Come Pack Meals with Us!

St. Paul's will be working together with community members to pack meals for Feed My Starving Children on **Sept. 26**, Ithaca Mobile Pack, located at the Hanshaw Road Armory, 1765 Hanshaw Rd., Ithaca. We have 15 spaces reserved and our packing spot is **11:00 am-1:00 pm.** If you would like to pack with us and reserve your space, please contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch, lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org.

The Rhythm of Our Faith

Music has always been an important part of the United Methodist faith. Charles Wesley included the theology of he and John Wesley as he authored hundreds of hymns. On **Sunday, September 27**, our worship will center around music the Festival Chimes will ring, the Chancel Choir will sing and we will feature your favorite hymns with a Hymn Sing. Invite a friend and please join us as we remember the rhythm of our faith through the music of our lives.

Crossroads & Finger Lakes Districts Learning Day

On **Saturday, Oct. 24, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm,** at Auburn UMC, 99 South Street, Auburn, workshops will be offered once in the morning and once in the afternoon: The Effective SPPRC, Single Board Governance, The ABC's of Running a Good Meeting, Messy Church, and The Many Expressions of Grief. Please **register by October 13 at:** https://form.jotform.com/262424128966059.

St. Paul's Ministries ~ Week of Sept. 20, 2026

Sunday, September 20
10:30 am – Worship w/FE~Sanctuary
11:45 am – Coffee/Fellowship
~ Narthex
12:00 pm – Porchfest & Ministry Fair

Tuesday, September 22
10:00 am – Staff Meeting~ZOOM

Wednesday, September 23
9:30 am – Coffee with Pastor
~ her office

Thursday, September 24
11:00 am – Women in Faith Mtg.~Memorial Rms.
11:00 am – Crafting Group~Durham Room
6:00 pm – Festival Chimes~Sanctuary
7:15 pm – Chancel Choir rehearsals~DR

Saturday, September 26
11:00 am – Feed My Starving Children pack
~Armory, 1765 Hanshaw Rd., Ithaca

Sunday, September 27
10:30 am – Worship with FE~Sanctuary
11:30 am – Coffee/Fellowship~Memorial Rooms

Saint Paul's United Methodist Church

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

Sunday, September 20, 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 "Question and Answer" by Pat Methany — *Molly MacMillan, piano*

Greetings and Welcome — *Pastor Alicia Wood*

Centering Music "The Question Is" *by Marvin Winans* — *Molly MacMillan, piano*

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

We gather today in the midst of busy lives and hectic schedules that mirror the chaotic pace of the world around us.
We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.
We gather as people inundated with constant information, fast-moving news cycles, and ever-present alerts vying for our attention.
We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.
We gather as people seeking to anchor ourselves in the faith as the world around us is blown to and fro by waves of fear, scarcity, and reactivity.
We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.
Beloved, come. Come to find rest, grounding, and guidance in the Spirit who dwells in you.
We come to set our minds on the Spirit who guides us and draws us together toward life, peace, and flourishing. Amen.
Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2026.

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

***Opening Hymn** "Ask Ye What Great Things I Know" UMH #163

PROCLAIMING

A Message for All God's Children

Special Music "Grace" *Chancel Choir*
by Carolyn Hamlin

Scripture Matthew 7:7-12 (CEB) *Jenn Morrill*
Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!
Thanks be to God!

***Hymn** "Seek Ye First" UMH #405

Message "Ask the Pastor" *Pastor Alicia Wood*

RESPONDING

***Hymn** "Listen to Your Children Praying" FWS #2193

Prayers of the People *Jami Breedlove-Crouch*

Offering our Gifts to God *Pastor Alicia Wood*

Offertory "Ask Me Now" *Molly MacMillan, piano*
by Thelonius Monk

***Doxology** "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH # 94

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

Living God, you meet us this day with grace that frees and a Spirit that gives life. As we bring these gifts, we set our minds on you—not on fear or self-interest, but on the life and peace you promise. Shape us by your Spirit to live generously, to seek the good of our neighbors, and to share in your work of healing and reconciliation. We give thanks; we give ourselves, and we trust your Spirit to lead us to the truth. Amen.

GOING FORTH

Announcements

***Closing Hymn** "What Does the Lord Require of You" FWS #2174 (in a round)

***Benediction**

Postlude "La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin" by Debussy *Molly MacMillan, 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 Lou Tenney and Lindy Gustafson; 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! Pease fill out the yellow Connect Card, place in the offering plate so that we may have a record of your visit.

