

Worship Series for September 12-October 3: The Tie That Binds

One of the most treasured Christian hymns is "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." It reminds us that relationships form us, inspire us, heal us. As we gather, we will consider how our relationships with the Holy and with each other form and transform us. And we will affirm the power of God's presence in our worshipping community to inspire us to "go and do likewise" in relationship to the world.

Updated Safety Protocols:

- **Please cover your mouth and nose with a mask at all times inside the building.**
- Two seating options: **Safely Distanced**, for the unvaccinated and those needing more space such as family; and **Sit Where You Like**, for the fully vaccinated and those no longer in need of distancing.
- Everyone may sing hymns softly with masks (not at full voice just yet).
- Exiting: Hospitality Ministers will guide worshipers; Socially Distanced will leave first, then Sit Where You Like.
- Enjoy fellowship on the playground, chat with members and visitors. Unvaccinated need to wear masks, unless sipping. Thank you for keeping one another safe & for loving your neighbor!



Back to School Ice Cream Social Sunday, September 19 at 1:00 pm

Calling all children and your families! Join on the St Paul's playground for food with friends and learn about future plans for Family Ministries.

Men's Retreat

October 1-2 at Camp Casowasco with Pastor Steve McKnight. Register and get the agenda at <https://files.constantcontact.com/482f4e31501/980fbe4d-9b8f-451c-920d-c31096b1994b.pdf>

Church Office Hours

9:00 AM-12:00 PM Sunday through Thursday

Office Phone: 607-273-5971

Pastoral Care Phone: 607-269-5509

Please call ahead if you plan to visit the church in person.

Our Staff

Rev. Rebekah (Pastor Beckie) Sweet / Senior Pastor / pastor@stpaulsithaca.org

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Sue Orzel / Custodian

Rev. Dr. Robert J. McCune / Pastor Emeritus

"St. Paul's is a compassionate community led and transformed by the Spirit."



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www.stpaulsithaca.org

Find us on Facebook and Twitter @StPaulsIthaca



**St. Paul's
United Methodist Church
September 19, 2021 - 10:30 AM Service
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

We welcome you, trusting that this time of worship will open our hearts to experience the Spirit's movement among us. Together, we seek peace, health, and wholeness as we gather in God's presence.
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**Indicates a standing portion of the service. Please stand as you are able.*

*The Tie that Binds
"Woven"*

Gathering as The Beloved Community

Gathering Music

Caleb Bates

Greeting & Welcome

Pastor Beckie Sweet

***Sharing Love and Peace with All**

Centering Music

***Call to Worship**

As we come to worship today, we ponder why God created us.

When someone needs a blessing, let us be the blessing.

When someone needs a shoulder, let us be a shoulder.

When someone feels distant and alone,

help us show that we are "woven connected."

When we need a tie that binds, let us be the tie that binds!

God created us to weave and reflect sunshine in all that we do.

May we offer the hope of Christ to the world's tomorrows.

***Singing Together**

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

#139

Opening Prayer

Encountering God Through the Word

Scripture Readings

Genesis 1:1-26

Jami Breedlove

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God^[b] swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God

separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make humankind^[c] in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,^[d] and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God!

A Message for All God's Children (Children's Time)

Special Music

"The Handiwork of God"

Chancel Choir

Message

"The Tie That Binds: WOVEN"

Responding with Joy and Generosity

***Hymn of Response**

"Weave"

please see insert

Prayers of the People

Holly Mathison

The Lord's Prayer

Offering our Gifts to God

Offertory

*Doxology

"We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise"

FWS # 2031

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, you gave us the gift of life, you put us in a stunning world, and you made us free to choose. In Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, you gave us new life and new hope for knowing you. May that Light shine through our choices, our words, our acts, our giving, and our stewardship. Thus, may others praise you, source of Light and Love. Amen.

Going Forth to Serve and to Bless

*Closing Hymn

"Let All Things Now Living"

FWS # 2008

Announcements

Dismissal with Blessing

*Postlude

-----PRAYERS-----

For **Prayer Chain Requests**, confidential concerns seen only by those who participate in the Prayer Chain, please contact Pastor Beckie at pastor@stpaulsithaca.org.

Prayer Requests: A.J. Sapp; Ann Mathews; Ann Shumate (friends of Nancy Potter); Anya Kyong; Ardie Bennett; Bob McCune; Daniel Minor (son of Betty Windstein's neighbor); David Bell; David Hall (brother of Joyce Turner and Sheila Hall); David Hays (Barbara Wernham's son-in-law); David McElrath; Eliesha Lovell (Nancy and Jeff Lovell's daughter); Gene Lovelace (Ruth Lovelace's brother); Gina Bakota (Teresa Yatsko's sister); Jackie Warren; John Salzman (LaVerne Snyder's friend); Katherine Herrala (LaVerne Snyder's aunt); Kathleen Jacklin; LaVerne Snyder; Mary Boardman and her son, Matthew; Marilyn Peterson (Lynn Martin's mother); Michael Russell (Sue Orzel's neighbor); Randy Hausner; Raymond Snyder (LaVerne's uncle); and Robert Deming (Melissa Gould's nephew); and Sheila Hall.

Our hearts go out to the family of Rev. Nelson Reppert, husband of Joan Reppert and long-time member of St Paul's; to the family of Sven Olof Andersson, friend to Allison Chatchyan for 31 years; and to the family of Marian Van de Velde on the loss of her son-in-law, Lloyd Baker.

Pray for healing within the United Methodist Church, especially for those who are excluded because of sexual orientation and gender identification.

For Your Reflection

The Apostle Paul had a past, one of persecuting Christians. When he encountered the Risen Christ, his life was transformed. Yet Paul's past was interwoven with his new calling. Question: How does God weave new calling into our lives and still make use of the skills of our past?

Families first!

Family Ministries has a new space in the sanctuary: the first row of pews. Children can place a hula hoop on the carpet to mark their own area. We'll have quiet activities and toys. Welcome! Your presence and participation are vital to the life of the Church.

Studying Scripture, Art, and Social Justice

We will be reading The Shout: Finding the Prophetic Voice in Unexpected Places by Hannah Adair Bonner. On Mondays 7:00-8:15pm Pastor Beckie will lead our exploration of the great ways these intersect. Come on Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 and Nov. 1, 8, 15. Please let Pastor Beckie know to order a book for you.