



The Senior Pastor's Letter

Christianity, at its core, is a faith rooted in love — love of God, love of neighbor, and love even of enemies. One of its most powerful and enduring commandments is found in John 13:34, where Jesus says, “A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you.” This imperative to love is not merely sentimental; it is radical, transformative, and deeply communal. This commandment continues to have profound significance, shaping not only spiritual life but also social resistance, cultural identity, and communal resilience.

For many of us, the church has long been the heart of Christian life, not only spiritually but socially and politically. It is where the imperative to love one another has been most vividly embodied. Pastors preach love not just as a theological concept but as a call to action — feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and advocating for civil rights.

During the Civil Rights Movement, leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. drew directly from Christian teachings to promote nonviolence and personhood. King's vision of the Beloved Community was rooted in agape love — a selfless, unconditional love that seeks justice and reconciliation. This vision was not abstract; it was lived out in marches, sit-ins, and sermons that called people to love even in the face of hatred.

For me, following Jesus, being a Christian, also expresses love through music, storytelling, and ritual. Music, with its soaring harmonies and heartfelt lyrics, is a powerful vehicle for love — love of God, love of community, and love of self. Songs like “Love Lifted Me” and “Jesus Loves Me” are not just melodies; they are declarations of worth and belonging.

In worship, love is tangible. It's in the embrace of elders, the prayers of parents, and the testimonies of those who have overcome. The church is a place where people are reminded that they are loved by God and by one another, no matter what the world says.

Finally, the Christian imperative to love one another is inseparable from the pursuit of justice. Love demands action. It demands that systems of oppression be dismantled and that all people be treated with dignity. This is why we as United Methodists are at the forefront of movements for racial, economic, and social justice. To love one another is to see the divine in each person. It is to build community, to heal wounds, and to speak truth to power.

The command to love one another is not just a moral suggestion — it is a sacred mandate. May we never lose sight of this love that has been a source of strength, a tool of liberation, and a foundation for community. It is a love that sings, marches, prays, and perseveres. May it ever be so.

Peace,
Pastor Sheridan

Inside

- 2 Thoughts from Pastor Joey
- 2 Contact Us
- 2 Office Hours
- 2 Welcoming Statement
- 3 Lectionary & Worship Schedule
- 3 Music Ministries:
 - Sanctuary Choir
 - Joyful Ringers Bells
 - Children's Choir
- 3 Back to School Time
- 4 Sympathy
- 4 Joys & Concerns
- 4 Send a Card or Note
- 4 Thank You
- 4 Scam Alert
- 5 Special Art & Poetry Event
- 5 Bibles & Brews
- 6 Taste & Sing
- 6 SPY Is Back!
- 6 SPY Parent Info Meeting
- 6 SPY Season Highlights
- 7 School Supply Thanks
- 7 Hunger Ministry Update: Soup Please!
- 8 BWC Annual Conference
- 9 Lay Leader Reflections
- 9 Meditation on Communion
- 10 Pancake Breakfast
- 10 Train Show
- 10 Lydia Circle
- 10 Still Wednesday
- 10 Yarn Ministry
- 11 Prayerwaves
- 11 Sipping Ministry
- 11 Stephen Ministry
- 11 Welcome Ministry
- 11 Cards & Care
- 11 SAM Leadership

Thoughts from Pastor Joey

One of my challenges in life these days is parenting. I know this will shock everyone reading this, but let me just say it: parenting is hard. It is exhausting. There are days when I honestly wonder if I'm a good parent. I don't think I'm a bad parent — but some days, it's hard to see the good.

Let me give you an example. Andre has a way of pushing buttons. One might even call it a special gift, and some days it feels like he's using that gift in a full-court press. On those days, as you can imagine, my frustration level is quite high. It's easy to get lost in the difficulty and see nothing else. But then something happens. It's like a switch flips, and suddenly his sweet side appears. He'll come up and ask for a cuddle — and that will stop you in your tracks.

Moments like these remind me that God often meets us in our most human experiences.

It's easy to lose sight of joy when everything around you feels chaotic or just doesn't feel good. The world can feel like that, too. The daily news thrives on bad stories — they grab our attention, even if they wear us down. All of that noise can cause us to lose sight of joy.

