

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

October 26, 2025

*"For all those who
exalt themselves
will be humbled,
and those who
humble themselves
will be exalted."*



LUKE 18:14, NIV

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: Nancy Richey

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: Mark Dundore
Greeters: Sherry Spencer
Acolyte:
Kids' Place: Sue Ward-Diorio, Don Dupes, Erin Anderson
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Jonneke Dundore
Counting Team: 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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 26, 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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

Lani Smith

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 439 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God of the past, present and future, we remember and offer gratitude to our Christian and Reformed forebearers. Through difficult and positive times, they carried their Christianity forward, granting us the opportunity to be a household of Faith today. Help us to hold on to the faithful ways they and we have followed Jesus' Words and Ways and let go of those ways that did and do not reflect his teachings and witness. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

When looking back, there is a danger of only remembering the positive. While celebrating who and how we got here is important, erasing or forgetting where we went wrong, is extremely problematic. Such "ignoring" prevents us from recognizing the roots of our current problems, particularly when we refuse to acknowledge our or our ancestors' parts. This is even more difficult when we are referring to our Faith. Whenever we do or have held ourselves apart, as better, as more deserving of God's Blessings, than we have strayed from Jesus' teachings and witness. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us, has forgiven us, and continues to call us to honest reflection, as well as appreciation.

ALL: The Body of Christ in the world, of which we are a part, does not live in the past. We honor it, and must also learn from it, so we might repent, turn back to God when appropriate. In this way we might become more and more who God created us to be,

living and acting out of the recognition that all people are God's Children, equally loved and blessed by God. Amen.

UNISON READING OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST'S STATEMENT OF FAITH
No. 885 in The New Century Hymnal

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**

APOCRYPHA OF HEBREW SCRIPTURES READING Sirach 35:12-20

THE READING OF THE PSALM Psalm 84:1-8

*THE HYMN No. 25 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE: Luke 18:9-14
"Sincerity over Exclusivity"

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)

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

The musical score is written for a unison choral response. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has two staves, treble and bass, with the lyrics 'Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;' written below. The second system also has two staves, treble and bass, with the lyrics 'Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.' written below. The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a strong rhythmic pattern.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943
Music: Ken Medema, b. 1943
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CHILDREN PRAYING
irregular

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY "Sanctus/Heilig"

Schubert

Chancel Choir

*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)

You have dealt wondrously with us, gracious God. We have gathered in Your temple to praise You and to join in efforts to share faith with one another and with the world. Through our offerings, we wish to extend the witness made here into our neighborhoods, and, in ever-widening circles, to the ends of the earth. Bless and multiply our efforts, we pray. Amen.

*THE HYMN "Our God, We Are a Church Reformed" (to the tune of no. 42, "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing.")

***Our God, we are a church reformed, A church reforming still:
We long to grow in your true Word, And follow more your will.***

In love, you bring your people here And call your church to you,

(Cont.)

That we may know salvation's joy And serve in all we do.

***You call us to community; By faith our hearts are stirred.
In church, we seek an ordered life, According to your Word.***

***As faithful stewards we find joy; We need no rich display.
Lord, teach us all to use with care The gifts you give each day.***

***The world makes gods of lesser things, And wrongly uses power;
So by your Spirit may we work For justice every hour.***

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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 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

Todd Kendall

References:

The Prayer of Dedication is from "Taught by Love" by Lavon Bayler, 1998, United Church Press.

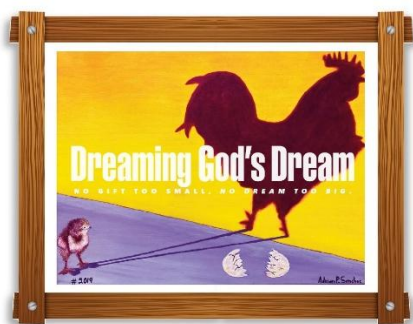
The World Peace Prayer is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism, also prayed daily by Roman Catholic Benedictine nuns.

