



Saint Paul's United Methodist Church
"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."
Sunday, November 16th, 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

"Gavotte" by A. Thomas
"Complainte" by L. Vierne

Sondra Wayman, organ

Greetings and Welcome

Pastor Alicia Wood

***Sharing Love and Peace with All**

Centering Music

"Lord of the Dance"
by Sydney Carter, arr. by Jason W. Krug

Festival Chimes

***Call to Worship**

The world needs to change. And we are the changemakers!
This work of changemaking is going to take a while.

We are called to be changemakers for our whole lives!

And this work is going to take all of us. If we want to keep change going,
we need to be inviting others, joining with others, witnessing to others,
and empowering others to do this work with us.

For many of us, this is the hardest part of making change,

but we are ready to be bold.

We come to worship this morning, eager to be part of this movement
and to bring others along in our work.

We come to worship this morning, trusting that God will empower us.

We are the changemakers, and we are ready!

Thanks be to God!

***Singing Together**

"He Leadeth Me"

UMH #128

Call to Confession

Holy One, you have shown us how to empower other people through the life of Jesus Christ, and yet, we insist on doing this changemaking work alone

We say that's because no one else came to do the work,

but did we bother to invite them? No, we didn't.

Maybe we were too afraid to ask. Maybe we were afraid they would say, 'No.'

We don't like the feeling of rejection.

Or maybe we wanted things done *our* way,

and we didn't want someone else to mess it up.

We *do* like the feeling of control.

But in all of this, we forget that the work of changemaking is not about us.

It is God's work. It is important work that must continue beyond us, and after us.

All: Forgive us.

Forgive us for making your work small.

Forgive us for our weakness and timidity.

Send us your spirit again, and free us from our fear and complacency.

Embolden us.

**Make us unafraid of change,
and undeterred in our work of changemaking. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Hear this assurance of Good News: the scriptures remind us that the “Spirit is poured out on all people.” We can trust that when we work together, we will see and recognize this Spirit in others. This is the best part about being a Changemaker—the power of the community can rise up to heights we never imagined on our own. We have more than we need.

A Message for All God’s Children

Pastor Alicia Wood

Special Music

“Danza”
by Douglas E. Wagner

Festival Chimes

Encountering God Through the Word

Scripture Reading

Mark 6: 30-44 (The Voice)

Pat Woodworth

We have heard the next reading each week of this series in an ancient Christian tradition called “lectio divina” of repeating readings in order to understand more fully. Hear now another interpretation of the story:

Now the twelve returned from their travels and told Him what they had done, *whom they had seen*, and how they had spread the news of God’s kingdom.

Jesus (to the disciples): Let us go out into the wilderness for a while and rest ourselves.

The crowds gathered as always, and Jesus and the twelve couldn’t eat because so many people came and went. They could get no peace until they boarded a boat and sailed toward a deserted place.

But the people would not be put off so easily. Those *along the shore* who recognized Jesus followed *along the coast*. People pushed out of all the cities and gathered ahead of Him so that when Jesus came ashore and saw this crowd of people waiting for Him *in a place that should have been relatively deserted*, He was moved with compassion. They were like sheep without a shepherd.

He began to teach them many things as the day passed; at last the disciples came to Jesus.

Disciples: It is getting late, and there is nothing around for miles. Send these people to the surrounding villages so they can buy something to eat.

Jesus: Why don’t you give them something to eat?

Disciples (looking at Him): What? It would cost a fortune to buy bread for these people!

Jesus: Does anyone have any bread? Go and see.

Disciples (returning from the crowd): There are five *pieces of flatbread* and two fish, *if that makes any difference*.

Jesus: *Listen*, tell them to gather in smaller groups and sit on that green patch of grass.

And so the disciples gathered the people in groups of 100 or of 50, and they sat down.

Jesus took the five *pieces of flatbread* and the two fish, looked up to heaven, thanked God for the food, and broke it. He gave the pieces to the disciples to distribute, and all of the people ate until no one was hungry. Then they gathered twelve baskets full of leftovers.

That day, 5,000 people ate their fill of the bread *when Jesus fed the hungry crowd*.

Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God!

Message

“Let’s Do This!”

Pastor Alicia Wood

Responding with Joy and Generosity

***Hymn of Response**

“While the Trees Are Still in Blossom”

UMH #508

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

Jami Breedlove-Crouch

Committing to the Ministries of St. Paul’s

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offertory

“Fantasia” by J. Pachelbel

Sondra Wayman, organ

***Doxology**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH #94

***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. Amen!**

Going Forth to Serve and Bless

Announcements

***Closing Hymn**

“Take My Life and Let it Be”

UMH #399

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Postlude

“Trumpet Voluntary in D Major”
by Henry Purcell

Sondra Wayman, organ

-----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: Family of Melissa Gould; Joan Reppert; Linda Yetter; 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 November 16th, 2025

Sunday, November 16

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

Monday, November 17th

Newsletter Contributions Due

Tuesday, November 18th

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

Wednesday, November 19th

6:00pm – Pastor's Bible Study – ZOOM

Thursday, November 20th

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

Friday, November 21st

Church Offices Closed

Saturday, November 22nd

Sunday, November 23rd

10:30am – Worship – Sanctuary
10:45am – Faith Explorers – Rm. 115, Main Floor
11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time – Memorial Room
11:45am – “Hanging of the Greens” -Sanctuary

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 (except on Communion Sundays).**

Please Stop By Coffee Hour Today!

