

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

July 6, 2025



LORD **OF THE**
HARVEST

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: Eric Dundore

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: Daniella Benfer
Greeters: Sherry Spencer, Becky Thompson
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Jonneke Dundore
Counting Team: Sherry Spencer

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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**ONLINE
GIVING**



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION

July 6, 2025

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 "At His Table"

Lani Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP "HOPE" by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

"Hope has holes
in its pockets.
It leaves little
crumb trails
so that we,
when anxious,
can follow it.
Hope's secret:
it doesn't know
the destination--
it knows only
that all roads
begin with one
foot in front
of the other."

*THE HYMN No. 193 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" (vs. 1-4)

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God, who rules over all, help us to remember our first and primary allegiance is to You. We celebrate the birth of our nation, and the freedom it has allowed us to Worship and Serve You, not a human king. Guide us in protecting that freedom for all people. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We confess we can be pulled away from God, giving our highest attention and allegiance to lesser “gods” like the pursuit of wealth, power, privilege and other desires that benefit only us. We forget what happens when we allow for a small ruling class to determine who benefits and who suffers. We celebrate July 4th as a reminder of the high ideals the founding of our nation promoted and the need to protect them. They can be compromised and lost. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and seeks to encourage us to live in ways that signal that the Kingdom of God has drawn near, not the kingdom of greed.

ALL: As we are reminded of the ways Jesus called us to live, may we continue to commit to living them out, demonstrating what the Kingdom of God can look like. 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

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 66:10-14

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

“When the Kingdom of God Draws Near”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

pp Devoutly 5. 5. 5. 5. GEORGE WHELPTON, 1847-1930

Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;

Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. A-MEN.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY “Beneath the Cross”

Getty

Eric Dundore, 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)

With gratitude for Your gracious favor, we dedicate these gifts. May they help others as we have been helped. May they reach out in a spirit of gentleness to restore to community those who are alienated. May they announce to the world that the realm of God is among us, waiting

to be claimed. By these resources, may Your name be praised here and in many other places. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 347 “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

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 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

We gather both in person and in Spirit. For those of you present in the Sanctuary, greeters will pass out gluten-free bread, and then red wine and white grape juice. They will bring the trays to you. Please hold the elements until all have been served; we will eat and then drink them together. All are welcome to participate. Thank 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 “For This Land in All its Wonder” (to the tune of no. 18, “God of Grace and God of Glory”)

***For this land in all its wonder, for each city, farm and town,
For each mountain filled with splendor, for each place where love is found,
For the freedoms we enjoy here,
God, may thanks to you abound! God, may thanks to you abound!***

***For your peace and love unending, breaking barriers that divide;
For the joy of cultures blending as we live here side by side;
God, we thank you and we pray now:
May we all be unified! May we all be unified!***

***For your hand to lead and guide us, for your work in history,
For your vision born inside us of a just society,
God, we thank you and we pray now:
May this vision come to be! May this vision come to be!***

***May we be a nation seeking ways that are both wise and fair,
May our living and our speaking serve your purpose everywhere.
May we follow where you lead us;
God, this is our hope and prayer! God, this is our hope and prayer!***

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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

*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 “Fantasia on ‘America’”

Edward Broughton

References:

References: The Call to Worship is the poem “HOPE”, by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, found on page 5 of How to Love the World: Poems of Gratitude and Hope, edited by James Crews, 2021, Storey Publishing.
The Prayer of Dedication is from “Gathered 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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Waves of Wonder VBS

Save the dates! We will hold Vacation Bible School on the evenings of July 14-17. “Waves of Wonder” encourages children to experience wonder at God’s creation and to see water as a sign of God’s great love for the world. Kids aged 3 through 5th graders are invited to participate. Registration forms will be available in the Common and on our website. Adult and youth volunteers are needed! If you’d like to volunteer, or if you have any questions, please contact Erin Anderson, Becky Thompson, or Rev. Allyssa.

School Daze Craze

New Hope Ministries will hold their back-to-school event- School Daze Craze- on August 7th. Children of guests of New Hope will receive backpacks filled with needed school items. Donations of school supplies are greatly appreciated and may be placed in donation boxes in the commons by Monday, July 28th. Any questions contact Karen Allison. Thank you for your continued support of New Hope!

The items requested are listed below:

- Backpacks
- Binders- 2 inch rings
- Calculators- Scientific
- Colored Pencils
- Markers 12PK
- Folders
- Highlighters
- Index Cards- 3x5
- Mechanical Pencils
- Ruled notebook paper for binders
- Spiral one subject notebooks
- Pencil Cases
- Post it notes- square
- Tissues-Individual Packs
- Individual hand sanitizer
- Sharpies

Know Your Immigration Rights

Monday, July 21; 6:30-8:00 PM

We are hosting a training on how to handle interactions with immigration enforcement, and in particular what to do if ICE comes to our church. Our facilitator is Tamara Shehadeh-Cope, Esq., a Hearing Examiner with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, our state’s leading civil rights enforcement agency. Prior to joining the commission, Ms. Shehadeh-Cope practiced immigration law for nearly a decade and served particularly vulnerable communities throughout the Commonwealth. This training is open to all people who wish to attend, and we especially encourage church staff, consistory members, and committee chairs to participate.