



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

Second Sunday After Pentecost

June 2, 2024, 9:00AM Service, ASL & Livestreaming
WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE

WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES

Mark Holden & June Stemmler, Photographer & Curator, Gail Garner – ASL Interpreter

PRELUDE AND GREETING

GATHERING WORDS:

Liturgist – Ellie Leuliette

One: God is full of surprises.

Many: Samuel is surprised to find himself called at such a young age.

One: The psalmist is surprised to be known so completely.

Many: The epistle writer is surprised that the power to shine God's light resides in us.

One: May we continue to be surprised.

Many: May we use this surprise to be a part of God's work in the world.

*OPENING HYMN:

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

Black Hymnal 2151

*OPENING PRAYER: (all praying): **Merciful One, when life beats us down, you reach out and restore us to health and wholeness. Lord of the Sabbath, when our spirits feel withered, we yearn to touch your healing power. Be with us in our time of need and become the joy of our salvation. Our mouths long to sing your praise and our eyes long to behold your glory. In your holy name we pray. Amen**

WORDS FOR YOUNG METHODISTS:

This Little Light Of Mine

Red Hymnal 585

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine..

Susie Cate shares a blessing with our children!

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18 (CEB)

Lord, you have examined me.

You know me.

²You know when I sit down and when I stand up.

Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.

³You study my traveling and resting.

You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.

⁴There isn't a word on my tongue, Lord,

that you don't already know completely.

⁵You surround me—front and back.

You put your hand on me.

⁶That kind of knowledge is too much for me;

it's so high above me that I can't reach it.

¹³You are the one who created my innermost parts;

you knit me together while I was still in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I give thanks to you that I was marvelously set apart.

Your works are wonderful—I know that very well.

¹⁵My bones weren't hidden from you

when I was being put together in a secret place,
when I was being woven together in the deep parts of the earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes saw my embryo,
and on your scroll every day was written that was being formed for me,
before any one of them had yet happened.
¹⁷ God, your plans are incomprehensible to me!
Their total number is countless!
¹⁸ If I tried to count them—they outnumber grains of sand!
If I came to the very end—I'd still be with you.

HYMN OF PREPARATION:

Open My Eyes

Red Hymnal 454

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 2:23-3:6 (CEB)

Jesus went through the wheat fields on the Sabbath. As the disciples made their way, they were picking the heads of wheat. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to Jesus, "Look! Why are they breaking the Sabbath law?"

²⁵ He said to them, "Haven't you ever read what David did when he was in need, when he and those with him were hungry? ²⁶ During the time when Abiathar was high priest, David went into God's house and ate the bread of the presence, which only the priests were allowed to eat. He also gave bread to those who were with him." ²⁷ Then he said, "The Sabbath was created for humans; humans weren't created for the Sabbath. ²⁸ This is why the Human One is Lord even over the Sabbath."

³ Jesus returned to the synagogue. A man with a withered hand was there. ² Wanting to bring charges against Jesus, they were watching Jesus closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. ³ He said to the man with the withered hand, "Step up where people can see you." ⁴ Then he said to them, "Is it legal on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they said nothing. ⁵ Looking around at them with anger, deeply grieved at their unyielding hearts, he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he did, and his hand was made healthy. ⁶ At that, the Pharisees got together with the supporters of Herod to plan how to destroy Jesus.

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

THE MESSAGE:

"All Knowing Creator"

Pastor Linda Ray

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY PRAYER: Though we are vessels of clay, your light shines through us when we share what we have with those in need. May today's offering be like the bread of presence that feeds the hungry and satisfies the soul. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen

THE OFFERTORY: Today's **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports **6/02/24 Habitat For Humanity (Dawn Buckworth)**.