But God teaches us that joy is still there. Goodness is still there. The Holy Spirit is always pouring out grace that points us back to what is good — and to joy.


When we pause long enough to notice, those small moments of joy are like little flashes of God's grace — reminders that even when life is frustrating, even when the news feels overwhelming, there is still goodness right here among us. Scripture tells us, "The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10). Joy doesn't ignore hard realities. It gives us the strength to keep going in spite of them.

So I invite you, in this season, to look for joy — not only in the big celebrations, but in the small and unexpected places: in a shared laugh, in an act of kindness, in a moment of quiet. Trust that God is present in those moments, drawing us back to hope and giving us strength for the days ahead.

May we be a people who notice joy, who nurture it, and who share it freely — because joy is not just a feeling; it is a gift from God that can change the world.

~Pastor Joey

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

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

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!

Please note: St. Paul's is closed on federal holidays.

Lectionary & Worship Schedule

Sunday, Sept. 7

9:00 AM Worship with Communion
10:30 AM Worship with Communion & Sanctuary Choir
Scripture - Philemon 1-21
Rev. Joey Heath-Mason, preaching

Sunday, Sept. 14

Commissioning Christian Education Leaders Third Grade Bible Presentations

9:00 AM Worship with Communion
10:30 AM Worship with Sanctuary Choir
Scripture - 1 Timothy 1:12-17
Rev. Sheridan Allmond, preaching

Sunday, Sept. 21

9:00 AM Worship with Communion
10:30 AM Worship with Sanctuary Choir
Scripture - 1 Timothy 2:1-7
Rev. Sheridan Allmond, preaching

Sunday, Sept. 28

9:00 AM Worship with Communion
10:30 AM Worship with Sanctuary Choir
Scripture - 1 Timothy 6:6-19
Rev. Joey Heath-Mason, preaching

Worship Livestreaming Sundays, 10:30 AM
stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home

Back to School Time

The 10:30 AM Worship on Sunday, September 14, will include a featured moment to bless the teachers, leaders, and volunteers who will be guiding Christian Education at St. Paul's in the coming year. We will lift up Sunday School teachers, St. Paul's Youth volunteers, adult education leaders, and clergy guiding the Confirmation Class for 2025-2026.

On August 24, Pastor Joey also offered a special blessing during worship, as our students and educators go back to school. Take a little bit of St. Paul's with you by using one of the backpack tags, available for pick up at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex or by contacting the church office.

St. Paul's leaders are still envisioning the wide variety of new educational opportunities that could be possible in the new programming year. If you have questions, ideas, or wish to be involved, contact Pastor Sheridan (sallmond@stpaulsk.org) or Pastor Joey (joeyhm@stpaulsk.org).



Music Ministry at St. Paul's

The Music Department has fantastic opportunities for all ages and skill levels this year! Whether you're a seasoned musician or just looking to explore your passion for singing and ringing, we have something for you. Questions? Contact Tom Pedersen, Director of Music, at tpedersen@stpaulsk.org.

Sanctuary Choir: *Beginning Sunday, Sept. 7.* Open to adults and youth grades 7 and up, who enjoy leading worship and singing in an ensemble. We meet at 9:30 AM on Sundays in room 211 and sing for the 10:30 AM worship service. Singers are welcome to participate week-to-week, or on a continuing basis.



Children's Choir: *Beginning Sunday, Sept. 28.* Perfect for kids in grades K-6 who are eager to learn and sing together. Rehearsals begin September 28 in the Multi-Purpose Room. Children's choir is a great way for your child to grow in their faith, learn music skills, and be part of a meaningful group.



Joyful Ringers: *Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 17.* An exciting handbell choir for adults that promises fun and fellowship. We are looking for new ringers and begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 17 at 7:00 PM.



