



## The Senior Pastor's Letter

At the beginning of 2025, we looked at a few of God's promises, remembering their centrality to our faith. Prayerfully God's words encouraged you then, helping you on your faith journey. I hope these promises from Genesis 28:15 and Joshua 1:5 are a blessing for you in the month of August.

In Genesis 28:15, we encounter a moment of profound reassurance. God speaks directly to Jacob, saying: "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." These words are not confined to Jacob's journey alone but are a testament to all who walk paths marked by uncertainty, longing, or hope. This promise is more than a pledge of physical safety or a return to a homeland — it is, at its core, the assurance of God's abiding presence and unwavering faithfulness.

Jacob, at the time of receiving this promise, was a man on the run, leaving behind his family and all that was familiar, uncertain of what lay ahead. It is in this vulnerable state that God meets him — not with condemnation or indifference, but with a promise that transcends the circumstances: "I am with you." This phrase, simple yet profound, becomes the foundation for trust. It does not guarantee an absence of hardship or trial; rather, it assures us that even in the midst of difficulty, God's presence abides.

This promise is not isolated to Jacob's narrative. When we turn to Joshua 1:5, we hear God reiterate a similar assurance: "No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you." Here, as Joshua stands on the threshold of a daunting new chapter — leading the people of Israel into the Promised Land — the promise of God's unwavering presence is repeated. Joshua, designated as Moses' successor, faces a monumental task. The weight of leadership, the uncertainty of uncharted territory, and the memory of Moses' greatness loom large. Yet, God's words are not focused on Joshua's abilities or the odds; instead, they root the future in God's steadfastness.

Both passages highlight an essential pattern in the biblical narrative: God's promises are anchored in God's character, not in the circumstances or worthiness of those who receive them. God's faithfulness is not contingent upon human strength, merit, or understanding. Rather, it is rooted in the very nature of who God is: faithful, steadfast, and loving.

Consider the implications of these promises for our own journeys. Life is full of transitions, challenges, and seasons of uncertainty. We may find ourselves in unfamiliar territory, facing daunting decisions or obstacles. The temptation to rely solely on our resources or to be paralyzed by fear and doubt is real.

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## The Senior Pastor's Letter, Continued

Yet, the invitation of scripture is to remember — to hold fast to — the promises made by God to those who have gone before us.

"I am with you." "I will never leave you nor forsake you." These are not cliches or comforting words spoken in passing; they are declarations of a divine commitment that persists throughout our lives. God's presence does not remove adversity, but it transforms the way we engage with it. In times of loneliness, God's companionship grants us courage. In moments of fear, the steadfastness of God becomes our anchor. When confronted with failure or disappointment, the assurance that God's purposes will not be thwarted — "I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised" — breathes hope into weary hearts.


Both Genesis 28:15 and Joshua 1:5 remind us that God's promises are communal as well as personal. Jacob's promise is not solely about his own journey, but about the future of a people — Israel. Joshua's charge is not just for individual triumph, but for the fulfillment of a promise made to prior generations. Our faith is never a solitary endeavor; the promises of God ripple outward, shaping families, communities, and nations.

As August unfolds, these ancient words remain as relevant as ever. They call us to trust, to lean into the presence of God, and to walk forward with the quiet confidence that we are not alone. In times when the road is unclear or the burden feels too great, we can rest in the assurance that God's faithfulness endures. Just as God watched over Jacob and empowered Joshua, so too does God accompany us on our journey, guiding, sustaining, and fulfilling every promise spoken.

May these truths from Genesis and Joshua be a comfort and a call to deeper trust. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever — worthy of our faith and hope as we step into each new day.

Peace and blessings,  
~Pastor Sheridan

## Welcoming Statement



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.

