

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

May 24, 2026



Pentecost
Sunday

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: 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:
Acolyte:
Kids' Place: Sue Ward-Diorio, Deb Cashman
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Sue Miller
Counting Team: Joan Moyer

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

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 24, 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 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

Thomas Chesterton

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No 263 "O Spirit of the Living God"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious God, we give You thanks for the gift of Your Holy Spirit. We thank You as well for the clues You offer us of Your Presence: like wind, and fire, and even understanding. Guide us in staying open to the ways You continue to remind us of Your Presence within us and amongst us. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We can come to believe God has stopped speaking to us and stopped trying to teach us. Or worse, we can come to believe we know all we need to know about God and God's Ways. God's Spirit within us, individually and communally, is constantly stirring, seeking to awaken us to God's Care and Compassion for all people, God's Peace and Love surrounding all of us, and God's Calls to us. We do not always pay attention. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and God's Spirit never stops working within us.

ALL: Let us strive to pay closer attention to both spectacular events like Pentecost and the Still Small Voice we hear. Let us remember when we gather all together, God's Spirit often stirs with greater intensity, offering invitations that are harder to ignore. 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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION OF THE WATER

GATHERING OF WITNESSES

BAPTISMAL ADDRESS

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATE

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

Joel 2:28-29

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 104:24-34

*THE HYMN No. 292 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING & MESSAGE:

Acts 2:1-21

“All Were Filled With the Holy Spirit”

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)

O Christ, by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way, The
path of prayer you too have trod: Christ teach us how to pray.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY “Healing River”

Hellerman

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)

Thank you, God, for filling our lives with good things. The abundance of Your gifts to us is beyond our counting. Bless all that we return to You for the work of ministry among us and beyond us. Let Your Spirit enliven our caring and add effectiveness to all our doing. Make us one in Christ Jesus our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*THE HYMN “Faithful God, You Sent Your Spirit” (to the tune of no. 459, “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”)

**Faithful God, you sent your Spirit long ago at Pentecost.
You gave life and said to share it, all as one, beneath your cross.
May we see your wondrous blessing when your people everywhere
Work together, all confessing faith that binds us, faith to share.**

**God of hope, you daily nurture those who seek to follow you.
You're not bound by any culture; You love rich and poor ones, too.
In an ever-changing nation, may your churches welcome in
Every child of your creation, giving hope to all again.**

**God of love, may we in worship welcome our diversity.
May we reach in trust and friendship to the poor and refugee.
May we see Christ in the stranger, breaking bonds of hate and fear.
By your Spirit, may we offer glimpses of your kingdom here.**

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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 “A Patriotic Quotation”

Robert J. Hughes

References:

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
Candy LaRue, “In honor of our granddaughter Morgan’s 25th birthday.”
Diane and Bob Freeman, “In memory of brother Jerry and his wife Linda,
and in honor of sons Eric and Brian's May birthdays.”