St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Journeying Together Since 1885

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM NOVEMBER 15, 2026

Thank you for worshiping 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 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. Joey Heath-Mason

Prelude — *A Pleasant Thought* (10:30 only) — Florence B. Price

*Call to Worship — Lay Reader

Leader: Family of God, whom do you serve?

All: We serve God, who calls us to love our neighbors, tend creation, and care for the least of these.

Leader: Family of God, in a world that values productivity and profit, whom do you serve?

All: We serve God, who calls us to value equity, justice, and sabbath for all.

Leader: Family of God, in a world that privileges power over others instead of power shared with our neighbors, whom do you serve?

All: We serve God, who calls us to privilege the agency and flourishing of ourselves, our neighbors, and all creation.

Leader: Family of God, we gather here to grow in love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation. Let us now enter the joy of serving God, who is Love.

All: We gather to worship God and work for God's purposes until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Hymn #413 *A Charge to Keep I Have*

Opening Prayer Lay Reader

God, our kind and loving Parent, you no longer call us servants but friends. There is so much you have entrusted to us, even the future of your kingdom of justice and love.

Give us the grace to work out with you the growth of mercy and goodness in this world, to be united with all Christians and with all who seek you with a sincere heart in bringing reconciliation and joy to everyone.

Let us go together the way to you, our living and loving God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

Proclamation of the Word

Matthew 25:14-30 (NRSVUE) Lay Reader
Pew Bible – New Testament page 28-29

14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted
his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to
each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had
received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents.
17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the
one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid
his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled

accounts with them. [20]Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21]His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22]And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23]His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24]Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25]so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26]But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27]Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29]For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30]As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #87 *What Gift Can We Bring*

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) *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* Harold W. Friedell
Sanctuary Choir

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly in thy name,
Two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them.
Alleluya, alleluya! Touch we now thy garment's hem.

As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father, break the bread and bless the cup.
Alleluya, alleluya! So knit thou our friendship up.

All our days and all our living make as sacraments of thee,
That by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.
Alleluya, alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.

*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 AM 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 AM only)

The Great Thanksgiving (9:00 AM 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 AM 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 AM only)
All communion bread is gluten-free.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (9:00 AM 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 #581 *Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service*

*Benediction and Dismissal Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Postlude (10:30 only) *Prelude on Lord, I Don't Feel Noways Tired* Adolphus Hailstork

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are given today by **Travis Stalcup**,
in celebration of **Rachel & Travis Stalcup**'s 17th wedding anniversary.

WORSHIP – LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, November 22, 2026
9:00 AM – Worship with Communion
10:30 AM – Worship with Sanctuary Choir

Tuesday, November 24, 2026
7:30 PM – Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 29, 2026
Fifth Sunday, One Community Worship
10:30 AM only – Worship with Sanctuary Choir
First Sunday of Advent

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.

Drop-in & Telephone Hours – The office is open on our regular schedule for drop-in visits and phone calls: Mon.-Thurs., 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. *Please note – our hours next week will change due to the Thanksgiving holiday! Appointments encouraged!* Please find staff contact information on the last pages of this bulletin or at stpaulsk.org/community/meet-the-staff. If you have an emergency after hours, please call 410-205-5568 and leave a message for Pastor Sheridan.

Sunday School and Nursery – *Sunday, Nov. 15.* All children in grades K-5 are invited to Sunday School at 10:30. Grades K-2 meet in Room 200; grades 3-5 meet in the Parlor. The nursery is available for those Pre-K and younger. For children in worship, 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 Library near the family restroom.

Events, Activities, and Information

- **New! Facilities Manager Position Now Open** – St. Paul's Facilities Manager oversees St. Paul's buildings, columbarium, grounds, and parking lot, and manages a full-time tenant. This is a physical, flexible, and collaborative position that will work with staff, church, community members, and contractors to handle events, day to day facility operations, scheduling, maintenance, and inspections, among other duties. The position is part time (30 hrs/week) with on-site hours accommodating varying daily and weekly requirements. Find the full job description including salary, and instructions for submitting an application at *stpaulsk.org/community/meet-the-staff.* Please share with those who might be interested!
- **Making Our Future Possible** – Over the past five weeks, we've reflected on the difference St. Paul's makes in our lives, the ways we serve others, the community we share, and our hopes for the future. Our final reflection question:

  How can your generosity help make that future possible?

  As our annual stewardship campaign draws to a close, we ask every household to prayerfully consider its financial commitment for 2027. Every pledge matters, and together our generosity sustains the mission and ministries of St. Paul's. Please return your pledge this week. We will celebrate stewardship on November 22. Forms may be mailed, dropped off at the church office, or submitted online. Thank you for your faithful support!
- **Reminder! Kensington Coffeehouse Last Show of 2026!** – *Saturday, Nov. 21, 7:00-10:00 PM.* Our November show promises a variety of musical delights! The band Boy Meets Pearl will fire up the evening with an exciting and eclectic mix of sea shanties, orginal music, circus waltzes, and music-hall sing-a-longs. Juels Bland, a soulful artist from Takoma Park, will be followed by Alicia Deeny, a guitarist who traces her musical roots to Puerto Rico. Wrapping up the evening, Erin Frisby and Selena Benally of the

band Ammonite will perform their genre-bending and ethereal harmonies. JennyCakes specialties, along with an array of homemade baked goods and our signature bottomless mug of coffee, will be available for purchase to keep the joy flowing. Tickets are $10 at *kensingtoncoffeehouse.org* or at the door while seats remain.

