

WEEKLY BULLETIN

2101 WILDWOOD AVENUE, COLUMBUS, GA 31906

As I've grown older, I've noticed a change within me when it comes to the sacraments. Baptism and Holy Communion have become far more than cherished traditions or special moments in the life of the church. They have become sacred encounters that continue to shape my understanding of God, the Church, and myself.

When I think back to my earliest days as a pastor, I know I believed the sacraments were important. I could explain their theology, prepare the elements, and faithfully administer them in worship. However, if I'm honest, much of my attention was focused on my role in leading the moment rather than fully entering into the holy mystery unfolding before me. I was helping others experience God's grace, but I don't know that I always paused long enough to savor it for myself.

Now many years later and hopefully a little wiser and more mature as a person, a Christian, and a minister, I find myself lingering over these sacred gifts. The water poured over a child or adult, the bread broken, the cup shared, the vows spoken, the faith professed, none of these are ordinary acts. Each one bears witness to the extraordinary grace of God. In these holy mysterious moments, the God who is beyond our understanding chooses to meet us through simple, tangible gifts that we can see, touch, taste, and receive.

Yes, the sacraments are part of our worship tradition. They are central practices of our faith, but they are also much more than rituals we perform. They remind us who God is—one who continually reaches toward us in love. They remind us who we are, people created in God's image, broken by sin, yet continually invited into grace, healing, and wholeness.

Today, as we gather around the Lord's Table, my prayer is that Holy Communion will be more than something we do because it is the first Sunday of the month. I pray it becomes a fresh encounter with the living Christ. May you hear again the invitation, "You are welcomed at God's table." May you receive the bread and the cup with grateful hearts. May you discover, perhaps in a new way today, that God's love is still meeting people at the table, one life at a time.



Traditional Worship

8:30 A.M.

Illges Chapel (M250)

Rev. Dr. Shane Green

The Myth of Control

James 4:13-17

Contemporary Worship

9:00 A.M.

Fellowship Hall (M220)

Rev. John Fugh, Jr.

The Wrong Ruler

Proverbs 3:5-6

Traditional Worship

11:00 A.M.

Sanctuary (M260)

Rev. Dr. Shane Green

The Myth of Control

James 4:13-17

Broadcast Live at 11:00
at stpaulcolumbus.live

To echo Shane's message, the white paraments remind us of who God is and who we are in Christ. White is used on communion Sundays to symbolize Christ's victory over death, the purity of His love, and the new life that only He can give. As a Wesleyan church, we celebrate communion as a sacrament given by Christ. This sacred gift reminds us that God is always at work in our lives, offering His grace, strengthening our faith, and drawing us closer to Him and to one another. As we gather at the Lord's Table, we receive His promise, experience His presence, and are sent into the world to live as faithful disciples.

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

There is a **Red Cross Blood Drive today**, Sunday, August 2, from 8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in our Youth Building. One of the most life-giving ways to serve God is by donating blood. Walk-ins are welcome and snacks are provided!

Chancel Choir Practice will return on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Once completed, we will hold our rehearsals in our new Music Suite!

Wednesday Night Supper will resume August 19 with (what else but our favorite)—Fried Chicken! Be sure to mark your calendars and join us to celebrate the new educational year. Everyone is welcome. Online reservations will be available soon.

Parents of Children, please check the KidMin section of this bulletin to stay updated about important events beginning in August. We have many fun activities planned this month as we begin the new school year!

Would you like to join a **Bible Study**? Most of our studies will start the week after Labor Day. We will keep you updated on the classes and when they begin. To get involved, you may email Grace Bailey at grace@stpaulcolumbus.com.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Thank you for surrounding our mission teams in prayer. Your prayers were felt as our Youth Mission Team served alongside the Choctaw community in Mississippi, and as our Multi-Generational Mission Team partnered with Appalachian communities in western North Carolina.

Because of your faithful prayers, our teams were strengthened as they shared Christ's love through acts of service, built meaningful relationships, and offered hope to those they encountered. We also continue to pray for the families and communities they served, trusting that God will continue the work He began. Thank you for being an essential part of these missions through your prayers, encouragement, and faithful support.

