



Saint Paul's United Methodist Church
"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."
Sunday, October 19th, 2025 - 10:30 AM Service



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

"God is Doing Something Wonderful in Me"
by David Frazier

*Alejandro
Bernard-Papachryssanthou,
piano*

Greetings and Welcome

Pastor Alicia Wood

***Sharing Love and Peace with All**

Centering Music

"Peal con brio"
by Karen Thompson

Festival Chimes

***Call to Worship**

The world is changing. We see it everywhere. We feel it in our bones.
It seems to happen so much faster now than it used to.

The world is changing.

And also, the world needs to change. Children are hungry. Systems are unjust.
People are afraid. There are people on the streets who won't make it a day longer.

The world needs to change.

It is God's desire that the world would change and become more like a holy commonwealth of just peace in which all have what they need.

And we are the changemakers.

We are called to work alongside the Holy Spirit.

We are called to follow the way of Jesus.

May we be changed by this time of worship!

***Singing Together**

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

UMH #126

Call to Confession

We are called and equipped with everything to make change in this world, but sometimes we cannot get out of our way. Let us confess these shortcomings to one another, that we might be made new in a spirit of grace and forgiveness. Holy One, you are the beginning of all things. You are older than time itself.

But *we're* the ones who have a problem with change.

We like things to stay the way they are.

Or even better, we'd like things to go back to the way they were before.

And so we get in the way when you are trying to do a new thing.

We find change to be scary,

and so when things need to change, we often don't show up.

All: Forgive us.

Forgive us for when we ignored the people who need change the most.

Forgive us for when we resist your holy transformation.

Forgive us for when we, ourselves, refuse to change.

Change us again.

Remake us now to be more like your son Jesus.

Open our hearts to all that you would have us change in this world. Amen.

Assurance and Peace

Hear this assurance of Good News: the scriptures use this phrase many times: “And Jesus had compassion on them...” This is not just a story from long ago. It is true today. Jesus has compassion for us, for all that holds us back, for all that frightens us, for all that we have failed to do. This is the beginning of being a Changemaker—to know and believe in the compassion of Jesus, to accept this forgiveness, and to move toward greater compassion and forgiveness of others in our own lives. We have everything we need.

A Message for All God’s Children

Jami Breedlove-Crouch

Special Music

“Grazioso”
by Arnold B. Sherman

Festival Chimes

Encountering God Through the Word

Holy One, by the power of the Spirit
open our ears anew to your Word today.
Free us of our cynicism and our certainty
so that we may embrace fresh possibilities and grow in our faith.
May these stories show us the way
to become compassion-driven changemakers, like Jesus,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

Dee Levine

Scripture Reading

Luke 10: 25-37

A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to gain eternal life?”

Jesus replied, “What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?”

He responded, “*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.*”

Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.”

But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied, “A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, he took two full days’ worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, ‘Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.’ What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?”

Then the legal expert said, “The one who demonstrated mercy toward him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God!

Message

“Compassion Changes”

Pastor Alicia Wood

Responding with Joy and Generosity

*Hymn of Response

“Together We Serve”

TFWS #2175

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offertory

“You Can’t Beat God Giving”
by Billy Preston

*Alejandro
Bernard-Papachryssanthou,
piano*

*Doxology

“My Gratitude Now Accept, O God”

TFWS #2044 (v.2)

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Blessed are the changemakers.

Blessed are you who are not asleep

to the world's pain and suffering.
 Blessed are you who lament for the way things are.
 Blessed are you who know, to the depth of your bones,
 that this is not how things are meant to be.
 Blessed are you for not believing the lie that
 this is how they will always remain.
 Blessed are you who know that things can change,
 who long for things to change.
 Blessed are you whose life's ambition is to bring the change
 that is justice and mercy for all.
 Blessed are you who know that God has always employed the faithful acts
 of ordinary people to heal and change this world.
 Blessed are you who know that change begins today,
 change begins with us,
 and that we are blessed to be the changemakers.

Let the people say... Amen!

