St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Journeying Together Since 1885

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM — NOVEMBER 8, 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 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 — *Oración matutina (Morning Prayer)* (10:30 only) — Eduardo Torres

*Call to Worship — Lay Reader

Leader: God of love, we come with our hearts lit to meet you.
All: We rejoice at your love and faithfulness.
Leader: Loving Christ, we come to be part of your celebration.
All: We want to be part of your community of joy.
Leader: Holy Spirit, we want to reflect the radiance of your love.
All: May the light of your joy and love shine in us, in all we do.

*Hymn #451 — *Be Thou My Vision*

Opening Prayer — Lay Reader

Eternal God, we are like bridesmaids waiting for the groom to appear. Give us oil in our lamps, that we may be ready. Give us hope in our hearts, that we may be awake. Give us your Word, so that we might bear your love into the world, in the name and the spirit of Christ. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer — Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

The Lord's Prayer (10:30 only) 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.

Proclamation of the Word

Matthew 25:1-13 (NRSVUE) Lay Reader
Pew Bible – New Testament page 28

[1]"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2]Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3]When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4]but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5]As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6]But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7]Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8]The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9]But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10]And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11]Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12]But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13]Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #454 *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

Sermon — Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Invitation to Discipleship and 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 (10:30 only) — *Keep Your Lamps* — John Leavitt

Sanctuary Choir
Scott Weikert, bass

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh. (repeat)
Children, don't get weary, 'til your work is done.
Children, don't stop praying, 'til your work is done.
Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh. (repeat)

*Doxology #94 — LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication — Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

The Great Thanksgiving and Communion (9:00 AM only)

The Invitation, Confession & Pardon (9:00 AM only) — *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 (9:00 AM only)

The Great Thanksgiving (9:00 AM only) — *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 (9:00 AM only) *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 (9:00 AM only)
All communion bread is gluten-free.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (9:00 AM only)

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 #395 *Take Time to Be Holy*

*Benediction and Dismissal — Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Postlude (10:30 only) — *March* — Serge Prokofiev/Guillou

Please visit the Octagon following the 10:30 worship service for a Sipping Ministry time of coffee, snacks, and fellowship hosted by the Smith family.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are given today by **Pat & Steve Warren**, in loving memory of brother Homer "Pnut" Burdick.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, November 15, 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, Nov. 8.* All children in grades K-5 are invited to Sunday School at 10:30. Grades K-2 meet in Room 200; grades 3-5 meet in the Parlor. The nursery is available for those 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

- **New! Make Thanksgiving Happier** – Please help make a happy Thanksgiving possible for our neighbors in need by donating towards our special Thanksgiving - Hunger Ministry Holiday Giving project. Our goal is to serve our existing Hunger Ministry recipients and those in the 20895 ZIP code referred to us by Montgomery County's Department of Health & Human Services at the holidays. Your financial support will let us provide about 190 households with a $50 grocery store card. This enables families to select food for their Thanksgiving feast that best reflects their traditions, dietary restrictions, and needs. Please donate any amount by check made out the St. Paul's UMC with "Thanksgiving" in the memo line, or securely online at *stpaulsk.org/giving*. Thank you!
- **New! Advent Bible Study** – *starting November 29.* Join us this Advent for a fresh look at the story of Jesus' birth through a Bible study by acclaimed biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine. Explore familiar scriptures, discover new insights, and prepare your heart for Christmas! We'll start the first week of Advent and meet for four sessions. There are two weekly opportunities: *Sundays, 12:00-1:00 PM* in Room 109 or *Wednesdays, 12:00-1:00 PM* in the Octagon. You may attend either day! A light lunch of soup and bread will be provided. We'll be guided by the book *Light of the World*. Book purchase is optional. Questions? Contact Pastor Joey (joeyhm@stpaulsk.org).
- **Building for Tomorrow** – The generosity of those who came before us helped create the St. Paul's we know today. Now we have the opportunity to help shape what comes next. This week's reflection question: *What do you hope St. Paul's will be for future generations?* Our annual stewardship pledges help us plan for the future while sustaining the ministries that serve our congregation and community today. Please submit your 2027 pledge by mail, drop it off at the church office, or submit it online at *stpaulsk.org/giving*. The deadline is November 20.
- **Today: Bible & Brews** – *Sunday, Nov. 8, 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. This month we will be at Knowles Station Wine & Co. (10414 Detrick Ave, Kensington, MD). Contact Pastor Joey at joeyhm@stpaulsk.org or find more dates at *stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events*.
- **This Week: An Advent Evening of Biblical Storytelling** – *Thursday, Nov. 12, 7:00 PM via Zoom.* Join Meg Baker and friends for an evening of biblical storytelling presenting the birth narrative of Jesus. This online event is brought to you by Voices of the Heart, the Metro-DC Guild of the Network of Biblical Storytellers International (www.nbsint.org). The experience will help us prepare our hearts for the Advent and

