



**Saint Paul's United Methodist Church**  
"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."  
**Sunday, January 25th, 2026 - 10:30 AM Service**



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*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.*

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**GATHERING**

**Gathering Music**

"Jesus Promised"  
by Timothy Carpenter

*Emmett Scott, piano*

**Greetings & Welcome**

**Centering Music**

"In Bright Mansions Above"  
arr. by Roland M. Carter

*Emmett Scott, piano*

**Mission Moment**

*Lisa Barrett,  
Director of Housing & Shelter Services,  
Volunteers of America, Upstate New York*

**\*Call to Worship**

Children of God, when fears press in on every side, we can proclaim with confidence:

**God is our light and salvation! Whom shall we fear?**

When our problems overwhelm us and we feel pressed in on every side, we can declare with confidence:

**God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?**

Come, let us worship God with joy, for God is our light and salvation!

**We come to worship as bearers of the Light. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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

**\*Opening Hymn**

"Gather Us In"

FWS #2236

**\*Sharing Love & Peace with All**

**PROCLAIMING**

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

*Pastor Alicia Wood*

**Special Music**

"Carry the Light"  
by Andy Beck

*Chancel Choir*

**Scripture****Matthew 5: 13-20** (CEB)*Dwight Mengel*

“You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? It’s good for nothing except to be thrown away and trampled under people’s feet. You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can’t be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.

“Don’t even begin to think that I have come to do away with the Law and the Prophets. I haven’t come to do away with them but to fulfill them. I say to you very seriously that as long as heaven and earth exist, neither the smallest letter nor even the smallest stroke of a pen will be erased from the Law until everything there becomes a reality. Therefore, whoever ignores one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called the lowest in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever keeps these commands and teaches people to keep them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. I say to you that unless your righteousness is greater than the righteousness of the legal experts and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!

**Thanks Be to God!**

**Message**

“Carrying the Torch”

*Pastor Alicia Wood*

**RESPONDING**

**\*Hymn of Response**

“You Are The Seed”  
 (“Sois la Semilla”)

UMH #583

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

*Jami Breedlove-Crouch*

**Offering Our Gifts to God****Offertory**

“Because He Lives”  
by William J. Gaither

*Emmett Scott, piano*

**\*Doxology**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH #94

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

*Pastor Alicia Wood*

**Steadfast Light of our salvation, in a world that trembles with uncertainty and teaches us to fear, you shine with unwavering hope. You call us to seek your face and trust in your presence more than in our own strength. Receive these gifts, given not out of fear but in joyful confidence that your love casts out fear and your grace makes us bold. Use our offerings to build a world where your light leads, your justice reigns, and your people—unafraid—become living testimonies of your goodness. In the name of Christ, our rock and redeemer, we pray. Amen. (Psalm 27:1, 4-9)**

## GOING FORTH

### Announcements

#### \*Closing Hymn

“Pass It On”

UMH #572

#### \*Dismissal with Blessing

#### Postlude

“The Light in the Piazza”  
by Adam Guettel

*Emmett Scott, 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](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org).

Prayer Requests: We thank God for the healing in the lives of people we've been praying for. If you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain or the Prayer List, contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at: [lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org). Your requests will be listed in the bulletin for one month before being deleted. Please let us know of your improved condition or if you desire visitation.

***It is with great sadness we share that Joan Reppert passed away on January 13<sup>th</sup>. We are blessed to have celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with her. Her memorial service will be held at St. Paul's on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm with, of course, plenty of music.***

***Marilyn Sweet, Pastor Beckie Sweet's mom, also died on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Her beauty inside and out will be missed. Marilyn's memorial service will be small and attended only by family later this year.***

***Please keep both families in your thoughts and prayers.***

### ***St. Paul's Ministries ~ Week of January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026***

#### **Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**

10:30am – Worship - Sanctuary  
10:45am – Faith Explorers – Room 115, Main Floor  
11:30am – Coffee/Reception Time – Memorial Room  
12:00pm – SPRC Retreat – Durham Room

#### **Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**

10:00am – Staff Meeting - ZOOM

#### **Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**

9:45am – Coffee w/the Pastor – Durham Room

#### **Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**

11:00am – Crafting Group – Durham Room  
6:00pm – Festival Chimes Rehearsal - Sanctuary  
7:15pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Dining Room