Sympathy

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



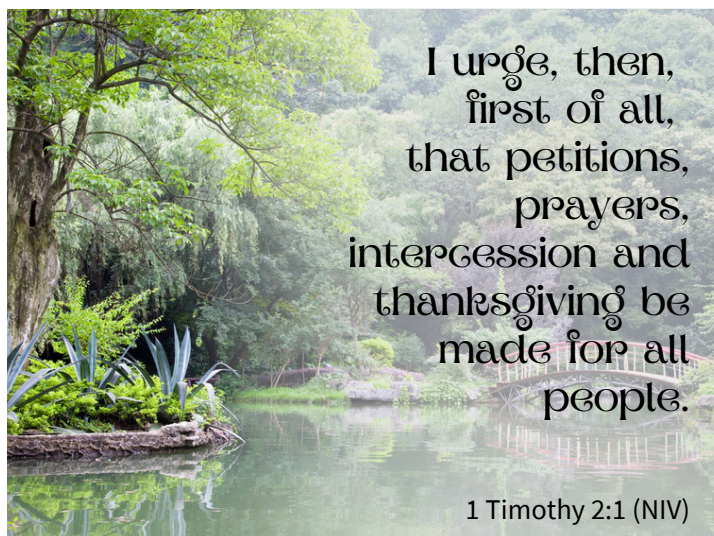
The family of
Barbara DiMasso Peters
former member of St. Paul's

Sharing Joys & Concerns

One of our strengths as a church community is the way we pray for and care for one another. Here are four 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.
- Contact Pastor Sheridan (sallmond@stpaulsk.org) or Pastor Joey (joeym@stpaulsk.org) directly, especially if anyone involved would welcome pastoral care.
- Reach out to Erin Steele in the church office at 301-933-7933 ext 100 or stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org

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



I urge, then,
first of all,
that petitions,
prayers,
intercession and
thanksgiving be
made for all
people.

1 Timothy 2:1 (NIV)

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. Carol MacIntyre

2100 Merrifields Dr.
Silver Spring MD 20906

Dr. Jo Campa

301 Russell Ave
Wilson Building, #219
Gaithersburg MD 20877

Mrs. Marybelle Waldroff

9901 Capitol View Ave
Silver Spring MD 20910

Mrs. Mary Lou DeHaven

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

Mrs. Dorothea Depenbrock

6602 Greyswood Road
Larmax Home
North Bethesda MD 20817



Thank You, Thank You

To The St. Paul's Community,

On behalf of the Bartley family, we would like to thank the congregation of St. Paul's for the overwhelming expressions of love and support demonstrated after Buck's passing. Buck was a long-time, devoted member of St. Paul's. He loved this congregation and made many lasting friendships. His contributions were many, including his leadership in making the memorial garden a reality. We would also like to thank the staff for their above and beyond preparation for the service.

Sincerely,

Tom & Marty Bartley



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 or sent to the church's physical address at 10401 Armory Avenue, Kensington MD.

An Evening of Art & Poetry

Wednesday, September 10, 2025
7:00-8:00 PM in the Octagon Room

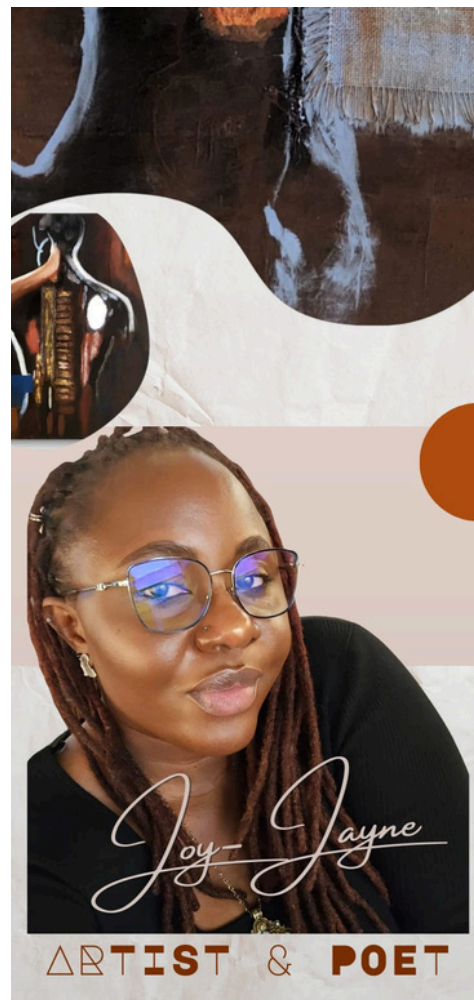
Join local artist Joy-Jayne Bassey, founder of MuseVerse Circle, for a night bringing poetry and visual art into dialogue during St. Paul's Still Wednesday. This special event is open to the public!

