

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

February 4, 2024



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: Pam Smith

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

Lead Greeter: Sherry Spencer
Greeters: Fenton Fox, Nancy Richey, Steve Roush
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Jonneke Dundore
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Jonneke Dundore
Counting Team: Fenton Fox

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.*

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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
HOLY COMMUNION

February 4, 2024

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 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Franklin Ritter

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 310 "The Old Ship of Zion"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Loving God, in Jesus Your Kingdom drew near, and we experienced Your desire for the healing and wholeness of all people. Please guide us in bringing Your Kingdom near through our words and actions today. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We do not always realize how our words and actions can both model God's hoped for Kingdom here on earth, or work against it being experienced. If we do not reflect upon how our behavior might impact others, we risk causing them to feel distant from God, rather than closer. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us, and trusts that we will keep trying to follow the model Jesus demonstrated to us, to a greater and greater extent.

ALL: Let us choose to be a part of bringing God's hoped for Kingdom further and further into being, following Jesus' example. Amen.

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.
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

Isaiah 40:18, 21-31

THE PSALM READING

Psalms 147:1-6

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Mark 1:29-39

“Spreading Healing and Wholeness”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

Thru Christ our ear-nest prayers are said with words we scarce can frame; Our
work of Christ-mas has begun, We serve now in Christ's name.

Please also place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate. Thank you.

THE OFFERTORY “Let Us Break Bread Together”
Youth Choir

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Gallina

***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 showing us a better way to live than we can devise for ourselves. Thank you for reaching out to win our hearts. Thank you for Jesus Christ, for the ministry that extended Your love to the least and the lost, for the powerful presence that offered wholeness to those who were sick or broken-hearted, for the prayers that demonstrated how we, too, can be in communion with You. In gratitude, we dedicate this offering. Amen.

***THE HYMN No. 330 "Let Us Break Bread Together"**

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 by 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, if you are able, we invite you to come forward. When you come forward, a piece of bread will be given to you. There are gluten free broken crackers and white grape juice on a table between the servers. 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. You may then eat your Communion Element and proceed back to your pew.

If you prefer not to come forward, remain in your pew and a Greeter will bring you the Elements. Please raise your hand if you believe 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, even as we and they are scattered in geographic space.

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. 525 "This Little Light of Mine"

*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 "Great is the Lord"

Donald Lee Moore

References:

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, also prayed daily by Roman Catholic Benedictine nuns.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by

Joan and Ernie Moyer, "In loving memory of our parents."

Dale Thorpe and Don Dupes, "In loving memory of our parents."

SPIRITUAL ROYALTIES INITIATIVE

Why a Spiritual Royalty Initiative?

Negro Spirituals are considered the earliest form of religious music developed by African Americans during slavery. The creation of spirituals can be attributed to converting enslaved people to Christianity during the Great Awakening period. The enslaved people began exhibiting Christian beliefs through music, which included their hardship experiences. Spirituals allowed enslaved people to interpret and express religious beliefs and feelings along with their struggles through music. Spirituals united them and provided them with a way to deviate from their cruel surroundings. Yet, those who created these beautiful songs we repeatedly sing in our worship did not receive credit or recognition. In fact, their songs were stolen and put into songbooks for profit while the creators remained nameless. Therefore, there is a great debt owed to these Black artists and musicians that can never be paid.

How and when will the money be collected?

St. Paul's UCC recognizes that we owe a debt to these song makers. While we can't repay the actual composers of these songs, we can collect money each time we sing a Negro Spiritual and provide that money to a local organization that seeks justice and recognition of Black music and art. Therefore, during February - Black History Month, and at other times when we sing these Spirituals in our worship, we will collect donations in the following ways:

- There are specially marked envelopes where money can be given to this fund. Drop them in the offering plate or put them in the church office.
- A QR code is in the bulletin and online to take you directly to our Vanco site for your donation.

