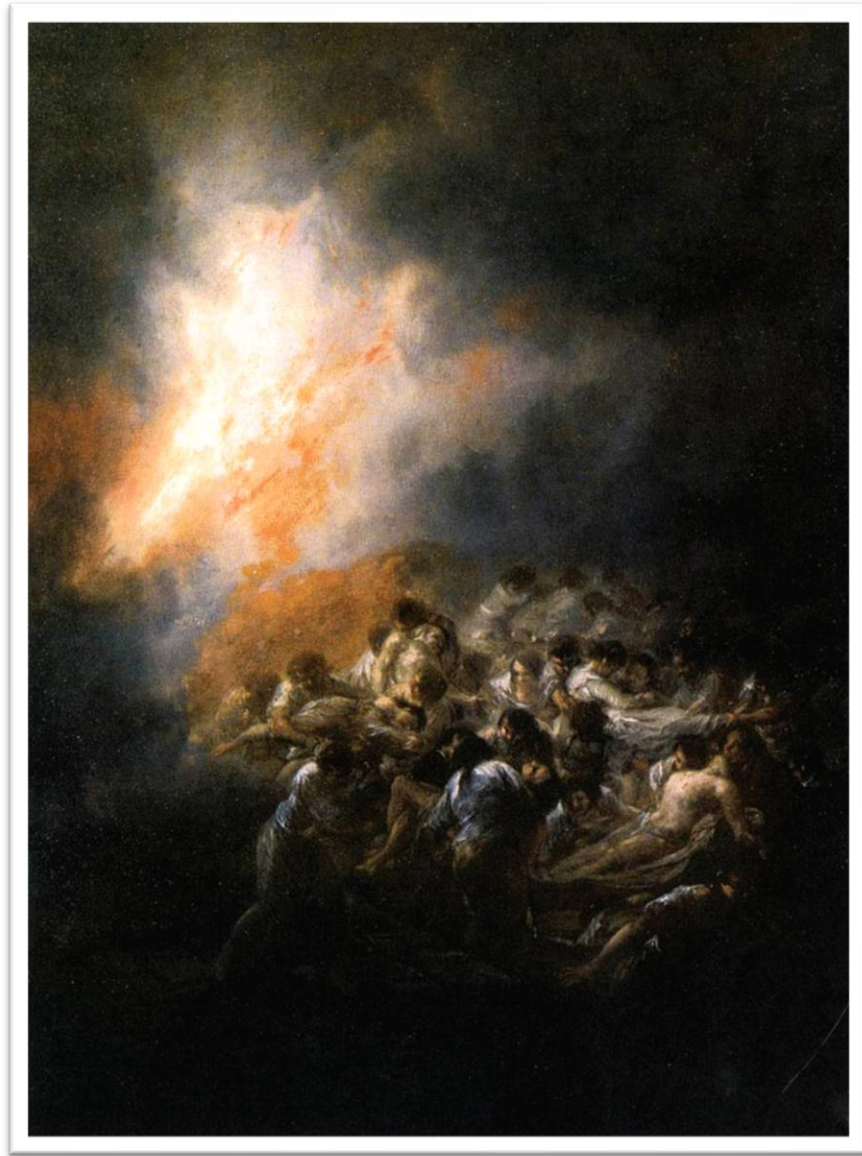


# Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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

August 17, 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: Pam Smith

### **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: Mel Shaver-Durham  
Greeters: Sherry Spencer  
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer  
Kids' Place:  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Sherry Spencer  
Counting Team: Sherry Spencer, David Scott

### **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**

626 Williams Grove Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
(717)766-7931

[saintpaulsucc-mech.org](http://saintpaulsucc-mech.org)

Office: [stpaulstaff@outlook.com](mailto:stpaulstaff@outlook.com)

Rev. John: [revjohnwd@outlook.com](mailto:revjohnwd@outlook.com)

Rev. Allyssa: [allyssaboyer@outlook.com](mailto:allyssaboyer@outlook.com)

**ONLINE  
GIVING**



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

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 17, 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 "Intermezzo from 'Cavalleria Rusticana'"

Richard Lloyd

CALL TO WORSHIP

*"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." - Saint Catherine of Siena*

*"We choose struggle rather than indifference. We choose to share the suffering rather than ignore the pain. We choose to make peace rather than wait for war. We choose to proclaim the Good News rather than sit in silence." A Prayer for Peace, the Isaiah Wall at the United Nations, 1983.*

\*THE HYMN No. 476 "My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep from Singing)"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**God of Compassion and Love, guide us in recognizing the intensity, the fire that Jesus brings when Your Compassion and Love are ignored, and instead greed and hate are pursued. Help us to see such anger is grounded in hope that the world should and can be different. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

We connect with the Jesus who loves and accepts all people which is good. However, the Jesus who speaks of fire and division is one we tend to stay away from. And yet the consequences of the clash between those who seek to follow Jesus' commandment to love others as we love ourselves and those who choose to pursue greed, position and power at great cost to others, is indeed division because they are two radically different ways of living ones' life. Jesus reminds us this will happen and calls us not to turn away in favor of making nice by accepting the pain, suffering and violence inflicted upon others. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and never stops calling on us to recognize the pain being inflicted upon others, due to some people's greed and desire for unlimited power.

**ALL: Let us bring the intensity of Jesus' words and ways, that are like fire, into our lives as we seek to follow our calls as individuals and as a Congregation. As John the Baptist predicted, Jesus Baptizes us with the Holy Spirit and fire. 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 Blessing the Backpacks

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**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

INVITATION

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

\*CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Pastor: This congregation is part of the body of Christ in this time and place. We are Christ's hands, ears, and eyes. We are called to serve Christ as best as we are able and in accordance with the gifts we have been given. Let us say the Congregational Assent together.