Joy-Jayne is a multidisciplinary artist, poetic essayist, cultural facilitator, and founder of MuseVerse Circle, a poetry initiative that brings verse to life through language, dialogue, and shared presence. Her work explores what she calls "rust theology," an inquiry into the scars, stories, and sacredness that shape human experience.

Working with paper, fabric, charcoal, acrylic, and words, she creates sculptural forms and poems that demonstrate both the scars of experience and persistence of beauty. Her artistic practice draws from material abstraction and brutalism, finding beauty in impermanence and transformation.

The Rust Series brings painting and poetry into dialogue, gesturing toward tenderness even in fracture, and toward grace even in unraveling. Each piece inhabits the tension between breaking and forming, collapse and confession, grief and hope. The work bears witness to the aftermath of life's wounds and the stories they carry forward.

A selection of Joy-Jayne's artwork from The Rust Series, curated by Dinah Myers-Schroeder, will be on display in the Octagon for two weeks following the Still Wednesday art and poetry event.



Sundays, once a month
5:00-6:00 PM

Dates for 2025: September 14, October 18, November 15, December 14.

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. Our September location is BabyCat Brewery (10241 Kensington Pkwy, Kensington, MD). Want to know more? Reach out to Pastor Joey at joeyhm@stpaulsk.org.

Taste & Sing

Tuesday, September 23, 12:00-1:30 PM

Taste & Sing returns with some new faces for the Fall! St. Paul's Director of Music, Mr. Tom Pedersen, will be at the keyboard to play for this casual time of music, learning, food, and fellowship. We start by singing through some hymns from the UM Hymnal - feel free to request your favorites! Then Dr. 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. We finish with a tasty lunch prepared by Ginny Hagberg (\$5 donation). No musical expertise needed! Save the date for Taste & Sing on Tuesday Oct. 21, Tuesday Nov. 18, and Tuesday Dec. 16.



SPY Is Back This Fall!

St. Paul's Youth (SPY) will kick off on Sunday, September 14 in the evenings. All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us for faith, friendship, and fun! Mark your calendars for our September gatherings on 9/14, 9/21, and 9/28. Visit stpaulsk.org/community/youth for the registration & permission form for 2025-2026! A full calendar for the season will be posted in the coming weeks!

SPY Parent Information Session

Wednesday, September 10, 7:00-7:45 PM

Before we launch the fall SPY season, we'll hold a SPY Parent Information Session on Wednesday, September 10, 7:00-7:45 PM (virtual). All SPY parents are encouraged to attend to learn more and discover how you can help make SPY possible. Email Rachel Stalcup to receive the link to the virtual session. This is a volunteer-led ministry — your partnership is essential to its success. We can't wait to see what this year holds!

SPY Highlights!

From Megan Montgomery

The SPY program that was reinvigorated over the course of the 2024-25 school year included activities at the church and special events like the Festival of Lights at Brookside Gardens (*top photo*) and the BWC IGNITE youth conference in Ocean City (*middle photo*). SPY programs continued into the summer thanks to a grant from the Conference designed to bring in additional youth. The SPY summer series has been a hit, with many of our SPY kids bringing their friends to the church for summer programming. We have had a Chipotle-and-movie night, bowling, mini-golf, and an August day trip to Hershey Park that was a big hit (with 16 students and 3 chaperones - *bottom photo*)! With the last "farewell to summer" event at the church featuring games, arts and crafts, and an ice cream bar, the summer wraps up where it all began - right here at home at the church. St. Paul's has done an outstanding job of opening our doors to new faces and providing summer fun to our current SPY members. We are all lucky to call St. Paul's our faith home, and I am excited to see if a few new faces stay through the thoughtful curriculum and activities planned for the fall.



School Supplies Thanks!



Thanks to our many donors, we were able to help fill the backpacks of kids in need! As in previous years, we partnered with Interfaith Works to get the materials to the Montgomery County students and families who would have difficulty sourcing these themselves.

In addition to the three sacks of backpacks, four boxes of notebooks and binders, two boxes of paper, three bins of pens, markers, pencils, and erasers, and one large tote full of pencil cases, we were also able to use the designated financial donations to send a check to Interfaith Works so they could buy the additional school supplies most needed during the back-to-school rush.

