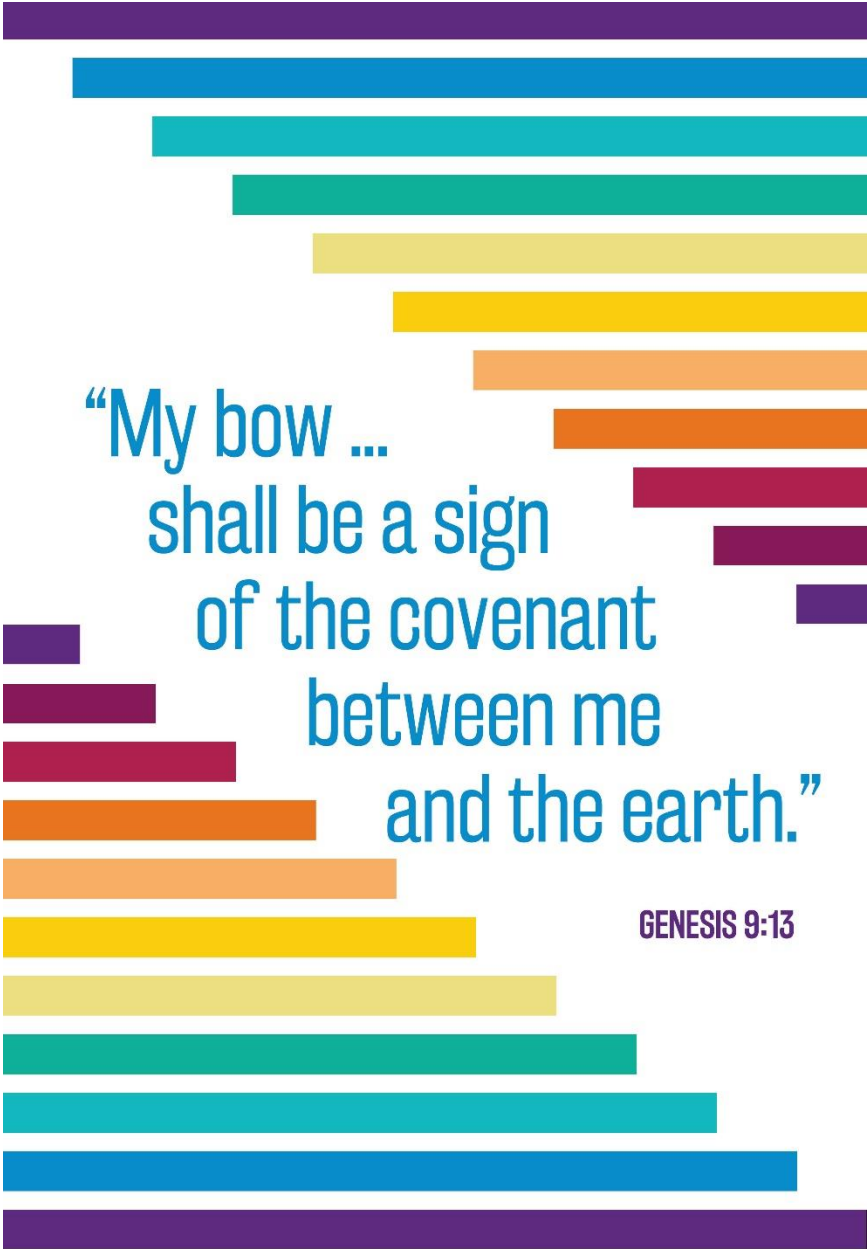


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

June 30, 2024



“My bow ...
shall be a sign
of the covenant
between me
and the earth.”

GENESIS 9:13

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. Allyssa A. Boyer

Lector: Sherry Spencer

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: Mel Shaver-Durham

Greeters: Joan Moyer, Emily M. Short, Fenton Fox

Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer

Kids' Place:

Flower Preparation: Jonneke Dundore

Flower Delivery: Jonneke Dundore

Counting Team: Fenton Fox, Joan Moyer

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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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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**ONLINE
GIVING**



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

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OPEN & AFFIRMING SUNDAY

June 30, 2024

The livestream starts with the Announcements. If you'd prefer not to be on camera, kindly choose a seat in the back three pews of the Sanctuary. Leave prayer requests in the bowl in the Common area or give them to the Lead Greeter.