Christmas seasons to come. For the Zoom link, please contact Meg Baker at megbaker@verizon.net.

- **Next Week: SPY Events** – St. Paul's Youth is for all friends of St. Paul's in grades 6-12. SPY is not meeting on Nov. 8 but we're back for our regular meeting on *Sunday, Nov. 15, 7:00-8:30 PM* in the MPR with fellowship, faith building, and dinner. Please note, IGNITE – the big Youth Conference in Ocean City MD – has closed earlybird registration but regular registration continues. Contact Megan Montgomery (megan.w.montgomery@gmail.com) ASAP if you're interested! IGNITE takes place January 22-24, 2027, earlier than previous years. Be sure to fill out the registration & permissions form at *stpaulsk.org/community/youth*.
- **Next Week: Taste & Sing** – *Tuesday, Nov. 17, 12:00-1:30 PM.* Enjoy this casual time of song, food, and fellowship in the Octagon on the third Tuesday of the month. After a hymn-sing, we'll take a deeper dive into the history behind a few of our worship songs. No musical experience necessary! The afternoon wraps up with a tasty fellowship lunch prepared by Ginny Hagberg ($5 donation).
- **This Month: Kensington Coffeehouse Last Show of 2026!** – *Saturday, Nov. 21, 7:00-10:00 PM.* Our November show promises a variety of musical delights! Boy Meets Pearl will fire up the evening with an exciting and eclectic mix of sea shanties, circus waltzes, and music-hall sing-a-longs. Juels Bland, a soulful artist from Takoma Park, will be followed by Alicia Deeny, a guitarist who traces her musical roots to Puerto Rico. Wrapping up the evening, Erin Frisby and Selena Benally of the band Ammonite will perform their genre-bending and ethereal harmonies. JennyCakes specialties, along with an array of homemade baked goods and our signature bottomless mug of coffee, will be available for purchase to keep the joy flowing. Tickets are $10 at *kensingtoncoffeehouse.org* or at the door while seats remain.
- **This Month: Thanksgiving Hospitality** – Help welcome friends from across the Kensington area to St. Paul's for the Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 24, with a special sipping ministry following the evening service. We are looking for baked goods and drinks. Contact: Anne Dean, annepdean@gmail.com.
- **This Month: Community Thanksgiving Service** – *Tuesday, Nov. 24, 7:30 PM.* St. Paul's is pleased to be serving as the host congregation this year for the Kensington-Chevy Chase Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Please be part of this special service as community members come together in our Sanctuary to share grateful fellowship and faith through music, prayer, and inspirational texts.
- **Ongoing Activities** – ***Please contact group leaders directly to confirm meeting times!***
    - **Food Drive** – Our neighbors with limited means are feeling the crunch as food prices rise. 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.

- **Sermon Safari** – *Wednesdays through Dec. 20, 4:00-5:00 via Zoom*. St. Paul's weekly virtual Sermon Safari is a 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.
- **Children's Choir** – *Sundays, 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 in the Multi-Purpose Room. Please contact childrenschoir@stpaulsk.org with questions.
- **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, 7:00-8:30 PM.* Our handbell ensemble meets 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!
- **Yarn Ministry** – *Meeting 7:00-8:30 PM on October 26, Nov 9 & 23, Dec 14.* Bring your knitting, needlework, or other projects and craft alongside friends in the Library at St. Paul's twice a month. Contact Karen Codner (kdc811@gmail.com) with questions.
- **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: Steve Garnaas-Holmes, Unfolding Light, *unfoldinglight.net*. Used by permission.

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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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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 Readers: Deanna Hodgson (9:00 AM); Bill Stephens (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

10401 Armory Ave Kensington, MD 20895 | 301 - 933 - 7933 | stpaulsk.org