



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

Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost
Reformation Sunday
October 29, 2023, 8:30 AM Service, ASL & Livestreaming
WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE

WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES

GATHERING MUSIC AND PHOTOS:

Duane Dillard, Music Ministry, Mark Holden, Photographer & Curator

*GATHERING WORDS:

Liturgist – Melissa Brooks

One: Answer your greatest call:

Many: We come to worship this day that God may gather us in.

One: We will be close to God's heart,

Many: and we will dwell in God's grace.

One: We will love God fully,

Many: and we will love one another well.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP:

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

Red Hymnal 402

*OPENING PRAYER: (all praying): **God of life, your memory is longer than time; your love longer still. Your giving nature amazes us. You have given us yourself. You have given us your work. You only ask for love in return, for you and the world. You put your ministry in our hands, trusting us to be your hands. Bless the work of our hands and the ministries of our hearts, O God, as we seek to do your will. Amen**

CHILDREN'S TIME:

Jesus Loves Me

Red Hymnal 191

Pastor Linda Ray 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: *Deuteronomy 34:1-12* (CEB)

Then Moses hiked up from the Moabite plains to Mount Nebo, the peak of the Pisgah slope, which faces Jericho. The Lord showed him the whole land: the Gilead region as far as Dan's territory; ²all the parts belonging to Naphtali along with the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, as well as the entirety of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea; ³also the arid southern plain, and the plain—including the Jericho Valley, Palm City—as far as Zoar.

⁴Then the Lord said to Moses: "This is the land that I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I promised: 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have shown it to you with your own eyes; however, you will not cross over into it." ⁵Then Moses, the Lord's servant, died—right there in the land of Moab, according to the Lord's command. ⁶The Lord buried him in a valley in Moabite country across from Beth-peor. Even now, no one knows where Moses' grave is. ⁷Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eyesight wasn't impaired, and his vigor hadn't diminished a bit. ⁸Back down in the Moabite plains, the Israelites mourned Moses' death for thirty days. At that point, the time for weeping and for mourning Moses was over.

⁹Joshua, Nun's son, was filled with wisdom because Moses had placed his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to Joshua, and they did exactly what the Lord commanded Moses. ¹⁰No prophet like Moses has yet emerged in

Israel; Moses knew the Lord face-to-face! ¹¹ That's not even to mention all those signs and wonders that the Lord sent Moses to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh, to all his servants, and to his entire land— ¹² as well as all the extraordinary power that Moses displayed before Israel's own eyes!

*GOSPEL LESSON: *Matthew 22:34-46* (CEB)

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. ³⁵ One of them, a legal expert, tested him. ³⁶ “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ He replied, “*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind.* ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: *You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.* ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

⁴¹ Now as the Pharisees were gathering, Jesus asked them, ⁴² “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” “David's son,” they replied.

⁴³ He said, “Then how is it that David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, called him Lord when he said, ⁴⁴ *The Lord said to my lord, ‘Sit at my right side until I turn your enemies into your footstool.’* ⁴⁵ If David calls him Lord, how can he be David's son?” ⁴⁶ Nobody was able to answer him. And from that day forward nobody dared to ask him anything.

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

HYMN OF PREPARATION: *Pass It On* Red Hymnal 572

THE MESSAGE: *What's Your Faith* Adrienne Dillard, Certified Candidate for Ministry

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

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY REMINDERS

Today's **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports **10/29/23 Congo Partnership.**

MUSICAL REFLECTION: *For The Beauty Of The Earth* Handbell Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all praying): **God of mercy, we hear your command to love one another. These words are easy to say, yet so difficult to do. Even when we think we are following you, God, it is easy to get distracted, overwhelmed, turned around, even lost. We turn to the loud praise of the world, rather than the quiet whisper of your blessing. We do the easy things and leave the difficult behind. Turn us around, God. Show us once more what love looks like and send us into the world to try again. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: Pastor Linda Ray & Adrienne Dillard
Officiant Server – Melissa Brooks

Reader 2 (singing) :The Lord be with you.

Communion Setting 2257-a

ALL: And also with you.

Reader 2: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Reader 2: 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. In the beginning, you created us from dust. You called us to live in your image and to be of one mind. Even when we grumbled and complained, and we argued and fought, you called us to unity and love. Even when we neglected your teachings and turned away from your call, you invited us back into your vineyard of mercy and grace. 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!

