

## Mission Statement

St. Paul United Methodist Church exists to honor God by making more disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

### **Church Ministry Staff**

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# **S t . P a u l** **UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**February 8, 2026**  
**8:30 a.m.**

**Prelude   On Jordan's Stormy Banks   by T.C. O'Kane   arr T. Birchwood**

### **Welcome and Announcements:**

#### **\*Call to Worship:**

**Leader:** Who among you is seeking the wisdom of God?

**People:** **We long to hear God's Word spoken to our hearts.**

**Leader:** Who among you is seeking God's bright and holy truth?

**People:** **We long to learn the ways of wisdom and righteousness.**

**Leader:** Who among you is seeking a Spirit-filled life?

**People:** **We long to live lives of holiness and light.**

**Leader:** God grants God's wisdom generously to all who ask.

**People:** **Come near, people of God! Let us worship in wisdom and truth.**

#### **\*Opening Prayer:**

**Leader:** Together let us pray.

**People:** **Loving, living God, be among us now. Show us your ways. Guide our steps. Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving. Help us hear your words, challenging us to give you all the things that are yours. Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from you, gifts to be shared in service and love. Holy One among us, help us be a holy people who receive your word with joy and live your message with love. Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise:**      **God of Grace and God of Glory**      **No. 577**  
**God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power; crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.**

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways! Fear and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

#### First Lesson: 2 Kings 3:16-28

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God!

People: Thanks be to God!

Camping and Retreat Presentation

Sam Richardson

#### \*Second Lesson: James 1: 5-8

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God!

People: Thanks be to God!

\*Hymn:

Sweet Hour of Prayer

No. 496

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care, and bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known. In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief, and oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for thy return! With

such I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows his face, and gladly take my station there, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! thy wings shall my petition bear to him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless. And since he bids me seek his face, believe his word, and trust his grace, I'll cast on him my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

#### Congregational Prayer

#### The Lord's Prayer (in unison):

"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever." Amen.

Sermon:

"Not Your Grandma's Bible Stories:  
Solomon and the 2 Mothers"

Pastor Mindi Gochnaur

#### The Affirmation of our Stewardship

Offertory

Blessed Assurance

by P.P. Knapp arr M. Hayes

\* Congregational Response  
95

No.

\* Prayer of Dedication (in unison): Divine Source of Wisdom, we bring these offerings with hearts attuned to your call. As we gather in your presence, may our gifts reflect the wisdom and discernment you desire for us. Use these offerings to nurture understanding, compassion, and justice in our world. Guide us to listen and act with insight, spreading your love and grace. Transform our giving into actions that make a difference. Help us grow in our faith and commitment to your ways. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

**\*Closing Hymn:**                   **Be Thou My Vision**                   **No. 451**

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou and thou only, first in my heart, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

**Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

**\*The Sending Forth and Benediction**

**\*Postlude:**    **Hymn Sketch on "To God Be the Glory"**        **by D. Hustad**

**\*Those who are able please stand.**

**The altar flowers are in memory of our loved ones  
by Doug & Pat McCulloh.**

**Serving in Worship Today**

<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Brenda Bailey</b>
<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Judy Walter</b>
<b>Head Usher</b>	<b>Verne Strickler</b>

**Worship Resources:** CCLI #1518856, Streaming #20211595, [umcdiscipleship.org](http://umcdiscipleship.org), [re-worship.blogspot.com](http://re-worship.blogspot.com)

During the service, the nursery is staffed and available for your children on the main floor  
Sharing room (A9).

**Welcome Families with young children!** St. Paul UMC values our children. We strive to teach each child who visits with us more about God and Jesus.

When you enter the Sanctuary or FLC for church, you will see a white rack in the back of the room. On this rack are "Fruits of the Spirit" cloth bags. Inside each bag is an activity book based on Biblical stories. There is also a small notebook, a pen, and a pack of crayons. Please feel free to borrow one of these Children's Activity bags for the duration of the church service.

When the service ends, we kindly ask you to return all of the materials to the cloth bag and hang the bag back on the white rack before you leave to go home. That way, the bags are there for all children to enjoy. Thank you.