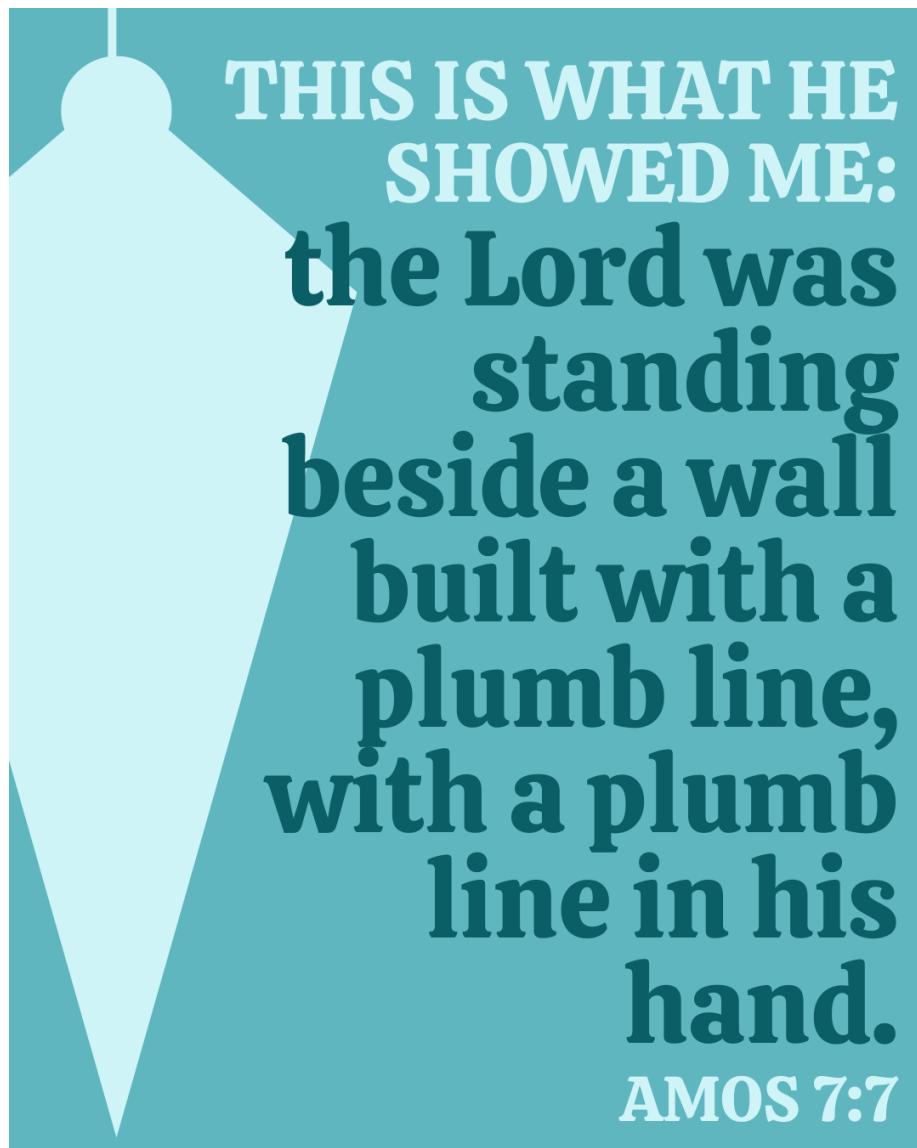


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

July 13, 2025



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: The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer
Lector: Anna Thompson

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: Susan Miller
Greeters: Sherry Spencer, Becky Thompson
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Barbara Wheeler
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Leann Davinroy
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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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
(717)766-7931**

saintpaulsucc-mech.org

Office: stpaulstaff@outlook.com

Rev. John: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

**ONLINE
GIVING**



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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 13, 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 "Beside Still Waters"

John M. Rasley

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: What does the Lord require of us?

All: To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

One: What does God command of us?

All: To love God with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our mind, and all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

One: God does not call us to lives of ease or comfort.

All: But to presence, and abundance, and grace in our struggle.