We have our **Children's Mission and Art Camp** this coming weekend at Pine Eden. Please keep our kids and those they will serve in the Harris County community in your prayers, specifically firefighters.

PASTORS & STAFF

Rev. Dr. Shane Green
Senior Minister

Rev. John Fugh, Jr.
Associate Minister

Rev. Meghan Gross
Associate Minister

Philip Badcock
Church Administrator

Grace Bailey
Director of Christian Education

Lauren Coleman
Administrative Assistant

Dr. Bruce Getz
Broadcast Operations Manager

Donna Hightower
Director of Children's Ministry

Roy Hightower
Assistant to Director of Children's Ministry

Theresa Holzknecht
Communications Director

Catherine Hutchings
Receptionist

Shannon Land
Executive Administrative Assistant

Laura Marvets
Director of Youth Ministry

Dr. Joshua May
Interim Director of Music

Cindy Shavers
Financial Records & Administration

KIDMIN MOMENTS

Spies in Canaan! God chose Joshua to lead His people into the Promised Land. Before entering, Joshua sent two brave spies to secretly explore the large, walled city of Jericho. God guided them to the home of a kind woman named Rahab, who welcomed them and kept them safe. Through Joshua, the spies, and Rahab, God showed that He is always working behind the scenes to care for us, guiding us wherever we go.

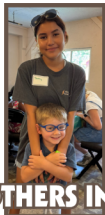


Our **Children's Mission Team** will gather this Friday at Pine Eden Retreat in Hamilton. Here, we'll learn about our faith through art, giving, fellowship, team building, and exploring nature. For those going, look for emails from Donna. Please keep this young group of missionaries in your prayers as we discover purpose and grow our faith!

Children's Events in August:

- **3rd Grade Acolyte Training**, August 9, 16, 23, and 30
- **Promotion Sunday**, August 16
- **Back to School Bingo Bash**, August 16
- **6th Grade Confirmation Kickoff Banquet**, August 20
- **Cross Bearer Training, Sunday**, August 23

SPY MINISTRY



Tonight, we will have our Testimony Night for SPY Sunday Night Youth! Join us from 5:00 p.m. (dinner) to 7:00 p.m. for this special night as we gather to celebrate what God has done this summer!

Throughout the summer, our theme has been: "Your faith is personal, but it's not private." God has been at work—in our mission trip, camps, serving opportunities, conversations, and prayer walks. This night is an opportunity to share where you've seen Him move, how He's challenged you, answered prayers, grown your faith, or reminded you of His presence.

Everyone has a story to tell. Be ready to encourage one another, celebrate God's faithfulness, and be reminded that our stories can point others to Jesus. "Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me." — Psalm 66:16

Sunday, August 2

- 8:00 AM Red Cross Blood Drive (Youth Building)
- 8:30 AM Traditional Worship (M250)
- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship (M220)
- 10:00 AM Bridges SS Class (M235)
- 10:00 AM Foundry Class (Y101)
- 10:00 AM New Life SS Class (Y102)
- 10:00 AM Seekers Class (M234)
- 10:00 AM Wesley/Miller-Wilson Class (M232)
- 10:00 AM Wildwood Class (M150)
- 10:00 AM Middle and High School Youth Combined SS (Y104)
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship (M260)
- 2:00 PM Spring Harbor Worship (Off Campus)
- 4:30 PM Ministries Committee Meeting (M203)
- 5:00 PM Sunday Night Youth (Y210)

Monday, August 3

- 1:30 PM Staff Meeting (M203)
- 1:30 PM CRWS Sports Camp (Quad)

Tuesday, August 4

- 1:30 PM CRWS Sports Camp (Quad)

Wednesday, August 5

- 1:30 PM CRWS Sports Camp (Quad)
- 2:30 PM Mahjong (M235)
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice (M260)

Thursday, August 6

- 1:30 PM CRWS Sports Camp (Quad)

Friday, August 7

- Children's Mission and Art Camp (Off Campus)

Saturday, August 8

- Children's Mission and Art Camp (Off Campus)

**Today's Sunday School Lesson
for Preschool and Elementary
Children: Spies in Canaan
(Joshua 2:1-24)**

**Anchor Point – We choose to
serve God.
Say the Bible verse together:
"But my family and I will serve
the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)**

**Questions for family
discussion:**

- Why do you think Rahab helped the two spies?
- What were the two spies supposed to do in Jericho?
- How did the two spies confirm that God was going to give them the land?
- What did the two spies promise Rahab?

