

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 25, 2022

If they do not listen
to **MOSES** and
THE PROPHETS
neither will they
be convinced if
SOMEONE RISES
FROM THE DEAD

Luke 16:31

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

*NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S
JOURNEY YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!*



Worship Leadership

Preacher: The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio
Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer
Lector: Kim Pirtle

Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Eric R. Dundore
Choristers' Director: Jonneke A. Dundore
Assistant Music Director: Mark A. Dundore
Organist: Sarah A. Myers
Assistant Organist: Patrice G. Miller

Ministry of Audio and Video

Jeffrey A. Dundore

Ministry of Service

Head Usher: Paula Boyer
Ushers: Becky Thompson, Pam MacKinnon, Karen Allison
Nursery: Susan Ward-Diorio
Flower Delivery: Martha Keith

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

Ministers

The Entire Congregation

Please visit the church website at <https://saintpaulsucc-mech.org/> to sign up for Acolyte, Usher, Lector, Volunteer in the Nursery, Deliver the Altar Flowers, and/or Sponsor the Altar Flowers. You will find the individual signup sheets under the "Sign Up" menu heading. Thank you.



St. Paul's Online Giving

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717/766-7931**

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Allyssa's email: allyssaboyer@outlook.com**

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVICE OF WORSHIP

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST;
AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRIES

September 25th, 2022

Please note: the livestream broadcast begins with the Announcements.

If you do not wish to appear in the livestream, it is best to sit in one of the back three pews of the Sanctuary.

Please write up any Prayer Requests ahead of time, leave them in the Red Bowl or give them to the Head Usher. They will bring them forward.

****Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand.***

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "Prelude in C"

Helman

Hand chimes

CHORAL INTROIT

Please note: we will be singing with our masks in place.

*THE HYMN No. 305 "You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Calling God, we are grateful for the gifts You have given each of us that enable us to serve You by serving others. We celebrate that we can engage in ministry together. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

At times we underestimate the abilities we have been blessed with. At other times we choose not to use those gifts in the ways God has called us to. And sometimes we are just afraid to try. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

Minister: God forgives us and continues to endow us with unique gifts and abilities so we might together meet the many needs in the world.

ALL: Let us act with courage, embracing our varied calls, and working together to help fulfill God's Dream for the world. Amen.

*Please note: we will not be shaking hands or hugging.
If you are able, please rise and greet one another with other signs of Peace.*

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***THE GLORIA PATRI (#759 is the tune, but not all the same words)**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Children are invited to the front at this time. They may sit on the chancel steps, they may sit in the front pews, or they may remain seated with their families. Remember, everyone who comes forward will be on camera.

SING THE CHILDREN TO THE FRONT

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world

Shy and Joyful, Bold and Bright

They are precious in his sight

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

THE WORD FOR THE YOUNG

AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRIES

As Members and Friends of the United Church of Christ, we believe in the Priesthood of all Believers. We each have unique gifts and talents that we can and are called to use to serve God by serving others. Let us affirm these ministries.

***Ministries of Education**

Teachers; Students; Staff;
Youth Leaders; Small group
leaders and participants in
such groups as PFLAG,
SPARCC, Advent & Lent
Reading, Caregivers' Support
Group, etc.

***Ministries of Leadership &
Service**

Consistory; Staff; All
Committee Chairs &
Members; Bazaar helpers &
supporters; Child
Sponsorships; Drivers; Meal
makers; Altar Flower
preparers; Flower deliverers
and sponsors; Gardeners;
Prayer Chain; Called to Care;
Prayer Shawl Ministry;
Technology people; Meals on
Wheels helpers, Stewards of
our buildings and grounds;
Welcome Team, SPOOF,
SPOM, etc.

***Ministries of Worship &
Music**

Choir members; Staff;
Lectors; Word for the Young;
Welcome Team Members;
Acolytes; Communion
Preparers; Nursery Workers;
People who join together in
worship including those who
join us virtually; etc.

THE LITANY OF COMMITMENT:

One: Sisters, Brothers and Siblings, you have been called by God to fulfill the responsibilities of your ministry. Will you commit yourselves by giving enough time to fulfill this ministry?

