

TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship Leadership

Preacher: The Rev. John Ward-Diorio
Lector: 8:15 Dave Hall
10:30 Bill Cashman

Ministry of Music

Organist: Sarah Myers
Minister of Music: Eric Dundore

Ministry of Service

Head Ushers: Don Wood
Ushers: 8:15 Donna and Ron Chronister
10:30 Merikay and Don Wood
Greeters: 8:15 Cindy and Richard Bensel
10:30 Chris and Dave Grice
Acolyte: 8:15
10:30 Jeff Dundore
Children's Sermon: 10:30 Amy Paulus
Mission Moments: 8:15 Shirley Keith Knox
10:30 Dennis Plymette
Nursery: Lauren and Rachael Cashman
Flower Delivery: Eichman Family

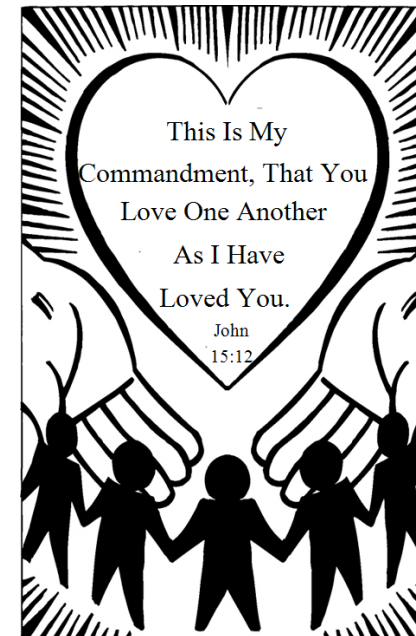
ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

May 17, 2009



GOD IS STILL SPEAKING



No Matter Who You Are, or Where You Are on Life's Journey You are Welcome Here!

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVICE OF WORSHIP

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2009

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES
THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moment For Mission: Strengthen the Church

THE PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES
Organ "Abide With Me" Rasley

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Call and Response) From Psalm 100

*THE HYMN NO. 22 "Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped"

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Loving God, help us to love others the way You have loved us, unconditionally. Direct our eyes, minds and hearts to the words and way of Jesus, so we might be reminded how we can love in this way, and so we might remember that as we abide in Jesus, we never have to go it alone. Amen.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

We are grateful that God loves us so deeply, so well. We are grateful that Jesus calls us friends and seeks to work with us rather than have us be blindly following servants. But how grateful are we really? Do we try and love the way we have been loved? Do we reach out to those no one will reach out to? Are we willing to engage in the hard work friends will do for another friend? Let us join in the unison Prayer of Confession.

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done, and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to You. Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive)

Minister: God receives our apologies and repentance, and has assured us that our sins are forgiven.

All: Let us receive and pursue the new lives, which Jesus showed were possible for all of us. Amen.

With the recent news of the Swine Flu, an awareness has arose of the potential possibility that public gatherings and places may be required to be shut down for a period. So that we are prepared in the event that a situation like this would occur affecting St. Paul's; it would truly be beneficial if we had an email on file for everyone or the most up to date phone # so we can contact you to notify you of the closing. Additionally, we are working on an updated directory and hope to issue one shortly. If you would like to verify the contact information (address, phone # and email) we currently have on file for you, please contact Terry in the Church office either by email stpaulstaff@verizon.net or phone 766-7931.

Last Chance to Contribute!! Thanks to all who have donated toward our Association's Cabin (#7) at Hartman Center. To date we have raised nearly \$1800 to be used in the renovation of our cabin. June 1st will be the cutoff date for collecting for this wonderful project as we would like to get our donation forwarded to the Association. If you have indicated to either Art Williams or Mike Aumiller or on the signup sheet in the Commons that you planned to donate, please turn in your check as soon as possible. If you have not said you would donate, there is still time. Please drop your check into the collection plate or mail to the office (with a notation in the memo "Cabin #7") by June 1st. Our challenge to other Association churches is working... let's put our best foot forward in raising money for this project

2009 GRADUATIONS – please notify the Church Office **by Monday, May 18th** with the following information; name of graduate, school, degree and future plans. We are preparing invitations to the New Member/Graduate Tea and a graduation display. For the display we would also appreciate a wallet sized picture of the graduate. All pictures will be returned.

