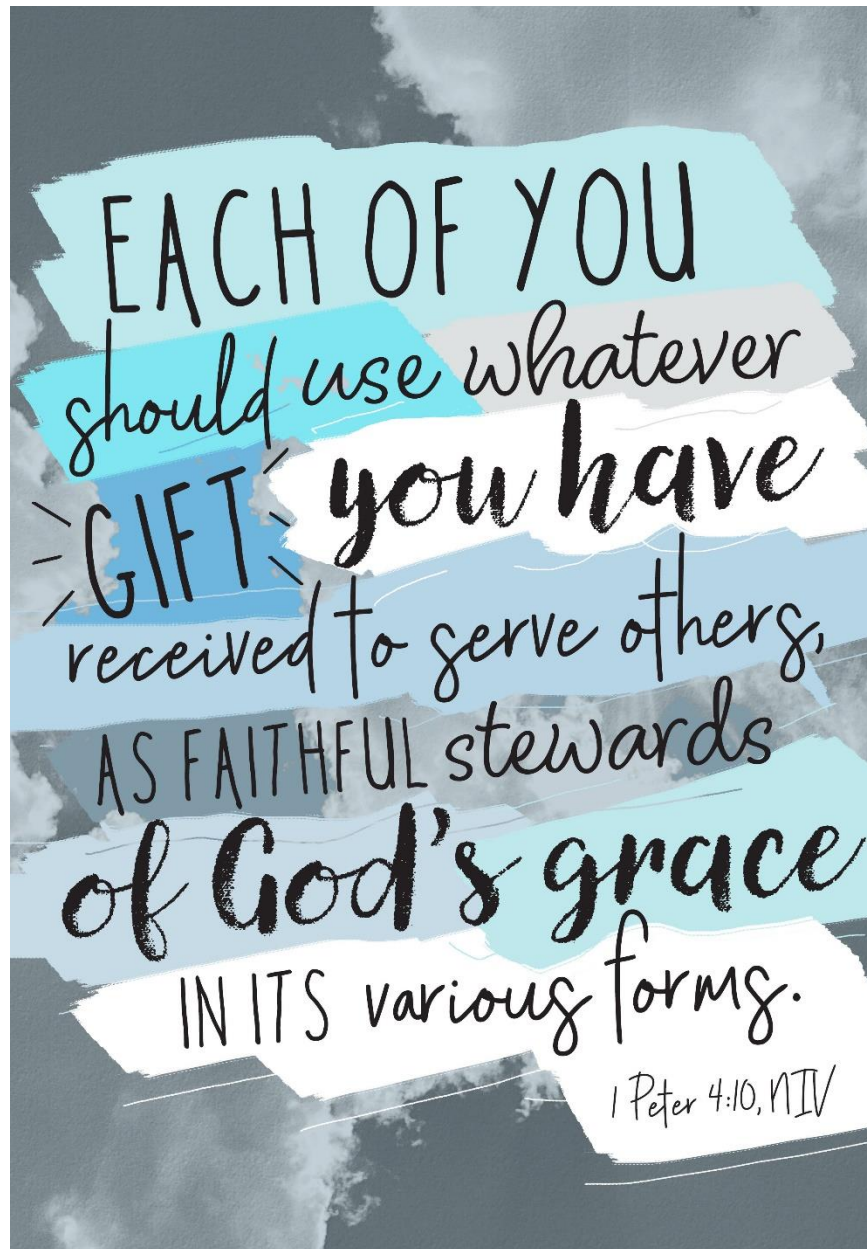


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 29, 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: Pam Smith

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: Joan Moyer, Steven Roush
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Bonnie Plymette
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Bonnie Plymette
Counting Team: 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

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

saintpaulsucc-mech.org

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Rev. John: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

**ONLINE
GIVING**



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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRIES

September 29, 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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "What a Friend"

Tom Birchwood

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 86 "When Morning Guilds the Skies"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious God, You have blessed us in so many ways. We seek to do Your Will as an expression of our gratitude. Guide us in being grateful as well for all our siblings in Faith who serve with us. Together we do more than we could ever do on our own. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We can take for granted those who we work with. We can overlook all the gifts and talents people are sharing. We can fail even to say thank you for what is being done. We can bemoan the people who are not serving at the moment, without realizing why they are making those choices. We can forget that the service we offer is our thanks for what God has already given us. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and continues to call for and welcome our service, grateful for us using the gifts that have been bestowed upon us to further God's Will in the world.

ALL: **Let us commit to being good examples of the joy that is found in serving God. Let us celebrate all that is being offered, those that are offering their gifts, and continue to hope our witness encourages others to serve as well. 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

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 Queer Bible
Study, PFLAG, SPARCC,
Advent & Lent Reading,
Caregivers' Support Group;
American Idolatry Community
Group; etc.