#### **Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>**

Church Offices Closed

#### **Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>**

#### **Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>**

10:30am – Worship with Communion– Sanctuary  
11:30am – Coffee/Reception Time – Memorial Room  
11:45am – Connections Young Adult Group – Durham 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 ages 4 through 11 are invited to participate in “Faith Explorers” following the “Message for Children” segment during worship (except on Communion Sundays).**

### **LGBTQ+ Vow Renewal Ceremony on February 8th**

Please join us for our first ever Vow Renewal made possible by changes at the 2024 General Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our Vow Renewal will be led by Pastor Alicia Wood. The couples participating are married and will renew their vows at this Reconciling Sunday celebration, giving them the chance to have their relationships blessed within the congregation and among friends. Reception to follow in the Memorial Room. Please attend and bring friends! For further info, contact [BreedloveJami@gmail.com](mailto:BreedloveJami@gmail.com).

### **Newsletter Going Digital**

In an effort to reduce costs, we're asking people to consider receiving their quarterly newsletter digitally. You'll receive a print copy of the February newsletter, but after that, you will only receive a digital copy in your email quarterly unless you let Dee in the office know you'd prefer print. If you "opt in" for a print copy, we ask that you pick it up before or after worship. For those who worship primarily online, it's possible we might be able to drop off a copy for you at your home. Thank you for understanding the need to reduce the costs of the church as we continue to run a deficit budget.

### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Brunch on February 17th**

The Older Adult Ministries team invites you to observe the beginning of Lent with their traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake brunch on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am in the Memorial Rooms. Plan to join us for pancakes, sausage, pure maple syrup, fruit, and delightful fellowship followed by a brief presentation by Rev. Quinn Caldwell, Chaplain, Protestant Cooperative Ministry at Cornell. Look for an Evite soon or contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch if you would like to attend ([lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org) or 607-273-5971).

### **Pastor Alicia Away for Continuing Ed**

Please note that Pastor Alicia will be away for Continuing Ed January 29 through February 4. Please reach out to Jami with any pastoral care needs. Rev. Joellyn Tuttle will be leading worship and Holy Communion February 1st. Pastor Alicia is thankful for your continued prayers.

**Thank you to our Mission Moment speaker, Lisa Barrett, for all the work you do to keep the homeless of Ithaca safe. We are grateful for your time today in worship sharing the vision of Code Blue in our community.**

#### **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**

402 North Aurora St., Ithaca, NY

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 Line: 607-269-5509

## Gather Us In



1. Here in this place new light is stream-ing,  
 2. We are the young — our lives are a mys - t'ry,  
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,  
 4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,



now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,  
 we are the old — who yearn for your face,  
 here we will take the bread of new birth,  
 not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, but



see in this space our fears and our dream - ings,  
 we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
 here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day. —  
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race. —  
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth. —  
 now is the King - dom, now is the day. —



Gath - er us in — the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in — the  
 Gath - er us in — the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in — the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,  
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath - er us in — all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name. \_\_\_\_\_  
give us the cour-age to en - ter the song. \_\_\_\_\_  
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true. \_\_\_\_\_  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone. \_\_\_\_\_

## 94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Unison*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise

*Harmony*

God, all creatures here below: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-

*Unison*

lu-ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise

*Harmony*

Je-sus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spir-it, Ho-ly Spir-it!

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 a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'. 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.

## Pass It On

572

*Unison*

1. It on - ly takes a spark to get a fire  
 2. What a won - drous time is spring, when all the trees are  
 3. I wish for you, my friend, this hap - pi-ness that

go - ing, and soon all those a - round can  
 bud - ding; the birds be-gin to sing, the  
 I've found; you can de-pend on him, it

warm up in its glow-ing. That's how it is with  
 flow - ers start their bloom-ing. That's how it is with  
 mat - ters not where you're bound. I'll shout it from the

God's love once you've ex - pe-ri-enced it; you spread his love to  
 God's love once you've ex - pe-ri-enced it; you want to sing, it's  
 moun-tain-top; I want my world to know; the Lord of love has

ev - ery-one; you want to pass it on.  
 fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.  
 come to me, I want to pass it on.