



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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

SEPTEMBER 20, 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 (10:30 AM)

Nettleton (Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing)

Charles Callahan

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: We gather as people who belong to Christ.

People: Our hope is in Jesus; our trust is in his grace.

Leader: In baptism, we are joined to Christ and joined to one another.

People: We are members of one body, called to live together in love.

Leader: Put away what wounds and divides.

People: Clothe us with kindness, compassion, forgiveness, and truth.

Leader: Remember the waters through which God welcomed you into the household of grace.

People: We belong to Christ, and in Christ we belong to one another.

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who has loved us first.

People: And let us learn again to love boldly.

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

Gracious Christ, you call us by name, claim us in mercy, and invite us to entrust our whole lives to you.

Through the waters of baptism, you make us part of a people. Not isolated disciples, but members of one body, responsible to you and to one another.

Teach us to live as those who belong to Christ. Where resentment has taken hold, give us grace to forgive. Where our words have wounded, teach us to speak what gives life. Where relationships have fractured, make us agents of reconciliation.

Form among us a community where every person may know themselves loved, welcomed, and valued, and where our life together bears witness to the boundless grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

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.

Proclamation of the Word

Ephesians 4:17–32 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

Pew Bible, New Testament p. 194

¹⁷Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer walk as the gentiles walk, in the futility of their minds; ¹⁸they are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. ¹⁹They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰That is not the way you learned Christ! ²¹For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, ²²to put away

your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, ²³and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Those who steal must give up stealing; rather, let them labor, doing good work with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #432

Jesu, Jesu

Sermon

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Invitation to Discipleship & 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 AM)

The Gift of Love
Sanctuary Choir

Hal H. Hopson

*Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within
The profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come spirit come, our hearts control.
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed.
By this we worship and are freed. Amen.*

*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

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 #557**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

***Benediction and Dismissal**

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason



Following the 10:30 worship service, all are invited for fellowship time with drinks and snacks in the Octagon. This week's Sipping Ministry is hosted by Smith Family and the United Methodist Men's group.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are given today by
St. Paul's Leadership Team
in appreciation of **Erin Steele** and all she does for us at St. Paul's.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, September 27, 2026

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. 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. Appointments encouraged! If you have an emergency after hours, please call 410-205-5568 and leave a message for Pastor Sheridan.

Sunday School and Nursery – *Sunday, Sept. 20, 10:30 AM.* All children in grades K-5 are invited to Sunday School today during the 10:30 worship hour. Grades K-2 meet in Room 200; grades 3-5 meet in the Parlor. Nursery care is available at 10:30 AM for children in 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

- **Now Open! Accounting & Finance Manager Position** – Do you know the best person... to take on the role of Accounting & Finance Manager of St. Paul's? You just might! We are looking for an accounting expert to be responsible for the accurate and timely day-to-day accounting operations of our church. This is a part-time role that requires working onsite. If you think you know someone who would be a great fit, please share this opportunity with them. Find more details, including the job description, at stpaulsk.org/community/meet-the-staff Questions? Please contact Alison Clark (Leadership Team Finance Lead) at alisonjclark@yahoo.com, or Pastor Sheridan at sallmond@stpaulsk.org.
- **Coming Up: SPYs at IGNITE** – *RSVP by Sept. 22, event Sunday, Sept. 27.* St. Paul's Youth is for all friends of St. Paul's in grades 6-12! The next SPY activity will be a special Baltimore-Washington Conference IGNITE Campfire event at West River Center, Sept. 27. For Campfire questions, please contact Rachel Stalcup from the SPY Leaders team (rachelstalcup@gmail.com) no later than Tuesday, Sept. 22. All participants must fill out the registration & permissions form at stpaulsk.org/community/youth. Regular meetings start Sunday, Oct. 4, 7:00-8:30 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room at St. Paul's; parents and caregivers should attend this day for the info session!
- **Next Week: Pancake Breakfast** – *Saturday, Oct. 3, 8:00-10:00 AM.* Invite your friends and neighbors to join us in the Fellowship Hall for the monthly community breakfast, with delicious pancakes, sides, and beverages. Diners are asked to make a donation at the door! Some of our kitchen team recently retired from their duties, so if you like helping out behind the scenes, please contact Phil Rush (phil_rush@hotmail.com).
- **Next Week: Music Ministries Return** – Our music ministries are looking forward to welcoming back old friends and meeting new ones throughout September! Contact Tom Pedersen (tpedersen@stpaulsk.org) with questions.
 - **Children's Choir**, under the direction of Ms. Christina Griffin, will meet for singing, learning, snacks, and fun starting *September 27* after worship, 11:45-12:30 in the MPR. All children in grades K-6 and their friends are invited!
 - **Joyful Ringers**, our bell choir, will begin regular rehearsals on *September 30*. We rehearse Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM and play in worship about once a month. If you've never played handbells before, we can teach you!
 - **Sanctuary Choir** is for adult singers and youth in Grade 7 and up. We rehearse each week on Sunday at 9:30 AM, then sing in worship at 10:30 AM. Singers are welcome on a weekly or ongoing basis.
- **Next Month: Pastor Appreciation Month** – October is Pastor Appreciation Month! Join us as we celebrate and give thanks for our pastors and the faithful leadership,

