Welcome to

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 6, 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: Shirley Keith Knox

Ministry of Music
Minister of Music: Benjamin D. Eisenhour
Assistant Music Director: Mark A. Dundore
Organist: Eric R. Riley
Assistant Organist: Patrice G. Miller

Ministry of Audio and Video
Jeffrey A. Dundore

Ministry of Service
Lead Greeter: Mark Dundore
Greeters: Paula Boyer, Katie Hammaker
Acolyte:
Kids' Place: LidiaAnn Edwards, Becky Thompson
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Becky Thompson
Counting Team:

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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 6, 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 "The Joyous Bells of Morning" Franklin Ritter

CALL TO WORSHIP excerpt from "Sabbath Poem 2007, VI" by Wendell Berry

It is hard to have hope. It is harder as you grow old,
for hope must not depend on feeling good
and there is the dream of loneliness at absolute midnight.
You also have withdrawn belief in the present reality
of the future, which surely will surprise us,
and hope is harder when it cannot come by prediction
any more than by wishing. But stop dithering.
The young ask the old to hope. What will you tell them?
Tell them at least what you say to yourself....

Found your hope, then, on the ground under your feet.
Your hope of Heaven, let it rest on the ground
underfoot. Be it lighted by the light that falls
freely upon it after the darkness of the nights
and the darkness of our ignorance and madness.
Let it be lighted also by the light that is within you,
which is the light of imagination. By it you see
the likeness of people in other places to yourself
in your place. It lights invariably the need for care
toward other people, other creatures, in other places
as you would ask them for care toward your place and you.
No place at last is better than the world. The world
is no better than its places. Its places at last
are no better than their people while their people

continue in them. When the people make
dark the light within them, the world darkens.

*THE HYMN No. 43 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God of Love, help us to “Love our neighbors as ourselves.” Guide us in understanding that in doing so, we are fulfilling Your Commandments and Your Dreams for us. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we hear the command to: “Love one another,” we often hear this as a request to extend an emotional connection to others. We do not always connect this to the necessary actions that demonstrate love in concrete ways. God’s Call to “Love our neighbors as ourselves” calls for repeated concrete actions demonstrating and reinforcing our love for all others. We do not always do so. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and keeps on loving us. We in turn are called to love others in the same way.

ALL: Let us commit to the hard, the necessary, the rewarding work of loving our neighbors as ourselves, without exceptions. 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 18:15-17, 20

THE READING OF THE PSALM — Psalm 119:33-40

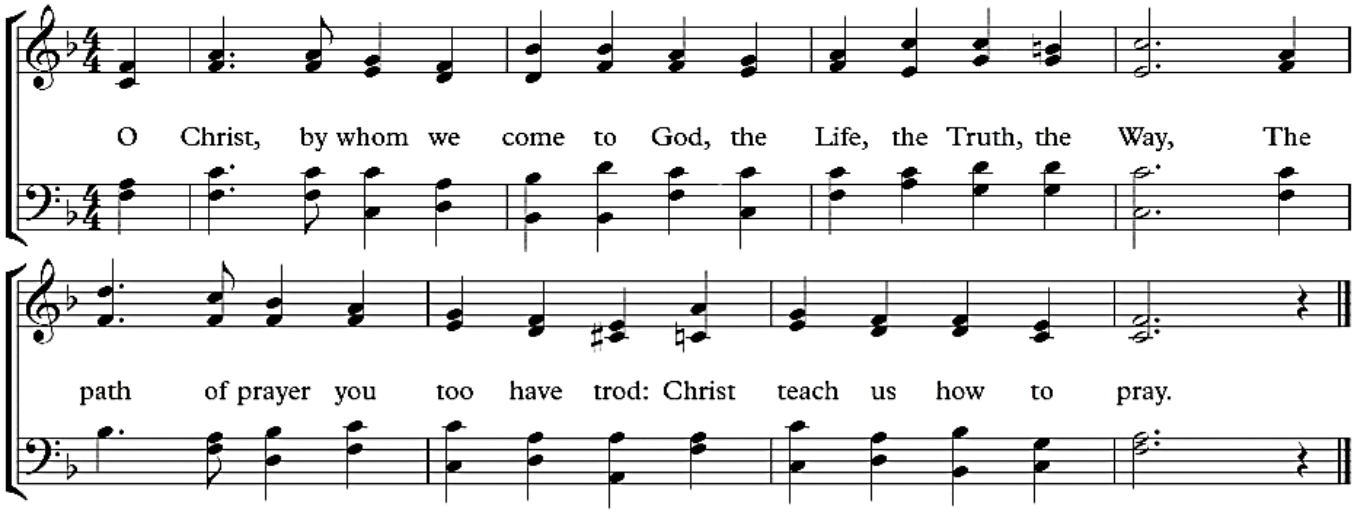
THE RESPONSE:
One: God is Still Speaking.
All: Thanks be to God!

