

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

November 6th, 2022



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
Pastor Allyssa A. Boyer
Lector: Becky Lingenfelter

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: Craig Martek
Worship Welcome Team: Paula Boyer, Chris Grice, Steven Roush,
Wendy Hayden, Sherry Spencer
Nursery:
Flower Delivery: Chris Grice

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

Ministers

The Entire Congregation

Please visit the church website at <http://www.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 Online Giving

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717/766-7931**

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Allyssa's email: allyssaboyer@outlook.com**

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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
TRANSGENDER REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

November 6th, 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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "I Want Jesus To Walk With Me"

Gregg Sewell

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 6 "Sing Praise to God" (vs. 1, 3 & 5)

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God of all creation, your wisdom, your love, and your mystery are boundless. You have many names, which are beyond all gender expression. We give you thanks for the gift of diverse gender identity, expression, and sexuality. We acknowledge the times we deny that gift by holding too tightly to expectations of conformity and norms. We have created these divisions and use them against one another. We know this is not your will or your way. Help us to act mercifully and show grace to all of your people, as you have done for us. God of love, you weep with us in our grief and fear. Enfold in your loving embrace all those in our trans community lost to death this year. You know their names, Divine Creator, even when they are misnamed or misgendered as a last act of violence and erasure. You see each one as beloved, and call them by their chosen name. You claim them as your children. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We acknowledge the harm prejudice and ignorance has knowingly and unknowingly caused. Help soften hearts and give wisdom and understanding that in the sight of God, all are equally beloved simply because of our existence. Open hearts and minds to embrace and support one

another so that all may let their light shine before others by living out their truth. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

Minister: God forgives us and continues to call us to stand with all who are oppressed, particularly those who are threatened with more and more violence.

All: Challenge us, O Holy One, to speak out for those who are silenced, to stand with those who are bullied, and to go with those who face danger. May all those in the Trans-Community, and their parents, spouses, friends, loved ones and medical professionals know of our unwavering support. Amen.

*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

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Job 19:23-27

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 17:1-9

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 20:27-40

“This World and in God’s World”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

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 “Good Trouble”

Keesecker

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!*

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

We give thanks that You are saving us and leading us to the steadfastness of Christ. To You we dedicate these offerings, that the needy shall not be forgotten or the poor perish for lack of water and food we can provide. May these gifts answer the cries of the afflicted and bring hope to many who seek the blessing of Your Spirit.

*THE HYMN No. 332 “As We Gather at Your Table”

Please note: our ushers will be passing out the Communion Elements on trays to each individual or family unit. You do not need to pass the plates down.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

Many: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Today we gather both in person and in Spirit.

For those of you present in the Sanctuary, our ushers will be passing out the bread and gluten-free crackers and the wine and white grape juice. They will bring the trays to you. Unless you are sitting with a family unit, please do not pass the trays down but rather give them back to the usher.

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 Blessings upon these Communion Elements, even as we and they are scattered in geographic space.

Please hold the elements until all have been served. We will eat and drink them together.

All are welcome to participate. Thank you.

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. 575 “O for a World”

*THE BIDDING TO MISSION (Unison)

We hold in love and prayer all transgender people, so many of whom live under the weight of violence, fear, and intolerance. We hold in love and prayer all the ways that transgender people have survived and thrived in a hostile world. We hold in love and prayer all who recognize the significance of gender justice for all people.

We who believe in freedom will not rest until it comes. We pray for the dawn of a new day when the very humanity of trans people is no longer called into question or ignored. We pray that physical, emotional, and spiritual violence will come to an end. We pray that a spirit of compassion and care will fill us to overflowing, that we may have the capacity to listen, learn, and grow not only in our awareness but also in our willingness to act. We pray for teachers, spiritual leaders, social workers, lawyers, and all people who heed the call to support Trans-liberation, Trans-leadership, and Trans-visibility. May they ultimately lean into the Light of truth and justice, offering hope to Trans and gender nonconforming youth and adults.

