

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
626 Williams Grove Road  
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**AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!**

## The Epistle

is a monthly publication of St. Paul's UCC.

**Comments, suggestions, and submissions are welcome!**

*Sunday School 9:15 AM, Worship Services 8:00 & 10:30 AM  
Childcare available at 10:30 service*

### ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STAFF

Pastor . . . . . The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio  
Pastor/ CE & Youth Dir.....Allyssa A. Boyer  
Director of Music . . . . .Eric R. Dundore  
Choristers' Director . . . . .Jonneke A. Dundore  
Assistant Music Director . . . . .Mark A. Dundore  
Organist . . . . .Sarah A. Myers  
Assistant Organist . . . . .Patrice G. Miller  
Sexton . . . . .Michael W. Hatz  
Consistory President . . . . .Mary E. Runkle  
Pastor Emeritus.....The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold  
Ministers.....The Entire Congregation of St. Paul's



St. Paul's Online Giving

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00 ♦ Office email: [stpaulstaff@outlook.com](mailto:stpaulstaff@outlook.com)  
Phone: 717/766-7931 Rev. John email: [revjohnwd@outlook.com](mailto:revjohnwd@outlook.com)

Allyssa's email: [allyssaboyer@outlook.com](mailto:allyssaboyer@outlook.com)

Eric's email: [ericdundore@outlook.com](mailto:ericdundore@outlook.com)

Web Address: [www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org](http://www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org)

## FROM THE PASTOR

One of the primary Biblical Texts for the season of Lent is the account of the forty days Jesus spends in the wilderness following his Baptism. While he is out there fasting and praying, he encounters the devil or the tempter or Satan. The writers of the synoptic Gospels and we ourselves today have various ideas about who this being, or person is. In an overall sense, this being represents someone who is opposed to God and God's hopes for humanity and the world. The tempter insists what would benefit us as an individual is always the best choice, regardless of how it impacts others. What is good for me verses what is good for all. This tempter asks Jesus three questions, and Jesus must decide, must make a decision each time.

The questions the tempter asks, the temptations he puts forward, do not necessarily seem bad or all together evil. There is something positive that could be said about each. This is what real temptations are like. We can convince ourselves of a positive good that could come out of making such a choice, or maybe we convince ourselves there is no real choice in this matter and we have to go with a choice that we are somewhat or maybe very leery about.

We are all constantly asked to make choices, from small matters to large ones. Our choices may seemingly impact only ourselves, but that is rarely if ever the case. While we may recognize the wider impact of some of our choices, we are rarely able to comprehend just how far that impact extends. Our choices do matter. Jesus's time in the wilderness reminds us of this, as does the season of Lent.

With all the discussions we have been having involving the work being done with our Dreams and Visions Into Reality campaign, I have been reminded over and over of the impact of each decision we make. There are both present and future impacts; one choice can mean another possibility is not realized; any choice can leave some excited and others disappointed. Our choices do matter.

We are in an election cycle. Often voters can feel like their choices don't really

matter much. The people we elect to office make decisions that impact our lives and the lives of others. Our choices do matter.

On what basis do we make those choices? Jesus demonstrates that he uses Scripture and his understanding of God's desires for humanity and creation to base his decisions on. While we do not possess Jesus' depth of understanding of Scripture or God's desires, we do have some knowledge in those areas, and we have Jesus' word and way as a guide, and we have a Community of Faith to ask questions within. In order to make the best choices, the choices God would have us make, we need to make use of all these resources. Our choices do matter.

During the season of Lent some people give up things and some people take on things. During this Lent, please consider giving up the idea that your choices don't really matter or don't impact anyone but yourself. During this Lent please consider spending time asking what choice God would have us make, about any decision, and why. Let us use the resources we have been given. Our choices do matter.

Peace, Rev. John



### **Safe Church Clearances** —

As part of our commitment to "love of children," and to maintain compliance with our Safe Church policy and state law, everyone who volunteers with children and youth at St. Paul's must apply for clearances. For many of us in the congregation, our clearances will expire this year. But don't worry, reapplying is easy. Please take a few moments to pick-up instructions for applying for clearances (in the commons) and reapply today. Turn a copy of your new clearances into the church office. If you need help, or if you have any questions, please contact Pastor Allyssa ([allyssaboyer@outlook.com](mailto:allyssaboyer@outlook.com); 717-798-4541). Thank you!



