

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

July 27, 2025

GIVE US THIS DAY
**OUR
DAILY
BREAD**



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: 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: Charles Ricedorf-Reed
Greeters: Corky Short, Candy LaRue, Becky Thompson
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Sherry Spencer, Don Dupes
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Susan Miller
Counting Team: Sherry Spencer, Joan Moyer

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 AFTER PENTECOST

July 27, 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 "Aria from the Tenth Organ Concerto"

George F. Handel

CALL TO WORSHIP

"We can talk to God anywhere,' we say, and it is true. But more often than not, because we do not have a somewhere to talk to God, we talk to God nowhere...." "If we are to live lives that enable us to hear more clearly who we really are, then we will have to learn to move to a rhythm that is superior to the ones we have fashioned for ourselves, or the ones a consumer society has foisted upon us. We will have to discover the rhythms of prayer and life that can be found in the steps of the Ancient Dance of the Ancient of Days: the liturgy, the Eucharist, the calendar and the mass, the prayers of confession and intercession and recollection and contemplation, the habits of reading and retreat and working with our hands, the practices of hospitality and forgiveness and being with the poor." Robert Benson

*THE HYMN No. 506 "What a Friend We Have In Jesus"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Listening God, we are grateful that You hear all our prayers. Jesus gave us an outline that we can build on. Guide us through Your Holy Spirit and help us to listen for what You are offering us. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We wonder if we should pray for what we need. Are we being selfish even though Jesus encourages us to do so? Are we afraid that we might slip into praying for what we desire even as we know it would come at great cost to others or creation? What happens if we do not get what we pray for? Can we live with that? Let us bravely join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us, hears and responds to all our prayers. God reminds us God's responses are not always what we want; do not always occur right away; and may require close attention to understand them.

ALL: **Let us come to God honestly, speaking openly, listening closely and living with the mysteries of God's responses. 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 HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 18:20-32

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 138

*THE HYMN No. 508 "Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:
“Expectations of Prayer”

Luke 11:1-13

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 “How Great Thou Art”
Daniel Micsion, soloist

Hine/Forrest

*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)

Holy God, whose name is before all names, we worship you with our offerings. They represent our labor, our investment of time and energy. We want them to be put to the best possible use. May they save many from the course of evil and turn them toward faithful discipleship. May they provide bread for body and soul, that your people may be preserved and strengthened for ministry. Bless and multiply our efforts, we pray. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 517 “I Need You Every Hour”

*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 “Alleluia”

George Blake

References:

The Call to Worship is from Living Prayer, by Robert Benson, 1999, Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam. The first part of the quote is found on page 159 and the second part on pages 15-16.

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

Nancy and Tom Richey, “In celebration of all who participated in VBS 2025!”

Susan Gabriel, “In memory of father and grandfather, James W. and James Carpenter.”