



Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 22, 2024

Whoever wants to be
FIRST
must be
LAST
of all and servant of all.



MARK 9:35, NRSV

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: Karin Stork-Whitson

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: Don Dupes
Greeters: Melanie Shaver-Durham, Sherry Spencer, Steven Roush
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Becky Thompson
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Susan White
Counting Team: 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

626 Williams Grove Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
(717)766-7931

saintpaulsucc-mech.org

Office: stpaulstaff@outlook.com

Rev. John: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com



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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 22, 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 "O Word of God Incarnate"

David Hegarty

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 315 "O Word of God Incarnate"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Mysterious God, You turn our expectations upside down; You act in shocking ways; Your desire for peace, equality, and justice, knows no bounds. Guide us in thinking more like You would have us think and act. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Even after 2000 years, we have a hard time believing all that Jesus taught us and following through on the calls he placed before us. When Jesus' teachings are the opposite of so much of what the world holds up as good and desirable, we find it hard to follow him. His disciples did too, and he stuck with them. Let us recognize where we are falling short, confess and seek to live differently.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us, as Jesus forgave his disciples, and keeps working with us.

ALL: Let us acknowledge where we have work to do, and together engage in it. Change is possible. 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

THE EPSITILE READING

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 1

*THE HYMN No. 503 “O Savior, Let Me Walk with You”

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Mark 9:30-37

“Fear of Asking”

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)

The musical score is written for a unison choral response. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. 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."

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY "Take My Life and Let It Be"
Hand Chimes

arr. Kinyon

*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)

We who have spent much on our own pleasures are pleased to share that others may obtain the necessities of body and spirit. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to support the ministry and mission of our congregation. May there be a harvest of righteousness among us, shown in the peaceful handling of disputes, in mutual love and support, and in courageous outreach to people near and far who need the help we can give. Bless each gift and giver. Amen.

*THE HYMN "Welcoming God" (to the tune of no. 473, "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!")

***Children are welcome, Christ said one day, When the disciples just urged them away.
Children are welcome at Jesus' knee: God's own examples for ministry.
Welcoming God, you open the Way; Even the smallest worship and pray,
Singing with faith and serving you well, Your life to know and good news to tell.***

(Cont.)

**Women are welcome, as are the men; Through God's own Spirit, we're partners again.
Partners as prophets, ministers, too: No more divided — made one in you.
Welcoming God, you open the way; Those once divided join now to pray,
Serving at Table, preaching your Word, So that your love for all will be heard.**

**Outcasts are welcome; sinners are, too, Eating with Jesus and being made new:
Some like Zacchaeus turned right around; Wounded and poor ones felt peace profound.
God of great love, you stand at the door, Welcoming people outcast and poor.
So you forgive and call us to be Filled with the joy of your jubilee.**

**So may we welcome into our pew All who in Jesus are being made new —
All those who seek him, wanting to know, Wanting to love him, wanting to grow.
Welcoming God, you stand at our door, As someone different, outcast or poor.
With longing eyes, Lord Jesus, you search. May we all welcome you in your church.**

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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 remain silent until the conclusion.*

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE "Unto All the World"

Christopher Neal

References:

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.

Songs, music, and lyrics used by permission. CCLI License #11380019 CSPL128945

ALTAR FLOWERS

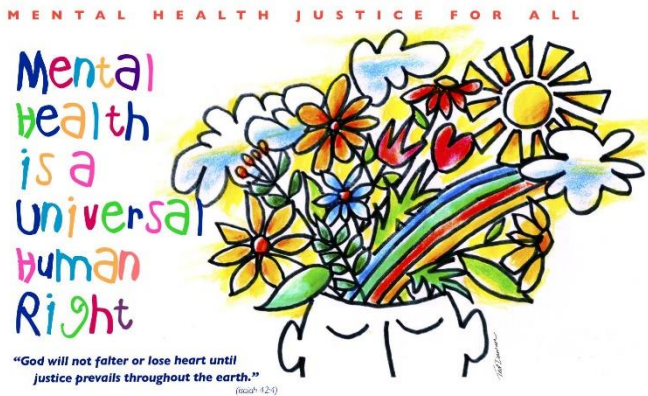
The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Janet Wotring, "In honor of my birthday."
Mary Runkle, "In memory of my mother."

New Hope Thanksgiving Baskets

New Hope Ministries will again be providing Thanksgiving food baskets to needy families in our area. This year they are requesting churches sign up for specific items so they have a better idea beforehand what they will be receiving and what will still be needed after those donations. St. Paul's is signed up for cans of cranberry sauce, jars or cans of turkey gravy and cans of fruit (mixed fruit, peaches or pears). We are going to try for 100 cans/jars of each- we can do this! Containers are in the commons for your donations and all donations need to be in by Sunday, October 20th. Thank you and any questions contact Karen Allison.