Going Forth to Serve and Bless

Announcements

*Closing Hymn "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" UMH #581

*Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude "I Just Want to Praise You" Alejandro
 by Maurette Brown Clark Bernard-Papachryssanthou,
 piano

-----PRAYERS-----

For **Prayer Chain Requests**, confidential concerns seen only by those who participate in the Prayer Chain, please contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at: lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org.

Prayer Requests: Linda Yetter; William Deming (nephew of Melissa Gould); Ruth Lovelace; Andrea Downing Zheng and family; Larry Roberts; Mary and Matthew Boardman. Pray for healing within the United Methodist Church as we live into the new reality of being a fully inclusive denomination.

Prayer requests will be published in the bulletin for four weeks. If you would like someone to remain on the list, contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org or 607-269- 5509. Please remember that we also need permission from the person listed.

St. Paul's Ministries ~ Week of October 19th, 2025

Sunday, October 19th

10:30am – Worship - Sanctuary
 10:45am – Faith Explorers – Room 115, Main Floor
 11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time – Memorial Room
 11:45am – Lay Leadership Luncheon – Memorial Room

Monday, October 20th

7:00pm – Justice Seekers Reading Group – Memorial Room/
 ZOOM

Tuesday, October 21st

10:00am – Staff Meeting – ZOOM
 7:00pm – Church Council - ZOOM

Wednesday, October 22nd

Thursday, October 23rd

10:00am – Crafter's Group – Durham Room
 6:00pm – Festival Chimes Rehearsal – Sanctuary
 7:15pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Dining Room

Friday, October 24th

Church Offices Closed

Saturday, October 25th

Sunday, October 26th

10:30am – Worship – Sanctuary
 10:45am – Faith Explorers – Rm. 115, Main Floor
 11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time – Memorial Room

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” following the “Message for Children” segment during worship.**

“Love! Serve! Lead!” Luncheon is Today

Our United Methodist Church is living into a new denomination-wide Vision Statement: "Love Boldly! Serve Joyfully! Lead Courageously!" Following worship **today**, all are invited to gather in the **Memorial Room at 11:45am** as Pastor Alicia takes to the mic to lead us in conversation about this vision and how it speaks to our congregation. Free lunch (soup and fixin's) will be provided and good company is a given. Don't miss it!

Mark Your Calendar for the Charge Conference

The Ithaca St. Paul's UMC Charge Conference will be held at **1pm, October 25, 2025**, at Lansing UMC. Please attend to hear and vote on the business of our church. Church Council members are strongly encouraged to attend, but all are welcome. Pastor Alicia promises that she'll make the Charge Conference this year as fun and exciting as possible!

Calling All Trick or Treaters!

We're encouraging all **children** to wear their **Halloween costumes** to church **next Sunday, October 26th!** Please be sure to invite friends and family to worship so they can see our little ghosts and goblins all dressed up and excited to show off for their church family!

Pastor Alicia's Bible Study Starts October 29th

Pastor Alicia's new bible study group, "The Armor of God: Ephesians and Marvel," will be starting later this month. This study brings together the intersection of sacred texts and modern movies, highlighting the symbolism in the "Letter to the Ephesians" of the power of the Armor of God. The Marvel movies will illustrate how many of Marvel's female characters came to know their power and purpose. This study will be held on **Wednesdays via ZOOM from October 29 through December 3rd** from **6-7pm**. Please RSVP with [Dee](#) if you plan to attend. If more than 10 people sign up, an additional time will be offered.

A Very Special All Saints Sunday

November 2nd is All Saints Sunday, where we honor and remember those who passed on the previous year. In addition to our usual recitation of names of the deceased and the lighting of memorial candles, there will also be Dixieland band leading a joyous, celebratory procession out of the sanctuary at the end of services, New Orleans funeral style! Don't miss it!

Please Note: SPUMC's Young Adult Group, Connections, will meet after worship next Sunday, November 2nd.

