



St. Paul's United Methodist Church of Odessa
Reaching Up Reaching In Reaching Out
Pastor Linda Ray, 406 Main Street, Odessa, DE 302-378-2420
www.stpaulsodessa.org, CCLI 11305346 and Streaming Lic. 21184487

Pentecost Sunday & Memorial Day Sunday

May 28, 2023, 11:00 AM Service
WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE

WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES
Mark Holden, Photographer & Curator

PRELUDE
GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Liturgist – Lynda Whitehead

One: Coming from different places,

Many: we gather as one church, one community of faith.

One: Bringing different gifts,

Many: we come to offer ourselves as we are.

One: Blessed by one Spirit,

Many: we bring our unity of gratitude and praise.

*OPENING HYMN:

O Church Of God United

Red Hymnal 547

*OPENING PRAYER (all praying): **Holy Spirit, blow through our gathering as you blew through that Pentecost gathering so many centuries ago. Breathe in us your new creation, that we may be renewed and revived to be your people once more. Speak through our differences and our diversity and bind us together in unity and love. Renewing wind of the Spirit, help us recognize our gifts, that we may use them for your glory. For we yearn to proclaim your presence in all that we say and in all that we do. In your holy presence we pray. Amen**

CHILDREN'S TIME:

I'm Gonna Sing When The Spirit Says Sing

Red Hymnal 333

I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says sing, I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says sing, I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says sing and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

Adrienne Dillard shares a blessing with our children!

FIRST LESSON: *Acts 2:1-21 (CEB)*

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. ⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak. ⁵ There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. ⁷ They were surprised and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them?" ⁸ How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!" ¹² They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, "What does this mean?" ¹³ Others jeered at them, saying, "They're full of new wine!" ¹⁴ Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! ¹⁵ These people aren't drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning! ¹⁶ Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ *In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your young will see visions.
Your elders will dream dreams.*

¹⁸ *Even upon my servants, men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.*

¹⁹ *I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.*

²⁰ *The sun will be changed into darkness,
and the moon will be changed into blood,
before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.*

²¹ *And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

HYMN OF PREPARATION: *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* Red Hymnal 334

*GOSPEL LESSON: *John 7:37-39 (CEB)*

On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and shouted, “All who are thirsty should come to me! ³⁸ All who believe in me should drink! As the scriptures said concerning me, *Rivers of living water will flow out from within him.*” ³⁹ Jesus said this concerning the Spirit. Those who believed in him would soon receive the Spirit, but they hadn’t experienced the Spirit yet since Jesus hadn’t yet been glorified.

One: May this story inspire us all. **ALL: To walk in the way that leads to life.**

THE MESSAGE: “Life Is A Team Sport” Pastor Linda Ray

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

THE OFFERTORY: Today’s **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports **Habitat for Humanity (Dawn Buckworth)**

CHORAL ANTHEM: *Crown Him, Majesty* Chancel Choir

*THE DOXOLOGY: Red Hymnal 94

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER Pastor Linda Ray

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: **God of fire and wind, we confess we have missed the movement of your Spirit in our lives and in your world. We have not been a Spirit-led church. We have not pursued your anointing or your sanctifying presence. We have not lived in holiness. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from bondage to life in the Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: Pastor Linda Ray
Officiant Server – Lynda Whitehead

Reader 1: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Reader 1: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Reader 1: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader 1: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant

to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Reader 2: Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us from darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

(Lifting and breaking the bread) On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave God thanks, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Reader 1: (Lifting the cup) When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to God, gave it to his disciples, and said "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Reader 2: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

ALL: AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

Reader 2: Let us join our hearts and voices in the prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory Forever. AMEN.

(The congregation will come forward to partake of the bread and cup.)

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Pastor Linda Ray

WE GO IN THE SPIRIT!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND SERVICE

SENDING HYMN:

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Red Hymnal 384

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgist: Lynda Whitehead

Audio/Video: Charlii Miller & John Littell & John Cate

Communion Officiant/Server: Lynda Whitehead

Ushers: Ellie & Dick Leuliette, John & Patti Harmer, June Stemmler, John Harmon, Denis Shaffer, Laura Widger

ASL Interpreter: Gail Garner

Director of Music Ministries: Laura Sebastiano

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Linda Driver Ray, Pastor
Bonnie Valeski, Admin. Asst.
Alice Mullins, Financial/Treasurer
Duane Dillard, Minister of Music
Laura Sebastiano, Director of Music Ministries

