

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

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

June 1, 2025



**GOD IS STILL SPEAKING**

*NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU ARE ON  
LIFE'S JOURNEY YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!*



### **Worship Leadership**

The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio  
Preacher: The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer  
Lector: Sherry Spencer

### **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: Jeff Leister  
Greeters: Nancy Richey  
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Mary Runkle

### **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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
PEACE CHURCH

June 1, 2025

*This service includes historical prayers, music, and liturgies from the United Church of Christ, our predecessor denominations, and beyond. As we join for worship in Peace Church, we honor the foundations of our past, embrace our present, and step into our future together.*

***\*Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand.***

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORGAN PRELUDE

GREETING (responsive) – 1866 German Reformed Church

One: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

SENTENCE OF ADORATION – 1941 Evangelical & Reformed Church

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. Let us worship God.

\*THE HYMN “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” – John Newton, 1779

***Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.***

***He whose Word cannot be broken formed thee for His own abode.***

***On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?***

***With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.***

***See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,***

***Well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.***

***Who can faint while such a river ever flows their thirst to assuage?***

***Grace, which like the Lord, the Giver, never fails from age to age.***

***Round each habitation hov'ring, see the cloud and fire appear***

***For a glory and a cov'ring, showing that the Lord is near.***

***Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,***

***Safe they feed upon the manna which He gives them on their way.***

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Over the centuries, people gathered to worship in Your name,**

calling upon Your Spirit to guide them in service to You, that they might all be one. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION – 1941 Evangelical & Reformed Church

Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) – 1941 Evangelical & Reformed Church

**Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their sins. Restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON (responsive; sing in unison) – 1941 Evangelical & Reformed Church

One: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

One: Christ, have mercy upon us.

**All: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

One: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive) – 1986 United Church of Christ

One: God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

**ALL: We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*If you are able, please rise and greet one another with signs of Peace.*

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*THE GLORIA PATRI – 1866 German Reformed Church

**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.*

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

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 97

\*THE HYMN “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past” – Isaac Watts, 1719

***Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,***

***Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:***

***Under the shadow of your throne Your saints have dwelt secure;***

***Sufficient is your arm alone, And our defense is sure.***

***Before the hills in order stood Or Earth received her frame,***

***From everlasting you are God, To endless years the same.***

***A thousand ages in your sight Are like an evening gone,***

***Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.***

***Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Bears all its sons away;***

***They fly, forgotten, as a dream Dies at the opening day.***

***Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,***

***Be thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home.***

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 17:20-26

“That They May All Be One”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER – The Lord’s Prayer was first translated into English around the year 650 CE

**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 PRAYER RESPONSE (unison) ) – 1941 Evangelical & Reformed Church



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

THE OFFERTORY “We Shall Walk Through the Valley”  
Chancel Choir

Spiritual

\*DOXOLOGY (sing in unison) – Words by Isaac Watts, 1719

***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 joy and gladness, we dedicate our gifts to the service of Jesus Christ. We seek, at times, to bring peace in the midst of turmoil. We seek, at other times, to disturb the peace with our work for justice and our solidarity with the oppressed. To these ends, we offer ourselves and our gifts. Use us, O Lord, as ambassadors of Your love. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN “Blest Be the Tie that Binds” – From the Reformed Hymnal, 1941

***Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.***

***Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.***

***We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.***

***From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin, we shall be free;  
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.***

\*THE COMMISSIONING – 1986 United Church of Christ

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

\*THE WORLD PEACE PRAYER (responsive) – adapted from the Upanishads (ancient Sanskrit texts), 800-200 BCE

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 – 1941 Evangelical & Reformed Church

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.

\* THE THREE-FOLD AMEN

\*THE CHORAL BENEDICTION “Go Ye Now In Peace”

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE

References:

The Greeting is from The Order of Worship for the Reformed Church in the United States, Philadelphia, PA, 1866. The Sentence of Adoration, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Kyrie Eleison, and Benediction are from The Order of Worship, the General Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, Eden Publishing House: St. Louis, MO, 1941.

The Prayer of Invocation is adapted from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers, copyright © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts.

The Words of Assurance are from the United Church of Christ Book of Worship, United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership: New York, NY, 1986.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from “Gathered by Love” by Lavon Bayler, the Pilgrim Press: Cleveland, OH, 2001.

The World Peace Prayer is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism, and is also prayed daily by Roman Catholic Benedictine nuns.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS**

Our congregation is part of 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. Grace United Methodist Church in Lemoyne is hosting the next conversation. The topic is “Gun Violence is a Public Health Crisis.”

Date: Sunday, June 8; 7:00-8:30 PM

Location: Grace UMC, 309 Herman Ave, Lemoyne, PA 17043

### **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.

### **“WAVES OF WONDER” VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Save the dates! We will hold Vacation Bible School on the evenings of July 14-17. “Waves of Wonder” encourages children to experience wonder at God’s creation and to see water as a sign of God’s great love for the world. Kids aged 3 through 5th graders are invited to participate. Registration forms will be available in the Common and on our website. 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.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING**

We are excited to provide our congregation’s kids with an opportunity to learn and grow closer to God through Vacation Bible School. A VBS planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 5, at 6:30 PM. Everyone who wishes to volunteer to help with VBS is invited.