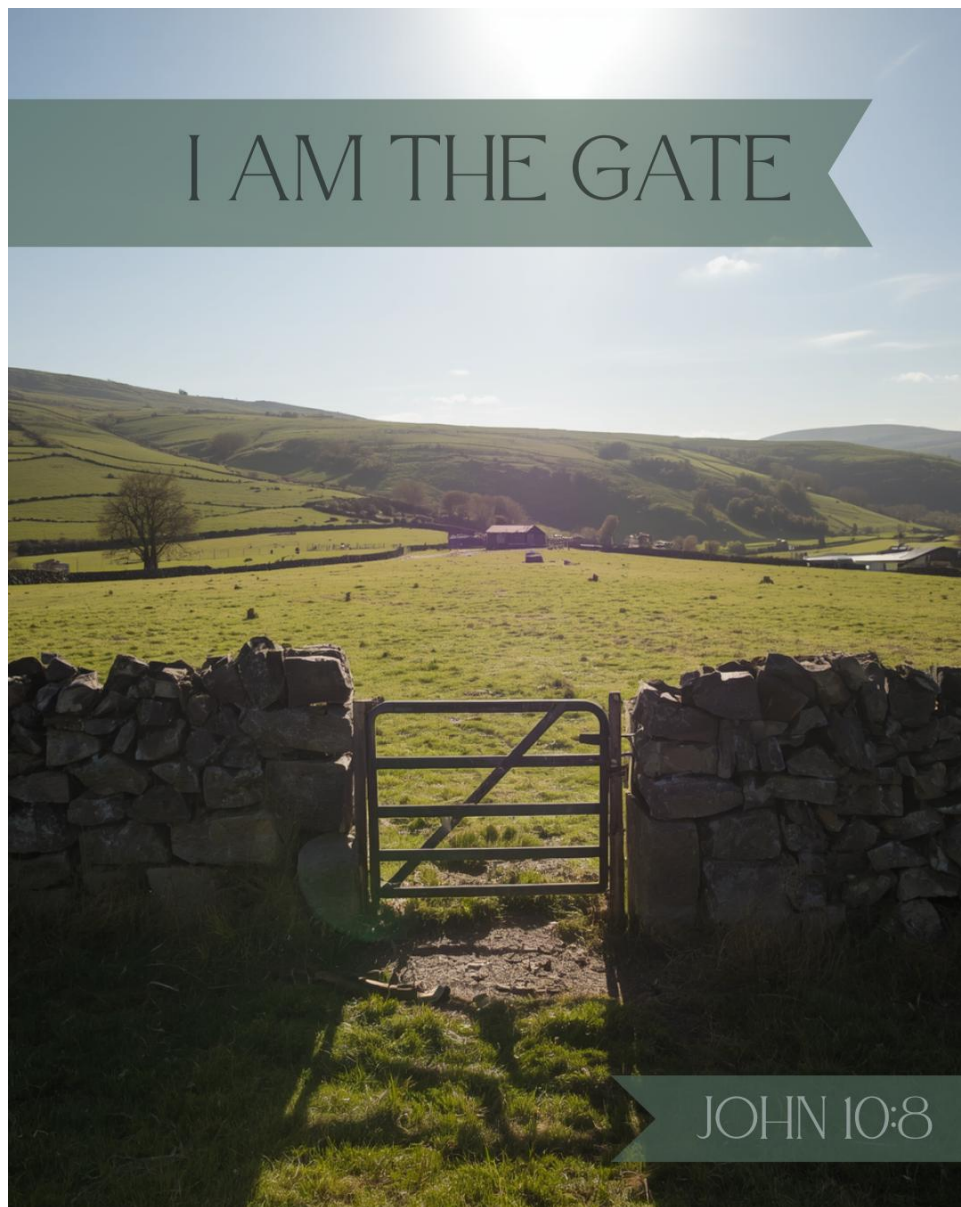


# Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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

April 26, 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: Paula Boyer

### **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: Steve Stough  
Greeters: Crystal Cline, Don Dupes  
Acolyte:  
Kids' Place: Rachael Hersh, Sherry Spencer  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Jonneke van Olden  
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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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
(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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 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 "God Leads Us Along"

Lyndell Leatherman

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No 55 "Rejoice, You Pure in Heart"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Let us hear Your voice today, O Shepherd. Call our names and claim us as Your own. Lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Comfort those who suffer pain and loss. Assure all who are afraid. Lead us in right paths for Your name's sake. We have known Your goodness and mercy in so many times and places. We open ourselves now to receive these gifts again. Unlock within us the barriers that keep us from recognizing and appreciating all the signs of Your love that surround us. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Like sheep, there are times we wander and stray. We come to God for sustenance, but we distance ourselves when God asks more of us. We bite one another with words that cut and attitudes that reflect more apathy than care. We lie down and become stuck when God would expand our sphere of belonging. Even so, we trust God will not give up on us and will continue to call us to respond to the Shepherd's voice. Let us join in silent prayers of confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

**One:** Christ came that we all may have life, and have it abundantly. There is no place we could go where God cannot find us and bring us back into God's loving embrace.

**ALL:** **Surely God's goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives. Thanks be to God!**

*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 NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 23

\*THE HYMN No. 252 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 10:1-10

"The Gate to Abundant Life"

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)

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

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

THE OFFERTORY “Let Your Faith Be Stronger than Your Fear”  
Chancel Choir and Gordon Kaslusky, soloist

Trenney

\*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)

**Thank you, God, for the abundant life we enjoy, not in the things we possess but in the relationships You offer, and the opportunities for sharing that You provide. May all that we dedicate here to You be distributed in ways that meet the needs of our neighbors, near and far, and offer praise to You. We pray You receive these gifts as we give them—with gratitude and joy. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 493 “O Jesus, I Have Promised”

\*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 "Voluntary in C"

Michael Ryan

References:

The Prayer of Invocation and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from "Taught by Love" by Lavon Bayler, Cleveland, OH: United Church Press, 1998.

The Call to Confession and Assurance of Pardon are adapted from "By the Gate: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday in Easter Year A," by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Worship Ways: Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ.

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**

Melissa Cawley, "In memory of grandparents."

### **YARD SALE!**

Join us this Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be good finds and food. 8AM-1PM. We also still have spaces available for rent (\$20 for members/\$25 for non-members). Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/3mjw33pu>



### **CONGRATULATIONS, GRADS!**

We are so proud of all our high school and college graduates from St. Paul's! If you are a member of St. Paul's, and your child is graduating this year, please let us know. First, email their info (name, school, degree, future plans, and photo) to Rev. Allyssa, or drop it off in the church office, by May 18. Then, let us know if your grad can come to our New Graduate & New Member Celebration following our worship service on May 31. Congratulations to all our graduates!

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Save the dates! We will hold Vacation Bible School on the evenings of July 13-16. Kids aged 3 through 5th graders are invited to participate in this year's VBS. Back by popular demand: free supper for all kids and volunteers! Adult and youth volunteers are needed. If you'd like to volunteer, or if you have any questions, please contact Becky Thompson (Christian Education & Youth Council chairperson) or Rev. Allyssa.