

TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship Leadership

Preacher: The Rev. John Ward-Diorio
Lector: 8:15 Joanne Miller
10:30 Rick Ayers

Ministry of Music

Assistant Organist: Patrice Miller
Minister of Music: Eric Dundore

Ministry of Service

Head Ushers: Don Wood
Ushers: 8:15 Donna and Don Sponsler
10:30 Darryl Wentz and Tim Davinroy
Greeters: 8:15 Cindy and Tom Stone
10:30 Carol and Jack Rhoads
Acolyte: 8:15 Clayton Pirtle
10:30 Erin Moyer
Children's Sermon: 10:30 Rev. John
Nursery: Grice Family
Flower Delivery: Don and Merikay Wood

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717/766-7931

Web: saintpaulsucc-mech.org
Office email: stpaulstaff@verizon.net
John's email: revjohnwd@verizon.net

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

May 24, 2009



GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

No Matter Who You Are, or Where You Are on Life's Journey You are Welcome Here!

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 24, 2009

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES
THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
THE PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES
Organ "A Hymn for Our Nation"

Ritter

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Call and Response) From Psalm 46

*THE HYMN NO. 301 "Crown with Your Richest Crowns"

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Gracious God, giver of new life in so many forms, we are grateful for Jesus' Ascension. Help us to see that we too can ascend to new life, in this life, by letting go of that which has held us back, and by reaching for the new possibilities which You are offering us. Amen.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

The idea of resurrection to new life in this life can be a hard concept to accept and practice. Letting go of that which has held us back, held us captive, and held us in fear requires a great deal of courage, and God's assistance. And there is another step in the process of receiving new life. We need to actively choose the path that leads to the new life God is offering. This choice also requires great courage and help from God. The chance for new life can pass us by due to our fear of change or the unknown, or our unwillingness to trust in God's assistance. Let us join together in saying the unison Prayer of Confession.

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done, and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to You. Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive)

Minister: God receives our apologies and repentance, and has assured us that our sins are forgiven.

All: Let us receive and pursue the new lives, which Jesus showed were possible for all of us. Amen.

ST. PAUL'S ON WHEELS TOUR DE CURE UPDATE - The Tour de Cure is this coming Saturday May 30th. If you have a friend or family member that has diabetes and you would like the team to ride for them, let us know - for a donation to the American Diabetes Association, we will wear their name on special St. Paul's on Wheels name cards during the event. If you can't ride but would like to cheer your team on, the Tour de Cure will take place at the Yellow Breeches Middle School in Boiling Springs starting around 9 AM. For more information, to join the team or to make a contribution contact Craig Martek (432-1572 (h) 514-6560 (c) 630-3567 (w)) or go to the St. Paul's on Wheels website: <http://main.diabetes.org/goto/st.pauls.ucc>. If you wish to write a check, please make it out to American Diabetes Association. If you ordered a team shirt, please see Jenn today to get yours.

Last Chance to Contribute!! Thanks to all who have donated toward our Association's Cabin (#7) at Hartman Center. To date we have raised nearly \$1800 to be used in the renovation of our cabin. **June 1st will be the cutoff date** for collecting for this wonderful project as we would like to get our donation forwarded to the Association. If wish to donate, please drop your check into the collection plate or mail to the office (with a notation in the memo "Cabin #7") by June 1st. Our challenge to other Association churches is working... let's put our best foot forward in raising money for this project.

Locked up for MDA – our own Ruth Wrightstone will be "Locked Up" to benefit MDA. If you would like to contribute to Ruth's bail by donating to MDA, the deadline to get your donation to Ruth is June 2nd as they are coming to "arrest" Ruth on June 3rd. Please see the bulletin board and the table in the common area for more information on this fundraiser.

The **NEW MEMBER/GRADUATE TEA** will be held on **June 7th** following the second service. Please plan to attend to recognize the new members that were received into our Church Family this past fall, the class that will be confirmed on Sunday May 31st at the second service and our 2009 High School and College Graduates.

ANNUAL CHURCH SCHOOL PROMOTION SUNDAY will be held on **June 7 at 9:15**. Fun activities and fellowship are planned for all as we celebrate the end of another year of Sunday School. Please come and join your friends for this very special time!

PEACE CHURCH, SUNDAY JUNE 14 – 9 AM – Our Summer worship schedule will begin with this special service held at Peace Church, Intersection of Trindle & St. Johns Roads in Camp Hill.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE begins on Sunday June 14th through Sunday September 6th – one Worship Service at 9 AM.

UPDATED MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY is on the table in the Common area. Please take a copy. As you have updates, please forward them to the attention of Terry in the Church Office.

JOIN THE YOUTH GROUP AT A HARRISBURG SENATORS GAME - Everyone is welcome to join our Youth at a Harrisburg Senators game and/or Water Golf on **Saturday, August 1st!** The fun will begin when we meet after 2:30 to play mini golf on City Island, and then enjoy a buffet dinner starting at 5:30 PM, followed by the baseball game. Game time is 7 pm and the opponent is the Portland Sea Dogs. Please see the sign up sheet on the Youth Bulletin Board in the Common area for complete information on this fun filled activity. **"Signup deadline is Sunday, June 28th."** Payment should be made to Vic or Martha Brown. Any questions, please call us at 697-3522 or email ybrown5325@aol.com! We hope to see you there!

