

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

March 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: Jane Leister

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: Don Dupes
Acolyte:
Kids' Place: Barbara Wheeler
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Dale Thorpe and Don Dupes
Counting Team: Dave Scott
Fellowship Time:

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

Rev. John: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com



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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 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

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Lani Smith

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 12 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Healing God, through Jesus' work we see Your desire to heal us. Jesus showed us that the healing we need is often not just physical. We have also suffered and caused pain by our acceptance of rules, practices, traditions and beliefs that are not consistent with Your Love for all. Guide us in seeking Your Healing. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We can end up making judgements about others, and even ourselves, based on teachings that are not in line with God's Teachings, or Jesus' actions. We can feel caught up by what some authorities tell us about how we should act and the rationale they use. God's unwavering insistence that all people are God's Children and all Creation is filled with God's Spirit points us in other directions. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us. God continues to come to us, seeking to guide us, so our actions might more align with our beliefs in God's Care, Compassion and Love for all that exists.

ALL: **Let us pay closer attention to what Jesus taught and how he lived, and measure that against where our faith traditions and practices sometimes lead us. Let us choose to follow Jesus. 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

1 Samuel 16:1-13

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 23

*THE HYMN No. 248 "Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows" (vs. 1, 2, 5 & 6)

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 9:1-41

"Seeing With More Than Our Eyes"

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 for a unison choral response. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a tempo marking of quarter note = 72. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The first system's lyrics are: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O". The second system's lyrics are: "Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me." The score includes a piano accompaniment with chords Em, C6, D, G, C, Am6, and B. The piece ends with a "fine" marking.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY "Faithful Shepherd"

Larson

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)

Loving God, as you illuminate our lives with fascinating insights and possibilities, we reach out to share Your love through our tithes and offerings and our investment of time and energy in tasks to which You call us. All this we offer now for Your blessing, for apart from You, the light goes out of our lives and we slip into meaningless existence. Let us, rather, dwell with You and serve You wherever we go. Amen.

*THE HYMN "Christ, You Made the Blind Man See" (to the tune of no. 422, "Come, O Thankful People, Come.")

***Christ, you made the blind man see; with some mud you healed his eyes.
So you acted lovingly, bringing health and changing lives.
Yet it was a Sabbath Day; rules were all that some folks saw;
They were quick to scorn the way you put love before the Law.***

***Christ, you came to judge the earth, bringing truth and life and light,
Showing humble ones their worth, giving vision, bold and bright.
Those who proudly think they see are the ones who often find
Though they act quite boastfully, they, in fact, are really blind.***

**God, we pray that we will be people filled with light and grace.
Show us what we need to see in this culture, time and place:
We are called to be your light, telling how you've changed us here.
Love can make the darkness bright; faith in you makes all things clear.**

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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.

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE "Lead On, O King Eternal"

Gregg Sewell

References:

Cover Image: Latimore, Kelly. Good Shepherd, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57121> [retrieved March 11, 2026]. Original source: Kelly Latimore Icons, <https://kellylatimoreicons.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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The white rose on the altar is in loving memory of Albert (Al) Huebner who died last week. We thank you for your continued prayers for his wife, Mary Jane, and daughter, Jennifer, along with all other family and friends.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Wendy Hayden and Jody Biss, "In loving memory of Wendy's mom, Beverly,
whose birthday was March 13th."

TODAY WE WILL COLLECT THE 'ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING' OFFERING.

For over 75 years, this UCC tradition has provided disaster relief, clean water, and sustainable development to those in need worldwide. Your "love offering" doesn't just support one cause—it fuels a global network of hope, from emergency response to long-term empowerment. Let's share our prayers and resources to help rebuild lives.