

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

July 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: 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

Trombone Ensemble

Ralph Bailets, Dale Groome, Brad Miller, Jeff Schwartz, Mark Dundore

Ministry of Audio and Video

Jeffrey A. Dundore

Ministry of Service

Lead Greeter: Becky Thompson
Greeters: Dale Thorpe, Don Dupes
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Teri Guelcher
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 AFTER PENTECOST

July 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 PRELUDE “On a Hymnsong of Philip Bliss” David R. Holsinger, arr. William G. Harbinson

CALL TO WORSHIP “Theology of the Common Deed” by Abraham Joshua Heschel

*THE HYMN No. 592 “God of Ages, Who with Sure Command”

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Calling God, we are grateful when those among us respond to You, and that they will share their gifts through service to others, as ways of serving You. Guide us as well to respond to Your Calls to pursue justice, as a way of serving You. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We hear God speaking through the Prophets about our need to pursue justice for all, care for those in need, and defend those being abused. Jesus calls us to do the same. Yet we have allowed the individual and corporate pursuit of self-interest and greed to go unchallenged. God has warned us of the consequences. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us, and continues to speak to us, urging us to recognize the pain and suffering that so many experience when justice and concern for others is ignored.

ALL: Let us accept our responsibility as followers of Jesus' Words and Ways to not only raise the alarm about what is happening but also to work to create a world where justice is extended to all equally and the pursuit of the common good is greater than the seeking of individual gain. 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

ORDER FOR AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRY: INTRODUCTION

LEADER: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. Today we affirm the Ministry of two new Called To Care Team Members. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

PEOPLE: There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

LEADER: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

PEOPLE: The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

LEADER: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

PEOPLE: It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

LEADER: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

PEOPLE: All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

PRESENTATION

Invitation to all Called to Care Team members present to please come forward and bring with them the

NEW MEMBERS OF THE CALLED TO CARE TEAM

Paula Boyer and Kathy Williams

LEADER: Paula and Kathy have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us as new Called to Care Team Members. They have accepted their call, undergone specific training, and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

COVENANT

LEADER: *(addressing the people being affirmed)* Siblings in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of the Called to Care Team ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

INDIVIDUALS: I am.

LEADER: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

INDIVIDUALS: I do, relying on God's grace.

LEADER: *(addressing the congregation)* Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our siblings in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

All who are able please stand.

***PEOPLE: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

The congregation may be seated.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

PASTOR: The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful people and asks the Holy Spirit to confer upon them the gifts of ministry. We lay hands upon you Kathy and Paula for the position of *Called to Care Team Member*.

PASTOR: May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the ministry of Called To Care Member in Christ's church and equip you with everything good to do God's will. Receive authority to execute the office of Called To Care Member in the name of Christ.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRAYER

LEADER: Let us pray. Eternal God, You have called Paula and Kathy to serve You in this household of faith and in the world, which You have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send Your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that Your church may prosper in the mission You place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of Your name.

PEOPLE: **Amen.**

DECLARATION

LEADER: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce:
Kathy and Paula, you are installed as members of our *Called to Care Team*.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

LEADER: In accordance with the faith and order of this church, I extend to you the hand of Christian love.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

*We are grateful for all the work that our Called to Care Team do for us all year long.
You may be seated.*

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 10:38-42

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 52

*THE HYMN No. 588 "Let Justice Flow Like Streams"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Amos 8:1-12

"Consequences of Injustice"

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 "Praises"

Various, arr. Camp Kirkland

Trombone Ensemble

*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)

Through our offerings, loving God, we proclaim Christ to the world. We dedicate all we are giving to preaching, teaching, and outreach that move people toward Christian maturity. We offer ourselves as advocates for the poor and needy, as seekers for justice, as stewards of hope. We turn from false securities to put our confidence in You, that the mystery of Your glorious Word may be opened up among all Your people. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 573 "Lead On Eternal Sovereign"

*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.*

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE "Achieved is the Glorious Work"

F.J. Haydn

References:

The Call to Worship is found on pages 88-89 in I Asked for Wonder: A Spiritual Anthology of Abraham Joshua Heschel, edited by Samuel H. Dresner, 1992, Crossroad Publishing Company; originally found in The Insecurity of Freedom, by Abraham Joshua Heschel, 1959, Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

The Prayer of Dedication is from "Led 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
Teri Guelcher, "In memory of Dave Guelcher."

School Daze Craze

New Hope Ministries will hold their back-to-school event- School Daze Craze- on August 7th.

Children of guests of New Hope will receive backpacks filled with needed school items.

Donations of school supplies are greatly appreciated and may be placed in donation boxes in the commons by Monday, July 28th. Any questions contact Karen Allison. Thank you for your continued support of New Hope!

The items requested are listed below:

- Backpacks
- Binders- 2 inch rings
- Calculators- Scientific
- Colored Pencils
- Markers 12PK
- Folders
- Highlighters
- Index Cards- 3x5
- Mechanical Pencils
- Ruled notebook paper for binders
- Spiral one subject notebooks
- Pencil Cases
- Post it notes- square
- Tissues-Individual Packs
- Individual hand sanitizer
- Sharpies