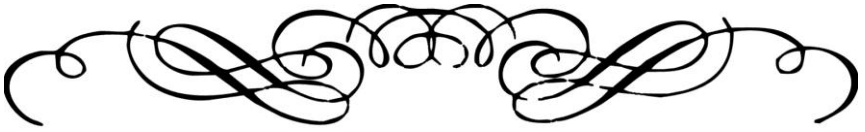




**April 26, 2026**



## **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

April 26, 2026 ~ 10:00AM

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### WELCOME AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

*As the faith community comes together with love, you are invited to share answers to prayer and other blessings you have experienced this week.*

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Easter people, we gather to worship and to listen, to learn the sound, the feel, the cadence of the Shepherd's voice.

**P: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.**

L: We gather to worship and to discern, to learn how to recognize our Shepherd's voice amidst the chaos and noise of our lives.

**P: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.**

L: We gather to worship and to find shelter, to learn to trust our Shepherd's voice to guide us to safety and provide for us in all things.

**P: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.**

L: Come, let us worship as we listen for the voice of Jesus who guides us, protects us, provides for us, and draws us together in community.

**P: We come to worship as the family of Christ, a flock seeking and following our Shepherd's voice. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN:** "You Satisfy The Hungry Heart" UMH#629

### OPENING PRAYER

**Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us.  
When we face darkness and death, journey beside us.**

\*Please Stand As You Are Able

**When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence.  
When we are fearful, feed us at your table.  
May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days  
of our lives. Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** Ezekiel 34:11-16 (NRSV)

For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

**MISSION PROJECT PRESENTATION:**

**District Youth supporting New Hour**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**Alex Edwards-Bourdrez**

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

**SECOND READING:** John 10:1-10 (NRSV)

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

**SERMON**

“Finding Our Way ”

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Healing ~ Guidance ~ Protection**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**THE OFFERING**

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>

## **OFFERTORY**

### **\*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:** “Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us” UMH#381

### **\*BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**



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Our Thanks to This Week's Worship Team

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

Worship Assistant: Joan Polli

Acolyte: Matthew Czeisel

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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
Shaleek Cohen	Caretaker
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