Our Staff

Rev. Alicia (Pastor Alicia) Wood / Senior Pastor / pastor@stpaulsithaca.org
Jami Breedlove-Crouch / Loving Care Ministries Coordinator / lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org
Dee Levine / Church Administrative Assistant & Communications / office@stpaulsithaca.org
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Dorothy Preston / Festival Chimes Director / 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, 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

126 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1. Sing praise to God who reigns a-bove, the God of all cre -
 2. The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but through all grief dis -
 3. Thus, all my toil-some way a-long, I sing a-loud thy
 4. Let all who name Christ's ho-ly name give God all praise and

a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of
 tress - ing, an ev - er pres-ent help and stay, our peace and
 prais - es, that earth may hear the grate-ful song my voice un -
 glo - ry; let all who own his power pro-claim a - loud the

our sal - va - tion. With heal-ing balm my soul is filled and
 joy and bless - ing. As with a moth-er's ten-der hand, God
 wea - ried rais - es. Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, both
 won - drous sto - ry! Cast each false i - dol from its throne, for

ev-ery faith-less mur-mur stilled: To God all praise and glo - ry.
 gent-ly leads the cho-sen band: To God all praise and glo - ry.
 soul and bod-y bear your part: To God all praise and glo - ry.
 Christ is Lord, and Christ a - lone: To God all praise and glo - ry.

Together We Serve



1. To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love, in -
 2. We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope, a
 3. We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor, the
 4. To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work, re -



vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast. We
 lamp for the heart and a light for the feet. We
 bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care. We
 mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong. To -



work and we pray through sor - row and joy, ex -
 learn, year by year, to let love shine through un -
 of - fer a home to those who will come, our
 geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth, re -



tend - ing your love to the last and the least.
 til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.
 hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.
 mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

My Gratitude Now Accept, O God 2044

(Gracias, Señor)



1. My grat - i - tude now ac - cept, O God, for ten - der
2. From all your boun - ty I give to you; for all the
1. *Gra - cias, Se - ñor, por lo que me das, gra - cias por*
2. *Te doy de lo que tú me das, con go - zo*



- care that you pro - vide; for your a - bun - dant
bless - ings you im - part. Re - ceive this of - fer -
ben - de - cir - me. Gra - cias por tu fi -
en mi co - ra - zón. Re - ci - be hoy mi o -



- faith - ful - ness. End - less is your sup - ply. _____
ing I bring. Re - ceive my joy - ful heart. _____
de - lí - dad y por tu pro - vi - sión. _____
fren - da, te la en - tre - go a ti. _____



- gifts from the heart ac - cept. _____
de lo que tú nos das. _____

3. I bring to you all my love and praise.
I glorify and bless your name.
Let me adore you, Holy One,
with every breath I take.
3. *Te amo, Dios, doy gloria a ti,*
tú eres digno de loor.
Te adoro con mi vida
y con lo que me das.
4. All that is living belongs to you;
all that I am in your hands kept.
From the abundance of your hand,
gifts from the heart accept.
4. *Todo te pertenece a ti,*
mi vida y todo mi ser.
Con gratitud te damos
de lo que tú nos das.

WORDS: Rafael Montalvo; English trans. by Raquel Mora Martínez (Ps. 24:1)

MUSIC: Rafael Montalvo

OFRENDA
Irregular

581 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

1. Lord, whose love through hum- ble ser - vice bore the weight of
 2. Still your chil - dren wan- der home - less; still the hun - gry
 3. As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re -
 4. Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear

hu - man need, who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,
 cry for bread; still the cap - tives long for free - dom;
 veal - ing light in its height and depth and great - ness
 name we go to the child, the youth, the a - ged,

of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed: we, your ser - vants, bring the
 still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, your deep com -
 dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, mak - ing known the needs and
 love in liv - ing deeds to show; hope and health, good will and

wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart, con - se - crat - ing
 pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love your
 bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear, stir - ring us to
 com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, that your ser - vants,

WORDS: Albert F. Bayly, 1961, alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. to B. F. White, 1844; harm. by Ronald A. Nelson, 1978

BEACH SPRING
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