



Saint Paul's United Methodist Church
"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."
Sunday, February 8th, 2026 - 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

Gathering Music	"Pachelbel's Canon" by Pachelbel	<i>Molly MacMillan, piano</i>
	"You're Still the One" by Shania Twayne/RJ Lange	<i>Molly MacMillan, piano Maia Finkel, vocals</i>
Greetings & Welcome		<i>Susanne Morgan</i>
Centering Music	"You're My Inspiration" by Peter Cetera & David Foster	<i>Molly MacMillan, piano Maia Finkel, vocals</i>

Pastor's Welcome & Acknowledgements

***Call to Worship**

We join together today to:

Thank you Oh God that we can celebrate
Our love for you and our love for each other in our place of worship.

We thank you that we now fully welcome

All people in worship and full participation in ministry.

We thank you for the support and love of St. Paul's

who made the decision to become a Reconciling church and has stayed faithful to the mission to include all since 1998.

We ask that you heal the pain of those who have been rejected,

that your love will be renewed in each of us and in the relationships that have harmed us away from your love and the call on our lives to serve you and your kingdom.

***Opening Hymn** "This is a Day of New Beginnings" *UMH #383*

***Sharing Love & Peace with All**

PROCLAIMING

A Message for All God's Children *Pastor Alicia Wood*

Special Music "My Very Own" *Chancel Choir*
by Susan LaBarr

Scripture**Psalm 139: 1-18***Larry Roberts*

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.
 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.
 Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.
 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.
 Where can I go from your spirit?
 Or where can I flee from your presence?
 If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
 If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea even there your
 hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.
 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me," even the
 darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.
 For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
 Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.
 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the
 depths of the earth.
 Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
 In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet
 existed.
 How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
 How vast is the sum of them!
 I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!

Thanks Be to God!

Message

"You are More Than Welcome"

Pastor Alicia Wood

Traditional Vow Renewal

Pastor Alicia Wood

RESPONDING***Hymn**

"Loves Divine, All Loves Excelling"

UMH #384

Response of Family & People

Amy & Jackson Robinson

Offering Our Gifts to God**Offertory**

"The Way of Love"
by J. Brahms

Molly MacMillan, piano
Grace Demerath, French horn
Erika St. Denis, alto sax

***Doxology**

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH #94

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**Thank You God that our faith has given us the ability to have a home like St. Paul's.
 We thank you that you have given us the ability and funds to maintain the work of
 Pastor Alicia and the staff of St. Paul's. We trust that the funds that we pledge and**

give to this ministry will be used for the furtherance to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for all people. Amen.

GOING FORTH

Announcements

***Closing Hymn/Postlude**

“Draw the Circle Wide”
by Mark Miller

Insert

-----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: 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. 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.

The St. Paul's Reconciling Team would like to say “Thank you” to all those that made this Vow Renewal Ceremony possible. For the Leadership of Pastor Rebecca Dolch and all those that led the charge that created the Reconciling movement and vote in 1998. To the memory of Pastor Margie Mason who believed in full inclusion and finding peace through creating our labyrinth upstairs before she passed. To Pastor John McNeil who spearheaded St. Paul's Marriage Covenant and the Conscientious Objection. Pastor Theresa Sivers supported and demonstrated with Jami and Diana at the Special Session of General Conference in St. Louis and led us through the pandemic. Pastor Beckie Sweet was a delegate to General Conference where she stood in the gap for all and along with other Upper New York delegation members was able to see change take place in the Discipline. Today we get to celebrate with Pastor Alicia who in her first year at St. Paul's has embraced and enabled this ceremony to come to life. We thank God for all of our church family who have worked tirelessly throughout all the years to make sure we can realize full inclusion.

Diana and Jami Breedlove-Crouch, Larry Roberts, Linda Yetter, Gary Rith, Amy and Jackson Robinson, and JD Drader (St. Paul's Reconciling Team Members.)

St. Paul's Ministries ~ Week of February 8th, 2026

Sunday, February 8th

10:30am – Worship with Vow Renewal - Sanctuary
11:30am – Vow Renewal Reception – Memorial Room

Monday, February 9th

4:45pm – Lay Leadership Team - ZOOM

Tuesday, February 10th

10:00am – Staff Meeting – ZOOM
6:00pm – Finance Meeting – ZOOM
7:15pm – Trustees Meeting - ZOOM

Wednesday, February 11th

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

Thursday, February 12th

11:00am – Crafters Group – Durham Room
5:30pm – Local & World Missions – ZOOM
6:00pm – Festival Chimes - Sanctuary
7:15pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Dining Room

Friday, February 13th

Church Offices Closed

Saturday, February 14th

Sunday, February 15th – Transfiguration Sunday

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 ages 4 through 11 are invited to participate in “Faith Explorers” following the “Message for Children” segment during worship (except on Communion Sundays).**

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. Thank you for understanding the need to reduce the costs of the church as we continue to run a deficit budget.

Seeking Contributions for Spring 2026 Newsletter

We’re currently seeking contributions for our quarterly spring newsletter. Articles, announcements, photos, essays—there’s room for all of it! Please send contributions to Dee at: office@stpaulsithaca.org. **The deadline for all material is Tuesday, February 24th.**

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 17th 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 or 607-273-5971).

Lay Leadership Team to Host Lunch on February 22nd

Please join the Lay Leadership for a free, light lunch following worship on **Sunday, February 22nd at 12pm** in the Memorial Room. There will be good conversation, comfort food, and a chance to appreciate the inclusive and expansive gifts of our church community. All are welcome!

***Coffee with the Pastor will resume this Wednesday, February 11th.**

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

402 North Aurora St., Ithaca, NY

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 Line: 607-269-5509

This Is a Day of New Beginnings 383

Unison

1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,
 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,
 4. Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us
 *5. In faith we'll gath - er round the ta - ble

time to re - mem - ber and move on,
 God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,
 step from the past and leave be - hind
 to show and share what love can do.
 to taste and share what love can do.

time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,
 can make for us a world of dif - ference,
 our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings;
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings;

1-3

4 or 5

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 our God is mak - ing all things new.
 our God is mak - ing all things new.

**Alternate text for Holy Communion*

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1978; alt. 1987 (Rev. 21:5)

MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1984

BEGINNINGS

98.98

Words © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.

384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down; fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing;
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in thee in - her - it;
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er,
 let us be. Let us see thy great sal - va - tion

all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, thou art
 let us find that sec - ond rest. Take a - way our
 nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be
 per - fect - ly re - stored in thee; changed from glo - ry

all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it
 bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of
 al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray and
 in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place, till we

REBIRTH AND THE NEW CREATURE



us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.



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 staff on top and a bass staff on the bottom. The music is written in a single line, indicating it is for a unison voice part. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' are placed between the two staves. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a clear cadence at the end of each phrase. The notation includes various note values, rests, and phrasing slurs.

Draw the Circle Wide

Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the

cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. No one stands a-lone, we'll stand side by

side. Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. Draw the

wide. Draw the cir-cle wide, draw it wid-er still. Let this

be our song: no one stands a-lone. Stand-ing side by side,

draw the cir-cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the

wide. Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the

cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. No one stands a-lone, we'll stand side by

side. Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle

div.

wide. Draw the cir-cle wide, draw it wid-er still. Let this

div.

be our song: no one stands a-lone. Stand-ing side by side,

to repeat *Repeat as desired*

draw the cir-cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the

to end

Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the

molto rit.

cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide.