



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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

MARCH 15, 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 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 (10:30)

I Was Glad (Laetatus sum)

Gerald Near

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: Creator God, your glory surrounds us.

People: Help us to see with eyes of gratitude and wonder.

Leader: Loving Christ, you come to us in the humble and needy.

People: Help us to see with eyes of compassion and mercy.

Leader: Holy Spirit, you work among us with power and grace.

People: Help us to see with eyes of faith.

We worship you with praise and thanksgiving.

*Hymn #57

O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

God of light, we come to you in need of healing, for the eyes of our hearts are clouded. Embrace us in your love, touch us with your Word, and transform us by your Spirit. Make us whole, so that we might live new lives. Bless us in our worship, that we may become children of light. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

The Lord's Prayer (10:30 AM)

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.

*Hymn #430

O Master Let Me Walk With Thee

Proclamation of the Word

Ephesians 5:8-14 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

Pew Bible – New Testament page 194

⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

Anthem (10:30 only)

Arise, My Soul, Arise
Sanctuary Choir

Dan Forrest

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off thy guilty fears:
The bleeding sacrifice in my behalf appears;
Before the throne, my surety stands,
My name is written on his hands.

Five bleeding wounds he bears, received on Calvary,
They pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me:
“Forgive him, O forgive him,” they cry,
“Nor let that ransomed sinner die.”

My God is reconciled, his pardoning voice I hear,
He owns me for his child, I can no longer fear;
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And “Father, Abba, Father,” cry.

Sermon

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Invitation to Discipleship

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Baptismal Covenant I with Reception of Members, UM Hymnal p. 33-39 (10:30 AM)

Introduction and Presentation of the Candidate for Baptism

Regan June McGarry
Ciara Glenda McGarry

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith – p. 33-34

Congregational Responses – p. 35

Pastor: Do you, as Christ’s body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

People: We do.

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include
these persons now before you in your care?

People: With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

The Apostles Creed – p. 35

Pastor: Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments. Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, [who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again, he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.]

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, [the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.]

The Thanksgiving Over the Water and Baptism, with Spoken Responses – p. 36

Commendation and Welcome for Baptism – p. 37

Pastor: Now it is our joy to welcome our new sisters in Christ.

People: Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Jesus Christ. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as members of the family of Christ.

Reception into the United Methodist Church and St. Paul's UMC

Brendan McGarry

Jessi McGarry

Commendation and Welcome for Members – p. 38

Pastor: Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

People: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God maybe glorified through Jesus Christ.

Invitation to Giving

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

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 (10:30 only)

Prelude on Maryton

Phillip McIntyre

*Doxology #95

OLD 100TH

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

The Great Thanksgiving and Communion (9:00 AM)

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

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 AM)

The Great Thanksgiving (9:00 AM)

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 AM)

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 AM)

All communion bread is gluten-free.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (9:00 AM)

*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 #128

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Postlude (10:30 only)

II. Kyrie (Lord, Have Mercy)

W. A. Mozart/Mills



Please visit the Octagon following the 10:30 worship service for a Sipping Ministry time of coffee, snacks, and fellowship hosted by the McGarry Family.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers are given today by **Reena & Nathan Bazawada** and family,
in loving memory of the Reena's dad **Rajan P. Poddar**.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, March 22, 2026

9:00 AM – Worship with Communion

10:30 AM – Worship with Sanctuary Choir

LOOKING AHEAD: HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP

Sunday, March 29: Palm & Passion Sunday, 9:00 & 10:30 AM

Thursday, April 2: Maundy Thursday, 7:30 PM with Sanctuary Choir

Friday, April 3: Good Friday, 7:30 PM with Organ

Sunday, April 5: First Service of Easter: 6:30 AM in Clum-Kennedy Park

Sunday, April 5: Easter Worship, 9:00 & 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary



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!** 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.

Weekday Hours – The office is typically open for drop-in visits and phone calls Monday.- Thursday, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We encourage appointments since staff hours vary! If you have a pastoral emergency when the office is closed, please call the emergency line for Rev. Sheridan Allmond (410-205-5568) and she will be notified of your call.