CHORAL ANTHEM:

He Is the Light

Chancel Choir

*THE DOXOLOGY:

Red Hymnal 95

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all praying): **Triune God, we praise you as the God of love and life. Though Jesus prayed that we would be one, we confess that we fail to live in unity with each other and with you. We break our communion through hostile words and unkind actions. We long for your Spirit to heal us and to correct us. We long for you to help us experience communion with you and with each other as we gather around your Word and table. Even now, dependent on your grace, we commit ourselves to live more fully in the unity you desire. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, AMEN.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Pastor Linda Ray
Communion Server- Ellie Leuliette

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. Your Spirit came upon prophets and teachers, anointing them to speak your Word. And so with your people on earth and the great company of heaven we praise you as we 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. At his baptism in the Jordan your Spirit descended upon him and declared him your beloved Son. With your Spirit upon him Jesus turned away the temptation of sin. Your Spirit anointed Jesus 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. Jesus 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, baptizing us with the Holy Spirit and with fire, as on the Day of Pentecost.

Lifting the bread) On the night in which Jesus 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."

Reader 1: (Lifting the cup) When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the 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 Holy 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, Holy God, now and forever.

ALL: AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

Reader 2: Let us join our hearts and voices in the prayer that God continues to teach 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

WE GO IN THE SPIRIT

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND SERVICE

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgist: Ellie Leuliette

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

Communion Officiant/Server: Ellie Leuliette

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

Director of Music: Thomas Maloney, Organist/Accompanist: Jin Kyung Seo

Flowers on the altar today are donated by Jean Greenwood in memory of Ronald Holmes of Tuscaloosa AL.

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 | stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org | (302) 293-9956 |
| Duane Dillard, Minister of Music | duanedillard@gmail.com | (443) 593-2470 |
| Thomas Maloney, Director of Music | thomaseamaloney@hotmail.com | (914) 450-0095 |
| Jin Kyung Seo, Organist/Accompanist | jinksblue@gmail.com | |

ANNOUNCEMENTS - THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

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| Sunday 06/02 Worship Services 9AM Livestreaming and ASL., Old Drawyers Church Annual Service 2PM/ St. Paul's Choir will again be singing! Pak-A-Sak Sunday |
| Monday 06/03 Trustees Mtg 6:30PM |
| Tuesday 06/04 ODB |
| Wednesday 06/05 TOPS Mtg 5:45 PM |
| Thursday 06/06 10AM Prayer and Praise Group, Pen-Del Annual Conference, Ocean City, MD |
| Friday 06/07 Pen-Del Annual Conference |
| Saturday 06/08 AA Mtg 7PM Pen-Del Annual Conference |

GRADUATE SUNDAY: We will be celebrating once again on June 9th. Anyone who has a graduate and would like to feature them in the St. Paul's Special Worship Bulletin for that Sunday, please email me a short bio of where they will graduate from, what they majored in, degree, future plans, their relation to you, anything you want to have me type up. Include a photo of them too for that special Sunday worship bulletin. I will need these sent in as soon as possible to allow me time to work on these biographies. Deadline will have to be Monday, June 3rd. Thanks, Bonnie Valeski/Admin Asst Church Office.

SUMMER SERVICES: It was recently approved by Leadership to go to summer services beginning Sunday, June 2nd through Labor Day weekend Sunday, September 1, 2024. We will be having a single worship service at 9AM.

CYBER SECURITY: An FYI, Pastor Linda's email has been hacked several times in recent weeks. Pastor Linda does not get a copy of these, so is unaware of the situation unless you bring it to her attention. Here are some basic guidelines to follow when evaluating an email from Pastor Linda:

1. The only email that Pastor Linda uses is LindaRay@vaumc.org. To check the source of the email, hover with your mouse, over Pastor Linda's name and the email will appear.
2. Pastor Linda will respond to your emails as individuals but does not usually send emails to individuals.
3. Pastor Linda's regular schedule for church-wide emails is to send one on Friday or Saturday. If there are items that need addressing, she may send group emails at other times.
4. The subject line for her email correspondence is always 'Church Family Check-In'.
5. Pastor Linda will never ask individuals or groups for gift cards, money or do anything discreetly.
6. If in doubt, do not open the email or respond but instead, reach out to Pastor Linda.

