



**St. Paul's**  
United Methodist Church  
*Journeying Together Since 1885*

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:30 AM

AUGUST 10, 2025

---

**Thank you for worshipping with us today.**

*Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we welcome you to St. Paul's, a Reconciling congregation of the United Methodist Church. All are celebrated here and all are safe. This bulletin will guide our service today. More helpful information can be found following the order of worship.*

---

(\* - please stand in body or spirit)

**Gathering for Worship**

Announcements

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Prelude

*Standin' in de Need of Pray'r*  
Daniel Rich, baritone

arr, Thomas H. Kerr

**\*Call to Worship**

Lay Reader

Leader: Beloved, we gather today as inheritors of faith in God's salvific work, a faith handed down to us over generations that we claim and proclaim today in this community.

**All: By faith, we follow God's call as we journey toward a better country.**

Leader: By faith, our grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, and friends shared God's love with us, a love that longs to draw us all as members of the Body of Christ.

**All: By faith, we follow God's call as we journey toward a better country.**

Leader: By faith, we remember the story today, the story of God's desire for all creation to be reconciled to God and one another.

**All: By faith, we follow God's call as we journey toward a better country.**

Leader: By faith, we carry the faith forward, building a community of belonging, provision, and care as we journey with God toward a better country.

**All: By faith, we gather to nourish and encourage one another on the journey toward a better country as we build God's already-but-not-yet kingdom here and now. Amen.**

\*Hymn #127

*Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah*

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

**Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.  
We come convinced of many things but trusting very few. Holy God of  
limitless surprises, meet us here in this place as we touch that which we  
cannot see, that which we have not dared to hope. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

The Lord's Prayer

*UM Hymnal #895*

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **Proclamation of the Word**

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

<sup>13</sup>All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup>for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

*Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Response to the Word

\*Hymn #719

*My Lord What A Morning*

Sermon

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Invitation to Discipleship & Giving

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

*Offerings by check may be made out to St. Paul's UMC. Scan the QR code to see one-time and recurring online giving options at [stpaulsk.org](http://stpaulsk.org). Thank you for supporting St. Paul's efforts to engage in meaningful worship and vibrant ministry in our community.*



*Amy Beth Sullivan*  
*Austin Brad Thomas*

*The United Methodist Hymnal, Baptismal Covenant III, p. 45-49*

Introduction and Prayer for Those to be Baptized – p. 45

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith – p. 46-47

Baptism – p. 47

Congregational Responses – adapt. p. 48-49

**People: We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.**

Offertory

*God Is a God*  
Daniel Rich, baritone

Wendell Whalum

\*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

\*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

# Sending Forth

*Since Jesus Came Into My Heart*

\*Hymn #2140



1. What a won - der - ful change in my life has been wrought
2. I have ceased from my wand - ering and go - ing a - stray,
3. I'm pos - sessed of a hope that is stead - fast and sure, [since
4. There's a light in the val - ley of death now for me,
5. I shall go there to dwell in that Cit - y, I know,



Je - sus came in - to my heart!]

I have light in my soul for which  
And my sins, which were man - y, are  
And no dark clouds of doubt now my  
And the gates of the Cit - y be -  
And I'm hap - py, so hap - py, so



long I had sought,  
all washed a - way,  
path - way ob - scure, [since Je - sus came in - to my heart!  
yond I can see,  
on - ward I go,

Since



Je - sus came in - to my heart, since Je - sus came in - to my  
(in, came in - to my heart,) (in, came



heart,  
in - to my heart,) floods of joy o'er my soul like the



sea bil - lows roll, since Je - sus came in - to my heart.

Postlude

*Antiphon I*

Marcel Dupré



#### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers are given today by **Frank A. Walker, Jr.**  
In loving memory of his mother, **Gladys M. Walker.**

#### WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

**Sunday, August 17, 2025**  
10:30 AM –Summer Worship



#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Weekly News** – Visit [stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news](http://stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news) or scan the QR code to find all the announcements, links, and event details shared in our Weekly News. For questions about announcements, please contact Erin Steele in the church office ([stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org](mailto:stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org)).



**Welcome! – Restrooms** including a family restroom with changing table can be found past the church office, near the water fountain. **Large-print Bibles and Hymnals** are available from our ushers. **T-coil hearing aids** work in our Sanctuary. **Sign in!** Members, friends, and visitors alike are encouraged to use the attendance pads in the pews to share your name and note your attendance today. Please read more about worship at [stpaulsk.org/worship](http://stpaulsk.org/worship).

**Children's Programming Today** – *Sunday, August 10.* All children will be in worship in the Sanctuary with their families today. The nursery is available for children Pre-K and younger. Restless friends of any age (accompanied by an adult) are welcome to make use of the Library near the restrooms, or the Octagon room with the service livestream available. Busy bags with quiet activities for worship may be borrowed from the Welcome Desk.

**Summer Hours** – Now through August 31, we worship for the summer at 10:30 AM only. Drop-in and phone hours for the office are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. To visit at other times, please make an appointment! Staff and clergy hours vary.