The **NEW MEMBER/GRADUATE TEA** will be held on **June 7th** following the second service. Please plan to attend to recognize the new members that were received into our Church Family this past fall, the class that will be confirmed on Sunday May 31st at the second service and our 2009 High School and College Graduates.

ANNUAL CHURCH SCHOOL PROMOTION SUNDAY will be held on **June 7 at 9:15**. Fun activities and fellowship are planned for all as we celebrate the end of another year of Sunday School. Please come and join your friends for this very special time!



Mark your calendar and get out your hammer and nails! St. Paul's will be "**Under Construction**" from July 20 – 23 as we learn about the work of Habitat for Humanity during Vacation Bible School. Children ages 3 through Grade 6 are invited to attend our evening VBS. Look for registration forms in June's Epistle. Adult and Youth volunteers are needed to fill many positions on our "building crews". Please contact Jonneke Dundore at 766-2601 or Jonnekev@aol.com if you are interested in helping out. There are many different job opportunities from which to choose! We are also planning a very special building project and are in need of some handy adults and older youths who would like to work on it each evening of VBS. Please let Jonneke know if you are interested!

ST. PAUL'S ON WHEELS TOUR DE CURE UPDATE - There are only two weeks left until the Tour de Cure, so if you're planning on joining our team, time's getting short! We're at least 40% towards our goal of \$5000, and would love to see more people join St. Paul's on Wheels. If you have friends that would like to ride, they don't have to be members of St. Paul's to be on our team. If you have a family member or friend with diabetes, let us know and we will put their name on a special card that we will wear during the ride. For more information, to join the team or to make a contribution contact Craig Martek (432-1572 (h) 514-6560 (c) 630-3567 (w)) or go to the St. Paul's on Wheels website: <http://main.diabetes.org/goto/st.pauls.ucc>.

The Mechanicsburg Area Council of Churches is pleased to present the **22nd ANNUAL MECHANICSBURG AREA ECUMENICAL CHOIR CONCERT** – featuring 142 voices from 38 area churches, Musical Director Gary Weber, **Sunday May 17, 3:00 pm** at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 410 E. Simpson St. in Mechanicsburg. This concert will feature the handbell choir of Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church “Bells of Celebration” directed by Suzanne Klinedinst, Accompanist; Jisun (Sunny) Woo Laycock. Free will offering – Proceeds to benefit **New Hope Ministries, Inc.**

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE FALL BAZAAR PLANNING MEETING - Thursday, May 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. All ideas would be greatly appreciated. We need lots of help to make this event successful. We are also looking for a co-chairperson to assist Jean with the Bazaar and a chairperson for the flea market. Thank you in advance for your support of this event. Please contact the Church Office (766-7931) or the Bazaar co-chairperson, Jean Mogel (after May 12th – 697-1088) if you have any questions. Hope to see you at the meeting.

POLLYANNAS MEETING – will be held 1 pm on Tuesday, May 26 at Phyllis Hershey's home. Please remember Food Pantry donations. Any questions, call Phyllis at 737-3562.

JOIN THE YOUTH GROUP AT A HARRISBURG SENATORS GAME - Everyone is welcome to join our Youth at a Harrisburg Senators game and/or Water Golf on **Saturday, August 1st!** The fun will begin when we meet after 2:30 to play mini golf on City Island, and then enjoy a buffet dinner starting at 5:30 PM, followed by the baseball game. Game time is 7 pm and the opponent is the Portland Sea Dogs. Please see the sign up sheet on the Youth Bulletin Board in the Common area for complete information on this fun filled activity. Payment should be made to Vic or Martha Brown. Any questions, please call us at 697-3522 or email vbrown5325@aol.com! We hope to see you there!

