Welcome to

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

July 5, 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: Pam Smith

Ministry of Music
Minister of Music:
Assistant Music Director: Mark A. Dundore
Guest Organist: Dr. Robert C. Lau
Assistant Organist: Patrice G. Miller

Ministry of Audio and Video
Jeffrey A. Dundore

Ministry of Service
Lead Greeter: Nancy Richey
Greeters: Sherry Spencer, Anna Thompson, Becky Thompson, Mark Dundore, Dave Scott
Acolyte:
Kids' Place: Rachael Hersh, Shannon Trout
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Jonneke Dundore
Counting Team: Sherry Spencer, Paula Boyer

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

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST July 5, 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 "Be Still, My Soul" Jean Sibelius, arr. Robert Lau

CALL TO WORSHIP
May harmony and well-being flow down from the mountains, and Your just ways from the hills to the people. You will take the side of the poor and pushed down, rescue their hungry children, and put an end to the cruel oppressor. Then, as long as the sun shines and the moon circles the sky, the people will show deep respect to the Great Spirit for all generations. You will be like rain falling on freshly grown sweetgrass, like showers on parched and thirsty ground. In Your days, may the good-hearted grow tall. May harmony and well-being fill the land as long as the moon remains in the sky.

*THE HYMN No. 594 "How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)
We come together, gracious God, because we have heard Your invitation. We sense that You know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the renewal You provide as we come to worship You. We thank You, God, that Your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to Your word. Open our hearts to receive all You offer. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)
One: Gracious One, where do we begin? You call us to do justice,
All: and we explain that justice is complicated.

One: You ask us to love mercy,
All: and we counter that a show of strength is necessary.

One: You invite us to walk humbly with You,

All: and we struggle to recognize You in our neighbors, in the dispossessed, in the poor and hungry places of our own hearts.

One: We confess we have failed to summon the courage and compassion required by Your call.

All: We have treated hospitality as an option, kinship as a choice, instead of the center of our life together.

One: We have claimed Your name, yet rejected Your way.

All: Forgive us, we pray.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: Friends, hear this good news: God's gift is love that liberates, hope that inspires, and grace that transforms. Each of us alone, and all of us together, are forgiven and set free.

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 GOSPEL READING Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

THE READING OF THE PSALM Psalm 145:8-14

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

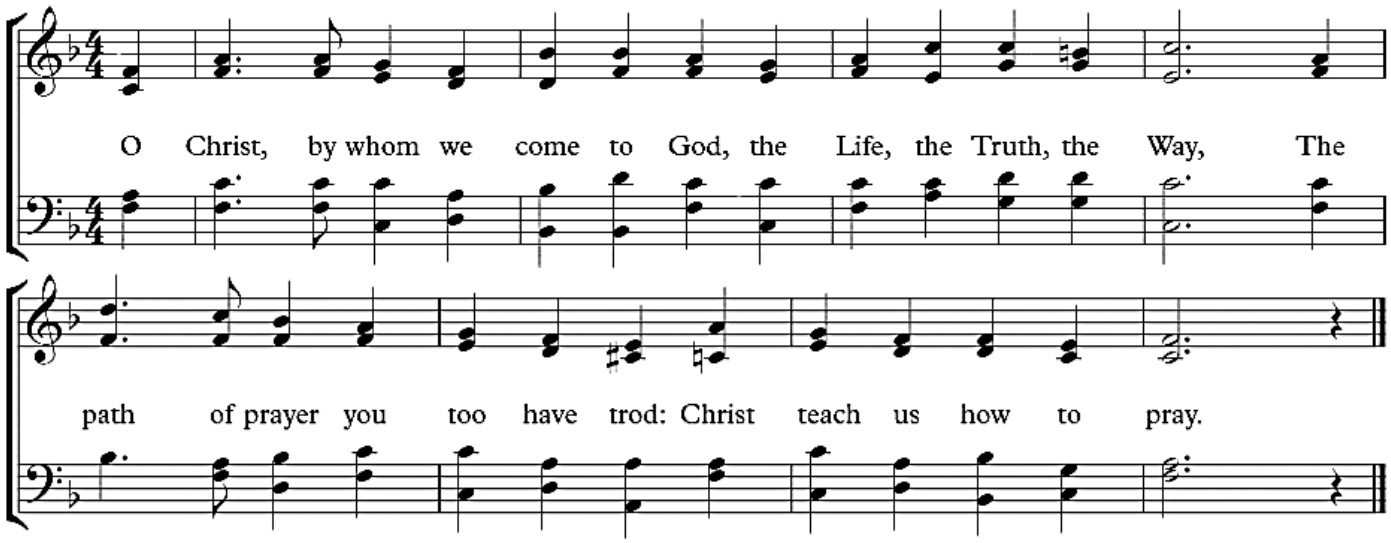
All: Thanks be to God!

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE: Zechariah 9:9-12

"Prisoners of Hope"

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)



Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY soloist, Jonneke Dundore, accompanist, Dr. Robert Lau

*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)

On our own, what we have to give doesn't amount to much considering all You have given to us, O God, and in the face of so much need. Put together as a congregation, what we offer You here in love becomes more, not simply added together, but somehow multiplied in its usefulness. We ask You to bless our gifts, and with the addition of Your blessing, just as it was with the loaves and fishes, may there be more than enough for all. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 591 "This Is My Song"

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 online, 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.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Bountiful God, we give You thanks that You have refreshed us at Your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 610 "My Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

*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 "Variation on America " David Johnson

References:
The Call to Worship is adapted from "First Nations Version Psalms and Proverbs: An Indigenous Bible Translation," Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2025.
The Prayer of Invocation is adapted from "Taught by Love" by Lavon Bayler, Cleveland, OH: United Church Press, 1998.
The Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance are adapted from "Worship Liturgy" by Rev. Erika Marksbury and Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer, in "Fourth of July Pastoral Care Package," Illustrated Ministry, 2026.
The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from "Prayer: Enough for All," from the from the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand: http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/
The Prayer of Thanksgiving is from "The United Church of Christ Book of Worship," New York, NY: United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership, 1986.
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
Don and Merikay Wood, "In memory of our fathers."

CHAIR YOGA UPDATES

Monday, July 13th: OUTDOOR CHAIR YOGA from 4-5pm. (We will meet for class on the grassy patch and sidewalk adjacent to our church gymnasium where the parking lot wraps around the gym. You may want to wear a hat and sunscreen for this class. We will still use the chairs from the gym, so you do not need to bring your own chair. We won't plan to use our mats for that class, so feel free to wear your shoes or go barefoot in the grass!)

Monday, July 27th: No Chair Yoga (Becky will be on vacation).

CALENDAR PLANNING MEETING

Our semiannual calendar planning meeting is Thursday, July 23, at 6:30 PM. This is a time that committee chairs, consistory liaisons, and any other members of the church who wish to, can schedule meetings and events for the upcoming six months. It is also an opportunity to suggest

new activities, and to consider activities that may no longer be effective. Everyone who is interested is welcome to attend!

NEW HOPE BACK TO SCHOOL COLLECTION

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)

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. Register through the QR code. 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.

<u>Donations Needed:</u> For VBS crafts, we are looking for a few items:
- clear plastic bottles (16 oz size); they can be clear or light-colored single serving size (We are making a chandelier!)
- white or light-colored cloth dinner napkins - we are looking for 30
- flower seeds -we are looking for 30 packets

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).