We are grateful for all who donated, and we give special thanks for the volunteers who led the Backpack Build initiative this season, Grace Graham, Anne Rush, and Angela Harvey.

Hunger Ministry Updates: Soup Please!

As food pantries around the country feel growing pressure from supply chain issues and instability in government-funded resources, we are relying on St. Paul's donors now more than ever to help bring shelf-stable pantry staples to the table.

We are expecting cooler days as fall arrives. For September, we especially encourage donations of hearty soups (in cans or boxes) and cooking oil (approx 48 oz. bottle). We always have a need for cereals and protein sources and are thankful for all donations from our "most requested" list.

- **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 (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, year-round, 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. You can make a secure financial contribution toward bulk food orders and grocery cards at stpaulsk.org/giving.

Interested in volunteering? Reach out to our volunteer coordinator Mr. Pat Maloney at hunger@stpaulsk.org.

Baltimore-Washington UMC Annual Conference

From Marge & Rich Higgins

We had the privilege to represent St. Paul's as lay members to the 241st session of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in Baltimore in May. This year's conference theme was Rejoice in the Lord: Dwell in Joy! Bishop Easterling reminded us that "joy and pain can coexist, and sometimes, oftentimes, they must." She added that "Joy is always a courageous counterpoint. Let the world see a church unshaken, not because we're blind to the pain, but because we're rooted in a deeper promise ... The God of peace is with us, and that's why we dwell in joy."

As is happening in annual conferences across the globe, we voted on four constitutional amendments that were passed at General Conference in May 2024. To take effect, two-thirds of the aggregate vote on each amendment from every annual conference needs to be achieved. While we do not know the results of the balloting at the BWCUMC conference, they will be combined with those from around the world and worldwide results will be announced in November 2025 by the Council of Bishops.

The amendments address:

- Regionalization that would be achieved with a package of legislation that gives The United Methodist Church's geographic regions equal decision-making authority.
- Adding "gender" and "ability" to the list of characteristics that do not bar people from membership in a United Methodist Church.
- Revising Paragraph 5, Article V, to strengthen the denomination's longtime stance for racial justice.
- Clarifying who can elect the clergy delegates who serve at General Conference, and at U.S. jurisdictional and central conference, which elect bishops.

The conference has restructured into hubs as of July 1, and the conference focused on getting to know other church leaders as we work to build relationships, understand community needs, and cooperate in ministry.

One of the first conference-wide mission project combines competition and cooperation, as districts make hygiene kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief to use in disaster relief efforts and with ministry to the poor. The goal is to collect 10,000 hygiene kits by Thanksgiving Day. St. Paul's has taken a first step in this effort. Using funds donated in Fall 2024, our St. Paul's Youth (SPY) and Kids with Compassion have already put together 200 kits, which will soon be blessed and shared!



Clockwise from top left: Bishop Easterling speaking; Pastor Sheridan (back row, far right) waits to present the conference trustees report; the procession of clergy with ribbon banner waved by former St. Paul's associate pastor Rev. Kate Mackereth Fulton; Pastor Joey (second from right) with some members of the queer clergy caucus.



Lay Leader Reflections

From Anne Dean, Lay Leader

The end of summer and start of the school year brings new beginnings for all of us. Some of these new beginnings are deeply prayed for, long sought; others are out from left field, ready or not, here they are. For us in the church, we move into planning, our ministries return, we ready for our church conference. We ready for autumn, with its themes of harvest and gratitude. We bless you, God of Seed and Harvest, and we pray:

For Those Whose Harvest is Poor

Creator God, for daily bread
and all who work
to bring your harvest home
we bring our thanks today.

Forgive our ingratitude
we who have so much
yet waste what you have given.

For those whose harvest is poor,
whose crops have withered,
water tainted, children starve,
help those who bring relief
and bestow on us
an unaccustomed generosity,
that all might share from your garden
and all might sing your praise.

Creator God, provider of all
we bring our thanks today.

