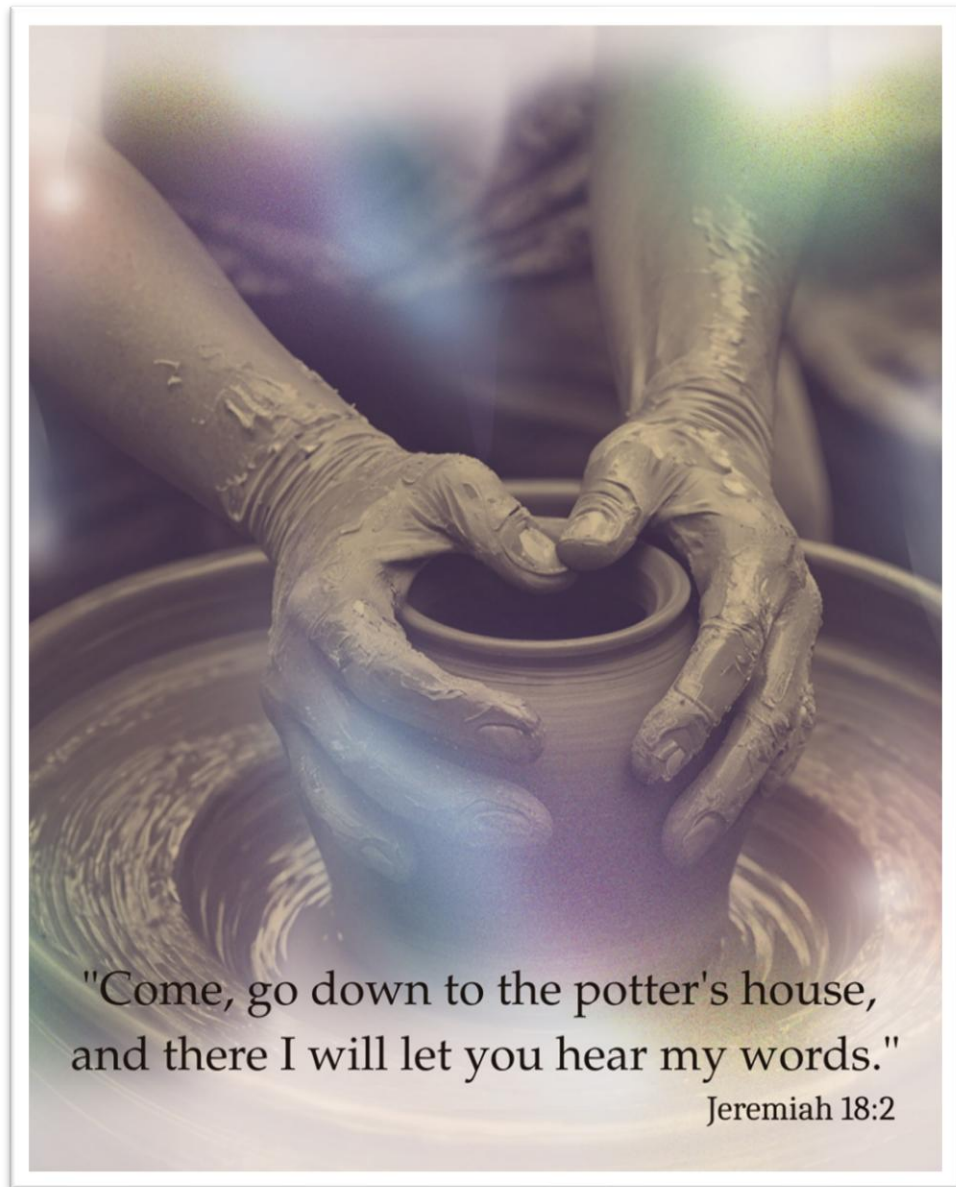


# Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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

September 7, 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: Becky 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: Daniella Benfer  
Greeters: Becky Thompson  
Acolyte:  
Kids' Place: Shirley Keith Knox, Melissa Cawley  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Becky Thompson  
Counting Team: Melissa Cawley, 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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
HOLY COMMUNION

September 7, 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 "Heaven's Bread"

Susanna Keeney

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No. 86 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Creator God, You have shaped us in fearful and wonderful ways. Guide us away from making choices that shape us into people who cause others to fear, due to the harm we cause. Rather guide our choices that lead us toward becoming the wonderful people You created us to be. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Prophet Jeremiah shares one of the images of God as a potter, who shapes and molds the clay of our beings. The potter reworks the vessels that have become spoiled due to any number of reasons. Jesus, in his teachings and way of living, notes how we might become spoiled, and shows us another way. We do not always pay attention and follow. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and is willing to continually reshape us, when we are willing and there is need.

**ALL: Let us recognize our need to be continually reshaped and remember how Jesus demonstrated the choices we make allow for us to become more malleable, so we can be shaped more and more into the people God created us to be. 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

Jeremiah 18:1-12

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 14:25-33

“Who Shapes Us?”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

*pp Devoutly* 5. 5. 5. 5. GEORGE WHELFTON, 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 “We Rejoice in All Your Ways”  
Chancel Choir

Bedford

\*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)

**Loving God, there is no way we can settle accounts with You. We have no way to repay You for all we have received from Your hands. Yet we want to give our best to the work You call us to do through this community of seekers. We enter, with renewed commitment and confidence, the costly venture of spreading love through Your world. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 332 “As We Gather at Your Table”

## THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

One: God be with you.  
All: **And also with you.**  
One: Lift up your hearts.  
All: **We lift them up to God.**  
One: Let us give thanks to God.  
All: **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

*We gather both in person and in Spirit. For those of you present in the Sanctuary, greeters will pass out gluten-free bread, and then red wine and white grape juice. They will bring the trays to you. Please hold the elements until all have been served; we will eat and then drink them together. All are welcome to participate. Thank you.*

*For those of you joining us via livestream, we hope you have some bread and wine or juice of your choice before you. We trust that God is powerful enough to extend God's Blessing upon these Communion elements, even as we and they are scattered in geographic space.*

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

**Holy God, we give You thanks for the miracle and wonder of this meal. We give You thanks for Your coming to us in the person of Jesus, and for Jesus' willingness to offer his whole self for our benefit. We can see how we can best live our lives. We can believe all "deaths," those losses, endings, and struggles in this life, and the ones at the end of our physical lives, are not the final word. We can trust that Your Spirit is within all of us, and always will be. May the gifts of this table always remind us of the gifts You have given us all. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 526 "Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos' (We Are Marching in the Light of God"

\*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 "A Day for Rejoicing"

Lani Smith

References:

The Prayer of Dedication is from "Gathered 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 honor of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary today!"