

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 21, 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: Paula Boyer

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: Becky Thompson
Greeters: Don Dupes, Sherry Spencer, Susan Miller
Acolyte:
Kids' Place: Chris Grice, Charles Ricedorf-Reed
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Chris Grice
Counting Team: David Scott, 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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 21, 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 "Just As I Am"

Edward Broughton

CALL TO WORSHIP

"You Reading This, Be Ready" by William Stafford

Starting here, what do you want to remember?
How sunlight creeps along a shining floor? What
scent of old wood hovers, what softened sound
from outside fills the air?

Will you ever bring a better gift for the world
than the breathing respect that you carry
wherever you go right now? Are you waiting for
time to show you some better thoughts?

When you turn around, starting here, lift this new
glimpse that you found; carry into evening all that you
want from this day. This interval you spent reading or
hearing this, keep it for life –

What can anyone give you greater than now, starting
here, right in this room, when you turn around?

*THE HYMN No. 172 "Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious God, remind us again that we have pledged to serve You above all other things, above all other beings. Help us to understand when our priorities reveal we are serving another. Guide us in doing the best we can, knowing You are there with us to help. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We hear the words that we cannot serve two masters; that we must choose between God and wealth. We nod our heads in agreement, and yet we do not necessarily dig too deep into what that

means, and how we are called to live that out. We try, and we realize there is more to it. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us. God loves us. God wants us to be more discerning and keep trying.

ALL: Together, with God's guidance, let us commit to living more and more in ways that demonstrate we indeed are serving God before all else. 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.

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS (unison)

May God's grace be upon these shawls...warming, comforting, enfolding, and embracing. May these mantles be safe havens...sacred places of security and well-being...sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May the ones who receive these shawls be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Blessed be!

*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

Amos 8:4-7

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 113

*THE HYMN No. 503 “O Savior, Let Me Walk with You”

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 16:1-13

“Doing the Best We Can”

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 “Lift High the Cross”

arr. Thompson

Hand Chimes

*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)

We give, loving God, because of Your generosity to us. We share because this is Your will for us. In faithfulness to Your call, we seek to manage the resources You provide for the greatest benefit to humankind. May they bring a bit closer an awareness of Your intentions for us and Your rule among us. We worship and serve You with all we have.

*THE HYMN No. 456 “More Love to You, O Christ”

*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 “Festival”

Benton Price

References:

The Call to Worship is a poem from The Way It Is: New and Selected Poems by William Stafford, 1999, Graywolf Press, and shared in Poetry as Prayer group by the Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, September 2025.

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Taught 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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The three white roses on the altar today are in loving memory of three members of St. Paul's.

Dorothy Miller died on Thursday, September 11th. Dot's Memorial service will be held at St. Paul's on Saturday, September 27th at 11AM. Please pray for Dorothy's son, Bart, along with all her family and friends.

Rhoda Rupp died on Friday, September 12th. Rhoda's Memorial service will be held on October 10th. Visitation begins at 12:30PM, service at 1:30PM, and a reception will follow. Please continue to pray for Rhoda's son, Bard, daughter-in-law, Kelly, and other family and friends.

William Cashman died on Tuesday, September 16th. Bill's Memorial service will be held at St. Paul's on Friday, September 26th. at 3PM with visitation preceding. Please continue to keep Deb, Rachael, and Ren in your prayers along with all of Bill's family and friends.