Children's Ministries

Faith Explorers (ages 4-11) begins **TODAY** following the "Message For All God's Children" portion of the worship service (approx. 10:45 am). Parents/Guardians are asked to pick up their children after worship in Room 115, just past the Memorial Rooms.

Infants - Preschoolers are invited to enjoy our new area located at the middle Sanctuary entrance. A parent/guardian is asked to stay with their children and still be part of the worshipping congregation.

Porchfest and Ministry Fair

We are excited to host Porchfest participants, highlighting St. Paul's ministries and the beauty of our church **TODAY, from 12:00-6:00 pm**. "Rock Voices" will perform on our corner steps at 5:00 pm. Please check out the ministry tables and/or help welcome Porchfest participants.

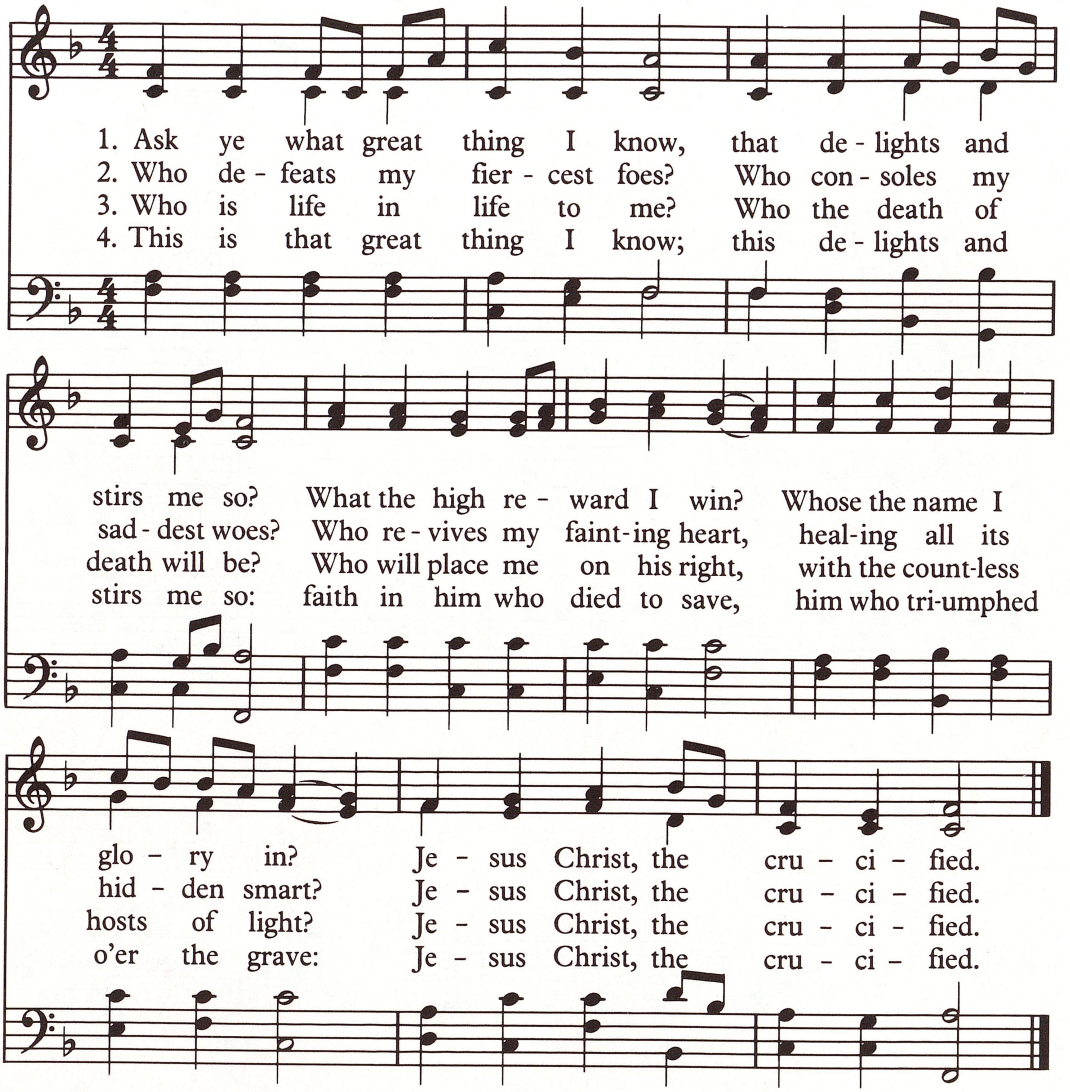
September Mission of the Month: The REACH Project

St. Paul's joins local churches to collect and donate hygiene items to REACH Medical. **Hygiene items needed:** 2 and 1 shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, razors, shaving cream, body wash, lotion, deodorant, hair brushes and combs. Feminine items: tampons, pads, wipes.

