



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

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:30 AM

AUGUST 3, 2025

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

2. Allegretto (Capriccio)

Jesús Guridi

***Call to Worship**

Lay Reader

Leader: Come, let us gather in the presence of the One who knows our hearts.

People: We come, open to God's wisdom and grace.

Leader: Jesus warns us not to trust in the fleeting riches of this world.

People: We long to be measured by more than possessions.

Leader: Let us seek the true treasure that is found in God alone.

People: Our hearts belong to Christ, our greatest treasure.

ALL: Come, let us worship the Lord with thankful hearts!

***Hymn #577**

God of Grace and God of Glory

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

O God of abundant mercy, on this day, we confess how easily our hearts are captured by the promise of more: more comfort, more security, more wealth. Too often, we store up treasures for ourselves and grow poor toward You. Forgive us, Lord. Teach us to measure our lives not by what we own, but by Your presence within us. Open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors, our ears to the whisper of Your Spirit, and our hands to share with generosity and love. By the power of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, make us rich toward You, investing our days in kindness, justice, and mercy. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Proclamation of the Word

Luke 12:13-21 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #399

Take My Life, and Let It Be

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 efforts to engage in meaningful worship and vibrant ministry in our community.



Offertory

III. Aria

Herbert Howells

*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

The Great Thanksgiving and Communion

The Invitation, Confession & Pardon

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

The Great Thanksgiving

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

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

All communion bread is gluten-free.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**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 #430

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Postlude

Gigue

David Schelat



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers are given today to the glory of God by the flower ministry.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, August 10, 2025

10:30 AM –Summer Worship



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. For questions about announcements, please contact Erin Steele in the church office (stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org).



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!** Members, friends, and visitors alike are encouraged to use the attendance pads in the pews to share your name and note your attendance today. Please read more about worship at stpaulsk.org/worship.

Children's Programming Today – *Sunday, August 3.* All children will be in worship in the Sanctuary with their families today. The nursery is available for children Pre-K and younger. Restless friends of any age (accompanied by an adult) are welcome to make use of the Library near the restrooms, or the Octagon room with the service livestream available. Busy bags with quiet activities for worship may be borrowed from the Welcome Desk.

Summer Hours – Now through August 31, we worship for the summer at 10:30 AM only. Drop-in and phone hours for the office are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. To visit at other times, please make an appointment! Staff and clergy hours vary.

Events and Information

- **New! Backpack Build** – *Drop off through Aug. 17.* The annual school supplies drive is here! We partner with Interfaith Works to get school supplies to disadvantaged students in Montgomery County. All items must be new. Requested supplies this year: Backpacks (approx 19"), Composition or spiral notebook, 1-inch three ring binder, Lined filler paper for binders, 2-pocket folders, Pens (Blue or Black ink), Colored pencils, Pencil pouches or boxes, Pencils, Scissors, Markers, Erasers, Ruler, Index cards, Highlighters, Glue Sticks, Crayons (24-color box). You can also pick up a shopping list at the Welcome Desk or online at stpaulsk.org/service/justice-and-compassion. Donation bins will be available in the Narthex, August 10-17. Financial contributions to help us order additional supplies can be made using the Miscellaneous giving option at stpaulsk.org/giving with “Backpacks” as the designated cause, or by check made out to St. Paul’s UMC with “backpacks” in the memo line.
- **Today: Sign Up Deadline for SPY Hershey Park Trip** – *Sunday, August 3 (sign up); Hershey Trip on August 10.* St. Paul’s Youth (rising-6th through rising-12th grade) – and a friend! – are invited to the SPY Summer Series. Anyone interested in the day trip to Hershey Park must sign up by August 3 so organizers can get tickets, t-shirts, info, and carpool arrangements. Please find both the special Hershey sign-up and the permission form at stpaulsk.org/community/youth. Our grant from the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the UMC will cover the ticket cost for Hershey Park admission, including rides from the carousel to the roller coasters! Participants will need to bring money for all meals in the park and any souvenirs or games. We never want a youth to miss out on an activity for financial reasons, so please contact Pastor Joey (joeyhm@stpaulsk.org) for a confidential “campership” discussion if cost is a concern. Questions about the Hershey Park day trip should be directed to the trip’s volunteer organizer Megan Montgomery (megan.w.montgomery@gmail.com).
- **Today: Retirement News and Love Offering** – Dr. Meg Baker has retired from her role as St. Paul’s Minister of Spiritual Care and Formation as of August 1, 2025. Questions about ministry areas around prayer, congregational care, and Christian Education may be directed to Pastor Sheridan or Pastor Joey. As is our tradition, those who feel led to give a financial gift to Meg in celebration of her work here and her retirement, may make a donation to her Love Offering. Please find a secure donation option at stpaulsk.org/giving or, if you prefer cash or check, mark your contribution with “Love Offering” and place it in the Sunday offering plate or mail it to St. Paul’s

UMC, Attn: Tracey Furman, 10401 Armory Ave., Kensington MD 20895. All gifts received by August 31 will be combined and presented to Meg.

