

March 8, 2026





St. Paul's UMC Welcoming Statement:

We believe in God's unconditional love and grace.

We affirm the dignity and worth of every person as created in the image of God.

We celebrate all loving and committed relationships.

We also believe that discrimination is incompatible with Christ's Gospel.

In this spirit, St. Paul's United Methodist Church welcomes people of every race and ethnicity, culture, age, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, mental and physical ability, faith history, family structure, marital status, educational background and economic status into full participation in the life, leadership, ministry, and sacraments of our church.



ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Northport, New York
March 8, 2026 ~ 10:00AM
ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING & WELCOME

PRELUDE

THRESHOLD MOMENT

**Sung Response: We are a wilderness wandering people
on a journey of the soul.**

**May we find our destination
in our longing to be whole.**

Our Holy God is calling to us.

**With Jesus by our side
may compassion be our compass;
may the Spirit be our guide,
on The Way,
on The Way,
on The Way.**

OPENING PRAYER

God of the Bending Road, be with us on The Way. We find ourselves changed by the things we encounter and the people we meet. We want to grow and yet sometimes the growing pains can be disorienting for everyone. Help us as we navigate the twists and turns, and help us see that others are doing the same. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: “Change My Heart, O God” FWS #2152**

GREETING EACH OTHER

FIRST READING: Psalm 32:1-11 (Inclusive Bible)

**Happiness comes from having your rebellion taken away,
from having your failure completely covered.**

**Please Stand As You Are Able*

Happiness comes from YHWH not counting your mistakes,
from having nothing to hide.
As long as I kept my stubborn silence,
my bones grew weak because of my constant complaints.
Day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was sapped by a summer's heat.
Finally I admitted my sin to you, and stopped hiding my guilt. I said,
"I confess my rebellion, YHWH,"
and you took away the guilt of my sin.
That's why people of faith everywhere
should pray to you—they'll find you.
Even when the flood begins rising,
it will never touch them.
You are my hiding place;
you'll protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of freedom.
"I'll teach you and show you the way you should walk;
I will counsel you, and keep watch over you.
Be wise! Don't be like horses and mules,
who need to be harnessed with bit and bridle
before they'll come to you."
Wrongdoers are prone to many sorrows,
but those who trust in YHWH
are surrounded with unfailing love.
Be glad in YHWH and rejoice, you who love justice!
Exult, you upright of heart!

THE WORD IN MUSIC

CHILDREN'S TIME

Alex Edwards-Bourdrez

Children and youth may go to Sunday School classes.

SECOND READING: Luke 13: 31-34

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and

performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

SERMON

PRAYERS FOR GETTING OUT OF OUR OWN WAY

Sung Response:
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY

Please consider one of these ways to donate your offering:
by check, bill pay, Venmo (@StPaulsUMC),
or Paypal (spumcFinance@optimum.net)
<https://stpaulsnorthportny.org/give>

***DOXOLOGY:** UMH#95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Please Stand As You Are Able

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we prepare to depart, we learn how we can grow and serve throughout the week.

***CLOSING HYMN:** “Guide My Feet” FWS#2208

***BENEDICTION:** Our blessing, or “benediction,” for this season is a call and response form.

Your response is:

“We will follow on The Way.”

“We will follow on The Way.”

The Creator God filled you with breath,
inviting you to this journey called Life.

We will follow on The Way.

Jesus, our Guide, showed us what it means
to make a new way with Love.

We will follow on The Way.

The Spirit gives us strength to move forward
with Courage and Compassion for all we meet.

We will follow on The Way.

May this week be filled with opportunities to choose
good over evil; humility over pride;
and loving God over loving the things that do not last.

May it be so. Amen.

“Buen Camino!”

POSTLUDE



Our Thanks to This Week's Worship Team

Ushers: Alex Edwards-Bourdrez, Marilyn & Don Proferes

Worship Assistant: Larry Sprinkle

Acolyte: Stina Czeisel

**St. Paul's UMC Invites You to a Scheduled Zoom Worship Service
Sunday Worship at 10 am**

The following instructions will be the same each week:

Dial on your phone

1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 818 1446 9508 # **Password:** 911381

Participant ID is NOT needed. Press # when prompted

To mute and unmute during worship, press

* then 6 to mute and unmute - or-

* then 9 to "raise hand" to indicate you'd like to speak

Join worship service on your computer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81814469508?pwd=MnJYVFBwQ3RWd2JkeDZ4SjBDUDFIdz09>

OUR CHURCH STAFF

David Czeisel	Senior Pastor
Penny Gadzini	Pastoral Care Pastor
Amanda Whaley	Director of Music
Megan Ferrante	Office Manager
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