



ST. PAUL'S

United Methodist Church of Odessa

Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost -

Theme: Double For Your Trouble

**October 3, 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

Pastor Kevin (8:30)

Amy Brown (11:00)

Mark Holden, Photographer & Curator

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Gracious Lord, like Job, when we ask for your presence and intervention, we will end up on knees, astounded at your greatness, and humbled by our own unworthiness.

Congregation: Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Leader: Holy Spirit, when we tearfully share our hopes and dreams with you, you promise a harvest of joy. Fill us with expectations of your goodness.

Congregation: Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, high priest and intercessor for our sins, help us live as your children, trusting that we are also children of the Heavenly Father.

Congregation: Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Lord Jesus, help us see you in this world active in love, and help us see you by our side, so we may walk your way without stumbling.

Congregation: Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Leaders: Lord Jesus, Great Physician, bless those we know who need your healing.

Congregation: Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

All: The love of God has won. The new life has begun. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Here I Am to Worship (8:30)

Green Hymnal, 3177

How Firm a Foundation (11:00)

Red Hymnal, 529

OPENING PRAYER

When nothing is right, when we are weary and lost, when clouds dull the sky, help us to be still. When our cries are unheeded, when no effort bears fruit, when the sun sets, help us to be still. When love is over, when hope is gone, when darkness covers the land, help us to be still. For in being still, in refusing to panic or despair, we shall come to know that God is there, suffering alongside and with us, waiting to show us stepping-stones through the swirling waters, and to help us sing a new song.

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.

Susie Cate 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.

SCRIPTURE: *Job 1:1; 2:1-10*

In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. 2And the LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it." 3Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason." 4"Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. 5But now stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." 6The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life." 7So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. 8Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. 9His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!" 10He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

*GOSPEL: *Mark 10:13-16*

The Little Children and Jesus

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of

God like a little child will never enter it.”¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

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

It Is Well with My Soul (8:30) & (11:00)

Red Hymnal, 377

THE MESSAGE: *Double For Your Trouble*

Rev. Kevin Benjamin

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior.

WE GIVE THANKS

INVITATION TO THE WAY OF CHRIST:

Open My Eyes, that I May See, v.1

Red Hymnal, 454

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key that shall up-clasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Kevin Benjamin

God, it's that time again when seasons change. We look at our wardrobes, our desk drawers, our freezers, and see what we have and what we need for the season to come. As we prepare our offerings, probe us to look at all of our wealth, to look at all that we have, what we truly need, and all that others may need for the season to come. Bless our gifts for your kingdom. Amen.

THE OFFERING

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

Today's **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports World Communion Sunday.

Offertory: *Every Praise* (8:30)

Chorus: Every praise is to our God. Every word of worship with one accord. Every praise, every praise is to our God.

Chorus: Sing hallelujah to our God. Glory hallelujah is due our God. Every praise, every praise is to our God.

Vamp: God my Savior, God my Healer, God my Deliverer, Yes He is, yes He is!

Vamp: God my Savior, God my Healer, God my Deliverer, Yes He is, yes He is!

Chorus: Every praise is to our God. Every word of worship with one accord.

Chorus: Every praise, every praise is to our God. Sing hallelujah to our God. Glory hallelujah is due our God. Every praise, every praise is to our God.

Amy Brown (11:00) - Instrumental

***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

Patient God, we want to have things go well and to have everyone be happy and content, but all too often we stand in the way of peace and hope. We recognize that life is not a fantasy in which everything turns out just right. We know that there is strife and struggles and we stand in the midst of them. Our hearts and spirits carry the scars of the struggles and disappointments we have borne. Today we come to seek restoration, reconciliation, and relationship with you and with others. We want to overcome the barriers which prevent us from being people of compassion and hope. There is so much that needs to be done to aid in the cause of your peace and justice. Help us to become peacemakers and those who would bring hope. Give us courage to become disciples who follow your will and your way. For we ask this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Kevin Benjamin

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

How Great Is Our God (8:30)

Green Hymnal, 3003

God Be with You till We Meet Again (11:00)

Red Hymnal, 672

BENEDICTION

Rev. Kevin Benjamin

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Pastor Kevin (8:30)

Amy Brown (11:00)

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY (8:30 AM)

Ushers:

Liturgist: Cathy Blanco

Communion Servants: Kami & Tori Morris

Musicians: Rev. Kevin Benjamin and the Worship Ensemble

ASL Interpreter: Gail Garner

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY ARE (11:00 AM)

Ushers: June Stemmler, Denis Shaffer, John Harmon

Liturgist: Carole Harmon

Communion Servants: Don & Linda Mueller

Musician: Amy Brown, Music Director

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
- ✦ AA Meeting – Saturdays 7 PM

Charge Conference for St. Paul's UMC, Odessa is scheduled for Saturday, October 16 @ 1 PM. Our host location is Bethesda UMC, 116 E. Main Street, Middletown, DE.

