

Saint Andrew's Presbyterian and St. Paul's United Ecumenical Shared Ministry

September 27, 2026 10:30 AM, 18th Sunday After Pentecost -Orange Shirt Sunday

We acknowledge that the land on which we worship is the traditional unceded territory of the Welastekwiyik, Mi'kmaq, and Passamaquoddy Peoples. This land is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship," which were signed with the British Crown in 1726 and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between the nations, not a surrender of land and resources. May we continue to work towards a just and right relationship with the First Peoples of this land.

COMING TOGETHER BEFORE GOD

Prelude: As a Deer -Wagner/ Fairest Lord Jesus -Mayo

Welcome & Announcements:

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

On this day we come, from the places we have wandered, to find sure ground.

On this day we come, seeking to give thanks and seeking forgiveness for what has been.

On this day we come, drawn by a force that connects us and calls us.

On this day we come, to hear again of the love that will not let us go.

On this day we come, to stand on Holy Ground, attentive to where divine love and our humanity meet.

On this day we come, ready for God's vision and voice to challenge and guide us.

You are here, I am here, God's Spirit is here...do we need anything else?

NO – here and now we are ready to worship.

Opening Hymn:

Open My Eyes, That I May See

VU 371

**Open my eyes, that I may see
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!**

**Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.**

**Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

Grounding Prayer: ¹

Steadfast God,
as the seasons change, we see that you are still at work in the world,
transforming hearts and situations.

Since the beginning, you have invited us to live in your way and follow your heart.

You have shown us the true face of love in Jesus Christ,
reaching out with healing and hope to those who are hurting, lost or alone.
We praise you for your love that works for respect, connection and peace
among neighbours and nations in this divided world.

May we see the face of Jesus in each person we meet.

Renew our hope by the gift of your Spirit at work among us,
so that we can live to praise you. Amen.

Prayer of Confession: ¹

**All-embracing God,
In recalling all that you are and all that you have done,
We recall also who we are and what we have done or failed to do.
We confess that we have not always chosen your better way.
We have failed to comfort those in pain,
We have ignored the needs of others,
Failed to model dignity and respect to our neighbours,
We have sought our own gain above all else
And our pledges have been words too easily broken.
We repent our past sins and pray for the wisdom to walk in a new way
With you and with one another. Here this pay**

Assurance of Pardon:

HEARING AND PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Time for all ages:

Prayer for Understanding:

**Send us your Spirit of wisdom, O God, that we may hear your Word speaking through the
Scriptures and understand what you are saying to the church today. Amen.** ²

Hebrew Scripture:

Genesis 12:1-8

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to
the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your

name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh.

At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 25:1-9

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right

and teaches the humble his way.

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

Choir Anthem:

In Christ Alone

Shackley

Message: What is the Word that you claim and proclaim

Hymn of Response:

I Have Called You by Your Name

MV 161

**I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you;
all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.**

**I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body, given long ago.**

**I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.**

**I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.**

Invitation to Offering:

Doxology:

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

TBoP 306

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures high and low;
praise God in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

Prayer of Dedication:³

Let us not take for granted the opportunity we have to participate in God's kingdom work.

O God, your kingdom arrives in many ways. Your kingdom comes through our offerings. Your kingdom comes through our worship. Your kingdom comes through our shared service in this church and out in the community. Come, Holy Spirit, bless these offerings and us, for your service and encourage us to always be a blessing in the world. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession:

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD FOLLOWING THE WAY

Closing Hymn:

To Show by Touch and Word

VU 427

**To show by touch and word
devotion to the earth,
to hold in high regard
all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find
the good you had of old in mind.**

**Renew our minds to choose
the things that matter most,
our hearts to long for truth
till pride-of-self is lost.
For every challenge that we face,
we need your guidance and your grace.**

**Let love from day to day
be yardstick, rule and norm,
and let our lives portray
your word in human form.
Now come with us that we may have
your wits about us where we live.**

Commissioning and Benediction:

Postlude:

Dance of The Trumpets

Bish

Announcements

Thank you to those who have used their gifts, time and talents to serve God in support of our worship today.

READERS

Hebrew Scripture: Helen McKinnon-Bagnell

Responsive Psalm: Rebecca Jonah

Gospel: Patty Trail

GREETERS
Mary Stickles

AUDIO VISUAL
Beth and Shawn Meister

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE
Chris Grant

Where can you serve God in the church and beyond our walls? Within our congregation, we are looking for people who can coordinate fellowship events, support Beth and Shawn with our Zoom (especially while they are away in October), members for a property committee (for ongoing operations and improvement opportunities), and people willing to help answer phones and light office duties while Joanna is away. Please prayerfully think about where you can offer your gifts in support of our ministry.

The Worship (and Fellowship) Committee is organizing our **fall Potluck Lunch** for after Church on **October 4**. Please plan to join us for food and Fellowship after the Communion service. Please bring a favourite dish to share. If you can share in the set-up or clean-up, please let Roger Miller, Kathie Berry or Mary Charter know.

Scholarship Recipients Announced - Congratulations from the congregation are extended to Hannah Simpson and Kirsten Simpson, who have been awarded St. Paul's Scholarships to support their university studies. Hannah is now in her fourth and final year in the Honours Mechatronics Engineering Co-op Program at the University of Waterloo. Kirsten is studying at the University of Ottawa, where she is enrolled in the Honours program, Bachelor of Science in Physics and Geography (French Immersion Stream). We send our best wishes to both recipients.

Scholarships are available for members or adherents of St. Paul's who are pursuing post-secondary studies. Information and application details can be found on the St. Paul's website under "Resources".

Looking to connect with Rev. Michelle, you can call her direct office line at **(506)455-0639**, email michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com, or **text (506)259-7602**. For pastoral emergencies, please call her cell.

Current Needs of our Outreach Programs

The Pantry: Diced tomatoes, spaghetti noodles, salt, baking soda, cake mix, individual puddings (any flavour).

Breakfast 2 Go: Cheez Whiz, cans of ham, chicken, turkey, fish; peanut butter; instant coffee; nutritional drinks; mini cereal boxes; TP. Thank you for your ongoing generosity!

Weekly Congregational Activities

Tuesdays ~ Ladies Group, in the Hall: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. All are welcome!!

Tues. & Thurs. ~ Quilting Group, Parlour - 1-4 p.m. ~ All are welcome!

Wednesdays ~ Pantry Program, Basement - 9-11 a.m. - Basement

Thursdays ~ Choir Practice, in the Hall: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. ~ All are welcome!

Fridays ~ Breakfast 2 Go, Hall entrance - 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Can't attend Sunday Service in person?

Consider joining us online. Worship via Zoom - Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83673756287>

Passcode: 2023

View past services here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG2wvjhQzgAm-2Co5WvRkmA>

¹ Adapted from PCC Worship Planner, September 27, 2026

² PCC Worship Planner, September 27, 2026

³ Adapted from Elain Bidgood Sweet, Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2026 pp38