

Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously, Eat Heartily!

After worship **TODAY**, all are invited to stay for good food and fellowship in the Dining Room! Hosted by the St. Paul's Lay Leadership Team, we'll be serving make-your-own sliders, salads, fruit and dessert (GF and vegan options), along with table conversation around this month's worship theme of leadership and our (hidden?) power.

Digital Newsletter Savings!

Our Fall digital newsletter will be coming out soon, please email, office@stpaulsithaca.org, your **newsletter articles by Monday, August 24**. We calculated that moving from print and mailed newsletters to a digital copy has saved the church approx. \$1,100 annually. We continue to find ways to reduce expenses as we increase our ministries at St. Paul's UMC.

Older Adult Ministry Event

You are invited to join the Older Adult Ministry team for a special visit to the Museum of the Earth, 1259 Trumansburg Rd (Route 96), on **Thursday, September 17 at 11:00 am**. A reduced \$6/person admission fee will be accepted at the door. We will gather in the Museum Classroom for a general introduction from 11:00 am-noon followed by an opportunity to enjoy the Museum and Gift Shop. Light snacks and bottled water will be available, or you may bring a bag lunch to enjoy in the Museum Classroom. Look for an Evite around September 1 or contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch, lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org, if you would like to attend. The firm RSVP date is **Sunday, September 13**.

St. Paul's Ministries ~ Week of August 23, 2026

Sunday, August 23

10:30 am – Worship~LL Dining Room
11:45 am – Congregational Lunch
~LL Dining Room

Monday, August 24

6:45 pm – Building Beloved Community
Bible Study~Pastor's office
5:00 pm – Newsletter article submission
deadline

Wednesday, August 26

9:30 am – Coffee w/Pastor Alicia
~Pastor's Office

Thursday, August 27

11:00 am – Crafting Group~Durham Room

Sunday, August 30

10:30 am – Worship~LL Dining Room
11:30 am – Coffee/Fellowship~LL DR



Saint Paul's United Methodist Church

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



Sunday, August 23, 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 music, ONE LICENSE #A-728210.

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

GATHERING

Gathering Music "Sweet Hour of Prayer" *John White, piano*
Traditional

Greetings and Welcome *Pastor Alicia Wood*

Centering Music "To a Wild Rose" *John White, piano*
(from Woodland Sketches, Op. 51)
Edward MacDowell

***Call to Worship** *Pastor Alicia Wood*

In a world where powerful people make decisions to lift themselves up and cast others aside, how does God teach us to use our power?

God teaches us to protect the vulnerable, resist the oppressors, and persist in doing good.

In a world where power means might, how does God show us what power means?

God shows us through the midwives' daring, Peter's truth-telling, and Jesus' humility.

In a world where power is held over people's heads, how does God exercise power?

God exercises power with—with the oppressed, with the outcasts, with the poor and downtrodden.

Beloved, we gather to recognize our world as it is and to grow as disciples and imitators of Christ. So, how will you use your power today?

We will side with the vulnerable, build community in the margins, and love all of our neighbors with the exuberant and all-encompassing love of Christ. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2026.

***Sharing Peace & Love with All**

Pastor Alicia Wood

***Opening Hymn**

“Guide Me, O Though Great Jehovah”

UMH #127

PROCLAIMING

A Message for All God’s Children

Special Music

“Lotus Blossom”

John White, piano

Billy Strayhorn

Scripture

Exodus 1:8-2:10,

Wendy Kimble Dugan

Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)

Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God!

***Hymn**

“The Church’s One Foundation”

UMH #545 v. 1-4

Message

“Lessons in Leadership: Power”

Pastor Alicia Wood

RESPONDING

***Hymn**

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

FWS #2128

Prayers of the People

Karen Kaufmann

Offering our Gifts to God

Pastor Alicia Wood

Offertory

“Two-Part Invention No 14 in B-Flat Major (BWV 785)”

J. S. Bach

John White, piano

***Doxology**

“They’ll Know We are Christians by Our Love”

FWS #2223 v. 4

*All praise to the Creator, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Alicia Wood

Faithful God, you reveal true power not through fear or force, but through love that gives life and builds community. You call us to know who we are because we know whose we are—your people, shaped by Christ and sent for the sake of the world. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in your way of life over the ways of death, of courage over control, of welcome over exclusion. Use what we offer to strengthen your church as a living witness to your grace, that through our sharing and our serving, others may discover the identity of Christ and the hope found in him. Amen.

