

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

October 13, 2024



The Lord covers the
sky with clouds;
God supplies the
earth with rain
and makes grass
grass grow on the hills.

PSALM 147:8, NIV

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: Melanie Shaver-Durham

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: Charles Ricedorf-Reed
Greeters: Steve Roush, Rebecca Drazba, Nancy Richey
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Don Dupes, Paula Boyer
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Joan Moyer
Counting Team:
Fellowship Time: Parish Ministries

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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ACCESS SUNDAY

October 13, 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 “Andante Tranquillo”

Feliz Mendelssohn

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN “When Hands Reach Out” (to the tune of no. 300, “Jesus Shall Reign”)

***When hands reach out and fingers trace The beauty of a loved one's face,
We thank you, God, that love relies On gifts of grace not seen with eyes.***

***When fingers spell and signs express Our prayer and praise and thankfulness,
We thank you, God, that hands can sing; You bless the silent songs we bring.***

***When broken bodies will not mend, We thank you, God, for Christ our Friend.
In him, our healing can begin: He welcomes all the wounded in.***

***And when the ways we learn and grow Are not the ways that others know,
We thank you, God, that we have learned Your love's a gift, and never earned.***

***Your Spirit gives us differing ways To serve you well and offer praise.
When all are joined as one, we'll be Your able, strong community.***

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*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Welcoming God, we call upon Your Spirit to be present with us. We come as different people, with different stories, and yet we share Your vision of unity and peace for all. We ask for Your

guidance as we seek to welcome and affirm all Your beloved children, not only through our words, but also through our actions, our building, and our ministries. May we embody Your love and share it with everyone we encounter. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We give thanks for a merciful God, who, in Christ, seeks to bring heaven to earth, and to reconcile all people to one another and to God. And yet, we confess that the new creation is not yet complete in us, and that all around us we feel the barriers that separate humankind. We ask for forgiveness for the times we have built those barriers or reinforced them by our silence and inaction. We open ourselves to God's Spirit so that we may reflect honestly on the ways we have fallen short of God's hope for us. Let us join in silent prayers of confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God hears the confessions of our hearts and responds with forgiveness. Let us go forth with love and peace, honoring and upholding the dignity of all people, knowing we see a reflection of God's image in every person.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

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.

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!

*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 HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 56:1-8

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 147:1-11

*THE HYMN No. 175 "O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 5:17-20

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 in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has 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.

*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. We realize that not everyone is so fortunate; many of our neighbors live in fear and hopelessness. Help us to be beacons of love and hope for them, helping to ease their burdens and bind up their wounds. May our offerings further this ministry. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 488 “Be Still, My Soul”

*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 “On This Glad Day”

Chester Nordman

References:

The Call to Confession is adapted from a “Confession: We Give Thanks,” from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, More Light Sunday, 2005, in “A Place In God’s Heart, A Place At Christ’s Table: Worship Resources for the Welcoming Church Movement.”

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

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.

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ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Candy LaRue, “In honor of our 11th married anniversary.”

UCC HOMES

UCC Homes does all it can to bring festive joy to residents within the communities throughout the year but especially during the holidays. They take pride in the quality of care and service provided, as acts of love and compassion. To provide each resident of Thornwald and Sarah Todd Homes with a meaningful gift this coming Christmas, St. Paul's has been asked to consider donating a monetary donation or gift cards/certificates to be used towards purchasing desired gifts for the residents, making Christmas a little more special. **Please make checks out to UCC Homes**

Thornwald Home: Giant Food Stores, Michael's, CVS, Papa John's, Wal Mart, Amazon, Dollar Tree, VISA/MC

Sarah Todd Home: Giant Food Stores, Dollar Tree, Michaels, CVS, Wal Mart, Amazon, Visa/MC, Dunkin

The church will plan for these to be delivered to the UCC Homes' communities at Sarah Todd and Thornwald Homes. Please mark your donations as either Sarah Todd, or Thornwald and have them into the church office by December 1st.

Pollyannas

Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting 11:30 am, Tuesday, Oct 22 at Perkins on Erford Rd. We in the small back room. Please contact Bonnie Plymette (591-8471) if you are planning to attend.

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 sign 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!!!!

Fall Stewardship Auction

It's time to get creative.... we're preparing for another in-person auction at the Harvest Dinner on Nov 10! Gift cards and consumable items are always popular. But the most sought-after items are the unique experiences and homemade items you provide! We can't wait to hear your new ideas and we have a few to share as well. Check out the Time to Sign Up for 'Fall Basket Auction Donations' on our website. Donate a single item or two, sign up for a suggested theme or a creation of your own. Auction baskets are due at the church no later than Sunday, Oct 27. Contact Melissa (melissacawley@aol.com) or Victoria Velez (vmvluv@comast.net) with any questions.

Office Closed

The Office will be closed Monday October 14th, Tuesday the 15th, and Friday the 18th. Please leave a message and we will connect with you.



Imagine Together: Vitality

Nicodemus, initially criticized by Jesus, gradually evolves into a vibrant follower. His narrative highlights the importance of spiritual curiosity in maintaining vitality, addressing the tendency for stagnation and fear of change. How could a commitment to curiosity be transformative for us?

The COVID pandemic forced churches to explore new ways of ministry. However, in this post-pandemic moment, many return to familiar patterns of the past. Have we lost our ability to experiment?

The story of Nicodemus serves as a model for gradual transformation, contrasting with more dramatic biblical conversions. As Rev. Dr. S. Chapin Garner notes, "Curiosity led Nicodemus from darkness to light, from ignorance to understanding, from stagnation to vitality. If we want

to not only imagine but experience vitality, all we need to do is steward our natural God-given curiosity. Accept invitations. Explore new places. Get to know different people. And when the spirit within us is piqued... trust that prompting is from the Lord, and get excited to not only imagine, but experience, where we will be led!"

Embracing curiosity can be the key to experiencing and maintaining vitality. How can we steward curiosity in our congregation?

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