**Members: We, as members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, of Mechanicsburg,**

**Pennsylvania, and the Church Universal, hear your promises with joy and gladly welcome you as siblings in Christ into the family of faith. We covenant with you to share in the hopes, labors, and joys of the Christian life, supported by God's love through this congregation. We will weep with you when you weep, rejoice with you in your rejoicing, and encourage your growth in the new life Christ gives. These things we promise in the name and spirit of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.**

## PRAYER

### WELCOME & RECEPTION

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the congregation of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, we extend to you, Brian and Jordan, the right hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church and the saints of light.

### THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 5:1-9

### THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 82

\*THE HYMN No. 493 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

### THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 12:49-56

"Facing Jesus' Fire"

### 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 "Here I Am, Lord"

Andrea and Mark Dundore, vocal duet

Schutte, arr. Courtney

## \*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)

**Despite all the distractions, we cannot avoid giving witness to the gospel. Your good news is a fire within us that cannot be put out. Use these gifts to strengthen the fainthearted and support the weak. We commit ourselves anew, to strive for peace with all people. Amen.**

## \*THE HYMN "Jesus, When You Live in Us" (to the tune of no. 422 "Come, O Thankful People, Come")

***Jesus, when you live in us, our whole lives are greatly changed.  
Our old values turn to dust; what we love is rearranged.  
Though we long to live in peace and to dwell on things above,  
Sometimes conflicts may increase as we speak the truth in love.***

***In a family filled with hate, filled with prejudice and fear,  
Christ, your love will sure create conflict that is crystal clear.  
One who follows you will say, "I must love! I'm on love's side!"  
Others will reject your Way; see the sword of Christ divide!***

***In a business filled with greed, someone makes a faithful choice.  
Someone sees the human need and the ones who have no voice.  
Others say, "Ignore their cries! We have profits to pursue."  
So the sword of Christ divides; Some reject, some follow, you.***

***Christ, we value things like these: We want folks to get along.  
"Just keep silent! Keep the peace!" "Stick together, right or wrong!"  
Yet you said it clear and loud: Sometimes resurrection life  
means we'll go against the crowd and that we'll encounter strife.***

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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.  
However, if you choose to stay for the Postlude, please remain silent until the conclusion.*

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE "Finale from 'Music for the Royal Fireworks'"

Richard Lloyd

References:

Goya, Francisco, 1746-1828. Incendio, fuego de noche, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville,

TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/actimagelink.pl?RC=55585> [retrieved August 12, 2025]. Original source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Un\\_incendio\\_\(Goya\).jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Un_incendio_(Goya).jpg).

In the Call to Worship the quote from St. Catherine of Siena "is a paraphrase from one of Catherine's letters to a nobleman named Stefano di Corrado Maconi, one of her disciples." The clarification is found on the website "The Contemplative Writer" by Lisa Deam, posted on May 7, 2020,

<https://thecontemplativewriter.com/2020/05/07/setting-the-world-on-fire/>

The quote "We choose struggle rather than indifference..." is A Prayer for Peace, on the Isaiah Wall at the United Nations. It was shared on a bookmark produced by the City Mission Society of Boston, Massachusetts.

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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## **RACIAL JUSTICE MOVIE NIGHT**

Thursday, August 28; 6:00-8:15 PM

“Quest: A Portrait of an American Family” (2017)

Filmed with vérité intimacy for nearly a decade, “Quest” is a moving portrait of the Rainey family living in North Philadelphia. Beginning at the dawn of the Obama presidency, Christopher "Quest" Rainey, and his wife, Christine, raise a family while nurturing a community of hip hop artists in their home music studio. It's a safe space where all are welcome, but this creative sanctuary can't always shield them from the strife that grips their neighborhood. Epic in scope, “Quest” is a vivid illumination of race and class in America, and a testament to love, healing and hope. Official Selection at the Sundance Film Festival and New York Times Critics’ Pick.

The showing of this film is sponsored by SPARCC (St. Paul’s Against Racism, Creating Change). Please feel free to pack a dinner to bring along with you and enjoy while watching the film. We will have time for discussion afterward.

## **SCOOP, THERE IT IS!**

Come join us for our Ice Cream Social following worship, in Fellowship Hall. Chill out with us as we celebrate summer and get ready for back-to-school. Everyone is invited!

## **POLLYANNAS**

Pollyannas will be having their annual mystery auction/lunch 11:30 am, Tuesday, Aug 26 at Perkins. Please bring a wrapped item to bid on; all proceeds go toward our sponsored child. If you are planning to attend, please contact Bonnie Plymette.

## **NEW HOPE UPDATE ON BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT**

We completed our Back-to-School collection on July 28th and on July 29th we delivered 223lbs. of school supplies to New Hope Ministries- such generous giving from our congregation!! When I delivered the goods they thanked me repeatedly! The Back-to-School event was held August 7th and over 200 backpacks full of school supplies were distributed. There was face painting, games, books and haircuts for the children as well as chicken nuggets, soup and other snacks for the families. It was a really nice event for the children and parents. Thank you all again for your continued support of New Hope Ministries! - Karen Allison

## **SERVE ON SUNDAYS**

There are many opportunities to serve on Sunday at St. Paul’s. If you’re interested, use the link on our website to check for openings. Specifically, we need a Lector volunteer for next Sunday, August 24. Thank you for your generosity.