



March 22, 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.



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**ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Northport, New York**  
**March 22, 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 our Rock,  
be with us on The Way.  
At times we are not sure how we will  
carry the burdens of grief and disappointment  
that accumulate in life.  
We come asking for help  
in lightening the load  
so that we can be free to move in new directions.  
Help us to help each other as Jesus asks us to do.  
Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: "Just A Closer Walk With Thee" FWS #2158**

## **GREETING EACH OTHER**

### **FIRST READING:** Isaiah 43: 16-19

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

## **THE WORD IN MUSIC**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

**Alex Edwards-Bourdrez**

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

### **SECOND READING:** Philippians 3: 12-14

Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

### **SERMON**

“The Free Way”

### **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: “My Hope Is Built” UMH#368

\*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  
to let go of those things that no longer serve you,  
and be on the lookout for ways to encourage the same in those  
you meet.

May it be so. Amen.

“Buen Camino!”

**POSTLUDE**



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Our Thanks to This Week's Worship Team

Ushers: Pete Pasciucco, Nancy Saber, Jill Cummings

Worship Assistant: Patty Moore

Acolyte: Ocean Konte

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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=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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