



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

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
November 13, 2022, 8:30 AM Service, ASL & Virtual
WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE

WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES

GATHERING MUSIC AND PHOTOS

Duane Dillard

Mark Holden, Photographer & Curator, and Gail Garner ASL Interpreter

GATHERING WORDS:

Liturgist Adrienne Dillard

One: New life comes through change.

Many: A new beginning is always near.

One: Embrace the change God is bringing.

Many: We worship the one who makes all things new.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

My Tribute
He Is Exalted

Red Hymnal 99
Black Hymnal 2070

OPENING PRAYER (all praying): Lord, today we recall your faithfulness. Thank you that you walk with us every day, that you are with us always. We proclaim that your promises are true and your goodness and love never fail. In this moment we come to you and lay our lives before you. May we honor, worship and adore you with every fiber of our being. Father, we proclaim that you are the Holy One, the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come. Your beauty and majesty are beyond compare. On this day we join with all those who worship and confess you as Lord, from generations past and present, and with all the angels that sing in heaven of your greatness and splendor. Lord we adore you. Lord we love you. Lord we bow down and worship you. Amen

CHILDREN'S TIME

How Great Is Our God (Chorus 2x)

Green Hymnal 3003

How great is our God! Sing with me "How great is our God!" And all will see how great, how great, is our God!
Courtney Martin shares a blessing with our children!

PASS THE PEACE (safely share words and signs of blessing)

I Love You With The Love Of The Lord
Words and Music by Jim Golbert. CCLI Song #10130

I love you with the love of the Lord, yes, I love you with the love of the Lord. I can see in you the glory of my King, and I love you with the love of the Lord.

FIRST LESSON: *Isaiah 65:17-25*

¹⁷ Look! I'm creating a new heaven and a new earth:

past events won't be remembered;
they won't come to mind.

¹⁸ Be glad and rejoice forever

in what I'm creating,
because I'm creating Jerusalem as a joy
and her people as a source of gladness.

¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad about my people.

No one will ever hear the sound of weeping or crying in it again.

²⁰ No more will babies live only a few days,

or the old fail to live out their days.

The one who dies at a hundred will be like a young person,

and the one falling short of a hundred will seem cursed.

²¹ They will build houses and live in them;
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² They won't build for others to live in,
nor plant for others to eat.

Like the days of a tree will be the days of my people;
my chosen will make full use of their handiwork.

²³ They won't labor in vain,
nor bear children to a world of horrors,
because they will be people blessed by the LORD,
they along with their descendants.

²⁴ Before they call, I will answer;
while they are still speaking, I will hear.

²⁵ Wolf and lamb will graze together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
but the snake—its food will be dust.

They won't hurt or destroy at any place on my holy mountain,
says the LORD.

*GOSPEL *Luke 21:5-19*

⁵ Some people were talking about the temple, how it was decorated with beautiful stones and ornaments dedicated to God. Jesus said, ⁶“As for the things you are admiring, the time is coming when not even one stone will be left upon another. All will be demolished.” ⁷ They asked him, “Teacher, when will these things happen? What sign will show that these things are about to happen?” ⁸ Jesus said, “Watch out that you aren't deceived. Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I'm the one!’ and ‘It's time!’ Don't follow them. ⁹ When you hear of wars and rebellions, don't be alarmed. These things must happen first, but the end won't happen immediately.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Nations and kingdoms will fight against each other. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes and wide-scale food shortages and epidemics. There will also be terrifying sights and great signs in the sky. ¹² But before all this occurs, they will take you into custody and harass you because of your faith. They will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will provide you with an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ Make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance. ¹⁵ I'll give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to counter or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed by your parents, brothers and sisters, relatives, and friends. They will execute some of you. ¹⁷ Everyone will hate you because of my name. ¹⁸ Still, not a hair on your heads will be lost. ¹⁹ By holding fast, you will gain your lives.