Reader 2: Holy are you and blessed is your beloved name In the fullness of time, you sent Christ Jesus to call us anew to abundant life, compassionate love, and unity with you and your people. With encouragement and grace, Christ calls us now to join in unity with followers around the world. May we be of one mind, live as one people, and love with the power of your grace. Through this amazing grace, we are invited to your table, welcomed in your love, and reclaimed as sisters and brothers of Christ. As children of your mercy and grace, we come with humble hearts and open minds, remembering how Jesus shared a feast of love, and how Jesus invites us even now to share this feast of love with one another.

(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."

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

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 life and love of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for the world, redeemed and unified by Christ's love and grace. 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!

Reader 2: 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.

COMMUNION SONG: *Let Us Break Bread Together* Red Hymnal 618

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND SERVICE

CLOSING MUSIC: *I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me* Black Hymnal 2151

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgist: Melissa Brooks

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

Communion Officiant/Server: Melissa Brooks

Duane Dillard, Minister of Music, ASL Interpreter: Gail Garner

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Linda Driver Ray, Pastor
Bonnie Valeski, Admin. Asst.
Alice Mullins, Financial/Treasurer
Duane Dillard, Minister of Music
Thomas Maloney, Director of Music
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ANNOUNCEMENTS - THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S:

Sunday 10/29	Worship Services 8:30AM ASL & Livestreaming and 11AM, Adult & Children's Bible Study/School 9:45AM
Monday 10/30	Men's Bible Study 9 AM, BSA Mtg 7PM
Tuesday 10/31	ODB, Cub Scouts 6PM
Wednesday 11/01	TOPS Mtg 6PM, Bell 6:00 PM & Choir 7:00PM Rehearsals
Thursday 11/02	Prayer & Praise Group 10AM
Friday 11/03	N/A
Saturday 11/04	AA Mtg 7PM

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NOV. 5 next Sunday. We will be remembering all those who have passed on with special candle lighting, candle lighting stations and prayers. Please join us!

ALZHEIMER'S INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION will be held on Sunday November 5th in Fellowship Hall from 2:30-3PM.

BIRTHDAYS: October 30 -Leah Apps; November 1 – Kimmy Reeves; November 2 – Gene Messick

ANNIVERSARIES: October 30 – Mark & Sue Holden

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, Sue Holden's sister, Betsey Snipes, David Dudgeon, Dorothy Dudgeon, Carolyn Akin, Linda Botsford's father, Jonathan Brooks, Ginny Lewis, Mary Ingram's friend Maureen, John Guy, Maria Gregors, Rick Wooters, Levi Schrum and family, Matthew Smith, Marilyn Hendershot, Allison, Dennis Downes, Angela Christian's mother – Mala, Ryan, Ty Somersshield – cousin to Don Mueller, Jeffrey & Cheryl Martin, Nancy- sister of Alice Rizzo, Joe Chas, Nancy Judd, Doris Uhde.

Upcoming Yellow Hat Schedule for November 2023

11/05/23 Colette W Bleistine-Paying it Forward Foundation by Nance Bleistine

11/12/23 Adopt-A-Family (Brenda Shaffer & Youth)

11/19/23 Premier Charities/Charity Waters (Carlotta Cline)

11/26/23 United Methodist Student Day

Please make sure ALL checks are made payable to St. Paul's UMC, including checks for the Yellow Hat missions, writing the organization's name on the memo line.

All donations are collected, recorded, entered in the system, and deposited into the Church's operating account on a weekly basis. Also, on a weekly basis, a check is mailed to the specified yellow hat organization for the total amount collected.

It is very important that donations be placed in the offering plate, yellow hat or mailed to St. Paul's UMC. You are also welcome to drop off donations in the grey box just inside the side door to the Church, making sure it is secured in an envelope with your name on the front. This is to guarantee acknowledgement of your donations when the yearly contribution statement is sent for tax purposes.

Thank you all for your continued support for St. Paul's as we are growing in our faith through generosity.



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, 9 AM-2 PM

- Boy Scouts –Mondays 7-8:30 PM
- Cub Scouts –Tuesdays 6-8 PM
- 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 – Wednesdays 6 PM
- St. Paul's Choir Rehearsal – Wednesdays 7 PM
- 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 – TBD

Reconciling Ministries Informational Meetings - TBD

Adult Bible Study will resume Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 9:45AM.

Children's Sunday School will resume Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 9:45AM.

Men's Bible Study will convene on Mondays (October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30) at 9:00 AM to study the Word and be fed. Hope to see you there. Hap

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.

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.