



ST. PAUL'S

United Methodist Church of Odessa

Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out

Twenty Second Sunday After Pentecost - Theme: Spiritual Blindness

October 24, 2021 – 8:30 AM Service with ASL Interpretation,

11 AM Traditional Service and Virtual Worship

406 Main Street

Odessa, DE 19730

302-378-2420

www.stpaulsodessa.org

** Indicates please stand in body or in spirit*

WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE

WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES

PRELUDE

Duane Dillard (8:30)

Amy Brown (11:00)

Mark Holden, Photographer & Curator

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist: Bless the Lord at all times.

Congregation: Let everyone bless God.

Liturgist: Praise the Lord continually.

Congregation: Let everyone praise Christ.

Liturgist: Our souls boast in the Lord.

Congregation: We boast in the Spirit's greatness.

Liturgist: With one voice, we magnify and exalt the Lord,

for God has delivered us and made us whole.

Congregation: Exalt our God, the Lord of life.

***OPENING HYMN**

Since Jesus Came Into My Heart (8:30)

Black Hymnal, 2140

Come, Thou Almighty King (11:00)

Red Hymnal, 61

OPENING PRAYER

Open our eyes, Lord. Help us to see Jesus as he reaches out to heal our blindness. Help us to let go of all those things that keep us in darkness.

This day, as your word is proclaimed, let our hearts and souls respond with joy. Transform our lives to do your will. In Jesus' Name, we pray.

AMEN.

CHILDREN'S TIME: *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* (8:30)

Green Hymnal, 2088

Lord I lift Your name on high. Lord I love to sing Your praises. I'm so glad You're in my life. I'm so glad You came to save us. You came from heaven to earth. To show the way. From the earth to the cross, My debt to pay. From the cross to the grave. From the grave to the sky. Lord I lift Your name on high.

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus, v.1 (11:00)

Red Hymnal, 277

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear; things I would ask him to tell me if he were here: scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea, stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

Jenneth Benjamin (8:30 & 11:00–virtual) shares a blessing with our children!

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (11:00)**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Gloria Patri (11:00)

Red Hymnal, 70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

PRAYER FOR INSPIRATION: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus, v.1*

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

EPISTLE READING: *Hebrews 7:23-28*

23 Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; 24 but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. 25 Therefore he is able to save completely[a] those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. 26 Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted

above the heavens. 27 Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. 28 For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

*GOSPEL READING: *Mark 10:46-52*

Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight

46 Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” 48 Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” 49 Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” 50 Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. 51 “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.” 52 “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

One: May this story inspire us all.

All: To walk in the way that leads to life.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia Glory to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Glory to God! For the Lord Most High is worthy of glory and
praise. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia Glory to God! Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia Glory to God!**

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

Open Our Eyes (8:30)

Black Hymnal, 2086

Open Our Eyes 2x (11:00)

Black Hymnal, 2086

THE MESSAGE: *Spiritual Blindness*

Rev. Kevin Benjamin

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Kevin Benjamin

(Psalm 34, Job 42)

You invite us, God, to taste and see that you are good. Well, we have tasted and you are truly good. As a token of our gratitude and a

reflection of our devotion, we give back to you from our abundance. Multiply the gifts of our hands, that they may double what we could do alone. To the glory and service of Jesus, Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

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

Today's **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports Our Daily Bread.

Instrumental (8:30)

Duane Dillard

God Is So Good (11:00)

Chancel Choir

*THE DOXOLOGY: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Kevin Benjamin

Why is it that we are afraid to cry aloud our need to God? We sit in our darkness and cry and complain about the dire circumstances that have overtaken us. Yet, when given the opportunity to approach the Savior who offers us light and healing, we cower in the darkness, not daring to believe that healing and light are possible for us. The darkness of our souls invades all of our lives; it colors our attitudes and determines our actions. Lord Jesus, come and shine your light not only on us, but in us and eventually through us. Break the barriers we have erected against peace, freedom, and hope. Bathe us in the light of love, and we shall become bearers of that incredible light for others who dwell in darkness. As we receive the light from you, give us courage and confidence to reach out in compassion and service in your name. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Kevin Benjamin

(Job 42, Psalm 34, Hebrews 7, Mark 10)

Mystical, transcendent God, there is so much of life we simply do not know. In our arrogance, we utter what we do not understand. Rescue us, O Lord, from our afflictions. Restore us, O God, from our self-inflicted wounds. Have mercy on us, Son of David, Son of God, and save us by your unending intercession.

