



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

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

OCTOBER 4, 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 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. Sheridan Allmond

Prelude (10:30 AM only)

Prelude on Bread of Heaven

Simon Lole

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: We have come again to the waters of grace.

People: We remember who we are and whose we are.

Leader: In baptism, God claims us not only for the Church, but for the sake of the world.

People: We are called to be Christ's representatives wherever we go.

Leader: Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's love.

People: We will stand in truth, walk in peace, and live by faith.

Leader: The water that welcomes us also sends us.

People: From font to table, from sanctuary to street, we belong to Christ.

Leader: Come, receive again the grace that roots you.

People: Then send us, O God, to love boldly in your world.

*Hymn #548

In Christ There Is No East or West

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

Faithful God, you have called us by name and claimed us in the waters of baptism. As we gather in your presence, remind us who we are: your beloved people, members of Christ's body, and participants in your work of grace. Quiet the distractions that compete for our attention. Open our hearts to your Word. Strengthen us in faith. Ground us again in truth, peace, and love. As we worship, form us more fully into the likeness of Christ, so that our lives may reflect the grace we have received. Root us deeply in your love, renew us by your Spirit, and prepare us to hear again what it means to belong to Christ and to live as his people in the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Music (10:30 AM only)

Sapagkat Ang Diyos Ay Pag-ibig
(Because God Is Love)
Jon Melegrito

Erik Santos

Lyrics in Tagalog

*Pag-ibig ang siyang pumukaw
Sa ating puso at kaluluwa
At siyang nagdulot sa ating buhay
Liwanag sa dilim at pag-asa
Pag-ibig ang siyang buklod natin
'Di mapapawi kailan pa man
Sa puso't diwa, tayo'y isa lamang
Kahit na tayo'y magkarwalay*

*'Pagka't ang Diyos natin, Diyos ng pag-ibig
Magamahalan tayo't magtulungan
At kung tayo'y bigo, ay 'wag limutin
Na may Diyos tayong nagmamahal*

*Sikapin sa ating pagtulong
Ipamalita sa buong mundo
Pag-ibig ng Diyos na siyang sumakop
Sa bawat pusong uhaw sa pagsuyo*

English Translation

*It is love that awakens our heart and soul
And gives our life hope and a golden rule
It is love that binds us
And forever will endure.
We are one in heart and spirit
Even if we're apart.*

*Because our God is a God of love
We ought to love and help each other.
When we despair, never forget
That we have a God who loves us.*

*Let us strive in our journey
To spread throughout the world that
It is the love of Christ that wins over
All those who hunger for love.*

Proclamation of the Word

Ephesians 6:10-20 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

Pew Bible, New Testament p. 195

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power; ¹¹put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, ¹²for our struggle is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on the evil day and, having prevailed against everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand, therefore, and belt your waist with truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness ¹⁵and lace up your sandals in preparation for the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #568

Christ for the World We Sing

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 work engaging in meaningful worship and vibrant ministry in our community.



Offertory (10:30 AM only)

Draw Near

Jonathan Willcocks

Sanctuary Choir with Christina Griffin, soprano

Draw near, draw near, draw near and share the body of the Lord.

Draw near and drink the blood of the Lord, that we may share His eternal love.

Draw near, draw near, and be blessed by Jesus from above.

Draw near, draw near and share the body of the Lord.

Draw near and eat the body of the Lord, that we may share in His eternal love.

Draw near, draw near to his glory, and then we shall be blessed by Jesus from above.

Draw near, draw near and share the body of the Lord.

*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.

Music (10:30 AM only)

O Lamb of God

Richard Shephard

Sanctuary Choir

*O Lamb of God, who gave thyself for me,
Now in my heart, I give myself to thee.*

*Forgive us, Lord, and grant with prayers and praise,
That we may come to love you all our days.*

*Teach us to know and keep your ways, O Lord,
That we would hold thy wondrous name adored.*

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 #438

Forth in Thy Name, O Lord

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Postlude (10:30 AM only)

Postlude on McKEE

Robert W. Jones



Following the 10:30 worship service, all are invited for fellowship time in the Octagon. This week's Sipping Ministry is hosted by the family of Mrs. Deane K. Hill, in celebration of her 90th birthday on October 14.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given today by
Carlos & Jennifer, Kristina, and Carlos Falcón
in memory of **Janet Braddock**, loving mother and grandmother.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, October 11, 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.



