



**ST. PAUL'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

235 South Main Street, Woodstock, VA 22664
Office: (540) 459-3643

Sunday School: 9:30 A.M. Worship: 11:00 A.M.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

Rev. Anne Findlay-Chamberlain, Pastor

Come, Grow, Serve

*Indicates that the congregation stands

PRELUDE

"My Tribute"

Crouch

(During the prelude, let us be in silence preparing our hearts for worship.)

SILENT PRAYER FOR MEDITATION

Take a few moments in silent prayer to reflect on the following: "My friends, if you have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, you won't treat some people better than others." (James 2:1). Ask God to help you identify persons or categories of persons with whom it is difficult for you to treat as equals. Close with the commitment to silently repeat these words, "Child of God," when you encounter persons that you don't consider "equals."

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Friends, don't let public opinion influence how you live out your faith.

Many: God lives by different rules. God lifts up and honors the poor while sending the rich away empty.

One: God's favor is promised to those who love God.

Many: Love is more than saying the right words, it is doing the right thing for others.

One: Be good to your people, O God.

Many: The hearts of the people are right!

*** OPENING MUSIC** page #561 (1st vs only) "Christ for the World! We Sing

*** CALL TO CONFESSION**

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, we come before you today knowing that we often fall short of your call to love one another well.

We allow ourselves to be blinded by wealth and power.

We ignore those around us who suffer injustice, poverty, and rejection.

We tune out the cries of the poor and those on the edges of our communities.

Help us to see your great generosity, hear your word of mercy, and feel your great love for all who need your redemptive grace.

Strengthen us to reach out in service to those who are in need.

Make us aware of those outside our own communities, that we may see them as your precious children and serve them in humility and joy.

May we continue to grow in grace as we learn how to serve you in the name of the great Servant, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*** WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*** GLORIA PATRI #734**

TIME FOR CHILDREN "Treat People the Same"

ANTHEM "Homage"
Choir from Strawderman

SCRIPTURE James 2:1-10, 14-17 read by Craig Orndorff

SERMON "The Good News for Your Neighbor"

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (A South African Creed)**

Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kingdom.

We believe that God is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good.

We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever.

One day all tears will be wiped away; the lamb will lie down with the lion, and justice will roll down like a mighty stream.

True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired, they are assured and guaranteed in Christ.

This is our faith. This is our hope.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "debts" and "debtors")

***DOXOLOGY #34**

***OFFERING DEDICATION**

***CLOSING MUSIC** page #581 (1st vs only) "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

***BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** "Blessed Be the Name" Hudson

Pianist: Emily Koon

Music Director: Mary Catlett

ANNOUNCEMENTS/BIRTHDAYS/PRAYER LIST

WELCOME to this service of divine worship at St. Paul's UCC! May you know the presence of God today – calling, accepting, challenging, and empowering you to love.

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF SAINT PAUL'S UCC, Woodstock VA is to recognize God as our Father, friend to all, and with his help teach the Bible as God's inspired word; to promote and encourage Christianity as the centerpiece in the lives of individuals, families, and the world community.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are in honor and memory of the 13 brave lives lost last month in Afghanistan and in honor of those serving our country in the military here and abroad. We owe them our deepest respect and thanks.
~ Given by Craig and Alberta Smith

REMINDERS:

September 9 – 7:00 p.m. Consistory Meeting

12 – Communion

13 – 7:00 p.m. Clothes Closet Board meeting

14 – 6:00 p.m. Worship and Music Team meeting

15 – 3:00 p.m. Sacred Seasons

PARKING Retina Associates is leasing to the church the use of their parking lot every Sunday and other days if we get permission ahead of time. So feel free to park there if you prefer!

BIRTHDAYS for this week:

September 8 – Nathan Eye
11 – Kathleen C. Dalke
12 – T.J. Williams

Anniversary for this week:

12 – Ron and Julianna Bankert

E-MAILS & Phone Numbers

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Pastor's: Rev. Anne's phone (808) 282-4631
stppastor@shentel.net Address: 740 Jackson St., Woodstock

PRAYERS and CARDS

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| Donna Babcock | Trudy Knode |
| Margie Cook | Nora Long |
| Martin Cullers | Cheri May |
| Carol Czarneski | Spencer McIntosh |
| The family of Ed DeCristofano | The family of Jean Smith Miller |
| Dr. Jerry Germroth | Mary Lou Odum |
| Randy and Valorie Hockman | Jessie Payne |
| Wes Irvin | Craig Smith |
| Jake Johnson | Jack Sullivan |
| Daniel Rohne Kasten | Pete Wright |

Prayers for Afghanistan.

Prayers for the people in the path of
Hurricane Ida.

Prayers for peace and unity for all