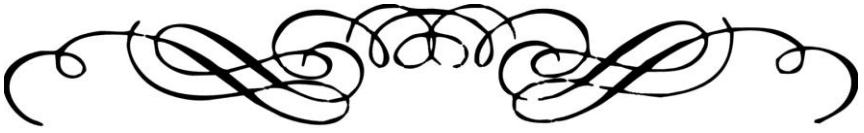


August 23, 2026





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 23, 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: Our help is in God,

P: who calls us to worship.

L: Our hope is in love,

P: that calls us to care.

L: Come, let us bring our full selves to worship.

P: Let us bring our full love and care. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN:** "Living For Jesus" FWS#2149

OPENING PRAYER

We confess our struggle to be transformed into disciples, God of mystery. The desires of the world would shape us into people you would not recognize. The demands of our society pull us away from your heart. Our culture values the rich, the powerful, the successful, but you are on the side of the weak, the poor, the outcast, and the oppressed.

Forgive us, Merciful God, for looking for you in all the wrong places. Reawaken us with your voice that calls us to service; revive our weary hearts with your vision of creation; refresh our fatigued spirits that we might boldly proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and go forth to serve your people, in Christ's name. Amen.

**Please Stand As You Are Able*

FIRST READING: Matthew 16:13-20 (NRSV)

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8 (NRSV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to

faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

SERMON: “A Liberated Mind ”

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:** “Go Forth For God” UMH#670

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

**Please Stand As You Are Able*



Our Thanks to This Week's Worship Team

Usher:

Alex Edwards-Bourdrez

Worship Assistant:

Larry Sprinkle

*Please Stand As You Are Able

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=MnJYVFBUQ3RWd2JkeDZ4SjBDUDFIdz09>

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
Church Office Phone	631-261-0804
Office Email:	office@stpaulsnorthportny.org
Pastor’s Phone:	631-827-6401
Pastor’s Email:	david.czeisel@nyac-umc.com
Website:	stpaulsnorthportny.org

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