



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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:30 AM

AUGUST 24, 2025

Thank you for worshipping 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.

(* - please stand in body or spirit)

Gathering for Worship

Announcements

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Prelude

I Want to Be Ready
Kevin M. Webb, tenor

Phillip McIntyre

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: We have come to worship God, the living God,

All: Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

Leader: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,

All: Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.

Leader: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,

All: Who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry the Word of life and hope. All glory to God!

*Hymn #662

Stand Up and Bless the Lord

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

Holy God, you knew us before we knew ourselves. You consecrate us even now to be your servants. Create in us hearts worthy to be your prophets, that we might go where you send us, and speak the Word that you give us. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, place your words upon our lips and your grace upon our hearts, so that we might pluck up and pull down, destroy and overthrow, build and plant, as you, alone, have commanded. 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

Jeremiah 1:4-10 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

Pew Bible – Old Testament p.698

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,
⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”
⁶Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷But the LORD said to me,
“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
⁸Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”

⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me,
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.
¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #600

Wonderful Words of Life

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 efforts to engage in meaningful worship and vibrant ministry in our community.



Offertory

Eternal Life (A Prayer of St. Francis)
Kevin M. Webb, tenor

Olive Dungan

*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Reception of New Members

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Diana DelGrosso

Congregational Response

People: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Blessing for the 2025-2026 School Year

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Sending Forth

*Hymn #2241

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



1. The Spir - it sends_ us forth to serve;_ we
2. We go to com - fort those who mourn_ and
3. We go to be_ the hands of Christ, to
4. Then let us go_ to serve in peace, the



go in Je - sus' name_ to bring glad tid - ings
set the bur - dened free;_ where hope is dim, to
scat - ter joy_ like seed_ and, all our days, to
gos - pel to_ pro - claim._ God's Spir - it has_ em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to_ pro - claim._
share a dream and help the blind to see._
cher - ish life, to do the love - ing deed._
pow - ered us;_ we go in Je - sus' name._

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Postlude

Fuga "alla Handel"

Alexandre Guilmant



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers are given today to the glory of God by the Flower Ministry.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, August 31, 2025

10:30 AM –Summer Worship



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. For questions about announcements, please contact Erin Steele in the church office (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!** Members, friends, and visitors alike are encouraged to use the attendance pads in the pews to share your name and note your attendance today. Please read more about worship at stpaulsk.org/worship.

Children's Programming – *Sundays in August*. All children will be in worship in the Sanctuary with their families in August. The nursery is available for children Pre-K and younger. Restless friends of any age (accompanied by an adult) are welcome to make use of the Library near the restrooms, or the Octagon room with the service livestream available. Busy bags with quiet activities for worship may be borrowed from the Welcome Desk.

Worship Hours for Fall – Now through August 31, we worship for the summer at 10:30 AM only. Drop-in and phone hours for the Office are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Starting the first Sunday in September, we will have two opportunities each Sunday to join in worship in-person. The worship service at 9:00 AM will include Communion each Sunday. The worship service at 10:30 AM will offer Communion on the first

Sunday of the month and music led by the Sanctuary Choir each week. The 10:30 AM service is also available by livestream at stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home.