### **THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER:**

**Alex; Kevin Allison; Alvis (Smith); Kris Amtower; Amy (Gabriel); Wendy Anderson (A. Thompson); Anya (Gabriel); Joe Baker (W. Wentz); Barry & Family (A. Thompson); Jon & Nancy Barto & Family (White); Donald Beaver (Keith); Barb Bell; Joann Bender; Jack Benoist (Ritter); Rev. Dr. Susan Bertollette (A. Thompson); Denise Biacco & Family (Lill); Bill (Stork-Whitson); George Bingaman; Sarah Blumenschein and family (Aumiller); Barbara Blust; Bob & Nancy (Gabriel); Joan Brenizer (Rhoads); Brian (Shearer); Brian (Riesmeyer); Adriana Brice & Family (Smith); Missy Brouch (Myers/Mihmet); Debby Browning (S. Miller); Rev. Betsy Bruaw (Stork-Whitson); Tammy Boehm & Betty (Stork-Whitson); Glenda Brown (Aumiller); Annette Burke (Sutton); Anna Burns; David Bush & Family (Trout); Sophia Butler (Knox); Nancy Cabrera (Runkle); Beverly Caley (Thorpe); Marge Campbell (Sharp); Caroline (Rhoads); Jack Carr & Family (Williams); Deb Cashman; Eddie Chandler (Aumiller); Sally & John Chiselko (Martek); Kirt Chronister; Alyssa Claar (A. Thompson); Jon & Kathy Cristofori (Aumiller); Pat Cleland; Mary Clark Coleman (Riesmeyer); Colin & Family (Gabriel); Frankie Coluntuna (Eichman); Stacy Cole (Ward-Diorio); Marc Cooley (Richey); Rich Cowan; Darryl (Carson); Dorothy & Rev. Robert Davidson (Layne); Rita Davidson (Plymette); Hudson Davis (Riesmeyer); Deb & Ned (A. Thompson); Dani DeLellis (Knox); Diane (Short/Larue); Diane (B. Thompson); Evelyn Diorio; Ethan Dixon & Family; Marian Dornell (Warfield); Jim Dougherty (Ritter); Grace Drager; Ted Drager (Bowers); Allen & Nanci Dreibelbis; Faye Dunne (Mitchell); Dixon Earley (Rushong); Linda Eichelberger (Chronster); Erin (Short/Larue); Jim Erb (Kern); Karen Erway (Rushong); Bob & Eve Fenner; Tom Figiel (Weiser); Flynn (Burns); Diane Freeman; Anne French (Ward-Diorio); Ron Gabriel; Lenny Gardner (Shearer); Paulette Garrison (Bender); Gary (A. Thompson); George (B. Thompson); George Ann (Davinroy); Joyce Gerstenlauer (Dundore); Gina & Family (Sharp); Gloria (Davinroy); Betty Goodfellow (Ritter); Floyd Gouse; Shirley Grammer; Greenawalt Family; Teri and Dave Guelcher; Jane Hall; Bill Hanna (Shea); Mandi Hannah (Hoehn); Gavin Harris (Cowan); Hayden, Alyson & Laela (Sizemore); Kermit Henning (A. Thompson); Phyllis Hershey; Joshua Holbrook (Nolan); Fenton Fox & Rick Holtzapple; Kirk & Eileen House (Murphy); Jay Houser (Haagen); Michele Hughes (Murphy); Chuck Hurley (Fox); Jerry & Sandy Hutchinson (Burns); Jack Hyde (Fox/Holtzapple); Lee Jackson; Jamie (Dundore); Jane (Ritter); Jenny, Eric & Erica (Lingenfelter); Jim (Rhoads); Joe (Allison); Jonathan & Karen (Wirth); Clariene Jones (MLC); Will Jones; Lily Jordan (Mullin); Karen (Devin Miller); Karen & Margo (Stork-Whitson); Nancy Keith; Rev. Dr. Chris Kennedy (Ward-Diorio); Jeff & Lyle King; Dot Kinzer; Sandy Kline; Shirley & John Knisely; Randy Krepps; Jennifer Lee (Thorpe); Jean & John Layne; Bonnie Lengle (B. Thompson); Lenks Family**

