



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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

SEPTEMBER 14, 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

Mission Moments

Jonah Chen, Scouting
Project Transformation

Prelude

Variations on My Hope Is Built (10:30 only)
Fluidly-Assertively-Meditatively

Raymond H. Haan

***Call to Worship**

Lay Reader

Leader: We come seeking refuge in a world where goodness and good news can feel far away.

All: God is our hope and our refuge.

Leader: We come searching for safety in a world that often calls foolishness wisdom and wisdom foolishness.

All: God is our hope and our refuge.

Leader: We come longing for rest in a world that bombards us with all the ways people work against the abundant life and flourishing of their neighbors.

All: God is our hope and our refuge.

Leader: Come, children of God, to find refuge and hope in God who delivers and restores us.

All: May God teach us and guide us to find refuge and be refuge with and for our neighbors today and every day.

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

God of wind and fire, blow through our lives. Release us from all that binds us, and free us from the thoughts and fears that keep us from union with you and with one another. Lay waste to the burdens that impede us and wash away the debris that weighs us down. As we strive to follow your path, guide us onto the road of the righteous. Make us a refuge to the poor, a deliver to the captives and a friend to those who dwell alone. In hope of your mercy, we pray. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

The Lord's Prayer (10:30 only)

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.

Blessing our Teachers and Leaders for the 2025-2026 Season

Sunday School, St. Paul's Youth, Confirmation, Children's Choir, Adult Education Ministries

Third Grade Bible Presentation (10:30 only)

Grey L. Emmons

Olivia Gelatt

Caroline Harrell

Felicity Madsen

Lucille Scott

Prayer for Christian Education Ministry

Holy teacher, we are called to teach and serve one another as we grow in our faith. We give thanks for the students who desire to grow in their faith and relationship with God. As we learn and teach the stories of our faith, may we be ever mindful of how we model the peace of Christ in the world. Help us work for peace, create it, and live it. Grant us wisdom and discernment to lead and model with Christlike love in our homes, classroom, community and world. Amen.

Proclamation of the Word

1 Timothy 1:12-17 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

Pew Bible – New Testament pages 208

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #368

My Hope Is Built

Sermon

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Invitation to Discipleship and 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 efforts to engage in meaningful worship and vibrant ministry in our community.



Offertory (10:30 only)

And Can It Be

Dan Forrest

Sanctuary Choir

And can it be? And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be?
And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died he for me who caused his pain? For me whom him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that thou my God shouldst die for me?

He left his Father's throne above, so free, so infinite his grace;
Emptied himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race;
Tis mercy all, immense and free; For O my God, it found out me.

And can it be? And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be?

No condemnation now I dread, Jesus and all in him is mine!

Alive in him, my living head, and clothed in righteousness divine,

Bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown through Christ my own

Amazing love, how can it be that thou my God shouldst die for me?

*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

The Great Thanksgiving and Communion – 9:00 AM only

The Invitation, Confession & Pardon (9:00 only)

UM Hymnal p. 12

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Passing the Peace (9:00 only)

The Great Thanksgiving (9:00 only)

UM Hymnal p. 13-14

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks, remembering God's acts of salvation and concludes:

L: And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The pastor continues the thanksgiving and concludes:

L: And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

P: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor continues and concludes:

L: All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

P: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (9:00 only)

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.

Breaking the Bread and Giving the Bread & Cup (9:00 only)

All communion bread is gluten-free.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (9:00 only)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending Forth

***Hymn #98**

To God Be the Glory

***Benediction and Dismissal**

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Postlude (10:30 only)

Festive Trumpet Tune

David German



*Following the 10:30 AM worship service,
all are invited to the Octagon room for a Sipping Ministry fellowship time today.*

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers are given today by **MaryAnn Steele**,
in honor and appreciation of our wonderful organist, Marvin Mills.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, September 21, 2025

9:00 AM – Worship with Communion

10:30 AM – Worship with Sanctuary Choir



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. For questions about announcements, please contact Erin Steele in the church office (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.