***Ministries of Leadership & Service**

Consistory; Staff; All
Committee Chairs &
Members; Called to Care;
Welcome Team Members and
Movers; Community Gardener
workers; Open and Affirming
Team and Consultant; SPOM:
Bazaar helpers & supporters;
Child Sponsorships; Drivers;
Meal makers; Altar Flower
preparers; Flower deliverers
and sponsors; Prayer Chain;
Prayer Shawl Ministry;
Technology people;
Pollyanna's; Meals on Wheels
helpers, Stewards of our
buildings and grounds;
Fellowship Time sponsors;
Offering counters; SPOOF,
Volunteers for Community
Meals, New Hope Ministries
and Ecumenical Food Pantry,
Gather the Spirit; etc.

***Ministries of Worship & Music**

Choir members; Staff,
including staff and volunteers
who run the live stream and
sound; Creative Worship
Team; Lectors; Lead Greeter
and Greeters; Acolytes;
Communion Preparers; Kids'
Place Volunteers; People who
offer special music; Spiritual
Royalties' Initiative; People
who join in Worship in-person
and 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*

THE EPISTLE READING

James 5:13-20

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 19:7-14

*THE HYMN No. 393 "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Mark 9:38-42

"The Community Is Needed to Serve"

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)

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 “Halle, Halle, Halle”

Traditional Caribbean Song

Chorister, Youth, and Chancel 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! Amen.***

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

We dedicate ourselves and our offerings to the work of Your church. For those who are sick, who are suffering, who are grieving, who are lost, we have words of hope and acts of caring. We stand with all who face discrimination, oppression, and confusion, seeking to work with them for justice and a meaningful existence. As You have accepted us, we reach out to include all Your children in the family of mutuality, self-revelation, and growing in love. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 493 “O Jesus, I Have Promised”

*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 "Living for Jesus"

Gerald Peterson

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.

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ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Allyssa Boyer, "In memory of my grandparents, Domenica and James Alfano, and Nadine and
Carroll Boyer."

Many Hands Make Light Work!

The Bazaar committee needs your help on September 29 immediately following our service. It's time to move all of the donations from the stage to the tables in Fellowship Hall in preparation for the Flea Market during the Bazaar on Oct. 4. We also need help in moving and arranging tables in the areas where we will sell crafts, baked goods, and garden shop items. The more folks who can help will make for a quick job on Sept. 29. So please stay for a few minutes after the service to have some fun and fellowship as we prepare for this year's Bazaar. Thanks so much!

Trunk Or Treat!

St. Paul's will be hosting Trunk or Treat on Sunday October 27 from 5:00-7:00. THIS YEAR WE ARE INVITING OUR NEIGHBORS IN PEACHTREE AND TRINDLE STATION to come over for some treats. It's important that we have enough "trunks" to be hosts. If you would like to decorate your vehicle and provide treats for our church family as well as our neighbors, please sign up in the Common or online. We will need a minimum of 10 vehicles in order to hold this fun event. Setup in the upper parking lot would begin no later than 4:00.

Deadline for signing up is Sunday October 20 at 9:00 PM. Please consider being a part of this special annual event. Questions can be directed to Jonneke Dundore at 717-460-8303 or jonnekev@aol.com. COME OUT FOR A HOWLING GOOD TIME!!!!



Imagine Together:

What Might Generosity Look Like for You?

By Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson

When I was a first-year student at Union Theological Seminary in New York, I had world renowned theologian Dr. James Cone as my professor for Systematic Theology. In our first class I remember him saying: “We all do theology. Theology is God-talk.” A theology of money is God-talk about money.

Conversations about money are taboo in our society. We reluctantly talk about the cost of items we purchase; we are hushed in our conversations about money; and silent in discussing our investments or what we earn. Money is a topic which creates discomfort for many, with most not knowing how to ask for what is needed or what is owed. If our conversations about money are challenging, then finding our way to God-talk on the subject could be even more challenging.

Such a theology starts with how we understand God present and with us in our lives and in the world around us. The prophet Malachi puts before us a theology of money that says God will bless what is given. The blessing is on the giver and on what is given. The tithing in this case is the expectation of giving. God is present blessing what is given back to God for use in the house of God. Malachi resonates

an expectation one will give back to God regularly and in line with the expectations of the religious order of his day. This is one way to think about money and how we give. There are others.

A theology of money continues with a clear-eyed understanding of how much money we have. If I am giving a portion of what I have, then I should be knowledgeable about what my financial obligations are, including my desire to give in supporting the mission and ministries of the church. Whether investing, spending, or giving we should pay attention to what we have, in order to give from what we have whether a tenth, or another fraction, or amount of our choosing. When we give value and meaning to what we have, we give from abundance rather than from scarcity, from knowledge rather than fear.

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.

Imagine Together

