



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

APRIL 26, 2026

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 (10:30 AM)

Jesus Is Tenderly Calling

Emma Lou Diemer

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: Shepherd of mercy, you provide for us and protect us.

People: Shepherd of love, lead us in your way.

Leader: Shepherd of justice, you gather your flock, and care for the lost and neglected.

People: Shepherd of love, lead us in your way.

Leader: Shepherd of our souls, you guide us toward your own heart, and we follow.

People: Shepherd of love, lead us in your way.

In gratitude and trust, we worship you. Alleluia!

*Hymn #549

Where Charity and Love Prevail

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

Loving God, Gentle Christ, Life-Giving Spirit, you shepherd us from death to life, from loneliness to community. You know us, and you speak to our deepest hearts. Even deeper than our conscious thought, something in us knows your voice, and responds. So we listen, God, for your Living Word. Speak to us now, and always, and lead us to life. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

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

John 10:1-10 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

Pew Bible – New Testament page 103

¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #2140

Since Jesus Came into My Heart



1. What a won - der - ful change in my life has been wrought
2. I have ceased from my wand - ering and go - ing a - stray,
3. I'm pos - sessed of a hope that is stead - fast and sure, [since
4. There's a light in the val - ley of death now for me,
5. I shall go there to dwell in that Cit - y, I know,



Je - sus came in - to my heart!] I have light in my soul for which
And my sins, which were man - y, are
And no dark clouds of doubt now my
And the gates of the Cit - y be -
And I'm hap - py, so hap - py, so



long I had sought, Since
all washed a - way,
path - way ob - scure, [since Je - sus came in - to my heart!
yond I can see,
on - ward I go,



Je - sus came in - to my heart, since Je - sus came in - to my
(in, came in - to my heart,) (in, came



heart,
in - to my heart,) floods of joy o'er my soul like the



sea bil - lows roll, since Je - sus came in - to my heart.

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 only)

The Lord Is My Shepherd
Sanctuary Choir
Christina Griffin, soprano

Thomas Matthews

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul;
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for thou art with me;
Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of mine enemies,
Thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

The Great Thanksgiving and Communion (9:00 AM)

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 #407

Close to Thee

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Postlude (10:30 AM)

Take the Name of Jesus with You

Emma Lou Diemer



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers are given today by **Frank Walker**,
in loving memory of his spouse **David G. Fischer**'s 82nd birthday.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, May 3, 2026

9:00 AM – Worship with Communion

10:30 AM – Worship with Communion & 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.



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.

Weekday 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! Get to Know Your Leadership Team** – Get to know the people serving on St. Paul's church leadership team. We are a dedicated group guiding decisions, supporting ministries, and keeping us aligned with our mission. We work to unify ministries, streamline administration, and empower small groups. Our focus is greater efficiency, deeper engagement, and stronger impact in ministry and the mission field. Do you have questions about what we do? Please reach out to one of the pastors, chairperson Bill Stephens, or email lay leader Anne Dean at annepdean@gmail.com
- **New! Girl Scout Donation Drive** – *now-May 13*. Girl Scout Troop 34168 is collecting gently used stuffed animals and new, unused school supplies for our bronze award. There will be a drop-off box at St. Paul's for donations on Sundays or during office hours now through May 13. There will also a drop-off station with a bake sale & lemonade stand on Sunday, May 3, 1:30 PM-3:30 PM at two locations: Nolte Park, 200 Denver Rd, Silver Spring MD 20910, and also at the corner of Guilford St. and Brunette Ave, Silver Spring 20901. Help support our community Girl Scouts! For questions, talk to Lisa Babb or email Ashley.ann.briefel@gmail.com.
- **New! VBS Registration** – *now open!* St. Paul's is partnering with our friends at Bethesda UMC again this year for Vacation Bible School, a fun mini-camp for kids in pre-K through rising-5th grade. All activities will take place at Bethesda UMC (8300 Old Georgetown Rd, Bethesda MD 21704), June 22-26, 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon. Visit <https://vbspro.events/pl/events/6ca1be> to register. We never want a young person to miss out on a camp experience because of financial worries. Members and friends of St. Paul's interested in camperships and financial aid should contact Rev. Joey Heath-Mason (joeyhm@stpaulsk.org) for a confidential discussion.
- **New! Musical Theatre Camp Registration Open** – *now open!* Musical Theatre Camp 2026 runs Monday July 13 through Friday July 17, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM at St. Paul's UMC. Kids in rising-4th through rising-8th grades should register now! Campers learn an entire musical in just five days, and then present it at the end of the week. This year's presentation will be "A Technicolor Promise," a musical re-telling of the story of Noah and the Ark. All registered campers will be in the presentation! Auditions for specific role assignments are usually held in June. Registration is open to the first 18 campers; register early please as camp fills up quickly! This is an annual highlight for many families throughout the Kensington area! Visit stpaulsk.org/community/musical-

theatre-camp for the registration form and payment options. Contact camp director Mrs. Robin Mayhew at robin_mayhew@comcast.net with any questions.