- **Next Week: Still Wednesday** – *Wednesday, Aug. 13, 7:00-8:00 PM*. All are welcome to come, light a candle in the Sanctuary, and engage in guided contemplative prayer practice. The exact format varies depending on the leader, but most Still Wednesday gatherings include 20 minutes of silent prayer.
- **This Month: Summer Movie Series** – We are excited to offer this series of thought-provoking films with time for discussion – and popcorn! Here is the schedule:
 - **August 17** – *Elemental*. In this Disney/Pixar film, fire element Ember and water element Wade begin an unlikely relationship that challenges their assumptions about identity, family, and obligations.
 - **Date TBD** – *Will and Harper*. When comic Will Ferrell finds out his close friend of 30 years is coming out as a trans woman, the two decide to create a record of their cross-country road trip processing this new stage of life and friendship.
- **This Month: Bible & Brews** – *Sunday, Aug. 17, 5:00-6:00 PM*. Enjoy this time of interfaith conversation with Pastor Joey, Rabbi Adam, and friends from Temple Emanuel. Monthly meetings are family-friendly and take place at a local Kensington watering hole where you may purchase food or beverages as you so choose. Summer meetings are at: BabyCat Brewery, 10241 Kensington Pkwy, Kensington MD. Contact Pastor Joey (joeyhm@stpaulsk.org) with questions.
- **Sanctuary Flower Sponsors** – To sponsor the flowers that grace the Sanctuary on Sunday morning, please add your name to the Flower Chart on the office bulletin board to reserve a date, then fill out a yellow form with the dedication information to appear in the bulletin. Flowers may be dedicated in honor or memory of a loved one, or in celebration. The cost is \$45 and you may choose to take your flowers home after worship. There are many dates open from now through the end of the year, including August 17, 24, and 31.
- **Summer Break!** – Most St. Paul's groups modify their schedules or take a break during the summer season. Currently on Summer Break:
 - *Yarn Ministry*
 - *Joyful Ringers Bells*
 - *Taste & Sing*
 - *Pancake Breakfast*
 - *Lydia Circle Sisters*
 - *Sanctuary Choir*
 - *Children's Choir*
 - *Sermon Safari Zoom Bible Study*
- **Regular Activities** – Please contact group leaders for details!
 - **Prayerwaves** – *Wednesdays, 10:00-10:30 AM*. To pray together by phone, dial 425-436-6326 a few minutes before 10:00 AM, then enter access code 774042 followed by the # sign. To receive the prayer list by email, please contact Erin Steele in the church office at stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org.

- **Sipping Ministry** – This fellowship time with beverages and snacks is held after worship whenever a group, family, or individual wishes to host. Sign up on the office bulletin board and take a “how to” instruction sheet.
- **Stephen Ministers** – Please contact Martha Lipscomb (301-518-1642) to be connected to a Stephen Minister for confidential care and a listening ear.
- **Summer Crafting and Fall Craft Fair** – Long summer days are perfect for crafting at home. The Yarn Ministry will gratefully receive donations of craft items for our Craft Fair in the fall, with all proceeds going to charities.
- **Hunger Ministry** – St. Paul’s signature year-round ministry provides groceries for about 150 households facing food insecurity in the 20895 ZIP code. Please find the list of all the most-needed items at stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry and learn more about this important way we serve the local community. This summer, we especially request donations of cold cereal and protein sources (canned chicken, canned fish, peanut butter). Non-perishables pantry staples may be donated in the bins in the Narthex any time. Please remember that we can’t distribute food past its “best by / sell by” date, and we don’t take glass (it breaks!) or containers that are dirty or damaged. Financial donations marked for “Hunger Ministry” help us place bulk orders to make up the gap between what’s donated and what’s needed, plus we provide recipients with modest grocery store gift cards to enable them to buy dairy, meat, hygiene products, produce, or frozen foods we can’t stock. Thank you for helping us serve beyond the walls of St. Paul’s!



SOURCES AND LICENSING

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

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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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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: John & Biljana Regan; John Stephens

Children's Choir Director: Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Anne Dean

Usher Coordinator: Nathan Bazawada

Lay Reader: Libby Dean



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.



Visitor Information

Thank you for joining us today! You are invited to tear out this section and leave this form with the offerings to let us know a little about yourself, or how we might be in touch. You may also email the office (stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org) or staff to say hello!

Name(s):

Email:

Phone:

Home Address:

How did you find us? (circle all that apply)

Family/friend. Passing by. Internet search. Other:

Are you interested in learning more about St. Paul's? (circle all that apply)

No, just visiting. Maybe; I have questions. Please tell me about joining St. Paul's.



St. Paul's

United Methodist Church

Journeying Together Since 1885