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ANNOUNCEMENTS - THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S:

Sunday 05/28	Worship Services 8:30AM and 11AM, Adult Bible Study (last session for summer)
Monday 05/29	No Co-Ed Bible Study Mtg due to holiday, Boy Scouts 7PM (last mtg. is June 5th)
Tuesday 05/30	Cub Scouts 6PM
Wednesday 05/31	ASL Classes 4:30PM, TOPS Mtg 6PM, Choir Rehearsal 7:10PM (last session for summer)
Thursday 06/01	Prayer & Praise Group 10AM, Stewardship Mtg 6:30 Hybrid
Friday 06/02	N/A
Saturday 06/03	AA Mtg 7PM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Old Drawyers Church Annual Service Sunday, June 4 – Pastor Linda will preside, and the St. Paul's Choir will be singing!

June 4th is the first Summer Worship Service at 9AM. Only one Sunday service through the end of August.

Confirmation Sunday is June 11th.

Graduates Recognition Sunday is June 18th (and Fathers' Day). If you have graduating seniors and would like them to be recognized that Sunday and a short bio and photo included in the bulletin, please contact Bonnie in the Church Office. You can email the photo and bio together and send them to bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org. Deadline to submit is Thursday, June 8th.

CARE WORKERS READY TO WORK – Kathy Chas has contact information for anyone in need of a care-worker for their loved one. Kathy Chas can be contacted at her email, kmchas07@gmail.com, or phone 302-540-3046.

FROM THE TECH TEAM: Plans are being made to reduce the number of St Paul's archived live-streams and videos out there on YouTube. This will take place shortly after June 1, after which live-streams and videos will be archived for 12 months and then removed. If you desire for any live-stream or video to remain archived for a longer period, please let John or Charlii know.

Also, if you have an interest in preparing worship slides using PowerPoint or managing the live-stream or slide presentations at Sunday worship, please let us know. We will be happy to show you how it works and provide hands-on training. It's fun! Please consider volunteering.

CONFIRMATION CLASS is beginning Monday, April 24 at 6:30 p.m. Confirmation is open to anyone 12 years old or older who wants to learn more about their faith, more about the United Methodist Church, and move toward making a first-time public profession of faith and becoming a full member of St. Paul's UMC. The class will meet each Monday (except for Memorial Day) through June 12. Class activities will include discussion, reflection, field trips, service, and prayer. If you or someone you know is interested in participating in this class, please contact Pastor Linda (540-207-1787) or the church office. Looking forward to growing in faith together.

Birthdays: May 29 – Taylor Shoun; May 30 – Hanna Holland, Nathaniel Sutton; June 1 – Kayla Haberstroh; June 2 – Nancee Bleistine, Charlie Tokash; June 3 – Eric Widger

Anniversaries: N/A

PRAYER REQUEST BOX is available in the Narthex along with the prayer request cards. Just complete the form, fold, and drop in the box on the corner shelf located at the second set of doors into Fellowship Hall.

PRAYERS FOR: Noel Lukens, Matthew Smith, Naomi Betts, Sue Holden's sister, Betsey Snipes, Bill Smith, Beth, Matt & Louise Latocha, Darryl Dillard, Kathy Golden, Jessica Schrum and Family, Dave Corby, David Dudgeon, Dorothy Dudgeon, Ike Guessford, Seth Holden, Daniel Moore, Donna's mother, Heather Myers and family, Frank, Stephen George, Hunter and family, Timmie, Carolyn Akin, Linda Botsford's father, Patty, Alice Mullins' brother Clarence Brooks, Debbie Foster, Nathan Kelsey, Eric Price, Raymond 'Jim' McCall, family of Mark Smyth, Brian Wells, Lewis family, Joe Chas, Jonathan Brooks, Sally, Nancy, Stevie, Cheryl, Clydia, Joan, Ginny Lewis, Jan Corby, Ruth Neff, Mary Ingram's friend Maureen, Susie Haberstroh.

Upcoming Yellow Hat Schedule for May 2023

<http://www.stpaulsodessa.org/VANCOOnlineGiving>

5/7/23 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Del (Carolyn Stanley)

5/14/23 Urban Promise (Annual Conference) - Latch Key Kids, Wilmington, DE

5/21/23 Friends of Zoar (Steve Johnson)

5/28/23 Habitat for Humanity (Dawn Buckworth)

Upcoming Yellow Hat Schedule for June 2023

6/4/23 Peace with Justice Sunday – Scholarships/Teaching Skills

6/11/23 Youth Mission Trip

6/18/23 Deaf Outreach, Inc. (Patti & Carl Ravilious)

6/25/23 Brian Coley Resilience Center (Warriors Helping Warriors)

For anyone writing checks to the Church, and this includes Yellow Hat, Alice Mullins/Treasurer, would like to remind everyone that the checks need to be made to ST. PAUL'S UMC.

