



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

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Ascension Sunday & Festival of the Christian Home
May 12, 2024, 11:00AM 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
Ministers of Celebration – Preacher/Rev. Dr. Patti Ravilious and Musician/Jin Kyung Seo

PRELUDE AND GREETING

GATHERING WORDS:

Liturgist – Dave Corby

One: Clap your hands and sing for joy!
Many: God is in our midst and in our lives.
One: Clap your hands and sing for joy!
Many: Christ calls us to worship and praise.
One: Why stare at the heavens to find God?
Many: Look within for God's spirit is there.
One: Look around for Christ's disciples are all around.
Many: Let's worship together.

*OPENING HYMN: *For The Beauty of the Earth* Red Hymnal 92

*OPENING PRAYER: (all praying): **Risen Christ, be present in our lives and in our worship. Help us recognize and celebrate your presence. Today we remember women who are struggling, and those who are filled with incandescent joy. We pray for those who are remembering children who have died, and pregnancies that miscarried. We pray for those who decided other parents were the best choice for their babies, and for those who adopted those kids and loved them fierce. We pray for those experiencing frustration or desperation in life's journey. We pray for those who have contributed to our shared world. We pray for those who mothered colleagues, mentees, neighborhood kids, and anyone who needed it. We pray for those remembering moms no longer with us. We pray for those moving forward from moms who did not show love or hurt those they should have cared for. Today is a day to honor the unyielding love and care for others we call 'Motherhood,' wherever we have found it and in whatever ways we have found to cultivate it within ourselves. In Jesus' name. Amen**

WORDS FOR YOUNG METHODISTS: *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* Black Hymnal 2193
Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your spirit in this place. Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love, send us power. Send us grace. Brian McNelis shares a blessing with our children!

FIRST LESSON: *Psalm 1* (CEB)

The truly happy person
doesn't follow wicked advice,
doesn't stand on the road of sinners,
and doesn't sit with the disrespectful.
² Instead of doing those things,
these persons love the Lord's Instruction,
and they recite God's Instruction day and night!

³They are like a tree replanted by streams of water,
which bears fruit at just the right time
and whose leaves don't fade.
Whatever they do succeeds.

⁴That's not true for the wicked!
They are like dust that the wind blows away.

⁵And that's why the wicked will have no standing in the court of justice—
neither will sinners
in the assembly of the righteous.

⁶The Lord is intimately acquainted
with the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked is destroyed.

HYMN OF PREPARATION:

Eagles Wings (2x)

Red Hymnal 143

GOSPEL LESSON: *John 17:6-19* (CEB)

"I have revealed your name to the people you gave me from this world. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸This is because I gave them the words that you gave me, and they received them. They truly understood that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

⁹"I'm praying for them. I'm not praying for the world but for those you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰Everything that is mine is yours and everything that is yours is mine; I have been glorified in them. ¹¹I'm no longer in the world, but they are in the world, even as I'm coming to you. Holy Father, watch over them in your name, the name you gave me, that they will be one just as we are one. ¹²When I was with them, I watched over them in your name, the name you gave to me, and I kept them safe. None of them were lost, except the one who was destined for destruction, so that scripture would be fulfilled. ¹³Now I'm coming to you and I say these things while I'm in the world so that they can share completely in my joy. ¹⁴I gave your word to them and the world hated them, because they don't belong to this world, just as I don't belong to this world. ¹⁵I'm not asking that you take them out of this world but that you keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶They don't belong to this world, just as I don't belong to this world. ¹⁷Make them holy in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹I made myself holy on their behalf so that they also would be made holy in the truth.

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

THE MESSAGE:

'For the Transformation of the World'

Rev. Dr. Patti Ravilious

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY PRAYER: Glorious God may these gifts bring glory to you and grace to your world. May our lives and our ministry reflect your love, and may we spread your message of love throughout the world. Amen

THE OFFERTORY: Today's **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports **5/12/24 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Del (Carolyn Stanley)**.

CHORAL ANTHEM:

Trust in the Lord

Chancel Choir

*THE DOXOLOGY:

Red Hymnal 95

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all praying): **Great and glorious God, we are tired of thinking small. When we look for you in all the wrong places, remind us that your Spirit resides within. When we shy away in shame and regret, help us sense the fullness of your grace. Lift our eyes to your glorious presence in our midst, that we may reflect your glory and grace for all to see. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Rev. Dr. Patti Ravilious
Officiant Server- Dave Corby

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. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life. 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. 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. By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Once were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

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

SENDING HYMN:

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Red Hymnal 327

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgist: Dave Corby

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

Communion Officiant/Server: Dave Corby

Ushers: Ellie & Dick Leuliette, John & Patti Harmer, June Stemmler, John Harmon, Denis Shaffer, Laura

Widger, Ryan Vitsorek, Brook Ellis

Organist/Accompanist: Jin Kyung Seo

Flowers today are donated by Jean Greenwood in memory of her mother, Lora Lerner.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Linda Driver Ray, Pastor

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Alice Mullins, Financial/Treasurer

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Duane Dillard, Minister of Music

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(443) 593-2470

Thomas Maloney, Director of Music

thomaseamaloney@gmail.com

Jin Kyung Seo, Organist/Accompanist

jinksblue@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS - THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday 05/12 Worship Services 8:30AM and 11AM Livestreaming and ASL, Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:45AM

Monday 05/13 Finance Mtg 6:30PM

Tuesday 05/14 ODB, Witness Team Mtg. 2PM, Cub Scouts 6PM

Wednesday 05/15 TOPS Mtg 5:45 PM, Handbell Choir 6 PM. Chancel Choir 7 PM

Thursday 05/16 10AM Prayer and Praise Group, PFLAG 6:30PM

Friday 05/17 Carpet and Pew Cushions being cleaned – please do not come into the church until Saturday.

Saturday 05/18 AA Mtg 7PM

SUNDAY MAY 19th: UMM Blue Rocks Family Adventure Event 1:05PM. Please let Mark Holden know ASAP if you plan to attend with the deadline being **May 12th**.

MOT COMMUNITY CHORUS: Sunday May 19th at 4pm spring concert "A Time for Music". The performance will be held at the Odessa High School's Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students (18 and under and/or enrolled in high school or college). Children 5 and under are free.

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.

PENTECOST SUNDAY: Next Sunday, May 19th is Pentecost Sunday where we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. In celebration, please wear red, or you can wear a red ribbon pin which will be distributed at services.

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: May 12 – Jonathan Packard; May 13 – Matthew Pulling, Trevor Shoun; May 15 – Nora Reeves; May 16 – Cindy Koski; May 17 – Dicky Wheeler; May 18 - Lynda Lambert.

ANNIVERSARIES: May 13 - Noel & Rosalie Lukens

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, Chris Chappelle, 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, Helen George, 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, for Laura Widger and family on the recent passing of her mother.

YELLOW HAT COLLECTIONS FOR MAY 2024

5/05/24 Junior Diabetes Research Foundation (Barbara Lynn Manlove)

5/12/24 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Del (Carolyn Stanley)

5/19/24 Urban Promise (annual conference) - Latch Key Kids, Wilmington, DE

5/26/24 Friends of Zoar (Steve Johnson)

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
- St. Paul's Choir Rehearsal – Wednesdays 7 PM
- 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 9:45AM--hybrid

Children's Sunday School 9:45AM.

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.