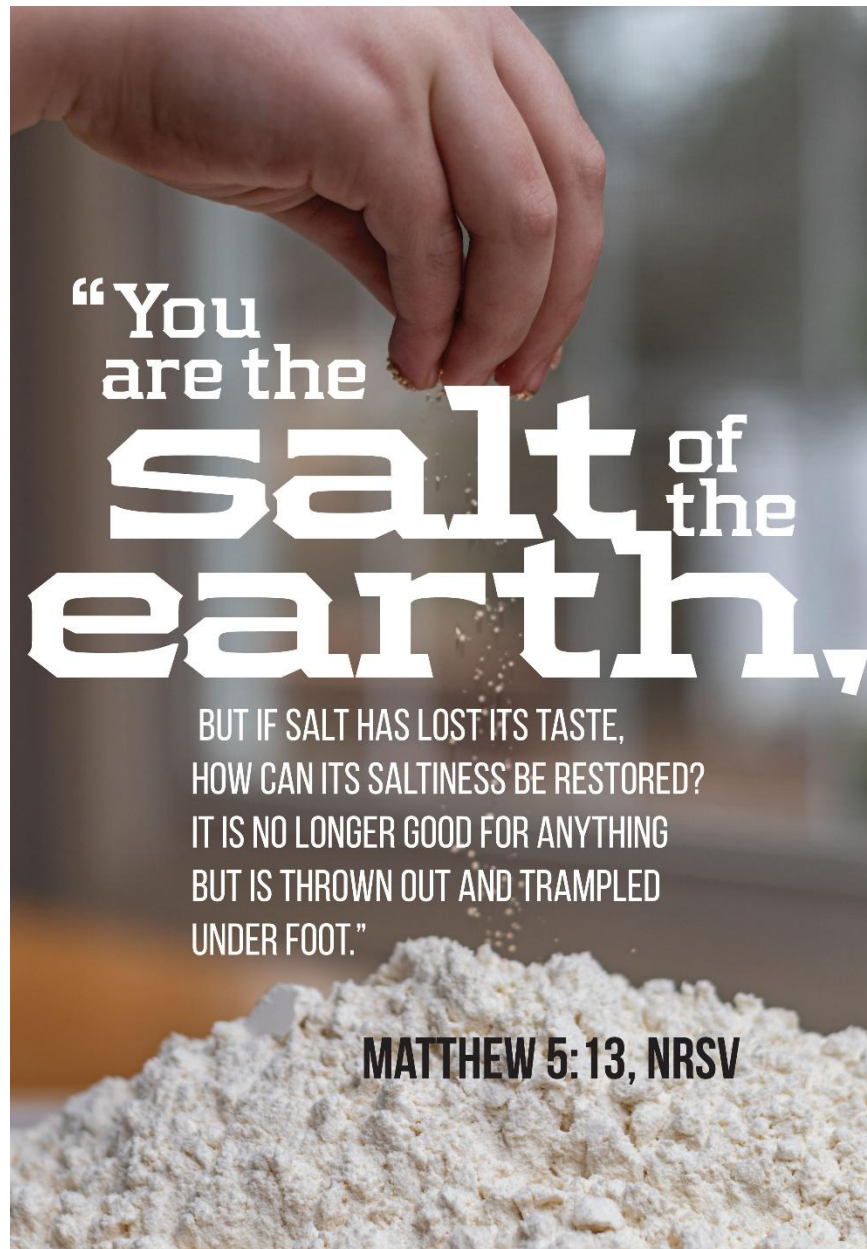


Welcome to  
**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

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

February 8, 2026



**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: Shirley Keith Knox

### **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: Nancy Richey, David Scott  
Acolyte:  
Kids' Place: Sue Ward-Diorio, Rachael Hersh, LidiaAnn Edwards  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Bonnie Plymette  
Counting Team: Mary Runkle, David Scott

### **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**

**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)**



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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

February 8, 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

SPIRITUAL ROYALITES 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:**

***I Will Trust in the Lord, I Want Jesus to Go with Me,  
This Little Light of Mine, Give Me Oil in My Lamp***

**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 "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen"

Marianne Kim

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No. 416 "I Will Trust in the Lord"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**God of justice, who made us to be salt and light in a bitter, shadowed world, guide us in this time of worship. Grant us understanding so that others may see Your good works through us and be moved to serve You. We pray for the courage to be Your light, shining boldly, breaking forth like the dawn. Amen.**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