In addition, St. Paul's members are encouraged to spread the word through their own email and social media to encourage others to become informed and, if they desire, contribute to this initiative. NOTE: this initiative is NOT charity, but repayment of a debt we owe. Spirituals have generated much wealth for entitled white individuals and institutions since slavery.

Where will the funds go?

The Capital Area Music Association (CAMA) is a community choral arts organization emphasizing the music of African American composers and African American culture. The focus and goal for excellence in developing and presenting sacred and secular music and music education through their scholarship fund continue to be the impetus of presentations and activities sponsored by CAMA.

Sankofa: Sankofa African American Theatre Company exists to engage and enrich the Harrisburg region around the African American perspective on relevant issues through thought-provoking theatre that reflects artistic excellence. Their website is www.sankofatheatrehb.com.

Spiritual Royalties Initiative Congregational Pledge

We, the Congregation of St. Paul's UCC, Mechanicsburg, acknowledge the history and significance of the Negro Spirituals sung in worship today:

The Old Ship of Zion

Let Us Break Bread Together

This Little Light of Mine

We affirm their artistic and spiritual worth in the life of the world today.

With great respect and deep gratitude for the tremendous musical contributions made to American music by Black people, we offer our thanks and praise to God for the creators of the Negro Spiritual and their descendants.

We pledge that each time we sing Negro Spirituals in our worship we will sing them with holy reverence and open hearts.

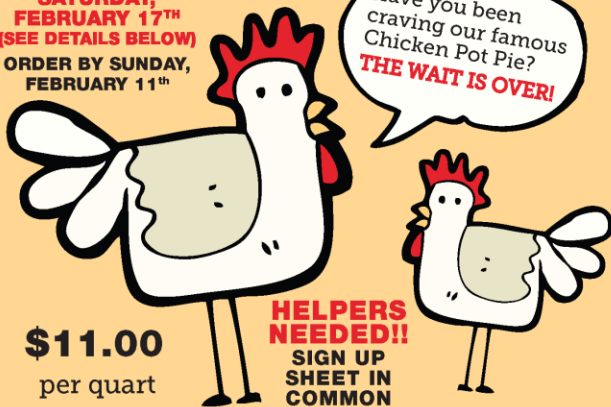
Through our prayers, we will honor the unnamed enslaved people who composed them. We will pay royalties from the funds collected to the Capital Area Music Association and Sankofa Theater Company, both organizations dedicated to promoting the advancement of young Black artists and musicians, and to preserve Negro Spirituals in the Black community.

We understand that the debt owed to Black musicians and artists can never be fully repaid. Through our prayers, our gifts, and our actions, we will keep striving to end systemic racism in America.

ST. PAUL'S FUNDRAISER!

CHICKEN POT PIE QUART SALE!

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 17TH**
(SEE DETAILS BELOW)
**ORDER BY SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 11TH**



\$11.00
per quart

**HELPERS
NEEDED!!**
SIGN UP
SHEET IN
COMMON

ALL SALES WILL BE BY PRE-ORDER • 4 WAYS TO ORDER

1. Online: <http://saintpaulsucc-mech.org/>
2. Email: stpaulstaff@outlook.com
3. Call the church office: 717-766-7931
4. Sign up sheet in the common

POT PIE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
626 WILLIAMS GROVE ROAD, MECHANICSBURG

Preferable pick up is Saturday, February 17th • NOON-3:00 PM
(MAY ALSO PICK UP AFTER 10:30 SERVICE FEB. 18TH)

Checks payable to St. Paul's UCC.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Help St. Paul's youth turn our nation's great day of football into a great day of caring! Following our worship service on Sunday, February 11, our youth group will be stationed at the doors of the sanctuary to collect monetary donations for local organizations that help fight food insecurity in our community. Use your dollars to support your team and tackle hunger in Central PA! Thank you for your generosity.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Our Ash Wednesday worship service will be held on February 14 at 7:30 PM. The service will include Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. All are invited to this service marking the beginning of the season of Lent. We hope you will join us as we embark on this holy season of reflection and prayer.