Events and Information

- **Today: Scout Troop 439 Open House** – *Sunday, August 24, 3:00-4:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.* Boys and girls age 11-17 and their families are invited to come and see some of the ways Scouts have fun and learn new skills. Over the past year, we have been biking, hiking, kayaking, orienteering, cold weather camping at the Potomac District Klondike Derby, summer camping at Goshen Scout Reservation, and High Adventure hiking/camping at Philmont Scout Reservation, participated in Eagle Scout projects, and various community service activities. Scouts participate in planning and leading events for the Troop. Scouting America is a year-round leadership program that helps boys and girls become the best future versions of themselves. For additional information, see <http://www.kensington439.mytroop.us> or contact Scoutmaster Bill Stephens at scoutmaster439md@gmail.com.
- **Next Week: SPY Summer Series Finale** – *Sunday, August 31.* All youth in rising-6-through-rising-12 grades -and their friends- are welcome! We'll finish the summer with (weather permitting) water balloon tag, laser tag, a craft station, games, dinner, and a make-your-own ice cream sundae bar. There is no cost for youth to participate in the SPY Summer Series event thanks to a grant from the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the UMC. Be sure to fill out the permission form, if you haven't already, at stpaulsk.org/community/youth. Questions? Please contact activity leaders Megan Montgomery (megan.w.montgomery@gmail.com) or Anne Dean (annepdean@gmail.com).
- **This Month: Love Offering** – *now through Aug. 31.* Dr. Meg Baker has retired from her role as St. Paul's Minister of Spiritual Care and Formation as of August 1, 2025. As is our tradition, those who feel led to contribute to a financial gift to Meg may make a donation to her Love Offering. All gifts must be received by August 31. Please find a secure donation option at stpaulsk.org/giving or, if you prefer cash or check, mark your contribution with "Love Offering" and place it in the Sunday offering plate or mail it to St. Paul's UMC, Attn: Tracey Furman, 10401 Armory Ave., Kensington MD 20895.
- **Next Month: Lydia Circle Sisters** – *Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2:30 PM.* All ladies interested in being part of the Lydia Circle are welcome at the first gathering of the year in the Octagon Room. Contact Susan Schwarz at 301-339-8242 or susan10748@aol.com to get updates or more information.
- **Next Month: Community Pancake Breakfast** – *Saturday, Sept. 6, 8:00-10:30 AM.* The United Methodist Men and volunteers invite all members of the community to the Fellowship Hall for the first pancake breakfast of the new season! We serve scrambled

eggs, fresh sage sausage, grits, fruit, and beverages. Instead of charging a fixed price, diners are encouraged to make a generous donation. (Suggested amount is \$8 per adult and \$2 per child, or \$20 for a family of four.) Proceeds from September's breakfast will benefit Noyes Children's Library.

- **Next Month: Kensington Train Show** – *Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 6-7, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM.* The annual Kensington Train Show will be held at Town Hall across from St. Paul's. Enjoy model trains, children's activities, and live music and storytelling. Admission is \$7 adult and \$2 per child, or \$15 per family. Train Show proceeds benefit the Noyes Children's Library and the Kensington Historical Society.
<https://tok.md.gov/event/kensington-train-show/2025-09-06/>
- **Next Month: St. Paul's Music Returns** – The Music Department has fantastic opportunities for all ages and skill levels this year! Whether you're a seasoned musician or just looking to explore your passion for singing and ringing, we have something for you. Questions? Contact Tom Pedersen, Director of Music, at tpedersen@stpaulsk.org.
 - **Sanctuary Choir:** *Beginning Sunday, Sept. 7.* Open to grades 7 and up and adult singers who enjoy leading worship and singing in an ensemble. We meet at 9:30 AM on Sundays in room 211 and sing for the 10:30 AM worship service. Singers are welcome to participate week-to-week or on a continuing basis.
 - **Children's Choir:** *Beginning Sunday, Sept. 28.* Perfect for kids in grades K-6 who are eager to learn and sing together. Rehearsals begin September 28 in the Multi-Purpose Room. Children's choir is a great way for your child to grow in their faith, learn music skills, and be part of a meaningful group.
 - **Joyful Ringers:** *Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 17.* An exciting handbell choir for adults that promises fun and fellowship. We are looking for new ringers and begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 17 at 7:00 PM.
- **Next Month: Yarn Ministry Returns** – *Monday, Sept. 8 & 22, 7:00-8:30 PM.* Bring your knitting, crochet, or other craft project and craft alongside friends. We meet twice a month in the Library at St. Paul's. Find the full schedule for Fall 2025 at stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events
- **Next Month: Still Wednesday** – *Wednesdays starting Sept. 10, 7:00-8:00 PM.* Still Wednesday provides a weekly space for quiet reflection, calm, and connection in a noisy world. All are welcome to enter St. Paul's sacred spaces, light a candle, and join in this meditative, worshipful experience. The exact format changes as leaders rotate, but typically Still Wednesday offers a guided time for poetry, scripture, music, or art, with about 20 minutes of silent prayer.
- **Next Month: St. Paul's Youth** – Save the date! SPY plans to return for regular meetings on Sunday evenings starting Sept. 14. All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to

join us for faith, friendship, and fun! Before we launch, we'll hold a SPY Parent Information Session on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 7:00–7:45 PM (virtual). All SPY parents are encouraged to attend to learn more and discover how you can help make SPY possible. Email Rachel Stalcup to receive the link: rachelstalcup@gmail.com.

