



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

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

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### **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 service today. More helpful information can be found following the order of worship.*

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(\* - please stand in body or spirit)

### **Gathering for Worship**

Announcements

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Prelude

\*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: Gentle God, we are searching.

**People: We come out into the wilderness with Jesus to find you.**

Leader: Loving Christ, we are tempted.

**People: We come out into the wilderness with you to find our way.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, we are yearning for life.

**People: You lead us out into the wilderness to find life.**

Leader: We come to worship, to be filled with your Spirit, and to be changed.

**People: Grant us your blessing. Grant us your mercy. Grant us your grace.**

\*Hymn #127

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

**God of mercy, as Jesus was led out into the desert in solitude for self-examination, lead us into a place of clarity and simplicity, that in this Lenten season we might see ourselves as you see us and open ourselves to your loving transformation. Speak to us, that we may hear, repent, and be changed. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

The Lord's Prayer (10:30 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.**

## Proclamation of the Word

Matthew 4:1-11 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

*Pew Bible, New Testament page 3*

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'  
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

7Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

8Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, 9and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.' "

11Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Response to the Word

\*Hymn #269

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

Sermon

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Recognition of Bequest Gifts and Dedication of Plaques

Mr. Mike Barnes, Trustees

*Ida DeVierno*

*Jan Heins*

*Sarah & Jack Jenkins*

*Becky Little*

*Cliff Thompson*

*Margaret & Jeff Thurlow*

*Margaret Wood*

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](http://stpaulsk.org). Thank you for supporting St. Paul's work engaging in meaningful worship and vibrant ministry in our community.*



Offertory (10:30 only)

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*  
Sanctuary Choir

Richard Shephard

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,  
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.  
As thou did hunger bear and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,  
To die to self and chiefly live by thy most holy word.  
And through these days of penitence, and through your Passiontide,  
Yes, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.

\*Doxology #95

OLD 100TH

\*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

*The Great Thanksgiving and Communion (9:00 AM only)*

*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 #395

*Take Time to Be Holy*

\*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Postlude (10:30 only)



### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers are given today by **Travis Stalcup**  
in honor of **Rachel Stalcup** with love for Valentine's Day.

### WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

**Sunday, March 1, 2026**

9:00 AM – Worship with Communion

10:30 AM – Worship with Communion and Sanctuary Choir



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Weekly News** – Visit [stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news](http://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](mailto: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](http://stpaulsk.org/worship).

**Holiday 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

- **New! The Third Harmony Film Screening** – *Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7:00-8:30 PM*. Come to the Octagon for a film screening of *The Third Harmony*, a film by Michael Nagler (run time approx. 45 minutes), followed by a discussion. We will have popcorn! This film explores the practice and power of nonviolence as it has been lived across movements and generations. Sponsored by Still Wednesday.
- **Today: Lenten Study - UMC 101** – *Sundays starting Feb. 22, 12:00-1:00 PM in Room 109*. Pastor Joey will lead this 5-week adult study during Lent. This is the perfect class for new attenders, long-time members, and everyone interested in diving into what it means to be United Methodist. A light soup lunch will be served. Email Pastor Joey (joeyhm@stpaulsk.org) to sign up.
- **Today: Marvin Mills in Recital at the National Cathedral** – *Sunday, Feb. 22, 2:00 PM*. Washington National Cathedral (3101 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC) presents Marvin Mills in recital. This organ recital is free, open to the public, and will be live-streamed. This will be the fourth time the Cathedral has hosted him since 1989. He has also appeared at the Cathedral as continuo artist for the Cathedral Choral Society and Howard University Choir, and as music director/pianist of the National Spiritual Ensemble. <https://cathedral.org/music/concerts-recitals/>
- **Today: Bible & Brews** – *Sunday, Feb. 22, 5:00-6:00 PM*. Enjoy interfaith conversations with Pastor Joey, Rabbi Adam, and our neighbors from Temple Emanuel. This month we will be at Knowles Station Wine & Co. (10414 Detrick Ave, Kensington, MD). All meetings are family friendly and you may purchase food/beverages as you choose!
- **Today: SPY** – *Sunday, Feb. 22, 7:00-8:30 PM*. St. Paul's Youth is for everyone in grades 6-12. Join us in the MultiPurpose Room for fellowship, fun activities, Bible study, and food! In March, our group will attend the IGNITE youth conference in Ocean City MD. Late registration is still available – contact Megan Montgomery as soon as possible to be added to the trip (megan.w.montgomery@gmail.com).
- **This Week: SAM Meeting** – *Monday, Feb. 23, 6:30 PM in the Octagon*. 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. For questions or to find out about virtual attendance options, please contact SAM Chairperson Bill Stephens (wtstephens@verizon.net).
- **This Week: Community News - Brookewood School Play** – Our tenant, the Brookewood School, presents their winter Players Guild production of *Much Ado About Nothing* on February 27 & 28 at 7:00 PM and Sunday, March 1 at 2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Free and open to the public, donations appreciated. Please be patient if you are parking near the church at those times!