Pollyannas

Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting 11:30 am, Tuesday, Sept 24 at Perkins on Erford Rd. We will be meeting in the small back room. Please contact Bonnie Plymette (591-8471) if you are planning to attend.



A World with Mental Health Justice for all is God's Dream for Us

This year's Neighbors in Need theme "**Mental Health Justice for All: Mental Health is a Universal Human Right**" highlights our God-given right to mental health.

Everyone is created in God's image, and everybody should receive quality mental health care.


In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become **WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged)** for mental health.

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey.

We believe we all have a God-given right to the following to support mental health:

1. The right to be protected from known harms to mental health; a universal right which applies to the entire population, but especially the vulnerable including children and oppressed peoples.
2. The right to access quality and affordable care when a person is experiencing mental health challenges.
3. The right to freedom and dignity, including the right of choice for mental health care.

Visit www.mhn-ucc.org to learn more about these mental health principles.

The 2024 Neighbors in Need theme 
"**Mental Health Justice for All: Mental Health is a Universal Human Right**"
provides us with an opportunity to re-ignite our efforts to build a more justice world for all, dismantling the shame and stigma of mental health challenges.

We invite you to be part of God's work of mental health justice, join the WISE movement for mental health in your congregation, and support the Neighbors in Need offering.



October 10th is World Mental Health Day.

For more information visit:

<https://wmhdoofficial.com/>

In a Just World, Mental Health is a Universal Human Right!

Please join us in supporting the

2024 Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering.



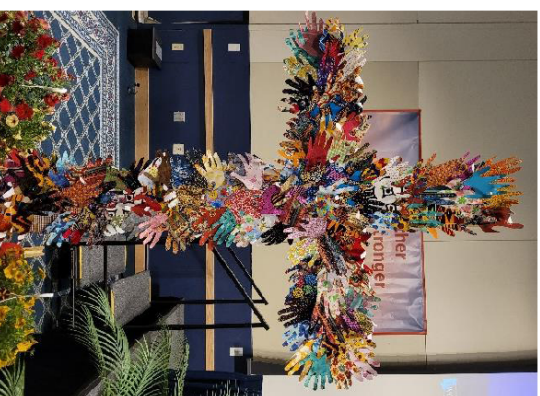
Two-thirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy, programming, and grants. One-third of your generous gifts directly support CAIM.

www.ucc.org/nin



Keystone Working Group – Bulletin Insert 1

“Together We Are Stronger” echoed throughout the



visual displays and collective worship at the June 7-9 joint gathering in State College, PA. **“It was one the most amazing experiences I’ve had in the course of my life in ministry,”** said the Rev. David Ackerman, Penn West Conference minister. **“It was a tremendous experience – the energy, the Spirit was present. Whether the Keystone vote in November is affirmative or not, we’ll always have that.”**

Join the excitement and learning through these opportunities!

Town Hall Sessions

There will be 3 topic conversations, hosted by each of the conferences for all to participate.

Town Hall Schedule	Topics I: Timeline, Staffing, Finance	Topics II: Timeline, PA UCC Mission Focus	Topics III: Timeline, Associations
PSEC	Sat. Sept 14 10:00 am	Tues. Sept 24 2:00 pm	Tues. Oct 15 6:30 pm
PCC	Mon. Sept 23 6:30 pm	Tues. Oct 1 6:30 pm	Wed. Oct 23 3:00 pm
PNEC	Tues. Sept 17 10:30 am	Thur. Sept 19 10:30 am	Thur. Oct 10 6:30 pm
PWC	Mon. Sept 16 10:00 am	Tues. Oct 22 1:00 pm	Thur. Oct 24 6:30 pm

Registration links for the townhall events are available on all conference websites and by using the QR code.



In each townhall conversation, the timeline will be reviewed for possible action toward our vote, the motion to the General Synod and next steps.

Merger Motion Vote by 4 Conferences Nov. 9, 2024

Each congregation is allowed their usual number of delegates to vote on the merger motion. See each conference for details to register, participate and make your vote count! The full motion is available on the website.

For more information: <https://psec.org/keystone/>

Motion to General Synod, July 11-15, 2025

If approved by all 4 conferences, the motion is presented to General Synod for UCC delegates’ approval.

“We face the unknown, but God is known!”

-- Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson
President and General Minister of the UCC to the delegates at the gathered PA area conferences.