**Events and Information**

- **Today: School Supplies Drive** – *Drop off through Aug. 17.* The annual “Backpack Build” school supplies drive is here! We partner with Interfaith Works to get school supplies to disadvantaged students in Montgomery County. All items must be new. Requested supplies this year: Backpacks (approx 19”), Composition or spiral notebook, 1-inch three ring binder, Lined filler paper for binders, 2-pocket folders, Pens (Blue or Black ink), Colored pencils, Pencil pouches or boxes, Pencils, Scissors, Markers, Erasers, Ruler, Index cards, Highlighters, Glue Sticks, Crayons (24-color box). You can also pick up a shopping list at the Welcome Desk or online at [stpaulsk.org/service/justice-and-compassion](http://stpaulsk.org/service/justice-and-compassion). Donation bins will be available in the Narthex, August 10-17. Financial contributions to help us order additional supplies can be made using the Miscellaneous giving option at [stpaulsk.org/giving](http://stpaulsk.org/giving) with “Backpacks” as the designated cause, or by check made out to St. Paul’s UMC with “backpacks” in the memo line.
- **This Week: Still Wednesday** – *Wednesday, Aug. 13, 7:00-8:00 PM.* All are welcome to come, light a candle in the Sanctuary, and engage in guided contemplative prayer practice. The exact format varies depending on the leader, but most Still Wednesday gatherings include 20 minutes of silent prayer.
- **Next Week: Summer Movie Series** – We are excited to offer this series of thought-provoking films with time for discussion – and popcorn! Here is the schedule:
  - **August 17** – *Elemental*. In this Disney/Pixar film, fire element Ember and water element Wade begin an unlikely relationship that challenges their assumptions about identity, family, and obligations.
  - **Date TBD** – *Will and Harper*. When comic Will Ferrell finds out his close friend of 30 years is coming out as a trans woman, the two decide to create a record of their cross-country road trip processing this new stage of life and friendship.
- **Next Week: Bible & Brews** – *Sunday, Aug. 17, 5:00-6:00 PM.* Enjoy this time of interfaith conversation with Pastor Joey, Rabbi Adam, and friends from Temple Emanuel. Monthly meetings are family-friendly and take place at a local Kensington watering hole where you may purchase food or beverages as you so choose. Summer meetings are at: BabyCat Brewery, 10241 Kensington Pkwy, Kensington MD. Contact Pastor Joey ([joeyhm@stpaulsk.org](mailto:joeyhm@stpaulsk.org)) with questions.
- **This Month: Scout Troop 439 Open House** - *Sunday, August 24, 3:00-4:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.* Boys and girls age 11-17 and their families are invited to come and see some of the ways Scouts have fun and learn new skills. Over the past year, we have been biking, hiking, kayaking, orienteering, cold weather camping at the Potomac District Klondike Derby, summer camping at Goshen Scout Reservation, and High Adventure hiking/camping at Philmont Scout Reservation, participated in Eagle Scout projects, and various community service activities. Scouts participate in planning and leading events for the Troop. Scouting America is a year-round, leadership program

that helps boys and girls become the best future versions of themselves. For additional information, see <http://www.kensington439.mytroop.us>, or contact Scoutmaster Bill Stephens at [scoutmaster439md@gmail.com](mailto:scoutmaster439md@gmail.com).

- **This Month: Sanctuary Flower Sponsors** – To sponsor the flowers that grace the Sanctuary on Sunday morning, please add your name to the Flower Chart on the office bulletin board to reserve a date, then fill out a yellow form with the dedication information to appear in the bulletin. Flowers may be dedicated in honor or memory of a loved one, or in celebration. The cost is \$45 and you may choose to take your flowers home after worship. There are many dates open from now through the end of the year, including August 17, 24, and 31.
- **This Month: Love Offering** – Dr. Meg Baker has retired from her role as St. Paul’s Minister of Spiritual Care and Formation as of August 1, 2025. Questions about ministry areas around prayer, congregational care, and Christian Education may be directed to Pastor Sheridan or Pastor Joey. As is our tradition, those who feel led to give a financial gift to Meg in celebration of her work here and her retirement, may make a donation to her Love Offering. Please find a secure donation option at [stpaulsk.org/giving](http://stpaulsk.org/giving) or, if you prefer cash or check, mark your contribution with “Love Offering” and place it in the Sunday offering plate or mail it to St. Paul’s UMC, Attn: Tracey Furman, 10401 Armory Ave., Kensington MD 20895. All gifts received by August 31 will be combined and presented to Meg.
- **Summer Break!** – Most St. Paul’s groups modify their schedules or take a break during the summer season. Currently on Summer Break:
  - *Yarn Ministry*
  - *Joyful Ringers Bells*
  - *Taste & Sing*
  - *Pancake Breakfast*
  - *Lydia Circle Sisters*
  - *Sanctuary Choir*
  - *Children’s Choir*
  - *Sermon Safari Zoom Bible Study*
- **Regular Activities** – Please contact group leaders for details!
  - **Prayerwaves** – *Wednesdays, 10:00-10:30 AM*. To pray together by phone, dial 425-436-6326 a few minutes before 10:00 AM, then enter access code 774042 followed by the # sign. To receive the prayer list by email, please contact Erin Steele in the church office at [stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org](mailto:stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org).
  - **Sipping Ministry** – This fellowship time with beverages and snacks is held after worship whenever a group, family, or individual wishes to host. Sign up on the office bulletin board and take a “how to” instruction sheet.
  - **Stephen Ministers** – Please contact Martha Lipscomb (301-518-1642) to be connected to a Stephen Minister for confidential care and a listening ear.