The checks/cash/Vanco on-line donations collected on each Sunday get deposited to the Church account and then the total amount for that Sunday's Yellow Hat Mission is then sent to that Mission Charity via a check written by Alice from St. Paul's account. Please just note on your check to which Yellow Hat you want to donate.

If you write the check to the Yellow Hat or any other organization, it cannot be deposited into St. Paul's Funds account. Hoping this message clarifies our process, thanks to everyone for being generous in their giving!



ST. PAUL'S
United Methodist Church of Odessa
Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out

St. Paul's Mission Statement

Reaching Up to praise God in vibrant worship

God calls us to live out our discipleship grounded in Christ's awakening us to the glory and majesty of God in all creation, and we respond together by worshiping God with our gratitude and praise. Standing or lifting our hands high are both ancient postures of worship, and so our dance of discipleship involves reaching up with our hearts, souls, and bodies, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.*

Psalms 100:4-5 (NRSV)

Reaching In to deepen our spiritual walk with Christ

Christ accepts us as we are, and then calls us to follow him and learn from him, growing in our spiritual walk through practices the church calls spiritual disciplines: prayer, fasting, meditation, studying God's Word, individually and with others. As we grow in the knowledge of God, we discover more about the extraordinary plans God has for our lives.

"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

John 8:31-32 (NRSV)

Reaching Out with acts of love and compassion

Here's where it all comes together! Assured of God's eternal love, strengthened by the grace and knowledge of Christ, we are ready for the Holy Spirit to kindle a fire in our lives, gifting us for the labor of love God has prepared for us to accomplish. Having fallen in love with God, we love and serve our neighbors.

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:40 (NRSV)

MISSIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

WEEKLY GATHERINGS – CHURCH BUILDING

OFFICE HOURS Tuesday -Thursday, 9AM-2:00PM

- Boy Scouts –Mondays 7-8:30PM, last meeting June 5th.
- Cub Scouts –Tuesdays 6-8PM, beginning Sept. 20th
- TOPS Meeting – Wednesdays 6 PM.
- St. Paul's Prayer and Praise Group Ministry – Thursdays 10 AM @Carole Harmon's Home
- St. Paul's Handbell Rehearsal – will resume in Fall.
- St. Paul's Choir Rehearsal – will resume in Fall.
- AA Meeting – Saturdays 7 PM

MONTHLY GATHERINGS

- Finance Meeting – 2nd Monday 6:30 PM
- Trustees Meeting – 2nd Tuesday 6:30 PM
- SPRC Meeting – 4th Thursday 6:30 PM
- Leadership Meeting – 3rd Tuesday 6:30 PM
- PFLAG Meeting – 3rd Thursday 6:30 PM
- Reconciling Ministries – no summer sessions, will resume in Fall.

Reconciling Ministries Informational Meetings

The Reconciling Committee will resume in the Fall.

Adult Bible Study will begin as a hybrid meeting, (in-person and Zoom), October 16, 2022, in Fellowship Hall at 9:45 – 10:45 AM. Zoom Mtg. ID 839 3481 5178, Passcode 779997. The last meeting is May 28th until Fall.

Flowers for Worship

If you are interested in honoring a loved one with flowers at the altar on a particular Sunday, we are asking you to contact Alicia Blackwell, from Wildflowers by Alicia to place your order. Alicia can be reached at (302) 593-9884. Also, please email the church office so we make sure the information is added in the bulletin.

Compassionate Card Ministry

The Compassionate Card Ministry is made up of 20 dedicated members of our congregation who create hand-made cards and encouraging messages to those in our directory, within our congregation, those on our prayer lists and others who are brought to our attention. Our purpose is to spread kindness and love to others through uplifting and personalized sentiments on hand-made cards. If you are not in our directory and would like to be added to our list, or if you know someone who would benefit from the blessing of a card, please contact Nancee Bleistine, nbleistine@yahoo.com or 609-217-1924.

Prayer and Praise Group Ministry

Carole Harmon hosts a prayer circle, currently Thursday mornings at 10 AM - in person. Please contact Carole if you are interested in joining the group or have a special prayer request. You can also find prayer request cards and box on the corner shelf in the Narthex.

