

We Cherish Children in 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 like today).***

Postal Stamp Collection

Please bring in U. S. Postage Stamps for immigrants in detention. Many immigrants in detention are working within the immigration system to receive a working visa or another immigration status. We are collecting these stamps for our siblings with Immigration Solidarity. A box has been placed outside the sanctuary for this collection.

Pastor Alicia will be on **vacation** from April 9-21. Jami Breedlove-Crouch will be preaching and caring for the everyday needs of the congregation. Rev. Joellyn Tuttle and Rev. Pam Carey will be providing emergency pastoral care. Thank you Jami, Joellyn and Pam for your support!

Beautiful Hanging Baskets, Oh My!

Festival Chimes, St. Paul's Handbell Choir, is once again selling (mainly) hanging baskets as a fundraiser during the month of April. The plants are locally grown in a green house, not from a big box store! Consider the beauty of a hanging basket of Million Bells, Geranium, and Petunia; or perhaps you and a friend would like to share a flat (48 plants) of Begonia, Impatiens or Coleus. To order, pick up an order form in the hallway near the Festival Chimes Poster Display, returning it with payment to the church office by April 30. Flowers are to be picked up on Saturday, May 16th from 10-12pm. Phone 607-277-0759 if you would like to order a different color basket or type of flat.

Lay Servant Ministry Basic Course

Why would I take this course? To empower your ministry! Explore your call to service, understand your Spiritual gifts and develop servant leadership. When and Where? May 2nd and May 9th from 9:30am-3:30pm at St. Paul's UMC, Ithaca. Registration is \$15. See Jami for Registration Forms.

Save the Date!

Please join Pastor Alicia and Cheryl McGraw for ***The Wednesday Evening Supper Club*** on Wednesday, May 20th at 5:30 pm in the Memorial Rooms. This will be a very informal monthly gathering on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Bring your own supper (including beverage, plates...) and invite a friend to come with you. After supper we will play some very easy to learn board or card games. Let Cheryl McGraw, cherylmcgraw@cornell.edu, know if you have questions including suggestions for games.

Pastor Alicia's Ordination

Pastor Alicia's ordination will be held **Friday, May 29th at 7pm** in Syracuse. Watch this space for further details.

Quarterly Newsletter Now Digital

An era at St Paul's has ended: our quarterly seasonal newsletter will now be solely digital.



Saint Paul's United Methodist Church
"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."
Sunday, April 5, 2026 - 10:30 AM Service
Easter Sunday



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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Worship series "Tell Me Something Good: Grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent" Rev. Sarah A. Speed / A Sanctified Art LLC

**Indicates a standing portion of the service. Please stand as you are able.*

GATHERING

Gathering Music "Prelude in D" by JFK Fischer *Sondra Wayman, Organ*
"Fanfare" by L. Lemmons

Greetings & Welcome

Centering Music "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" *UMH #302 verses 1-4*

***Call to Worship**

On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.

On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

But today, we know the good news is alive and well.

The good news is dancing!

The good news is on the loose!

The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.

Let us worship our good-news Christ.

***Opening Hymn** "He Lives" *UMH #310*

***Passing the Peace**

PROCLAIMING

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

Call to Confession *Pastor Alicia Wood*

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God,
we want to be Easter people.**

We want to shout your good news from the rooftop.

We want to follow the disciples, who ran to look for you.

**We want to follow the angels, who said, "Be not afraid,"
but we are afraid.**

And we don't know where to look.

And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing.

So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people.

We are best intentions and best laid plans.

(cont.)

**We are an out-of-tune chorus of “alleluias.”
We are on our way, but we are not there yet.
Show us how to embody your good news in this world.
Show us how to be your Easter people.
With hope for tomorrow, we pray, amen.**

Word of Forgiveness

Family of faith,
even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of “alleluias,” we belong to God.
Jesus died and rose for you. And there is nothing that could keep God’s love at bay. So join me
in this good news declaration:

**Through Jesus Christ we are seen, saved, loved, and claimed.
This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Special Music

“Joy in the Morning”
by Natalie Sleeth

Chancel Choir

Scripture

Matthew 28: 1-10

Marilou Slattery

The Resurrection of Jesus

28 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. **2** And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. **4** For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

5 But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. **6** He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he^[a] lay. **7** Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead,^[b] and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.”

8 So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. **9** Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. **10** Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!
Thanks Be to God!

Message

“The Good News Is...alive in the world!”

Pastor Alicia Wood

***Hymn of Response**

“Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil”

FWS #2219

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offertory

“Andante Tranquillo” by F Mendelssohn

Sondra Wayman, Organ

***Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Alicia Wood

Holy One,

all over the world, people are gathering to hear the same story.

All over the world, people are gathering to hear how death lost its sting.

All over the world, people are gathering together, praying for a glimpse of you.

So like our neighbors all over the world, we pray, be here.

Speak to us today.

Soften the calloused parts of our hearts until we can sense your Holy Spirit in our midst once more.