Looking for volunteers to staff the Nursery – please see sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the common area if you are interested in helping out in this area. **Child Sponsorship slots are still open** – If you interested in sponsoring a child and have not done so yet, please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office as there are open slots to fill.



Become Part of Our Church Family Calling all faithful and inquiring souls!!! St. Paul's United Church of Christ will be hosting a meeting for people interested in becoming members of our congregation after the late Service on **Sunday May 31** beginning at 11:45/Noon. We will be receiving new members during a Worship Service in June, on a date still to be determined. If you are interested in becoming a member and were not able to attend the meeting on May 17th, we ask that you attend this meeting. If you have schedule conflicts, but still would like to join, please speak with me (Rev. John). This meeting is informational in nature, sharing a little bit about who we are as a congregation, what the United Church of Christ is like and what being a member of St. Paul's entails. We also try to answer any questions you might have. We will distribute materials relating to our congregation and denomination for your further reference. If you are curious about, absolutely sure or somewhere in-between in your desire to become a member of St. Paul's UCC, please come, listen and ask questions. You are also welcome to ask questions in advance. Please call or email me and I will answer the questions I can, and together we can seek to fathom the mysteries of those I cannot. I hope you will consider routing your journey through and with St. Paul's United Church of Christ. Thank you, John. Rev. John Ward-Diorio 776-7931 or revjohnwd@verizon.net.

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE FALL BAZAAR PLANNING MEETING this Thursday, evening, May 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. All ideas would be greatly appreciated. We have several chair positions that we need filled. If you are interested in filling a chair position or helping in any of the areas, please plan now on attending this meeting. We need lots of help to make this event successful. If you are unable to attend this meeting and want to help or if you have any questions, contact Jean Mogel (697-1088) or the Church Office (766-7931). Please note, if you hold a chairperson position and are unable to attend this meeting, please have someone come in your place.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*THE GLORIA PATRI

10:30 SERVICE

SING THE CHILDREN TO THE FRONT

Jesus Loves the Little Children

**Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world
Red and yellow, black and white
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

Luke 24:44-53

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 47

THE RESPONSE

One: God is still speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGE AND MESSAGE

Acts 1:1-11

“Ascension To A New Life”

*THE HYMN NO. 260 (vs. 1-4) “Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER (Unison)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (Unison)

**Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.**

THE OFFERTORY

8:15 Organ "God Is In My Heart"
 10:30 Youth and Chancel Choirs "A Jubilant Song"

Warriner
 Pote

*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

May our offerings leave no doubt that You are head of our church and the inspiration for our lives. Empower our ministries with the fullness of Christ that we may be inclusive in our outreach and effective as teachers and healers. Help us to find joy in our praying and in our serving. For these purposes and to the glory of Your name, we dedicate our money and our lives. Amen.

*THE HYMN NO 257 "Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!"

*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 POSTLUDE Postlude on "Silver Street" Peterson

*Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand.

We welcome warmly all who are visiting with us. Please register your attendance on the Friendship Form so that others may greet you in the name of the Living Christ. The person at the end of the pew should place the finished sheet in the offering plate.

References:

The Prayer of Confession is from A New Zealand Prayer Book, The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, 1997, Harper, San Francisco.

The Prayer of Dedication is from Led 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, and is also prayed daily by Roman Catholic Benedictine Sisters.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
 "In Memory of Catherine Rider" by the Paulus Family
 "In Memory of Bobby Chamberlain" by Linda Alburger and Katelyn Chamberlain
 "In Memory of Tom and Tillie Valenteen" on their Wedding Anniversary by their Family

The Red Rose on the Altar is in honor of the birth of Mackendra Lillian Shea on Sunday, May 17th 6 lbs 10 oz, 19 inches long. **Our Congratulations** go out to the proud parents; Michael and Tracy Shea, big sister Mackenzie and grandparents; Peter and Linda Shea.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Clyde and Treva Miller.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Peggy Briggs on the death of her sister, Linda Clark, May 7th, 2009.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK of May 24 – 31, 2009

TODAY	8:15/10:30 am	Worship Services
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:30 am	Confirmation Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	12:00 pm	VBS Meeting
MON		Memorial Day – Office Closed
TUES	1:00 pm	Pollyannas at Phyllis Hershey's Home
	5:30 pm	TOPS
	6:30 pm	MLC First Aid (FH)
WED	6:00 pm	Youth Director Meeting (Rm 7/8)
THUR	7:00 pm	Bazaar Meeting (Rm 7/8)
SAT	8:00 am	Red Cross Training-Harrisburg
	9:00 am	Tour de Cure – Boiling Springs
	2:00 pm	Fellowship Hall/Kitchen in Use
SUN May 31	8:15/10:30 am	Worship Services/Strengthen the Church
		Special Offering/Confirmation 2nd Service
	9:30 am	Confirmation Class to get pictures taken
	12:00 pm	New Member Meeting (Sanctuary)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CRAFT DONATIONS NEEDED – Hartman Center is in need of many bags of colored sand and a large supply of Elmer's white school glue (not tacky glue) for summer church camp. For additional items needed, see list on marked box in Common area. Please place items in the box by June 7th. Thank You!

POLLYANNAS MEETING – will be held 1 pm on Tuesday, May 26 at Phyllis Hershey's home. Please remember Food Pantry donations. Any questions, call Phyllis at 737-3562