



The Senior Pastor's Letter

The Tomb Is Empty, But the Streets Are Full

The good news of Easter has always arrived in places that feel anything but triumphant. The earliest disciples did not meet the risen Christ in a sanctuary filled with lilies and brass fanfares. They met him in fear, in confusion, in locked rooms, and on dusty roads where grief still clung to their clothes. The resurrection is real, but it does not remove us from the world's wounds. Instead, it sends us straight into them.

The empty tomb is God's declaration that death does not get the final word. But the full streets — crowded with injustice, poverty, violence, and longing — are where resurrection must be lived. Easter is not an escape from the world but a summons to engage it. The risen Christ does not linger in the garden; he goes ahead of the disciples into Galilee, into the ordinary spaces where life is questioned and hope is needed. Likewise, the church is called not to remain at the site of the miracle but to follow Christ into the places where resurrection power can transform real lives.

Throughout the Bible, God's saving work is never confined to holy places. Jesus feeds people on hillsides, heals them in marketplaces, and teaches them in the streets. The Spirit descends not in a temple but in a public square at Pentecost, where people from every nation hear the good news in their own languages. The early church grows not because it hides but because it shows up — among widows, prisoners, the sick, the poor, and the oppressed. The streets have always been full, and God has always been found there.

Resurrection faith is public faith. It is not merely a belief we hold but a life we embody. It is not only a proclamation but a practice. It is not simply a celebration but a commitment. To say "Christ is risen" is to say "Christ is still at work" — and to ask where we are willing to join him.

John Wesley famously said, "The world is my parish." He meant that the gospel cannot be contained within church walls. It must be carried into coal mines, fields, prisons, hospitals, and city streets. Wesley believed that holiness is social as well as personal — that love of God is inseparable from love of neighbor, especially the neighbor who suffers.

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Prayer in a Time of War

The Senior Pastor's Letter

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When we look at our own communities, the streets are indeed full. Full of people struggling with addiction, loneliness, and economic hardship. Full of families seeking safety, dignity, and opportunity. Full of young people searching for meaning and elders longing not to be forgotten. Full of systems that wound and movements that heal. Full of pain — and full of possibility.

The empty tomb tells us that God has already defeated the forces that diminish life. The full streets tell us where God wants us to go next.

Resurrection is not passive; it is participatory. It invites us to show up with courage, compassion, and conviction. It calls us to listen deeply, act boldly, and love relentlessly. It asks us to believe that new life is possible not only in the world to come but in the world we inhabit right now.

As we step into this Easter season, may we remember that the risen Christ is not waiting for us in a quiet garden. He is already ahead of us — in the streets, in the struggle, in the hope that refuses to die. The tomb is empty. The streets are full. And Christ is calling.

~ 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.

SCAM Reminder



Scammers use public information (like the pastor's name) to create fake email addresses and pose as church leaders, asking for money or gift cards.

Contributions should only be made through stpaulsk.org/giving or sent to the church's physical address at 10401 Armory Avenue, Kensington MD 20895.

Contact Us

SENIOR PASTOR

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

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason
joeyhm@stpaulsk.org
301-933-7933 ext. 103

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr. N. Thomas Pedersen
tpedersen@stpaulsk.org

ORGANIST

Mr. Marvin Mills
mmills@stpaulsk.org

DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS &
ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Erin Bone Steele
stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org
301-933-7933 ext. 100

FACILITIES MANAGER
& 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

Drop-in and Telephone Hours
Monday - Thursday
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

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

St. Paul's is closed on federal holidays and the week between Christmas & New Year's.

Thoughts from Pastor Joey

Recently, I was reading through the story of Nicodemus in John, chapter 3. Nicodemus is a Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin who comes to Jesus under the cover of night. He is a powerful man, but he comes quietly, carefully, perhaps afraid of what his colleagues might think. He comes with questions, maybe even with some skepticism. But Jesus, as Jesus tends to do, jumps in with answers to questions that weren't asked.

From that moment, Nicodemus is on his back foot. Not because he's been outmaneuvered, but because something larger is being offered to him than he knew to ask for. Jesus speaks to him of wind and Spirit, of being born again, of a love so expansive it encompasses the whole world. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

What strikes me is that Jesus makes clear: the work has already been done. This isn't a call to action. It's an invitation to trust. It reminds me of the moment God calls Abraham not with a detailed itinerary, but with a simple promise: "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you" (Genesis 12). Abraham didn't have a map or detailed instructions – just told to go and blessing would follow.

That's what Jesus is offering Nicodemus and what he's offering us. You are standing at the threshold of something new, even if you can't quite see it yet.