**Prayer:
Dear God, thank you for your
promises and for always being
with us. In Jesus' name we
pray. Amen.**

SERVING THIS WEEK

- (8:30) Acolytes:
Camille Forsyth and
Rush McMurphy
- (11:00) Acolytes:
William Coffman and
TBD
- Cross Bearer: Baker
Bohannon
- Acolyte Helper:
Tabetha Getz

ALTAR GUILD

- Chapel: Eliza Brewer
and Dori Jones
- Delivery: Lynn Pugh
and Beth Thomas

USHERS

- (8:30) Ken Crumpler
and Stan Copelan
- (11:00) Morgan Waldrep
(lead), Jack Jenkins,
Brad Coppedge, Robert
Raybon, and Mack
Jenkins

The flowers on the Sanctuary Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Janet Pulliam Gray** by her daughter, Roxann Gray Daniel.

Our Christian love and heartfelt sympathy is extended to Ken Bunn and his family in the loss of his mother, **Fannie Marie Bunn**, on July 19, 2026.

Our Christian love and heartfelt sympathy is extended to Anne Wilson and her family in the loss of her sister, **Jane Ellen McGuinness**, on July 20, 2026.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

General Fund

In memory of **Sloan Flournoy**
• by Eddie Branch

Wildwood Class

In memory of **Jane Ellen McGuinness**
• by Sandy and Ken Coolik

Part-Time Kitchen Help Needed: St. Paul is seeking a dependable part-time person to assist with kitchen support. For more information, please contact Philip Badcock at 706-327-7419.



GIVING



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ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 2, 2026
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

The Chiming of the Hour

The Welcome & AnnouncementsRev. Dr. Shane Green

The Prelude.....*Ave Maria*, by Franz Schubert
soloist, Dr. Joshua May; organist, Adleyn Scott

The Cross and Flame Come to the Altar

The Call to Worship

Leader: *If any lack wisdom, let them ask of God, who gives generously to all.*

Congregational Response: *We come seeking the wisdom that comes from above.*

Leader: *Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.*

Congregational Response: *We come with humble hearts, ready to receive His grace.*

Leader: *Let us worship the Lord who is full of compassion and mercy.*

Congregational Response: *To Him be all praise, honor, and glory.*

The Hymn of Celebration.....*My Jesus, I Love Thee* (#172)

The Affirmation of Faith.....*The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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 Gloria Patri.....(#70)

The Pastoral Prayer with the Lord’s Prayer.....Rev. Meghan Gross
The Leader: Let Us Worship God with His Tithes and Our Offerings.
The Offertory Prayer.....Rev. Gross
The Offertory/Anthem.....*Balm in Gilead*, arr. by Harry T. Burleigh
tenor, Dr. Joshua May; organist, Adleyn Scott

The Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures
here below: praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

The Scripture Lesson.....James 4:13-17
Leader: *The Word of God for the People of God.*
Congregational Response: *Thanks be to God.*

The Passing of the Peace

Leader: *The Peace of Christ be with you.*
Congregational Response: *And also with you.*

The Welcome and Registration of Attendance

The Children’s Moment.....Mrs. Donna Hightower

*(After the Children’s Moment, children ages K4-2nd graders are dismissed to
go to Children’s Church, Room M235; children 3 and younger are taken to the
nursery by parents.)*

The Sermon.....*The Myth of Control*, Rev. Dr. Green
The Sacrament of Holy Communion.....(#12)
The Hymn of Consecration.....*Let Us Plead for Faith Alone* (#385)
The Cross and Flame Go Before Us into the World
The Benediction
The Postlude.....*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*, setting by Michael Burkhardt
organist, Adleyn Scott

The Church Returns to His World to Serve Him