



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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

SEPTEMBER 27, 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 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. Joey Heath-Mason

Prelude (10:30 AM)

Prelude on BEACH SPRING

Janet Linker

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: We have been called out of darkness and into the light of Christ.

People: We will walk as children of light.

Leader: At baptism, the whole Church promises to surround God's people with a community of love and forgiveness.

People: We belong to one another.

Leader: We are called to teach, encourage, nurture, and bear with one another in love.

People: Together we will grow in grace.

Leader: Remember the waters that welcomed you into Christ's family.

People: May our lives help others discover that they, too, are beloved.

Leader: Come, let us worship God and build one another up in love.

People: Rooted in Christ, we will love boldly.

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

Nurturing God, you do not call us to walk the journey of faith alone. In baptism you gather us into a community where faith is taught, practiced, questioned, encouraged, and strengthened through love. Make us attentive to one another. Give us patience with those who are growing, humility to learn from those beside us, and courage to live the faith we proclaim. Let our words and our example help children, neighbors, newcomers, longtime members, and all who cross our path discover the wideness of your grace. Shape this church into a place of belonging, where we nurture one another toward Christ and where every life may flourish in your love. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

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

Ephesians 5:6-21 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

Pew Bible, New Testament p. 194-195

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷Therefore do not be associated with them, ⁸for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

¹⁵Be careful, then, how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #611

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Sermon

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Invitation to Discipleship & Giving

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

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 AM)

Siyahamba

Trad. Zulu

Sanctuary Choir (with Congregation)

CHOIR only:

Siyahamb' ekukhanyeni kwenkhos', Siyahamb' ekukhanyeni kwenkhos'. (repeat)

Siyahamba, hamb., Siyahamba. Ooh, Siyahamb' ekukhanyeni kwenkhos'.

We are walking in the light of God; we are walking in the light of God. (repeat)

We are walking, walking, we are walking. Ooh, we are walking in the light of God.

CHOIR and CONGREGATION:

We are walking in the light of God; we are walking in the light of God. (repeat)

We are walking, walking, we are walking. Ooh, we are walking in the light of God.

We are dancing in the light of God; we are dancing in the light of God. (repeat)

We are dancing, dancing, we are dancing. Ooh, we are dancing in the light of God.

We are singing in the light of God; we are singing in the light of God. (repeat)
We are singing, singing, we are singing. Ooh, we are singing in the light of God.

We are praying in the light of God; we are praying in the light of God. (repeat)
We are praying, praying, we are praying. Ooh, we are praying in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God. (repeat)
We are marching, marching, we are marching. Ooh, we are marching in the light of God.

*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

The Great Thanksgiving and Communion – 9:00 AM only

The Invitation, Confession & Pardon (9:00 only)

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 only)

The Great Thanksgiving (9:00 only)

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 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.

Breaking the Bread and Giving the Bread & Cup (9:00 only)

All communion bread is gluten-free.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (9:00 only)

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 #549**

Where Charity and Love Prevail

***Benediction and Dismissal**

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Postlude (10:30 AM)

Allegro di molto e con fuoco
from *Fantasie No.1 in E-flat*

Camille Saint-Saëns



Following the 10:30 worship service, all are invited for fellowship time with drinks and snacks in the Octagon. This week's Sipping Ministry is hosted by the Stephen Ministers.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are given today by

Julia Royall in appreciation of

Tom Pedersen, Marvin Mills, and the music they lead at St. Paul's.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, October 4, 2026 – World Communion Sunday

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.



Drop-in & Telephone Hours – The office is open on our regular schedule for drop-in visits and phone calls: Mon.-Thurs., 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Appointments encouraged! Please find staff contact information on the last pages of this bulletin or at stpaulsk.org/community/meet-the-staff. If you have an emergency after hours, please call 410-205-5568 and leave a message for Pastor Sheridan.

Sunday School and Nursery – *Sunday, Sept. 27, 10:30 AM.* All children in grades K-5 are invited to Sunday School today during the 10:30 worship hour. Grades K-2 meet in Room 200; grades 3-5 meet in the Parlor. Nursery care is available at 10:30 AM for children in Pre-K and younger. For children in worship, 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 Library near the family restroom.

Events, Activities, and Information

- **Now Open! Accounting & Finance Manager Position** – Do you know the best person... to take on the role of Accounting & Finance Manager of St. Paul's? You just might! We are looking for an accounting expert to be responsible for the accurate and timely day-to-day accounting operations of our church. This is a part-time role that requires working onsite. If you think you know someone who would be a great fit, please share this opportunity with them. Find more details, including the job description, at stpaulsk.org/community/meet-the-staff Questions? Please contact Alison Clark (Leadership Team Finance Lead) at alisonjclark@yahoo.com, or Pastor Sheridan at sallmond@stpaulsk.org.
- **This Week: Children's Choir Returns** – *Sunday, Sept. 27, 11:45-12:30*. All children in grades K-6 are encouraged to be part of Children's Choir, under the direction of Ms. Christina Griffin. We will meet after worship for singing, learning, snacks, and fun on most Sundays during the school in the Multi-Purpose Room. All children in grades K-6 and their friends are invited! Please contact childrenschoir@stpaulsk.org if you have any questions.
- **This Week: Joyful Ringers** – *Wednesday, Sept. 30, 7:00-8:00 PM*. Our handbell ensemble will meet in Room 109 and begin regular rehearsals this week, with plans to play in worship about once a month. If you've never played handbells before, we can teach you! Contact Tom Pedersen, director of music, at tpedersen@stpaulsk.org.
- **This Week: Pancake Breakfast** – *Saturday, Oct. 3, 8:00-10:00 AM*. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us in the Fellowship Hall for the monthly community breakfast, with delicious pancakes, sides, and beverages. Diners are asked to make a donation at the door! Some of our kitchen team recently retired from their duties, so if you like helping out behind the scenes, please contact Phil Rush (phil_rush@hotmail.com).
- **Next Week: SPYs at Home** – *October 4, 7:00-8:30 PM*. St. Paul's Youth is for all friends of St. Paul's in grades 6-12. After kicking off our season with a day out at HersheyPark and a special Baltimore-Washington Conference IGNITE Campfire event at West River Center (happening today, Sept. 27!), we are ready for our first regular meeting of the 2026-2027 year in the Multi-Purpose room on October 4. This is also an Info Session for parents/guardians, so please stick around to learn more about our plans! SPY families should be sure to fill out the registration & permissions form at stpaulsk.org/community/youth.
- **Coming Soon! Apple Sale** – Get ready for the annual Apple Sale, run by the United Methodist Men and volunteers! Despite local orchards losing some of their crop to a late spring frost, we still expect to be able to offer fresh orchard apples from Scenic View Orchard in Sabillasville, MD. Once we know the exact varieties available, we will offer a pre-order window when you can reserve and pay for apples, apple cider,