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

HYMN OF PREPARATION
THE MESSAGE

My Hope Is Built
“Prayers and Presence”

Red Hymnal 368
Pastor Linda Ray

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*You may speak aloud your joys and concerns.*)

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY REMINDERS

Today's **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports **Adopt-A-Family (Brenda Shaffer & Youth).**

PRAYERS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: **We are here today, O Lord, to admit our failings. We ask forgiveness: for words spoken in cruelty, for behavior that tears down, for ignoring the ministries of your church, for preferring worldly**

wealth to riches in your Spirit. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us into fullness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor Linda Ray
Officiant Server – Patti Harmer
Communion Setting 2257-a

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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, and spoke to us through the prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Communion Setting 2257-b

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

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. 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. 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."

(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."

Communion Setting 2257-c

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! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Communion Setting 2257-d

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. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

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

Our Father, which 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.)

Pastor: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

WE GO IN THE SPIRIT!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND SERVICE

CLOSING MUSIC

Soon and Very Soon

Red Hymnal 706

POSTLUDE

Duane Dillard

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgist: Adrienne Dillard
Audio/Video: Charlii Miller & John Littell
Communion Officiant/Server: Patti Harmer
Duane Dillard, Minister of Music
ASL Interpreter: Gail Garner

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Linda Driver Ray, Pastor	lindaray@vaumc.org	(540) 207-1787
Bonnie Valeski, Admin. Asst.	bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org	(302) 378-2420
Alice Mullins, Financial/Treasurer	alice.mullins@hotmail.com	(302) 293-9956
Amy Brown, Music Ministry Director	amyrowebrown@gmail.com	(480) 677-0910
Duane Dillard, Minister of Music	duanedillard@gmail.com	(443) 593-2470

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S:

Sunday 11/13	Worship Service 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:45
Monday 11/14	Finance Comm. Mtg. 6:30 PM, Boy Scouts, 6-8 PM
Tuesday 11/15	Leadership Comm. Mtg. 6:30 PM, Cub Scouts 6-8 PM
Wednesday 11/16	TOPS Mtg 6:00 PM, Handbell and Choir Rehearsal on Friday this week.
Thursday 11/17	Prayer & Praise Team Mtg 10:00 AM @ Carole Harmon's Home, 238 Drawyers Drive, Middletown DE 19709, All welcome! PFLAG 6:30 PM
Friday 11/18	CHANGE Handbell Rehearsal 6:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal 7:10 PM this week only
Saturday 11/19	AA Mtg 7:00 PM

2023 PLEDGE CARDS can still be picked up in the Narthex. Those that aren't will be mailed to your home. Completed cards can be dropped off to the Church Office, to Alice Mullins, Treasurer or dropped into the Pledge Card silver box at the back, side door of the Church, or mailed. Please try to have them in by November 20th so Finance can generate the 2023 Budget.



THANK YOU TO GIRL SCOUTS TROOPS 873 AND 1247 They filled 4 buckets for the UMCOR Disaster Aid Drive. Thank you to Lulu Calbazana for leading the troops with this effort and donation!

OUTSIDE CLEAN-UP of SMALL DEBRIS AND INSIDE CLEAN-UP OF CHURCH November 19, Saturday from 9 AM-12 PM.

Pastor Linda and Barbara Lynn will be heading up this event. This will be cleaning up the outside yards of leaves, small sticks etc., and inside will be cleaning of the Church, Fellowship Hall, rooms, etc.. There will be a task board for you to choose which task best utilizes your abilities and gifts. Please contact Pastor Linda, Barbara Lynn of the Church Office with questions.

This event is in anticipation of St. Pauls' UMC being a host for Christmas in Odessa on December 3, the first Saturday in December!! We all want our church to SHINE with PRIDE so please come out to help!

ST. PAUL'S WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE ADOPT-A-FAMILY Program in partnership with Neighborhood House this year. We have been given 10 families for whom we will be purchasing gifts. Information and the opportunity to "adopt" specific family members will be available beginning November 20. If you have already purchased gift cards for the Neighborhood House, we are still gratefully accepting them! Questions can be directed to Jennifer Rodriguez, Kris Knarr or Brenda Shaffer.

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.