## Contact Us

SENIOR PASTOR  
Rev. Sheridan Allmond  
sallmond@stpaulsk.org  
301-933-7933 ext. 101

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Rev. Joey Heath-Mason  
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ORGANIST  
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mmills@stpaulsk.org

DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNICATIONS &  
ADMINISTRATION  
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stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org  
301-933-7933 ext. 100

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& BOOKKEEPER  
Ms. Tracey Furman  
tfurman@stpaulsk.org  
301-933-7933 ext. 106

Visit us online at  
[stpaulsk.org/community/  
meet-the-staff](http://stpaulsk.org/community/meet-the-staff)

## Office Hours

**Summer Drop-in and  
Telephone Hours  
Now through Sept. 2, 2025  
Tues., Wed., Thurs.  
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

Outside of these hours, please  
make an appointment to meet  
with clergy or staff or for  
access to the building.  
Individual availability varies!

## Thoughts from Pastor Joey

Last month, I had the joy of spending several days in Madison, Wisconsin for Reconciling Ministries Network’s 2025 Convocation, with a theme that couldn’t be more fitting: “Uncharted: Becoming the Church We Need Right Now.”

It is a unique moment in the life of the United Methodist Church. For years, so many of us have been working, praying, and showing up for the day when our denomination would finally remove harmful language and take real steps toward full inclusion. That moment came at General Conference last year — and it opened a whole new chapter. But as we’ve talked about before, the work didn’t end there. If anything, it began again.

Each day in Madison was packed with worship, preaching, singing, and storytelling.

But more than that, it was a space to breathe. To be in rooms where queer people didn’t have to explain or defend their place in the church. To sit beside pastors, students, parents, and lay leaders who are done waiting for permission to love fully and lead boldly.

One of the moments that stuck with me came during Bishop Kristin Stoneking’s message on Sunday morning. About halfway through, she reminded us that even when the path ahead feels uncertain — even when we’re not sure where the road is going — God is still leading. Not always with a spotlight, not with a neatly drawn map, but with a steady presence. And then she said:

“It’s not our job to be certain. It’s our calling to be faithful.”

What I heard her saying was that becoming the church we need right now means trusting that love is enough of a compass. That justice is enough of a reason. That if we just keep taking one faithful step at a time, God will meet us on the road — no matter how far into uncharted territory we have come.

And that’s what Convocation was about. Who we are becoming — as people, as communities, as the church. What it means to lead with courage and not just consensus. How we hold each other accountable to the gospel’s radical welcome, not just in theory but in practice.

I left Madison feeling both renewed and challenged. The Spirit is clearly on the move — not just out there in the wider church, but here, in us. In our relationships. In our questions. In our growing edges.

So I’ll leave you with the same question we were asked again and again throughout Convocation: What kind of church are we becoming? And how might we keep choosing love, again and again, even when the way feels uncharted?



*Pastor Joey, middle row fourth from the right, with a small group of RMN Convocation attendees. From RMN Instagram, photo by Joscelyne Cutchens.*



## Lectionary & Worship Schedule

### Sunday, August 3 - 10:30 AM Summer Worship with Communion

Scripture - Luke 12:13-21

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason, preaching

### Sunday, August 10 - 10:30 AM Summer Worship

Scripture - Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Rev. Sheridan Allmond, preaching

### Sunday, August 17 - 10:30 AM Summer Worship

Scripture - Hebrews 11:29-12:2 and Luke 12: 49-56

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason, preaching

### Sunday, August 24 - 10:30 AM Summer Worship

Scripture - Jeremiah 1:4-10

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason, preaching

### Sunday, August 31 - 10:30 AM Summer Worship

Scripture - Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Rev. Sheridan Allmond, preaching

*Worship Livestreaming Sundays, 10:30 AM*  
[stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home](http://stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home)



## Closed for Labor Day

St. Paul's building and offices are closed and staff are off on **Monday, September 1, 2025** in observance of the Labor Day holiday. We will resume our normal office hours on Tuesday, September 2.

## Fall Worship Schedule

Looking ahead! Our new programming year begins after Labor Day. Starting Sunday, September 7, we return to holding two worship services each Sunday.

### *Sundays, starting Sept. 7*

**9:00 AM worship** will include Communion every week.

**10:30 AM worship** will include the Sanctuary Choir each week, with Communion shared on the first Sunday of the month.

Many activities will also resume, from music to youth programs to fellowship and educational opportunities. Please look for updates and more details in the Weekly News email, the Sunday worship bulletin, and the September edition of the Epistle.