- **Next Month: Taste & Sing** – *Tuesday, Sept. 23, 12:00-1:30 PM*. Taste & Sing returns with some new faces for the Fall! St. Paul's Director of Music, Mr. Tom Pedersen, will be at the keyboard to play for this casual time of music, learning, food, and fellowship. We start by singing through some hymns from the UM Hymnal - feel free to request your favorites! Then Dr. Erin Steele will guide us through a short program about a composer, lyricist, or theme, offering a deeper dive into the stories behind some of our worship songs. We finish with a tasty lunch prepared by Ginny Hagberg (\$5 donation). No musical expertise necessary!
- **Regular Activities** – Please contact group leaders for details!
 - **Prayerwaves** – *Wednesdays, 10:00-10:30 AM*. To pray together by phone, dial 425-436-6326 a few minutes before 10:00 AM, then enter access code 774042 followed by the # sign. To receive the prayer list by email, please contact Erin Steele in the church office at stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org.
 - **Sipping Ministry** – This fellowship time with beverages and snacks is held after worship whenever a group, family, or individual wishes to host. Sign up on the office bulletin board and take a "how to" instruction sheet.
 - **Stephen Ministers** – Please contact Martha Lipscomb (301-518-1642) to be connected to a Stephen Minister for confidential care and a listening ear.
 - **Fall Craft Fair Plans** – Yarn Ministry will gratefully receive donations of craft items for our Craft Fair in the fall, with all proceeds going to charities. Please contact Karen Codner with questions at KDC811@gmail.com.
 - **Sanctuary Flower Sponsors** – To sponsor the flowers that grace the Sanctuary on Sunday morning, please add your name to the Flower Chart on the office bulletin board to reserve a date, then fill out a yellow form with the dedication information to appear in the bulletin. Flowers may be dedicated in honor or memory of a loved one, or in celebration. The cost is \$45 and you may take your flowers home after worship. There are many dates open from now through the end of the year.
 - **Hunger Ministry** – St. Paul's signature year-round ministry provides groceries for about 150 households facing food insecurity in the 20895 ZIP code. Please find the list of all the most-needed items at stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry and learn more about this important way we serve the local community. This summer, we especially request donations of cold cereal and protein sources (canned chicken, canned fish, peanut butter). Non-perishables pantry staples

may be donated in the bins in the Narthex any time. Please remember that we can't distribute food past its "best by / sell by" date, and we don't take glass (it breaks!) or containers that are dirty or damaged. Financial donations marked for "Hunger Ministry" help us place bulk orders to make up the gap between what's donated and what's needed, plus we provide recipients with modest grocery store gift cards to enable them to buy dairy, meat, hygiene products, produce, or frozen foods we can't stock. Thank you for helping us serve beyond the walls of St. Paul's!



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: *I Want to Be Ready* by Phillip McIntyre, Copyright 1990 H.T. FitzSimons Co, div. of Fred Bock Music Co., Inc. All rights reserved.

Call to Worship: Adapted from a post on the United Church of Christ's *Worship Ways Archive*.
<http://www.ucc.org/>. Used by permission.

Hymn: *Stand Up and Bless the Lord*. Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854). Music: *Genevan Psalter* (1551), adapt. William Crotch (1836). Public domain.

Opening Prayer: by Stephen M. Fearing, posted on liturgylink, <http://www.liturgylink.net/> Used by permission.

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: *Wonderful Words of Life*. Words & Music: Philip P. Bliss (1874). Public domain.

** Offertory: *Eternal Life (A Prayer of St. Francis)* by Olive Dungan, copyright 1949 The John Church Co. (Theodore Presser Co.). 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 Kirchengesange* (1623), harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906). Adapt. copyright 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House.

** Hymn: *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*. Words: Delores Dufner, OSB (1993), copyright 1993 by The Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN; published and administered by OCP. Music: Folk melody, public domain.

Postlude: *Fuga "alla Handel"* by Alexandre Guilmant, from *L'organiste Pratique*, Book 8. 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, stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org

A/V Team: John & Biljana Regan; John Stephens

Children's Choir Director: Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Anne Dean

Usher Coordinator: Nathan Bazawada

Lay Reader: Rachel Stalcup

Guest Musician: Kevin M. Webb, tenor



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