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

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen"

Marianne Kim

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God! How shall we join their joyful witness?

All: With words that proclaim God's inclusive love, with works that bring forth God's powerful justice, with worship that rejoices in God's wondrous presence, now and always.

One: Let us worship God.

*THE HYMN "There is Room in God's Great Welcome" (to the tune of no. 42, "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling")

***There is room in God's great welcome; See! The doors are open wide!
Here on earth as in God's heaven, hear the call to come inside!
There is so much room for difference — men and women, gay and straight.
In God's love, the rooms are countless, but there is no room for hate.***

***There is room in our good nation if we stand on justice-ground.
God has made a good creation; colors, cultures all abound.
Welcome, sister! Welcome, brother! All those yearning to breathe free!
There is room for one another but no room for bigotry.***

***There is room for understanding, for the outcast and the poor;
For the Christian, Jew and Muslim — there is room for these and more.
For the people on the fringes, for the ones with long career,
There is room for building bridges, but there is no room for fear.***

There is room in faithful churches for the wounded and oppressed:

**Women who've been told they're worthless, refugees who feel distressed,
Immigrants who fear the future, people scorned and pushed and shoved.
God, may we seek what you treasure: may we all make room for love.**

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*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (responsive)

One: God of wild love and extravagant acceptance, You are faithfully present in both the grit and glitter of life, and You are present here with us now.

All: Awaken us to Your dream for creation: A world in which every member of the human family is free to flourish however You have made them.

One: Holy One, You call each of us beloved.

All: Each of us cherished.

One: Each of us worthy.

All: Each of us sacred. And so, we give You thanks, now and forever. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Every day, we witness a little of the violence of the world, too often targeting the most vulnerable. This is an opportunity for us to open ourselves to God, so that we may ask for forgiveness for breaking our covenants, for those moments when we should have spoken but we stayed silent, for those times we witnessed harm and did not intervene. This is a chance for us to seek forgiveness for the moments when we did not act in love for our siblings. Let us join in silent prayers of confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: By God's mercy, we are set again upon the path of faithfulness; our hearts are set again upon the coming of God's realm.

All: Thanks be to God, our hope and our guide forever!

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

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:1-16

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 106:1-5

*THE HYMN “O God, In Your Love” (to the tune of no. 1, “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”)

O God, in your love, you have made us unique:

In gifts and traditions, in service we seek,

In race and in culture and family design

Diverse are the branches in Jesus the Vine.

Lord Jesus, you came to bring God's love on earth;

You welcomed the outcasts and showed us our worth.

You reached out to people whom others despised

You said all are precious in God's loving eyes.

O Christ, with your welcome your church feels unease:

We stand at closed doors tightly holding the keys.

Yet this is your body, the church that you love

O Lord, do you weep for your church from above.

So may your church welcome in loving accord

All people who want to serve Jesus our Lord.

O Spirit, unite us in Jesus the Son

In mission and ministry, God, make us one.

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THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Genesis 9:12-16

“Somewhere Over the Rainbow ”

***THE REAFFIRMATION OF OUR OPEN & AFFIRMING COVENANT (unison)**

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.

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. Amen.

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)

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Into My Heart



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

*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)

**Thank you, God, for this family of faith, which enriches our lives and enables us to share.
Thank you for making us aware that some people live in fear and others dwell in hopelessness.
We are grateful that you show us ways to help lift their burdens. May our offerings further this
ministry, among us, and beyond our community. Amen.**

*THE HYMN "Sing a New World into Being" (to the tune of no. 459, "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing")

***Sing a new world into being. Sound a bold and hopeful theme.
Find a tune for silent yearnings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
Dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong.
Sing a new world into being. Sing as Christ inspires your song!***

**Sing a new world into being where each gender, class and race
Brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God's limitless embrace;
Where the lines that once divided form instead the ties that bind.
Sing a new world into being: risk transforming heart and mind!**

**Sing a new world into being where the homeless find a home.
Where no children ever hunger but are filled with God's shalom;
Where all people work for justice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
Sing a new world into being: raise the harmonies of peace!**

