

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

October 23, 2022

*"For all those who
exalt themselves
will be humbled,
and those who
humble themselves
will be exalted."*



LUKE 18:14, NIV

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: Pastor Allyssa A. Boyer
Lector: Kathy Aumiller

Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Eric R. Dundore
Choristers' Director: Jonneke A. 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

Worship Welcome Team Leader: Chris Grice
Worship Welcome Team: Fenton Fox
Nursery: Jonneke Dundore, Rebecca Anderson
Flower Delivery: Carol Sizemore

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

Ministers

The Entire Congregation

Please visit the church website at <https://saintpaulsucc-mech.org/> to sign up for Acolyte, Welcome Team, Lector, Volunteer in the Nursery, Deliver the Altar Flowers, and/or Sponsor the Altar Flowers. You will find the individual signup sheets under the "Sign Up" menu heading. Thank you.



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**626 Williams Grove Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717/766-7931**

Website: www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org

Office email: stpaulstaff@outlook.com

John's email: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Allyssa's email: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

St. Paul's Online Giving

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

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 23, 2022

Please note: the livestream broadcast begins with the Announcements.

*If you do not wish to appear in the livestream,
it is best to sit in one of the back three pews of the Sanctuary.*

*Please write up any Prayer Requests ahead of time, leave them in the Red Bowl or give them to
the Welcome Team Leader. They will bring them forward.*

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

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "Pass Me Not"

Todd Kendall

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 23 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Eternal God, companion of all who seek You, and seeker of all who turn away from You,
draw near to us that we may draw near to You. Grant us the grace to love and to serve
You, that we may find in Your will our true freedom; through Jesus Christ, the way, the
truth, and the life. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

We know that God loves us and calls us to fullness of life. But around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways. Our successes leave us empty; our progress does not satisfy. Our prosperous land is not the promised land of our longing. Let us ask for forgiveness for our neglect of God's Word, our insensitivity to the needs of others, and our failure to nurture the spirit that is within us. Let us join in silent prayers of confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God hears the confession of our hearts. Our past is accepted; our sins, forgiven.

**All: Now we may let it go, and live in the freedom God hands to us, new each day.
Thanks be to God!**

*Please note: we will not be shaking hands or hugging.
If you are able, please rise and greet one another with other 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.
Remember, 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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

INVITATION

Friends in Christ, we are all received into the wider church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. They wish to establish a special covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of this church. In our mutual journeys, let us find support as we attempt to serve Jesus Christ, using the gifts that the Holy Spirit bestows.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

Pastor: Do you Mike, Dixie, Debra, Gary, Richard, Sandy, Brooke, Ivonne, Allyson, Charles, Michael, and Pam profess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Candidates: **I do.**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

Candidates: **I promise, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith, and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

*CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Pastor: This congregation is part of the body of Christ in this time and place. We are Christ's hands, ears, and eyes. We are called to serve Christ as best as we are able and in accordance with the gifts we have been given. Let us say the Congregational Assent together.

Members: We, as members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, and the Church Universal, hear your promises with joy and gladly welcome you as sisters and brothers in Christ into the family of faith. We covenant with you to share in the hopes, labors, and joys of the Christian life, supported by God's love through this congregation. We will weep with you when you weep, rejoice with you in your rejoicing, and encourage your growth in the new life Christ gives. These things we promise in the name and spirit of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

PRAYER

Eternal God, we praise You for calling us to be Your servant people, and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank You for sending to us these believers: Mike, Dixie, Debra, Gary, Richard, Sandy, Brooke, Ivonne, Allyson, Charles, Michael, and Pam — Your children — that we may work together in serving the needs of others. Confirm in us the power of Your covenant that we may live in Your Spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other that we may have among us the same mind which was in Christ Jesus, to whom be all honor and glory. Amen.

WELCOME & RECEPTION

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the congregation of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, we extend to you, Mike, Dixie, Debra, Gary, Richard, Sandy, Ivonne, Charles, Michael, and Pam, the right hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church and the saints of light.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 84:1-7

*THE HYMN No. 551 “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 18:9-14

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



O Christ, by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way, The



path of prayer you too have trod: Christ teach us how to pray.

Please note: you can leave your offerings in the plate in the Narthex on your way in or on your way out after Service. You may also place your pew pad sheets in that Offering Plate.

Thank you.

THE ANTHEM “10,000 Reasons”

Larson

Youth 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)**

You have dealt wondrously with us, gracious God. We have gathered in your temple to praise you and to join in efforts to share faith with one another and with the world. Through our offerings, we wish to extend the witness made here into our neighborhoods, and, in ever-widening circles, to the ends of the earth. Bless and multiply our efforts, we pray. Amen.

***THE HYMN "A Pharisee Was Praying"**
(to the tune of no. 386, "The Church's One Foundation")

*A Pharisee was praying; he proudly stood alone:
"God, thank you that I'm better than others I have known."
He saw the faults of others, yet in that holy place,
He missed the joy and wonder of God's amazing grace.*

*Far off in that same Temple, a tax collector stood.
He knew he was a sinner; he knew that God is good.
"Have mercy, God, upon me!" the tax collector cried.
He left that place of worship forgiven, justified.*

*O God of love, forgive us when we look all around
And think that, by our actions, we stand on solid ground:
We pray, "See how we serve you! We work and volunteer!
Aren't we the ones whose giving builds up your kingdom here?"*

*May we, your church, be humble in serving you each day,
For pride will never help us to walk your kingdom-way.
May we know your forgiveness — our need for mercy, too —
That, loved and loving others, our life may be in you.*

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***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

Please note: the livestream continues until the end of the Postlude.