care, and encouragement they provide to St. Paul's UMC. Throughout the month, take time to share a kind word, write a note of appreciation, pray for Pastors Sheridan and Joey, and show our gratitude for all they do. Together, let's make October a special month of encouragement and appreciation! For questions, reach out to Lay Leader Anne Dean at annepdean@gmail.com.

- **Coming Soon! Confirmation Class** – Confirmation Class is designed for young people around Grade 6 (age 12) and up who have not yet become members of the church and would like to learn more about faith, history, and what it means to be a member. After the classes, those who choose to become members of the church will be welcomed into membership on Pentecost Sunday or another meaningful date in the church calendar. Contact Pastor Sheridan at sallmond@stpaulsk.org if you're interested!
- **Ongoing Activities** – *Please contact group leaders directly to confirm meeting times!*
 - **Sermon Safari** – *Wednesdays through Dec. 20, 4:00-5:00 via Zoom*. St. Paul's weekly virtual Sermon Safari adventures continue throughout the fall for another season of rich conversation. This come-when-you-can, drop-in Zoom study invites participants to 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.
 - **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 and togetherness. The evening's exact format varies depending on the leader, but usually includes about 20 minutes of silent prayer.
 - **Yarn Ministry** – Bring your knitting, needlework, or other projects and craft alongside friends in the Library at St. Paul's twice a month. Meeting 7:00-8:30 PM on Sept 28, October 12 and 26, Nov 9 and 23, Dec 14. Contact Karen Codner (kdc811@gmail.com) with questions.
 - **Food Drive** – Thanks to your donations, St. Paul's can provide groceries to 170 food-insecure households in the 20895 ZIP code. Find the list of our essential needs on the Narthex table by the office, 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.
 - **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.
 - **Taste & Sing** – *Third Tuesday of each month, 12:00-1:30 PM*. Enjoy this casual time of song, fellowship, and food. We we start with a hymn-sing – feel free to request your favorites from the UM Hymnal! Then we have a short program

offering a deeper dive into the stories behind some of our worship songs. The afternoon wraps up with a tasty fellowship lunch (\$5 donation).

- **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.
- **Bible & Brews** – Gather once a month for this casual interfaith conversation with Pastor Joey, Rabbi Adam, and friends from Temple Emanuel. All our meetings are family friendly! Due to the holiday schedule, we are skipping September – please look for our return October 24! For the rest of the 2026 meeting schedule, visit stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events or contact joeyhm@stpaulsk.org.
- **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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** Prelude: *Nettleton (Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing)* by Charles Callahan, copyright 1992 Concordia Publishing. All rights reserved.

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer: Prepared by Joey Heath-Mason with assistance from Ministry Assistant, 2026.

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* *Jesu, Jesu*. Words: Tom Colvin (1969). Music: Ghana folk song arr. Tom Colvin (1969), harm. Charles H. Webb (1988). Copyright 1969, 1989 by Hope Publishing Company.

* Offertory: *The Gift of Love*. Words & Music: Hal H. Hopson. Copyright 1972 and 1983 by Hope Publishing.

** Doxology: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (LASST UNS ERFREUEN)*. Words: Thomas Ken (1674), adapt. Gilbert H. Vieira (1978). Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge* (1623), harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906). Adapt. copyright 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds. Words: John Fawcett (1782). Music: Johann G. Nageli, arr. Lowell Mason (1845). Public domain.

Postlude: *Praise to the Lord (Lobe de Herren, Den Mächtigen König der Ehren)* by Johann Gottfried Walther, 1680. Public domain.





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, stpaulsunitied@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: Beth Dennard (9:00 AM); John Stephens (10:30 AM)

Guest Musician: Clarice Jane Snyder



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