This feels important to name at this point in the Lenten season...

- ... however you entered Lent this year, with great intention or barely at all;
- ... whether your fast has held or fallen apart;
- ... whether you've felt close to God these past weeks or distant and distracted.

What truly matters is not the piety of our practice but the promise at the center of it all.

God so loved the world. God so loved you. And come Easter morning, when the tomb is empty once again, we will be reminded that we are free, and loved, by a God who has overcome all things.

– Pastor Joey



Let there be Light! Lighting accounts for about 12% of an average home's electricity use. Making the switch to LEDs is an easy way to lower your energy bills and keep money in your pocket. Folks from Montgomery County Energy Connection, a program of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, will be at **St. Paul's Pancake Breakfast (8:00-10:30am) on Saturday, April 4** to conduct a lightbulb exchange and answer your questions. Bring in your used incandescent or compact fluorescent light bulbs and exchange them for up to three free energy efficient LEDs. You can also drop off additional used CFL, LED or incandescent bulbs for recycling. Questions? Contact Anne Rush (annesprush@gmail.com) or Grace Graham (grace.graham@gmail.com).

Worship Schedule and Lectionary Scripture

Sunday, March 1 - Second Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4a

9:00 AM Worship with Communion

10:30 AM Worship with Communion & Sanctuary Choir

Rev. Sheridan Allmond, preaching

Sunday, March 8 - Third Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7

9:00 AM Worship with Communion

10:30 AM Worship with Sanctuary Choir

Rev. Sheridan Allmond, preaching

Sunday, March 15 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Ephesians 5:8-14

9:00 AM Worship with Communion

10:30 AM Worship with Sanctuary Choir

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason, preaching

Sunday, March 22 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 130

9:00 AM Worship with Communion

10:30 AM Worship with Sanctuary Choir

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason, preaching

Sunday, March 29 - Palm & Passion Sunday

Scripture: TBD

9:00 AM Worship with Communion

10:30 AM Worship with Sanctuary Choir

Rev. Sheridan Allmond, preaching

Worship Livestream each Sunday at 10:30 AM
stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home

Still Wednesday

Still Wednesday provides a space for quiet reflection, silent prayer, calm and connection in a busy, noisy world. All are welcome for this hour of quiet prayer and presence. We typically meet in the Sanctuary at St. Paul's, but sometimes gather in the Octagon Room next door. The exact format changes week to week as leaders rotate, but typically Still Wednesday invites each participant to light a candle before beginning a time of meditative guided prayer in the form of poetry, scripture, music, journaling, or art. There is usually 20 minutes of silent contemplative prayer and listening. The night usually closes with a chance to reflect privately or share experiences. It is a unique opportunity for both quiet reflection and calm connection. Questions? Contact Deanna Hodgson at Deanna.hodgson@comcast.net

Looking Ahead: Holy Week



Palm & Passion Sunday

March 29, 2026 at 9:00 & 10:30 AM

This day begins with the triumphal arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem and follows the journey as the crowd turns against him.



Holy Thursday

April 2, 2026 at 7:30 PM

This service marks the last days of Jesus Christ, including the Last Supper. Cello music adds a haunting and lovely texture to the evening.



Good Friday

April 3, 2026 at 7:30 PM

This day, also known as Black Friday, commemorates the death of Jesus with a special program of music from organist Marvin Mills.



First Service of Easter

April 5, 2026 at 6:30 AM

This simple outdoor sunrise service celebrates the resurrection of Christ in the garden-like setting of Clum-Kennedy Park.



Easter Worship

April 5, 2026 at 9:00 & 10:30 AM

This traditional service in the Sanctuary will feature brass, choir, and communion as we celebrate the risen Christ.

Guided Lenten Studies

As we enter the season of Lent, you are invited to deepen your experience by taking the Adult Ed class "UMC 101" with Pastor Joey (see page 9), or by following the Sanctified Art devotional, available for pickup in the Narthex any time now through Palm Sunday.



Sympathy

The St. Paul's community offers our deepest sympathies for those who have lost loved ones in the previous month.



Donna Griffin, Christina Griffin,
and family following the death of

Helen Lidie

Dee Dee Murphy and family
following the death of her brother

Patrick Murphy

Margo Stevenson, former member,
following the death of her husband

Dick Stevenson

News regarding loss, sickness, or joy are all shared weekly in the Congregational Care list, available at the Welcome Desk each Sunday.