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)

Current list of Committees, Chairs and Members as of 05/2022

Pastor	Rev. Linda Driver Ray
Ministry Candidate	Min. Adrienne Dillard
Lay Leadership	Janet Miller, Melissa Brooks, Mark Holden
Church Leadership Co-Chairs	Steve Johnson & Cathy Blanco
Trustee Chair	Charlii Miller
Trustee Committee	Charlii Miller, John Littell, Lynda Lambert
	Rev. Linda Driver Ray (Ex-Officio), Barbara
	Lynn Manlove, Don Mueller, John Cate,
	Cathy Blanco, Steve Johnson
SPRC Chair	Rick Pulling
SPRC Committee	Rick Pulling, Nancee Bleistine, Ellie Leuliette,
	June Stemmler, Janet Miller, Rev. Linda Driver Ray
	(Ex-Officio), Joy Littell, Cathy Blanco, Steve Johnson
Finance Chair	Vacant/Hap Bonham – Interim Chair
Treasurer	Alice Mullins
Finance Committee	Hap Bonham, Angela Christian, Carolyn Stanley
	Rev. Linda Driver Ray (Ex-Officio), Sandy Urstadt,
	Ann Baker, Alan Martin, Melissa Brooks
Worship Arts Committee	Barbara Lynn Manlove, Ellie Leuliette
	Nancee Bleistine, Janet Miller
Missions	Sue Holden, Dawn Buckworth, Sandy & Bob
	Urstadt, Charlotte Miller, Nadine Johnson
	Karen Ellis, Patti & John Harmer, Barbara
	Bonham, Joy Littell, Mark Holden, Nancy Judd,
	Ann Newswanger

Please contact Bonnie Valeski at bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org with any changes or additions

MISSIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

WEEKLY GATHERINGS – CHURCH BUILDING

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

- Boy Scouts –Mondays 7-8:30PM
- Cub Scouts –Tuesdays 6-8PM, beginning Sept. 20th
- TOPS Meeting – Wednesdays 6 PM.
- St. Paul’s Prayer and Praise Group Ministry – Thursdays 10 AM
- St. Paul’s Handbell Rehearsal – Wednesdays at 6 PM in the Music Room
- St. Paul’s Choir Rehearsal – Wednesday at 7:10 PM in the Sanctuary
- 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 – 2nd Thursday, 6:30 PM, will resume in January 2023

Reconciling Ministries Informational Meetings

The Reconciling Committee will NOT BE MEETING November or December. We will resume meetings in January, again the Second Thursday of each month at 6:30. We plan on doing a four-part series of a book study. Stay tuned for more information.

Upcoming Yellow Hat Schedule for November 2022:

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

11/20 Neighborhood House

11/27 United Methodist Student Day

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 886 735 4733, Passcode 779997.

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 begin again on October 23, 2022, at 9:45 -10:45 AM via Zoom, ID 868 3752 1062, Passcode 817993.

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>. Volunteer opportunities for late October and November – several slots for Clean Up and one more person to help with donations on Tuesday. Please consider a few hours of your time to help those much less fortunate. 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 11:30 a.m.

- 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 kindnesses!

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.

- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Cereal
- Tuna/Tuna Helper
- Tissues

- Spaghetti/Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Frozen meats/canned meats (Spam, Chef Boyardee, beef stew etc.
- Soup

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.

Prayers for: Noel Lukens, Matthew Smith, Naomi Betts, Jerrod Bolline, Sue Holden's sister, Betsey Snipes, Bill Smith, Beth, Matt & Louise Latocha, Carol Myers, Darryl Dillard, Kathy Golden, Jessica Schrum and Family, Joyce, Aunt to Angela Christian, Dave Corby, Kenzel Messick, David Dudgeon, Kimberly, Ike Guessford, Pat Williams, Jim Wilhelm and father, Seth Holden, Pastor Danese Collins, Daniel Moore, Amy, Robbi, Melissa Davis, Joanne Lambert.

Birthdays: November 13 – Ryan Ellis; November 15 – Stephen Blanco; November 16 – Rob Baker; November 18 – Alexa Rodriguez; November 19 – John Harmer, Al Schrum

Anniversaries: November 19 – Beth & Thomas O'Grady