- **Today: SPY Events** – *Sunday, Nov. 15, 7:00-8:30 PM.* St. Paul's Youth is for all friends of St. Paul's in grades 6-12. Come to the MPR with fellowship, faith building, and dinner. Please note, IGNITE – the big Youth Conference in Ocean City MD – has closed earlybird registration but regular registration continues. Contact Megan Montgomery (megan.w.montgomery@gmail.com) ASAP if you're interested! IGNITE takes place January 22-24, 2027, earlier than previous years. Be sure to fill out the registration & permissions form at *stpaulsk.org/community/youth.*
- **This Week: Taste & Sing** – *Tuesday, Nov. 17, 12:00-1:30 PM.* Enjoy this casual time of song, food, and fellowship in the Octagon on the third Tuesday of the month. After a hymn-sing, we'll take a deeper dive into the history behind a few of our worship songs. No musical experience necessary! The afternoon wraps up with a tasty fellowship lunch prepared by Ginny Hagberg ($5 donation).
- **Next Week: Thanksgiving Hospitality** – Help welcome friends from across the Kensington area to St. Paul's for the Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 24, with a special sipping ministry following the evening service. We are looking for baked goods and drinks. Contact: Anne Dean, annepdean@gmail.com.
- **Next Week: Community Thanksgiving Service** – *Tuesday, Nov. 24, 7:30 PM.* St. Paul's is pleased to be serving as the host congregation this year for the Kensington-Chevy Chase Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Please be part of this special service as community members come together in our Sanctuary to share grateful fellowship and faith through music, prayer, and inspirational texts.
- **Make Thanksgiving Happier** – Please help make a happy Thanksgiving possible for our neighbors in need by donating towards our special Thanksgiving - Hunger Ministry Holiday Giving project. Your financial support will let us provide about 190 households in the 208595 ZIP code with a $50 grocery store card. This enables families to select food for their Thanksgiving feast that best reflects their traditions, dietary restrictions, and needs. Please donate any amount by check made out the St. Paul's UMC with "Thanksgiving" in the memo line, or securely online at *stpaulsk.org/giving*.
- **Advent Bible Study** – *starting November 29.* Join us this Advent for a fresh look at the story of Jesus' birth through a Bible study by acclaimed biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine. Explore familiar scriptures, discover new insights, and prepare your heart for Christmas! We'll start the first week of Advent and meet for four sessions. There are two weekly opportunities: *Sundays, 12:00-1:00 PM* in Room 109 or *Wednesdays, 12:00-*

1:00 PM in the Octagon. You may attend either day! A light lunch of soup and bread will be provided. We'll be guided by the book *Light of the World*. Book purchase is optional. Questions? Contact Pastor Joey (joeyhm@stpaulsk.org).

- **Ongoing Activities** – ***Please contact group leaders directly to confirm meeting times!***
    - **Food Drive** – Our neighbors with limited means are feeling the crunch as food prices rise. Thanks to your donations, St. Paul's can provide groceries to 180 food-insecure households in the 20895 ZIP code every month. Find the list of our essential needs on the Narthex table or at *stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry*. Financial contributions help us to order additional food, and provide a grocery gift card so our recipients can choose fresh foods, meat, dairy, or hygiene products. To volunteer, email hunger@stpaulsk.org.
    - **Sermon Safari** – *Wednesdays through Dec. 20, 4:00-5:00 via Zoom*. St. Paul's weekly virtual Sermon Safari is a drop-in Zoom study where participants watch a sermon together and then dive into a lively, thoughtful discussion. For more info or to receive the Zoom link, contact Dr. Meg Baker at megbaker@verizon.net.
    - **Children's Choir** – *Sundays, 11:45-12:30.* All children in grades K-6 are encouraged to be part of Children's Choir, under the direction of Ms. Christina Griffin. We meet after worship in the Multi-Purpose Room. Please contact childrenschoir@stpaulsk.org with questions.
    - **Still Wednesday** – Still Wednesday meets in the Octagon each Wednesday, 7:00-8:00 PM. Come light a candle and experience this time of calm reflection. The evening's exact format varies depending on the leader, but usually includes about 20 minutes of silent prayer.
    - **Sanctuary Choir** – This music ministry is for adult singers and youth in Grade 7 and up. We rehearse each week on Sunday at 9:30 AM in the Choir Room (Room 211), then sing in worship at 10:30 AM. Singers are welcome on a weekly or ongoing basis.
    - **Joyful Ringers** – *Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 PM.* Our handbell ensemble meets in Room 109 for weekly rehearsals, with plans to play in worship about once a month. Contact Tom Pedersen (tpedersen@stpaulsk.org) to join us!
    - **Yarn Ministry** – *Meeting 7:00-8:30 PM on Nov. 23, Dec. 14.* Bring your knitting, needlework, or other projects and craft alongside friends in the Library at St. Paul's twice a month. Contact Karen Codner (kdc811@gmail.com) with questions.
    - **Bible & Brews** – Gather once a month at a local Kensington restaurant for this casual interfaith conversation with Pastor Joey, Rabbi Adam, and friends from Temple Emanuel. Contact joeyhm@stpaulsk.org for details!

- **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 after worship, sign up on the office bulletin board and take a "how to host" guide.
- **Your Church Leaders –** Go to *stpaulsk.org/community/meet-the-staff* and scroll down to learn more about what we do! If God is calling you to join us, reach out to the pastors, Leadership Team chairperson Bill Stephens (wtstephens@verizon.net), or Lay Leader Anne Deane (annepdean@gmail.com).

SOURCES AND LICENSING

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

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Opening Prayer: Adapted from *Liturgies Alive, Models of Celebration*; reposted on the re:Worship blog at https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/10/opening-prayer-matthew-25-14-30.html

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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

Children's Choir Director: Ms. Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Mrs. Anne Dean

Usher Coordinator: Mr. Nathan Bazawada

Lay Readers: Martha Lipscomb (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.