VANCO: Manage Your Giving Online

Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit the church website at www.stpaulsodessa.org and click on the VANCO Online Giving button to the left of the screen.
- 3) Click on the Link to Online Giving thru VANCO button, then
- 4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your RECURRING CONTRIBUTIONS.

Family Life

Children's Sunday School will resume in the Fall.

Love Thy Neighbor Fund

Our "Love Thy Neighbor Fund" was created to help those in need in the MOT community. This fund may support a time in someone's life when he/she may need a little kindness and generosity to help endure and survive a challenging situation. If you can donate, please make checks payable to St. Paul's UMC and then write in the memo area it is for "Love Thy Neighbor Fund." Please note, this fund is SEPARATE from the Yellow Hat. Thank you, Love Thy Neighbor Committee

Deep Roots

Nadine Johnson & Karen Ellis continue to work with the "Deep Roots" mission. This group works with families who are disconnected through homelessness and provides transitional shelter and other services to families in need. They need your help as they continue to contact members of the church to help with making meals once a month feeding approximately 50+ individuals. Here's hoping you will be able to help us with this very important and necessary mission. Thanks so much! Contact Karen Ellis at iluvbrmuda@gmail.com and Nadine Johnson at nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com

Our Daily Bread Food Donations

214 N Broad St, Middletown, DE 19709

Volunteers Needed – day and evening hours and different areas of need, filling bags, handing out meals, etc.

Volunteer Opportunities can be found at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COE4FAEA82CA3F5CF8-volunteer>. Contact Sue Holden, Missions Co-Chair, at 802-324-6167, susieq2951@aol.com, with any questions. Also, find information and volunteer sign-up forms on the website,

<https://www.ourdailybreadmot.com>. **On-line Training Coming Soon!**

ODB is most thankful to all who donate either monetarily or in kind. Your generosity helps ODB feed those in our community who are facing food insecurity. Listed below are the items needed to stuff our side bags and other items that are needed on a regular basis. Donations can be dropped off on Tuesday from 9:15 to 11:30AM

- Individual bottles of water
- Individual bags of salty snacks
- Individual packets of sweet snacks
- Individual fruit cups and/or applesauce
- Fresh fruit (apples, bananas, oranges)
- Boxes of breakfast cereal
- Boxes of mashed potatoes
- White bread
- Baked beans (large cans)
- Gallon size zip-loc bags
- Lg black garbage bags
- Cans of soup

Thank you for any and all kindness!

Neighborhood House

Neighborhood House really appreciates St. Paul's ongoing support in so many ways. At this point, we are low on some items in the food pantry. These items are especially needed right now in our food pantry, though all donations are gladly accepted with the inventory being low now.

Currently we are really low on personal hygiene products as well as some food items:

- 1. Bottled water**
- 2. Toilet paper, Toothpaste, Soap, Shampoo & conditioner**
- 3. Peanut butter & jelly (medium size)**
- 4. Pasta sauce**

5. Tuna/Tuna Helper
6. Hamburger Helper

These non-perishables are needed to keep our pantry stocked:

Chef Boyardee, beef stew, Spam
pancake mix/syrup
snacks - cookies, crackers etc.

ADDITIONALLY, THERE IS ALWAYS A NEED FOR ADULT SIZED DISPOSABLE DIAPERS AS WELL AS FOR BABIES/CHILDREN IN SIZES 4, 5, AND 6, AND WIPES. WE HAVE NUMEROUS MOMS WITH BABIES AND TODDLERS WHO TAKE THEIR MONEY FOR FOOD AND BILLS TO BUY THEM.

Donations can be left inside the Church. We look forward to another great year working together to feed the hungry. Thanks to all, Marilyn Hendershot, Family Services Specialist, Neighborhood House, Inc.

PFLAG Meeting

Meetings are held at 6:30 PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month, presently via Zoom. Please join us if you would like to be supported or offer support and please spread the word to all corners of our communities. We are currently working on a system which will help youth who have been rejected by their parents, find families who will help them. Please contact Mark Holden, (Mark@maholden.com) or call 802-279-8100.

JOYS & CONCERNS: If you know someone, you'd like to add to our prayer list, please email the church office or visit the church website (www.stpaulsodessa.org) to complete a prayer request. **There is also a Prayer Box in the Narthex in which you can drop your completed request.** Please email the office when someone can be taken OFF the list. If you or a loved one needs a pastoral visit, please call or email the church office to schedule.