- **Summer Crafting and Fall Craft Fair** – Long summer days are perfect for crafting at home. The Yarn Ministry will gratefully receive donations of craft items for our Craft Fair in the fall, with all proceeds going to charities.
- **Hunger Ministry** – St. Paul’s signature year-round ministry provides groceries for about 150 households facing food insecurity in the 20895 ZIP code. Please find the list of all the most-needed items at [stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry](http://stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry) and learn more about this important way we serve the local community. This summer, we especially request donations of cold cereal and protein sources (canned chicken, canned fish, peanut butter). Non-perishables pantry staples may be donated in the bins in the Narthex any time. Please remember that we can’t distribute food past its “best by / sell by” date, and we don’t take glass (it breaks!) or containers that are dirty or damaged. Financial donations marked for “Hunger Ministry” help us place bulk orders to make up the gap between what’s donated and what’s needed, plus we provide recipients with modest grocery store gift cards to enable them to buy dairy, meat, hygiene products, produce, or frozen foods we can’t stock. Thank you for helping us serve beyond the walls of St. Paul’s!



## SOURCES AND LICENSING

Livestreaming each week at 10:30 AM at [stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home](http://stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home).

\* = *Streamed by permission under CCLI license #24106074. All rights reserved.*

\*\* = *Permission to stream this music obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #735990-A.*

Prelude: *Standin’ in de Need of Pray’r*, arr, Thomas H. Kerr. Copyright Thomas Kerr. All rights reserved.

Call to Worship: Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, February 2024.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship>

Hymn: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*. Words: William Williams (1745), trans. from the Welsh by Peter Williams and the author (1771). Music: John Hughes (1907). Public domain.

Opening Prayer: Written by Katherine Hawker. Posted on Liturgies Outside. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/07/opening-prayers-hebrews-11.html>

Bible Reading: *New Revised Standard Version Bible Updated Edition (NRSVUE)*, copyright 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

\*\* Hymn: *My Lord, What a Morning*. Words & Music: Afro-American Spiritual, adapt. and arr. William Farley Smith. Copyright 1989 by The United Methodist Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Offertory: *God Is a God*, by Wendell Whalum, Copyright 1983 by Mar-Vel. All rights reserved.

\*\* Doxology: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (LASST UNS ERFREUEN)*. Words: Thomas Ken (1674), adapt. Gilbert H. Vieira (1978). Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesange* (1623), harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906). Adapt. copyright 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House.

Hymn: *Since Jesus Came into My Heart*. Words: R. H. McDaniel. Music: Charles H. Gabriel. Public domain.

\*\* Postlude: *Antiphon I* by Marcel Dupré from *Fifteen Pieces, Op. 18*, copyright 1934/48 H.W. Gray Co., Inc. All rights reserved.



## LEADING AND SERVING

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Sheridan Allmond, [sallmond@stpaulsk.org](mailto:sallmond@stpaulsk.org)

**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Joey Heath-Mason, [joeyhm@stpaulsk.org](mailto:joeyhm@stpaulsk.org)

**Music Director:** Mr. N. Thomas Pedersen, [tpedersen@stpaulsk.org](mailto:tpedersen@stpaulsk.org)

**Organist:** Mr. Marvin Mills, [mmills@stpaulsk.org](mailto:mmills@stpaulsk.org)

**Bookkeeping & Facilities:** Ms. Tracey Furman, [tfurman@stpaulsk.org](mailto:tfurman@stpaulsk.org)

**Communications & Administration:** Dr. Erin Bone Steele, [stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org](mailto:stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org)

**A/V Team:** John & Biljana Regan; John Stephens

**Children's Choir Director:** Christina Griffin

**Lay Leader:** Anne Dean

**Usher Coordinator:** Nathan Bazawada

**Lay Reader:** Frank A. Walker, Jr.

**Guest Musician:** Daniel Rich



*We, the community of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Kensington, welcome you in love. Jesus Christ accepts all, excluding none. So we welcome and affirm you who are gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer. We welcome you without regard to your sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, culture, race, ethnicity, ability, education, or age. We welcome you no matter your immigration, marital, or economic status. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we welcome and affirm you as one of God's children into our community of God's unbounded love. All are celebrated here and all are safe.*





# St. Paul's

United Methodist Church

---

*Journeying Together Since 1885*