

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

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

May 25, 2025



May **God** continue to  
**bless us**; let all the  
**ends of the earth**  
revere him.

Psalm 67:7, NRSV

**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: Jane Leister

### **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 Stough  
Greeters: Candy LaRue, Don Dupes, Corky Short  
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer  
Kids' Place: Becky Thompson  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Bonnie Plymette  
Counting Team:

### **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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 25, 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 "New Day, New Hope"

Steven Scott

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No. 276 "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Gracious God, we are grateful for the gift of Your Holy Spirit, the Advocate, our helper. Help us to pay attention to what Your Spirit continues to teach us and how it is guiding us. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

As we read from Scripture thousands of years old; as we sing hymns and follow traditions hundreds of years old, we can begin to think God has ceased to speak and act in the world. This is not true. Jesus demonstrated how each of us is called to listen for God's guidance for how to act in the present moment, learning from the past but not being locked up by it. We fail at times to allow the Advocate to guide us. 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 speak to us through others and from within us, as the Holy Spirit teaches us.

**ALL: Let us remember we never "graduate" from God's Lessons, God's Guidance, God's Peace and God's 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.***

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS (unison)

**May God's grace be upon these shawls...warming, comforting, enfolding, and embracing. May these mantles be safe havens...sacred places of security and well-being...sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May the ones who receive these shawls be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Blessed be!**

*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 16:13-15

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 67

\*THE HYMN No. 576 "For the Healing of the Nations"

THE RESPONSE:

**One: God is Still Speaking.**

**All: Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 14:25-29

**"Class Is Still In Session"**

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

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Traditional

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

The musical notation is for a unison choral response in the key of A major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody is written on a single line. The lyrics are 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.' The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and bar lines. Chord symbols are written above the staff: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, and A.

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

THE OFFERTORY “Gather by the River to Pray”  
Youth Choir

arr. Choplin

\*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)

**For the hospitality of Your good earth, for the people You have given us to love, for the tasks You have called us to do, we give thanks, gracious God. Our offerings are a measure of our faith and evidence of our gratitude. We dedicate ourselves with our gifts, that Your reign of light may be realized in the places where we live and work and far beyond our personal reach. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 591 “This Is My Song”

\*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 "For All The Saints"

Roger C. Wilson

References:

The Prayer of Blessing is by Janet Bristow, 2008, [www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com).

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

Alan & Diane Richenbacher, "In loving memory of our mothers."

Tom & Tillie's Children, "In memory & celebration of the lives of Tom and Tillie Valenteen on their Wedding Anniversary, May 22<sup>nd</sup>."

### **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!

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Save the dates! We will hold Vacation Bible School on the evenings of July 14-17. Kids aged 3 through 5th graders are invited to participate in this year's VBS. Adult and youth volunteers are needed! If you'd like to volunteer, or if you have any questions, please contact Erin Anderson, Becky Thompson, or Rev. Allyssa.

### **YOUTH FELLOWSHIP ICE CREAM PARTY**

Kick off the summer with fun activities and sweet treats! All youth (rising 6th graders through 12th graders) and their families are invited. Friends, neighbors, and younger siblings are welcome to participate too! We'll play games, eat pizza, and top it all off with ice cream. Sunday, June 1; 5:30-7:30 PM.