Pastor Linda has reported this activity to the tech support folks in the Virginia Annual Conference and this office has made our local tech support persons aware of this activity. Pastor Linda has begun to send the Church Family Check-In emails using BCC/blind copy to further protect your emails. Pastor Linda apologizes for this and appreciates your willingness to be helpful and responsive.

FINANCIAL REPORT: As of the end of the first quarter we have Income of \$75,458.26 (27.3% of budget) and Expenses of \$72,498.90 (25.2% of the budget). Thank you for your faithful support. Finance Committee

BIRTHDAYS: June 2 – Liz Fullerton, Nancee Bleistine, Charlie Tokash, June 3 – Eric Widger; June 4 – Susan Wills; June 5 – Patti Harmer, Sharyn Sheats; June 6 – Linda Botsford, Maryann Kearns; June 7 – Faye Taylor; June 8 – Ty Gill.

ANNIVERSARIES: June 6 – Ed & Joan Louis

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. You can also email Bonnie in the Church Office at bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org.

PRAYERS FOR: Noel Lukens, David Dudgeon, Dorothy Dudgeon, Carolyn Akin, Jonathan Brooks, Mary Ingram's friend Maureen, John Guy, Maria Gregors, Levi Schrum and family, Marilyn Hendershot, Dennis Downes, Jeffrey & Cheryl Martin, Nancy- sister of Alice Rizzo, Ethan Porter, George, Dylan Green, Blain Shoun, Sally Sutton's neighbor – Dottie, Kevin Quiveors – Al Calbazana's brother-in-law, Thomas Maloney's mother, John Littell, Faye Taylor's nephew Matthew Smith, and Brenda Shaffer's nephew, Scott, Mindie, and Bo Pleasanton, Ellen McMichael and Norman Parks, Sarah Bosworth, Sheila Ritchie Fawcett, daughter-in-law of Bev Fawcett, as she deals with a medical issue, David Sheats, Alice Mullins' brother -Clarence Brooks, Diane Shoun's sister-in-law, Amanda Branlund, who is going through cancer treatment, Keith Brady who was in a recent bad auto accident and has a traumatic brain injury, Bonnie Lawrence – friend of Nancy Weldin, Terry Sweeney, Linda Botsford, Kathy Golden, and Michael Whitehead who is having complications after heart by-pass surgery, Betty Freeman after her tragic accident, Barbara Apigian, Elizabeth Gliniak – friend of Charlotte Smith, Dan Moore, Angela Christian – for Mala who fell and injured her shoulders, Matthew Sheats.

YELLOW HAT COLLECTIONS FOR JUNE 2024

6/02/24 Habitat For Humanity (Dawn Buckworth)

6/09/24 Peace with Justice Sunday – Scholarships/Teaching Skills

6/16/24 Youth Mission Trip

6/23/24 Deaf Outreach, Inc. (Patti & Carl Ravilious)

6/30/24 Brian Coley Resilience Center (Warriors Helping Warriors)

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 black box on the wall 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. *Alice Mullins, Treasurer*



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

- Cub Scouts –Tuesdays 6-8 PM
- TOPS Meeting – Wednesdays 5:45 PM.
- St. Paul's Prayer and Praise Group Ministry – Thursdays 10 AM @Carole Harmon's Home
- St. Paul's Handbell Rehearsal – Wednesdays 6 PM, will resume in the Fall
- St. Paul's Choir Rehearsal – Wednesdays 7 PM, last rehearsal is May 29th and then resume in the Fall.
- AA Meeting – Saturdays 7 PM

MONTHLY GATHERINGS

- Finance Meeting – 2nd Monday 6:30 PM
- Trustees Meeting – 1st Monday 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

Adult Bible Study has concluded and will resume in the Fall.

Children's Sunday School will resume in the 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.

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.