## Sing with St. Paul's!

The Sanctuary Choir is made of adult and youth singers who lend their musical voices to lead and enrich each 10:30 AM worship service. Join us starting September 7, 2025! We are eager to catch up with old friends and welcome new ones! Please contact Director of Music Tom Pedersen at [tpedersen@stpaulsk.org](mailto:tpedersen@stpaulsk.org) if you have any questions.

For the 2025-2026 programming year, rehearsals will be on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in Room 211. We will sing in Worship at 10:30 AM. Singers are welcome to join the choir on a week-to-week basis. About once a month there is a Sunday afternoon rehearsal workshop to develop more complex music or music for special services.

On Special Music Sundays throughout the church year, the Choir offers special selections featuring ensembles drawn from the congregation and outside guest musicians. The Sanctuary Choir also provides meaningful music for special events such as Christmas Eve and Holy Week services.





## Sympathy

*The St. Paul's community offers our deepest sympathies for those who have lost loved ones.*

**Tom Bartley, Jim Bartley, and family following the death of Robert "Buck" Bartley**



## Send a Card or Note

*The following St. Paul's members are currently limited in their abilities to participate in the life of the church in-person, and appreciate your thoughts and expressions of care.*

**Mrs. Angela Barr**

8207 Meadowbrook Lane  
Chevy Chase MD 20815

**Mr. & Mrs. John & Lyda Brookbank**

Friends House  
17141 Friends House Rd.  
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

**Mrs. Alicia Dandridge**

9701 Veirs Dr.  
Rockville MD 20850

**Mrs. Edie Kirk**

3616 Littledale Rd, #109  
Kensington MD 20895

**Mrs. Helen Lidie**

14809 Pennfield Circle  
#415  
Silver Spring MD 20906

**Mrs. Erma McWilliams**

Brookdale Olney Senior Living  
2611 Olney Sandy Spring Rd.  
#319  
Olney MD 20832

**Mr. Bob Neidecker**

415 Russell Ave, Apt. 418  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877



## Sharing Joys & Concerns

We have three ways you can share joys and concerns or ask for prayers.

- Use the yellow prayer cards in the Sanctuary pews on Sunday and leave them in the offering plate.
- Our online form is available from anywhere, any time, at [stpaulsk.org/community/prayer-requests](http://stpaulsk.org/community/prayer-requests).
- Contact Erin Steele in the church office at 301-933-7933 ext 100 or [stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org](mailto:stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org)

You have the option of sharing confidentially with our ministers, or inviting the entire Prayerwaves team to pray for you and your loved ones.

## Thank You, Thank You

Dear St. Paul's,

Thank you for the generous graduation check from the Jim Smith Educational Award fund. I truly appreciate it. I love helping out the church and the community with events.

Peace and Love,  
~ John Stephens



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you so very much for the retirement "comfort food" celebration you hosted for me. It was great to have the chance to chat, hug, and eat together, and the buffet spread was beyond abundant!

It has been a joy and a privilege to be in ministry alongside you all here at St. Paul's. Our experiences together have been so rich over the years, and I can't begin to thank you for how life-giving they have been for me. I will miss being a part of our incredible staff, but I look forward to continuing to be in community with this congregation. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service. I feel the love, as they say, and, I can assure you, the feeling is mutual. God bless you all.

Gratefully,  
Meg Baker



Scammers will use public information (like the pastor's name) to create fake email addresses and pose as church leaders, asking for money or gift cards. Please remember that contributions should only be made through [stpaulsk.org/giving](http://stpaulsk.org/giving) or sent to the church's physical address at 10401 Armory Avenue, Kensington MD.



## It's Time for Backpack Build!

Even though it's still summer weather outside, our schools and the organizations that support students in Montgomery County Public Schools are getting ready for the students' first day on August 26, 2025!

Help St. Paul's continue the tradition of providing new school supplies for economically disadvantaged families. We partner with Interfaith Works to get the materials to the county students and families who would have difficulty sourcing these themselves.

