



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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:30 AM

AUGUST 30, 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

I Got a Home in-a Dat Rock
Imara Miles, mezzo-soprano

arr., Thomas H. Kerr, Jr.

***Call to Worship**

Lay Reader

Leader: Sometimes God calls us through burning bushes, telling us to go free a whole people despite our insecurities and fears.

People: God, help us accept your call on our lives.

Leader: Sometimes God calls us, and we don't understand the full meaning of the call, the ways our families, friends, and communities may resist the good news and us as messengers of it.

People: God, help us accept your call on our lives.

Leader: Sometimes God calls us to a path that is harder than we think we can handle, asking us to trust that God will provide what we need.

People: God, help us accept your call on our lives.

Leader: Beloved, God's call takes many forms. Sometimes it feels as natural as breathing, and sometimes we want to run as far as we can. But take

assurance in this: You are not alone. God is with us, and God's call can be trusted, because no matter where it leads, God is there.

**People: God, help us accept your call on our lives and to trust that what you equip us to do is what you call us to do as members of the Body of Christ.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Hymn #383

This is a Day of New Beginnings

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

Pour your Light, Holy Spirit of God, into our hearts and minds. Help us to know more clearly and grasp more fully the Good News of Jesus. And help us then to know how to share it. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who with You and the Father, are One God. 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

Romans 12:9-21 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved,

never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #160

Rejoice Ye Pure In Heart

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

Eternal Life

Olive Dungan

Imara Miles, mezzo-soprano

*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Sending Forth

*Hymn #670

Go Forth for God

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Postlude

I. Prélude

Gabriel Pierne



Please visit the Octagon after worship for a time of fellowship! This week's Sipping Ministry is 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**
in honor of the **Stephen Ministers**.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, September 6, 2026

10:30 AM only – Summer Worship with Communion

The 9:00 worship service will return starting September 13.



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: Tues.-Thurs., 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM now through Labor Day. Staff and building access also available by appointment! If you have an emergency after hours, please call 410-205-5568 and leave a message for Pastor Sheridan.

Children and Nursery News – *Sunday, Aug. 30.* All children in grades K-5 will be in worship in the Sanctuary with their families today. Nursery care is available for children in Pre-K and younger. 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. Sunday School programming for 2026-2027 will begin September 13!

Events, Activities, and Information

- **New! SPY Kick-Off** – *Saturday, Sept. 12.* St. Paul’s Youth is for all friends of St. Paul’s in grades 6-12! Join us for our kick-off event: a day at HersheyPark on Sept. 12. Email

Rachel Stalcup at rachelstalcup@gmail.com if you are interested! The next SPY activity will be a special IGNITE Campfire at West River Center, Sept. 27. Regular meetings start Oct. 4, 7:00-8:30 PM; parents & caregivers should attend the info session! Visit stpaulsk.org/community/youth for the calendar, registration form, and more!

- **New! Sunday School Teachers & Third Grade Bibles** – *Sunday, Sept. 13*. During the 10:30 AM worship service on Sept. 13, we will kick off our Sunday School season with a moment to consecrate our teachers. There are still some teacher spots open so if you feel called to help with Sunday School, contact Pastor Joey (joeym@stpaulsk.org). As is our tradition, we will also present our Third Grade students with their own Bibles.
- **Next Week: Pancake Breakfast Returns!** – *Saturday, Sept. 5, 8:00-10:00 AM*. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us in the Fellowship Hall for the community breakfast, with buttermilk pancakes, a specialty pancake, fresh sage sausage, scrambled eggs, grits, fruit, and coffee, tea, or hot chocolate. *Please note the updated serving hours!* Diners are asked to make a generous donation at the door. A few key individuals have recently retired, so please consider joining this ministry that has been part of St. Paul's since 1970! Contact Phil Rush (phil_rush@hotmail.com) for more information.
- **Next Month: Kensington Coffeehouse** – *Saturday, Sept. 19, 7:00-10:00 PM*. After 22 years, the Kensington Coffeehouse returns to St. Paul's Fellowship Hall. We have a fresh lineup of musicians, JennyCakes desserts, hot coffee, and warm community vibes. Tickets are \$10 per person. Visit <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/kensington-coffeehouse-at-st-pauls> to purchase tickets! Individuals also may pay at the door while seats remain. Want to help out? Contact Molly Ruskin (mollyruskin@gmail.com).
- **Next Month: Still Wednesday** – Still Wednesday will be meeting in the Octagon each Wednesday this fall, starting September 9, 7:00-8:00 PM. Come light a candle and experience this time for reflection, togetherness, and silent prayer.
- **Next Month: Yarn Ministry Returns** – 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 14 and 28, October 12 and 26, Nov 9 and 23, Dec 14. Contact Karen Codner (kdc811@gmail.com) with questions.
- **Next Month: Taste & Sing** – *Tuesday, Sept. 15, 12:00-1:30 PM*. We start by singing hymns from the UM Hymnal, by request! Then we have a short program about a composer, lyricist, or theme, offering a deeper dive into the stories behind some of our worship songs. The afternoon wraps up with a tasty fellowship lunch (\$5 donation).
- **Next Month: Sermon Safari** – *Wednesdays starting Sept. 16, 4:00-5:00 via Zoom*. St. Paul's weekly virtual Sermon Safari adventures resumes 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.

- **Next Month: United Methodist Men** – *Wednesday, Sept. 16, 6:30-8:30 PM.* After a long hiatus, the UMM is resuming periodic suppers and general meetings. All men of the church and their sons are invited! We will have subs & pizza from Continental, and a dessert. The cost is \$8 per person. Please help us plan by RSVPing to Jerry Watkins j50.09w@verizon.net or 301-675-1236.
- **Next Month: Music Ministries Return** – Music is a vital part of worship and community at St. Paul's! Our music ministries are looking forward to welcoming old friends and meeting new ones! Contact Tom Pedersen (tpedersen@stpaulsk.org) with questions.
 - **The Sanctuary Choir** returns on September 13. Adult singers and youth in Grade 7 and up are welcome each Sunday to rehearse at 9:00 AM, then sing in worship at 10:30 AM.
 - **Children's Choir**, under the direction of Ms. Christina Griffin, will meet for singing, learning, snacks, and fun starting September 27 after worship, 11:45-12:30 in the MPR. All children in grades K-6 and their friends are invited!
 - **Joyful Ringers**, our bell choir, will begin regular rehearsals on September 30. We rehearse Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM and play in worship about once a month. If you've never played handbells before, we can teach you!
- **Coming Soon! 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. Contact Pastor Sheridan at sallmond@stpaulsk.org if you're interested!
- **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 the church leadership team, reach out to Pastor Sheridan, Pastor Joey, Leadership chair Bill Stephens (wtstephens@verizon.net), or Lay Leader Anne Deane (annepdean@gmail.com).
- **Food Drive** – We need your help to fill our food pantry shelves! Find the list of our essential needs 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 or hygiene products. To volunteer, email hunger@stpaulsk.org.
- **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.

- **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! For the 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, sign up on the office bulletin board and take a “how to host” guide.



SOURCES AND LICENSING

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

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Opening Prayer: From the Diocese of Zululand, South Africa, in *Prayer Encircling the World: An International Anthology* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998), 105.

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.

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** 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: *I. Prélude* by Gabriel Pierne, from *Trois Pièces, Op. 29*. 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, Mr. John Stephens

Children's Choir Director: Ms. Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Mrs. Anne Dean

Usher Coordinator: Mr. Nathan Bazawada

Lay Reader: Mrs. Martha Lipscomb

Guest Musician: Ms. Imara Miles



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.