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. Mabel Baker

3616 Littledale Rd
Apt 302B
Kensington MD 20895

Mrs. Dorothea Depenbrock

6602 Greyswood Road
Larmax Home
North Bethesda MD 20817

Dr. Jo Campa

301 Russell Ave
Wilson Building, #219
Gaithersburg MD 20877

Mrs. Carol MacIntyre

2100 Merrifields Dr.
Silver Spring MD 20906

Mrs. Mary Lou DeHaven

900 N. Taylor St.
Apt. 421 West Tower
Arlington, VA 22201

Mrs. Marybelle Waldroff

9901 Capitol View Ave
Silver Spring MD 20910



Thank You, Thank You

Dear St. Paul's,

I am writing to express my love, thanks, and sincere and deep appreciation to the ministers, staff, and the entire congregations of St. Paul's UMC. I am still recovering slowly at home but your prayers, concern, cards, visits and Christian love sustain me and keep me going. The thing I look forward to most is becoming strong enough to attend services in person again.

This episode in my life has confirmed what I already knew - that St. Paul's is a holy place and a very wonderful community to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I want you to know I love you all.

Sincerely,
Ed Braytenbah



Dear St. Paul's Family,

On behalf of my family, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you at St. Paul's — the Prayer Lift team, Pastors Sheridan and Joey, Stephen Ministry, and the church staff — for the many prayers, cards, calls, and embraces you shared with us during the long illness and passing of my sister, Karen De Young.

Your steady presence meant more than we can fully put into words. In a season marked by uncertainty and grief, you surrounded us with compassion, faith, and tangible expressions of Christ's love. Each note, each prayer, each kind word reminded us that we were not walking this road alone.

Prayer and pastoral care truly are the backbone of ministry at St Paul's, and we experienced that ministry in the most personal and powerful way. Thank you for carrying us when we were weary and for holding us in prayer through it all.

With deep gratitude,
Tom Pedersen



Egg My Yard

Would you like to wake up to a yard filled with candy-stuffed eggs from the Easter Bunny? We can make it happen! Sign up for the "Egg My Yard" fundraiser supporting the St. Paul's Youth program.

- 30 eggs = \$30
- 50 eggs = \$50
- 70 eggs = \$70

To participate, email Rachel Stalcup at rachelstalcup@gmail.com or find the forms and payment button at stpaulsk.org/worship/lent-and-easter. You must live in Rockville/Silver Spring/Kensington area. Your Easter eggs will be delivered either Friday or Saturday night before Easter (based on your preference). Please share this with your friends and neighbors, or consider signing up to "egg" another house. Last day to sign up is March 25.

Easter Lily Dedications

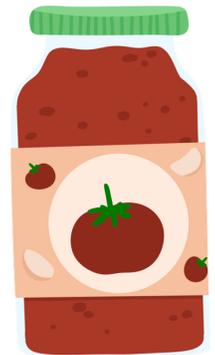
St. Paul's Sanctuary will have Easter lilies this year. Lily sponsors may make a dedication, in memory or honor of loved ones, which will be shared in our commemorative Lily Bulletin. The cost per plant is \$20. Order online at stpaulsk.org/worship/lent-and-easter using a credit card March 5-27, 2026, or order in person using cash or check by visiting out Lily Volunteers between worship services on March 8, 15, and 22 in the Narthex. Sponsors are encouraged to take home their plants following the 10:30 AM worship service on Easter Sunday or pick them up during office hours the following week. (Please note, the church office is closed on Easter Monday.)



Pasta Sauce in Plastic

St. Paul's Hunger Ministry, our signature ministry, currently serves 160 households in our ZIP code every month. We never ask our recipients about their employment, age, income, or family status. We simply welcome hungry neighbors and provide them with grocery resources.

This month our donation focus is: pasta sauce in plastic! Glass jars are easy to come by - but glass containers break (!!!) causing a hazard - and a mess - for our volunteers and recipients alike. Please look for plastic pasta sauce containers this month, and donate these or other items as you are able. Thanks!



We rely on volunteers to unload, pack, bag, greet, carry, deliver... Reach out to coordinator Mr. Pat Maloney at hunger@stpaulsk.org to see the volunteer opportunities every month.

Donations Needed Every Month

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

The "NO THANK YOU" Guide

- **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!)**

Lay Leader Reflections

From Anne Dean, Lay Leader

Dear friends, last month we explored ways to engage and wrestle with our Star words using scripture and theological reflection. This month, we are looking through the lens of spiritual practices and embodied living. Gentle reminder to us that there is no right or wrong way to engage with our Star word.

Prayer prompt and examination: Incorporate your Star word into a short prayer, for example: “God, show me how [word] is unfolding in my life today.” You could couple this together with an examination of your word at the end of the day.

- “When did I encounter my word today?”
- “When did I resist it?”
- “Where did I see God at work through it?”