Today’s coffee hour will be dedicated to our hardworking hospitality ministers. Please attend so we can give them the thanks they deserve! A short info session will be included for current and interested hospitality ministers.

ACT Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Area Congregations Together (ACT) will be holding their Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on **Sunday, Nov. 23rd, from 2-4pm** at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (114 Burleigh Drive, Ithaca). Light refreshments will be served and all are welcome!

Prepare to “Hang the Greens” November 23rd

Advent is almost here, and that means it’s time to decorate the church! Please stay after services on Sunday, November 23rd to help get our sanctuary ready for the Christmas season. All are welcome and it’s lots of fun!

Mark Your Calendars to Decorate Christmas Cookies!

St Paul’s will be holding its 3rd Annual Intergenerational Cookie Decorating on **Sunday, December 14 in the Memorial Room after worship at 12:15pm**. Everyone is invited to participate and to bring friends! Please sign-up ASAP with Dee at office@stpaulsithaca.org or call 607-273-5971 so we have enough cookies and decorating items on hand for everyone.

Calling All Cookie Bakers

We need 15 dozen sugar or gingerbread cut-out or flat drop cookies for our Cookie Decorating party on December 14th. A few dozen gluten-free cookies are needed as well. If you can bake cookies to decorate, please contact Joellyn Tuttle at jrwuttlet@gmail.com or ring/text her at: 315-289-7187. Thank you in advance!

Looking for Card Ministry Participants

If you enjoy bringing cheer to those around you, consider becoming part of the Card Ministry Team. All it involves is writing and sending monthly cards to those in need of a smile, or a word of encouragement or two. If you’d like to join the team, speak with Jami Breedlove-Crouch or email her at lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org.

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
Michelle Eells / Business & Building Ministries Coordinator / business@stpaulsithaca.org
Maia Finkel / Choral and Ensembles Director / choirdirector@stpaulsithaca.org
Molly MacMillan / Pianist / pianist@stpaulsithaca.org
David Kingsley / Technical Director / dkingsley@stpaulsithaca.org
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

128 He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought

1. He lead - eth me: O bless - ed thought! O
 2. Some - times mid scenes of deep - est gloom, some -
 3. Lord, I would place my hand in thine, nor
 4. And when my task on earth is done, when

words with heav - en - ly com - fort fraught! What - e'er I do, wher -
 times where E - den's bow - ers bloom, by wa - ters still, o'er
 ev - er mur - mur nor re - pine; con - tent, what - ev - er
 by thy grace the vic - tory's won, e'en death's cold wave I

e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
 trou - bled sea, still 'tis his hand that lead - eth me.
 lot I see, since 'tis my God that lead - eth me.
 will not flee, since God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.

Refrain

He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me, by

Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom 508

1. Faith, while trees are still in blossom, plans the
 2. Long before the dawn is breaking, faith an -
 3. Long before the rains were coming, No - ah
 4. Faith, uplifted, tamed the water of the
 5. Faith believes that God is faithful: God will

pick - ing of the fruit; faith can feel the thrill of
 tic - i - pates the sun. Faith is ea - ger for the
 went and built an ark. A - bra - ham, the lone - ly
 un - di - vid - ed sea, and the peo - ple of the
 be what God will be! Faith ac - cepts the call, re -

har - vest when the buds be - gin to sprout.
 day - light, for the work that must be done.
 mi - grant, saw the light be - yond the dark.
 He - brews found the path that made them free.
 spond - ing, "I am will - ing, Lord, send me."

WORDS: Anders Frostenson, 1960; trans. by Fred Kaan, 1972 (Heb. 11)

MUSIC: V. Earle Copes, 1960

FOR THE BREAD

87.87

94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Unison

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise

Harmony

God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Unison

Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise

Harmony

Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978

MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

88.44.88 with Refrain

Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for a unison setting of 'Alleluia'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' are centered between the two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature. The music is written in a single system, with the two staves connected by a brace on the left. The lyrics are aligned with the notes of the melody. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second staff has a bass clef and the same key signature. The music is written in a single system, with the two staves connected by a brace on the left. The lyrics are aligned with the notes of the melody.

Take My Life, and Let It Be

1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - cra - ted,
 2. Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly,
 3. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no

Lord, to thee. Take my mo - ments and my days;
 for my King. Take my lips, and let them be
 long - er mine. Take my heart, it is thine own;

let them flow in cease - less praise. Take my hands, and
 filled with mes - sag - es from thee. Take my sil - ver
 it shall be thy roy - al throne. Take my love, my

let them move at the im - pulse of thy love.
 and my gold; not a mite would I with - hold.
 Lord, I pour at thy feet its trea - sure - store.

Take my feet, and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 Take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.
 Take my-self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.