God calls out to us, saying, "Here I am," but we do not listen. God pours out on us spiritual gifts, but we do not discern them. God calls us to build a more just society, but we cling to our advantages. We can pray to God to ask for forgiveness; to ask God to help us change. The Holy Spirit can change our hearts and minds, and in turn, we can change systems of oppression and injustice. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

#### SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God hears the confession of our hearts. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

**ALL: Praise God who empowers us for justice, repair, and reconciliation.**

*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

#### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION OF THE WATER

GATHERING OF WITNESSES

BAPTISMAL ADDRESS

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES' PARENTS

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT (unison)

**We, as members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, and the Church Universal, hear your promises with joy, and gladly welcome you as sisters and brothers in Christ into the family of faith. We covenant with you to share in the hopes, labors, and joys of the Christian life, supported by God's love through this congregation. We will weep with you when you weep, rejoice with you in your rejoicing, and encourage your growth in the new life Christ gives. These things we promise in the name and spirit of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.**

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

CELEBRATORY PROCESSIONAL

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

Isaiah 58:1-12

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 112

\*THE HYMN No. 490 "I Want Jesus to Go with Me"

THE RESPONSE:

**One: God is Still Speaking.**

**All: Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Matthew 5:13-20

**"Salt and Light in an ICE Age"**

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)

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 "Give Me Oil in My Lamp"  
Chancel Choir

Spiritual, arr. McDonald

\*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 justice, you have given each of us gifts to use as members of the Body of Christ. Here are our gifts—the work of our hands, our hearts, and our lives, returned to you. May these gifts carry the promise of freedom, justice, and kinship for all your children. Bless those who receive these gifts, just as we are blessed in the act of sharing them. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 525 “This Little Light of Mine”

\*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 “With Trumpets and Horns”

G.F. Handel

References:

The Prayer of Invocation and Call to Confession are adapted from “Taught by Love” by Lavon Bayler, Cleveland, OH: United Church Press, 1998.

The Words of Assurance are adapted from “United Church of Christ Book of Worship,” New York, NY: United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership, 1986.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from two prayers by Thom Shuman and Daniel Hayward, respectively, Pilgrim Uniting Church in Australia.

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  
Joan and Ernie Moyer, “In loving memory of our parents.”

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **POT PIE**

Today is the deadline to order pot pie for pick-up Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Orders can be placed in the Common on the bulletin board. Please also consider signing up to volunteer in the kitchen this week.

### **BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK**

Share your love of reading this winter by sponsoring a Blind Date with a Book! Select a gently used book from your collection and wrap it to conceal the title and author. Feel free to make your

wrapping as simple or ornate as you like. Attach a small "extra" to the book : pen, notepad, small gift card, bookmark, tea bag, candy bar, etc. Fill out a "Hints Card" (available in The Commons) and place in the donation bin. **Please have your donations to the church no later than today, Sunday, Feb 8.** Check the February Epistle for more information about our Blind Date with a Book event on February 15. See Melissa Cawley (melissacawley@aol.com) with any questions.

### **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 today, 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.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 18**

Our Ash Wednesday worship service will be held on February 18 at 7:30 PM. The service will include Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. All are invited to this service marking the beginning of the season of Lent. We hope you will join us as we embark on this holy season of reflection and prayer.

### **CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION—SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22**

Immediately after Worship, we will be gathering to discuss our plans for all-gender restrooms. This is an important conversation in which people can share and listen. All are invited and deeply encouraged to come.

### **GARDEN COMMITTEE 2026: NEW GROWTH OPPORTUNITY**

The Garden Committee is looking to revitalize the back section of the Lee Jackson Memorial Community Garden for the 2026 season! To combat persistent weeds and simplify maintenance, we plan to install four Garden In Minutes raised bed systems. These durable, all-in-one units include built-in irrigation and will help us maximize our vegetable donations to New Hope Ministries.

How you can help:

- Donations: We are seeking \$1,640 (\$410 per unit) to fund this project, as it falls outside our current budget.
- Labor: We need a team of able-bodied volunteers to help clear the area and lay landscape fabric/stone to prepare for installation.

If you can contribute financially or physically, please contact any member of the Garden Committee (Eric & Jonneke Dundore, Wendy Hayden & Jody Biss, Kathy & Mike Aumiller, Ben & Erin Anderson). Thank you for helping our garden thrive!