



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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:30 AM

AUGUST 23, 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

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier, BWV 634
Blessed Jesu, At Thy Word

J. S. Bach

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?"

People: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Leader: Christ calls us to be his church:

a people shaped by grace, grounded in faith, and sent in love.

People: We come to worship the One who gives us life and calls us by name.

Leader: In a world filled with many voices, let us listen again for the voice of Christ.

**People: In a world searching for hope, let us proclaim the good news of
God's grace.**

Leader: Come, people of God; let us worship the living Christ.

ALL: With hearts full of faith and hope, let us worship God!

*Hymn #555

Forward Through the Ages

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

Living God, you have gathered us into your presence and called us to be your people. Amid the many voices that compete for our attention, help us hear again the voice of Jesus asking, “Who do you say that I am?”

Give us the faith to confess Christ not only with our words, but through the lives we live. Build your church among us — not upon our strength or certainty, but upon your grace and the steadfast love revealed in Jesus Christ.

Open our hearts in worship. Renew our faith, strengthen our hope, and shape us into a community that reflects your mercy, welcomes your children, and carries the good news of your kingdom into the world.

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 16:13-20 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #413

A Charge to Keep I Have

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

Prélude

Nadia Boulanger

*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Sending Forth

*Hymn #368

My Hope is Built

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Postlude

X. Tu es petra (Thou Art the Rock)

Henri Mulet



Please visit the Octagon after worship for a time of fellowship! This week's Sipping Ministry is hosted by the team behind the Kensington Coffeehouse at St. Paul's. Come sample the coffee and let us know what you think!

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 by **Frank A. Walker, Jr.**,
in celebration and loving memory of his mother, **Gladys M. Walker**,
on what would be her 111th birthday.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK
Sunday, August 30, 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. **Sign in!** Please use the attendance pads in the pews to share your name and note your attendance with us today. **Large-print Bibles and Hymnals** are available from our ushers. **T-coil hearing aids** work in our Sanctuary. 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! We will return to our regular hours after Labor Day. If you have an emergency after hours, please call 410-205-5568 and leave a message for Pastor Sheridan.

Children and Nursery News – *Sunday, Aug. 23.* All children in grades K-5 will begin in worship in the Sanctuary with their families today. Children will be invited to transition to a special Summer Sunday School activity with local author Ms. Sakapalla-Ukondwa reading her new children's book *Let's Go Volunteer*. 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. Look for announcements about Sunday School activities returning in September!

Events, Activities, and Information

- **Today: Let's Go Volunteer!** – *Sunday, Aug. 23.* All kids in grades K-5 will be invited to a special Summer Sunday School activity to hear local author Zawadi Sakapalla-Ukondwa read her new book, "Let's Go Volunteer," an original story with fun lessons about sharing, learning, and being kind.
- **New! Kensington Coffeehouse is Back!** – *Saturday, Sept. 19, 7:00-10:00 PM.* After 22 years, the Kensington Coffeehouse at St. Paul's returns! Saturday, Sept. 19, 7:00-10:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We have a fresh lineup of musicians, JennyCakes desserts, hot coffee, and warm community vibes. Tickets are \$10 per person. Visit

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/kensington-coffeehouse-at-st-pauls> to purchase tickets in advance! Individuals also may pay at the door while seats remain. Questions? Want to help out? Contact Molly Ruskin (mollyruskin@gmail.com).