Please donate new items in the collection bins in the Narthex on Sundays, August 10 & 17. You can also find copies of this shopping list on flyers on the table in the Narthex or at [stpaulsk.org/service/justice-and-compassion](http://stpaulsk.org/service/justice-and-compassion)

Financial donations are also welcome and will be used to order additional supplies. Go to [stpaulsk.org/giving](http://stpaulsk.org/giving) and use the Miscellaneous Donations section; type "Backpacks" in the field for "Designated Fund or Cause." To donate by check, please make checks payable to St. Paul's UMC with "Backpacks" in the memo line. Thank you!

## Summertime Protein Boost

Support St. Paul's signature year-round ministry, feeding those in the 20895 ZIP code who face food insecurity. For the summer, we particularly request donors focus on providing protein sources: **peanut butter** and **canned chicken or fish**.

- **peanut butter**
- **canned tuna or salmon**
- **canned chicken**
- **canned vegetables**
- **canned fruit or applesauce**
- **cooking oil**
- **boxed milk or oat milk**
- **cold cereal**
- **instant oatmeal**
- **soup**
- **rice**
- **beans**
- **pasta**
- **pasta sauce (in plastic jars)**

### PLEASE - & - THANK - YOU

- **NO dirty or damaged containers**
- **NO items beyond their "best by" or "sell by" dates.**
- **NO glass. Glass breaks and creates a hazard (and a mess!) for volunteers and recipients.**



Each month we feed about 150 households, including senior citizens on fixed income, people with disabilities, and families from diverse backgrounds. We provide a bag of shelf-stable pantry items, a takeaway meal, and donated bread or produce. We also provide a grocery store gift card. This allows recipients to buy fresh or frozen food, dairy or meat, and hygiene products with dignity. Your financial contributions help us purchase these grocery cards, as well as bulk grocery items to cover the gap between what's needed and what's donated. You can give at [stpaulsk.org/giving](http://stpaulsk.org/giving).

Interested in volunteering? Reach out to our volunteer coordinator Mr. Pat Maloney at [hunger@stpaulsk.org](mailto:hunger@stpaulsk.org).



## Summer Movie Series



You are invited to the Summer Movie Series! Each month, we'll gather in the Octagon to watch a film together and share in a brief time of discussion. Popcorn will be provided, but feel free to bring your own brown-bag style lunch!

- **August 17 – Elemental.** In this animated Disney/Pixar film, set in a diverse city populated by elements, Fire element Ember and Water element Wade begin an unlikely relationship that challenges their assumptions about culture, heritage, friendship, and family.
- **Date TBA – Will and Harper.** When comic Will Ferrell finds out his close friend of 30 years is coming out as a trans woman, the two decide to create a documentary of their cross-country road trip to process this new stage of friendship and transition.

Time: 12:00–2:00 PM

Come for the movie, stay for the conversation. All are welcome!



## Bible & Brews

Sunday, August 17, 2025

5:00-6:00 PM

All are welcome at Bible & Brews, a monthly gathering for interfaith conversations with Pastor Joey, Rabbi Adam, and friends from Temple Emanuel. All our meetings are family friendly and take place at a local Kensington watering hole with food and beverages - including soft drinks and adult beverages - that you can purchase as you like. This summer we will meet at Babycat Brewery (10241 Kensington Pkwy, Kensington, MD 20895). Questions? Contact Pastor Joey at [joeyhm@stpaulsk.org](mailto:joeyhm@stpaulsk.org).



## Still Wednesday

Wednesday, August 13, 7:00-8:00 PM

Still Wednesday is very still right now, meeting just once a month in the summer. All are welcome for this hour of quiet prayer and presence in the Sanctuary. Still Wednesday provides a space for quiet stillness, reflection, silent prayer, calm and connection in a busy, noisy world. The exact format varies depending on the leader, but typically Still Wednesday offers a time of poetry, scripture, music, or art. There are usually 20 minutes of silent contemplative prayer, listening, and a chance to reflect privately or share. For updates about Still Wednesday activities, contact Kenzie Raulin at [kenzier@rcn.com](mailto:kenzier@rcn.com).



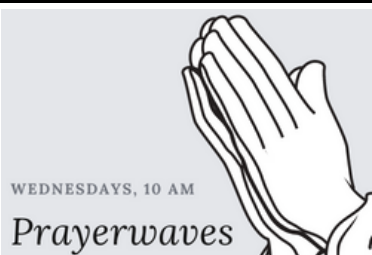
## Pancake Breakfast Returns in September!

