



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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:30 AM

AUGUST 9, 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

Prelude on How Firm a Foundation

Marvin Mills

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: Eternal God, we cry to you, lost and alone.

People: Faithful yet unseen, you are present.

Leader: Wind and waves beat against us.

People: Jesus, calm and steady, you are there.

Leader: Fear and doubts rise up within us.

People: Spirit of peace, you are herewith us and within us.

ALL: In awe and gratitude, we thank you. We reach out to you. We worship you.

*Hymn #529

How Firm a Foundation

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

Faithful One, as Jesus walked across the stormy sea to the disciples, so you come to us in our troubles. Come to us now, walk across all our fears and doubts, bear to us your presence, and give us your peace. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

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.

Proclamation of the Word

Matthew 14:22–33 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

²²Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #277

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

Sermon

“God Calls”

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

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Calvin Taylor

*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Sending Forth

*Hymn #521

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Postlude

Tuba Tune

C.S. Lang



Please join us in the Octagon following worship for Sipping Ministry fellowship time, and a celebration for Ruby Meyers, who is turning 100 on August 10.

While we are not celebrating Holy Communion as part of the worship service this Sunday, blessed “all in one” communion elements are available in the basket at the chancel rail for those who wish to receive communion today.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers are given today by members of Ruby's Care Team
in honor of **Ruby Meyers** on her 100th birthday.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK
Sunday, August 16, 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. **Sign in!** Please use the attendance pads in the pews to share your name and note your attendance with us today. **Large-print Bibles and Hymnals** are available from our ushers. **T-coil hearing aids** work in our Sanctuary. Read more at stpaulsk.org/worship.

Summer Office Hours – Drop-in visits and phone calls: Tuesday-Thursday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM during the summer. 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 and Nursery News – All children in grades K-5 will worship in the Sanctuary with their families this summer. Nursery care is available today 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

- **Today: Celebrating Ruby's 100th Birthday** – *Sunday, Aug. 9.* Plan to stay for a special sipping ministry to celebrate Ruby Meyers on her 100th birthday. Help shower her with cards! Blank cards are available on the activities table in the Narthex. You can fill one out and drop it in the basket, or mail a card to her directly. Please pick up the Congregational Care list or contact the church office if you need her home address.
- **Today: Backpacks & School Supplies** – *due Aug. 9.* Each year, we partner with Interfaith Works to help students in need across Montgomery County before the start of school. Thank you for donating NEW school supplies! Look for donation bins in the Narthex. Requested items: Backpacks (approx. 15-19"), Composition or spiral-bound notebook, Markers (10-color box), Crayons (24-color box), 2-pocket folders, 1-inch three ring binder, Lined filler paper for binders (college rule or wide rule), Pens (blue

or black ink), Colored pencils, Pencil pouches or boxes, Pencils, Scissors, Erasers, Ruler, Index cards, Highlighters, Glue Sticks.

- **This Week: Bible & Brews** – *Saturday, Aug. 15, 5:00-6:00 PM*. Gather for this monthly interfaith conversation with Pastor Joey, Rabbi Adam, and friends from Temple Emanuel. All our meetings are family friendly! For the summer we are meeting at BabyCat Brewery (10241 Kensington Pkwy, Kensington MD) where you can purchase food or beverages as you like. Questions? Contact Pastor Joey at joeyhm@stpaulsk.org.
- **Next Week: Still Wednesday** – *Wednesday, Aug. 19, 7:00-8:00 PM*. This hour of reflection, togetherness, and silent prayer is a haven in the midst of busy days. Come to the Octagon to light and candle and enjoy this contemplative experience. We are meeting once a month this summer and will return to weekly meetings in September.
- **This Month: Let's Go Volunteer!** – *Sunday, Aug. 23*. On August 23, during the 10:30 worship service, all kids in grades K-5 will be invited to hear local author Zawadi Sakapalla-Ukondwa read her new book, "Let's Go Volunteer," an original story with fun lessons about sharing, learning, and being kind.
- **Confirmation Class Plans** – The pastors will be offering a Confirmation Class this year. Confirmation Class is designed for young people in Grade 6 (age 12) and up, who have not yet become full members of the church and would like to learn more about faith, beliefs, history, the present day United Methodist Church, and what it means to be a member. If someone in your family is a good fit for Confirmation Class, please reach out to Pastor Sheridan at sallmond@stpaulsk.org.
- **Your Church Leaders** – The Church Leadership Team has talked about the unique Spiritual Gifts we each hold. We have shared what it means to serve St. Paul's mission and ministry through leadership. We have told our own stories of why serving feels right for us. Now, we invite you to join us. If God is calling you, reach out to the Pastor Sheridan, Pastor Joey, Leadership Team chair Bill Stephens (wtstephens@verizon.net), Lay Leader Anne Deane (annepdean@gmail.com), or another Leadership Team member. Go to stpaulsk.org/community/meet-the-staff and scroll down to see more!
- **Food Drive** – While we are working on connecting with new food pantry suppliers, we are relying on our individual donors just like we did when we founded the "Hunger Free Zone" more than a decade ago! Please place nonperishables (no glass please) in the Narthex bin by the office door. Find the list of our essential needs at stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry. Financial contributions help us to order food when we're lacking something, and provide a grocery gift card which can be used for fresh or frozen foods or hygiene products. To volunteer, email hunger@stpaulsk.org.
- **Summer Break!** – Many groups adjust their schedules or take a break between Memorial Day and Labor Day, then return refreshed for the Fall! Currently on break:
 - Pancake Breakfast – returning Sept. 5

- Still Wednesday – returning to weekly meetings Sept. 9
- St. Paul’s Youth (SPY) – returning Sept. 12
- Sanctuary Choir – returning Sept. 13
- Yarn Ministry – returning Sept. 14
- Taste & Sing – returning Sept. 15
- United Methodist Men – returning Sept. 16
- Children’s Choir – returning Sept. 27
- Joyful Ringers Bell Ensemble – returning Sept. 30
- Lydia Circle Sisters
- Sunday School
- Sermon Safari
- **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.





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, Mr. John Stephens

Children's Choir Director: Ms. Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Mrs. Anne Dean

Usher Coordinator: Mr. Nathan Bazawada

Lay Reader: Mrs. Deb Harris



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.

