



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

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:30 AM

JULY 26, 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

Prelude on O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

Emma Lou Diemer

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: How shall we pray to God this day?

People: Let our spirits be humble and contrite.

Leader: God will take all that we are and help us work for good.

People: Even though we struggle and wonder if we are good enough, God sees our abilities and our loving hearts.

Leader: Bring your hearts to God this day.

People: May God touch our lives with peace and confidence.

*Hymn #355

Depth of Mercy

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

Our gracious and ever-loving God, we come in the midst of summer, looking for refreshment.

We rest in the knowledge of the wonderful works you have done for us, and of the deep and abiding love you have for us, and for all God's people.

Search our hearts. Fill our souls with your indwelling Spirit, who whispers to our souls that all will be well if we but trust in you.

Shine your light before us, that we may see our path to you, and to your kingdom on earth. 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

Romans 8:26-39 (CEB)

Lay Reader

²⁶In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. ²⁷The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will. ²⁸We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹We know this because God knew them in advance, and he decided in advance that they would be conformed to the image of his Son. That way his Son would be the first of many brothers and sisters. ³⁰Those who God decided in advance would be conformed to his Son, he also called. Those whom he called, he also made righteous. Those whom he made righteous, he also glorified.

³¹So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He didn't spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. Won't he also freely give us all things with him?

³³Who will bring a charge against God's elect people? It is God who acquits them. ³⁴Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us.

³⁵Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

We are being put to death all day long for your sake.

We are treated like sheep for slaughter.

³⁷But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us.

³⁸I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers

³⁹or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #79

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Sermon

"God Holds: Held by Love"

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

Talk About a Child That Do Love Jesus

Calvin Taylor

*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Sending Forth

*Hymn #419

I Am Thine, O Lord

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Postlude

Toccata on Grosser Gott

Matthew H. Corl



Please join us in the Octagon following worship for Sipping Ministry fellowship time, hosted by the Smith family.

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 **Martha Lipscomb**, celebrating the life and love of **Jack Lipscomb** on what would have been their 68th wedding anniversary.

ALTAR FLOWER

The flower on the altar is given today in celebration of the birth of **Grayson Hajoan Solomon**, grandson of **Larry & Mari-Jo Solomon**, born July 2, 2026.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, August 2, 2026

10:30 AM – Summer Worship with Communion

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

Children and Nursery Update! – All children in grades K-5 will worship in the Sanctuary with their families this summer. Nursery care is available today for children in Pre-K and younger. *Next Sunday, August 2, both our nursery workers will be out so there will be no nursery care provided that day!* 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 the Library.

Events, Activities, and Information

- **New: Funeral Service for Erma McWilliams** – *Saturday, August 1, 3:00 PM.* A funeral service celebrating the life and faith of Ms. Erma McWilliams will be held in the Sanctuary at St. Paul's on August 1st. Erma was a member of St. Paul's for 35 years before passing away on July 4, 2026. Family and friends are welcome and are invited to visit with the family in the Fellowship Hall after the service.
- **New! Card Shower for Ruby** – Plan to stay for a special sipping ministry on Sunday, August 9 to celebrate Ruby Meyers on her 100th birthday. Help shower her with cards! Blank birthday cards are available on the activities table in the Narthex. You can fill one out and drop it in the basket, or mail a card to her directly. Please contact the church office if you need her home address.
- **UMCOR Venezuela Relief** – Donate today to the UMCOR special offering for Venezuela. Venezuela experienced two devastating earthquakes on June 24. Through trusted local partners on the ground, UMCOR moves quickly to provide urgently needed aid and stays in the community to help rebuild. You can read more about current relief efforts and donate to UMCOR at stpaulsk.org/giving or if you prefer to write a check, make it out to St. Paul's UMC with "UMCOR Venezuela" on the memo.
- **This Month: Food Drive** – Thanks to you we can keep providing food resources for 170 households each month! While we are looking for new food pantry partners, we are relying on our donors to fill our shopping bags, just like we did when we founded the "Hunger Free Zone" more than a decade ago! Please place donated items in the Narthex bin by the office door. Each month, our food recipients receive a jar of peanut butter, canned tuna & chicken, vegetables, fruit or applesauce, cereal or oatmeal, a quart-sized box of shelf-stable milk, rice, beans, macaroni & cheese, pasta, and sauce. Financial contributions also help us to order food items when we're lacking something, and provide a grocery gift card which can be used for fresh or frozen foods or hygiene products. To volunteer, email hunger@stpaulsk.org.

- **This Month: Project Transformation DC Fundraiser** – *Thursday, July 30, 6:00 PM.*
Support Project Transformation DC with their first-ever Family Feud-style fundraiser at Emory Fellowship UMC (6100 Georgia Ave. NW, Washington DC 20011). Gather a team of 5 adults, raise \$500 to support children’s literacy and young adult leadership programs, and compete for the title of PTDC Family Feud Champion. Contact Bkenn@projecttransformationdc.org to sign up or learn more.
- **Next Month: Still Wednesday** – *Wednesday, Aug. 19, 7:00-8:00 PM.* This hour of reflection, contemplation, togetherness, and silent prayer is a haven in the midst of busy days. Still Wednesday will meet in the Sanctuary once a month this summer. We will return to weekly meetings in September.
- **Summer Break!** – Many groups adjust their schedules or take a break between Memorial Day and Labor Day. We encourage everyone to check directly with group leaders to confirm changes in meeting hours! Currently on break: Sunday School, Yarn Ministry, Taste & Sing, Lydia Circle Sisters, St. Paul’s Youth (SPY), Sermon Safari, Pancake Breakfast, Joyful Ringers Bell Ensemble, Children’s Choir, Sanctuary Choir, Still Wednesday (reduced meeting schedule).
- **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.
 - **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.
 - **St. Paul’s Leadership** – St. Paul’s leaders will be meeting on the fourth Monday of the month to attend to the mission, ministry, and wellbeing of the church. For more info, contact Chairperson Bill Stephens (wtstephens@verizon.net) or stpaulsk.org/community/meet-the-staff and scroll down to the Leadership Team.





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, 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: Mrs. Cathy Knepper



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.

