Welcome to

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

June 28, 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: Megan Riesmeyer

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: Dave Scott
Greeters: Don Dupes, Paula Boyer
Acolyte:
Kids' Place: Deb Cashman, Ivonne McFarland
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Jonneke Dundore
Counting Team: Dave Scott, Mary Runkle

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

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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST June 28, 2026
OPEN AND AFFIRMING SUNDAY

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: In Your image, O God, You created everything and called it good! In abundant diversity, Your likeness is found in us. We reject all messages that belittle or degrade any among us. And so in faithfulness to You, and one another, we proclaim:

All: Sacred are our bodies of every age, size, and disability.

One: Blessed are our sexualities, drawing us towards love of many kinds.

All: Beloved is every gender, revealing You in different ways.

One: To our skin, beautiful in every shade, we say hallelujah! Praise You, our Creator, who blesses us with this world,

All: And blesses us with these bodies, and our fellow creatures, all created good, very good!

*THE HYMN "O God, In Your Love (to the tune of no. 1, "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise")

O God, in your love, you have made us unique:
In gifts and traditions, in service we seek,
In race and in culture and family design
Diverse are the branches in Jesus the Vine.

Lord Jesus, you came to bring God's love on earth;
You welcomed the outcasts and showed us our worth.
You reached out to people whom others despised
You said all are precious in God's loving eyes.

O Christ, with your welcome your church feels unease:
We stand at closed doors tightly holding the keys.
Yet this is your body, the church that you love

O Lord, do you weep for your church from above?

So may your church welcome in loving accord
All people who want to serve Jesus our Lord.
O Spirit, unite us in Jesus the Son
In mission and ministry, God, make us one.

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*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God of love, You created all human beings in Your image and likeness, and You call on us to reflect Your goodness, justice, and love to all the world. Remind us of our call to follow You, and to speak out for justice, mercy, and compassion. As we come before You in worship, teach us to respect Your image in all human beings, and help us to defend Your image in all human beings, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Every day, we witness a little of the violence of the world, targeting the marginalized and most vulnerable. This is an opportunity for us to open ourselves to God, so that we may ask for forgiveness for breaking our covenants; for those moments when we should have spoken but stayed silent, for those times we witnessed harm and did not intervene. This time of confession is not meant to weigh us down with guilt, but to free us to respond to God's love. Let us join in silent prayers of confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God's grace abounds! May the angel of the Lord guide and protect us as we continue our journey.

ALL: We are forgiven and renewed. 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.

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 GOSPEL READING — Matthew 10:40-42

THE READING OF THE PSALM — Psalm 13

*THE HYMN No. 575 "O for a World"

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

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE: — Genesis 22:1-14
"Faithful Disobedience"

REAFFIRMATION OF OUR OPEN & AFFIRMING COVENANT (unison)
The people of God at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, affirm our regard for the worth and dignity of all persons as beloved children of God. We recognize, celebrate, and give thanks for the many diverse gifts of God among us. We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, language, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, and economic status.

We acknowledge that throughout history, the Christian church has often condemned and excluded gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and non-heteronormative people from the community of faith, or has condoned such condemnation and exclusion by its silence. We hold that such discrimination is incompatible with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We commit ourselves to work diligently to end all oppression and discrimination that afflict God's people in our society. We commit ourselves to nondiscrimination in the full life, ministry, and sacraments of this church, including membership, leadership, and employment practices. We will condemn all acts of harassment, discrimination, and violence against God's people. We will seek to include and support those, who, because of fear and prejudice, find themselves in exile from a spiritual community. We affirm all relationships founded on

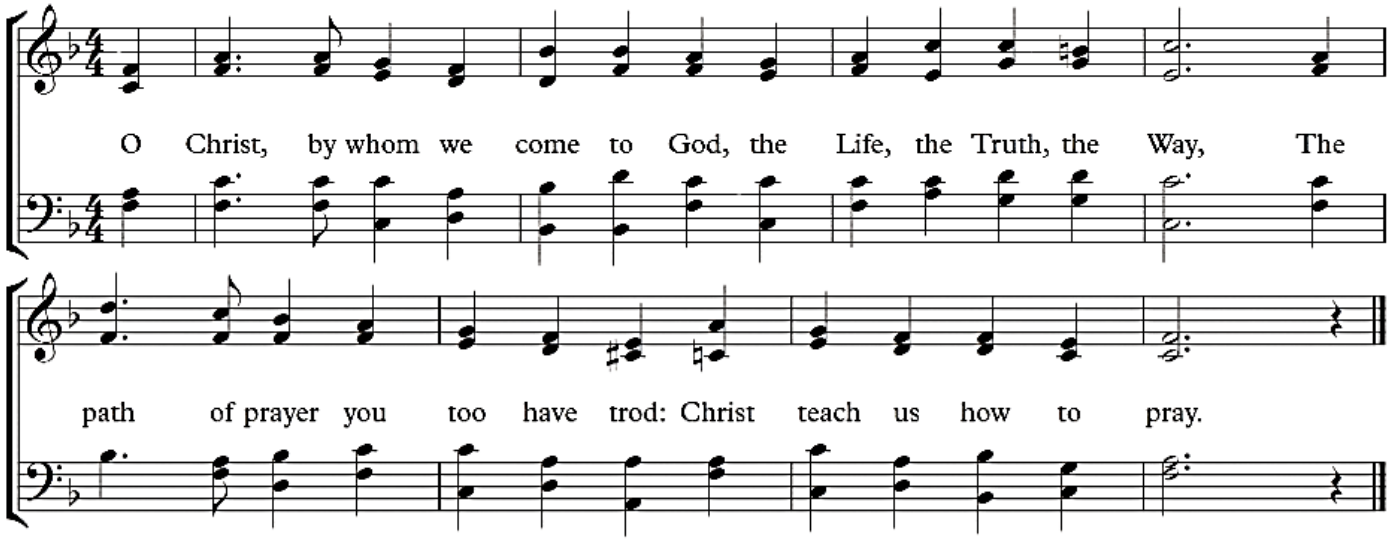
the principles of God's love and justice. We pledge ourselves to be a wellspring of faith for a diverse people.

