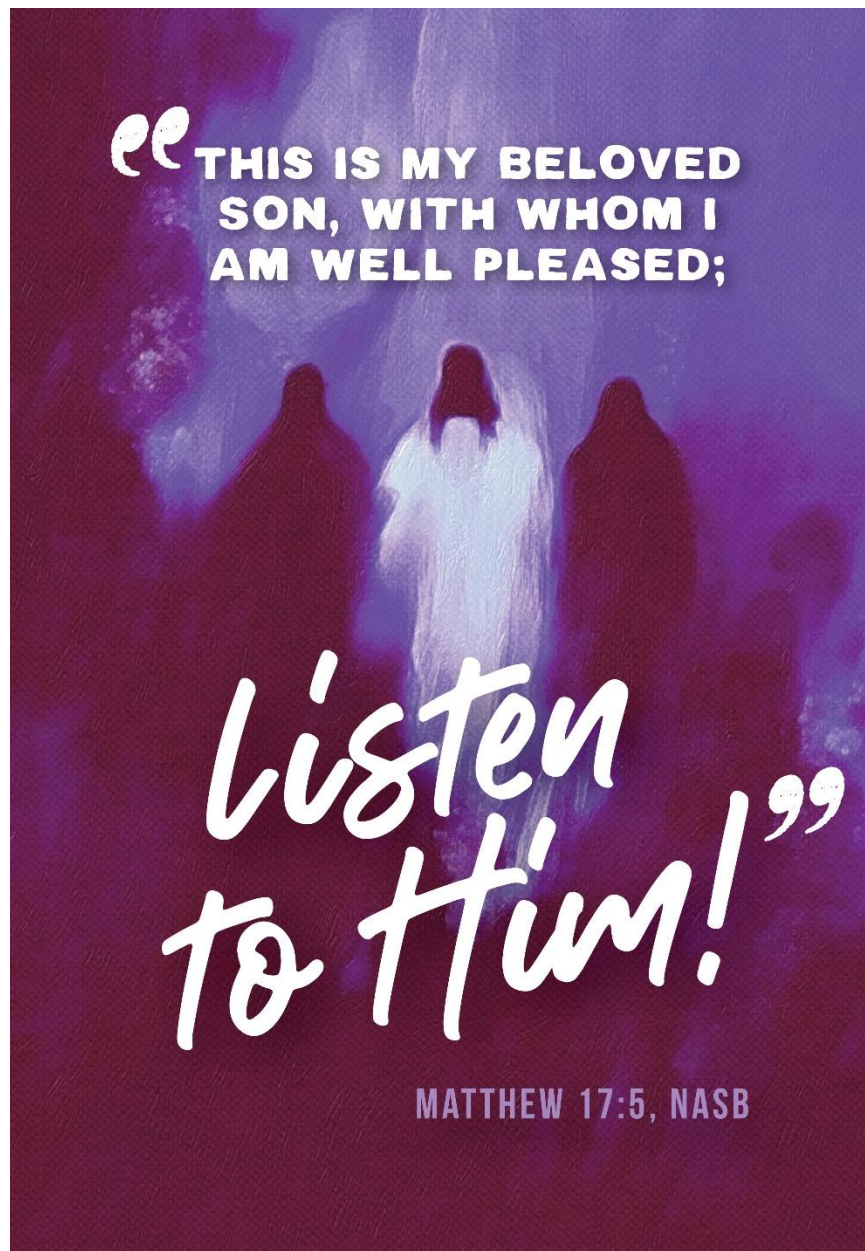


**Welcome to**  
**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

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

February 15, 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: 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: Charles Ricedorf  
Greeters: Don Dupes, Jordan Young, Brian Strohecker  
Acolyte:  
Kids' Place: Becky Thompson, Crystal Cline, Shirley Keith Knox  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Leann Davinroy  
Counting Team: Mary Runkle, Joan Moyer  
Fellowship Time: Blind Date with a Book

## **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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(717)766-7931

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Rev. Allyssa: [allyssaboyer@outlook.com](mailto:allyssaboyer@outlook.com)



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

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 15, 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 ROYALTES 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:**

***In Christ There is No East or West, Give Me Jesus, Everytime I Feel the Spirit, and All Night, All Day.***

**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 "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

Peter Benjamin

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No. 394 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**God of all Time and Space, of all that Is, guide us in recognizing the connections You seek for us to understand. Help us to see Jesus as a living connection between before, now, and after, between the Divine and human, and what is and what can be Transfigured. Amen.**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

We can get caught up in believing the past was some idealized time, or that only the present matters, and that the future is set in stone with no change occurring that helps the vast majority of people. We have a hard time believing that the Kingdom or Kindom of God will ever come into being. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

## SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us, and calls us to see how change has occurred, how non-violent resistance has made a difference.

**ALL: Let us look to Jesus, as more than just a personal Savior, but as an example of one who brings together what God has spoken in the past, how God is present with us today, and how God can help us transform the future. 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.**

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS (unison)

**May God's grace be upon these shawls...warming, comforting, enfolding, and embracing. May these mantles be safe havens...sacred places of security and well-being...sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May the ones who receive these shawls be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Blessed be!**

*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 HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 24:12-18

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 18:36-40

\*THE HYMN No. 409 "I Heard My Mother Say (Give Me Jesus)"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Matthew 17:1-9

"We Are All Connected"

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)

The musical score is written for a unison choral response in 2/2 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "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." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

*Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.*

THE OFFERTORY “All Night, All Day”  
Hand Chimes

Spiritual, arr. Buckwalter

\*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 clouds and devouring fire, we are amazed by the experiences of Moses and the disciples of Jesus. They point us beyond our everyday attempts to be faithful to You. Enrich our lives in the season we are entering, that we may see the lamp of Your love shining amid the shadows. Let Your new day dawn among us as we invest ourselves in your purposes for humanity. May we sense the morning star rising in our hearts, giving hope to a world reclaiming the values of Your reign among us. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 282 “Everytime I Feel the Spirit”

\*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 “A Morning Trumpeting”

Franklin Ritter

References:

The Prayer of Blessing is by Janet Bristow, 2008, [www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com).

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  
Carol and Gary Fleisher, “In loving memory of our parents.”