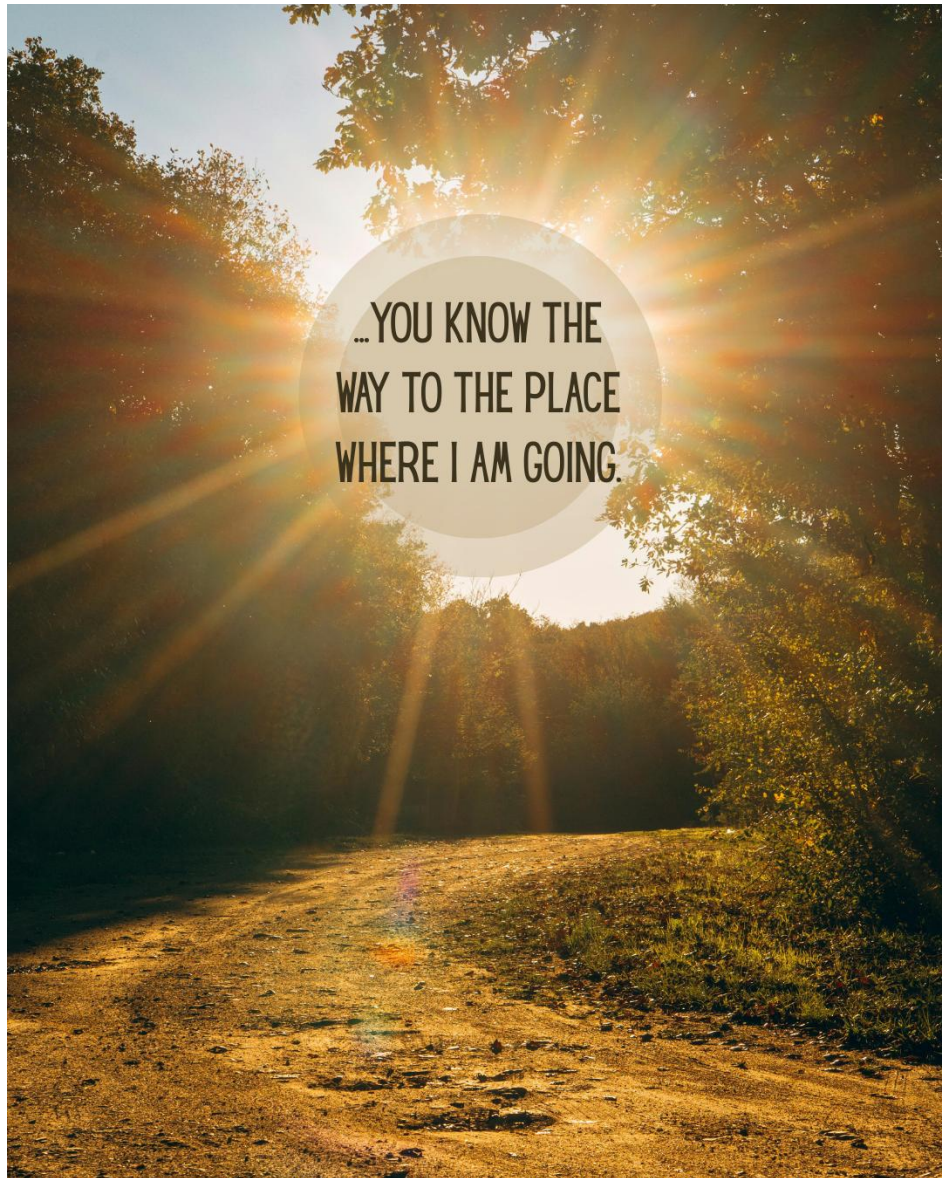


# Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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

May 3, 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: Teri Guelcher

## **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: Nancy Richey  
Acolyte:  
Kids' Place: Shirley Keith Knox, LidiaAnn Edwards  
Flower Preparation: Chris Grice  
Flower Delivery: Teri Guelcher and Cindy Baldwin  
Counting Team: Betty Olsen

## **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.*

**Text "SPUCCGIVE" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.**

**or at**

**<https://onrealm.org/saintpaulsuccmech/-/form/give/now>**

## **ST. PAUL'S**

## **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
(717)766-7931**

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[stpaulstaff@outlook.com](mailto:stpaulstaff@outlook.com)**

**Rev. John:**

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**Rev. Allyssa:**

**[allyssaboyer@outlook.com](mailto:allyssaboyer@outlook.com)**

## References:

The Prayer of Invocation, Call to Confession, and a portion of the Prayer of Dedication are adapted from "Now and Always: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday of Easter" by Rev. Elizabeth Dilley, Justice and Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ, 2020.

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

The original version of the UCC Statement of Faith was adopted in 1959 by General Synod and is widely regarded as one of the most significant Christian faith testimonies of the 20th century. The Statement of Faith in the Form of a Doxology (printed in this worship bulletin) was authorized by Executive Council in 1981.

A portion of the Prayer of Dedication is adapted from "Taught by Love" by Lavon Bayler, Cleveland, OH: United Church Press, 1998.

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 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 "Larghetto"

G.F. Handel

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No 400 "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Way-Making God, we celebrate the gifts of Your Spirit. You have made us strong and faithful servants of Christ. You call us to take up the mantle of justice, and to follow wherever faith leads us. You fill us with strength and hope, and You invite us to share in the cost and joys of discipleship. You promise us splendor and beauty in this life, and in the world to come. Meet us here, we pray, that Your word will be fulfilled in our hearing, and that Your Spirit will fill us with courage. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

From generation to generation, God calls forth faithful people to be willing servants of truth. God fills us with strength and hope, yet we find it is often not enough. We pray both for great faith and for easy lives. But we know these things seldom exist together. We pray only to avoid the time of trial, when we also need to pray for fortitude and resolve to face the challenges that come with faithfulness. Let us join in silent prayers of confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: Do not let your hearts be troubled. God's Spirit empowers us to move from the ways of death to the ways of new life. Our sins are forgiven.

**ALL: Let us forgive one another and give ourselves to one another in the joyful community of the risen Christ. 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.**

*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 7:55-60

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 14:1-14

*“Where I Am Going, You Know the Way”*

\*THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH (unison)

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

**You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.**

**Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 “God Gives the Song”

Chancel Choir

Courtney

\*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 commit ourselves to You, gracious God, as we dedicate material gifts that represent our labor. Bless these offerings, that they may heal and make whole the lives of all Your children. And bless those who give, and those who long to give, that we may become living stones of mercy, grace, and justice in the house of Your creation. 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

*All people are welcome to participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion. We gather both in person and in Spirit. For those who are present in the sanctuary, you are invited to come forward and receive a piece of bread (all the bread is gluten free). You may dip the bread in red wine or white grape juice, and then eat the elements together. If you do not wish to come forward but would still like to receive Holy Communion, an usher will bring trays with bread and wine or juice to you in your pew.*

*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, even as we and they are scattered in geographic space.*

### 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. 488 "Be Still, My Soul"

\*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 "How Firm a Foundation"

Edward Broughton

### ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by  
Don and Merikay Wood, "In memory of our mothers."