

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

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

October 5, 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: Rebecca Drazba  
Greeters: Nancy Richey, Steven Stough  
Acolyte:  
Kids' Place: Becky Thompson, Melissa Cawley, Don Dupes  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Susan Miller  
Counting Team: Paula Boyer, Melissa Cawley

### **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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 5, 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 "Communion in Christ"

Todd Kendall

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No. 8 "Praise to the Living God"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Creator God, we are all Your Children. We come from a common starting point, and yet we continue to declare that some people are not Yours, or we believe they are of less value than us. Guide us in recognizing our common humanity and Your love equally given to all. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION (responsive)

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.

**Many: Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.**

One: What do we find at today's table?

**Many: God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.**

One: What is not at today's table?

**Many: The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.**

One: Let us repent, and give thanks for God's power to bring hope, peace and love to all.

**Many: Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love.**

**All: Let us remember in our diversity, we all remain Children of God, which makes us one. May we now join in offering Silent Prayers of Confession.**

## SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

**One:** God forgives us, and in the person of Jesus, displayed God's equal care and love for all.

**ALL:** Let us, as we join in the celebration of Holy Communion, envision that we are sitting down with people from all over the world. We are all siblings, and in the sharing of this meal, we pledge to offer ourselves in service to God, who desires that all of us, through our words and actions, make known God's great compassion, care, and love for one and for all. 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 EPISTLE READING

2 Timothy 1:1-7

#### THE PSALM READING

Psalms 37:1-9

#### THE RESPONSE:

**One:** God is Still Speaking.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:  
“Maintain the Vision”

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-9

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

*pp Devoutly* 5. 5. 5. 5. GEORGE WHIELPTON, 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 “One World, One Communion”  
Chancel Choir

Choplin

\*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God, who fills each cup and plate,  
Whose table's wide and love is great.  
From broken bread, may all be fed,  
And justice rise where fear has spread. Amen.***

\*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**We are grateful to You, O God, for the faith we have inherited. We give thanks for the courage and faithfulness of ancestors who suffered for the gospel that we might know Your love. We join with them in putting our trust in You. May we match their generosity and self-discipline, seeking above all else to know Your will and do it. To that end, we dedicate our offerings. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN “We Come to This Table” (to the tune of no. 420 “We Gather Together”)

***We come to this table, O God, with thanksgiving.***

***We lift up our hearts, we remember, we pray.***

***We hear Jesus' welcome — inviting, forgiving;***

***We know your Spirit's peace as we feast here today.***

***We dine at your table as sisters and brothers,***

***Diverse in our cultures, yet nourished as one.***

***The bread and the cup that we share here with others***

***Are gifts uniting all who are claimed by your Son.***

***We grieve for your world here; we cry, "How much longer?"***

***We pray for the cycles of violence to cease.***

***Yet here, in Christ broken, we're fed and made stronger***

***To labor in his name for a world filled with peace.***

***We rise from this table with new dedication***

***To feed the world's children, to free the oppressed,***

***To clear out the minefields, to care for creation;***

***We pray, O God of peace, that our work will be blest.***

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## THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

### THE INVITATION

**One:** It started last night, when we were sleeping. In Japan, New Zealand, and Siberia, people came.

**Many:** **As the sun stretches across the earth, more people are joining the table.**

**One:** In cathedrals made of marble and gold where mosaics glitter on the walls; in clapboard churches on vast and windswept plains,

**Many:** **In houses and shelters, in alleys and refugee camps, people are coming together.**

**One:** From India to Ukraine, Ethiopia to Portugal, Nova Scotia to Ecuador; running, rolling, walking, limping, we come to Your table, O God.

**Many:** **Hungering for your bread, we come;  
thirsting for your wine and juice, we come;**

**singing your song in every language,**

**speaking your name in every tongue,**

**in conflict and communion,**

**in trouble and tranquility, we come.**

**O God who remembers us, we come to remember You.**

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, if you are able, we invite you to come forward. We are Blessed to have bread representing various countries from around the world this morning. There will be a gluten free option as well. Please then proceed to the right or the left and Pastor Allyssa or I will have both wine and grape juice that you may dip your bread in. You may then eat your Communion elements.

If you prefer not to come forward, remain in your pew and a server will bring you the elements. Please raise your hand if you believe the server did not see you.

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

All are welcome to participate. Thank you.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

**God, our Mother and Father, You have given us this earth rich and vibrant. Its renewing goodness nourishes us. Jesus, our Savior and Healer, You ate with friends and enemies. At a meal, you brought the gift of hope and gave the word of life. Spirit, our Comforter and Afflicter, You do not leave us on our own. Here are companions to know our joy. Here are companions to share our sorrow. Our companions have come to this table, and tables to our north and south, east and west. We are all Children of God, and You have saved us all a place at Your Table. We give you thanks for our human community, that we may all be one. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 591 "This Is My Song"

\*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 "The Awakening"

Edward Broughton

### References:

The Responsive Call to Confession was written by Rev. Taisaku OBATA (Minister, Ube Church, United Church of Christ in Japan) Translated by Mr. David McIntosh (Overseas Liaison, United Church of Christ in Japan) and was slightly edited. This was found on [www.globalministries.org/rsource/world-communion-sunday-resources/](http://www.globalministries.org/rsource/world-communion-sunday-resources/)

The Communion Prayer is adapted from a prayer by the Lancaster Theological Seminary Worship Planning Team, 2016.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving is adapted from an Agape Liturgy: Prayer Offering Praise in "Gifts in Open Hands" by Maren Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy.

Doxology Lyrics by Matt Nutter; College Hill United Methodist Church, Wichita, KS.

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  
Becky Thompson, "In memory of Margo Thompson."

## NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Today 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

## "LAST CHANCE" SALE – BAZAAR

Join us after Worship for extra goodies following our Bazaar Saturday. We're grateful for all the volunteers and effort to make this year's Bazaar a success!

## FALL STEWARDSHIP AUCTION

It's time to *leaf* your mark on this fall's Stewardship Auction at the Harvest Dinner — coming November 9! We're looking forward to seeing what creative ideas take *root*. Gift cards and goodies are always a hit, but the real treasures are your handmade items, unique experiences, and baskets that *branch* out from the ordinary. Need some help for your ideas to *grow*? Check out the Time to Sign-up for 'Fall Auction Baskets' on our website. Donate a single item, take inspiration from our list, or sign up for a creation of your own! Auction baskets are due to the church office no later than Sunday, October 26th. Please contact Melissa Cawley (melissacawley@aol.com) or Victoria Velez (vmvluv@comcast.net) with any questions.