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, October 4.* All children in grades K-5 will be in worship with their families on the first Sunday of the month. 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

- **Update: Apple Sale Canceled** – With great regret, we share the news that the Apple Sale will not take place this fall. Scenic View Orchards, where we have been getting our apples for many years, was severely hit by the late April frost that killed their apple tree blossoms. Our apple sale organizers contacted several other orchards to determine if they could provide what we would need to have the sale, but none were able to help us. We invite you to pray for the farmers and farm workers whose livelihoods are impacted by this event. We hope to have better news next year!
- **New! All Saints Sunday** – On Sunday, November 1 we celebrate All Saints Day. We will especially remember those who have joined the saints in heaven during this past year. If you wish to share the name of a family member who died since last November, please use the paper slips in the Narthex, use the online form available at stpaulsk.org/worship/memorials, or contact Erin Steele in the church office at stpaulsunitied@stpaulsk.org. All information must be submitted by Sunday, October 25 to be included in our special All Saints bulletin.
- **Today: World Communion Sunday Special Offering** – On this day, we take time to remember we are all one, for we all partake of the one body of Christ in communion. This designated Special Sunday offering among UMC congregations supports undergraduate and graduate scholarships through the United Methodist Church worldwide for those called into ministry and service, from a young woman in Maryland going to law school to be a victim's advocate, to a man from an impoverished neighborhood in Monterrey, Mexico who graduated from Perkins theological seminary and founded the Spanish Language Leadership Institute. Their stories and the online donation portal can be found at stpaulsk.org/giving. You can also donate to World Communion Sunday using the envelope in the bulletin or by check made out to St. Paul's UMC with "World Communion Sunday" in the memo line.

- **Today: Children's Choir** – *Sunday, Oct. 4, 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 meet after worship for singing, learning, snacks, and fun on most Sundays 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.
- **Today: 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. We are ready for our first regular meeting of the 2026-2027 year in the Multi-Purpose room! 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.
- **Closing Soon! Accounting & Finance Manager Position** – 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 Month: UMC Council of Bishops News** – The United Methodist Church's Council of Bishops is hosting a leadership gathering in Calgary, Canada, October 20-24, 2026. We are inviting you to pray for and with United Methodists and especially Reconciling United Methodists as the church dreams about the future of the church and our denomination. Bishop Tracy S. Malone, immediate past president of the Council of Bishops, writes: "This gathering is about faithful leadership for such a time as this. We are being called to reimagine the Church -- not to preserve what is familiar but to fulfill God's calling and vision for our future. We will lean into the Spirit's leading with boldness and humility, centering Christ in all we do, so that the witness of The United Methodist Church might be renewed, relevant, and rooted in justice, love, and hope."
- **This 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.
- **This Month: Taste & Sing** – *Tuesday, Oct. 20, 12:00-1:30 PM*. Enjoy this casual time of song, food, and fellowship in the Octagon on the third Tuesday of the month. We start with a hymn-sing – feel free to request your favorites from the UM Hymnal! Director

of Music Tom Pedersen will be at the piano, and Erin Steele will lead a short program on 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 prepared by Ginny Hagberg (\$5 donation).

- **This Month: Bible & Brews** – *Saturday, Oct. 24, 5:00-6:00 PM*. 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, and held at a local restaurant where you can order beverages or food as you like. October's gathering will be at BabyCat Brewery (10241 Kensington Parkway). Contact Pastor Joey at joeyhm@stpaulsk.org with any questions! Find the rest of the 2026 meeting schedule at stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events.
- **This Month: Kensington Coffeehouse** – *Saturday, Oct. 24, 7:00-10:00 PM*. Please join us for the newest Kensington Coffeehouse, held in the Fellowship Hall at St. Paul's. Time in the Wilderness, an instrumental jazz, funk, and world-fusion quintet, will take the stage along with singer-songwriters Cletus Kennelly, David Scott Weaver, and Hassan El-Tayyab from the band American Nomad. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased online at kensingtoncoffeehouse.org or at the door. Coffee and baked goods from JennyCakes also will be available for purchase. Proceeds will benefit St. Paul's Hunger Ministry!
- **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 is a come-when-you-can, drop-in Zoom study where participants 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. 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.
 - **Joyful Ringers** – *Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM*. Our handbell ensemble will meet in Room 109 for weekly rehearsals, with plans to play in worship about once a month. Contact Tom Pedersen (tpedersen@stpaulsk.org) to join us!
 - **Pancake Breakfast** – *First Saturday of the month*. 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! Contact: Phil Rush (phil_rush@hotmail.com).
- **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 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.
 - **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** – 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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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: Deanna Hodgson (9:00 AM); Lorraine Stalcup (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.