Looking for volunteers to staff the Nursery – please see sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the common area if you are interested in helping out in this area. **Child Sponsorship slots are still open** – If you interested in sponsoring a child and have not done so yet, please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office as there are open slots to fill.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*THE GLORIA PATRI

PRAYER OF BLESSING (Unison)

May God's grace be upon these shawls...warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing. May these mantles be safe havens...sacred places of security and well-being...sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May the ones who receives these shawls be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Blessed Be!

10:30 SERVICE

SING THE CHILDREN TO THE FRONT

Jesus Loves the Little Children

**Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world
Red and yellow, black and white
They are precious in his sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

THE WORD FOR THE YOUNG

SING THE CHILDREN TO THEIR SEATS

Jesus Loves Me

**Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so
Little ones to him belong. They are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.**

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 10:44-48

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 98

THE RESPONSE

One: God is still speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING AND MESSAGE

John 15:9-17

“More than Servants”

*THE HYMN NO. 388 “Help Us Accept Each Other”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (Unison)

**Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

THE OFFERTORY

8:15 Chancel Choir "To the Hills" Leech
10:30 Youth Choir "I Will Joyfully Sing" McDonald

*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Generous and loving God, we dedicate to Your service the work of our hands, the earnings of our time and efforts, and our vision for the future. May faith sustain us as we offer our best to You in praise and thanksgiving and joyous dedication. We seek to work for the reign of Your truth and extension of the friendship granted to us in Jesus Christ. Let our offering bear fruit in the lives of all who are helped by it. Amen.

*THE HYMN NO 495 "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

*THE BIDDING TO MISSION

*THE WORLD PEACE PRAYER

One: Lead us, O God.

**All: Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Amen.**

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" Livingston, Jr.

*Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand.

We welcome warmly all who are visiting with us. Please register your attendance on the Friendship Form so that others may greet you in the name of the Living Christ. The person at the end of the pew should place the finished sheet in the offering plate.

References:

The Prayer of Confession is from A New Zealand Prayer Book, The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, 1997, Harper, San Francisco.

The Prayer of Blessing is by Janet Bristow, 2008, www.shawlministry.com.

The Prayer of Dedication is from Led By Love, by Lavon Bayler, 1996, United Church Press.

"The World Peace Prayer" is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism, and is also prayed daily by Roman Catholic Benedictine Sisters.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by the Davinroys
In Honor of our 18th Anniversary

PRAYER CONCERNS: Sue Miller and her family on the death of her Uncle, Glenn Mauder; Clyde and Treva Miller.

Thank You – To the congregation of St. Paul's – Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers you had sent to our mother, Sandy Miller. Your kindness, thoughts and prayers at this difficult time, is greatly appreciated. Sincerely; the Miller Family.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK of May 17 – 24, 2009

TODAY	8:15/10:30 am	Worship Services/Blessing of the Prayer Shawls
	9:00 am	Choristers
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:30 am	New Member Meeting (Sanctuary)
	12:00 pm	Family Celebration Luncheon (FH)
MON		EPISTLE DEADLINE
TUES	5:30 pm	TOPS
	6:30 pm	MLC First Aid (FH)
	7:00 pm	Consistory
	7:00 pm	MLC Board Mtg
WED	6:00 pm	Hand Chime Choir (Rm. 5)
	6:30 pm	Youth Choir (S)
	7:15 pm	Chancel Choir (S)
SUN May 24	8:15/10:30 am	Worship Services
	9:15 am	Confirmation Rehearsal
	12:00 pm	VBS Planning Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CRAFT DONATIONS NEEDED – Hartman Center is in need of many bags of colored sand and a large supply of Elmer's white school glue (not tacky glue) for summer church camp. Please deposit items in the marked box in the Common area by June 7th. Thank You!