-- Author Unknown



Meditation on Communion

By Kenzie Raulin

I taste the sweet grape juice on my tongue as I kneel and chew slowly, trying to take in what it may mean to swallow the body of Christ. My elbows on the railing and colorful light falls through the large stained glass above. My mind begins the Wash, not in a bowl of sudsy water but with a ploppy brush, the kind from the dime store you got as a kid with a 8-color paint set. I dip into the baptismal font, where better to bless the world from and pour out tears? A pale pink swash runs over my small home as if on a map. Over our home and then onto Capitol Hill- another dip to a salmon orange and I drag my hand across Ohio to Chicago. Then a small rinse and move to green and watch as the color bleeds over the white mountains of New Hampshire. I dip again and again, spreading love and color over all those I love and a last swash which takes in the the globe - all the distant places of hurt and pain, also to the people I want to place blame and anger. As I rinse my imaginary brush I return to clear clean water and hydrate an entire thirsty world.



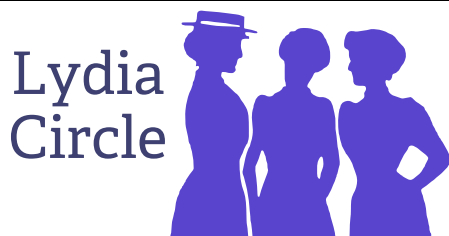
Returning on Saturday, September 6, 2025

The all-you-care-to-eat breakfast is back! 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! This month the season specialty is whole-grain blueberry pancakes. Please join us on September 6, 2025 in the Fellowship Hall. Serving hours are 8:00 to 10:30 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!

Kensington Train Show

*Saturday & Sunday
September 6-7
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Kensington Town Hall*

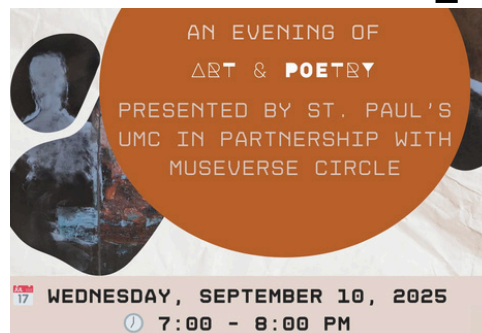
The Capital Trackers put on their annual model train show at the Kensington Town Hall this fall! Enjoy the trains, children's activities, live music, and storytelling. Admission is \$7 per adult and \$2 per child, or \$15 per family. Proceeds benefit Noyes Children's Library and the Kensington Historical Society.



*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 or 301-339-8242 to receive more information.

Still Wednesday



Wednesdays beginning September 10, 7:00-8:00 PM

Still Wednesday returns to a weekly schedule starting September 10. Please join us for a very special Still Wednesday season kick-off with art and poetry from Joy-Jayne Bassegy in the Octagon! See page 5 for more details! All are welcome. Still Wednesday provides a mid-week 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.

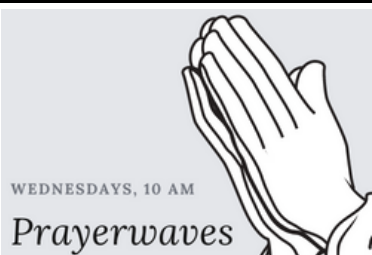


Mondays, Sept. 8 & 22, 7:00-8:30 PM

We return to meetings in the Library starting Sept. 8. Bring your crochet, knit, or other project and craft alongside friends. 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.

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.

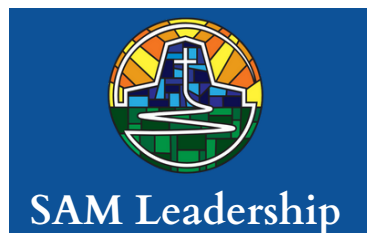


Few things better demonstrate our hospitality than making sure all of our members and friends receive a warm welcome upon arrival at church, and that new Sunday morning visitors can get some simple questions answered! Please consider participating in St. Paul's Welcome Ministry. We are always looking 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 chairperson Rachel Stalcup (rachelstalcup@gmail.com) for the meeting schedule and the Zoom link, or if you have questions.



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

9:00 AM • Worship with Weekly Communion

10:30 AM • Worship with Sanctuary Choir

Sundays, September 7, 14, 21, 28

Worship-at-Home

Livestreaming every Sunday at 10:30 AM

stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home



September 2025 Epistle Options

Email (color) or Mail (black & white):

Email stpaulsunitied@stpaulsk.org
to be added to the distribution list

Download (color)

stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news