THE EPISTLE READING & MESSAGE: — Romans 13:8-14

"Love One Another. There Are No Exceptions"

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)



Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY "I'll Fly Away" — Albert Brumley

Andrea and Mark 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)

Thank you, God, for all You have given to satisfy our needs. You quench our thirst and alleviate our hungers when we turn to You. You turn scarcity into plenty and give us the opportunity to help others. May our offerings proclaim your goodness and mercy. May they be devoted to extending the beloved community of Your people. Keep our words and actions attuned to your will, that we may offer to all what they need from Your hand. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 590 "Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor"

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 of you present in the sanctuary, we invite you to come forward if you are able. When you come forward, a piece of bread will be given to you. Once you have received your bread, please proceed to the right or the left and servers will have both wine and grape juice that you may dip your bread in. All the bread is gluten free. After dipping your bread in the wine/juice, you may then eat your communion element and proceed back to your pew. If you prefer not to come forward, please remain in your pew and a greeter will bring you the elements. Please raise your hand if you believe the greeter did not see 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, wherever they may be.

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. 337 "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

*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 "Trumpet Jubilee" Patricia Lou Harris

References:
The Call to Worship is "Sabbath Poem 2007, VI" by Wendell Berry, from This Day: New & Collected Sabbath Poems, 2013, Counterpoint.
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
Sherry Spencer, "Happy Anniversary to all the September Anniversaries."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHICKEN PICKING

Wednesday, September 9th from 9:00 a.m. until noon. We always have a good time together--and we do provide on-the-job training if you've never helped before! Please sign up either on the church's website or on the sign-up sheet on the Common Bulletin Board.

CHOIR PRACTICE RETURNS

Choir rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 9th! There's a group for every age: Choristers (preschool–5th grade) at 5:30 PM, Youth Choir (6th–12th grade) at 6:00 PM, Hand Chime Choir at 6:30 PM, and Chancel Choir (adult) at 7:00 PM. New members are always welcome, no matter your experience level — come join in!

HOMECOMING SUNDAY NEXT WEEK

Sunday. Sept 13th. Join us as we kick off a new season together! Sunday School for all ages returns at 9:15AM. The Worship Service begins at 10:30AM. A reception will follow, welcoming Ben Eisenhour, our new Director of Music Ministries and Eric Riley, our new Organist, thanking our Search Committee for their dedication and hard work and the Grand Opening of our new ADA-compliant bathrooms in Fellowship Hall! It's a day full of new beginnings and reasons to celebrate. Come be part of the fun — we can't wait to see you there!

POLLYANNAS

Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting at 11:30 am, Tuesday, Sept 22 at Perkins on Erford Rd. We will be meeting in the small back room. Please contact Bonnie Plymette if you plan to attend.

CRAFT (OR NOT) & CHAT

Next date: Monday, September 21, 2026, 5:30–7:00 PM Gatherings are back this fall (survey response was fully positive) Please arrive by 5:30 PM if possible (needed for pizza count) — but come whenever you can if you're running late. No RSVP needed; all welcome, first-timers included.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF ALL-GENDER RESTROOMS

Join St. Paul's UCC for an in-person presentation taking place on September 24, 2026, from 6:30–8:00 PM at St. Paul's UCC, 626 Willams Grove Road, Mechanicsburg. The talk will be presented by Joanne Carroll (she/her), Executive Director of Trans Advocacy Pennsylvania and a member of Christ Church UCC in Elizabethtown. Joanne has been an active member for many years with the former Penn Central Conference ONA Ministry Team and continues in that role with the Keystone Conference.

BAZAAR!

The annual Bazaar is approaching fast and we need your help. Please consider serving in the kitchen or flea market leading up to the event, or on the day. There are sign-up sheets online and in the Common. We are also still receiving donations for the Flea Market. All donations should be placed on the stage. (Please keep the floor of the Fellowship Hall clear.)

We also would appreciate your spreading the word with family and friends. We'd love a record-breaking turn out on October 3rd.