

# March 15, 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 15, 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**

**Our God who is our Home, be with us on The Way.**

**At times we aren't sure about the relationship of the road we  
travel and the home we seek. Will we ever feel like we have  
arrived? We come hoping for the hearth of acceptance in the home  
that Jesus promises. And whether we are feeling lost or at home, may  
we know you are always with us. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: "He Leadeth Me" UMH #128**

**GREETING EACH OTHER**

**FIRST READING:** *Psalm 25:4-10 (inclusive Bible)*

Show me your ways, YHWH!

Teach me your paths!

Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation.

I wait all the day long for you.

Remember your mercies, YHWH, your love—  
your ancient and unwavering love!

Pardon the sins of my youth  
and my rebellious ways;  
remember me because of your love,  
because of your goodness, YHWH!

And how good and upright you are, YHWH!  
You instruct sinners in the path,  
you guide the humble in what is right,  
and teach them your way.

All of your paths, YHWH,  
are full of love and faithfulness  
for those who keep your Covenant and Testimonies.

**THE WORD IN MUSIC**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Judy Korsh

***Children and youth may go to Sunday School classes.***

**SECOND READING:** *Luke 15: 11b-32 (The Voice)*

Once there was this man who had two sons. One day the younger son came to his father and said, "Father, eventually I'm going to inherit my share of your estate. Rather than waiting until you die, I want you to give me my share now." And so the father liquidated assets and divided them. A few days passed and this younger son gathered all his wealth and set off on a journey to a distant land. Once there he wasted everything he owned on wild living. He was broke, a terrible famine struck that land, and he felt desperately

hungry and in need. He got a job with one of the locals, who sent him into the fields to feed the pigs. The young man felt so miserably hungry that he wished he could eat the slop the pigs were eating. Nobody gave him anything.

So he had this moment of self-reflection: “What am I doing here? Back home, my father’s hired servants have plenty of food. Why am I here starving to death? I’ll get up and return to my father, and I’ll say, ‘Father, I have done wrong—wrong against God and against you. I have forfeited any right to be treated like your son, but I’m wondering if you’d treat me as one of your hired servants?’” So he got up and returned to his father. The father looked off in the distance and saw the young man returning. He felt compassion for his son and ran out to him, enfolded him in an embrace, and kissed him.

The son said, “Father, I have done a terrible wrong in God’s sight and in your sight too. I have forfeited any right to be treated as your son.”

But the father turned to his servants and said, “Quick! Bring the best robe we have and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Go get the fattest calf and butcher it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate because my son was dead and is alive again. He was lost and has been found.” So they had this huge party. Now the man’s older son was still out in the fields working. He came home at the end of the day and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant said, “Your brother has returned, and your father has butchered the fattest calf to celebrate his safe return.”

The older brother got really angry and refused to come inside, so his father came out and pleaded with him to join the celebration. But he argued back, “Listen, all these years I’ve worked hard for you. I’ve never disobeyed one of your orders. But how many times have you even given me a little goat to roast for a party with my friends? Not once! This is not fair! So this son of yours comes, this wasteful delinquent who has spent your hard-earned wealth on loose women, and what do you do? You butcher the fattest calf from our herd!”

The father replied, “My son, you are always with me, and all I have is yours. Isn’t it right to join in the celebration and be happy? This is your brother we’re talking about. He was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found again!”

**SERMON**

“The Way Home”

**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](mailto: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.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN:** “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go” UMH#480

**\*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



*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my mother Nancy Jasinkonis. A wonderfully creative lady who taught me a love of arts, culture and all things great in this world. A needlepoint artist and a superb person, and who I was able to share extraordinary things with for nearly 50 years. She shines in my heart every day and she is always beside and I know she is proud of all of the artistic things that I am doing. With love, from her son, Gary*

\*Please Stand As You Are Able

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Our Thanks to This Week's Worship Team

Ushers: Nancy Anderson, Larry Sprinkle, Ken & JoAnne Gray

Worship Assistant: Alex Edwards-Bourdrez

Acolyte: Matthew Segal

Coffee Hour Hosts: Nancy & William Chu

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**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=MnJYVFBwQ3RWd2JkeDZ4SiBDUDFIdz09>

**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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