- **Today: SPY** – *Sunday, April 26, 7:00-8:30 PM.* All friends of St. Paul's in grades 6-12 are welcome to meet in the Multi-Purpose Room for St. Paul's Youth fellowship, fun activities, Bible study, and food! Contact Pastor Sheridan at sallmond@stpaulsk.org with questions. Go to stpaulsk.org/community/youth for the meeting schedule for the rest of the year!
- **This Week: Invest in Our Youth**—At St. Paul's, we believe in lifting up the next generation. The Jim Smith Educational Award is one way we say to our graduating seniors, "You are loved, and we're cheering you on." To keep this tradition going, we invite you to make a financial contribution to support the Jim Smith Educational Award. Your generosity helps provide modest financial awards to students pursuing college or other post-secondary education. You can donate by check made out to St. Paul's UMC with "Ed Award" in the memo line, or at stpaulsk.org/giving using the Additional Contributions option and type "Ed Award" as the designated fund/cause. And if you're interested in helping review applications, contact Anne Dean (annepdean@gmail.com). **High School Seniors**—*don't forget to submit your application by May 4! Only those who apply can be considered. Visit stpaulsk.org/community/youth for the online application.*
- **This Week: Pancake Breakfast** – *Saturday, May 2, serving 8:00-10:30 AM.* The all-you-can-eat Community Pancake Breakfast, hosted by the United Methodist Men, will have delicious buttermilk pancakes, fresh sage sausage, scrambled eggs, grits, fruit, and coffee, tea, or hot chocolate. In celebration of Cinco de Mayo, we will also be serving a special treat of delicious breakfast burritos. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us! Diners are asked to make a generous donation at the door. Proceeds benefit local charities and causes at St. Paul's.
- **Next Month: Bible & Brews** – *Saturday, May 16, 5:00-6:00 PM.* Gather for casual interfaith conversations with Pastor Joey, Rabbi Adam, and friends from Temple Emanuel. All our meetings are family friendly! We meet at local restaurants offering food and drink that you can purchase as you like. Contact Pastor Joey at joeyhm@stpaulsk.org for the meeting location!
- **Next Month: Taste & Sing** – *Tuesday, May 19, 12:00-1:30 PM.* This will be the last Taste & Sing of the season before we take a summer break! Come to the Octagon for a casual hymn sing (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).
- **Next Month: The Librarians Film Screening & Book Drive** – *Sunday, May 31, 12:00 noon.* Come to the Octagon following worship for a special screening of the award-

winning documentary “The Librarians.” This film explores the critical role librarians play in protecting access to information and intellectual freedom in their communities. (Yes, you can pick up a spaghetti lunch plate upstairs and eat while you watch!) This screening will coincide with a book drive collecting gently used books to benefit Friends of the Library, Montgomery County. Please look for the collection table in the Narthex. Contact Rachel Stalcup with questions: rachelstalcup@gmail.com.

- **Next Month: SPY Spaghetti Lunch** – *Sunday, May 31, 12:00-1:30 PM*. Plan to come to the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, May 31 for a spaghetti lunch fundraiser to benefit St. Paul’s Youth activities. (Yes, you can take your plate downstairs to eat and watch *The Librarians* documentary!) Keep an eye on the announcements for more info, including menu details and online payment options soon to come!
- **Applesauce in April** – Our Hunger Ministry donation focus for this month is applesauce! It’s one of the most popular canned fruit options for our recipients. We also gratefully receive all kinds of nonperishable pantry staples - please make sure items are not in glass, and are not expired. A list of the items we need every month can be found by the donation bin in the Narthex or online at stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry. The number of people seeking assistance through St. Paul’s signature monthly ministry has grown, and we can only provide these resources thanks to the generosity and participation of our congregation. For volunteer opportunities, email hunger@stpaulsk.org to find out more.
- **Sanctuary Flower Sponsors Welcome** – The flower chart for 2026 is available in the church office! The flower cost is \$45 and you may dedicate them for memory, honor, or celebration, and take the flowers home following the 10:30 worship service if you wish. Please add your name to the chart to reserve a date, then fill out a yellow form with dedication information.
- **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).
 - **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, 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. Contact Karen Codner for meeting info: 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

- **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.
- **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 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.
- **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 or contact Pastor Joey: 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.
- **St. Paul’s Leadership** – 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 meetings are open to the public. To confirm meeting times, contact Chairperson Bill Stephens (wtstephens@verizon.net). To learn more, go to stpaulsk.org/community/meet-the-staff and scroll down to the Leadership Team section.



SOURCES AND LICENSING

Livestreaming each week at 10:30 AM at stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home.

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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 & Biljana Regan

Children's Choir Director: Ms. Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Mrs. Anne Dean

Usher Coordinator: Mr. Nathan Bazawada

Lay Readers: Mr. Del Harris (10:30 AM)



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.

