



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

MAY 3, 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 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

Ministry Moment

Prelude (10:30 AM)

Kum Ba Yah (Come By Here)

Adolphus Hailstork

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: Easter people, in the midst of our questions and doubts, Jesus answers:

People: I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Leader: In the midst of our worry and distress, Jesus assures us:

People: I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Leader: In the midst of misinformation, confusion, and distrust, Jesus reminds us:

People: I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Leader: In the midst of dead ends and impossible challenges, Jesus shows us:

People: I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Leader: Come, let us worship as we learn to follow Christ, our way, our truth,
and our life.

People: Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

Faithful God, you are our refuge and our strength, a mighty fortress in a world of chaos and turmoil. Protect us, but also encourage us to be brave. Strengthen us to face this world and make it a better place. Inspire our worship, that in this time we may deepen our faith and place our trust in you. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Children's Moment

Vacation Bible School

Proclamation of the Word

Acts 7:55-60 (NRSVUE)

The Stoning of Stephen

Lay Reader

Pew Bible – New Testament page 126

⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #430

O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee

Sermon

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 only)

Greater Love Hath No Man

John Ireland

Sanctuary Choir

Mollie Weikert, soprano

Noah Beye, baritone

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.

Love is strong as death. Many waters cannot quench love.

Greater love hath no man than this,

That a man lay down his life for his friends.

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,

That we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.

Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified,

In the name of the Lord Jesus.

Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,

That ye should shew forth the praises of him

Who hath call'd you out of darkness, into his marvelous light.

I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God,

That you present your bodies, a living sacrifice,

Holy, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

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 #711

For All the Saints

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Postlude (10:30 AM)

Soon I Will Be Done

Calvin Taylor



NEW BABY FLOWERS

Special flowers are given today to celebrate the births of

Ruth Emery Higgins,

daughter of Kelcie Mack & Tim Higgins and granddaughter of Marge & Rich Higgins
and

Jolene Michelle DaSilva

daughter of Patrick & Katie DaSilva and granddaughter of Rebecca DaSilva.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, May 10, 2026

9:00 AM – Worship with Communion

10:30 AM – Worship with 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.



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.

Weekday Hours – The office is typically open for drop-in visits and phone calls Monday-Thursday, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We encourage appointments since staff hours vary! 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.

Sunday School News – *May 3*. All children will be worship today, the first Sunday of the month. There are no Sunday School classes meeting this day. Nursery care is available for children pre-K and younger. Busy bags with quiet children’s activities are available at the Welcome Desk near the front doors. Restless friends of all ages are invited to take a break in the Octagon room immediately across from the Sanctuary, or enjoy the Library down the hall near the restrooms.

Events, Activities, and Information

- **Last Call! Jim Smith Educational Awards** – *due May 4*. High School seniors, applications are due Monday, May 4! The link to the online form and all the details are at stpaulsk.org/community/youth. Congregation, there’s still time to support the Jim Smith Educational Award Fund! Thank you for your contributions. Your donations help us encourage graduating seniors as they take the next step in their educational journey. We’re also seeking a few volunteers to help thoughtfully review application and witness our young people’s hopes and plans. Your gifts make a real difference in the lives of our young people. And thank you to those offering their time to review applications. It’s a true church-wide effort to lift up the next generation. Contact Anne Dean (annepdean@gmail.com).
- **Girl Scout Donation Drive** – *now-May 13*. Girl Scout Troop 34168 is collecting gently used stuffed animals and new, unused school supplies. You can visit one of our drop-off stations today, Sunday May 3, with a bake sale & lemonade stand 1:30 PM-3:30 PM at Nolte Park, 200 Denver Rd, Silver Spring MD 20910, and also at the corner of Guilford St. and Brunette Ave, Silver Spring 20901. There is also a drop-off box in the Narthex at St. Paul’s for donations on Sundays or during office hours now through May 13. For questions, talk to Lisa Babb or email Ashley.ann.briefel@gmail.com.
- **VBS Registration** – *now open!* St. Paul’s is partnering with our friends at Bethesda UMC again this year for Vacation Bible School, a fun mini-camp for kids in pre-K through rising-5th grade. All activities will take place at Bethesda UMC (8300 Old Georgetown Rd, Bethesda MD 21704), June 22-26, 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon. Visit <https://vbspro.events/pl/events/6ca1be> to register. We never want a young person to miss

