

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

May 19, 2024



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
The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer
Lector: Shirley Keith Knox

Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Eric R. 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

Lead Greeter: Nancy Richey
Greeters: Fenton Fox
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Sherry Spencer, Don Dupes
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Melanie Shaver-Durham
Counting Team: Fenton Fox, Sherry Spencer

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

Ministers

The Entire Congregation

*Visit the church website, under the 'Sign Up' menu heading,
to help as a Sunday volunteer or Worship Participant.
We're grateful for your generosity.*

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com



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

PENTECOST

May 19, 2024

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 Welcome Team Leader. They will bring them forward.

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

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF ST. PAUL'S 21ST ANNIVERSARY OF BEING OPEN AND AFFIRMING

REAFFIRMATION OF OUR OPEN & AFFIRMING COVENANT (unison)

The people of God at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, affirm our regard for the worth and dignity of all persons as beloved children of God. We recognize, celebrate, and give thanks for the many diverse gifts of God among us. We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, language, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, and economic status.

We acknowledge that throughout history, the Christian church has often condemned and excluded gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and non-heteronormative people from the community of faith, or has condoned such condemnation and exclusion by its silence. We hold that such discrimination is incompatible with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We commit ourselves to work diligently to end all oppression and discrimination that afflict God's people in our society. We commit ourselves to nondiscrimination in the full life, ministry, and sacraments of this church, including membership, leadership, and employment practices. We will condemn all acts of harassment, discrimination, and violence against God's people. We will seek to include and support those, who, because of fear and prejudice, find themselves in exile from a spiritual community. We affirm all relationships founded on the principles of God's love and justice. We pledge ourselves to be a wellspring of faith for a diverse people.

*This covenant was adopted by vote of the congregation on May 18, 2003.
Terms revised and covenant reaffirmed by the congregation on May 20, 2018.*

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 261 “Let Every Christian Pray”

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious God, we give You thanks for the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Your Spirit has led us to becoming ONA; Thriving Together for Racial Justice; operating a Community Garden; working with refugees; welcoming new people into our midst; and numerous other ways we have responded to Your Spirit’s leading. May we continue to be open to the Holy Spirit’s Calls to us as individuals and as a Congregation. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We do not always welcome the understanding that God’s Holy Spirit resides in each of us. For the Spirit speaks to us, and we do not always listen. We do not always turn to the Spirit and ask for guidance. The Spirit’s reminder that we have pledged to follow God’s Words and Ways rather than the world’s, is hard to fulfill. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and God’s Spirit within us continues to seek to work with us so we might be witnesses to God’s Peace and Love for the entire world.

ALL: We cannot treat the gift of the Holy Spirit like a nice birthday present that we do not really want and hide away until we throw it away. God’s Spirit never abandons us. May we choose to pay attention to it. Amen.

If you are able, please rise and greet one another with 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.
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

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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

INVITATION

Friends in Christ, we are all received into the wider church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. They wish to establish a special covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of this church. In our mutual journeys, let us find support as we attempt to serve Jesus Christ, using the gifts that the Holy Spirit bestows.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

Pastor: Do you Cindy, Sharon, and Azure profess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith, and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

*CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Pastor: This congregation is part of the body of Christ in this time and place. We are

Christ's hands, ears, and eyes. We are called to serve Christ as best as we are able and in accordance with the gifts we have been given. Let us say the Congregational Assent together.

Members: We, as members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, and the Church Universal, hear your promises with joy and gladly welcome you as sisters in Christ into the family of faith. We covenant with you to share in the hopes, labors, and joys of the Christian life, supported by God's love through this congregation. We will weep with you when you weep, rejoice with you in your rejoicing, and encourage your growth in the new life Christ gives. These things we promise in the name and spirit of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

PRAYER

Eternal God, we praise You for calling us to be Your servant people, and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank You for sending to us these believers: Cindy, Sharon, and Azure — Your children — that we may work together in serving the needs of others. Confirm in us the power of Your covenant that we may live in Your Spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other that we may have among us the same mind which was in Christ Jesus, to whom be all honor and glory. Amen.

WELCOME & RECEPTION

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the congregation of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, we extend to you, Cindy, Sharon, and Azure the right hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church and the saints of light.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Joel 2:28-32

THE GOSPEL READING

John 15:26-27, 16:12-15

*THE HYMN No. 292 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING & MESSAGE:

Acts 2:1-21

"The Spirit Empowers Us"

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)

304

Into My Heart

The musical score for 'Into My Heart' is presented in three systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 6/4. The lyrics are: 'In - to my heart, in - to my heart, come in - to my heart, Lord Je - sus; come in to - day, come in to stay, come in - to my heart, Lord Je - sus.'

WORDS and MUSIC: Harry D. Clarke, 1924

INTO MY HEART
LM

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY "Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"
Chancel Choir

Getty/Townsend

*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! Amen.**

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

How manifold are your works, amazing God! When there are dry-bones times in our lives, we can look to You for new breath and hope and renewal of life. Your Spirit comes, and we are lifted up and linked to one another. We bring our offerings as an expression of thanksgiving for all Your gifts. May Your glory be proclaimed in all we give and all we do, when we are together and when we scatter to do Your will in other places. Amen.

