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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St. Paul

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 23, 2025 8:30 a.m.

Prelude Give Thanks/ Now Thank We All Our God arr Raney

Welcome and Announcements:

*Call to Worship:

Leader: We gather together

People: in the name of the One who bids us come.

Leader: We gather together

People: to hear the words of the One who is Love.

Leader: We gather together

People: to sing praises of the One who teaches peace.

Leader: Come, let us worship!

*Opening Prayer:

Leader: Together let us pray.

Unison: God of peace, cause us to rejoice in you always, make us gentle to everyone, keep us from being anxious about anything- help us to ask you for what we need, with thanksgiving; and let your peace guard our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise: We Gather Together Page 131 We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known. The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine; so from the beginning the fight we were winning; thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender wilt be. Let thy congregation escape tribulation; thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

First Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

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

People: Thanks be to God!

*The Second Lesson: Matthew 11: 25-30

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

People: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn: Send Your Word Page 195 Send your Word, O Lord, like the rain, falling down upon the earth. Send your Word. We seek your endless grace, with souls that hunger and thirst, sorrow and agonize. We would all be lost in dark without your guiding light.

Send your Word, O Lord, like the wind, blowing down upon the earth. Send your Word. We seek your wondrous power, pureness that rejects all sins, thought they persist and cling. Bring us to complete victory; set us all free indeed.

Send your Word, O Lord, like the dew, coming gently upon the hills. Send your Word. We seek your endless love. For life that suffers in strife with adversities and hurts, send your healing power of love; we long for your new world.

Prayers of the People

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: "The Gratitude Challenge: Not Alone" Pastor Mindi Gochnaur

The Affirmation of our Stewardship

Offertory Jesus The Very Thought Of Thee arr Whitworth

* Congregational Response

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* Prayer of Dedication (in unison): Compassionate Shepherd, You do not abandon your flock, even when we wander or divide. You gather us in Christ, our righteousness, and teach us to live in unity, mercy, and peace. As we bring these gifts, may they be signs of our desire to follow your way-offering compassion where there has been hurt, justice where there has been harm, and hope where there has been despair. Strengthen us to live as people waiting not in fear, but in faith- serving the reign of Christ not just with words, but with lives shaped by generosity and love. In the name of the One who gathers and leads us always. Amen.

*Hymn: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy Page 121 There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good! There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple, we should rest upon God's word; and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.

*The Sending Forth and Benediction

Postlude: To God Be The Glory arr Innes

*Those who are able please stand.

The altar flowers are with grateful Thanksgiving by Verne and Linda Strickler.

Serving in Worship Today

Greeter Laura Buehler Worship Leader Mike Boryan Head Usher Verne Strickler

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