 Locust Grove Rd, York

**What: Chicken BBQ & Bake Sale**

**When: Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 11am until sold out**

Our dinners will include: ½ chicken, baked potato, applesauce, roll & butter, cupcake, and a bottle of water for a cost of \$11.00. We will offer eat-in or carry-out. You may pre-order by calling 717.755.1318 and leaving a message including your name, phone number and the number of dinners. All ordered dinners must be picked up by 1pm.

### St. John's UCC, 161 North Main St, Red Lion

**What: Chicken BBQ**

**When: Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 11am – 2pm (or until sold out)**

Dinner consists of ½ chicken, baked potato, applesauce, roll & butter. Tickets are \$12.00. You may pre-order by calling 717-244-5031. If no answer, please leave a message including your name, phone number and the number of dinners.

### Zion UCC, 100 Lafayette St, York

Zion UCC is seeking a part-time **organist and/or pianist**. Salary is negotiable. Interested individuals should contact Mrs. Barbara Neiman, Zion Worship Committee Chair, by phone (717-792-1658); cell/text: (717-880-7458) or e-mail ([can@gte.net](mailto:can@gte.net)).

This individual will be responsible for providing the music for our one-hour Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. and special events, as appropriate. Musician will accompany Zion's Chancel Choir during the Worship service with a thirty (30) minute warm-up session immediately before each Sunday service. Choral directing is not part of this position.

### Attn: York Association UCC Clergy

The next meeting is on **September 11, at 11am**, at Lion's Pride Restaurant, Red Lion, PA

**The next newsletter, OCTOBER, will be emailed September 20, 2024.**

**Please send articles to  
[news@yorkassociationucc.org](mailto:news@yorkassociationucc.org)  
by September 18. Thank You!**



# St. Paul's UCC - Stoverstown

## September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:15am Worship Amanda Carmichael Braden Gobrecht	2 Labor Day Sara Hartman, Averleigh Fake	3 1:00pm Stewardship & Missions Committee Brynn Gruver	4 6:00pm Fellowship & Outreach Committee 7:15pm Shalom Choir Caitlin Hoffman	5 6:30pm Sonshine Singers	6 Kevin Baum	7
8 9:00am Intergenerational Sunday School 10:15am Worship 12:00pm Covenant (potluck) Picnic @ North Codorus Township Park Kira Hull	9 7:00pm Worship Committee	10 Isaac Young, Denise Harlacker	11 7:15pm Shalom Choir	12 6:30pm Sonshine Singers Michael Fake, Michael Senft	13 Larry Riddle, Jr	14 Drue Allison
15 9:00am Intergenerational Sunday School 10:15am Worship Steve Miller	16 7:00pm Consistory	17 Newsletter deadline Steve & Jayne Harman	18 7:15pm Shalom Choir Norma Foye	19 6:30pm Sonshine Singers Fay Herman	20 Chris Wilhide	21 Thatcher Stough
22 9:00am Intergenerational Sunday School 10:15am Worship	23	24	25 7:15pm Shalom Choir Ameira Pritt Maryann Brenneman Corey & Sami Ripple	26 6:30pm Sonshine Singers	27 Joshua Brenneman	28 Kayce Webb
29 9:00am Intergenerational Sunday School 10:15am Worship Mike Bollinger	30 Haley Helf	1 1:00pm Stewardship & Missions Committee	2 7:15pm Shalom Choir Linda Herman Stephen & Sally Kern Sally Kern	3 6:30pm Sonshine Singers Faith Brenneman, Skylar Chinault	4 Jane Bankert	5 Karlee Bosley, Virginia Thoman