

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

April 20, 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: Kathy Aumiller

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: Crystal Cline
Greeters: Sherry Spencer, Jeff Leister
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Sue Ward-Diorio
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Jonneke Dundore
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.*

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

saintpaulsucc-mech.org

Office: stpaulstaff@outlook.com

Rev. John: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com



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

EASTER
HOLY COMMUNION

April 20, 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 "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

John Troutman

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 233 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God of New Life, today we celebrate Your resurrection of Jesus! We can believe that new life awaits us all, in eternity, and in the present. We can believe that those who seek to silence and stop works of justice, compassion, and love, do not have the final word. We can believe, help us to believe. Guide us in living accordingly. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Fear is a powerful emotion. When we or our loved ones are threatened by those who hold extreme power, we tend to become silent, or hide, or give in. Jesus' disciples did this. Jesus however, never allowed his fear to stop him from speaking and acting in the ways God called him to. Even torture and death did not stop him. Will we allow such fear to stop us? Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us. Jesus demonstrates that forgiveness by going and finding his disciples who are hiding and offering them peace. And he renews his call for them to follow him, promising to be with them.

ALL: Let us take heart, find courage and hope in Jesus' resurrection, and follow Jesus' words and ways, remembering he is with us always. 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 NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-41

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 65:17-25

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 20:1-18

“To Speak Up Or Not”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

Halleluja

236

Traditional

Musical notation for the first line of 'Halleluja'. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, E, A, D, Bm, E. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Musical notation for the second line of 'Halleluja'. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY "Christ Arose!"

Larson

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)

Thank you, God, for resurrection. We rejoice that Christ shows us the promise of new life. As you offered Christ to the world, so we would offer ourselves. May we, along with our gifts, testify to the good news of Your forgiving love and empowering acceptance. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 433 "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

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 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

We gather both in person and in Spirit. For those of you present in the Sanctuary, greeters will pass out gluten-free bread, and then red wine and white grape juice. They will bring the trays to you. Please hold the elements until all have been served; we will eat and then drink them together. All are welcome to participate. Thank 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, even as we and they are scattered in geographic space.

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. 245 "The Day of Resurrection"

*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.

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.

Songs, music, and lyrics used by permission. CCLI License #11380019 CSPL128945

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Jonneke Dundore, “In honor of the Broad St. Dinner.”

Cindy Baldwin, “In memory of Jill Dimpsey.”

Teri Guelcher, “In memory of Dave Guelcher.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

STAYING CONNECTED

If you're interested in receiving email updates from St. Paul's head to <http://eepurl.com/hRK0gX> and subscribe.

ST. PAUL'S BAZAAR 2025 - EXCITING UPDATES!

BIG NEWS!!! The St. Paul's Bazaar Committee has decided to move our Bazaar date to Saturday, October 4, 2025 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. This was based partly on feedback from the all-church survey we conducted - thanks for your input. We hope that scheduling the Bazaar on a Saturday will allow for more working folks and families to be able to come. It may also help us gain some more volunteers who usually can't help on a Friday with their work schedules. Spread the news and keep your eyes and ears open for more updates as we get closer to our church's biggest fundraiser of the year!

YARD SALE

Get ready for some fantastic finds at the Yard Sale 2025 on Saturday, May 3rd, from 8 AM to 1 PM! Whether you're looking to sell your own treasures or hunt for unique bargains, this rain-or-shine event has something for everyone. Reserve your selling space (tables are \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members) and come hungry for delicious food from the concession stand and tempting treats at the bake sale table. Plus, support the church by browsing the Yard Sale Committee's managed tables. Your help is also welcome – lend a hand with setup, parking, cleanup, or donate baked goods (packaged for \$1 sale) or gently used items (drop-off by April 25th, see accepted items list). Don't miss out on this community event organized by Joan Moyer, Mary Runkle, Carol Sizemore, and Susie White – we look forward to seeing you there!

CLOTHING FREE MARKET

Our congregation is holding a new event this spring, a Clothing Free Market, sponsored by our Youth Fellowship. This is one way we can care for the earth, by encouraging reuse of clothing.

Clothing donations in great condition can be dropped off on the tables in the Youth Room (room 11/12). Please wash and bag all items. The free market will be held on Saturday, May 10, from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. We will need additional adult volunteers to help the youth sort and organize the clothing, and run the Free Market. If you would like to help, please contact Ivonne McFarland, Erin Anderson, or Rev. Allyssa.

The Easter Flowers are Given to the Glory of God by...

Don & Merikay Wood	In memory of Date Wood & Mary Kanour
Craig & Jennifer Martek	In memory of Grammie and Dad
Chris & Tina Bowers	In memory of Robin Lynn Rupp
Chris & Tina Bowers	In memory of Anne Paris Davison
Chris & Tina Bowers	In memory of David Francis LaPierre
Paula & Mark Boyer	In memory of our parents, Domenica & James Alfano, and Nadine & Carroll Boyer
Jeff & Randy Whitman	In memory of our parents
Anna Thompson	In memory of parents & grandparents
Anna Thompson	in honor of children & grandchildren
Kathy Grammer Sundy	In honor of children & grandchildren
Kathy Grammer Sundy	In memory of Tom & Shirley Grammer
Sharon Forrest	In honor of Sarah & Sophie
Chris & Dave Grice	In honor of Kay & Don Coldren
Chris & Dave Grice	In memory of Roger & Sally Grice
Patty & Dave Scott	In honor of Julie, Roudy & Walker Lantis
Patty & Dave Scott	In honor of Rebecca Scott
Patty & Dave Scott	In memory of Barbara Bell
Patty & Dave Scott	In memory of John & Dorothy Scott
Bill & Deb Cashman	In honor of our granddaughter, Charlotte Hersh
Bill & Deb Cashman	In memory of parents & grandparents
Daniella & Joshua Benfer	In memory of USAF Chaplain Richard Denison Jr.
Ward-Diorio Family	In memory of Aunt Ev, Mom & Dad Diorio, and Mom Ward

The Lenten Donations are Given to the Glory of God by...

Raymond Krouch	In memory of Theresa Krouch
The Richeys	In memory of our parents
Linda Miller & William Murray	In memory of parents, son, & others we loved
George Swartz	In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Swartz, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Fry, & Russell Williams
George Swartz	In honor of Mr. John Knight
Diane Freeman	In memory of Danielle Freeman
Kay Huber	In honor of pastors & staff
Gabi Schaeffer	In honor of Kathy Schaeffer
Clarence Soltz	In memory of parents
Pam Smith	In memory of Tom & Lynn Davies
Shirley Keith Knox	In memory of Gene Keith
Martha Keith	In memory of Eugene Keith
The Iacavones	In memory of John Iacavone