out on a camp experience because of financial worries. Members and friends of St. Paul's interested in camperships and financial aid should contact Rev. Joey Heath-Mason (joeyhm@stpaulsk.org) for a confidential discussion.

- **Musical Theatre Camp 2026 Registration Open** – *now open!* Musical Theatre Camp runs July 13-17, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM at St. Paul's UMC. Kids in rising-4th through rising-8th grades should register now! Campers learn an entire musical in just five days, and present it at the end of the week. This year's presentation will be "A Technicolor Promise," a musical re-telling of the story of Noah and the Ark. All registered campers will be in the presentation! Auditions for specific roles are usually held in June. Registration is open to the first 18 campers! This is an annual highlight for many families throughout the Kensington area! Visit stpaulsk.org/community/musical-theatre-camp for the registration form and payment options. Questions? Contact camp director Mrs. Robin Mayhew (robin_mayhew@comcast.net).
- **Today: SPY** – *Sunday, May 3, 7:00-8:30 PM.* All friends of St. Paul's in grades 6-12 are welcome to meet in the Multi-Purpose Room for St. Paul's Youth fellowship, fun activities, Bible study, and food! Contact Pastor Sheridan at sallmond@stpaulsk.org with questions. Go to stpaulsk.org/community/youth for the meeting schedule for the rest of the year!
- **This Month: Bible & Brews** – *Saturday, May 16, 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 May we will be at BabyCat Brewery (10241 Kensington Pkwy). Contact Pastor Joey at joeyhm@stpaulsk.org with any questions.
- **This Month: Taste & Sing** – *Tuesday, May 19, 12:00-1:30 PM.* This will be the last Taste & Sing of the season before we take a summer break! Come to the Octagon for a casual hymn sing (feel free to request your favorites!), stay for a short program about the stories behind our worship songs, then enjoy fellowship over a tasty lunch prepared by Ginny Hagberg (\$5 donation).
- **This Month: SPY Spaghetti Lunch** – *Sunday, May 31, serving 11:30-12:45.* Plan to come to the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, May 31 for a spaghetti lunch fundraiser to benefit St. Paul's Youth activities. (Yes, you can take your plate downstairs to eat and watch *The Librarians* documentary!) We will serve spaghetti with vegetarian sauce or sauce with meatballs, salad, garlic bread, dessert, tea, coffee and lemonade. The cost is \$10 per person. Please buy tickets in advance using the button at stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events. Can you do something sweet to help us even more? If you would like to support the Spaghetti Lunch by donating a dessert, please contact Megan Montgomery at megan.w.montgomery@gmail.com.

