

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

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

May 11, 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: Teri Guelcher

### **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, Bonnie Plymette, Dennis Plymette  
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer  
Kids' Place: Barbara Wheeler, Becky Thompson  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Bonnie Plymette  
Counting Team: Joan Moyer, Paula Boyer

### **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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**ONLINE  
GIVING**



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 11, 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 "A Mother's Prayer"

Franklin Ritter

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No. 479 "God Is My Shepherd"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Loving God, Mother and Father of all, guide us in recognizing the depth of Your Love for us, as we celebrate the depth of love most of our mothers and those who have acted as mothers to us, have showered upon us. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

It is hard to imagine the depth of love a mother has for her children. After carrying them for nine months, or adopting them, or choosing to offer motherly care, and then feeding and nurturing them throughout childhood into young adulthood, such love, such care does not go away, ever. The desire to protect and defend them never lessens. And this, this is how God Loves us, and even more so. Can we believe this is true? If, unfortunately, our mothers did not love us in such ways, can we still believe God can? Does the depth of such love scare us? Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

**One:** God loves us and forgives us. God's love for us is so deep, that nothing we do or say can stand in the way of it, nothing.

**ALL:** Let us be grateful for God's deep, deep love and the ways mothers, biological and otherwise, demonstrate such love. 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 EPISTLE READING

Revelation 7:9-17

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 23

\*THE HYMN No. 472 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING & MESSAGE:

Acts of the Apostles 9:36-43

"New Life Comes In Many Ways"

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)

## Halleluja

236

*Traditional*

Two staves of musical notation in treble clef, key of A major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, with lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' below it. Chords A, E, A, D, Bm, and E are indicated above the staff. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.' below it. Chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, and A are indicated above the staff.

*Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.*

THE OFFERTORY “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”  
Hand Chime Choir

arr. Black

\*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)

**Make these moments a feast of dedication to Your purposes among us, loving God. May we serve You night and day, wherever we are, in all we do. Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 252 “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

\*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.*

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE "All Glory Be to God on High"

Joseph Prentiss

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  
Jim and Becky Weaver, "In loving memory of Jeffrey Paul Weaver."

### **NEW GRADUATES & NEW MEMBERS CELEBRATION**

Please join us in celebrating St. Paul's UCC's new members and new graduates! Immediately following worship on May 18, we'll get together for food and fellowship in honor of our new members and grads. We hope you can join us!

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER KICK-OFF**

Our last day of Sunday school until the fall will be Sunday, May 18. Join us for a day of fun and games outside (weather permitting) as we say "goodbye" to another great Sunday school year, and "hello" to summer!

### **SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning on May 25, we will hold one worship service each Sunday, starting at 9:15 AM. There will be no Sunday school, and no 8:30 AM communion service on the first Sunday of the month.

### **PEACE CHURCH**

Join us for worship at Peace Church on Sunday, June 1, at 9:15 AM. Peace Church is our congregation's "mother church," built in 1798. It is located at the intersection of Trindle Rd and St. John's Church Rd near Camp Hill. There are a few accessible parking spaces on the church property; worshipers may also park in the lot of the office building across the street (395 St Johns Church Rd, Camp Hill). We hope you can join us for worship in this place rich with history; a wonderful way to honor our ancestors in the faith and to share their discipleship with future generations of our congregation!