INVITATION FOR COMMUNION (Mark 10)

In this meal, Christ fills the hungry. All are welcome—rich and poor, old and young, healthy and sick. You, who long to taste heaven's goodness, come. Come to our Lord's table and be fed.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Kevin Benjamin

Pastor Kevin: 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.

Communion Song (8:30)

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 1: On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, 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." Please take your wafer and commune along with me.

Reader 2: When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, 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." Please take your juice and commune along with me.

Reader 1 & 2: 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.

Pastor Kevin: Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

WE GO IN THE SPIRIT

SENDING HYMN

Stand By Me (8:30)

Red Hymnal, 512

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling (11:00)

Red Hymnal, 348

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

Rev. Kevin Benjamin

Darkness has been banished. Sight has been restored. Your lives are reformed in Christ's love. Go now in peace to serve with great joy. Bring the love of God with you so that the light which has brightened your life may shine for others. Go now, beloved, to serve. AMEN.

POSTLUDE

Duane Dillard (8:30)

Amy Brown (11:00)

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY (8:30 AM)

Ushers: Dick & Ellie Leuliette

Audio/Video: Charlii Miller & John Littell

Liturgist: Joy Littell

Communion Servants: Ellie Leuliette & Joy Littell

Musicians: Duane Dillard and the Worship Ensemble

ASL Interpreter: Gail Garner

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY ARE (11:00 AM)

Ushers: June Stemmler, Denis Shaffer & John Harmon

Audio/Video: Charlii Miller & John Littell

Liturgist: Rick Pulling

Communion Servants: John & Susie Cate

Musician: Amy Brown, Music Director and the Chancel Choir

Flowers on the altar are from Joyce Nelson & Family in memory of Dana Atwell.

Rev. Kevin Benjamin, Pastor	pastorkevin@stpaulsodessa.org	(302) 312-3636
Alice Mullins, Admin./Treasurer	stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org	(302) 378-2420
Amy Brown, Music Director	amyrowebrown@gmail.com	(480) 677-0910
Duane Dillard, Minister of Music	duanedillard@gmail.com	(410) 620-4650
Janice Thompson, Family Life Coord.	janicethompson2007@gmail.com	(302) 376-0934

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

- ✦ Office Hours Tuesday-Thursday 9 AM-2 PM
- ✦ Boy Scouts – Mondays 7-8:30 PM
- ✦ TOPS Meeting – Wednesdays 6 PM
- ✦ St. Paul's Handbell Rehearsal – Wednesdays 6 PM
- ✦ St. Paul's Choir Rehearsal - Wednesdays 7:10 PM
- ✦ AA Meeting – Saturdays 7 PM

Upcoming Yellow Hat Schedule for October:

10/31 – El Ayudante Child, Yesprin

Prayer Walks

Please join us for our Prayer Walks each Saturday starting at 9 AM. All Prayer Walks will leave from the Church. Hope to see you there!

Wearing masks inside the building at St. Paul's UMC services and events will be optional. This difficult decision was based on a majority vote that took place at the most recent church leadership meeting. Social distancing and hand washing will be continually practiced. Mask wearers and non-masked individuals will be separated by several rows. The most vulnerable are encouraged to socially distance, wear masks and/or take advantage of virtual options. This decision may change based on changes enforced by the Office of the Governor. Church leadership will continue to monitor the situation as a way of ensuring safety. Thank you for your ongoing support and patience.

Pastor Kevin; Steve Johnson & Cathy Blanco, Co-Chair Leadership

Finance

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**.

Congratulations to Samuel Harrell

On this past week, the District Committee on Ministry certified Sam Harrell as a candidate for the ministry. The committee was very impressed with his knowledge and preparedness. This will allow him to attend licensing school once an appointment is made available. Thank you, St. Paul's family, for supporting his call and ministry.

St. Paul's Church Website Page

We are looking for youth, young adults, and the young at heart who are computer savvy and would like to redesign our church website. We would like to put together a team who have computer skills and can create a new vision for our website. Please contact the church office if you have an interest.

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.

GriefShare Program

It is time again for St. Paul's United Methodist Church to offer GriefShare, a program that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future. GriefShare will be held on Tuesday, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, beginning on November 2 and ending in February. Registration can be completed at the table in the Narthex next Sunday or by calling the church office (302-378-2420), Bob Collins (302) 670-6863, or Pastor Danese (302)745-6336 by October 18. For more information go to <https://www.griefshare.org>.

