

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

February 1, 2026



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: Sue Miller
Greeters: Megan Riesmeyer, Becky Thompson, Patrice Miller, Jane Leister
Acolyte:
Kids' Place: Jonneke Dundore, Deborah Cashman, Barbara Wheeler
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Sue Miller
Counting Team:

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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ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVICE OF WORSHIP

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
HOLY COMMUNION

February 1, 2026

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 SPIRITUAL ROYALTIES INITIATIVE

Spiritual Royalties Initiative Congregational Pledge

We, the Congregation of St. Paul's UCC, Mechanicsburg, acknowledge the history and significance of the Negro Spirituals sung in worship today:

Lord, I want to Be a Christian, Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen, Let Us Break Bread Together, Glory, Glory Hallelujah, I'm Gonna Sing.

We affirm their artistic and spiritual worth in the life of the world today.

With great respect and deep gratitude for the tremendous musical contributions made to American music by Black people, we offer our thanks and praise to God for the creators of the Negro Spiritual and their descendants.

We pledge that each time we sing Negro Spirituals in our worship we will sing them with holy reverence and open hearts.

Through our prayers, we will honor the unnamed enslaved people who composed them, and we will pay royalties from the funds collected to the Capital Area Music Association and Sankofa Theater Company*, both organizations dedicated to promoting the advancement of young Black artists and musicians, and to preserve Negro Spirituals in the Black community.

We understand that the debt owed to Black musicians and artists can never be fully repaid. Through our prayers, our gifts, and our actions, we will keep striving to end systemic racism in America.

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "Pass Me Not"

Todd Kendall

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 454 "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Teaching God, You have guided us through the words of the Prophets and through Jesus' actions and words, like the Sermon on the Mount. Help us to put into action those teachings, most especially when others are doing the exact opposite. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We can hear the words in Scripture as idealized hopes and as unrealistic dreams. We ignore or downplay them, particularly when those in power threaten our lives and the lives of others. Even as we recognize the wrongs being committed in our midst, by our own people, we choose silence and the sidelines. However, there are people of faith, people of goodwill, who are standing up and speaking out. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us, points out the witnesses around us living out God's Calls, and remains hopeful we will join them.

ALL: Let us pay attention to the Prophets' and Jesus' words and seek to embody them. God's Dreams for the world require our choices, if They are to be fully realized. 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.**

THE CHORISTERS "I'm Gonna Sing"

Page and Shafferman

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 6:1-8

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 15

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Matthew 5:1-12

"We Need to Keep Trying"

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

It's me (it's me), it's me, O Lord, stand-ing in the
need of prayer. It's me (it's me), it's
me, O Lord, stand-ing in the need of prayer.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen"
Youth Choir

Spiritual, arr. Leach

*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 devote ourselves and these tokens of our thankfulness toward the realization of Your reign among us, holy God. We pray for purity of heart as we hunger and thirst for righteousness and as we seek to be peacemakers. We rejoice in this opportunity to share in the extension of Your realm. Bless us and our offering, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 330 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

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, we invite you to come forward if you are able. When you come forward, a piece of bread will be given to you. Once you have received your bread, please proceed to the right or the left and servers will have both wine and grape juice that you may dip your bread in. All the bread is gluten free. After dipping your bread in the wine/juice, you may then eat your communion element and proceed back to your pew. If you prefer not to come forward, please remain in your pew and a greeter will bring you the elements. Please raise your hand if you believe the greeter did not see 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, wherever they may be.

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. 2 "Glory, Glory Hallelujah"

*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 "Faith"

Feliz Mendelssohn

References:

Cover Image: James, Laura. Sermon on the Mount, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57891> [retrieved January 29, 2026]. Original source: Laura James, <https://www.laurajamesart.com/collections/religious/>.

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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ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Don and Merikay Wood, "In appreciation and wish of good health to our friends."

POTPIE SALE—February 14th

Don't know what to get your significant other for Valentines Day. Forgot to make dinner reservations. No Problem! Our Bazaar Kitchen Committee has come to the rescue with a Chicken Pot Pie winter quart sale on Valentine's Day Saturday, February 14th.

The cost is \$11 per quart and all sales will be by pre-order. Final date to order: Monday, February 9th.

You can also help promote the sale by picking up a poster in the common area to take to your local businesses. Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors! The committee still needs help making the pot pie with picking chicken (Wednesday Feb. 11th from 8-11), dough making (Thursday Feb. 12th from 8-11), Sheeting dough (Thursday Feb. 12th from 1-6), and cooking/throwing dough/filling orders (Feb. 13th & 14th, 8:00 until 2:00). Please sign up to help if you can. Questions, please contact Dave/Patty Scott (717-737-3139).

Souper Bowl of Caring

Help St. Paul's youth turn our nation's great day of football into a great day of caring! Following our worship service on Sunday, February 8, our youth group will be stationed at the doors of the sanctuary to collect cash donations for local organizations that help fight food insecurity in our community. Use your dollars to support your team and tackle hunger in Central PA! Thank you for your generosity.

Racial Justice Sunday – February 8

The United Church of Christ recognizes the second Sunday in February as Racial Justice Sunday. Although Jesus did not use our contemporary language of anti-racism, scripture shows us he offered a radically inclusive vision of God's ongoing work to unite people of all ethnicities, nationalities, and cultures, especially uplifting the oppressed and outcast. Join us for Racial Justice Sunday as we recommit ourselves to courage and hope in dismantling racism in our community and beyond.

Lenten Reading Groups

All are invited to join our reading groups every Monday in Lent (2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30). The afternoon group will meet from 1:00-2:30 PM; the evening group will meet from 6:30-8:00 PM. This Lent, we will read *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe* by Richard Rohr, an American Franciscan priest and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation. To sign-up and place an order for a book, please use the sign-up sheets online or on the bulletin board in the Common. The cost of the paperback book is \$16.00. We should have some available very soon. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Rev. John or Rev. Allyssa, We look forward to joining you in reading and reflecting together this Lent.

Interested in Becoming a Member?

We will have two information sharing sessions for people who may be interested in becoming Members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ. The first will be held today, Sunday February 1 after the 10:30 AM Worship Service and the second on Sunday February 15 after Worship. This is an opportunity for us to answer questions about Membership, give you some written materials connected to being a member, and to recognize that we all come from different backgrounds and experiences by sharing with others who are there. If you are unable to attend one of those meetings and are also interested in joining St. Paul's, please contact Rev. John or Rev. Allyssa and we can make alternative arrangements. We hope to receive people as New Members of St. Paul's UCC on a Sunday in March, which we will arrange so as many interested people as possible can join. We will more than likely need to schedule another Sunday shortly following that, so if you have any interest at all (no commitments yet) please do contact us. We are grateful and excited about your interest.