

August 16, 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
August 16, 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: Here we can come together, people searching for healing and hope:

P: here we are met by the One who would bless us with abundant life.

L: Here we are called to gather as the family of God:

P: we may find those who are strangers, yet are beloved siblings of ours.

L: Here we discover the truth that God makes no distinctions among us:

P: here we are welcomed and embraced by the One whose arms are open to all. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: "I Want A Principle Within" UMH#410**

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

I come before You not to appear clean, but to be made clean.

Search my heart, O God.

Uproot anything in me that You did not plant.

**Please Stand As You Are Able*

**Remove pride disguised as righteousness,
And silence words that do not reflect Your truth.**

**Lord Jesus, cleanse the wellspring of my thoughts,
That what flows from my mouth would bring life, not harm.**

**Teach me to follow You with humility,
Not tradition without truth,
Not appearance without obedience.
Create in me a pure heart,
And align my speech, actions, and motives
With Your holy will.**

**I want to be planted by You,
Rooted in truth,
Bearing fruit that glorifies Your Name.
In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.**

THE SENDING FORTH OF AL AND KATHY VITTERS

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

SENDING FORTH WITH BLESSINGS

FIRST READING: Psalm 133 (NRSVue)

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SECOND READING: Matthew 15:10-20 (CEB)

Jesus called the crowd near and said to them, "Listen and understand. It's not what goes into the mouth that contaminates a person in God's sight. It's what comes out of the mouth that contaminates the person."

Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended by what you just said?"

Jesus replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father didn't plant will be pulled up. Leave the Pharisees alone. They are blind people who are guides to blind people. But if a blind person leads another blind person, they will both fall into a ditch."

Then Peter spoke up, "Explain this riddle to us."

Jesus said, "Don't you understand yet? Don't you know that everything that goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what goes out of the mouth comes from the heart. And that's what contaminates a person in God's sight. Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adultery, sexual sins, thefts, false testimonies, and insults. These contaminate a person in God's sight. But eating without washing hands doesn't contaminate in God's sight."

SERMON: "Real Holiness "

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)
<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:** “This Is A Day Of New Beginnings” UMH#383

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE



Our Thanks to This Week's Worship Team

Ushers:

Jane & Gregg Fenton, Joan Polli, Amy Grandy

Worship Assistant:

Allison Byers

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=MnJYVFwQ3RWd2JkeDZ4SiBDUDFIdz09>

OUR CHURCH STAFF

David Czeisel	Senior Pastor
Penny Gadzini	Pastoral Care Pastor
Amanda Whaley	Director of Music
Christian Ruh	Worship Tech Manager
Megan Ferrante	Office Manager
Shaleek Cohen	Caretaker
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