



St. Paul's

United Methodist Church

Journeying Together Since 1885

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:30 AM

JULY 5, 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

Fanfare for the Common Man

Aaron Copland/Mills

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: Come, all who are weary, all who carry burdens too heavy to name.

People: We come seeking the One who offers rest for our souls.

Leader: Jesus calls to us in the midst of confusion and noise, inviting us into wisdom that the world cannot see.

People: We come to learn from Christ, whose gentleness steadies us and whose humility guides us.

Leader: The Spirit gathers us, not with judgment, but with compassion; not with demands, but with grace.

People: We come to worship the God who reveals truth to the humble and gives rest to the tired.

ALL: We come to follow Christ, who says, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #696

America the Beautiful

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

God of all Life, you take what feels complicated and make it simple. You take what seems simple and show us the complex.

You remind us that we are more than we think we are, more than we believe we can be, and all that you have made us and called us to become.

Come God, and lead us forward with joy and gladness. Come God, and help us see past the expectations and assumptions into the world you long for us to create with mercy and space, justice and grace for us all. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Proclamation of the Word

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

Pew Bible, New Testament p. 11-12

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

Children's Moment

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

*Hymn #451

Be Thou My Vision

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

Prelude on Be Thou My Vision

Emma Lou Diemer

*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 #698

God of the Ages

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Postlude

The Stars and Stripes Forever

John Philip Sousa/Mills



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers are given today by Betsey Katiti in loving memory of **Kwame Katiti**.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, July 12, 2026

10:30 AM – Summer Worship (*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 – Drop-in visits and phone calls: Tuesday-Thursday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Staff and building access are available outside these times by appointment! If you have an emergency after hours, please call 410-205-5568 and leave a message for Pastor Sheridan.

Children's Programming – *July 5*. All children in grades K-5 will worship in the Sanctuary with their families. 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 the Library.

Events, Activities, and Information

- **Last Chance! "Echoes of Freedom" Art Exhibit** – *now-July 7*. We are hosting a special art exhibit in the Octagon, in collaboration with the Kensington Juneteenth celebrations, featuring works by several area artists. The exhibit is open through July 7. Please visit Sunday 12:00-2:00 PM or Tuesday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM & 5:00-7:00 PM
- **New! Musical Theatre Camp presents "A Technicolor Promise"** – *Friday, July 17, 2:30-3:00 PM*. Get out of the heat next Friday and be dazzled by a group of talented young actors as they present "A Technicolor Promise," with music by Allen Pote and words by Carole McCann. This free, family- friendly 30 minute presentation of the Noah's Ark story features a cast of two dozen vocalists, including nine of St. Paul's

own: Libby Dean, Sheridan Enright, Emma Kate (EK) Maloney, Nathan Roberts, Willa Roberts, Lucille Scott, Vivienne Scott, Pearl Sparker, and Jackson Weaver. Join us in the Sanctuary for beautiful music, dancing animals, and heart-stopping solos.

- **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. Thanks to you, St. Paul's provides food for about 170 households in the 20895 ZIP code each month!
- **This Week: Community Blood Drive** – *Thursday, July 9*. Help alleviate summer blood shortages by donating at the Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, July 9 at Trinity Lutheran Church (11200 Old Georgetown Road). Sign up at www.redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor ID: "TrinityLutheranNBethesda" or call 1-800-733-2767.
- **Next Week: Still Wednesday Summer** – *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 Week: 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! For July we will be at BabyCat Brewery (10241 Kensington Pkwy) – you can purchase food or beverages as you like. We also plan to meet August 15. Contact Pastor Joey at joeyhm@stpaulsk.org
- **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** – 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.
- **St. Paul’s Leadership** – St. Paul’s leaders will be meeting on the fourth Monday of the month to attend to the mission, ministry, and wellbeing of the church. For more info, contact Chairperson Bill Stephens (wtstephens@verizon.net) or 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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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. Marge Higgins



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.

