

Early Disaster Response Training

A basic Early Response Team training, hosted by Upper New York Disaster Response, is planned for May 9 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Christ UMC in Olean. Be ready and trained to serve when a natural disaster happens. Reach out to Dwight at Dwight.Mengel@gmail.com to carpool or to register.

Outdoor Church Clean Up!

Spring has sprung! Please join the Trustees in cleaning or sprucing up our outdoor gardens and overall property. We will gather at the church on **May 16th at 9am**. More hands make light work. Contact Tim S, our Trustees Chair, with any questions at trsull49@gmail.com.

Save the Date!

Please join Pastor Alicia and Cheryl McGraw for The Wednesday Evening Supper Club on Wednesday, May 20 at 5:30 pm in the Memorial Rooms. Bring your own supper (including beverage, plates, silverware) and invite a friend to come with you! Contact Cheryl McGraw, cherylmcgraw@cornell.edu, with questions, game suggestions and to RSVP.

Lay Servant Ministry Basic Course Saturdays, June 6 and 13 at Penn Yan UMC

Join us in exploring your call to service, understanding your Spiritual gifts, and developing servant leadership to empower St. Paul's ministries together! The cost is \$15, for questions or to register contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch.

St. Paul's Festival Chimes will be performing in a bell concert called, "The Bells Strike Back" on **Monday, May 4 at 7:00** in the Hockett Family Recital Hall in the Whalen Center for Music at Ithaca College. They will be performing with the Ithaca College Bell Choir under the direction of Crystal Peebles. This concert is free and open to the public.

St. Paul's Ministries ~ Week of May 3, 2026

Sunday, May 3

10:30 am – Worship~Sanctuary w/Faith Explorers
11:30 am – Coffee/Fellowship~Memorial Rooms
11:45 am – Connections Young Adult Group~
Durham Room

Monday, May 4

10:00 am – Staff Meeting ~ Zoom

Wednesday, May 6

7:00 pm – SPRC ~ Zoom

Thursday, May 7

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

Sunday, May 10

10:30 am – Worship~Sanctuary w/Faith Explorers
11:30 am – Coffee/Fellowship~Memorial Rooms



Saint Paul's United Methodist Church

"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."

Sunday, May 3, 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.

Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license # A-728210. Movie and video permission with CVLI License #504298777.

Communion Elements are all gluten free bread and grape juice.

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

GATHERING

Gathering Music

MacMillan, piano

"What Am I Here For?"

By Duke Ellington

Greetings and Welcome

Pastor Alicia Wood

Centering Music

MacMillan, piano

"Andantino "

By Kuhlau

*Call to Worship

Pastor Alicia Wood

Ever-gracious, Way-Making God,
we celebrate the gifts of your Spirit.

You have not fed us a diet of shame or shrinking,
but with the cooling waters of your truth,

you have made us strong and faithful servants of Christ.

You call us to take up the mantle of justice and to follow wherever faith leads us. You fill us with strength and hope,

and you invite us to share in the cost and joys of discipleship.

You promise us splendor and beauty in this life and in the world to come.

Meet us here, we pray,

that your word will be fulfilled in our hearing

and that your Spirit will fill us with courage. Amen.

Written by Rev. Elizabeth Dilley on the Worship Ways

***Opening Hymn** “How Great Thou Art”
UMH #77

***Sharing Peace & Love with All** *Pastor Alicia Wood*

PROCLAIMING

A Message for All God’s Children

Special Music “I Believe” *Chancel Choir*
by Mark A. Miller

Scripture John 14: 1-14 (NLT) *David McElrath*
Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!
Thanks be to God!

Message “What’s the Truth?” *Pastor Alicia Wood*

RESPONDING

***Hymn** “Now It Is Evening”
FWS #2187

Offering Our Gifts to God *Pastor Alicia Wood*

Offertory “Truth”
MacMillan, piano
By Bob Mintzer

***Unison Prayer of Dedication** *Pastor Alicia Wood*

Way-Making God, your offer to us is not just to believe in heaven, but to live the kingdom life here and now. Through Jesus, you show us the way, the truth, and the life—calling us to deeper trust, wider welcome, and greater works of grace. As we bring our gifts, we step into that life, choosing generosity over fear and hope over judgment. Use these offerings, and use us, to make your dwelling

places visible in our community, in our compassion, in our courage. We give, because we’ve heard your voice. In Christ’s name. Amen.

Holy Communion *Pastor Alicia Wood*

GOING FORTH

Announcements

***Closing Hymn** “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”
UMH #206

***Benediction**

Postlude “Nothing But The Truth” *Molly MacMillan, piano*
By Patti Bown

Prayer

We are thankful for God’s healing in all of our lives. For **Prayer Chain** Requests, confidential concerns seen only by those who participate in the Prayer Chain, please contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch, lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org.

We Cherish Children in Worship

Molly 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 4-11 are invited to participate in “Faith Explorers,”** Rm. 115, Main Floor, following the “Message for Children” during worship.

Welcome Visitors and Guests

If this is your first visit with us today we are thrilled that you are here! Please fill out the yellow Connect Card in the pew and place in the offering plate so that we may have a record of your visit. Join us for snacks and conversation in the Memorial Rooms so we can greet you and get to know you a little better! We pray God brings you back to worship with us again ~ blessings!

Mission of the Month

May will be our semi-annual Spring collection for the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard. We will hear more about this important local food pantry throughout the month of May in worship. Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard is a volunteer run organization and solely supported by donations. Last year IKC served over 8,000 households. Please your checks out to St. Paul's UMC with Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard in the memo line.

A **New Member Class** will be starting soon. Please let Pastor know if you are interested in joining the class or have questions at pastor@stpaulsithaca.org

HOW GREAT THOU ART

1 O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
consider all the *worlds thy hand have made,
I see the stars, I hear the *rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze; [Refrain]

3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin; [Refrain]

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art! [Refrain]

* Author's original words are "works" and "mighty"

NOW IT IS EVENING

1 Now it is evening:
Lights of the city
bid us remember
Christ is our light.
Many are lonely,
who will be neighbor?
Where there is caring
Christ is our light.

2 Now it is evening:
Little ones sleeping
bid us remember
Christ is our peace.
Some are neglected,
who will be neighbor?
Where there is caring
Christ is our peace.

3 Now it is evening:
Food on the table
bids us remember
Christ is our life.
Many are hungry,
who will be neighbor?
Where there is sharing
Christ is our life.

3 Now it is evening:
Here in our meeting
may we remember
Christ is our friend.
Some may be strangers,

who will be neighbor?
Where there's a welcome
Christ is our friend.

I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

I want to walk as a child of the light;
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world;
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all;
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God;
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God;
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father.

Refrain

I'm looking for the coming of Christ;
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus.

Refrain