

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

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

September 28, 2025



The earth is the Creator's,  
and everything in it  
psalm 24

**GOD IS STILL SPEAKING**

,

*NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU ARE ON  
LIFE'S JOURNEY YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!*

### **Worship Leadership**

The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio  
Preacher: The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer  
Lector: Kathy Aumiller

### **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  
Greeters: Sherry Spencer  
Acolyte:  
Kids' Place: Jonneke Dundore, LidiaAnn Edwards, Paula Boyer  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Susan Miller  
Counting Team: Sherry Spencer, Mary Runkle  
Fellowship Time: Bazaar

### **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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 28, 2025

AMERICAN INDIAN MINISTRY SUNDAY & AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRIES

*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 "Fairest Lord Jesus"

James Mansfield

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No. 306 "The Church of Christ, in Every Age"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Creator, we give You thanks for all that You are and all that You bring to us within Your creation. In Jesus, You placed the gospel in the Center of the Sacred Circle through which all creation is related. On this American Indian Ministry Sunday, show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us Your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in Your Spirit, for You are God, now and forever. Amen.**

LITURGY OF CONFESSION FOR AMERICAN INDIAN MINISTRY SUNDAY (responsive)

One: Gathered here on this holy ground, the psalmist reminds us that...

**All: The earth is the Creator's, and everything in it — this world and all who live in it.**

One: We confess that many who have come before us misrepresented holy scripture in order to dispossess indigenous inhabitants of their homes and sovereignty; obstructed divine authority to take these lands; and used treaties as tools of imperial exploitation. They forgot, but we must remember:

**All: The earth is the Creator's, and everything in it — this world and all who live in it.**

One: We confess the Doctrine of Discovery harms all it touches: the generations of those it has oppressed and the spirits of those who use it to oppress. Hope of healing calls us to remember...

**All: The earth is the Creator's, and everything in it — this world and all who live in it.**

One: We confess that as present-day residents of our precious Mother Earth, we have not been faithful stewards of her care, nor of the circle of life and all our relations, human and non-human. All Creation calls us to remember...

**All: The earth is the Creator's, and everything in it — this world and all who live in it.**

One: Let us pray together.

**All: On this day we come, seeking divine forgiveness and holding ourselves accountable to live in faithfulness and reconciliation for the sake of the earth and seven generations. Amen.**

*Moment for silent prayer*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (responsive)

One: We believe in the Holy One, Maker of us all, who is faithful, to forgive us, cleanse us, and free us to walk in wholeness. Friends, believe and accept the good news of Christ's peace:

**All: Justice, healing, and joy! 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**

## AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRIES

*As members and friends of the United Church of Christ, we believe in the Priesthood of all Believers.  
We each have unique gifts and talents that we can and are called to use to serve God by serving others.  
Let us affirm these ministries.*

### **\*Ministries of Education**

Sunday school teachers and students; staff; youth leaders; small group leaders and participants in such groups as Queer Bible Study, PFLAG, SPARCC, Vacation Bible School, Advent & Lent reading groups, Caregivers' Support Group; etc.

### **\*Ministries of Worship & Music**

Choir members; staff, including staff and volunteers who run the livestream and sound; Creative Worship Planning Team; lectors; lead greeter and greeters; acolytes; communion preparers; Kids' Place volunteers; people who offer special music; Spiritual Royalties' Initiative; people who join in worship in-person and virtually, etc.

### **\*Ministries of Leadership & Service**

Consistory; staff; all committee chairs & members; Called to Care; Welcome Team members and movers; Community Garden workers; Open & Affirming ministries; Bazaar helpers & supporters; child sponsorships; drivers; meal makers; altar flower preparers; flower deliverers and sponsors; Prayer Chain; Prayer Shawl Ministry; technology people; Pollyannas; Meals on Wheels helpers, stewards of our buildings and grounds; Fellowship Time sponsors; offering counters; SPOOF; Social Justice workers; volunteers for community meals, New Hope Ministries, Harrisburg Area Food Pantry, Gather the Spirit for Justice; PRISM; etc.

## THE LITANY OF COMMITMENT

One: Sisters, brothers, and siblings, you have been called by God to fulfill the responsibilities of your ministry. Will you commit yourselves by giving enough time to fulfill this ministry?

**Many: We will, with the help of God.**

One: Do you understand that by responding to God's call to this ministry you are becoming agents of the work of this church and the realm of God?