- **Next Week: Pancake Breakfast** – *Saturday, March 7, 8:00-10:30 AM*. Come to the Fellowship Hall on the first Saturday each month to join friends and neighbors for pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, grits, fruit, beverages, and a specialty treat. Please make a goodwill donation at the door (suggested \$8 per adult or \$20 for a family of four) – all proceeds benefit local charities.
- **Next Month: An Evening of Biblical Storytelling** – *Monday, March 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 told. 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>. For more information, please contact Meg Baker at [megbaker@verizon.net](mailto:megbaker@verizon.net). To learn more about the NBSI, visit the organization's website at [www.nbsint.org](http://www.nbsint.org).
- **Next Month: 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 Month: Fish for the Hunger Ministry** – This month our donation focus is: *tuna or salmon*, in cans or pouches. These staple items have been hard to find lately through our bulk supply partners. Thank you for these donations, financial support, and for other non-perishables that go into the bins in the Narthex to help us feed our community! St. Paul's signature ministry serves 160 households in our ZIP code every month. We never ask our recipients about their age, employment, or family status. We simply welcome hungry neighbors and provide them with grocery resources. To find out about volunteer opportunities, please reach out to Mr. Pat Maloney at [hunger@stpaulsk.org](mailto:hunger@stpaulsk.org).
- **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](mailto: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](mailto: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. We'll meet on Jan 26 and Feb 9 & 23. Contact Karen Codner for meeting info: [KDC811@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events) or contact Pastor Joey: [joeym@stpaulsk.org](mailto:joeym@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.



## SOURCES AND LICENSING

Livestreaming each week at 10:30 AM at [stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home](http://stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home).

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Prelude and Postlude selections by guest musician Dr. Lester Green.

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer: Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *Unfolding Light*, [unfoldinglight.net](http://unfoldinglight.net). Used by permission.

Hymn: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*. Words: William Williams (1745), trans. from the Welsh by Peter Williams and William Williams (1771). Music: John Hughes (1907). Public domain.

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: *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*. Words: Claudia F. Hernaman (1873). Music: USA Folk Melody, arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1938), harm. Charles H. Webb (1988), copyright 1966 & 1989 J. Fischer and Brother Co.

Offertory: *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* by Richard Shephard using the English Folk Tune "The Turtle Dove" with text by Claudia Frances Hernaman, copyright 2010 by St. James Music Press. Livestreamed by permission under license from St. James Music Press. All rights reserved.

Doxology: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Old 100th)*. Words: Thomas Ken (1674). Music: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois (1551). Public domain.

Hymn: *Take Time to Be Holy*. Words: William D. Longstaff (1882). Music: George C. Stebbins (1890). Public domain.





## LEADING AND SERVING

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Sheridan Allmond, [sallmond@stpaulsk.org](mailto:sallmond@stpaulsk.org)

**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Joey Heath-Mason, [joeyhm@stpaulsk.org](mailto:joeyhm@stpaulsk.org)

**Music Director:** Mr. N. Thomas Pedersen, [tpedersen@stpaulsk.org](mailto:tpedersen@stpaulsk.org)

**Organist:** Mr. Marvin Mills, [mmills@stpaulsk.org](mailto:mmills@stpaulsk.org)

**Bookkeeping & Facilities:** Ms. Tracey Furman, [tfurman@stpaulsk.org](mailto:tfurman@stpaulsk.org)

**Communications & Administration:** Dr. Erin Bone Steele, [stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org](mailto: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:** Deanna Hodgson (9:00 AM); Vivienne Scott (10:30 AM)

**Guest Musician:** Dr. Lester Green



*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

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*Journeying Together Since 1885*