Many: **We will, with the help of God.**

One: Do you understand that by responding to God's call to this ministry you are becoming agents of the work of this church and the realm of God?

Many: **We do understand.**

One: Will you share your love, peace and Christian joy with everyone so people may see in you the life of Christ?

Many: **We will, with the help of God.**

One: God has called us to special ministries in the church. We have accepted God's call and stand before each other in witness to our willingness to serve. We have heard the promises we have made. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with each other.

All: **We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners in the service of Jesus the Christ. We promise to love one another, honor each other's leadership, pray for all and assist one another that together we may be a faithful church. Amen.**

SING THE CHILDREN TO THEIR SEATS

Jesus Loves Me

*Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so
Little ones to him belong. They are weak but He is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so*

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS (Unison)

May God's grace be upon these shawls...warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing. May these mantles be safe havens... sacred places of security and well-being...sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May the ones who receive these shawls be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Blessed Be!

THE EPISTLE READING

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 146

*THE HYMN “Outside My Gate”

(to the tune of no. 362, “Though I May Speak”)

*Outside my gate, outside my door, is someone there who's lost or poor?
Is someone there I do not see — that I walk by — who has a need?*

*Is there a child who longs for care? An older friend who needs a prayer?
Someone who seeks a helping hand? A refugee new to this land?*

*Outside our church, is someone near who cries in pain, who lives in fear?
Is someone close who has no way to buy the food she needs this day?*

*Some gates are made of wood or stone, And some are made of sin alone.
Some doors are made of greed and pride; they also keep the poor outside.*

*As we look out, Christ, may we see our common, shared humanity.
May we kneel down and serve you more outside our gate, outside our door.*

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THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 16:19-31

“Time to Listen Up”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

O Christ, by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way, The
path of prayer you too have trod: Christ teach us how to pray.

Please note: you can leave your offerings in the plate in the Narthex on your way in or on your way out after Service. You may also place your pew pad sheets in that Offering Plate. Thank you.

THE ANTHEM “Draw the Circle Wider”

Miller

Chancel, Youth, and Choristers Choirs

*DOXOLOGY

*From all who dwell beneath the skies,
Let the Creator’s praise arise!
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung.
Through every land, by every tongue!*

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

O God, You have made us very rich, and we are grateful for Your trust in us. With our offerings we recognize the responsibility You place on us to be generous in our giving and in good deeds. We find it hard to leave behind our concern for getting ahead. Help us trust You and truly to dedicate our all to Your purposes, as we are able to discern them. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 306 “The Church of Christ, in Every Age”

*THE BIDDING TO MISSION

*THE WORLD PEACE PRAYER

One: Lead us, O God.

All: Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Amen.

*THE BENEDICTION

* THE THREE-FOLD AMEN

Please note: the livestream continues until the end of the Postlude.

*Please know you are free to leave following the Three-fold Amen,
and exit to the Narthex to speak with one another.*

Do remember you may be visible and audible on the livestream as you exit early.

If you choose to remain, please be seated and listen quietly to the Postlude.

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE “Grand Toccata”

Gerald Peterson

References:

The Prayer of Blessing is by Janet Bristow, 2008, www.shawlministry.com

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Refreshing Rains of the Living Word” by Lavon Bayler, 1988, United Church Press.

The World Peace Prayer is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism, also prayed daily by Roman Catholic Benedictine nuns.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Ann Boyer, “In memory of Mother and Dad”

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY, FOLLOWING WORSHIP.

Please plan to attend.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

Next Sunday, October 2nd, we will collect the annual Neighbors in Need Offering. In 2022, the “BEHOLD!” offering focuses on an economic justice. One-third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

The first Sunday of October is a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, we remember that we are part of the church universal. Whether shared in a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse, or in a storefront, Christians celebrate communion in as many ways as there are congregations. World Communion Sunday can be both a profound worship experience and a time for learning more about our wider community of faith. We invite you to join us for World Communion Sunday on October 2nd, at 10:30 AM worship, as we celebrate our connection as one whole body of Christ, united.