



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

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:30 AM

JULY 12, 2026

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 summer worship service today. More helpful information can be found following the order of worship.

(- please stand in body or spirit)*

Gathering for Worship

Announcements

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Prelude

Elevation

George Walker

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: Come, whether weary or rejoicing.

People: All are welcome here.

Leader: Come, whether at peace or in the midst of a struggle.

People: All are welcome here.

Leader: Come, whether growing or wilting.

People: All are welcome here.

*Hymn #733

Marching to Zion

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

**God of new beginnings and ancient stories, help us see ourselves in your stories,
in your promises, and in your garden. Light our way with your word today,
and guide us with your Spirit of love. Amen.**

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

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

Pew Bible – New Testament page 13-14

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #601

Thy Word Is a Lamp

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. Thank you for supporting St. Paul's work engaging in meaningful worship and vibrant ministry in our community.



Offertory

Aria

David Schelat

*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Sending Forth

*Hymn #431

Let There Be Peace on Earth

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Postlude

Gigue

David Schelat



While we are not celebrating Holy Communion as part of the worship service this Sunday, blessed "all in one" communion elements are available in the basket at the chancel rail for those who wish to receive communion today.

Please join us in the Octagon following worship for Sipping Ministry fellowship time, hosted by members of the Stephen Ministry.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, July 19, 2026

10:30 AM – Summer Worship with Communion

There is no 9:00 worship service.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly News – Visit 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. You can also find the submission buttons to share news and announcements.



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!** Please use the attendance pads in the pews to share your name and note your attendance with us today. Read more at stpaulsk.org/worship.

Summer Office Hours – Drop-in visits and phone calls: Tuesday-Thursday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM during the summer. Staff and building access are available outside these times by appointment! If you have an emergency after hours, please call 410-205-5568 and leave a message for Pastor Sheridan.

Children's Programming – *July 12*. All children in grades K-5 will worship in the Sanctuary with their families this summer. Nursery care is available for children in Pre-K and younger. Busy Bags with quiet activities can be borrowed from the Welcome Desk. Restless friends (accompanied by an adult) are welcome to take a break in the Octagon or the Library.

Events, Activities, and Information

- **This Week: Food Distribution Night** – *Monday, July 13*. Thanks to you, St. Paul's provides food for about 170 households in the 20895 ZIP code each month! We distribute groceries on the second Monday of the month. We rely on our donors for funds to order food and grocery cards, and for non-perishable pantry staples – leave them in the donation bins any time throughout the month! If you are interested in volunteering, or know a member of the church who might need food, please email hunger@stpaulsk.org
- **This Week: Still Wednesday Summer** – *Wednesday, July 15, 7:00-8:00 PM*. This hour of reflection, contemplation, togetherness, and silent prayer is a haven in the midst of

busy days. Still Wednesday will meet in the Sanctuary or Octagon once a month this summer on July 15 and August 19. We will return to weekly meetings in September.

- **This Week: Musical Theatre Camp presents “A Technicolor Promise”** – *Friday, July 17, 2:30-3:00 PM*. Get out of the heat this Friday and be dazzled by a group of talented young actors as they present “A Technicolor Promise,” with music by Allen Pote and words by Carole McCann. This free, family- friendly 30-minute presentation of the Noah’s Ark story features a cast of two dozen vocalists, including nine of St. Paul’s own: Libby Dean, Sheridan Enright, Emma Kate (EK) Maloney, Nathan Roberts, Willa Roberts, Lucille Scott, Vivienne Scott, Pearl Sparker, and Jackson Weaver. Join us in the Sanctuary for beautiful music, dancing animals, and heart-stopping solos.
- **This Week: Bible & Brews** – *Saturday, July 18, 5:00-6:00 PM*. Gather for casual interfaith conversations with Pastor Joey, Rabbi Adam, and friends from Temple Emanuel. All our meetings are family friendly! For July we will be at BabyCat Brewery (10241 Kensington Pkwy) – you can purchase food or beverages as you like. We also plan to meet August 15. Contact Pastor Joey at joeyhm@stpaulsk.org
- **This Month: Project Transformation DC Fundraiser** – *Thursday, July 30, 6:00 PM*. This local nonprofit connects churches, children, and college student leaders through programs that build community and raise literacy. Support Project Transformation DC with their first-ever Family Feud-style fundraiser at Emory Fellowship UMC (6100 Georgia Avenue NW, Washington DC 20011). Gather a team of 5 adults, raise \$500 to support children's literacy and young adult leadership, and compete for the title of PTDC Family Feud Champion. To learn more or form a team, contact Bkenn@projecttransformationdc.org.
- **Lydia Circle Leader Updates** – After 13 years of service, Susan Schwarz is stepping down as the leader of the Lydia Circle. Any ladies interested in leading the Lydia Circle starting in Fall 2026 may contact Susan at susan10748@aol.com or 301-339-8242.
- **Summer Break!** – Many groups adjust their schedules or take a break between Memorial Day and Labor Day. We encourage everyone to check directly with group leaders to confirm changes in meeting hours! Currently on break:
 - Taste & Sing
 - Sunday School
 - Yarn Ministry
 - Lydia Circle Sisters
 - St. Paul’s Youth (SPY)
 - Sermon Safari
 - Pancake Breakfast
 - Joyful Ringers Bell Ensemble
 - Children’s Choir

- Sanctuary Choir
- Still Wednesday (reduced meeting schedule)
- **Ongoing Activities** – *Please contact group leaders directly to confirm meeting times!*
 - **Prayerwaves** – *Wednesdays, 10:00-10:30 AM.* To pray together by phone, dial 425-436-6326 then enter access code 774042 followed by the # sign. To receive the prayer list by email, please contact Erin at stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org.
 - **Stephen Ministers** – Move through difficult seasons of life with a Stephen Minister by your side. Contact Martha Lipscomb (301-518-1642) to be connected to a trained Stephen Minister.
 - **Sanctuary Flower Sponsors** – To sponsor Sanctuary flowers, add your name to the chart in the church office to reserve a date, then fill out a yellow form with dedication information. The cost is \$45.
 - **Sipping Ministry** – To host this fellowship time with coffee and snacks, sign up on the office bulletin board and take a “how to host” guide.
 - **St. Paul’s Leadership** – St. Paul’s leaders will be meeting on the fourth Monday of the month to attend to the mission, ministry, and wellbeing of the church. For more info, contact Chairperson Bill Stephens (wtstephens@verizon.net) or stpaulsk.org/community/meet-the-staff and scroll down to the Leadership Team.



SOURCES AND LICENSING

Livestreaming each week at 10:30 AM at stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home.

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** 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.

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LEADING AND SERVING

Senior Pastor: Rev. Sheridan Allmond, sallmond@stpaulsk.org

Associate Pastor: Rev. Joey Heath-Mason, joeyhm@stpaulsk.org

Music Director: Mr. N. Thomas Pedersen, tpedersen@stpaulsk.org

Organist: Mr. Marvin Mills, mmills@stpaulsk.org

Bookkeeping & Facilities: Ms. Tracey Furman, tfurman@stpaulsk.org

Communications & Administration: Dr. Erin Bone Steele, stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org

A/V Team: Mr. & Mrs. John and Biljana Regan, Mr. John Stephens

Children's Choir Director: Ms. Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Mrs. Anne Dean

Usher Coordinator: Mr. Nathan Bazawada

Lay Reader: Ms. Megan Montgomery



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.