Pair with breathing: Ground yourself in your Star word at any time of day.

- Inhale: “Holy God,”
- Exhale: “[Star word]”

Embodied and practical living: Help connect faith to daily life. Consider how you may live as if your Star word is especially important. For example, as we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ, consider reflecting how your Star word might shape how you serve others or respond to community needs.

- “If my word is Patience, how might I slow down this week?”
- “If my word is Courage, where am I being invited to act?”

As we are now in Lent, how has the meaning of your Star word changed, even in this short time since January. Has the word been comforting, challenging, surprising?

With blessings.

Anne Dean, Lay Leader

Silent Retreat with Kenzie Raulin



From Kenzie Raulin

Sacred soil - where you are invited to deepen your relationship with God. No need to travel very far. Kenzie Raulin is leading a silent retreat Friday, April 17 - Sunday, April 19 at Dayspring Silent Retreat Center in Germantown. If you are wondering what a silent retreat is like, check out <https://dayspringretreat.org/> You can also register through the site.

If you would like to ask any questions email, text or call Kenzie Raulin (301-237-1520, kenzier@rcn.com). Dayspring also offers Quiet Days and Ember Days throughout the year.



Community Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 7, April 4, May 2, and June 6

Serving 8:00-10:30 AM

Enjoy breakfast with friends at the St. Paul's community pancake breakfast, sponsored by the United Methodist Men. This month we'll have delicious buttermilk pancakes, fresh sage sausage, scrambled eggs, grits, fruit, coffee, tea, or hot chocolate, and a special treat - a variety of quiches. Suggested donation at the door is \$8 per adult or \$20 for a family of 4. March proceeds benefit the Jim Smith Educational Award, awarded to high school graduates from the St. Paul's community each spring.



Bible & Brews

5:00-6:00 PM

Schedule for 2026 (Subject to change)

- Sunday, March 8, 2026, 5:00-6:00 PM
- Saturday, April 18, 2026, 5:00-6:00 PM
- Saturday, May 16, 2026, 5:00-6:00 PM
- Saturday, June 13, 2026, 5:00-6:00 PM

All are welcome at this monthly gathering for interfaith conversations with Pastor Joey, Rabbi Adam, and friends from Temple Emanuel. Family-friendly meetings take place at a local Kensington small business, where you can purchase food or beverages as you like. Some of our regular meeting locations include Knowles Station Wine & Co., Stella Point Grille, and Babycat Brewery. Contact joeyhm@stpaulsk.org to confirm this month's meeting location!

Lydia Circle Sisters

Lydia Circle ladies typically meets at St. Paul's monthly for fellowship, service projects, and refreshments, usually on the first Wednesday of the month, 2:30-4:00 PM. All women interested are welcome! On special occasions, like Christmas, we may enjoy a holiday lunch somewhere special. Please contact Susan Schwarz at susan10748@aol.com or 301-339-8242 for up-to-date information about Lydia Circle activities.



Sanctuary Choir & Joyful Ringers

Sanctuary Choir – *Most Sundays*. Open to grade 7 and up and adult singers. We rehearse each week at 9:30 AM on Sundays in Room 211 and sing for the 10:30 service.

Joyful Ringers – *Wednesdays, 7:00 PM*. A handbell choir for adults that offers fun and fellowship! If you've never played bells, we can teach you! Contact Tom Pedersen: tpedersen@stpaulsk.org

Yarn Ministry

Mondays twice a month, 7:00-8:30 PM

Bring your crochet, knit, or other project and craft alongside friends in the Library at St. Paul's. The Yarn Ministry also sponsors the annual craft fair. Consider joining us! March 9 and 23; April 6 and 20; May 11 and 25. (No meetings June, July or August.) Contact Karen Codner for info: KDC811@gmail.com



Lenten Study: UMC 101

Sundays through March 22, 12:00-1:00 PM in Room 109

Pastor Joey lead this adult study during Lent. The topic is different each week! You can attend just one session or all the sessions as your schedule allows. This is the perfect class for new attenders, long-time members, and everyone interested in diving into what it means to be United Methodist. A light soup lunch will be served. Walk-ins welcome! Email Pastor Joey (joeym@stpaulsk.org) if you have questions.



