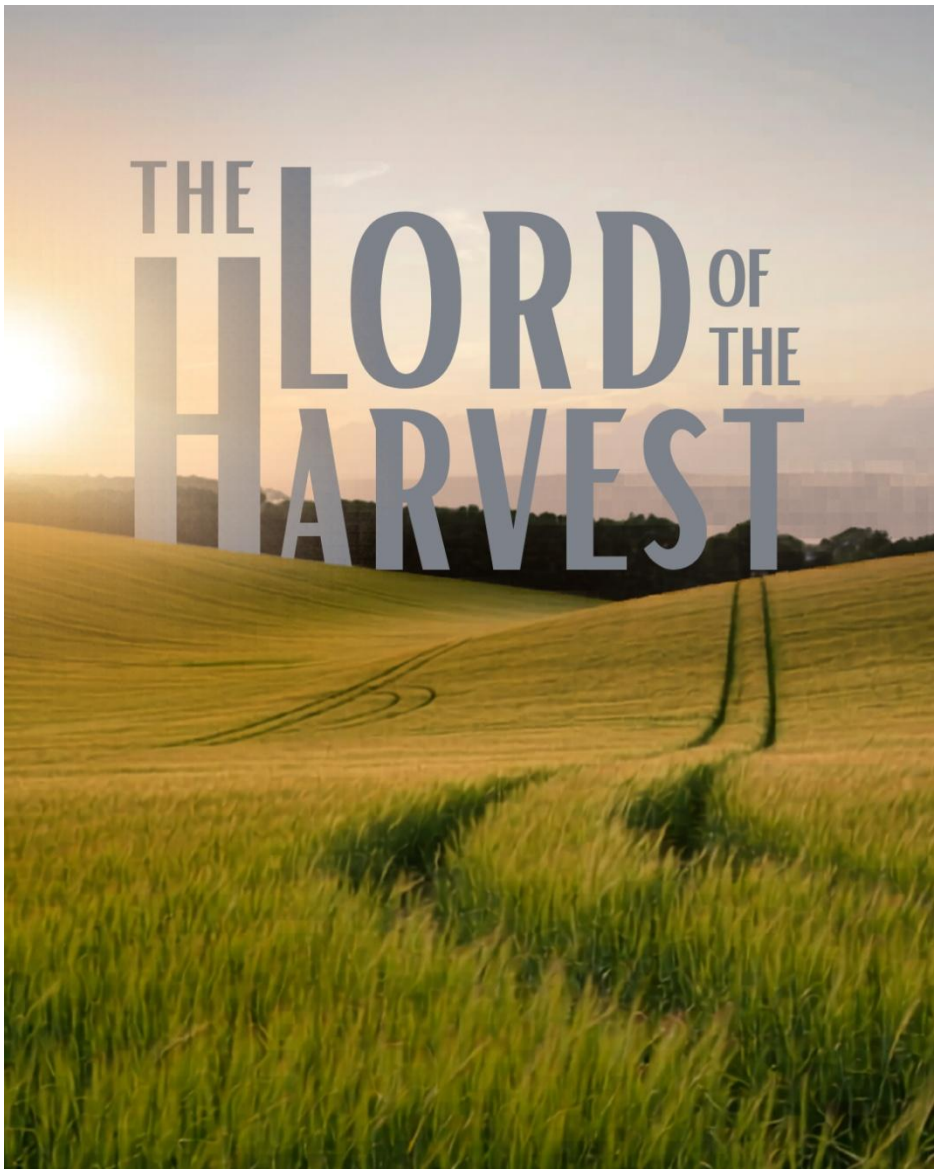
Welcome to

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

June 14, 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: Jeff Leister
Greeters: Susan Miller, Crystal Cline
Acolyte:
Kids' Place: Becky Thompson, Sherry Spencer
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Susan Miller
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.

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
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

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST June 14, 2026
HOLY COMMUNION

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 "We Plow The Fields, And Scatter" Robert J. Hughes

CALL TO WORSHIP "Two Weeks After a Silent Retreat" by Heather Lanier

How quickly I lose my love
of all things. I nearly flick an ant
off the cliff of an armchair.

But remember, Self,
the week you spent
enveloped in psalms

intoned by monks?
By Wednesday you beheld

a three-balled body
creeping around
the onionskin of your book,

its six teensy toothpick legs
bent into all manner of
delicate angles.

Your chest became
a doorway
to a spacious unmarked

heaven. You loved the ant.
The kingdom,
said Christ,
is at hand, meaning
not ticking above

in a time bomb of gold-
paved streets
but tapping its antennae

along the heart line
of your imperfect palm.

*THE HYMN No 300 "Jesus Shall Reign" (vs. 1, 2, 4 & 5)

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Empowering God, we are grateful You have called us to care for and serve others, as You did with the first disciples. We give thanks too that we are reminded of the strengthen and guidance You offer through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. May we continue to accept our responsibility of being Your disciples. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We can often minimize what it means to receive Holy Communion. We are not supposed to just remember Jesus' willingness to give his whole Self in service to others, but how we are called to do likewise. Participating in Holy Communion is an act of resistance against our culture's and the empire's insistence that we only care about and look after ourselves. 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 be present in a unique and special way in Holy Communion, reminding us we carry God's Spirit within us and how that Spirit led Jesus to embody God's care and justice among us, despite the risks.