**Sing a new world into being. Join the ancient prophet's cry
For a time of health and plenty when all tears have been wiped dry;
When compassion flows like waters, pouring balm for all who grieve.
Sing a new world into being: live the promise you believe!**

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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

*The livestream ends after the Postlude. You're welcome to converse in the Narthex after the Three-fold Amen.
However, if you choose to stay for the Postlude, please listen quietly until the conclusion.*

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE "Day of Victory"

Gary Davidson

References:

The Call to Worship and Words of Assurance are adapted from prayers by Rev. Ann B. Day, Program Coordinator, Open and Affirming Program of the United Church of Christ Coalition for LGBT Concerns 1987-2007, originally published in Shaping Sanctuary.

The Prayer of Invocation is adapted from a prayer written by Rev. Sam Lundquist for LGBTQ Pride Month worship at St. John's Presbyterian Church in San Francisco, CA.

The Call to Confession is adapted from Kimi Floyd Reisch, "Worship for Pride Month and ONA Sunday," Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ, 2020.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from Lavon Bayler, "Gathered By Love," Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2001. 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. Songs, music, and lyrics used by permission. CCLI License #11380019 CSPL128945

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ
ONA Sunday Annual Celebration
United Church of Christ Open and Affirming Ministry Update
Sunday, June 30, 2024**

Today, we celebrate our denomination's annual recognition of the Open and Affirming Ministry. The last Sunday in June was selected to highlight the covenants of each ONA church and their support of their LGBTQIA+ members and individuals within their community.

The last Sunday in June is also the anniversary of the riot that occurred at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village of New York City, NY on Sunday, June 28, 1969. The police raided the inn in the early morning hours of that day and the LGBTQ+ community fought back when the police became violent. This event brought to light the gay liberation movement of LGBTQIA+ rights in the United States.

We approved our Covenant on Sunday, May 18, 2003 becoming the 464th ONA church. We revised and reapproved our Covenant on Sunday, May 20, 2018 to reaffirm our commitment to our LGBTQIA+ church members and wider community.

Within our 4,852-church denomination there are 1,885 ONA churches and of our 38 conferences 25 are ONA. Since last year's ONA Sunday, we have celebrated churches within the Commonwealths and States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin for becoming ONA.

Our ONA Ministry continues to grow and thrive and is led nationally by the ONA Coalition located at our National Office in Cleveland, OH. The Rev. Dr. Katrina Roseboro-Marsh is the Executive Director. Ann Randall is the Finance Director and The Rev. Derek Terry is the Program Director. The website is www.onacoalition.org.

Shirley Keith Knox is our Convener and Steve Roush is the Coach leading the Penn Central Conference ONA Ministry Team. Steve also coaches' churches on their ONA journey remotely for the Penn Northeast, Penn Southeast, and Penn West conferences. Shirley and Steve also serve as the co-chairs for our ONA committee here at St. Paul's.

This ministry strives toward the day when all people can believe that they are fully welcomed and are Beloved Children of God.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We will hold Vacation Bible School on the evenings of July 8-11. Kids aged 3 through 5th graders are invited to participate in this year's VBS, "The Peaceable Kingdom." We'll learn about fairness, empathy, forgiveness, and inclusion with beloved children's book characters. Registration forms can be picked up in the Common. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Allyssa.

NEW HOPE NEWS

New Hope Ministries will hold their back-to-school event- School Daze Craze- on August 8th. Children of guests of New Hope will receive backpacks filled with needed school items. Donations of school supplies are greatly appreciated and may be placed in boxes in the commons by Wednesday, July 24th. Any questions contact Karen Allison. Following is a list of items needed.

- Backpacks
- Binders- 2 inches
- Colored pencils- 12 pack
- Folders
- Highlighters
- Index cards- 3x5
- Individual hand sanitizer
- Markers- 12 pack
- Mechanical pencils
- Pencil cases
- Post-It notes- square
- Ruled notebook paper for binders
- Scientific calculators
- Sharpies
- Spiral one subject notebooks
- Tissues- individual packs

OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed this coming week, Monday, July 1 through Friday, July 5. A few volunteers will be covering, however, if you're able to wait until Renee's return on Monday, July 8th, please do.