- **This Month: *The Librarians* Film Screening & Book Drive** – *Sunday, May 31, 12:00 noon*. Come to the Octagon following worship for a special screening of the award-winning documentary “The Librarians.” This film explores the critical role librarians play in protecting access to information and intellectual freedom in their communities. (Yes, you can pick up a spaghetti lunch plate upstairs and eat while you watch!) This screening will coincide with a book drive collecting gently used books to benefit Friends of the Library, Montgomery County. Please place books on the collection table in the Narthex. Contact Rachel Stalcup with questions: rachelstalcup@gmail.com.
- **Get to Know Your Leadership Team** – Get to know the people serving on St. Paul’s church leadership team. We are a dedicated group guiding decisions, supporting ministries, and keeping us aligned with our mission. Do you have questions about what we do? Please reach out to one of the pastors, chairperson Bill Stephens, or email lay leader Anne Dean at annepdean@gmail.com.
- **Hunger Ministry Donations** – Our Hunger Ministry currently feeds 170 households every month. We gratefully receive all kinds of nonperishable pantry staples. For this month, we are asking for help with donations of cooking oil (canola oil, vegetable oil, etc.) in plastic bottles. A list of the other items we need every month can be found by the donation bin in the Narthex or online at stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry. We are thankful that our congregation provides generously so we can serve anyone in our ZIP code facing food insecurity. For volunteer opportunities, email hunger@stpaulsk.org to find out more.
- **Sanctuary Flower Sponsors Welcome** – The flower chart for 2026 is available in the church office! The flower cost is \$45 and you may dedicate them for memory, honor, or celebration, and take the flowers home following the 10:30 worship service if you wish. Please add your name to the chart to reserve a date, then fill out a yellow form with dedication information.
- **Ongoing Activities** – *Please contact group leaders directly to confirm meeting times!*
 - **Sanctuary Choir** – *Most Sundays*. Open to grade 7 and up and adult singers. We rehearse each week at 9:30 AM on Sundays in Room 211 and sing for the 10:30 service. Contact Tom Pedersen (tpedersen@stpaulsk.org).
 - **Children’s Choir** – *Most Sundays, 11:45-12:30*. Children in grades K-6 will meet in the MPR to prepare music to share in worship. Email Ms. Christina Griffin, director, at childrenschoir@stpaulsk.org, for up to date schedules and info.
 - **Yarn Ministry** – *Mondays twice a month, 7:00-8:30 PM*. Bring your knitting, crochet, or other craft project and craft alongside friends in the church library. Contact Karen Codner for meeting info: KDC811@gmail.com.
 - **Joyful Ringers** – *Wednesdays, 7:00 PM*. A handbell choir for adults that offers fun and fellowship! Contact Tom Pedersen: tpedersen@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.
- **Sermon Safari** – *Wednesdays, 4:00-5:00 PM*. In this drop-in Zoom study, we watch a video of a sermon by a notable speaker, and then discuss it. Contact Dr. Meg Baker at megbaker@verizon.net for the Zoom link.
- **Still Wednesday** – *Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM*. Still Wednesday gathers in either the Sanctuary or the Octagon for a guided time of poetry, scripture, music, and about 20 minutes of silent prayer. Text/call Marty Bartley at 301-873-6630.
- **Lydia Circle Sisters** – *Wednesdays once a month, 2:30-4:00 PM*. All ladies are welcome at Lydia Circle gatherings, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. Contact Susan Schwarz at 301-339-8242 or susan10748@aol.com.
- **Bible & Brews** – *Saturday or Sunday, once a month*. Join us at a local restaurant for family-friendly interfaith conversations with Rabbi Adam and neighbors from Temple Emanuel. Full schedule at stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events or contact Pastor Joey: joeym@stpaulsk.org.
- **Pancake Breakfast** – *First Saturday each month*. Meet friends and neighbors and enjoy pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, grits, fruit, beverages, and a specialty treat, served 8:00-10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. \$20 for a family of four.
- **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, 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 section.



SOURCES AND LICENSING

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

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Call to Worship: Dr. Lisa Hancock, *Discipleship Ministries*, October 2025.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship>

Hymn: *The Church's One Foundation*. Words: Samuel J. Stone (1866). Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1864). Public domain.

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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 Kirchengesange* (1623), harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906). Adapt. copyright 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House.

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Postlude: *Soon I Will Be Done*; by Calvin Taylor, from *Five Spirituals for Organ*, copyright 1998 Calvin Taylor Publishing.





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 & Biljana Regan

Children's Choir Director: Ms. Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Mrs. Anne Dean

Usher Coordinator: Mr. Nathan Bazawada

Lay Readers: Beth Pierce (9:00 AM), Emma Kate Maloney (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