

Mission Statement

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

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S t . P a u l

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 9, 2025

8:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude

Festive Trumpet

by German

*Call to Worship:

Leader: Beloved, the Savior calls to you. Will you follow?

Unison: God, help us leave everything and follow.

Leader: Christ's call persists through the clouds of doubt, fear, and worry that descend on our path. Will you follow?

Unison: God, help us leave everything and follow.

Leader: Jesus calls us to shift our priorities, to leave behind the baggage of prejudice and the grasping for position so we can truly love God and our neighbors well. Will you follow?

Unison: God, help us leave everything and follow.

Leader: Beloved, receive this good news: you are not alone! Today we answer Christ's call together.

Unison: God, help us leave everything and follow your path of Love everywhere we go! Amen.

*Opening Prayer:

Leader: Together let us pray.

Unison: Some have come under compulsion. Some have come out of curiosity. Some have come out of a great need. Some have come out of tradition. Some have come to dedicate their new outfit. All will meet Jesus. All will have the opportunity to be blessed. All will decide what to do, having met Jesus. May we decide to follow him. Amen.

*Opening Hymn:

Jesus Calls Us

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Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea; day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me!"

As of old the apostle's heard it by the Galilean lake, turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store, from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more!"

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these!"

Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 6:1-8

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Special Music: **Great is Thy Faithfulness** **arr Carter**
 Pat McCulloh and Joyce Mentzer

Mission Minute: **Food Pantry** **Wendy Freyer**

***Gospel Lesson: Luke 5:1-11**

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

People: Thanks be to God!

***Hymn:** **Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore** **Page 344**
Lord, you have come to the lakeshore looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones; you only asked me to follow humbly.

Refrain

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name; now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will see other seas.

You know so well my possessions; my boat carries no gold and no weapons; you will find there my nets and labor. (Refrain)

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: **"Left Everything and Followed"** **Pastor Candy Arnold**

The Affirmation of our Stewardship

Offertory **Just a Closer Walk** **arr Utterback**

*** Congregational Response** **Page 95**

*** Prayer of Dedication (in unison):** Ever-faithful God, who calls us into the deep waters of faith and trust, we offer these gifts with open hearts. Transform our offerings into acts of love and service, so that we may catch glimpses of your kingdom and draw others into your embrace. Guide us to live deeply and follow Christ's call to be fishers of people in your abundant grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** **Here I Am, Lord** **Page 593**
I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them?

Refrain

Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. (Refrain)

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. (Refrain)

***The Sending Forth and Benediction:**

Postlude: Arise My Soul arr Wood

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

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

The altar flowers are in loving memory of Barbara Boryan's Feb 8 birthday by Mike and Anne Boryan.

Serving in Worship Today

Greeter

Worship Leader

Head Usher

Brenda Bailey

Mike Boryan

Verne Strickler

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