Events, Activities, and Information

- **Mark Your Calendar: An Evening of Biblical Storytelling** – *Monday, Mar 16, 7:00 PM.* Please join Meg Baker and friends for this rich experience of seeing and hearing the story of the Book of Esther. This event is brought to you by Voices of the Heart, the Metro-DC Guild of the Network of Biblical Storytellers International (NBSI). To join the Zoom presentation, go to <https://tinyurl.com/5n8jpu6a> or for more information, contact Meg Baker at megbaker@verizon.net.
- **New! Easter Egg Hunt Plans** – All children grades 5 and younger are invited to bring a basket or bag to church on Easter Sunday, April 5, and participate in the Egg Hunt following the 10:30 AM worship service. Children will begin in the Octagon and will be escorted by age group to Reinhardt Park, immediately across from St. Paul's front doors, for an egg hunt. Donations of stuffed plastic eggs (no nuts or chocolates, please!) are appreciated! Please drop stuffed egg donations at the church office, March 15-29. To help with the egg hunt, contact Meg Baker at megbaker@verizon.net.
- **Today: Lenten Study: UMC 101** – *Sundays through March 22, 12:00-1:00 PM in Room 109.* This is the perfect class for folks discovering our church, long-time members, and anyone interested in diving into what it means to be United Methodist. Each week has a different focus, so new attendees are welcome at any time! A light soup lunch will be served. Contact Pastor Joey (joeyhm@stpaulsk.org) with questions.
- **Today: SPY** – *Sunday, March 15, 7:00-8:30 PM.* St. Paul's Youth is for everyone in grades 6-12. Join us in the MPR for fellowship, fun activities, Bible study, and food! SPYs will attend the IGNITE youth conference in Ocean City MD, March 21-22. Contact Megan Montgomery (megan.w.montgomery@gmail.com) about the trip.
- **This Week: Taste & Sing** – *Tuesday, March 17, 12:00-1:30 PM.* Come to the Octagon for this monthly hymn sing with Tom Pedersen and Erin Steele. Feel free to request your favorites! Stay for a short program about the stories behind our worship songs, then enjoy fellowship over a tasty lunch prepared by Ginny Hagberg (\$5 donation).
- **This Week: Funeral for Bob Arthur** – *Saturday, March 21, 1:00 PM.* A funeral service celebrating the life and faith of Robert Stanley "Bob" Arthur will be held at St. Paul's on March 21 at 1:00 PM in the Sanctuary, followed by refreshments and a time of

visitation with the family in the Octagon. Please read more at <https://stpaulsk.org/worship/memorials>

- **This Month: Easter Lily Dedications** – *now-March 27*. The St. Paul's Sanctuary will be filled with lilies at Easter. Lily sponsors may make a dedication, in memory or honor of loved ones, which will be shared in our commemorative Lily Bulletin. The cost per plant is \$20. Online ordering is available at <https://stpaulsk.org/worship/lent-and-easter> and in-person ordering using cash or check will be available by visiting the Lily Volunteers in the Narthex between worship services on March 15 & 22.
- **This Month: Egg My Yard** – *now-March 25*. Wake up on Easter to a yard filled with candy-stuffed eggs from the Easter Bunny! Proceeds from the Egg My Yard Fundraiser support St. Paul's Youth activities. Last day to sign up is Wednesday, March 25!
 - 30 eggs = \$30
 - 50 eggs = \$50
 - 70 eggs = \$70

You must live in Rockville/Silver Spring/Kensington area. To participate, email Rachel Stalcup directly at rachelstalcup@gmail.com or visit stpaulsk.org/worship/lent-and-easter for the sign-up form and payment portal. Please share this with your friends and neighbors, or consider signing up to “egg” another house!

