

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

August 18, 2024



“How good and pleasant is your Spirit”

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
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: Don Dupes
Greeters: Melanie Shaver-Durham, Jeff Leister
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Jonneke Dundore, Sherry Spencer
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Melanie Shaver-Durham
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.*

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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saintpaulsucc-mech.org

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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

August 18, 2024

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 "Songs of Hope"

Lani Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP "King Solomon and the Ants"

John Greenleaf Whittier

*THE HYMN No. 26 "We Worship You, God" (vs. 1,3-5)

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Holy God, we recognize Wisdom is a part of Your Being. Help us to pursue discernment of Your Will for us, which will allow Wisdom to guide our thoughts, words, and actions. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Wisdom is distinct from knowledge. We gain knowledge through study, observation, and experience. We become aware and learn how our instincts lead us. Wisdom informed by God, guides us in using these insights in ways that enable us to more fully follow Jesus' Words and Ways. We are not always willing to put in the work. We do not always apply such wisdom to our speaking and acting. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and continues to offer us gifts of Wisdom.

ALL: Through actively pursuing discernment, recognizing this requires our attention and effort, let us seek to become wiser, developing into the beings God created us to be. 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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

INVITATION

Friends in Christ, we are all received into the wider church through the sacrament of baptism. This person has found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. She wishes 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 Teri profess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Candidate: 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?

Candidate: 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?

Candidate: 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?

Candidate: 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 a sister 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 this believer: Teri — Your child — 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 Teri the right hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church and the saints of light.

We are grateful Theresa "Teri" Guelcher has officially joined us as a New Member and that Merikay and Don Wood have agreed to be her Sponsors. Thank you all.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 9:1-12

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 111

*THE HYMN No. 469 "O Grant Us Light"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE HERBEW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

1 Kings 3:5-14

“Pursue Discernment and Seek Wisdom”

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 (unison)

In - to my heart, in - to my heart, come
in - to my heart, Lord Je - sus; come in to - day, come
in to stay, come in - to my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY “How Great Thou Art”

Hine

Larry Fausnight, soloist

*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)

Your generosity, O God, is beyond our deserving. You grant health to our bodies and minds. You surround us with vast resources and with people who love us. You allow us to make decisions about the use of our time and possessions and relationships. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to share with others some of what we have received. Help us to use all our gifts as you intend. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 423 “Great Is Your Faithfulness”

*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 livestream ends after the Postlude. You're welcome to converse in the Narthex after the Three-fold Amen.
However, if you choose to stay for the Postlude, please remain silent until the conclusion.*

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE “Give Thanks Unto God”

Emma Louise Ashford

References:

Vrelant, Guillaume, -1481. Solomon praying to the Holy Spirit, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55886> [retrieved August 13, 2024]. Original source:

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Willem_Vrelant_\(Flemish,_died_1481,_active_1454_-_1481\)_-_Solomon_Praying_to_the_Holy_Spirit_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Willem_Vrelant_(Flemish,_died_1481,_active_1454_-_1481)_-_Solomon_Praying_to_the_Holy_Spirit_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg).

The Call to Worship is the poem “King Solomon and the Ants” by John Greenleaf Whittier, found on the website Discover Poetry: <https://discoverpoetry.com/poems/wisdom-poems/>

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.

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ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
The Boyer Family, “In honor of the Called to Care Team for helping us.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Blessing of the Backpacks

Children, youth, and adults: Bring your backpacks, bookbags, briefcases, lunchboxes, or any other baggage you use for school or work, to worship on Sunday, August 25th. We will offer a blessing of the bags as a reminder that God's peace and presence will be with all people as they go back to school and work.

Here's the Scoop!

Come and join us at our Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 25th, following worship, in Fellowship Hall. Chill out with us as we celebrate summer and get ready for back-to-school. Everyone is invited!

Worship Time Change

Starting on Sunday, September 8, our worship times will change. Sunday school will begin at 9:15 AM, followed by worship at 10:30 AM. This will be our worship service time for the remainder of the year. Beginning in October, we will also resume holding an early worship service, at 8:30 AM, on Holy Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of each month. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. John or Rev. Allyssa. Thank you.

All-Church Picnic

Celebrate the return of our fall schedule by signing up for our Homecoming All-Church Picnic on Sunday, September 8th. The picnic will take place in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:30 worship service. The church will provide the place settings for the picnic, as well as hot dogs, buns and beverages. After sharing a picnic lunch together, we will be entertained by the Carlisle Brass Band in the sanctuary, where we can relax and enjoy the music. There will be a free-will offering to help compensate the band members for entertaining us. Members are encouraged to sign up to bring a potluck dish to share. Sign-up sheets will be available online or on the table in the lobby outside of the sanctuary.

Mercersburg Association Picnic

Churches from the Mercersburg Association are joining together for food, fellowship, and fun at a covered dish picnic on Sunday, September 15, at 4:00 PM. The picnic will be held at St. Matthew's UCC, 3240 Spring Rd, Carlisle, PA 17013. Grilled chicken, hotdogs, and beverages will be provided. Please bring along a potluck dish to share. Vegetarian and gluten-free options will be available (vegan options available upon request). All are invited and RSVPs are appreciated! Please RSVP to Linda Ritchey at lindasritchey@gmail.com.