



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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:30 AM

JUNE 28, 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. Joey Heath-Mason

Prelude

Prelude on Finlandia

Robert J. Powell

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: When the Lord seems far away,

People: may we place our faith in God.

Leader: When God's face is hidden from us,

People: may we put our trust in God's steadfast love.

Leader: When our souls bear the pain of earthly trials,

People: may we seek God's strength, lest we break.

Leader: Let us place our trust in God's goodness and mercy.

People: Our hearts rejoice in God's salvation.

*Hymn #127

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

Lord, the hearts of all turn to You in hope; and You give them what they need.

You open Your hand and satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.

We, too, turn to You again, longing to be filled — to eat of the Bread of Life, to drink from Your life-giving streams, to taste Your goodness, and to live.

May the time we spend together in Your presence nourish our hearts and minds; may it strengthen our relationship with You, and renew our commitment to live in this world as Your faithful disciples.

For You alone are God, the Source and Sustainer of life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

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

Genesis 22:1-14 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

Pew Bible – Old Testament page 17-18

¹After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. ⁷Isaac said to his father

Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.

⁹When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹²He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide," as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #534

Be Still, My Soul

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

3. Gehende/Schneller

Hugo Distler

*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Sending Forth

*Hymn #128

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought

Postlude

III. Menuetto

W. A. Mozart/Mills



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.

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

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, July 5, 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. **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.

Summer Office Hours – St. Paul’s office is open this summer for weekday drop-in visits and phone calls Tuesday-Thursday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Staff, clergy, and building access are available outside these times by appointment! 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.

Children’s Programming – *June 28*. All children in grades K-5 will worship in the Sanctuary with their families. If you would be interested in helping to lead activities for a Summer Sunday School experience, please contact Rev. Sheridan Allmond at sallmond@stpaulsk.org.

Nursery care is available for children in Pre-K and younger during the 10:30 worship hour. Busy Bags with quiet children's activities are can be borrowed from the Welcome Desk near the front doors. Restless friends (accompanied by an adult) are welcome to take a break in the Octagon or the Library near the restrooms.

Events, Activities, and Information

- **This Week: "Echoes of Freedom" Art Exhibit** – We are hosting a special art exhibit in the Octagon, in collaboration with the Kensington Juneteenth celebrations. The theme is "Echoes of Freedom: Finding Our Path," and features works by several artists in a variety of mediums. The exhibit is open to the public through July 7. If none of the viewing times listed below work for you, contact the church office for other times! Please visit:
 - Sundays 12:00-2:00 PM
 - Tuesdays 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM & 5:00-7:00 PM
 - Wednesdays 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 - Thursdays 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- **This Month: Food Drive** – We are stocking the shelves now so we have enough for our July food distribution. We especially request: spaghetti or other pasta, cold cereal, quick-cook or instant oatmeal, peanut butter, and canned chicken. The St. Paul's community provides food for about 170 households in the 20895 ZIP code each month, and we can only do it thanks to you!
- **Next Month: Community Blood Drive** – *Thursday, July 9*. Help alleviate the summertime blood shortage by donating at the Red Cross Blood Drive in the North Bethesda community on Thursday, July 9 at Trinity Lutheran Church (11200 Old Georgetown Road). As a thank you, the American Red Cross will be giving away Looney Tunes t-shirts to celebrate the country's 250th birthday. Sign up on the American Red Cross Website www.redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor ID: "TrinityLutheranNBethesda" or call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule a life-saving donation.
- **Next Month: Still Wednesday Summer Schedule** – *Wednesday, July 15, 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 or Octagon once a month this summer on July 15 and August 19. We will return to weekly meetings in September.
- **Next Month: Bible & Brews** – *Saturday, July 18, 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. For July we will be at BabyCat

Brewery (10241 Kensington Pkwy). We also plan to meet August 15. Contact Pastor Joey at joeyhm@stpaulsk.org with any questions.

- **Lydia Circle Leader Updates** – After 13 years of service, Susan Schwarz is stepping down as the leader of the Lydia Circle. Any ladies interested in leading the Lydia Circle starting in Fall 2026 may contact Susan at susan10748@aol.com or 301-339-8242.
- **St. Paul's Leadership Team** – The Church Leadership Team commitment is simpler than many expect: one evening meeting each month, with occasional emails/conversations between meetings. Team members pray, discuss ministry opportunities, review church updates, and help guide our mission and future together. No special expertise is required — just a willingness to serve and to care about the ministry and business of our church. Reach out to Lay Leader Anne Dean (annepdean@gmail.com) to learn more!
- **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:
 - Taste & Sing
 - Sunday School
 - Yarn Ministry
 - 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** – 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 or for virtual attendance options, 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.



SOURCES AND LICENSING

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

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Call to Worship: *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026*, ed. Mary Scifres & B. J. Beu (Nashville TN: Abingdon Press, 2025). Used by permission.

Opening Prayer: Written by Christine Longhurst at the re:Worship blog, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/07/opening-prayer-feed-us-lord.html>.

Hymn: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*. Words: William Williams (1745), trans. from Welsh by the author and Peter Williams (1771). Music: John Hughes (1907). Public domain.

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** Offertory: 3. *Gehende/Schneller* by Hugo Distler from *Thirty Pieces, Op. 18, No. 1*, copyright 1938 Bärenreiter-Verlag. 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.

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Postlude: III. *Menuetto* by W. A. Mozart/Mills from *Symphony No. 40 in g minor, K. 550*. This arr. copyright 2012 by Marvin Mills. Streamed by permission of the composer. All rights reserved.





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 and Biljana Regan

Children's Choir Director: Ms. Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Mrs. Anne Dean

Usher Coordinator: Mr. Nathan Bazawada

Lay Reader: Mrs. Debbie Zechar



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.

