

SAINT PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Fleetwood, Pennsylvania
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 3, 2017

GATHERING PRAYER

As we gather here in your name, O Christ, you are already among us. Keep us open to your presence. Push out all that is not pleasing to you. Help us to experience your love and mercy that we may grow closer to you. Grant us the wholeness that comes from joining together at your table. As we are fed by bread, feed us also with your spirit, goodness, and love. Amen. JWF

INTROIT

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “*As We Gather At Your Table*” No. 332

PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us share signs of Christ's peace with one another.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CENTERING

PRELUDE “*Where Is Love?*” Lionel Bart
(Congregation Standing)

Leader: We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: (singing) Amen!

Leader: This is a day for new beginnings.

People: This is a time to know God's presence among us. This is a moment to respond and grow in faith.

Leader: Praise God, All who are gathered!

People: Praise God for a life enriched by love. Praise God for expressions of love that fulfill God's law for our lives.

Leader: This is the hour to wake from our sleep and to embrace the energy of God's love as it fills this place of worship

People: Here we join together as God's children and unite as we become the church of Jesus Christ.

PENITENCE

Leader: As children of God, we know and believe that all of our sin, all of our shortcomings, all that stands between us and God can be washed away by God's love and grace. Let's open ourselves completely, holding nothing back, as we join in our confession before God and each other.

All: Dear God, we know that your most important law is to love You and to love one another. Yet we are often more ready to condemn than console, more eager to justify ourselves than to work for understanding. We feed the flames of dissent instead of welcoming the freeing power of forgiveness. We waste our words on gossip and our resources on greed. Guide us, loving God, to a better way of being your people. Help us to show support, kindness, generosity, and genuine love toward all of our sisters and brothers. Transform, renew, inspire and forgive us. Amen.

Silent prayers of confession

Leader: God's grace is abundant, God's love is never-ending. There is no question that we are the recipients of that grace and love. Indeed, we have been forgiven and renewed!

All: Thanks be to God!

All(singing) Open my eyes, that I may see (Scott)
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Leader: Let us say again what it is that we believe.

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(The congregation may be seated.)

WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON TEXT

Romans 12:9-21
(Congregation Standing)

*Choral Response: O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You.
 O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You.
 I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in Your ways;
 And step by step You lead me, and I will follow You all my days.*

(The congregation may be seated.)

SERMON

“Be The Church Part II-Just Do It”



*“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:21
 (Congregation Standing)*

RESPONSIVE HYMN

*“Let Us Break Bread Together” No. 330
 (The congregation may be seated.)*

GIVING

OFFERING INVITATION

THE OFFERTORY *“Bread of Life from Heaven (Pan de Vida Eterna)” Argentine Santo*

(Congregation Stands)

DOXOLOGY

*All (singing) Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God, all creatures here below;
 Praise God above, you heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

(Congregation may be seated)

COMMUNION

Pastor: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to God.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Holy God, you created a planet full of life. You created humans in your image. You taught our ancestors how to live in your world by giving them challenges as well as hope. You brought our forebears out of captivity in Egypt into fullness of life. You sent prophets to teach us. Most of all, you sent to us your child, Jesus, who showed us through his loving example how you love us. You call us to follow in the path of Jesus, carrying your message of hope and love into the world. Creating us in your image, you offered to us the challenges of living in your complex world. And so we join with all creation to praise you:

All (singing) **Holy, holy, holy! God the Almighty!** NICAEA

All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea;

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity! Words: Reginald Heber, 1826, alt.

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, and said: “Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Pastor: In the same way also after supper, Jesus took the cup, and after giving you thanks, gave it to them and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is the cup of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Pastor: By the presence of your Holy Spirit may these gifts we offer be transformed from ordinary to holy things, so that as we eat and drink of them at this table, we may be fed and nourished with the body and blood of Christ, and so be united with him until we shall feast face to face at the glorious banquet table of heaven.

Pastor: Let us join in the prayer Jesus taught us saying...

All: **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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever Amen**

Pastor: This is the body of Christ which is broken for you.
 This is the cup the new covenant in the blood of Christ shed for you.
 These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

THE SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

(We offer wine or grape juice as the symbol of the Blood of Christ. Grape juice is the light, wine is the dark. The lead Usher offers gluten free wafers).

BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

(Children who did not receive communion and infants are welcomed to come forward and Receive a blessing at this time).

(Congregation Standing)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SENDING

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN *"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"* No. 393

THE BENEDICTION

CHORAL SENDING

*May the grace of Christ, our Savior,
And the love of God our Father,
And the fellowship of the Spirit be with us.*

*May the grace of Christ, our Savior,
And the love of God our Father,
And the fellowship of the Spirit be with us.
Forever and ever, forevermore, Amen*

CHIMES

POSTLUDE *"Finale"* from Water Music George Frederic Handel



**Abhor
what is
evil.
Cling
to what
is good.**

Romans 12:9
(NKJV)

MISSION STATEMENT

As Followers of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves to:

- Enthusiastically proclaim and teach God’s love through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Share God’s love with neighbors near and far.
- Live as a Christian community of hope, acceptance, and encouragement in a rapidly changing world.

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL’S

- If you are visiting and would like to know more about St. Paul’s please fill out the visitor’s card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. One of our pastors will contact you.
- There are assisted listening devices for the hearing impaired available at the sound board in the rear of the church.
- **Adult Sunday school is held at 9 a.m. - Generations Class in the Lounge off the Narthex. Also, Adult Bible Study is held Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings. See Announcement sheets in the bulletin for details.**
- Children are always welcome in our worship space (as are the joyful noises that they sometimes add). For those moments when it might be needed, we do have a nursery room in the rear of the church that anyone with younger children is welcome to use. The room is equipped with a speaker that will allow you to continue enjoying the service. Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.
- Activity bags for children can be found on a rack in the Narthex.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(For the week of September 3, 2017)

The **Altar Flowers** are sponsored by Bill and Karen Shollenberger in memory of Bill’s father, George Shollenberger.

The **Organ Arrangement** is sponsored by Harriet Simmons in loving memory of her husband Carroll.

The **Rose Bud** is in honor of the birth of Weston Alexander Seidel born August 23, 2017 to Tyler and Sarah Seidel. Grandparents are Paul and Marcia Moll.

The **Bulletins** are sponsored by Randy and Cindi Marsteller in honor of Austin’s 24th birthday.

The **Upper Room Publication** for this month is sponsored by Peggy Wulterkens and Cheryle Baer in memory of their parents, Fern and Walter Fishpaw.

Coffee Time Sponsor: Penny and Chris Vojtasek

Ushers: 8:55 a.m. – TBA

10:25 a.m. –TBA

Readers: 8:55 a.m. – Dale Hollenbach 10:25 a.m. – Jim Goldman

Acolytes: 8:55 a.m. – Michaela Ernst and Jade Vojtasek

10:25 a.m. – Ethan Raudenbush and Nicholas Hill

Attendance:	August 27, 2017	8:55 a.m. – 128	10:25 a.m. – 103
July	Income	Expense	Difference
General Acct	\$42,036.52	\$37,851.88	\$ 4,184.64
Other Accts	\$ 1,897.67	\$ 4,468.51	-\$ 2,570.84
Year to date			
General Acct	\$240,367.51	\$276,212.69	-\$35,845.18
Other Accts	\$ 69,120.72	\$ 61,875.42	\$ 7,245.30