Children's Programming – All children will be in worship in the Sanctuary today with their families. The nursery is available for Pre-K and younger. Restless friends (accompanied by an adult) are welcome to visit the Library near the restrooms or the Octagon room. Busy bags with quiet children's activities may be borrowed from the Welcome Desk.

Worship Hours – We have two opportunities each Sunday to join in worship in-person. The worship service at 9:00 AM includes Communion each Sunday. The worship service at 10:30 AM offers Communion on the first Sunday of the month and music led by the Sanctuary Choir each week. The 10:30 AM service is also available by livestream at stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home.

Events and Information

- **Today: Sipping Ministry Fellowship Time** – Sunday, Sept. 14, following 10:30 worship. Please visit the Octagon after the 10:30 service today for refreshment and fellowship. If your family or group would like to host a Sipping Ministry, please use the sign-up

chart in the office and take an instruction guide, or contact Erin Steele at stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org for more details.

- **New! Save the Date: Organ Demonstration** – *Sunday, Sept. 21, 11:45 AM*. St. Paul's is fortunate to have the best pipe organ in town. Marvin Mills will give a brief tour of this magnificent instrument – with its 48 stops, 47 ranks, 2550 pipes and four keyboards – answering your questions and taking a peek inside.
- **This Week: St. Paul's Youth Return!** – *Sunday, Sept. 14, 7:00-8:30 PM*. SPY will return for regular meetings on Sunday evenings starting Sept. 14. All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for faith, friendship, and fun! Fill out the registration and permission form for the 2025-2026 year online at stpaulsk.org/community/youth and contact Pastor Sheridan (sallmond@stpaulsk.org) if you have questions.
- **This Week: Bible & Brews** – *Sunday, Sept. 14, 5:00-6:00 PM*. All are welcome for this time of interfaith conversation with Pastor Joey, Rabbi Adam, and neighbors from Temple Emanuel. September's meeting is at BabyCat Brewery (10241 Kensington Pkwy, Kensington MD). Meetings are family friendly and you can purchase food or beverages as you like. Contact Pastor Joey with questions (joeyhm@stpaulsk.org).
- **Lay Readers Wanted** – We're looking for lay readers! To serve at the 9:00 AM worship service, please sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/42v2k5em>. If you are interested in the 10:30 AM Lay Reader opportunities, or if you have questions, please contact Marge Higgins at higginsmarge@gmail.com.
- **This Week: St. Paul's Music Returns** – The Music Department has fantastic opportunities for all ages and skill levels this year! Whether you're a seasoned musician or just looking to explore your passion for singing and ringing, we have something for you! Contact Tom Pedersen, Director of Music: tpedersen@stpaulsk.org
 - **Joyful Ringers:** *Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 17*. An exciting handbell choir for adults that promises fun and fellowship. We are looking for new ringers and begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 17 at 7:00 PM.
 - **Children's Choir:** *Beginning Sunday, Sept. 28*. Perfect for kids in grades K-6 who are eager to learn and sing together. Rehearsals begin September 28 in the Multi-Purpose Room. Children's choir is a great way for your child to grow in their faith, learn music skills, and be part of a meaningful group.
 - **Sanctuary Choir:** *Sundays at 9:30 AM*. Open to grades 7 and up and adult singers who enjoy leading worship and singing in an ensemble. We meet each week at 9:30 AM on Sundays in room 211 and sing for the 10:30 AM worship service. Singers are welcome week-to-week or on a continuing basis!
- **This Week: Still Wednesday** – *Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM*. Still Wednesday provides a weekly space for reflection and calm connection in a noisy world. Typically, Still

Wednesday gathers in either the Sanctuary or the Octagon for a guided time of poetry, scripture, music, or art, with about 20 minutes of silent prayer.