Returning on Saturday, September 6, 2025

The all-you-care-to-eat breakfast is currently on Summer Break. We will return in September! From September through June, the United Methodist Men and volunteers serve delicious pancakes, scrambled eggs, sage sausage, grits, fruit, and beverages, plus seasonal specialties, on the first Saturday of the month! Please join us on September 6, 2025 in the Fellowship Hall. Serving hours are 8:30 to 10:00 AM. Diners are asked to make a generous donation at the door. Proceeds benefit local charities and causes at St. Paul's. We look forward to seeing you in the Fall!

## Ways to Be Involved

Many groups meet regularly during the year, and there are many ways to get involved with ministries, outreach, and hospitality at St. Paul's. Here are some of the groups inviting you to join in ministry and fellowship.



Wednesdays at 10:00 AM.

Prayerwaves meets each week by phone. We take turns lifting up the needs of the church, community, and the world. On Wednesday, dial 425-436-6326 a few minutes before 10:00 AM. Enter access code 774042 followed by the # sign. If you would like to receive the prayer list by email, please contact Erin Steele in the church office at [stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org](mailto:stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org).



This time for fellowship with drinks and snacks after worship occurs whenever a family, class, or groups offers to host. You might serve the ever-popular coffee and cookies... or it might be lemonade and cheese crackers, tea and tarts, cider and donuts, cocoa and candy canes... you decide! To host, simply add your name or group to the chart on the office bulletin board and take an instructions sheet (also available for download at [stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events](http://stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events)).



Would life feel better right now if you had someone to listen to your worries and cares? Stephen Ministers are there for you! Stephen Ministers have received special training to provide one-on-one Christian care to those who are experiencing challenging life events. To learn how you or someone you know can receive care – or how to become a Stephen Minister – contact Martha Lipscomb, Stephen Leader, at [mmlipscomb@verizon.net](mailto:mmlipscomb@verizon.net) or 301-518-1642.

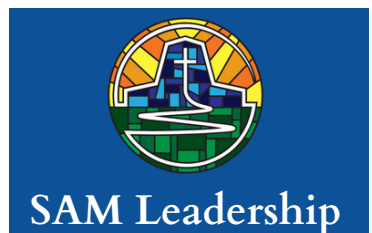


Few things better demonstrate our hospitality than making sure all of our members and friends receive a warm welcome upon arrival at our church, and that new Sunday morning visitors are greeted and can get some simple questions answered! Please consider participating in St. Paul's Welcome Ministry. We are always looking for volunteers to cover the welcome table by the Sanctuary doors and guide people as they enter for worship. Families are welcome to volunteer together!



St. Paul's makes every effort to reach out to those who are experiencing times of sickness, grief, change, or celebration by providing greeting cards each week. On typical Sundays, anyone can stop by the Welcome Desk to pick up a pre-addressed, pre-stamped card. You can write a personal note or simply sign the card and drop it in the mail. We know card recipients are truly thankful for the notes that come their way.

Want to send your own card later, or spend some time in prayer for our members and friends? Pick up a Congregational Care list at the welcome desk on Sunday mornings. Please note that the Congregational Care list is not exhaustive. For privacy reasons, St. Paul's only shares information if given permission to do so by the person(s) involved or an immediate family member. If you have information to share please contact Erin Steele in the church office at [stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org](mailto:stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org).



Church leaders at St. Paul's serve in a unified board known as the Simplified Accountability Model, or SAM. The SAM umbrella covers Ministry, Strategy, Accountability, and Leadership to guide such things as the church mission and ministry focus, finances, and personnel. SAM meets by Zoom and all meetings are open to the public. Contact chairperson Rachel Stalcup ([rachelstalcup@gmail.com](mailto:rachelstalcup@gmail.com)) for the meeting schedule and the Zoom link, or if you have questions.



## Lay Leader Reflections

From Anne Dean, Lay Leader

God is always there. It does not matter if we can see God, feel God, God is with us. No matter how loud and chaotic life may be, just wait. Just pause. Just breathe. God is there.