Save the Date: Blessing of the Animals

The community will have the opportunity for Pastor Alicia to bless their pets on **Saturday, Oct. 3 at 10:00 am,** on the Church corner steps. Please contact Pastor Alicia, pastor@stpaulsithaca.org, to help distribute treats, take-home blessings and information about St. Paul's ministries.
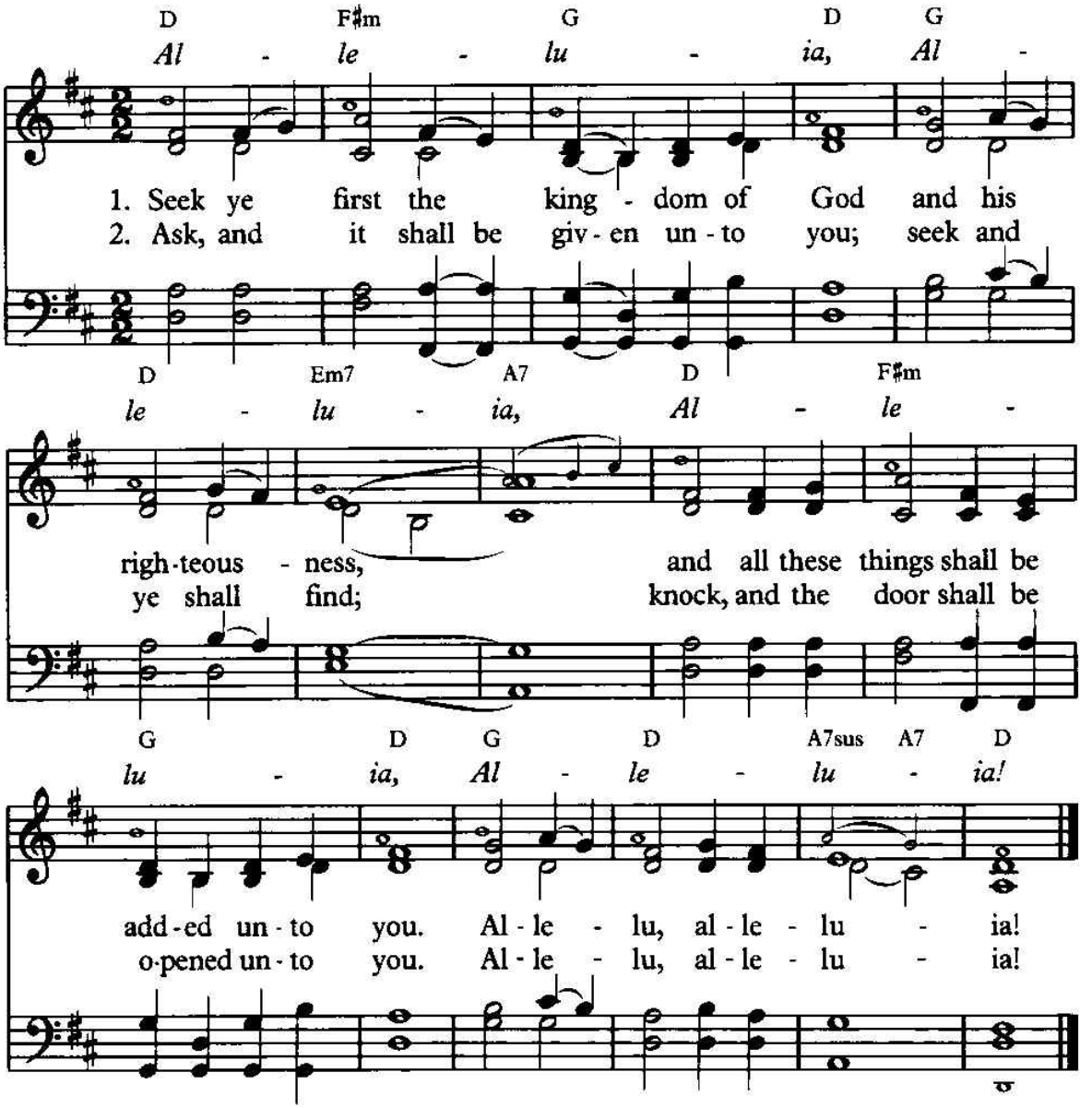
163 Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know