ALL: Let us broaden our understanding of Holy Communion and Its call to us embrace all people as God's Children and the need to care for them. 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 — Genesis 18:1-15

THE READING OF THE PSALM — Psalm 116:12-19

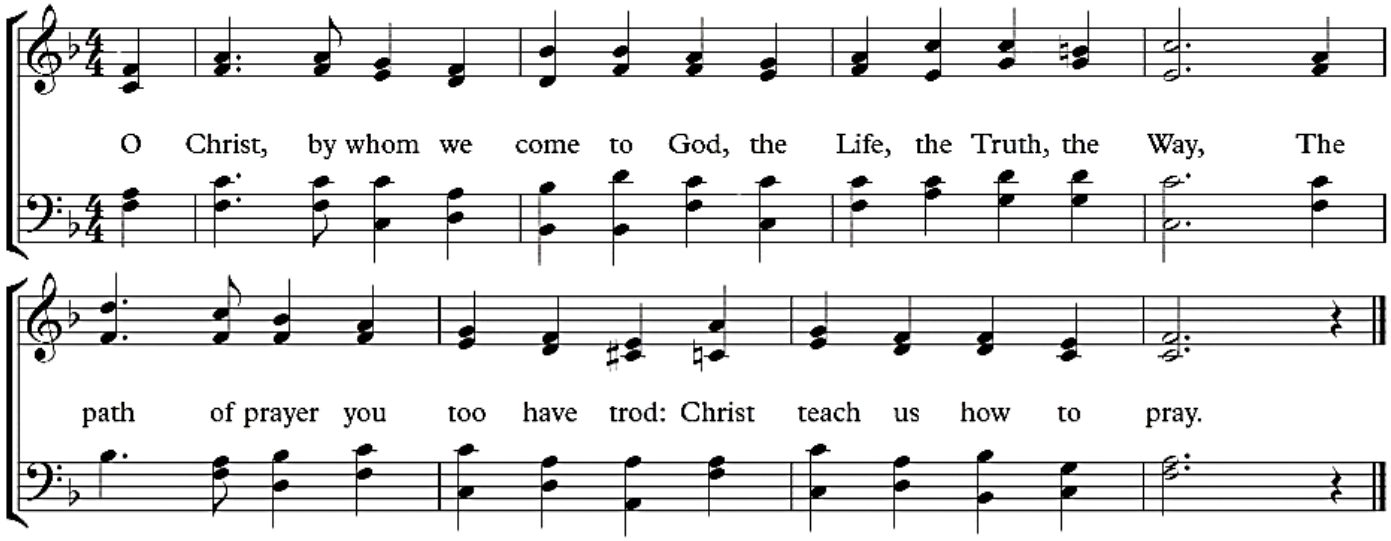
THE RESPONSE:
One: God is Still Speaking.
All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE: — Matthew 9:35-10:8

"Empowered to Serve"

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)



Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY “Come, Thou Fount” arr. Courtney Jonneke and Eric Dundore

*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 repeat our vows of commitment to You, gracious God, as we dedicate this offering. We are disciples of Jesus Christ, commissioned to share the good news. May all that we dedicate here announce Your reign and the nearness of Your dominion. We give with joy and serve with delight, thanking You for this opportunity to share what You have given. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 329 “Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts” (vs. 1-4)

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

We gather both in person and in Spirit. For those who are present in the sanctuary, greeters will pass out bread (all the bread is gluten-free), and then red wine and white grape juice. They will bring the trays to you. Please hold the elements until all have been served; we will eat and then drink together. All are welcome to participate. Thank you.

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. 543 "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" (vs. 1, 2, 3 & 6)

*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 "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

References:
The Call to Worship, "Two Weeks After a Silent Retreat" by Heather Lanier is on pages 37-38 of How to Love the World: Poems of Gratitude and Hope, edited by James Crews, 2021, Storey Publishing. Originally published in *The SUN,* 2020, Heather Lanier. Reprinted with permission of the author.
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.
Songs, music, and lyrics used by permission. CCLI License #11380019 CSPL128945

Stay in the Loop!

GARDEN BLESSING

Our congregation grows over 1,000 pounds of veggies every year in our Lee Jackson Memorial Community Garden. St. Paul's members work hard throughout the year to prepare the earth, plant, tend, water, weed, and harvest the produce from our garden, which is donated to local food aid programs. We will join together at the garden following worship to add our congregational blessing to the garden, its volunteers, and the fresh, healthy food it produces. Please join us!

RACIAL JUSTICE MOVIE NIGHT

SPARCC (St. Paul's Against Racism, Creating Change) is sponsoring a movie night on June 18th. 5:30-8:30PM We'll be watching AMISTAD which recounts the circumstances aboard the Spanish slave ship La Amistad in 1839. Bring dinner along. Please note this movie is rated "R".

FELLOWSHIP HALL BATHROOM RENOVATIONS

We are beginning the bathroom renovation project in the Fellowship Hall. Please remember that work will be ongoing through the month of June. Plan accordingly as you use the building.

RENEW: THE GREEN VBS

ReNew is a Vacation Bible School program inspiring kids to grow in faith, have fun, and change the world as they practice care for the earth! Kids aged 3 through rising 5th graders are invited to participate. Registration forms will be available on our website. Back by popular demand: families and VBS volunteers can join us for a free dinner each evening of VBS. Dates: July 13-16. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Thompson or Rev. Allyssa.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering with kids at St. Paul's is one of the most heartwarming and fulfilling ministries! We are excited to provide our church's kids with an opportunity to learn and grow closer to God through Vacation Bible School, and we would love for you to help! If you'd like to volunteer, or if you'd like more info on how you can help, please contact Becky Thompson or Rev. Allyssa. Thank you.

JUNETEENTH SUNDAY

St. Paul's is celebrating Juneteenth at our worship service on June 21. We will commemorate the historic 1839 uprising of the African captives on board the slave ship The Amistad, and the struggle to free them by anti-slavery Congregationalists (predecessors to the United Church of Christ). Join us for Juneteenth Sunday as we learn from the bravery of our ancestors in faith and recommit ourselves to courage in the struggle for racial justice.