- **This Month: Lenten Devotional** – Visit the table in the Narthex to pick up this year's free devotional guide with scripture, prayers, artwork, and music from A Sanctified Art. “Tell Me Something Good” focuses on the experience of Lent as a time to study Jesus, and reminds us of the good news of his life and ministry.
- **This Month: Pasta Sauce in Plastic Jars!** – This month our donation focus is: *pasta sauce – in plastic!* It's easy to find glass jars, but those break in transit and create a hazard (and a mess!) for recipients and volunteers. Please help by looking for plastic jars of pasta sauce. We gratefully accept other non-perishables as well! Make sure containers are in good condition and have not passed their use-by/sell-by date. Through your help, we serve over 160 households each month. To find out about volunteer opportunities, please reach out to Mr. Pat Maloney at hunger@stpaulsk.org.
- **Next Month: Let there be Light!** – *Saturday, April 4, 8:00-10:30 AM*. Folks from Montgomery County Energy Connection, a program of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, will be at St. Paul's Pancake Breakfast in April to conduct a lightbulb exchange! Lighting accounts for about 12% of an average home's electricity use. Making the switch to LEDs is an easy way to lower your energy bills and keep money in your pocket. Bring in your used incandescent or compact fluorescent light bulbs and exchange them for up to three free energy efficient LEDs. You can also drop off additional used CFL, LED, or incandescent bulbs for recycling. Questions? Contact Anne Rush (annesrush@gmail.com).

- **Ongoing Activities** – *Please contact group leaders directly to confirm meeting times!*
 - **Sanctuary Choir** – *Most Sundays*. Open to grade 7 and up and adult singers. We rehearse each week at 9:30 AM on Sundays in Room 211 and sing for the 10:30 service. Contact Tom Pedersen (tpedersen@stpaulsk.org).
 - **Children’s Choir** – *Most Sundays, 11:45-12:30*. Children in grades K-6 will meet in the MPR to prepare music to share in worship. Email Ms. Christina Griffin, director, at childrenschoir@stpaulsk.org, for up to date schedules and info.
 - **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. Contact Karen Codner for meeting info: KDC811@gmail.com.
 - **Joyful Ringers** – *Wednesdays, 7:00 PM*. A handbell choir for adults that offers fun and fellowship! Contact Tom Pedersen: tpedersen@stpaulsk.org
 - **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.
 - **Sermon Safari** – *Wednesdays, 4:00-5:00 PM*. In this drop-in Zoom study, we watch a video of a sermon by a notable speaker, and then discuss it. Contact Dr. Meg Baker at megbaker@verizon.net for the Zoom link.
 - **Still Wednesday** – *Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM*. Still Wednesday gathers in either the Sanctuary or the Octagon for a guided time of poetry, scripture, music, and about 20 minutes of silent prayer. Text/call Marty Bartley at 301-873-6630.
 - **Lydia Circle Sisters** – *Wednesdays once a month, 2:30-4:00 PM*. All ladies are welcome at Lydia Circle gatherings, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. Contact Susan Schwarz at 301-339-8242 or susan10748@aol.com.
 - **Bible & Brews** – *Saturday or Sunday, once a month*. Join us at a local restaurant for family-friendly interfaith conversations with Rabbi Adam and neighbors from Temple Emanuel. Full schedule at stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events or contact Pastor Joey: joeyhm@stpaulsk.org.
 - **Pancake Breakfast** – *First Saturday each month*. Meet friends and neighbors and enjoy pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, grits, fruit, beverages, and a specialty treat, served 8:00-10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. \$20 for a family of four.
 - **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** – The flower chart for 2026 is available in the church office! Please add your name to the chart 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.
- **SAM Meeting** – St. Paul’s leaders will be meeting on the fourth Monday of the month throughout the year to attend to the mission, ministry, and wellbeing of the church. All SAM meetings are open to the public. To confirm meeting dates, ask questions, or to find out about virtual attendance options, contact SAM Chairperson Bill Stephens (wtstephens@verizon.net).



SOURCES AND LICENSING

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

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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: John & Biljana Regan

Children's Choir Director: Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Anne Dean

Usher Coordinator: Nathan Bazawada

Lay Readers: Kenzie Raulin (9:00 AM); Jan Aamodt (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.

