



**Saint Paul's United Methodist Church**  
"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."  
**Sunday, September 28th, 2025 - 10:30 AM Service**  
**Sixteenth 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.*

**Gathering as The Beloved Community**

**Gathering Music**

"Moonshadow"  
by Cat Stevens

*Molly MacMillan, piano*

"My Refuge, My Fortress"  
by Caroline Cobb

**Greetings and Welcome**

*Pastor Alicia Wood*

**\*Sharing Love and Peace with All**

**Centering Music**

"Abide with Me"  
arr. by Victor C. Johnson

*Chancel Choir*

**\*Call to Worship**

When we are surrounded on every side, wondering which way is up and which way is down...

**Help us, God, for the glory of your name.**

When we question which way to go and how to follow God's path for us...

**Help us, God, for the glory of your name.**

When we find our rest in God and long for others to know the sweet peace of God's embrace...

**Help us, God, for the glory of your name.**

Today, as we gather for worship, may we come ready to listen and discern God's help that meets us right where we are.

**Help us, God, to receive your help and to extend your help to our neighbors, all for the glory of your name.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2025.*

**\*Singing Together**

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

UMH #110

**A Message for All God's Children**

*Pastor Alicia Wood*

**Special Music**

"Wings to Fly"  
by Jeremy Fox

*IC Jazz Vocal Ensemble  
John W. White, director*

## Encountering God Through the Word

### **Scripture Reading**

**Psalm 91: 1-6, 14-16 (CEB)**

*Jackson Robinson*

Living in the Most High's shelter,  
camping in the Almighty's shade,  
I say to the Lord, "You are my refuge, my stronghold!  
You are my God—the one I trust!"  
God will save you from the hunter's trap  
and from deadly sickness.  
God will protect you with his pinions;  
you'll find refuge under his wings.  
His faithfulness is a protective shield.  
Don't be afraid of terrors at night,  
arrows that fly in daylight,  
or sickness that prowls in the dark,  
destruction that ravages at noontime.  
God says, "Because you are devoted to me,  
I'll rescue you.  
I'll protect you because you know my name.  
Whenever you cry out to me, I'll answer.  
I'll be with you in troubling times.  
I'll save you and glorify you.  
I'll fill you full with old age.  
I'll show you my salvation."

Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!  
**Thanks be to God!**

### **Message**

"Call 911"

*Pastor Alicia Wood*

### **Responding with Joy and Generosity**

#### **\*Hymn of Response**

"Thy Holy Wings, O Savior"

UMH #502

### **Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer**

*Jami Breedlove-Crouch*

### **Offering Our Gifts to God**

#### **Offertory**

"His Eye is on the Sparrow"  
arr. by Mark Hayes

*Chancel Choir*

#### **\*Doxology**

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH #94

#### **\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)**

**Unshakable and merciful God, you meet us in the ruins just as surely as in times of rejoicing. When all feels lost, you are not. When we stumble for answers, you remain our refuge. Receive these gifts, given not from abundance alone but from hearts that still dare to trust. Let them be signs of your presence in broken places, tools of healing, hope, and grace in a hurting world. Help us live our praise, even in lament, as your people who believe in your goodness—still. Amen.**



**Children and Worship** – Children are always welcome in worship! To help keep small hands busy, we have books and toys on the black cart near the main sanctuary door. **Children aged 4 to 11 are invited to participate in “Faith Explorers,” which resumes today following the “Message for Children” segment during worship.**

**Coming Next Week: World Communion Sunday, October 5th**

World Communion Sunday is a global and denomination-wide celebration emphasizing the value of education and training. The UMC commemorate this day by giving generously to support young adults and to make a global impact for Christ. Half of the offering benefits World Communion scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students from the U.S. as well as other countries. The remainder provides grants to support training for worldwide inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. Your gift is a practical expression of care, equipping United Methodist students to shape a hopeful future. Supporting them offers both financial and spiritual encouragement, demonstrating the church's confidence in their potential. On World Communion Sunday, we join ecumenically in acknowledging our unity in Christ as we gather around His table.

**Book Group to Read “The Serviceberry” in October**

Looking for hope and a spirit of generosity in this season of increasing economic constraint and inequality? If so, join the Justice Seekers in October as they read Robin Wall Kimmerer's newest book, *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*. The book is a short, sweet, and inspiring meditation from the perspective of a Native American ecologist as she muses on the elements needed for a flourishing, nurturant, sustainable economy. To join, please sign up with the church office at [office@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:office@stpaulsithaca.org). **Make sure to state your preference as to whether you'd like to participate via zoom or meet in person.** In return, you'll receive either a Zoom link or the address of an actual physical meeting place, in addition to info on libraries, bookstores, and discount mail order options for acquiring the book. **The Serviceberry Book Group is scheduled to meet at 7pm on the following Mondays: October 13, 20, and 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**Our Staff**

**Rev. Alicia (Pastor Alicia) Wood** / Senior Pastor / [pastor@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Jami Breedlove-Crouch** / Loving Care Ministries Coordinator / [lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Dee Levine** / Church Administrative Assistant & Communications / [office@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:office@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Michelle Eells** / Business & Building Ministries Coordinator / [business@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:business@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Maia Finkel** / Choral and Ensembles Director / [choirdirector@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:choirdirector@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Molly MacMillan** / Pianist / [pianist@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:pianist@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**David Kingsley** / Technical Director / [dkingsley@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:dkingsley@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Dorothy Preston** / Festival Chimes Director / [dpreston@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:dpreston@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Sue Orzel** / Custodian

**St. Paul's United Methodist Church, A Reconciling Congregation**

402 North Aurora Street, Ithaca, New York

Find us at [www.stpaulsithaca.org](http://www.stpaulsithaca.org), Facebook and Instagram

**Church Office Hours are 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Sunday – Thursday**

Office Phone: 607-273-5971 Pastoral Care Phone: 607-269-5509