What we often wish for is a clear sign from God. Prove it. Show me. I'll be good if you show up how I expect and demand you show up. And like a patient parent, God waits. Waits for us to look for Him. To seek Him. To be quiet enough, calm enough, to see and hear Him.

For me, I'm finding joy in quiet thankful prayers at night. Just me and God. I also feel the power of prayers that I write down - does not matter how many times I've prayed quietly or aloud, when I write it down, that's when I see and feel God working.

I saw something recently that said: what if God all the sudden said yes to everything you'd prayed for all year? Well, that certainly puts things into perspective. Gotta pray to "win," right?

### Love Offering for Dr. Meg Baker

Dr. Meg Baker has retired from her role as St. Paul's Minister of Spiritual Care and Formation as of August 1, 2025. Questions about ministry areas around prayer, care, and education may be directed to Pastor Sheridan or Pastor Joey. As is our tradition, those who feel led to give a financial gift to Meg may make a donation to her Love Offering. Please find a secure donation option at [stpaulsk.org/giving](http://stpaulsk.org/giving) or, if you prefer cash or check, mark your contribution with "Love Offering" and place it in the Sunday offering plate or mail it to the church. All gifts received by August 31 will be combined and presented to Meg.



### Summer Break

Many groups modify their schedules or take a break during the summer season, before coming back refreshed to greet the new programming year in the fall. Currently on break...

**Taste & Sing**  
**Pancake Breakfast**  
**Yarn Ministry**  
**Sunday School**  
**Joyful Ringers Bell Ensemble**  
**Lydia Circle Sisters**  
**Sanctuary Choir**  
**Children's Choir**  
**Sermon Safari**

### Lydia Circle



Wednesday, September 3  
 2:30 PM

Lydia Circle sisters will start off the new year with a meeting the first week of September. All women interested in participating are welcome. Please contact Susan Schwarz at [susan10748@aol.com](mailto:susan10748@aol.com) or 301-339-8242 to receive more information.



Mondays, Sept. 8 & 22, 7:00-8:30 PM

The quieter days of Summer are a great time for crafting at home! We return to meetings in the Library starting Sept. 8. St. Paul's Yarn Ministry will hold another craft fair this November, with all proceeds going to great charitable causes. If you have crafts, think of donating items to the craft fair! All types of crafts are gratefully accepted, including but not limited to painting, photography, jewelry, woodwork, glass work, and fabric and yarn creations.



## Vacation Bible School 2025

During the last week of June, St. Paul's kids (pictured above!) joined with Bethesda UMC and Chevy Chase UMC for a combined Vacation Bible School experience for students pre-K through rising-6th grade. Kids and volunteers gathered at Bethesda UMC to enjoy songs, dances, story time, and craft time.

## Children's Sunday Schedule

Our summertime Kids with Compassion activities have ended for this year! For the month of August, all children will be in worship with their families at 10:30 AM.

- Busy Bags with quiet activities for use in worship are available to borrow from the Welcome Desk.
- Restless friends of any age (with an accompanying adult) may make use of the Library near the restrooms, or the Octagon room to take a break.
- The Octagon room TV is now set up to run the livestream from the Sanctuary! (Yes, there is a slight delay as the video goes out and back through YouTube.)
- Look for news about Sunday School when the new programming year begins after Labor Day!

**Childcare for infants-to-pre-K is available in the Nursery during the 10:30 worship service each week.**

## SPY Summer Invite Series: Trip to Hershey Park!

*Sign Up by AUGUST 3*

*Day Trip on AUGUST 10, 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM (approx.)*

Each St. Paul's Youth is invited to bring one friend for a day at the amusement park in Hershey PA, the sweetest place on earth! The Summer Invite Series is for students who are rising-6th graders through rising-12th graders. Go to [stpaulsk.org/community/youth](http://stpaulsk.org/community/youth) to fill out BOTH the Hershey registration form and the permission form!