Starting TODAY, October 3rd, 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

Upcoming Yellow Hat Schedule for October:

10/10 – Campus Crusade Mission

Cru is a mission where students on college campuses can explore their faith no matter what spiritual background they are from. Often these students already are followers of Christ, committed to following Jesus. There are also students who have no background with Jesus or Christianity. However, all are welcome.

Next Sunday, October 10th, please join Matthew Caspero, grandson of John and Carole Harmon as he shares his North African mission experience and where he is headed to fulfill his next mission.

10/17 – Habitat for Humanity

10/24 – Our Daily Bread

10/31 – El Ayudante Child, Yesprin

Choir and Handbells

As we begin what some call the “choir/handbell season,” you will still be blessed by some of our talented members, but for the time being, things may look a little different to you. Because of various reasons (the rising Covid positivity rate, health issues for members or their family members, etc.), some of the members of our groups simply are not yet comfortable with returning to choir and handbells at this time. In the meantime, some choir members will be leading congregational singing at the 11a.m. service and occasionally providing special music, and some bell ringers will bless us in various ways. We all look forward to the day when hand bells and choir can return to their normal routine, but it is a blessing to have some members currently contributing to our service!

Prayer Walks

Prayer Walks have resumed each Saturday starting at 9 AM. All Prayer Walks will leave from the Church.

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.

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.

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.

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!

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.

Love Thy Neighbor Fund

It is with grateful hearts that the *Love Thy Neighbor* committee says THANK YOU to our congregation for their generous giving. Because St. Paul's fulfills its promise to **Reach In** and thus, **Reach Out** we have been able to help several individuals who have emergency needs or simply need a helping hand. We appreciate that this is the charity of your choice, and we are reassured you are blessed because of your benevolence.

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.

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)

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: Kimberly Ogden; Melissa Davis; Mary Beth; Matthew Smith; Naomi Betts; Cheryl Buckworth; Dave Corby; Edith Chas; Jerrod Bolline; Sue Holden's sister, Betsey Snipes; Dana Atwell; Bill Smith; Beth; Matt & Louise Latocha; Carol Myers; Darryl Dillard; Kathy Golden; Eva Larkin

Birthdays: October 3-Sharon Hunnicutt, Hudson Hickey; October 4-Jeanne Buckworth, Blain Shoun; October 8-Kendall Reitzes; October 9-Lenny Pompeo



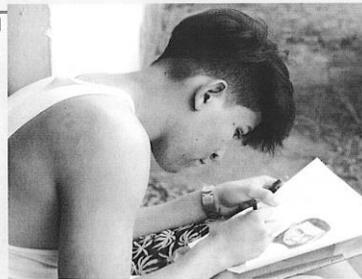
YESPRIN

THANK YOU!

"Thank you to the sponsors for the love and support they have given me during the time I have been at El Ayudante. Now, thanks to all those good people, I now have the opportunity to study and pursue a career."

YESPRIN

"My name is Yesprin, I am 16 years old, I was born on August 10, 2005. I am in the second year of high school. My favorite color is orange and my favorite animal is the Lion."



One of my favorite things to do is draw, I really love drawing. I like the movie "The Green Mile". one of my favorite songs is "Alone by Alan Walker"
I am learning in English class how to describe clothing.



A SPONSOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Yesprin has grown in a very positive way physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually since being a part of the program at the HCN at El Ayudante. When I look back at the photos we have of him throughout the years, especially the very first ones, I am so happy for Yesprin! He was such a shy little boy when he first came to EA.

I praise God for the teachers, the HCN staff, and the mentorship program at El Ayudante, plus all the time, attention, and unconditional love each person involved has given Yesprin. I am also thankful for the healthy meals Agustina prepares for all the children there. Tony and I both love Yesprin very much! We are blessed he is in our lives. We appreciate the opportunity to video chat with him and are very thankful for the opportunity. Tony and I look forward to being with Yesprin as soon as we can travel to Nicaragua again.



Judy and Tony Elgin



Here is how it all began: April, 2016: Tony and I were part of a mission team led by our daughter Julie Goodwin. Even though we loved all the children at the HCN and donated to the general fund at that time, our hearts were calling for a deeper connection with an individual child through sponsorship. Tony and I wanted to sponsor a child from the ten new children who had just become part of EA's HCN program that January.

When we met Yesprin, he touched our hearts deeply. We knew he was the right fit for us, and we made the decision to sponsor him. The next evening Yesprin joined our team along with the other children sponsored by team members for a special off-campus outing. It was a wonderful evening for everyone, confirming to us God had definitely put the three of us together. Sponsorship has been a true gift to both Tony and me. We love Yesprin very much along with his grandmother Martha, and we deeply cherish our relationship with both of them.