On this day, we commit and recommit to creating a world where people of all genders know peace, love, and justice. We commit and recommit to living lives of compassion and care for all of humanity. We commit and recommit to the healing work of relationship-building that will help every person know, no matter their gender or sexuality, that they are loved and valued.

Blessed be and Amen.

*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 “Great Is The Lord”

Donald Lee Moore

References:

The unison Prayer of Invocation is made up from parts of Jenn Luong's *A Prayer for the Trans Day of Remembrance*, Augsburg University, 2020, and Leo Bancroft's *A Prayer for Transgender Day of Remembrance*, Reconciling Works, 2016.

The Call to Confession is made up from a part of Jenn Luong's *A Prayer for the Trans Day of Remembrance*, Augsburg University, 2020.

The Assurance of Forgiveness includes a part of Leo Bancroft's *A Prayer for Transgender Day of Remembrance*, Reconciling Works, 2016.

The unison Bidding to Mission is by The Transforming Hearts Collective, *Transgender Remembrance Prayer*.

The Prayer of Dedication is from "Refreshing Rains of the Living Word" by Lavon Bayler, 1988, 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
Terry Shaner, "In Loving Memory of Mother, Nada M. Navratil."
Allyssa Boyer, "In Honor of Trans and Non-binary Youth."
Rebecca Drazba, "In Memory of Grandparents."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S FALL STEWARDSHIP ONLINE AUCTION!

Let the bidding begin! Please visit <http://saintpaulsucc-mech.org/home/stewardship-online-auction/> to view the auction items and place your generous bids.

Stop by the Fellowship Hall after worship this Sunday for snacks, fellowship and to see our fantastic donations in person: Breakfast Basket, Holiday Helpers, Chocolate Lover's, Puzzle Towers, Mystery Item, Coffee Break, Christmas Wine, Holy Smokes Cheese, Tis the Season for Snowmen, Pumpkin Spice, Gnome for the Holidays, Made-to-Order Stromboli, a Pumpkin Patch of gift cards, and Cozy Fireplace by Cedar Run Winery.

Please enter new bids with at least a \$5.00 increase over the previous bid. The first bid should be equal to or greater than the Starting Bid listed. To bid, click on the space beneath the words "Enter Your Own" and input your bid using a \$ in this format: \$15.00, \$50.00, etc. Hit the Enter key or click the black box at the bottom of the screen to enter your information and secure your bid. Contact Melissa Cawley (215-531-4257) if you do not have access to bid online. We offer a special thanks to our generous donors: St. Paul's Consistory, Martha Keith, Adult 1 & 2 Sunday school classes, the Chancel Choir, The Velez Family, Shirley Keith Knox, Sue Mullin, Craig Martek, The Pineo Family, The Cawley Family, Eric & Jonne Dundore, Art & Kathy Williams.

Bidding on items will close on Thursday, Nov 10 at 7pm. The time stamp on Time to Signup will be used to determine the winning bidders. Winners of auction items will be notified on Friday, November 11th. Items can be picked up and paid for on Sunday, Nov 13th at the

Harvest Dinner or other arrangements can be made. You may pay for items with a personal check (made out to St. Paul's UCC) or cash (exact change, please). Auction results will be posted online.

Contact Melissa Cawley (melissacawley@aol.com) or Victoria Velez (vmvluv@comcast.net) with any questions.