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*The white rose on the altar today is in loving memory of Joanne Miller who died earlier this week.
Please keep Joanne's family and friends in prayer.
We will inform the congregation about services when available.*

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Dale Thorpe and Don Dupes, "In memory of Emily S. Dupes."



The Church as Innkeeper

"All humanity are our neighbors."
St. Augustine of Hippo

The familiar Parable of the Good Samaritan tells the story of the Priest and the Levite who walked

our congregation as an "inn" for Good Samaritan work? Can we see our community as a place where healing happens?

The innkeeper's role included managing resources, ensuring the inn's readiness, and extending mercy and help—roles we mirror when we care for one another and open ourselves up to caring for those in our community.

past a person in the ditch and the Good Samaritan who stopped to help. We often overlook another character in the story: the innkeeper. The Good Samaritan brought the wounded person to the inn, where the innkeeper nursed them to health until the Good Samaritan returned.

Focusing on the innkeeper can also challenge the ways we operate our building. Having a building is not the point of church. Rather, the building serves as a tool of our ministry. A church facility matters only because it can facilitate our mission.

Saint Augustine, reflecting on this parable, highlights the unique role of the innkeeper, who provided a place where healing could happen. What would it mean to understand

Your gifts to our congregation help us provide a place of healing in our community, an "inn" where Good Samaritan ministry can happen.

NEW HOPE THANKSGIVING UPDATE

Final tally for our New Hope Thanksgiving basket donations- 106 cans of fruit and 138 cans of cranberry sauce. All items were delivered to New Hope this week and they were so appreciative of our donations. Thank you all for your generosity and helping our neighbors in need have a blessed Thanksgiving!

TODAY! UNION CHURCH HYMN SING

Join us for a Hymn-sing Celebration marking the 300th Anniversary of the German Reformed Church in America! Sing old German Reformed Hymns in the historic Union Church on East Main St., which is celebrating its own 200th anniversary in Mechanicsburg! Today: Sunday, October 26th 3:00 PM.

For your information:

- There are NO restroom facilities in this building.
- There is NO handicapped access to the sanctuary – just five steps in the front.
- Parking would be on the street or in the Buhrig parking lot next door.
- The Union Church is celebrating its 200th Anniversary of serving Mechanicsburg.

GARDEN SURVEY Deadline October 30th.

Please take a few minutes to complete the short survey through the QR code. Your feedback will help us decide how best to continue this important ministry. Folks who complete the survey will be entered to win a prize. The survey will close October 30th.



HARVEST DINNER

You're Invited! Join us for our Annual HARVEST DINNER! Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 9th, immediately following the 10:30 AM service. Come enjoy a wonderful meal—we'll be serving roast turkey, roasted vegetables, and beverages (place settings provided!).

The best part? This dinner is FREE! In lieu of payment, please bring one or two non-perishable food items to donate to New Hope Ministries. Let's share the abundance!

Plus, stick around afterward because we'll be announcing the winners of the Stewardship Silent Auction! Sign up on the church website or in the Common.

STEWARDSHIP

Join us for a special Fellowship Time after worship on Sunday, Nov 2nd. Get your first look at the items in our basket auction and start bidding in person! You'll also have an opportunity to pick up gift tags for supporting New Hope's Blessings Express. Giant gift cards will be for sale and can be immediately donated for UCC Homes to purchase gifts for the residents.

Stewardship Sunday is Nov 9th!! Please bring your pledge cards to the service and we will present them all together. If you're unable to attend worship, you can turn your pledge cards into the office or email Renee with your pledge. Stay for the Harvest Dinner and bid on the unique and exciting items in the basket auction.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

St. Paul's will again be decorating the Chancel area of the sanctuary with festive poinsettias for the Choir's Cantata presentation and the Christmas Eve services. They will be 5-8 bloom plants in foil-wrapped containers for \$10.00. Four colors will be available – red, white, pink, and pink/white marbled. Forms for ordering can be found on the table in the Commons area. Orders are due by November 17th.