- **Next Week: Sunday Film Series** – *Sunday, Sept. 21 at 12:00-2:00 PM*. Join us for a series where we watch powerful films exploring justice and resilience together.
 - *Will & Harper* – Sept. 21. When comedian Will Ferrell's long-time friend comes out as trans, they embark on a cross-country road trip and make a documentary charting a new chapter in their relationship.
 - *Till* – Oct. 26. This feature film focuses on Mamie Till Mobley's brave quest for public accountability after her 14-year old son Emmett was brutally lynched while visiting relatives in Mississippi.

Screenings take place in the Octagon after worship. Free popcorn provided! Please bring your own lunch. All are welcome as we reflect, learn, and grow together through these impactful stories. Questions? Contact Pastor Joey (joeyhm@stpaulsk.org).

- **Next Week: Taste & Sing** – *Tuesday, Sept. 23, 12:00-1:30 PM*. Taste & Sing returns with St. Paul's Director of Music, Mr. Tom Pedersen, at the keyboard for this casual time of music, learning, food, and fellowship. We start with a short hymn-sing - feel free to request your favorites! Then Dr. Erin Steele will guide us through a short program about a composer, lyricist, or theme. We finish with a tasty lunch prepared by Ginny Hagberg (\$5 donation). No musical expertise necessary!
- **Regular Activities** – Please contact group leaders for details!
 - **Community Pancake Breakfast** – *first Saturday of each month, 8:00-10:30 AM*. The United Methodist Men and volunteers invite all members of the community to the Fellowship Hall monthly for pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, and other breakfast specialties. Proceeds benefit local charities and St. Paul's programs.
 - **Lydia Circle Sisters** – *first Wednesday of each month, 2:30 PM*. All ladies interested in being part of the Lydia Circle are welcome. Contact Susan Schwarz at 301-339-8242 or susan10748@aol.com.
 - **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.
 - **Yarn Ministry** – *Mondays twice a month, 7:00-8:30 PM*. Bring your knitting, crochet, or other craft project and craft alongside friends in the church library. We will also plan the fall Craft Fair. Contact Karen Codner for up to date info: KDC811@gmail.com. Find the full schedule for Fall 2025 at stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events

- **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.
- **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. The cost is \$45 and you may take your flowers after worship.
- **Hunger Ministry** – St. Paul’s year-round ministry provides grocery resources for about 150 households in our ZIP code. Learn more about this important way we serve the local community at stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry. Non-perishables pantry staples in good condition may be donated in the bins in the Narthex any time. Financial donations marked for “Hunger Ministry” help us place bulk orders and provide recipients with grocery store gift cards to enable them to buy fresh or frozen meat, dairy, produce, or hygiene products. 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.

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

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

** Prelude: *Variations on My Hope Is Built, Fluidly-Assertively-Meditatively*, by Raymond H. Haan, from *Six Organ Preludes on Gospel Hymns*, copyright 1993 MorningStar Music Publishers All rights reserved.

Call to Worship: Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2025.

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

Hymn: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*. Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1867). Music: Welsh melody from John Roberts's *Canaidau y Cyssegr* (1839). Public domain.

Opening Prayer: *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025*, ed. B. J. Beu and Mary Scifres (Nashville TN: Abingdon Press, 2023). Used by permission.

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 Hope Is Built*. Words: Edward Mote (1834). Music: William B. Bradbury (1863). Public domain.

** *And Can It Be?* By Dan Forrest with text by Charles Wesley. Copyright 2014, Beckenhorst Press. 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: *To God Be the Glory*. Words: Fanny J. Crosby (1875). Music: William H. Doane (1875). Public domain.

Postlude: *Festive Trumpet Tune* by David German, copyright 1990 Fred Bock Music Company. All rights reserved.



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: John & Biljana Regan; John Stephens

Children's Choir Director: Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Anne Dean

Usher Coordinator: Nathan Bazawada

Lay Readers: Deanna Hodgson (9:00 AM); Megan Montgomery (10:30 AM)



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