

Church Calendar

Monday, August 18, 2025

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers
7:30 p.m. – to 8:30 p.m. AL-Anon

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
2:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Women's Farsi Al-Anon
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Pacific Discussions (AA)
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Balance & Mobility Classes

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Remain Teachable (AA)
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, August 21, 2025

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Thursday AA
6:30 p.m. – Bible Study

Friday, August 22, 2025

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers
7:00 p.m. – 9:45 p.m. – Youth Al Anon
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – AA Group (Farsi)

Saturday, August 23, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers

Sunday, August 24, 2025

10:00 a.m. – In-Sanctuary Service & Live Streaming

Church Leadership

Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank
Bishop in Residence

Rev. Garth Gilliam
North District Superintendent

Rev. Vernon Kemp
Pastor

Jacqueline Tringov
Music Director

Eloisa Mondragon
Administrative Assistant

St. Paul's - Leadership Team

Diana Bruno - Administrative Chair/ Lay leader
to Conference

Deborah Davies – Staff Parish Relations Chair

Linda Graul – Finance Chair

Donald Metzger – Team Member

Jackie Adams – Team Member

Marianne Crosby – Team Member

Evelyn Arnold-McJimpson – Team Member

Vacant - Trustee Chair

Saint Paul's United Methodist Church

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Church Website: stpaulschurchtarzana.org

 [@stpaulstarzana](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulstarzana)  [@saintpaulunited](https://twitter.com/saintpaulunited)  [@stpaulsunitedmethodist](https://www.instagram.com/stpaulsunitedmethodist)

For online giving and support, please go to: <https://app.tithely.com>

To donate via Zelle, please use our email, st_paulschurch@icloud.com.

You can find today's livestream and past livestreams by visiting our YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/@saintpaulschurch7968/streams>

Pastor Vernon's Email: V_kemp2000@yahoo.com

Pastor Vernon's cell phone: 323-864-5967



August 17, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Pastor Vernon Kemp

Our Mission is to be: The Beacon of the Valley

Lighting 'The Way' of Jesus

Growing Disciples and Community in God's Love and

Sending the Hope and Joy of Jesus into the World

 **ST PAUL'S**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Beacon of The Valley

10th Sunday After Pentecost

Color: Green
August 17, 2025
10:00 a.m.

Theme Ideas

Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, we are reminded that the life of faith is a shared journey. Just as those before us trusted God through trials and triumphs, we too are called to lay aside every burden, run with endurance, and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. With hearts steadfast and spirits encouraged, we press forward together, trusting that God's promises will carry us to the finish line.

****Indicates to stand if able**

The United Methodist Hymnal = UMH (Red Book)

The Faith We Sing = TFWS (Black Book)

Prelude "Give Me a Clean Heart" Jacqueline Tringov

I. Invitation and Gathering

Gathering Words Pastor Vernon Kemp

****Processional** "Standing on the Promises" UMH #374

****Call to Worship** Liturgist, Nikkie Alli

L: Sing to the Lord a new song!
P: We sing a song of peace and hope!
L: Sing to the Lord a song of strength.
P: Our strength is in the Lord of hosts!
L: Sing to the Lord a song of joy!
P: Our song is a song of service and faithfulness.
L: The Lord calls us to grow in faithfulness.
P: Take away our greed and selfishness, O Lord!
L: The Lord challenges us to serve others in loving ways!
P: Help us grow in our service and witness to your mercy and peace.
L: Come, let us worship the Lord who delights in our witness.
P: Let us praise God who is always with us.
L: Long ago a vineyard was planted. The ground was prepared, and all was made ready.
P: But the vines grew wild, the ground was unable to support the wild grapes.
L: What happened in that place of promise?
P: People forgot the One who planted the vineyard. They chose their own ways and failed.
L: Let us again turn to the Lord, who will again plant, prune, and cause us to grow in faithfulness.
P: Let us open our hearts to God, trusting in God's ways and God's word. AMEN.



Prayer List

- Pamela Warner
- Ellie Harrison
- Marilyn Wright
- Virginia Perry
- Simi Tabrari
- Miracle Wright-Lindo
- Terry Doherty
- Bob Doherty
- Henry Lindo
- Ruth Blinick

If you are seeking prayer and would like your name to appear on the prayer list, please contact the office no later than Wednesday noon via telephone or email.

“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

James 5:16



****Praise Song**

“I’ve Got the Joy Down in My Heart”

St. Paul’s Choir

Opening Prayer

Liturgist, Nikkie Alli

Lord of light and life, you have called us this day to open our hearts, our minds, our spirits to hear your words of encouragement, healing, and hope. Give us patience and willingness to serve you in all that we do. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN

Music Selection

“Your Spirit”

St. Paul’s Choir

II. Proclamation and Response

****Prayer of Confession...(Congregation)**

Liturgist, Nikkie Alli

God of healing mercies, we come to you this day as imperfect people. We know that you desire for us hope, happiness, and love, yet we have found so many ways in which to block your gifts, or to grab hold of them as if we were entitled to them. We have been given the pathway to peace in the witness of Jesus Christ. He taught us to live as people of compassion and service. But our service has been mostly for ourselves, for our own gratification. We have failed to be your church, your witnesses on earth. We have neglected the needs of others in our rush for our own comfort. Forgive us, O merciful God. Heal our wounded spirits. Turn us again to you, that we may again learn of your love and mercy. Help us to become partners in peace and hope for others. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist, Nikkie Alli

Turn again, O people, to the Lord who always loves you. Remember God's loving mercies and faithfulness. AMEN.