This covenant was adopted by vote of the congregation on May 18, 2003.
Terms revised and covenant reaffirmed by the congregation on May 20, 2018.

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)



Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY "Hold On" Adam Tice

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)

We offer these gifts, not as bargains or sacrifices to earn Your love, but as signs of our trust in You. Use them, we pray, to bless others—to meet needs, to heal wounds, to build hope. And as You provide for the world through us, keep us faithful to Your calling, even when the way is unclear. May our giving be our "Here I am," ready and willing to serve. In Christ's name, Amen.

*THE HYMN “To Everyone Born” (end of bulletin)

*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

References:
The Call to Worship is adapted from “Living Pride OUT LOUD Worship Resources,” Gender & Sexuality Justice Ministries of the United Church of Christ National Setting, 2024.
The Prayer of Invocation is adapted from “Prayers for Racial Justice with the lighting of candles,” Liturgical Resources for Racial Justice Sunday, The Church of England, 2022.
The Call to Confession is adapted from Kimi Floyd Reisch, “Worship for Pride Month and ONA Sunday,” Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ, 2020.
The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from Offertory Prayer, “Discipleship Ministries: Worship: Fifth Sunday After Pentecost Year A” by Lisa Hancock, The United Methodist Church, 2026.
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
Susan and Dayne Miller, “In honor of grandchildren: Landyn, Kylah & Phoenix”
Melissa Cawley, “In memory of Theresa Cawley”

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 are available on our website. Back by popular demand: families and VBS volunteers can join us for a free dinner each evening of VBS. When: July 13-16, 5:30-7:45 PM. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Thompson or Rev. Allyssa.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DECORATING

We are excited to provide our congregation's kids with an opportunity to learn and grow closer to God through Vacation Bible School. Even if you can't help with VBS during the week, we could use your help with set-up and clean-up. We will be decorating the church building on Saturday, July 11 at 10 AM, and then taking decorations down following worship on Sunday, July 19. Many hands make light work. We are grateful for your help!

ST. PAUL'S KIDS' PICNIC

Sunday, July 12, in the pavilion after our worship service. This picnic is an opportunity for St. Paul's kids and their adults to meet, play, and fellowship together. Everyone is invited; grandkids, neighborhood kids, all are welcome! Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided. If you're able, please bring a side or dessert to share. To RSVP, please text Erin Anderson at 301-908-8172 (RSVP is encouraged by not required).

NEW HOPE NEWS

New Hope Ministries will hold their Back to School event again this summer. This event helps parents and caregivers prepare their children for the school year ahead by providing backpacks full of much needed school supplies. Donations of school items are greatly appreciated and may be placed in donation boxes in the commons. The Back to School event is being held July 30th (earlier than past years) so donations need to be in by Monday, July 20th. Any questions contact Karen Allison. Thank you for your continued support of New Hope.

- Binders (1 and 2 inch)
- Lunch Boxes
- Backpacks
- Notebook Paper
- Calculators-Scientific
- Notebooks
- Colored Pencils
- Mechanical Pencils
- Markers
- Pencil Cases
- Dry Erase Markers
- Post it Notes- Square
- Folders Glue
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Highlighters
- Sharpies
- Index Cards
- Tissues (Individual Packs)

Revised Version

769 For Everyone Born

1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
2 For wo - man and man, a place at the ta - ble
3 For gay, bi, and straight, a place at the ta - ble,
4 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
5 For bod - ies di - verse, a place at the ta - ble,
6 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
7 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,

for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
and all those bet - ween, be - yond, and be - sides;
in - vi - ted to wed, to bap - tize and preach,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
all man - ner of speech and move-ment and minds;
a chance to re - pent, re - form and re - build,
to live with-out fear, and simp - ly to be,

a shel ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
ex - pan - ding our world, dis - man - tl - ing pow - er,
a rain - bow of race and gen - der and co - lor
the hands of a child in hands that are wrink - led,
en - a - bled to lead and teach us new lan - guage,
pro - tect - ing the wronged, with-out shame or press - ure,
to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

This is an unofficial revision of Shirley Erena Murray's original lyrics,
revised by Avery Arden (they/them).
To see what's been altered, visit:
https://binarybreakingworship.com/for-everyone-born-revised

for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head.
each val - ued for what their voice can pro - vide.
for queer, trans, and ace, God's jus - tice in reach.
for bod - ies di - verse, a church re - de - signed.
for young and for old, the right to be - long.
for just and un - just, God's vi - sion ful - filled.
for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free.

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and

joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,

God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,

jus-tice and joy!

This hymn from a noted New Zealand hymnwriter affirms that God's hospitality transcends the barriers erected by human society and that we who have been created in God's image are called to live in ways that reflect our Creator's values: justice and joy, compassion and peace.

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1998
MUSIC: Brian Mann, 2006
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FOR EVERYONE BORN
11.10.11.10 with refrain