

Welcome to  
**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

November 24, 2024



**GOD IS STILL SPEAKING**



*NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU ARE ON  
LIFE'S JOURNEY YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!*

### **Worship Leadership**

The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio  
Preacher: The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer  
Lector: Nancy Richey

### **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: Steve Roush  
Greeters: Don Dupes  
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer  
Kids' Place: Jonneke Dundore  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Dale Thorpe and Don Dupes  
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**

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**Rev. Allyssa: [allyssaboyer@outlook.com](mailto:allyssaboyer@outlook.com)**



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

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

November 24, 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 "Father, We Thank Thee"

Juliet Calkins

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No. 422 "Come, O Thankful People, Come"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**How good it is to join in prayers of thanksgiving and songs of praise! You have been good to us, gracious God. You have dealt wondrously with us so that we have more than we need. Dwell with us now that we may not only be inspired to share, but also prompted to work for a more just world in which all Your children have enough to eat and reasons for joy. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

The lilies of the field and the birds of the air offer their praise to God in beauty and in song. And yet we are often more ready to complain than to praise. Plants and animals offer up their lives that we might be fed. We have received these gifts with little awareness of the sacrifices others have made for us. We have enjoyed them without asking how we might share the benefits. Let us join in silent prayers of confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God does not put us to shame but deals wondrously with us, restoring us, and blessing us with peace.

**ALL: The gifts of God are known to all who seek God. 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.**

THE CHORISTERS “The Garden of the Lord”

Martin

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Joel 2:21-27

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 126

\*THE HYMN No. 425 “For the Fruit of All Creation”

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Matthew 6:25-33

“What Is There To Be Thankful For?”

*Write something you are grateful for on the paper provided and include it in your prayers on Thanksgiving Day.*

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 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.*

THE OFFERTORY “All Good Gifts”

Schwartz

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 have bread, so we will share. We have pure water, so we will give to dig wells for others. We have faith, so we will tell others of the great things You have done, O God. These sacred moments of giving acknowledge Your ownership of all our possessions. We seek to answer Your call to generosity and faithfulness with gratitude. Thank you, God. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 420 "We Praise You, O God"

\*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 "Now Thank We All Our God"

Robert J. Hughes

References:

The Prayer of Invocation, Call to Confession, Words of Assurance, and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from "Led by Love" by Lavon Bayler, United Church Press: Cleveland, OH, 1996.

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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*The white rose on the altar today is in loving memory of Ned Rupp, who died last Saturday.  
Please keep Rhoda and all Ned's family and friends in prayer.*

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by  
Mary Runkle, "In memory of my Father."  
Gary and Carol Fleisher, "In memory of Parents"

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **ADVENT BOOK STUDY**

Reading and discussing a book in a small group is a wonderful spiritual practice for the Advent season. This year, we will gather to reflect on and discuss “The Mood of Christmas & Other Celebrations” by Howard Thurman. He is a thoughtful writer who can find honest hope even in difficult situations. We would like to place the book order as soon as possible; books cost \$12. We have two meeting times for your convenience: the afternoon group will meet from 1-2:30 PM, and the evening group will meet from 6:30-8:00 PM. If you are interested in participating, please sign up online or contact Rev. John or Rev. Allyssa as soon as possible so that the books can arrive before our first gathering. We hope you will join us!

### **NEW HOPE CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS EXPRESS**

It's time for New Hope Ministries to host their “Christmas Blessing Express”, providing clients the opportunity to select gifts for their family members. \*\* Please note - They are not collecting general clothing items this year. Please only donate clothing items indicated on the gift tags or on their wish list. \*\* These general items are always appreciated: Books, toys and games for all ages, toddler-teen; Basic household items like sheets, towels and small cooking appliances. For more specific gift ideas, see the tags on the Christmas tree in The Commons. Please consider donating gift cards up to \$25 to Target, Kohl's or Wal-Mart. These are used to supplement the program in categories where donations are lowest. Gift cards should be marked for "New Hope", indicate the value, and placed in the offering plate. **New, unwrapped gifts may be placed in the marked bins in the Commons no later than Sunday, Dec 1.** A full wish list from New Hope can be found on their website : <https://nhm-pa.org/wp-content/uploads/Christmas-Wish-List-2024.pdf>. Thanks to your generous support we're making Christmas brighter for local families!

### **PRE-ORDER ST. PAUL'S T-SHIRTS!**

We will be ordering new St. Paul's t-shirts soon - the t-shirts will have the "Our Doors are Open to All" design on light blue short sleeve t-shirts. If you didn't get one the last time we ordered them, or you would like to get new or gift orders, now is the time!

**Pre-orders will be taken in the Common before and after church services on Nov. 24 and Dec. 1 & 8.** We have a sample for you to look at. Once we know how many we need to order, we can then get a firm price per shirt from the printer. It's estimated the shirts will be at least \$30 depending on the number of orders and the type of shirt material we use.

See Corky Short or Kathy Williams in the Common if you have questions!