

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
May 31, 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: Jeff Whitman

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: Becky Thompson

Greeters: Don Dupes, Chris & Dave Grice

Acolyte:

Kids' Place: Maggie Gassert, Dale Thorpe

Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel

Flower Delivery: Dale Thorpe & Don Dupes

Counting Team: Dave Scott

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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**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
SERVICE OF WORSHIP

TRINITY SUNDAY

May 31, 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 "O Lord Most Holy"

Franz Abt

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No 275 "Come Now, Almighty God"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Triune God, guide us to a deeper understanding of what we call You and what those terms are meant to convey. Help us to grasp the importance of the relationship aspect of both what calling You Triune communicates and what we name You in that Trinity represents. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We struggle to define what we cannot fully understand, in this case, God. We use names and terms that partially convey the Mystery. The danger is we can begin to believe those names and terms actually entirely describe the Mystery. We forget these are partial definitions and refuse to expand them. We can stop trying to add to our understanding. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and continues to seek to expand our understanding of who God is, how God works, and where God is.

ALL: **Let us give thanks for all the people of faith who have thought deeply about God and offered us their understanding. Let us not stop there. The world continues to be filled with God's Revelations. 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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

INVITATION

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

*CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Pastor: This congregation is part of the body of Christ in this time and place. We are Christ's hands, ears, and eyes. We are called to serve Christ as best as we are able and in accordance with the gifts we have been given. Let us say the Congregational Assent together.

Members: We, as members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, and the Church Universal, hear your promises with joy and gladly welcome you as siblings 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

WELCOME & RECEPTION

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the congregation of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, we extend to you, Genee, Shannon, Christopher, Matthew, Terry and Deb, the right hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church and the saints of light.

THE EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 8

*THE HYMN No. 278 "Creator God, Creating Still"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Matthew 28:16-20

"Trying Our Best to Understand"

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 "Music of the Morning"

Choplin

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)

Amid our doubts and the temptation to grab life's blessings for our own personal use, we come to dedicate our time, talent, and treasure to realize Your reign on earth, majestic God. As we enjoy Your bounty, we give that all our siblings might also come to appreciate the amazing gifts You entrust to us. Thank you for life and all its wonders. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 277 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

*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 online livestream ends after the Postlude.
You're welcome to converse in the Narthex after the Three-fold Amen.*

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE "Ye Servants of God"

Roger C. Wilson

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
Dale Thorpe and Don Dupes, "In memory of Harry 'Superman' Crossley"

Please plan on joining us immediately following worship in the fellowship hall for a celebration of our new members from the past year and graduates.