*THE HYMN “Faithful God, You Sent Your Spirit”
(to the tune of no. 459, “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing.”)

***Faithful God, you sent your Spirit Long ago at Pentecost.
You gave life and said to share it, All as one, beneath your cross.
May we see your wondrous blessing When your people everywhere
Work together, all confessing Faith that binds us, faith to share.***

(cont.)

***God of hope, you daily nurture Those who seek to follow you.
You're not bound by any culture; You love rich and poor ones, too.
In an ever-changing nation, May your churches welcome in
Every child of your creation, Giving hope to all again.***

***God of love, may we in worship Welcome our diversity.
May we reach in trust and friendship To the poor and refugee.
May we see Christ in the stranger, Breaking bonds of hate and fear.
By your Spirit, may we offer Glimpses of your kingdom here.***

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*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. You may be visible and audible on the livestream as you exit early. If you choose to remain, please stay seated and listen quietly to the Postlude.

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE “Rejoice, My Soul, Rejoice”

David Paxton

References:

Cover Image: Titian, approximately 1488-1576. Pentecost, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58318> [retrieved May 15, 2024]. Original source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tiziano_Pentecost%C3%A9s.jpg.

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Led by Love” by Lavon Bayler, 1996, 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.

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ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by

Tom & Tillie’s Children, “In memory & celebration of the lives of Tom and Tillie Valenteen on their Wedding Anniversary, May 22nd.”

Don and Merikay Wood, “In honor of the Wood and Rupp Families.”

Leann Davinroy, “In honor of our Anniversary”

Fenton Fox, “In honor of Rick Holtzapple’s Birthday.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING: Today we will collect the Strengthen the Church offering. God calls us into community. God desires for us a big, inclusive, expansive, welcoming community. One where "no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome." I call this a "big tent" community. God wants our congregations and our whole Christian movement to be a "big tent" where all can be genuinely welcomed.

The Strengthen the Church Offering supports congregations and initiatives that help us live into the United Church of Christ's "big tent" vision. Funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and renewal initiatives in existing congregations. Your conference and the national ministries work together to use these funds for projects that matter now and for the future of our movement. Through this offering, we further our commitment to being a multi-racial/multi-cultural church that is accessible to all. Will you join people across the UCC in making a gift to Strengthen the Church? Together, we can be the "big tent" God calls us to be.

MECHANICSBURG AREA ECUMENICAL CHOIR CONCERT: This afternoon at 3PM, St. Joseph Catholic Church, 410 E. Simpson St. Mechanicsburg. The concert features 103 voices

from 33 area churches and is Directed by our own, Eric Dundore. This is the 35th annual concert sponsored by the Mechanicsburg Area Council of Churches. We hope you join us.

MECHANICSBURG COMMUNITY DINNER: Our congregation is pleased to participate in the Mechanicsburg Community Dinner. This event is hosted by several churches in Mechanicsburg and will serve approximately 125 people today, Sunday, May 19, on the lawn of the First Church of God, 28 E. Main St. If you are willing to help, please contact Paula Boyer at 717-433-1136 or pbstwins@aol.com. Set-up at the First Church of God will be at 4:30 PM. Thank you.

POLLYANNAS: Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting at 11:30 am, Tuesday, May 28th, at Perkins on Erford Rd. We will be meeting in the small back room. Please contact Bonnie Plymette (717-591-8471) if you are planning to attend.

REV. ALLYSSA WILL BE ON VACATION from Friday, May 24 through Thursday, May 30. If you have pastoral care needs, please contact Rev. John or Renee in the church office. Thank you.

PEACE CHURCH: We hope you'll join us for worship at Peace Church on Sunday, June 2, at 9:15 AM.

St. Paul's UCC descends from a German Reformed congregation, a church brought to North America by German-speaking immigrants in the 17th and 18th centuries. By 1780, there were over 50 German families operating farms in our area. At first, the Germans limited their religious observances to family worship at home, but by 1796, they decided they needed a church building. Jonas Rupp donated the land, and the building of Peace Church began in 1798. It was used by both Reformed and Lutherans "in peace" for over fifty years.

On June 28, 1863, Peace Church was at the center of Confederate Brig. Gen. Albert Jenkin's artillery brigade as they fought with Union troops located a mile east (in present-day Camp Hill) who were defending Harrisburg from Confederate attack. Two Virginia cavalry units deployed to support the charge, rounding up civilians and detaining them in Peace Church to prevent them from providing information to nearby Union troops. On June 30, the Confederates were recalled south by Gen. Robert E. Lee; the Battle of Gettysburg began the next day. This conflict in the Cumberland Valley would be the northernmost engagement of the Civil War. We hope you can join us for worship in this place rich with history; a wonderful way to honor our ancestors in the faith and to share their discipleship with future generations of our congregation!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER KICK-OFF:

Our last day of Sunday school until the fall will be Sunday, May 26. Join us for a day of fun and games outside (weather permitting) as we say "goodbye" to another great Sunday school year, and "hello" to summer!