One: Let us worship the God who believes in us, and trusts in us, and abides with us.

All: Let us worship the God who will ask much of us, but will be beside us every step of the way.

*THE HYMN No. 26 "We Worship You, God"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Almighty God, we tremble with the knowledge that You know all our thoughts and deeds and judge them by Your righteous will. Yet we are bold to protest the evil around us that seems to go unpunished. So many innocent and good people die randomly or suffer cruelly. How long will You judge unjustly and show partiality to the abusers? O God, we know this is really Your question for us. Help us to take seriously these moments of encounter with You, knowing we can trust You to be just. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God rightfully expects more from us who call ourselves the church of Jesus Christ. Are we tempted to conform to ways we observe around us? The plumb line hangs straight across all our

excuses. How do we measure up before the standards of God? Let us join in silent prayers of confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: We are rescued from the affliction of our sinfulness by the grace of Jesus Christ. There is forgiveness for all who accept the gracious gift of a loving God.

ALL: We open ourselves now to receive anew the gospel in all its power. We will share in the inheritance of the saints as we become good neighbors to the weak and needy, the lonely and destitute, whom God loves along with us.

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.

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS (unison)

May God's grace be upon these shawls...warming, comforting, enfolding, and embracing. May these mantles be safe havens...sacred places of security and well-being...sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May the ones who receive these shawls be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Blessed be!

*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 GOSPEL READING

Luke 10:25-37

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 82

*THE HYMN No. 591 "This Is My Song"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Amos 7:7-17

"Leveling Up to God's Justice"

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)

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 "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

Temple

Jonneke 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)**

May these gifts and our lives bear fruit in many good works, increasing among all people knowledge of God, patience and endurance, wisdom and understanding, love and joy. We strive to act with compassion toward one another, and toward neighbors near and far. Thankful for the mercy You have shown us, we pledge ourselves and these offerings to extend mercy to all.

***THE HYMN "O God, You Give Us Neighbors" (to the tune of no. 386, "The Church's One Foundation")**

***O God, you give us neighbors for whom your love abounds.
They've come here seeking refuge; they work here in our towns.
Their children go to school here; they come to church and pray.
O Lord, we grieve when neighbors are being sent away.***

***O God, you give us neighbors in this world that divides.
We see them at the border; they're struggling for their lives.
They're hurting by the roadside, and by the river, too.
You call us to show mercy to neighbors loved by you.***

***O God, you give us neighbors and call us all to see
our common fears and longings, our shared humanity.
You call us all to listen to burdens they have known,
to hear the truth they tell us, to see the love they've shown.***

***O God, you give us neighbors; and now, what must we do?
This question asked of Jesus is one we ask anew.
May we not make excuses and choose to walk on by
these neighbors fleeing violence — some sent back now to die.***

***God, may we work for justice for those who live in fear;
may we show Christ's compassion, and pray and persevere —
and by your Holy Spirit, in all we do and say,
may we stand up for neighbors now being sent away.***

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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.

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE "Sing Aloud to God, Our Strength"

Robert J. Hughes

References:

The Call to Worship is written by Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, pastor at First Church Congregational UCC, Rochester, NH.

The Prayer of Blessing is by Janet Bristow, 2008, www.shawlministry.com.

The Prayer of Invocation, Call to Confession, Words of Assurance, and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from "Gathered by Love" by Lavon Bayler, The Pilgrim Press: Cleveland, OH, 2001.

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
Becky Thompson, "In memory of Margo Thompson."

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.

Spirits United Pride Interfaith Service

Join diverse people of faith from across Central Pennsylvania for the Spirits United Pride Interfaith Service. This service is a gathering that brings together people from different religious traditions to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community, focusing on our common values of peace, justice,

compassion, and equality. St. Paul's UCC is honored to host this years' service on Sunday, July 27, at 6 PM. We hope you can join us!

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

Pollyannas

Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting 11:30 am, Tuesday, June 24 at Perkins on Erford Rd. We will be meeting in the small back room as usual. Please contact Bonnie Plymette (591-8471) if you are planning to attend.

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.