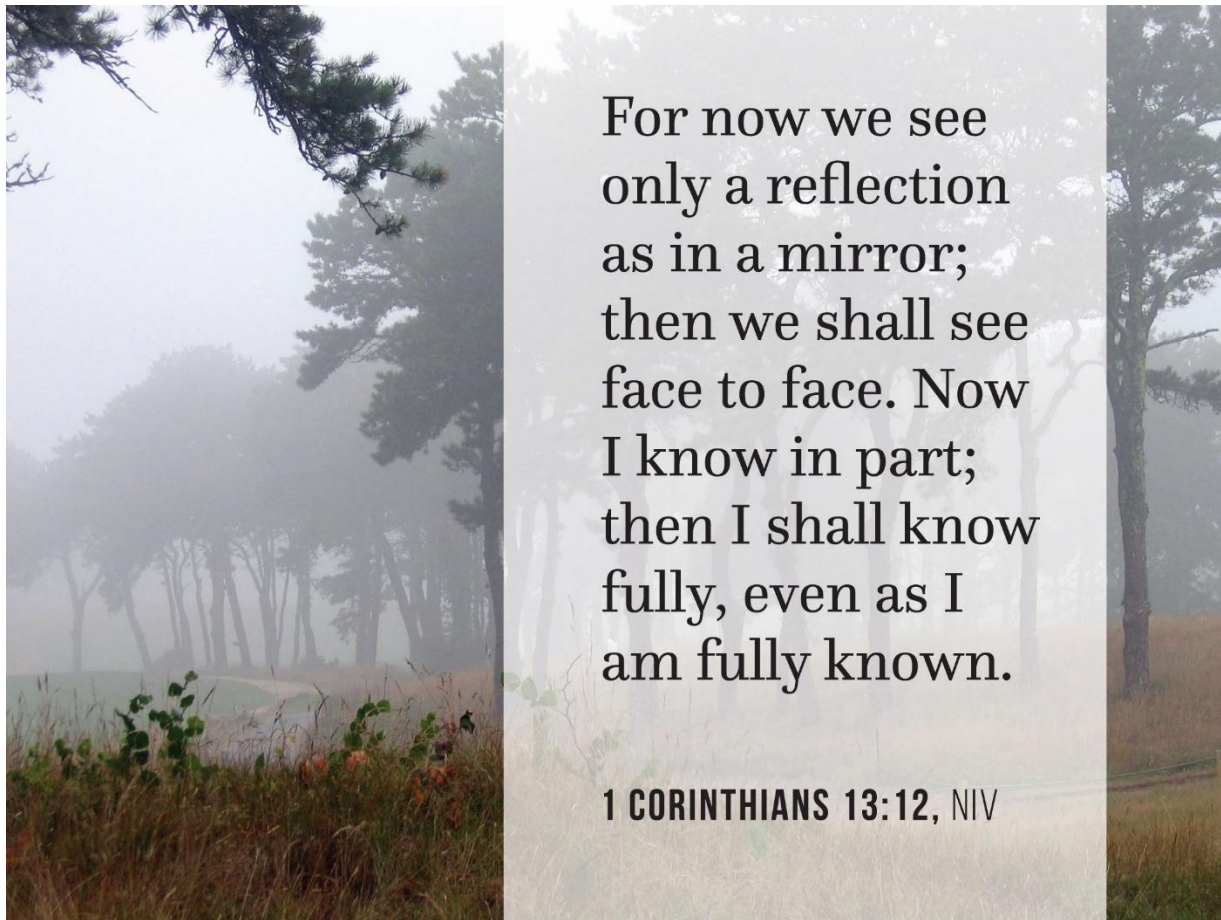


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

February 2, 2025



For now we see
only a reflection
as in a mirror;
then we shall see
face to face. Now
I know in part;
then I shall know
fully, even as I
am fully known.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:12, 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: 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: Nancy Richey
Greeters: Don Dupes, Sherry Spencer, Jeff Leister, Steven Stough, Mel Shaver-Durham
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Jonneke Dundore
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Jane Leister
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.*