WORDS: Johann C. Schwedler, 1741; trans. by Benjamin H. Kennedy, 1863 (1 Cor. 2:2; Gal. 6:14)
MUSIC: H. A. César Malan, 1827; harm. by Lowell Mason, 1841

HENDON
77.77.7

Seek Ye First
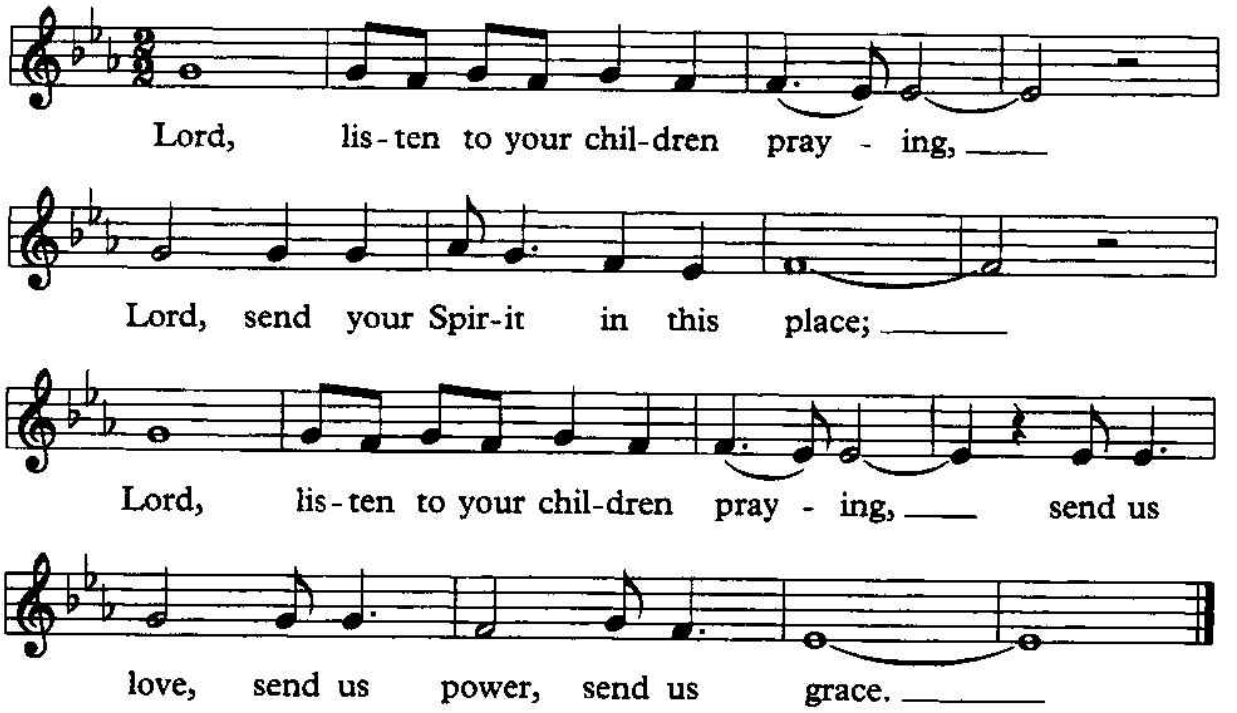


WORDS: Karen Lafferty, 1972 (Mt. 6:33; 7:7)
MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1972

SEEK YE
Irr.

© 1972 Maranatha! Music

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying 2193



WORDS: Ken Medema
MUSIC: Ken Medema

© 1973 Hope Publishing Co.

CHILDREN PRAYING
98.99

“What Does the Lord Require of You” **FWS #2174**

What does the Lord
require of you?
What does the Lord
require of you?

Justice, kindness,
walk humbly with
your God.

To seek justice
and love kindness
and walk humbly
with your God.