applesauce, and apple butter. The order form link will be available in the coming weeks through the stpaulsk.org website and weekly news email. The walk-up “apple stand” will operate October 29, 30, and 31 at the main entrance of St. Paul’s UMC. If you would like to assist with the apple sale, please reach out to Jim Heins (jheins57@verizon.net), Jerry Watkins, or another member of the UMM.

- **Next Month: Pastor Appreciation Month** – October is Pastor Appreciation Month! Join us as we celebrate and give thanks for our pastors and the faithful leadership, care, and encouragement they provide to St. Paul’s UMC. Throughout the month, take time to share a kind word, write a note of appreciation, pray for Pastor Sheridan and Pastor Joey, and show our gratitude for all they do. Together, let’s make October a special month of encouragement and appreciation! For questions, reach out to Lay Leader Anne Dean at annepdean@gmail.com.
- **Last Chance to Register! 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, history, and what it means to be a member. After the classes, those who choose to become members of the church will be welcomed into membership on Pentecost Sunday or another meaningful date in the church calendar. Contact Pastor Sheridan at sallmond@stpaulsk.org if you’re interested!
- **Ongoing Activities** – *Please contact group leaders directly to confirm meeting times!*
 - **Sermon Safari** – *Wednesdays through Dec. 20, 4:00-5:00 via Zoom.* St. Paul’s weekly virtual Sermon Safari adventures continue throughout the fall for another season of rich conversation. 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 info or to receive the Zoom link, contact Dr. Meg Baker at megbaker@verizon.net.
 - **Still Wednesday** – Still Wednesday meets in the Octagon each Wednesday, 7:00-8:00 PM. Come light a candle and experience this time of calm reflection and togetherness. The evening’s exact format varies depending on the leader, but usually includes about 20 minutes of silent prayer.
 - **Sanctuary Choir** – This music ministry is for adult singers and youth in Grade 7 and up. We rehearse each week on Sunday at 9:30 AM in the Choir Room (Room 211), then sing in worship at 10:30 AM. Singers are welcome on a weekly or ongoing basis.
 - **Yarn Ministry** – Bring your knitting, needlework, or other projects and craft alongside friends in the Library at St. Paul’s twice a month. Meeting 7:00-8:30 PM on Sept 28, October 12 and 26, Nov 9 and 23, Dec 14. Contact Karen Codner (kdc811@gmail.com) with questions.

- **Food Drive** – Thanks to your donations, St. Paul’s can provide groceries to 170 food-insecure households in the 20895 ZIP code. Find the list of our essential needs on the Narthex table by the office, or at stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry. Financial contributions help us to order additional food, and provide a grocery gift card so our recipients can choose fresh foods, meat, dairy, or hygiene products. To volunteer, email hunger@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.
- **Taste & Sing** – *Third Tuesday of each month, 12:00-1:30 PM*. Enjoy this casual time of song, fellowship, and food. We we start with a hymn-sing – feel free to request your favorites from the UM Hymnal! Then we have a short program offering a deeper dive into the stories behind some of our worship songs. The afternoon wraps up with a tasty fellowship lunch (\$5 donation).
- **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! Due to the holiday schedule, we are skipping September – please look for our return October 24! For the rest of the 2026 meeting schedule, visit stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events or contact 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 after worship, sign up on the office bulletin board and take a “how to host” guide.
- **Your Church Leaders** – Go to stpaulsk.org/community/meet-the-staff and scroll down to learn more about what we do! If God is calling you to join us, reach out to the pastors, Leadership Team chairperson Bill Stephens (wtstephens@verizon.net), or Lay Leader Anne Deane (annepdean@gmail.com).



SOURCES AND LICENSING

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

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Call to Worship & Opening Prayer: Prepared by Joey Heath-Mason with assistance from Ministry Assistant, 2026.

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Postlude: *Allegro di molto e con fuoco*, from *Fantasie No.1 in E-flat* by Camille Saint-Saëns. 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, stpaulsunity@stpaulsk.org

A/V Team: Mr. & Mrs. John and Biljana Regan

Children's Choir Director: Ms. Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Mrs. Anne Dean

Usher Coordinator: Mr. Nathan Bazawada

Lay Readers: Kenzie Raulin (9:00 AM); MaryAnn Steele (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.





St. Paul's

United Methodist Church

Journeying Together Since 1885