The two white roses on the altar this morning are in loving memory of Shirley Grammer and Harriet Grimm. Shirley's funeral was held at St. Paul's on Friday. Harriet died on Monday morning. Please keep both Shirley and Harriet's family and friends in your prayers.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY; HOLY COMMUNION

February 2, 2025

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 "Take My Life"

Benton Price

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 394 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Giving God, guide us in looking beyond our own desires. Help us to see the harm self-centeredness causes others and us. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Children get upset when a peer gets something good or positive and they do not. 'Unfair' they cry, even when what is given is needed by the other child. Even as we mature, we sometimes still feel like that. And we can react in anger and lash out, causing harm both seen and unseen. We do not always recognize that, though the harm is still real. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and continues to come to us teaching and demonstrating the necessity of recognizing others' needs and our calls to respond to them.

ALL: Let us seek to understand how and when we are being so self-centered that we are overlooking the essential needs of others. 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 "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

Spiritual

Guitar, Art Williams

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 1:4-10

THE EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 4:21-30

“The Trap of Self-Centeredness”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

Hear our prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord. In -
cline Thine ear to us And grant us Thy peace.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY “At the River/Deep River”

Spiritual arr. Carter

Youth Choir

*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)

With awe and wonder before you, O God, we dare to enlist all our efforts toward the realization of your realm. Where there is injustice, we would champion those oppressed and misunderstood. When some feel rejected, we reach out to accept them in Christ's name. May these offerings preach and teach and heal. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 330 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

One: God be with you.
All: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to God.
One: Let us give thanks to God.
All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

We gather both in person and in Spirit. For those of you present in the sanctuary, we invite you to come forward if you are able. When you come forward, a piece of bread will be given to you. Once you have received your bread, please proceed to the right or the left and servers will have both wine and grape juice that you may dip your bread in. All the bread is gluten free. After dipping your bread in the wine/juice, you may then eat your communion element and proceed back to your pew. If you prefer not to come forward, please remain in your pew and a greeter will bring you the elements. Please raise your hand if you believe the greeter did not see you.

For those of you joining us via livestream, we hope you have some bread and wine or juice of your choice before you. We trust that God is powerful enough to extend God's blessing upon these communion elements, wherever they may be.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Holy God, we give You thanks for the miracle and wonder of this meal. We give You thanks for your coming to us in the person of Jesus, and for Jesus' willingness to offer his whole self for our benefit. We can see how we can best live our lives. We can believe all "deaths," those losses, endings, and struggles in this life, and the ones at the end of our physical lives, are not the final word. We can trust that Your Spirit is within all of us, and always will be. May the gifts of this table always remind us of the gifts You have given us all. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 525 "This Little Light of Mine"

*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 "Praise To The Living God"

Franklin Ritter

References:

The Prayer of Dedication is from "Gathered 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
Linda Miller, "In celebration of the February birthdays of Linda and Bill."

Spiritual Royalties Initiative Congregational Pledge

We, the Congregation of St. Paul's UCC, Mechanicsburg, acknowledge the history and significance of the Negro Spirituals sung in worship today:

In Christ There Is No East or West, Let Us Break Bread Together

This Little Light of Mine, At the River/Deep River,

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

We affirm their artistic and spiritual worth in the life of the world today.

With great respect and deep gratitude for the tremendous musical contributions made to American music by Black people, we offer our thanks and praise to God for the creators of the Negro Spiritual and their descendants.

We pledge that each time we sing Negro Spirituals in our worship we will sing them with holy reverence and open hearts.

Through our prayers, we will honor the unnamed enslaved people who composed them, and we will pay royalties from the funds collected to the Capital Area Music Association and Sankofa Theater Company*, both organizations dedicated to promoting the advancement of young Black artists and musicians, and to preserve Negro Spirituals in the Black community.

We understand that the debt owed to Black musicians and artists can never be fully repaid. Through our prayers, our gifts, and our actions, we will keep striving to end systemic racism in America.

*www.camamusic.org and www.sankofatheatrehbg.com