Choir & Handbells

Handbells rehearse at 6pm on Wednesdays in the music room, with choir rehearsal immediately following in the Sanctuary at 7:10 pm. Everyone is welcome, and no experience or ability to read music is required.

Prayer Group Ministry

Carole Harmon hosts a prayer circle, 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 on the table in the Narthex.

PUMPKIN PAINTING (Outdoor Event) the **CHILDREN** of St. Paul's are invited to PAINT a PUMPKIN -

WHEN: **1PM TO 2PM**, Saturday, October 30th

WHERE: St. Paul's **PARKING LOT**

DRESS: Painting Clothes

Please **PARK on THE STREET**

St. Paul's 2nd Annual HALLOWEEN DRIVE BY will be held from **3PM to 4PM on SUNDAY, October 31st!!!** DRESS UP in your scariest, funniest, or most beautiful COSTUME, get your PICTURE taken, and receive a bag of TREATS. Don't forget to DECORATE your CAR/SUV/TRUCK!

Virtual Children's Sunday School

Sunday School is held at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday via Zoom. If your child would like to participate, please fill out the registration form found on the church website and email it to Tracy.Walls.Pulling@gmail.com. Materials for the upcoming lesson will be delivered to your home on Thursday or Friday each week, so we need to plan ahead in order for us to make a delivery for your child. If you have any questions, please reach out to Tracy via the email above or call or text her at 302-561-4211.

Children's Lesson Announcement

If you are interested in being part of our children's lesson rotation for the Fall, please contact Janice Thompson (janicethompson2007@gmail.com). We're looking for volunteers at both 8:30 and 11am services. Thank you!

2022 WAVE (formerly "Youth Rally") in Ocean City, Maryland – January 7-9

1) **Check Out the Details**

2) **Register Online NOW** at: <https://waveoc.org>

3) **Let Janice know you've registered** janicethompson2007@gmail.com

The cost is \$69 (ends 11/7) per person, so reserve your spot ASAP. Since tickets increase in price as the time gets closer to the event, mark your calendars. Then stay tuned for lodging and transportation details. **Please note that ALL state and local guidelines/protocols pertaining to COVID will be followed by the venue.**

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study will be on Zoom at 10-10:45 am each Sunday. The Zoom link will be on the church website.

St. Paul's UMM Bible Study

St. Paul's UMM Bible Study meets this Tuesday for the last time in October from 9-10 AM. The study scripture will be the Hebrews and Hap Bonham has graciously agreed to lead us!

Love Thy Neighbor Fund

The *Love Thy Neighbor Fund* has helped 2 families with burial costs who have tragically lost loved ones in the prime of their life. Thanks for *Reaching Out* with your generous gift.

Adopt A Family

Once again, we will be supporting the MOT area with adopting 15 families through the Neighborhood House. Please purchase \$25 Walmart Gift Cards to contribute to each individual family member by Sunday, December 12th. Thanks so much for your generous support in this important mission.

Neighborhood House Needs

Here are some pantry needs for the Neighborhood House: Pasta; Pasta sauce; Small peanut butter; Small jelly; Tuna or Hamberger Helper; and Mac'n cheese

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!

Our Daily Bread Needs

Donations are accepted on Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 AM. Thank you so much!

Water - individual bottles and/or juice bags; individual bags of salty snacks; individual packages of sweet snacks; individual fruit cups or applesauce; fresh fruit; canned meats; spaghetti & sauce; baked beans; cereal (small boxes); instant mashed potatoes; peanut butter & jelly; mustard & ketchup; individual microwavable food (i.e., mac & cheese, Spaghetti O's, beef stew, Chef Boyardee, Hormel Complete meals)

PFLAG Meeting

Meetings are held at 6:30 PM on the 3rd Thursdays 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@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. 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: Joyce Nelson & Family on the loss of Joyce's stepfather, Dana Atwell; Charlii & Janet Miller & Family on the loss of their son-in-law, DJ; Kimberly Ogden; Mary Beth; Matthew Smith; Naomi Betts; Cheryl Buckworth; Dave Corby; Edith Chas; Jerrod Bolline; Sue Holden's sister, Betsey Snipes; Bill Smith; Beth; Matt & Louise Latocha; Carol Myers; Darryl Dillard; Kathy Golden; Eva Larkin

Birthdays: October 24-Quest Reeves; October 25-Kiersten O'Hop; October 26-Angela Christian, Kami Morris; October 27-Dawn Buckworth, Andrew Shaffer; October 30-Leah Apps