The Hershey Park trip will be a great day of fun whether you prefer the easy pace of the classic carousel or the heart-pounding rollercoasters. Admission to the park and rides is covered by a grant from the Baltimore-Washington conference of the UMC! SPY leaders will provide snacks for the ride to and from the park. Youth will need to bring refillable water bottles, comfortable walking shoes, and their own money for meals, games, and souvenirs (\$50 suggestion - Hersheypark is now "cash free" so read about your options here: <https://www.hersheypark.com/plan-your-visit/faqs>).

We never want a youth to miss out on an activity due to financial concerns, so please contact Pastor Joey for a confidential discussion about campership financial aid if you need assistance. Other questions about the Hershey event should be directed to Megan Montgomery ([megan.w.montgomery@gmail.com](mailto:megan.w.montgomery@gmail.com)).

Looking ahead: The final SPY Summer Series event will be Ice Cream & Field Games on August 31!





Kid-friendly trivia, puzzles, and Bible verses prepared by Dr. Meg Baker, Minister of Spiritual Care and Formation.

## Who Am I?

Use your Bible to find the names of each Biblical figure. Then, go back and read more of their stories!



I lived in a big fish for three days. (Jonah 1:17) \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

God called me to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. (Exodus 3:10-11) \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

I had a son, Isaac, in my old age. (Genesis 18:9-12) \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

I traveled with my mother-in-law Naomi to Bethlehem. (Ruth 1:18-19) \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

My voice was taken away until my son John was born. (Luke 1:18-20) \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

I was a follower of Jesus, but I am not one of the twelve disciples. (Mark 2:13-15) \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

My sister was Mary and my brother was Lazarus. (John 11:1-2) \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

I was a servant of the church in Cenchrea. Who am I? (Romans 16:1-2) \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

## Summer Storms

'Tis the season to be stormy! While summer is well-known for hot and sunny days, it is also marked by frequent thunderstorms. Even though thunderstorms can be dangerous, they can also be very helpful because they provide much-needed rain for plants to grow, act like natural air conditioners, and even clean the air. After a thunderstorm, you might even see a beautiful rainbow! Here are some fun facts about thunderstorms:

- A lightning bolt can be around 30,000 degrees Fahrenheit, hotter than the surface of the sun.
- Light travels much faster than sound, so you'll always see the flash of lightning before you hear the thunder.
- According to the National Weather Service, approximately 16 million thunderstorms occur each year.
- "Dry thunderstorms" produce lightning, but no rain!
- Thunderstorms are not common in winter because of the cold weather, but "thundersnow" can happen during a blizzard!

## Rainy Riddles

What falls  
but never hits  
the ground?

The temperature

What goes up  
when the rain  
comes down?

Umbrellas

What bow  
can't be tied?

A rainbow



## Sunny Summer Days

Find all the words in the box on the right in the puzzle.

Y	T	Y	J	D	H	D	R	J	L	D	Y	V	I
D	M	P	Q	H	X	Y	V	E	U	A	N	G	S
Y	Z	X	O	Y	S	O	V	K	R	R	P	V	P
H	Z	W	K	T	G	A	O	A	U	Q	Z	I	H
C	F	G	A	U	R	T	T	L	R	E	C	Y	F
N	I	O	P	T	U	Z	O	L	W	N	T	R	A
U	R	F	Z	O	M	O	B	H	I	U	U	X	T
B	E	X	K	T	P	M	A	C	W	S	W	I	M
Q	W	O	N	Y	L	I	M	A	F	J	M	S	O
U	O	I	Y	L	A	L	M	E	Q	S	F	R	Y
C	R	K	H	J	Y	P	O	B	A	T	M	D	C
L	K	H	Y	G	H	L	J	J	J	D	E	T	Y
P	S	D	O	C	R	R	E	M	J	R	N	A	W
N	B	X	S	B	V	P	F	H	U	T	R	B	S

BEACH  
CAMP  
COOKOUT  
FAMILY  
FIREWORKS  
HOT  
LAKE  
PICNIC  
PLAY  
POOL  
SUN  
SURF  
SWIM  
TRAVEL



# St. Paul's

United Methodist Church

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## Worship with St. Paul's

### Summer Worship in the Sanctuary

10:30 AM only

Sundays, August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

### Worship-at-Home

Livestreaming every Sunday at 10:30 AM

[stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home](http://stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home)



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