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Liturgist, Nikkie Alli

Brothers and sisters, the peace that Christ gives is not shaken by fire, challenge, or change—it is rooted in God’s steadfast love. So, as we share the peace of Christ today, I invite you to greet **at least two people you do not know** and let them feel the warmth of God’s welcome through you.

Music Selection

“Lord, Help Me to Hold Out”

St. Paul’s Choir

Invitation to the Word

Liturgist, Nikkie Alli

Friends in Christ, God has planted seeds of truth and life within us, calling us to grow in faith, perseverance, and love. Today we come, ready to be watered by the living Word—stories of courage, warnings to turn back to God, and the promise of Christ’s refining fire. Let us open our hearts, tune our ears, and prepare to receive what the Spirit is speaking to the Church today. Come, let us listen for the Word of the Lord.

****Scripture Readings**

Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2

Liturgist, Nikkie Alli

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response to the Word

Liturgist, Nikkie Alli

Having heard the Scriptures and the call of Christ, we remember that faith is not simply believing—it is living out God’s truth in word and deed. May what we have heard take root in our hearts, bear fruit in our lives, and lead us to walk with perseverance, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Amen.

Song of Preparation

“Goodness of God”

Linda Graul & Deborah Davies

Sermon

“Faith’s Legacy: Crossing the Sea, Running the Race”

Pastor Vernon Kemp

Altar Call/Invitation to Discipleship

Liturgist, Nikkie Alli

If you would like prayer, you may kneel at the altar, and a prayer warrior will pray with you. You are also welcome to light a candle. Lighting a candle is a sacred way to lift a special prayer, remember a loved one, or seek comfort and clarity during difficult times.

Music Selection

“Come Jesus Come”

Roberta Lanning

Invitation to the Offering

Liturgist, Nikkie Alli

God has planted us as His vineyard, tending and nurturing us with love, grace, and mercy. As people of faith, we are called to bear good fruit—not only in our words and deeds, but also in how we give. Through our tithes and offerings, we join in God’s work of restoring, healing, and sharing the Good News. Let us now give with joy, gratitude, and trust, knowing that every seed we sow will be used for God’s glory.

Let us now bring our offerings to the Lord.

Now is the time for us all to offer our tithes and gifts to Almighty Christ by placing them in the Love Offering box. Those who are worshipping with us online, you may mail your offering or send it via Zelle using our email. St. Paul’s is most grateful to each of you for your financial support

****Doxology**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH #94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

date / /

Out of my control

God's timing

Changing people

outcomes

In my control

walking by faith

what I focus on

believing God's Word

Past

Rest

loving people

bold prayer

my actions

Future

Taking my
thoughts captive

others actions

people's perception
of me

when growth happens

**Offertory Prayer

Liturgist, Nikkie Alli

Generous God, You have planted us in Your vineyard and blessed us with all we need to grow in faith and love. Receive these gifts we bring today—our tithes, our offerings, and the dedication of our hearts. Use them to bear fruit that will last, to strengthen Your Church, and to bring light to a world in need. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

Backpacks

We are excited to share that **LA Family Housing** has so generously donated backpacks to **St. Paul's United Methodist Church**! We have backpacks available for students from **Elementary through High School**, and each one comes fully stocked with essential school supplies. If you or someone you know could benefit from a backpack, please **stay after service** and speak with **Pastor Vernon or Ellie**. We're happy to help ensure every student starts the school year off well-prepared and supported. Let's spread the word and bless our community!

Flowers

These weeks flowers are presented in honor of the witnesses and legacies that have been gone before us, Glory to God.

Church Leadership and Management

We are currently seeking **several committed members and young adults** who feel called to serve as part of our **church leadership and management team**. If you have a heart for ministry and a desire to help guide a new vision within our church and daily operations that include Children's Bible Study, Youth Leadership, Church Fellowship and Young Adult Ministries we would love to hear from you. We invite you to step up to step out into the life of mission and ministry where God is leading you for the life of ministry at St. Paul's today and into tomorrow. If you are feeling the calling reach out to **Pastor Vernon or Diana Bruno** for the seed planning, cultivation and development for where God is leading you.

Bible Study

Bible Study is now underway! We meet every **Thursday at 6:30 PM** via **Zoom**, with study worksheets sent in advance so you can follow along easily.

Next session: August 14, 2025, 6:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89200849026?pwd=iSPQGiaOoyieh1jZPkiCG6TXuwPtbc.1>

Lifeline Screening

We have great news! St. Paul's UMC will be hosting a Lifeline Screening event on 08/31/25 from 8:00am – 4:00pm.

We have been granted a Certificate of Screening for one person, if anyone is interested in a free screening, please notify the office and it will be awarded on first come first serve basis.

Lifeline Screening is the premier provider of stroke and cardiovascular disease risk screenings since 1993. Lifeline Screening is extending a discounted offer to all members which will identify your risk level for the following diseases: Carotid Artery Disease, Peripheral Arterial Disease, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, Atrial Fibrillation. Call (800) 324-9458 to schedule your appointment! A simple screening can be worth a lifetime!

IV. Sending Forth

****Benediction**

Pastor Vernon Kemp

Go forth as God's vineyard—rooted in His love, nourished by His Word, and strengthened by the great cloud of witnesses. Run the race set before you with perseverance, keeping your eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of your faith. And may the fire of Christ's Spirit burn brightly within you, guiding your steps and blessing the world through you. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

****Closing Hymn**

“Soon and Very Soon”

St. Paul's Choir

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Isaiah 5:1 – 7

Psalms 80:1 – 2, 8 – 19

Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2

Luke 12:49 – 56