Please know you are free to leave following the Three-fold Amen and exit to the Narthex to speak with one another. You may be visible and audible on the livestream as you exit early. If you choose to remain, please stay seated and listen quietly to the Postlude.

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE “Praise and Exultation”

Lani Smith

References:

The Prayer of Invocation and Call to Confession are adapted from the “Book of Worship,” United Church of Christ, New York: United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership, 1986.

The Words of Assurance and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from “Gathered by Love” by Lavon Bayler, 1994, 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by

Nancy and Tom Richey, “In honor of Dan’s 29th birthday.”

Betsy Rushong, “In honor of Russell and Mandy’s October birthdays.”

Fenton Fox and Rick Holtzapple, “In honor of our 13th Wedding Anniversary.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW HOPE THANKSGIVING BASKETS

New Hope Ministries is seeking donations of traditional Thanksgiving meal items to fill baskets that will be distributed to needy families in our area. Suggested items include stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, vegetables, fruit, yams, pie ingredients, etc. Donated items should be placed in the box in the hallway by Fellowship Hall no later than Sunday November 6th. Donated turkeys and other perishable items may be taken directly to New Hope at 5228 East Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg. Any questions please contact Karen or Kevin Allison.

THANKS FOR THE AMAZING GENEROSITY!

The St. Paul's Welcome Team would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the congregation for the huge amount of clothing, blankets, coats/other winter gear, and the books that you donated to the Perez family. They are beyond thrilled with all the warm clothing items that they are sure to use! Our congregation continues again and again to live out Jesus's call to help those in need. Thank you for all your generosity and support!

WANTED!!! ARTIFICIAL XMAS TREES!

Do you have an old artificial tree that you'd like to get rid of? Do you have more trees than you need this season and would allow us to borrow? We need artificial trees of all sizes to create a special winter wonderland in our sanctuary. Please let Jonne Dundore know if you are able to lend us or donate a tree this year. Thank you! (jonnekev@aol.com or 717-460-8303.)

COMING SOON - THE FALL STEWARDSHIP ONLINE AUCTION

It's back....with some fan favorites and new twists!! Watch for the All Church email on Nov 3 and click the link to start your bidding. See the auction baskets on display (and enjoy some tasty snacks) in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, Nov 6.

Bidding on items will close on Thursday, November 10th at 7pm. Winners of auction items will be notified on Friday, Nov 11th. All bidding will be done online. Contact Melissa Cawley at 215-531-4257 if you need to have your bid entered for you.

Good luck and have fun supporting St. Paul's UCC during our Fall Online Auction!

MECHANICSBURG COMMUNITY DINNER

St. Paul's UCC, along with four other churches, participated in hosting the Mechanicsburg Community Dinner on October 16. A free meal was provided to all who attended. Volunteers are encouraged to dine with our neighbors and engage in conversation. Live music was provided as well. Several members of St. Paul's donated tossed salads and dressing as well as helping to serve the meal. The next community dinner is scheduled for Sunday, February 12, 2023.

NURSERY HELPERS NEEDED

Children are a vital part of our church community. Each child in our congregation is a blessing to us and to the world, and we have the privilege of getting to be a part of their childhood. You can help us care for children by serving in our nursery during worship. We need two unrelated adults to serve as nursery attendants each Sunday. You can get in touch with your inner child by coloring, cutting paper shapes, telling stories, playing games, and having fun with our youngsters. Unsure if you can serve as a nursery helper? We can arrange for you to shadow a nursery attendant to see what it's like. To sign-up in the nursery, go to the sign-up page on our website. For more information, to arrange to shadow, or to apply for Safe Church clearances, please contact Pastor Allyssa.

From **BREAD** and **CUP** to **FAITH** and **GIVING**.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

based on Mark 6:30-44

Rev. Phiwa Langeni (they/them/theirs)

Ambassador for Innovation & Engagement

Center for Analytics, Research & Development, and Data (CARDD), UCC

Whenever we celebrate communion, we share tidbits about the last meal Jesus had with his friends. After breaking the bread and pouring the cup, Jesus tells his friends to eat and drink “in remembrance of me.” And that’s what we do whenever we share in that sacred meal these 2,000+ years later.

My remembrances have typically included the post-supper betrayal and drawn-out drama leading to Jesus’ death as well as the resurrection and joyous reunion with his friends. Recently, I’ve come to recognize a tiny-yet-crucial logical

error that being on this side of history facilitated. My recollections include happenings that hadn’t yet occurred when Jesus invited his friends to remember.

It’s more likely that Jesus wanted them to remember moments like they had with the crowd of 5,000+ people. As Jesus generously gave of himself to fill their spiritual hunger, their physical hunger kicked in.

Understandably, the disciples could only see scarcity with their few resources against this large logistical nightmare.

Jesus, however, saw abundance. He chose generosity fueled by innovative thinking and actions. He invited them to consider what was already available and reconfigure their structure to make the miraculous (re)distribution of food possible so that everyone could eat satisfyingly and have leftovers. That’s what the disciples would’ve remembered.

Anytime we approach the sacred meal, let Jesus’ generosity also flood our remembrances of him so that our very lives might also be transformed and inspired to innovate our thinking and actions. Indeed, there is enough and so much more for all of us.

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.