



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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:30 AM

SEPTEMBER 6, 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. Sheridan Allmond

Prelude

Meditation on Let Us Break Bread

Chelsea Chen

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: We come to the waters of grace, where God meets us as we are.

People: We come telling the truth about ourselves and trusting the mercy of God.

Leader: In baptism, we are called to turn from sin and from all that separates us from God and neighbor.

People: By grace, God calls us out of brokenness and into new life.

Leader: May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith.

People: May we be rooted and grounded in love.

Leader: Come, remember the grace that claimed you. Come, receive again the love that transforms you.

People: We worship the God whose bold love makes all things new.

*Hymn #384

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

God of living water and transforming grace, you know us completely and love us still. At the waters of baptism, you call us to turn away from sin and toward the life you desire for us.

Give us courage today to tell the truth; about the brokenness within us, about the wounds within our communities, and about our need for your grace. Wash away our fear of being changed. Root us deeply in the love of Christ, that we may know how wide and long and high and deep your love is, and learn to love boldly.

In the name of Jesus Christ, who makes us new. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Proclamation of the Word

Ephesians 3:14–21 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

Pew Bible, New Testament p. 193

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #121

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Sermon

“Tell the whole truth, part 1”

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

Nocturne from *Shylock*, Op.57

Gabriel Fauré/Fox

*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 #355

Depth of Mercy

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason



ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are given today with love by

Carlos, Jennifer, Kristina, and Carlos Falcón

in honor of **Mr. Shannon Braddock's** 88th birthday,

and by the **Neidecker Family**

to commemorate the Sept. 6, 1958 wedding of **Bob and the late Elaine Neidecker.**

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, September 13, 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.



Holiday & Office Hours – *St. Paul's is closed on Monday, Sept. 7 in observance of Labor Day.* The office re-opens Sept. 8 on our regular schedule for drop-in visits and phone calls: Mon.-Thurs., 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Appointments encouraged! If you have an emergency after hours, please call 410-205-5568 and leave a message for Pastor Sheridan.

Children and Nursery News – *Sunday, Sept. 6.* 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.

Events, Activities, and Information

- **New! RSVP for SPY Trip to HersheyPark** – *RSVP by Tuesday, Sept. 8.* 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 by Sept. 8

for more details if you want to go! All participants must fill out the registration & permissions form available at stpaulsk.org/community/youth. The next SPY activity will be a special Baltimore-Washington Conference IGNITE Campfire at West River Center, Sept. 27. Regular meetings start Oct. 4, 7:00-8:30 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room at St. Paul's; parents and caregivers should attend this day for the info session!

- **New! Especially for Sunday School Teachers & Those Interested in Teaching** – *Sunday, Sept. 13*. We will hold brief information sessions at 9:30 AM and 12:00 noon in room 109 to introduce the Sunday School leader materials. These sessions are designed to help teachers and leaders become more familiar with the resources we use, and feel more comfortable and confident teaching Sunday School. Current teachers - and anyone interested in learning more about teaching - are encouraged to join us! Questions? Contact Pastor Joey at joeyhm@stpaulsk.org.
- **This Week: 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 Week: Sunday School Begins & 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; if you feel called to lead Sunday School, contact Pastor Joey (joeyhm@stpaulsk.org). As is our tradition, we will also present our Third Grade students with their own Bibles.
- **Next Week: Taste & Sing** – *Tuesday, Sept. 15, 12:00-1:30 PM*. There's no musical experience necessary to enjoy this casual time of song, fellowship, and food. With Tom Pedersen at the keyboard, we start with a hymn-sing – feel free to request your favorites from the UM Hymnal! Then we have a short program from Erin Steele, Ph.D., 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).
- **Next Week: 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.
- **Coming Up: 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).

- **This Month: 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 Sept 14 and 28, October 12 and 26, Nov 9 and 23, Dec 14. Contact Karen Codner (kdc811@gmail.com) with questions.
- **Next Month: United Methodist Men** – *Wednesday, Sept. 16, 6:30-8:30 PM*. All men of the church and their sons are invited to this UMM supper and general meeting! 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.
- **This Month: Music Ministries** – Our music ministries are looking forward to welcoming back 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 9:30 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 us, reach out to the pastors, Bill Stephens (wtstephens@verizon.net), or Anne Deane (annepdean@gmail.com).
- **Food Drive** – 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.
 - **Pancake Breakfast** – First Saturday of each month, Sept.-June, 8:00-10:00 AM. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us in the Fellowship Hall for the

community breakfast, with pancakes, sides, and beverages. Please make a donation at the door! Contact Phil Rush (phil_rush@hotmail.com).

- **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! Due to the holiday schedule, we are skipping September – please look for our return in October! For the rest of the 2026 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 after worship, 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.

* = *Streamed by permission under CCLI license #24106074. All rights reserved.*

** = *Permission to stream this music obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #735990-A.*

** Prelude: *Meditation on Let Us Break Bread*; by Chelsea Chen, from *Oxford Hymn Settings, Vol 7*, copyright 2020 Oxford University Ppess. All rights reserved.

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer: Prepared by Joey Heath-Mason with assistance from Ministry Assistant, 2026.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling. Words: Charles Wesley (1747). Music: John Zundel (1870). Public domain.

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.

* *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*. Words: Frederick W. Faber (1854), public domain. Music: Lizzie S. Tourjee (1877), arr. Charles H. Webb (1988), copyright 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.).

Offertory: *Nocturne from Shylock, Op.57*; Gabriel Fauré/Fox, copyright 1980 Asilomar Music (Warner Bros Publications, Inc).

** 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.

Depth of Mercy. Words: Charles Wesley (1740). Music: Adapt. from Orlando Gibbons (1623). Public domain.

Postlude: *Fugue in G (Gigue)*, BWV 577 by J. S. Bach. 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, 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: Dr. Meg Baker



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 Invitation

Thank you for joining us today! You are invited to tear out this section and leave this form at the office or in the offering plate to let us know a little about yourself, or how we might be in touch. You may also share information in the attendance register pad found in each pew, or email the office (stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org) or any of the 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