

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

February 9, 2025



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: Mary Runkle

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: Dale Thorpe, Mel Shaver-Durham, Steve Stough, Nancy Richey
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Sue Ward-Diorio, Sherry Spencer
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Sue and Dayne Miller
Counting Team: Sherry Spencer, Karin Stork-Whitson

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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Office: stpaulstaff@outlook.com

Rev. John: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com



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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

February 9, 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 "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Robert J. Hughes

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 310 "It's the Old Ship of Zion"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CALL TO CONFESSION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE
SUNDAY (Responsive)

One: Lord God, it was in an African garden that You created the human family.

All: In Eden, waters freely ran; plants, animals and all of nature were one.

One: Who are we that You should have made us in Your image, crowned us with Your glory and given us the freedom to make choices?

All: Through human freedom Your original intent was intruded upon and violated.

One: From that moment of self-centered choice and separation, You have constantly sought to relate Your forgiveness of us, and stir Your Presence within us so that we might choose to return to You.

All: LORD LORD, continue to forgive our disobedience.

One: Under watchful eye, Moses led Your people out of Egypt while You guided Your Children through the wilderness. The Hebrew boys escaped the fiery furnace. Likewise, You guided African Americans through the perils of enslavement and brutality.

All: Forgive all who accept ideas of racial inferiority and prejudice and guide us to a different understanding.

One: African American leaders have taught us how to love in the face of hatred. We therefore seek reconciliation and repair, instead of cycles of reaction and revenge.

All: We extend love and fellowship to all who, like us, are created in Your image.

One: God, You sought to repair the damage done in the garden by sending Your Son, Jesus Christ to reconcile us to You and to each other.

All: Thank You for the ministry of justice and reconciliation that lifts our spirits and changes our hearts.

One: Help us to forgive those who need peace and healing and grant us a clearer understanding of Your truth.

All: Give us courage to stand against those who would continue to sow evil. And may our lives point others to respect, equality, and dignity. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and continues to guide us to overcome what separates us from God and each other.

ALL: Let us seek forgiveness, understanding, healing and reconciliation. 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 HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 6:1-13

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 138

*THE HYMN No. 490 "I Want Jesus to Go with Me"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 5:1-11

"Listening Can Lead to New Understanding"

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)

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 "Ride the Chariot"

Spiritual, arr. Smith

Chancel 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)

Your voice, O God, we have heard. Your presence has moved us to respond. Send us where you want us to go. Use the resources we dedicate here to empower others to witness to your love and care. Fill our lives with thanksgiving. Fill our days with purpose. We rededicate ourselves to work and worship that express our profound gratitude for life and all its opportunities. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 2 “Glory, Glory Hallelujah”

*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 “Recessional on ‘Laudate Dominum’”

Edward Broughton

References:

The responsive Prayer of Invocation and Call to Confession for Racial Reconciliation, with some slight edits, is found on page 84 of the African American Heritage Hymnal, 2001, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Gathered by Love” by Lavon Bayler, 1997, 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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The white rose on the altar today is in loving memory of Cathy Thomas.

Cathy died on Sunday afternoon last week. We thank you for keeping her husband Brandon, her son Bradley, her sister Pat, and all other family and friends in prayer.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Jonneke Dundore, “In honor of Eric’s 44th year of music ministry.”
Joan Kraft, “In celebration of my son Woody’s 51st birthday.”

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:

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

It's the Old Ship of Zion

I Want Jesus to Go with Me

Ride the Chariot

Glory, Glory Hallelujah

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POT PIE

Today is the deadline to pre-order pot pie. There are signup sheets in the Commons or online through the sign-up heading on the website. Each quart is \$11.00 and can be picked up on Saturday, February 15th, between 10AM and 3PM or Sunday morning, February 16th. Please also consider signing up to help prepare the pot pie throughout this week. Sign up on the bulletin board or online.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Help St. Paul's youth turn our nation's great day of football into a great day of caring! Following our worship service today, Sunday, February 9, our youth group will be stationed at the doors of the sanctuary to collect cash donations for local organizations that help fight food insecurity in

our community. Use your dollars to support your team and tackle hunger in Central PA! Thank you for your generosity.

SOUP & DESSERT COOK-OFF / TRIVIA NIGHT AT ST. PAUL'S!

It's back by popular demand - join us for a Soup & Dessert Cook-off followed by Trivia Night on Saturday, February 22 at 5pm! Calling all cooks and bakers, break out your best soup and/or dessert recipes. Vote for your favorite submissions by purchasing tickets at the door: \$1 for 1 ticket, 6 for \$5, or 13 for \$10. Tasting and voting start at 5pm, followed by Trivia Night after voting concludes. Awards will be given to winners in both events! Guidelines for entries are posted along with the signup sheets. Please sign up whether you are cooking or attending. Signup sheets will be posted in The Commons and online. Cooking and trivia are open to all ages. A few kid-friendly foods will be provided by Parish Ministries. Join us for this evening of extreme family fun!

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

Our congregation has been invited again this year to join in an ecumenical education series where we explore topics related to our Christian faith within our local community. These conversations happen monthly and are hosted by different congregations in our area. Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church will host February's conversation on "The Opioid Crisis Today." Light refreshments will be provided. We hope you can join us for this opportunity for conversation with our neighbors.

Date: Sunday, February 16, 2025

Time: 6:30-8:00 PM

Location: Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church, 300 E Simpson St, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

MECHANICSBURG COMMUNITY DINNER

The next Mechanicsburg Community Dinner is scheduled for February 16th at Buhrig's Gathering Place. Our church will be providing and preparing penne pasta to serve 100 meals.

Help is needed in a variety of ways. Please notify Wendi Taylor if you can assist in one of these areas:

1. provide pasta
2. cook pasta
3. deliver the pasta to Buhrig's Gathering Place
4. set up for the dinner
5. serve and assist at the dinner
6. clean up after the dinner

Please contact Wendi Taylor by either calling or sending an email.

Phone number: 717-612-9409 (This is a land line so you cannot text)

Email address: wendi.taylor@verizon.net