GOING FORTH

Announcements

***Closing Hymn**

"As a Fire Is Meant for Burning"

FWS #2237

***Benediction**

Postlude

"On the Sunny Side of the Street"
Jimmy McHugh, Dorothy Fields

John White, piano

-----PRAYERS-----

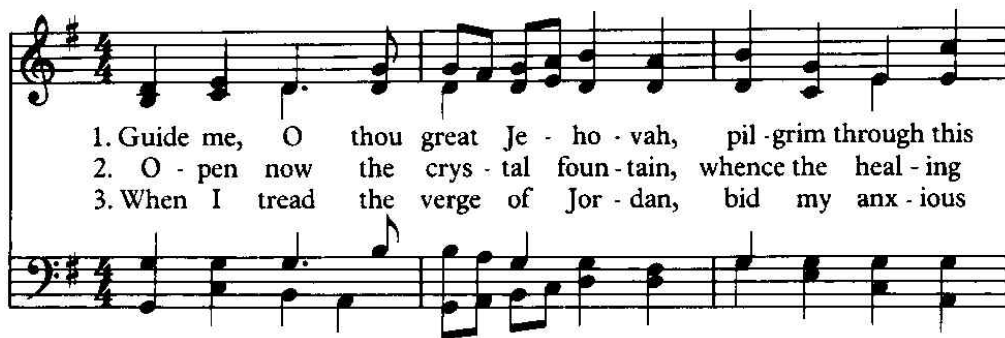
We are thankful for God's healing in all of our lives. Please pray for Jodi Glazier; Sue Orzel's stepbrother, Rick Hardesty; Mary and Matthew Boardman for healing. For **Prayer Chain** requests, please contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch, lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org.

If this is your first visit with us today, we are thrilled that you are here! Please fill out the yellow Connect Card, place in the offering plate so that we may have a record of your visit.

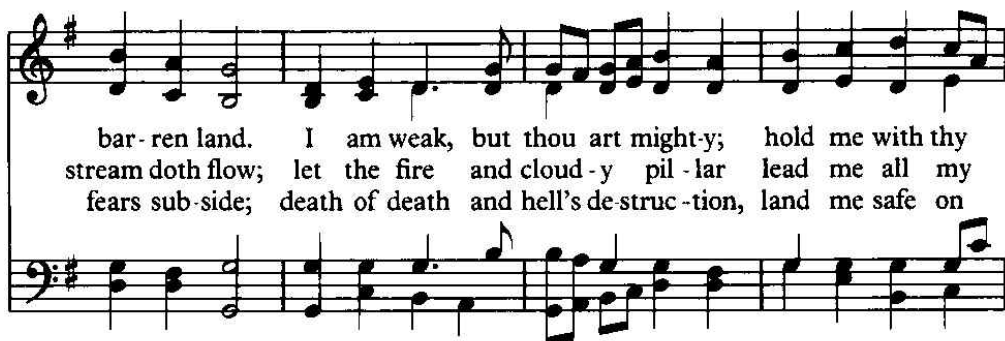
Mission of the Month: Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Be a part of helping the least of these by contributing to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This fund allows the pastor to assist people and ministries needing basic essentials: food, utilities, rent, and transportation. Please use the enclosed envelope, **checks payable to "St. Paul's UMC" and note "PDF" in the memo line.** We appreciate your generosity and community support!

