



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

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:30 AM

JULY 19, 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 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

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: Today, we gather to join our voices with winds and seas, sunshine and rain, mountains and grassy plains, to worship God, our Creator.

People: We gather as children of God, stewards of God's creation.

Leader: We gather to join our hearts with creatures who creep and crawl, slither and squirm, swim and soar, to worship God, our Creator.

People: We gather as children of God, stewards of God's creation.

Leader: We gather as witnesses of the harm that has been done to God's creation, to the groanings of the earth and all the earth's inhabitants who long for peace and flourishing.

People: We gather as children of God, stewards of God's creation.

Leader: Come, let us worship God, who strengthens and equips us, guiding us to live out our faith as good stewards of God's good creation.

People: Come, let us worship God, who inspires and empowers us to be stewards of hope and redemption in a wounded and hurting world! Amen.

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

God of grace and love, we rely on Your love extended to us in all ways and at all times, extravagantly and with generosity. We live day by day knowing that Your care and concern is poured out for us in Your provision for our needs and beyond our imagining. You entrust us with the gift of the good news of the Gospel and invite us to be partners in the sharing of the message of grace. Day by day, we realize the many gifts lavished upon us. We come to You to acknowledge and praise You for all Your goodness to us. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

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 13:24-30, 36-43 (NRSVUE) *Pew Bible – New Testament page 13-14*

Lay Reader

²⁴He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the

world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Baptismal Covenant I, UM Hymnal p. 33-39

Introduction and Presentation of the Candidate for Baptism

Sydney Rose Browning Saglio

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 this person 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 this person with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she 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 Responses – p. 36

Commendation and Welcome – p. 37

Pastor: Now it is our joy to welcome our new sibling 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 a member of the family of Christ.

Invitation to 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

*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Sending Forth

*Hymn #707

Hymn of Promise

Postlude



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.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers are given today in celebration of **Tom Bickford’s** birthday.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, July 26, 2026

10:30 AM – Summer Worship

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 – 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

- **New: UMCOR Venezuela Relief** – Donate today to the UMCOR special offering for Venezuela. Venezuela experienced two devastating earthquakes on June 24. Through trusted local partners on the ground, UMCOR moves quickly to provide urgently needed aid. You can read more about current relief efforts and donate to UMCOR at stpaulsk.org/giving or if you prefer to write a check, please make it out to St. Paul's UMC with "UMCOR Venezuela" on the memo line.
- **This Month: Can You Pack a Bag?** – St. Paul's recently lost one of our bulk order providers helping us stock the Hunger Ministry shelves. While we are looking for new food pantry partners, we are relying on our members and donors to fill our shopping bags, just like we did when we founded the "Hunger Free Zone" more than a decade ago! Can you donate one thing from our list? Can you donate a case of items? Can you pack a whole bag? Each month, recipients receive a jar of peanut butter, canned tuna, chicken, vegetables, fruit or applesauce, cereal or oatmeal, a quart-sized box of shelf-stable milk, rice, beans, macaroni & cheese, pasta, and sauce. Financial contributions also help us to order food items and provide a grocery gift card which can be used for fresh or frozen foods or hygiene products. To volunteer, email hunger@stpaulsk.org.
- **This Month: Project Transformation DC Fundraiser** – *Thursday, July 30, 6:00 PM.* Support Project Transformation DC with their first-ever Family Feud-style fundraiser at Emory Fellowship UMC (6100 Georgia Ave. NW, Washington DC 20011). Gather a team of 5 adults, raise \$500 to support children's literacy and young adult leadership programs, and compete for the title of PTDC Family Feud Champion. Contact Bkenn@projecttransformationdc.org to sign up or learn more.
- **Next Month: Still Wednesday** – *Wednesday, Aug. 19, 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 once a month this summer. We will return to weekly meetings in September.
- **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: Sunday School, Yarn Ministry, Taste & Sing, 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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This week’s Prelude, Postlude, and Offertory information including title, composer, and copyright info will be posted at stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home following worship.

Call to Worship: Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, “Discipleship Ministries,” January 2026.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/core-faith/week-3-eighth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a/week-3-eighth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a-core-faith-liturgical-resources>. Used by permission.

Opening Prayer: Written by Rev. Nigel Robb and posted at

<https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=7107>. Used by permission.

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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.

* Hymn: *Hymn of Promise*. Words & Music: Natalie Sleeth (1986), copyright 1986 by Hope Publishing Company.





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: Mr. Del Harris



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.

