

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

June 22, 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: Anna Thompson

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: Mark Dundore
Greeters: Joan Moyer, Sherry Spencer
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Shirley Keith Knox
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Darryl and Winnie Wentz
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

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**ONLINE
GIVING**



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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JUNETEENTH

June 22, 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 "God Will Take Care of You"

Charity Boyles

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: The Lord our God is great.

All: The Lord is worthy of our praise.

One: Come; let us remember the great things God has done for us.

All: Let us not neglect to teach our children the greatness of God.

One: Let us not forget our past and those who have gone before us.

All: We remember our ancestors; we remember our history.

One: We know that Black history is our history. Let us lift up our voices in song and open our hearts in gratitude.

All: Let us greet God with our hymn of praise.

*THE HYMN No. 572 "When Israel Was in Egypt's Land"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Almighty God, we come to worship You today with open hearts and open minds. We want to hear and receive what You have to say to us in this service. Speak to us today as You spoke to those who went before us. Tell us the stories of Your wonders and greatness. We are ready to hear them. Remind us once again of Your grace and love. Help us teach Your goodness to the next generation. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Today, we commemorate the end of slavery in America. This day partially reminds us of the progress made. This day also partially reminds us of the progress we have not made. We celebrate the ideal of freedom for Black lives. And we grieve that we have not fully established justice, and so have not fully reconciled racism, in our nation.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, You created each person in Your image. The two greatest commandments call us to love You with all our heart, souls, and minds, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Your love for us motivates us to love each other. If we do not love each other, then ultimately, we have not experienced Your love.

As much as we commemorate and celebrate Juneteenth, we grieve this day. We mourn that our Black siblings have not been loved as our neighbors. We mourn that our Black siblings have been treated less than created in Your image throughout history. Lord, we confess our sins and repent.

On Juneteenth this year, we ask You to guide our nation. May the good news of the gospel motivate us to love each other. May the ideals of our words match the practices of our lives. May a fresh empowerment of Your Spirit unite us together. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear Your will and leading.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God transforms our contrition into courage. Our Creator does not give up on us when we are discouraged or reject us when we fail. God forgives us and lifts us up.

ALL: **Christ walks with us on the way of faithfulness, empowering us to stand in solidarity with our neighbors for freedom and justice.**

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

Exodus 3:7-9

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:31-40

*THE HYMN No. 574 "In Egypt under Pharaoh"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE READING OF THE PSALM & MESSAGE:

Psalm 78:1-11

"We Will Not Hide History"

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)

pp Devoutly 5. 5. 5. 5. GEORGE WHELPTON, 1847-1930

Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;

Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. A-MEN.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY

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)**

God of freedom and justice, guide us, through Your love, to establish the justice You proclaim, that all people may live in harmony and peace. Change our routine worship and work into genuine encounter with You, and with our better selves, so that our lives will be changed for the good of all Your beloved children. Bless these offerings, we pray. Amen.

***THE HYMN "There Is a Time for Silence" (to the tune of No. 190, "Beneath the Cross of Jesus")**

***There is a time for silence, a time to listen well,
A time to hear the painful stories others have to tell.
O God, may we who love to talk now hear the rage and fear,
And may we learn from neighbors who have long been silenced here.***

***There is a time for asking, a time to pause and pray,
There is a time to hear the prophets speak of God's new day,
To hear the words of Jesus who taught welcome, truth and love,
To hear the Spirit speaking through the ones who shout, "Enough!"***

***There's time for humble study — for reading and for thought.
God, may we learn from others of the justice they have sought,
And may we learn from those who bravely stand against the hate,
So when we're called to justice, we, your church, won't hesitate.***

***There's time for good reflection, to ponder who we've been,
To think how our own attitudes have paved the way for sin,
To listen to the ones we fear — to folks we may resent —
To hear of Jesus' call to love — and humbly to repent.***

***And there's a time to work now — to boldly say their names,
To protest and to organize, to advocate for change,
To use our voices and to stand with those who are oppressed.
As we seek justice, hand in hand, Lord, may your world be blessed.***

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*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 "Psalm of Glory"

Lani Smith

References:

The Call to Worship and the Prayer of Invocation are adapted from 21st Century Africana Liturgy Resources: "Worship Resources for Juneteenth Day Celebrations" Copyright © 2007, 2008 Eugene Blair. All Rights Reserved.

Posted with Permission on the Discipleship Ministries Worship website: www.umcworship.org

The Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession are adapted from a prayer by Peter Englert, "Juneteenth Prayers,"

The Center for Mission and Identity at Xavier University and the Conway Institute for Jesuit Education.

The Words of Assurance are adapted from "Gathered by Love" by Lavon Bayler, the Pilgrim Press: Cleveland, OH, 2001.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from "A prayer to celebrate Juneteenth - a Light of Hope for Freedom and Justice," Black Catholic Ministry, Archdiocese of Baltimore.

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
Jonneke Dundore, "In honor of Mark's birthday."

SPIRITUAL ROYALTIES INITIATIVE

The Spiritual Royalties Initiative at St. Paul's seeks to address a historical injustice by recognizing the uncredited contributions of enslaved African Americans who created Negro Spirituals. These profound songs, born from hardship and faith, became a cornerstone of American religious music and culture, yet their creators remained anonymous while others profited. This initiative is not a form of charity, but rather a crucial act of **reconciliation, restoration, rehabilitation, and reparation**, acknowledging the significant wealth generated for individuals and institutions by these spirituals without proper recognition or compensation to their originators.



By encouraging churches and individuals to contribute a "royalty" each time a spiritual is sung, the initiative aims to repay a long-standing debt. Funds collected are directed towards Black-led organizations focused on promoting the advancement of young Black artists and musicians and preserving the legacy of Negro Spirituals within the Black community. Through your donations to the Spiritual Royalties Initiative, St. Paul's UCC supports organizations like the Capital Area Music Association (CAMA) and the Sankofa African American Theatre Company, ensuring that resources directly benefit and uplift the communities whose ancestors gifted us this invaluable musical heritage.

If you would like to make a donation today, please use the specific giving envelopes for the Spiritual Royalties Initiative or indicate on your giving envelope how you wish your gift to be directed.

ST. PAUL'S AGAINST RACISM, CREATING CHANGE (SPARCC)

SPARCC is a ministry team of St. Paul's UCC. Racism is a scourge on our religious tradition, our country, and our world. As followers of Christ, we are called to abolish racism, and to seek liberation and equality for Black people and People of Color. SPARCC engages in education and community action to eliminate racism, both within the Christian Church, and in our society at large. SPARCC members take part in demonstrations for racial justice. We participate in discussions of books, newspaper articles, and films about racism. And we partner with community organizations to engage in antiracist education and activism. Racism is deeply embedded in the American way of life. SPARCC members undertake our mission to end racism with humility, knowing we still have much to learn, and far to go. Nevertheless, we are committed to making our nation a place of justice, freedom, equality, and peace for all God's beloved children. SPARCC is open to anyone who wishes to participate. If you would like to get involved, contact Rev. Allyssa.

ONA SUNDAY

We are celebrating Open & Affirming (ONA) Sunday on June 29. All are invited to wear rainbow colors and other symbols of inclusion and affirmation to our worship service that morning. We hope to see you there!