

**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**

January 25, 2026  
8:30 a.m.

**Prelude**                      **Love Found a Way**                      **by H.D. Loes arr. H. DeCou**

**Welcome and Announcements:**

**\*Call to Worship:**  
Leader: Praise the God of all Creation.  
**People: Worship the One who calls us-**  
Leader: speaking with a different voice,  
**People: offering an unexpected invitation.**  
Leader: Celebrate the presence of our loving God.  
**People: Rejoice, the realm of God is near.**

**\*Opening Prayer:**  
Leader: Together let us pray.  
**People: Holy God, your faithful love toward us never ends! It is as sure and dependable as the sky over our heads. We praise You! We’ve gathered together in this place to offer you our worship and our thanksgiving; to declare to any who will listen that You are our god, and we are Your people. May Your Spirit be at work among us as we worship, opening our eyes to the light of Your presence in this place. To You alone, Faithful Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be all glory and honor, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise:**                      **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**                      **No. 139**  
**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigning bears thee on eagle's wings, e'er in his keeping maintaining. God's care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds. Hast thou not known his sustaining?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee; surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with his love doth befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee, fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee. Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed, spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly forever adore him.**

## First Lesson: Jonah 1: 1-7, 13-17

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**\*Second Lesson: Jonah 4: 1-11**

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**\*Hymn:                      What a Friend We Have in Jesus                      No. 526**

**What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.**

**Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer. Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.**

## 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: Jonah”

**Pastor Mindi Gochnaur**

## The Affirmation of our Stewardship

**Offertory    Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult            by W. H. Jude   arr D. Wood**

**\* Congregational Response**  
**95**

No.

**\* Prayer of Dedication (in unison): Steadfast Light of our salvation, in a world that trembles with uncertainty and teaches us to fear, you shine with unwavering hope. You call us to seek your face and trust in your presence more than in our own strength. Receive these gifts, given not out of fear but in joyful confidence that your love casts out fear and your grace makes us bold. Use our offerings to build a world where your light leads, your justice reigns, and your people – unafraid – become living testimonies of your goodness. In the name of Christ, our rock and redeemer, we pray. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn:**

## Stand By Me

No. 512

**When the storms of life are raging, stand by me; (stand by me) when the storms of life are raging, stand by me. (stand by me) When the world is tossing me, like a ship upon the sea, thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me. (stand by me)**

**In the midst of tribulation, stand by me; (stand by me) in the midst of tribulation, stand by me. (stand by me) When the host of hell assail, and my strength begins to fail, thou who never lost a battle, stand by me. (stand by me)**

**In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me; (stand by me) in the midst of faults and failures, stand by me. (stand by me) When I’ve done the best I can, and my friends misunderstand, thou who knowest all about me, stand by me. (stand by me)**

**In the midst of persecution, stand by me; (stand by me) in the midst of persecution, stand by me. (stand by me) when my foes in war array undertake to stop my way, thou who saved Paul and Silas, stand by me. (stand by me)**

**When I’m growing old and feeble, stand by me; (stand by me) when I’m growing old and feeble, stand by me. (stand by me) When my life becomes a burden, and I’m nearing chilly Jordan, O thou Lily of the Valley, stand by me. (stand by me)**

**\*The Sending Forth and Benediction**  
**\*Postlude: Trumpet Fanfare on “Rescue” by D. Hustad**

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

**The altar flowers are in honor of David & Judy Bowers’  
50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.**

**Serving in Worship Today**

**Greeter Laura Buehler**  
**Worship Leader Helen Oyer**  
**Head Usher Gary Dull**  
**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.