Taste & Sing

Tuesday, March 17

12:00-1:30 PM in the Octagon

Come enjoy a casual time of food and song! With Tom Pedersen at the piano, we'll sing through some songs from the UM Hymnal - feel free to request your favorites. Then Erin Steele will guide us through a short program about a composer, lyricist, or theme, offering a deeper dive into the stories behind some of our worship songs. Our time together culminates with fellowship over a tasty lunch prepared by Ginny Hagberg. (\$5 donation)

Sermon Safari

Wednesdays, 4:00-5:00 PM by Zoom

In this come-when-you-can, drop-in Zoom-based study, participants watch a video of a sermon and then discuss it together. Some of our sessions have featured sermons from such notable speakers as Diana Butler Bass, Senator Rev. Raphael Warnock, and Mariann Budde, Bishop of the National Cathedral. For more information or to receive the Zoom link, contact Dr. Meg Baker at megbaker@verizon.net.



SPY

St. Paul's Youth will join with youth from around the region for IGNITE, March 20-22, 2026 in Ocean City MD. IGNITE offers an exciting mix of worship, concerts, dynamic speakers, and youth-focused activities, including lots of games from Retreat & Camping Ministries and the Bishop's Q&A. Contact Megan Montgomery for more info. Check out stpaulsk.org/community/youth for the most up-to-date meeting schedule and regular activities to grow in faith and fellowship for St. Paul's Youth in grades 6-12.

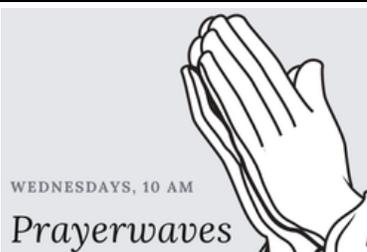
Sunday School

Children attend worship with their families in the Sanctuary on the first Sunday of each month, and have Sunday School most other Sundays at 10:30 AM. Grades K-2 meet in Room 200 and Grades 3-5 meet in the Parlor. The Nursery is available for Pre-K and younger every Sunday. Parents and guardians should drop off at the classroom and pick up at the classroom immediately after worship. To join the teaching team, email Pastor Joey at joeym@stpaulsk.org.



More 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.



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).



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 or 301-518-1642.

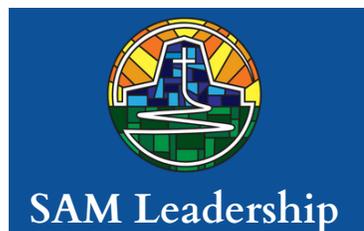


Few things better demonstrate our hospitality than making sure all of our members and friends receive a warm welcome upon arrival at church, and that new Sunday morning visitors can get some simple questions answered! Please consider participating in St. Paul's Welcome Ministry. We are always looking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



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 the chairperson for 2026, Bill Stephens (wtstephens@verizon.net) for the meeting schedule and the Zoom link.

The United Methodist Bishops Call to Prayer in a Time of War



UMC Council of Bishops, 2025, photographer unknown, cover photo at www.facebook.com/umcbishops

Sunday, March 1, 2026

We know that our hearts are heavy as we witness the mounting loss of life from the ongoing military strikes carried out by the United States and Israel, and from retaliatory strikes by Iran. Families are grieving the loss of loved ones, and entire communities are shaken by the weight of uncertainty, fear, and profound sorrow. Innocent civilians are caught in the crossfire of a widening conflict they did not choose.

Scripture reminds us that “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34:18). As bishops of The United Methodist Church, we hold fast to this promise as we pray for all who have been killed, all who are injured, and all who now carry trauma and fear in the wake of this violence.

We stand resolute in remembering the uncompromising call of Jesus: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). This calling is a summons to act with courage and with a steadfast commitment to honoring the dignity and life of every human being.

We urge leaders on every side to turn from the escalation of violence and seek paths toward justice, reconciliation, and lasting peace. We implore them to place the protection of innocent lives at the center of every decision.

As followers of Christ, let us be steadfast in prayer for those whose lives were taken that they may rest in God’s eternal peace. Let us pray for the wounded that healing and comfort may surround them. Let us pray for families and communities in mourning that they may find strength for the days ahead. And let us pray for leaders and nations that they may choose the path of peace over the path of destruction.

May God’s Spirit move among us and within us, guiding our hearts toward justice, compassion, and the hard, holy work of peacemaking. May we be instruments of Christ’s peace in a world yearning for healing.

In Christ’s mercy,
Bishop Tracy S. Malone, President, Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church



St. Paul's

United Methodist Church

10401 Armory Avenue
Kensington, MD 20895

stpaulsk.org | 301-933-7933

Worship with St. Paul's

Worship in the Sanctuary

Sundays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

9:00 AM • Worship with Weekly Communion

10:30 AM • Worship with Sanctuary Choir

Worship-at-Home

Livestreaming every Sunday at 10:30 AM

stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home

March 2026 Epistle Options

Email (color) or Mail (black & white):
Email stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org
to be added to the distribution list

Download (color)
stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news