- **Last Call for Lydia Circle Leaders!** – Circles have a long history of gathering women together for service projects and meaningful fellowship, but we need new leaders to keep small groups going. After 13 years of service, Susan Schwarz has stepped down as the leader of the Lydia Circle Sisters. Any ladies interested in leading the Lydia Circle may contact Susan directly at susan10748@aol.com or 301-339-8242 or reach out to the office if you have questions.
- **Coming Up: Pancake Breakfast Returns!** – *Saturday, Sept. 5, 8:00-10:00 AM.* The all-you-can-eat community breakfast will have delicious buttermilk pancakes, fresh sage sausage, scrambled eggs, grits, fruit, and coffee, tea, or hot chocolate. There will also be a specialty pancake. *Please note the updated hours – we will be serving 8:00-10:00 AM.* Invite your friends and neighbors to join us in the Fellowship Hall. Diners are asked to make a generous donation at the door. Feel like helping out? A few key individuals have recently retired, so please consider joining this ministry that has been part of St. Paul's since 1970! Contact Phil Rush (phil_rush@hotmail.com) for more information.
- **Next Month: Still Wednesday** – Still Wednesday will return to weekly meetings in September 9. Come light a candle and experience this time for reflection, togetherness, and silent prayer. We will be meeting in the Octagon each Wednesday this fall.
- **Next Month: Sermon Safari** – *Wednesdays starting Sept. 16, 4:00-5:00 via Zoom.* St. Paul's weekly virtual Sermon Safari adventures resumes for another season of rich conversation and shared discovery. 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 information or to receive the Zoom link, contact Dr. Meg Baker at megbaker@verizon.net.
- **Next Month: Music Ministries News** – Music is a vital part of worship and community at St. Paul's! Our music ministries are looking forward to welcoming new members and old friends.
 - **The Sanctuary Choir** returns on September 13. Adult singers and youth in Grade 7 and up are welcome each Sunday to rehearse at 9:00 AM, then sing in worship at 10:30 AM.
 - **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!

- **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, beliefs, history, the present day United Methodist Church, and what it means to be a member. If someone in your family is a good fit for Confirmation Class, please reach out to Pastor Sheridan at sallmond@stpaulsk.org.
- **Your Church Leaders** – The Church Leadership Team invites you to join us. If God is calling you, reach out to Pastor Sheridan, Pastor Joey, Leadership Team chair Bill Stephens (wtstephens@verizon.net), Lay Leader Anne Deane (annepdean@gmail.com), or another Leadership Team member. Go to stpaulsk.org/community/meet-the-staff and scroll down to learn more about what we do!
- **Food Drive** – We need your help to fill our food pantry shelves! Please place nonperishables (no glass please) in the Narthex bin by the office door. Find the list of our essential needs at stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry. Financial contributions help us to order food when we're lacking something, and provide a grocery gift card so our recipients can choose fresh or frozen foods or hygiene products. To volunteer, email hunger@stpaulsk.org.
- **Returning Soon!** – Many groups adjust their schedules or take a break between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Here is the current list of start dates for the Fall:
 - Pancake Breakfast – returning Sept. 5
 - Still Wednesday – returning to weekly meetings Sept. 9
 - St. Paul's Youth (SPY) – returning Sept. 12
 - Sunday School – Teacher Consecration on Sept. 13
 - Sanctuary Choir – returning Sept. 13
 - Yarn Ministry – returning Sept. 14
 - Taste & Sing – returning Sept. 15
 - Sermon Safari by Zoom – returning Sept. 16
 - United Methodist Men – returning Sept. 16
 - Children's Choir – returning Sept. 27
 - Joyful Ringers Bell Ensemble – returning Sept. 30
- **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.
 - **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! For the summer we are meeting at BabyCat Brewery where you can purchase food or beverages as you like. For the meeting schedule, contact Pastor Joey at 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, 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.

* = Streamed by permission under CCLI license #24106074. All rights reserved.

** = Permission to stream this music obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #735990-A.

Prelude: *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier*, BWV 634 by J. S. Bach, from *Orgelbüchlein* (Little Organ Book). Public domain.

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer: Based on Matthew 16:13–20. Prepared by Joey Heath-Mason with assistance from Ministry Assistant, 2026.

Hymn: *Forward Through the Ages*. Words: Frederick Lucian Hosmer (1908). Music: Arthur S. Sullivan (1871). 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: *A Charge to Keep I Have*. Words: Charles Wesley (1762). Music: Lowell Mason (1832). Public domain.

Offertory: *Prélude* by Nadia Boulanger, from *Organ Music by Female Composers*, copyright 2005 Schott Musik International/Editions Salabert. All rights reserved.

** 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.

Hymn: *My Hope is Built*. Words: Edward Mote (1834). Music: William B. Bradbury (1863). Public domain.

** Postlude: *X. Tu es petra (Thou Art the Rock)* by Henri Mulet, from *Esquisses byzantines (Byzantine Sketches)*, copyright 1920 by Alphonse Leduc.





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, stpaulsunity@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: Ms. Megan Montgomery



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.