HARVEST DINNER

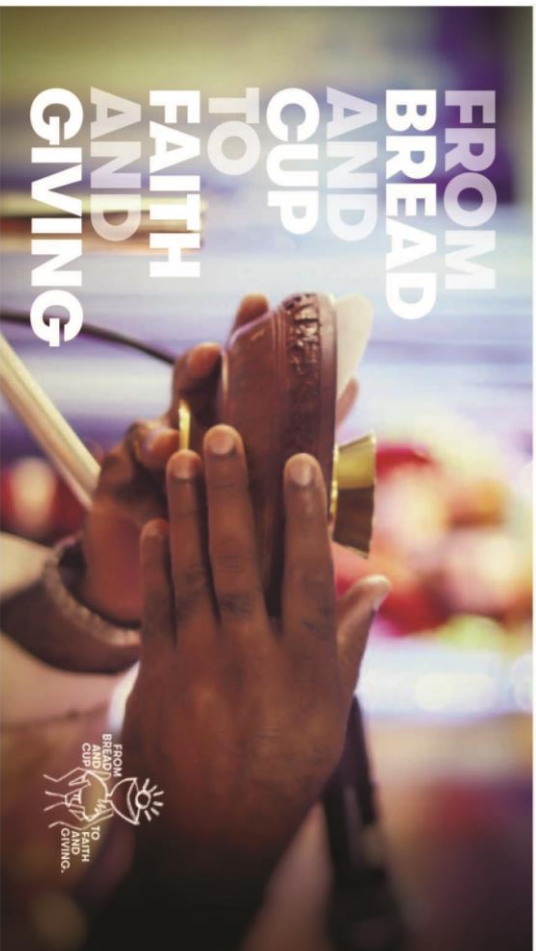
November 13th, following the 10:30AM service. Parish Ministries will serve roast turkey, a side-dish of roasted vegetables, and beverages. Place settings will be provided. There is no charge for this dinner, instead bring a non-perishable food item or two, which in turn will be given to New Hope Ministries. A sign up sheet is posted in the Common to list a side-dish or dessert you wish to bring. A sign up for set-up and clean-up helpers is posted as well. Online sign-up sheets will be available too. We hope you join us.

SPRING ANNOUNCEMENT

We are coming into another cold and flu season and viruses abound. Our focus for the past two years has been on COVID. Now that we are taking our masks off, we are seeing the return of our old viral foes.

RSV has spread aggressively throughout our communities resulting in overflowing pediatric hospital units. RSV can also affect adults. Middle aged adults will get a stuffy nose, sore throat, and bronchitis. Older adults can develop more severe respiratory symptoms. Influenza is off to an early start, and we expect lots of cases. COVID continues to mutate. There are three variants, BQ.1.1, BQ.1, and BF.7, that are spreading in Europe and in the US. All are direct descendants of Omicron, and we expect the bivalent booster to provide protection. How much protection remains to be seen.

How to stay safe. Get your influenza and bivalent COVID vaccines ASAP. The bivalent COVID booster will provide excellent protection from severe disease and probably less protection from mild disease. The influenza vaccine should provide reasonable protection from the flu. Unfortunately, there is no vaccine for RSV. Masking remains a very effective way to limit the spread of respiratory viruses. We don't feel that masking should be mandatory in the Church given the protections offered by vaccination. We continue support anyone's choice to wear a mask and continue to encourage the use of hand hygiene. Masking remains particularly important for those who are at high risk of complications related to infection.



The Sacrament of Giving - A Prayer

Rev. Dave Long-Higgins
Conference Minister
Heartland Conference, UCC

Generous God, Form in me a feasting Spirit, Broadening every daily table Fashioning a holy communion With You and the world Radiating gracious generosity Replacing every breakdown With a breaking open To Your deep abundance.	Let every morsel and drop Awaken in me a prayer Grounding and consecrating A sacrament of self-giving Forming my life as a sign Made real in simple acts Strengthening the world Of others unknown to me But made close by You Who joins everyone And everything in eternal Mysteries often hidden Except as bread shared Makes us visibly one.
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Yes, Love,
Multiply your gift in me
For sharing with others
That the delight and joy
You yearn for everyone
May rise into fullness.

Let no illusions of scarcity
Tempt me to smallness of vision
Narrowness of thinking
Shrinking of spirit
Coldness of heart
Or paralysis of action

Instead help me trust
Your power to multiply
My best gift for Your vision
Of a beloved community
Well-fed and flourishing
Rising up in resurrections
Forming a frequent dance
Of delight at Your amazing
Way of renewing the world.

Yes, Love,
Let this Holy motion of You
Made known in Jesus Christ
Be formed in me,
And let it be
More than enough



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	1,042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1,250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1,667

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.

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