**Many: We do understand.**

One: Will you share your love, peace and Christian joy with everyone so people may see in you the life of Christ?

**Many: We will, with the help of God.**

One: God has called us to special ministries in the church. We have accepted God's call and stand before each other in witness to our willingness to serve. We have heard the promises we have made. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with each other.

**All: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners in the service of Jesus the Christ. We promise to love one another, honor each other's leadership, pray for all and assist one another that together we may be a faithful church. Amen.**

\*HYMN No. 495 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 6:1, 4-7

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 146

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 16:19-31

“Seeing the Chasm From the Other Side”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**O Great Spirit, our Father from above, we honor Your name as sacred and holy. Bring Your good road to us, where the beauty of Your ways in the spirit-world above is reflected in the earth below. Provide for us day by day—the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon. The corn, the squash, and the wild rice. All the things we need for each day. Release us from the things we have done wrong, in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us. Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road, and set us free from the evil one and his worthless ways. Aho! May it be so!**

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 “This Little Light of Mine”  
Chorister, Youth and Chancel Choir

Spiritual, arr. Raney

\*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)

**God of all generations, thank You for all of Your blessings. Thank You for the diversity of culture and tradition in the United Church of Christ, and the church universal. As we present our gifts to You today, multiply them so that all Your children have opportunities to learn of You, to worship You, and to be restored by You. Transform them into ministries for Indigenous American churches to repair harm, bring healing, and offer hope. Amen.**

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

\*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 “God’s Blessing Sends Us Forth”

Lani Smith

References:

The Prayer of Invocation is adapted from liturgy prepared by the Church of the Apostles, a mission of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, <https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/Liturgy-for-Celebrating-Indigenous-Peoples-Day-2020.pdf>.

The Liturgy of Confession and Words of Assurance are adapted from “Confession: American Indian Ministry Sunday” written for the 29th General Synod of the United Church of Christ, by the Rev. Ann Jefferson, Pastor, and

Director of Community Life and Pastoral Care, Pacific School of Religion, and member of City of Refuge UCC in Oakland, CA.

The 29th General Synod of the United Church of Christ approved a Resolution of Witness calling for the UCC to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery, which authorized the genocide of Native people and the theft of native lands. In that Resolution we recognize the complicity of the Churches, including the UCC, in the perpetration of these injustices. In the spirit of repentance which that Resolution calls for, we offer this moment of confession and prayerful reconciliation. In the hope of healing and deepening of relationship with Native peoples, we welcomed into our midst a local leader in the Native American Community, the Rev. Bruce Kafer (Oglala Lakota), who offered a brief reflection and healing song. Following his prayer, the congregation joined in this prayer of confession.

The reading of the Psalm is from “First Nations Version Psalms and Proverbs: An Indigenous Bible Translation,” Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2025.

The reading of the Gospel and the Lord’s Prayer are all from “First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament,” Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2021.

This dynamic equivalence translation of the Christian Scriptures imagines how these sacred texts might speak if they were being told in the tradition of Indigenous storytellers using the practices of oral cultures. Created by a translation council made up of a group of Native North Americans diverse in tribal affiliation, age, gender and denomination, the FNV seeks a faithful rendering of the original text through the cultural lens of Native Americans. It is an invitation to see how God is still speaking in ancient and traditional ways at the intersections of sacred scripture and indigenous spirituality, experiences, and storytelling.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from “Native American Ministries Sunday Liturgy,” The United Methodist Church, 2023. 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  
Paula and Mark Boyer, “In memory of our parents.”  
Mary Runkle, “In memory of my mother, Elizabeth Randolph.”

## **FELLOWSHIP TIME**

Please join us in the fellowship hall, following worship, for a time of fellowship and preparation for the Bazaar. We’re grateful for your help.

## **BAZAAR**

There is still time to volunteer for our annual Bazaar, this coming Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 8AM-3PM. This is the church’s largest event with lots of help needed. There are MANY ways you can be involved!! Check out the bulletin board to see where help is still needed. Thanks to everyone in the congregation who can help to make our Bazaar successful!

## **NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

On Sunday, October 5, we will collect the Neighbors in Need Offering (NIN). These gifts support the United Church of Christ’s ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The other two-thirds of the offering support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects and grants. Donations can be placed in the plate, mailed to the church office, or made through the online giving portal.