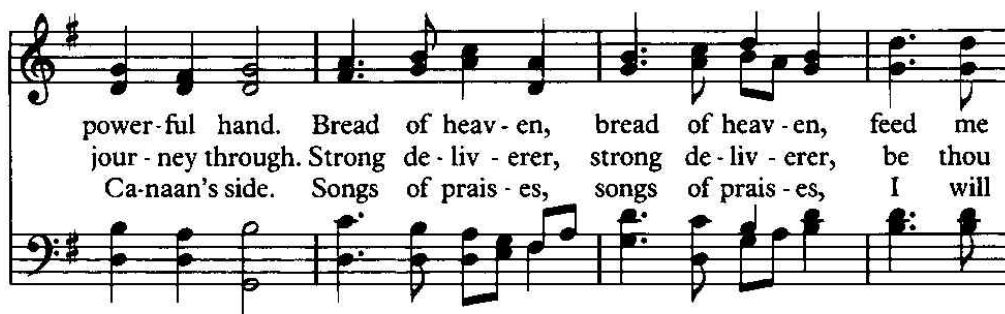
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 127



1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might-y; hold me with thy
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud-y pil - lar lead me all my
 fears sub-side; death of death and hell's de-struc-tion, land me safe on



power-ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en, feed me
 jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer, be thou
 Ca-naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will



till I want no more; (want no more) feed me till I want no more.
 still my strength and shield; (strength and shield) be thou still my strength and shield.
 ev - er give to thee; (give to thee) I will ev - er give to thee.

The Church's One Foundation

1. The church's one founda - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth;
 3. Though with a scorn - ful won - der we see her sore op - pressed,
 4. Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,
 5. Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up, "How long?"
 till, with the vi - sion glo - rious, her long - ing eyes are blest,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

2128 Come and Find the Quiet Center



1. Come and find the qui - et cen - ter in the crowd-ed life we
2. Si - lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the
3. In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth - er's



lead, find the room for hope to en - ter, find the
 pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our
 pain, let our loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e -



frame where we are freed: Clear the cha - os and the
 be - ing, touch-es base, mak-ing space with - in our
 brate the space we gain: There's a place for deep-est



clut - ter, clear our eyes that we can see all the
 think - ing, lift - ing shades to show the sun, rais - ing
 dream - ing, there's a time for heart to care, in the



things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim-ply be.
 cour - age when we're shrink-ing, find-ing scope for faith be - gun.
 Spir - it's live - ly schem-ing there is al - ways room to spare.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray

MUSIC: Attr. to B. F. White

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BEACH SPRING

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As a Fire Is Meant for Burning

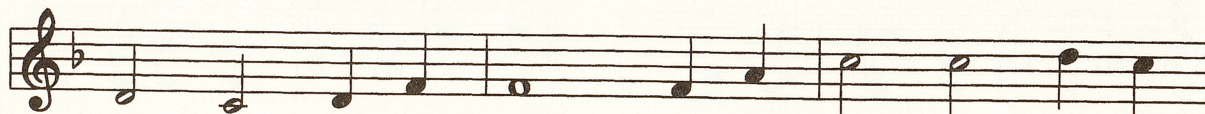
2237



1. As a fire is meant for burn - ing with a bright and warm-ing
2. We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; we are pil - grims on the
3. As a green bud in the spring-time is a sign of life re -



flame, so the church is meant for mis - sion, giv - ing
 way. We are seek - ers; we are giv - ers; we are
 newed, so may we be signs of one - ness 'mid earth's



glo - ry to God's name. Not to preach our creeds or
 ves - sels made of clay. By our gen - tle, lov - ing
 peo - ples, man - y hued. As a rain - bow lights the



cus - toms, but to build a bridge of care, we join
 ac - tions we would show that Christ is light. In a
 heav - ens when a storm is past and gone, may our



hands a - cross the na - tions, find - ing neigh - bors ev - ery - where.
 hum - ble, lis - tening Spir - it we would live to God's de - light.
 lives re - flect the ra - diance of God's new and glo - rious dawn.

WORDS: Ruth Duck

MUSIC: From *The Sacred Harp*, 1844

BEACH SPRING

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