(Carson/Foukes); **Larry Linder (Stork-Whitson); Lori (Murphy); Naomi Losch (Endy); Louise, Manny & Larry (Sharp); Colin Loy (White); Kelly Lynch (Wirth); Irene Macconnell-Davinroy; Cook Mann (Davinroy); Mary (Rhoads); Marie (Murphy); Sean McDonald (Rushong); Stephanie McGonigle (Warfield); Linda Meola (Roush); Rob Merentz (Allison); Michel & Family (Fox/Holtzapple); Michelle & Family (Mihmet); Joanne & Charles Miller; Charles Miller (Lloyd and Matthew's dad); Lee & Connie Miller; Linda Miller; Melissa Miller (Bender); Patrice & Gregory Miller; Devon Miller & Family; Mr. Min (Sizemore); Steve Mitchell; Rev. Russell & Ruth Mitman (Eckman); Roxanne & Steve Morgan (Dundore); Trendy Mowery (Aumiller); Tammy Mullen & Family (Allison); Gene & Ruth Ann Myers (Boyer); Patricia Nalepka (Jon Nalepka); Stephen O'Driscoll & Family (Rushong); Tom & Betty Olsen; Ryan Onufer & family (Grice); David Ordonia (Myers); Mary P. (Rhoads); Ann Palazzo (Weiser); Ms. Patterson (Davinroy); Lynne Patton (Taylor); Don Perry (Ritter); Joy Perry; Bob Perry (Ritter); Jim Pilsner (Rhoads); Bonnie & Dennis Plymette; Bobby Pfaff (Larue/Short); Baptiste Powlas (A. Thompson); Marion Quinlan (Ward-Diorio); Randy (Bender); Carl Raudabaugh (A. Thompson); Richard Reba (Richenbacher); Reed & Ziegler Families; Robert Reiner (Bender); Amy Rhoads; Jo Rice (Rushong); Joyce Rice (Eichman); Paul Ringenbach (Wirth); Robert (Sack); Lisha Robertson & Family; Adam Rohrbaugh (Bender); Rev. Roben Roof (Stork-Whitson); Rosemary (Simpson); Jerry Roventini & Family (Boyer); Tom Row (S. Miller); Marian Royer; Rick Royle (Hoehn); Ned & Rhoda Rupp; Benny Rushong; Sam (Freeman); Irv Sanders; Robyn Scaer (Hoehn); Tom Schiffgens; Rev. Glenn Schultz; Jane & Tom Scott & Family; Dennis Scouler (Rushong); Joyce Sealoover (Sutton); Erin Shane (Thorpe); Maya Shapiro Thompson; Linda Shea & Family; Rafe Shearer (P. Miller); Rev. Frank Showers (Aumiller); Bill Siemon (Warfield); Mike Siemons (Wood); Conner Snow & Family; Jacob Snyder (Wentz); Sue Snyder (Bowers); James Sowell (Sandy Kline); Clarence, Nancy Steck & Donna Sterner; Tom Steel & Family (Shaver-Durham); Barbara Sterner; Sue (Sizemore); Rev. Bill Swisher (Eckman); Briana Thomas; Cathy Thomas; Tracy Thrush Family; Austin Tichenor (Gladwin); Todd & Family (Morell); Doug Townsen (S. Miller); Craig Triplett (Boyer); Phoenix & Shannon Trout; Flo Turner (B. Thompson); Tom Tuttle (Trout); Bill Utley (Boyer); Tom Van Hall & Family (Sutton); Roger VanLoan (Ritter); Ceci Viti (Warfield); Evelyn Warfield; Anthony Warner (Simpson); Isabella Waters; Dr. Kenneth Way (Bowers); Amy Wentz; John White; Dave Wightman (Trout); Peg Wightman; Elaine Williams (A. Thompson); Wilton; Rose Fran Wolford; Suzanne Worley (Jones); Alexa, Lacey Worrall & Family (Ward-Diorio); Carl Yohn & Deb Kassahun; Jacqueline Young (Wentz); Kevin Young (A. Thompson); Aimee Yowell (Eichman)**

## Lenten Envelopes

With our Dreams and Visions Into Reality Campaign officially starting on March 15th, I hesitate to ask everyone to consider making another contribution. But I do know some folks set something aside each Lent to make such an additional gift to St. Paul's. Therefore, the Lenten Envelope you will find in this Epistle.

The money raised goes to address both expected and unexpected needs. As you know, our budget represents the minimum of funds we need to carry out the ministries we hope to offer. Through prudent management and volunteer time, we have made our budgets work. Your extra donations allow us to step out with faith to an even greater extent and do more of what we feel called to do.

As we discussed at our Annual Meeting, we are already implementing some of our Dreams and Visions goals. Two new roofs are in place and the Sanctuary roof will soon be done. New heating and air-conditioning equipment are being researched. We already know the cost of the roofs are more than we budgeted, and it is possible the HVAC will be as well. We are committed to staying within the range of funds our feasibility study indicated we can raise, hoping there will be some additional pledges as well. Our Red Team continues to brighten and spruce up our building, using minimum amount of funds, while we also increase our commitment to being more environmentally conscious and green. Your extra contributions go toward all this work as well

We have been blessed with a wonderful space to Worship, study and gather. We want to continue to be a place that truly welcomes one and all. Thus, our goal is to improve on and pass on such a space, so St. Paul's folks can continue to welcome all here and so we might go forth from this place to serve others in God's name. This is in part how we help make God's Dreams and Visions for the world come further into being. Your additional contribution will always help. Thank you. *Peace, John*



**Sunday March 8th** – don't forget to set your clocks ahead when you go to sleep on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Hartman Center Summer Camp** - Shake off those winter blues and jump into summer by registering for Summer Camp at Hartman Center [www.hartmancenter.com](http://www.hartmancenter.com). **Remember to register before March 31 to receive the early bird discount of 10% off.** St. Paul's believes so much in the power of the Hartman Center experience, that we offer a grant towards the cost. Information on this grant & paper registration forms are posted on the Hartman Center bulletin board outside of the Church office. Questions on the grant can be directed to Pastor Allyssa. We hope you will consider participating in this Christian community nestled in the midst of God's creation.



*For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. 1 Corinthians 3:9*

One Great Hour of Sharing® is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities. The suggested offering date for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is March 22nd. St. Paul's will continue to accept donations for this special mission offering thru Sunday March 29th.



*Please visit the church website to sign up for Acolyte, Flower Delivery, Lectors, Nursery and Usher Duties. You will find the individual signup sheets under the "Serving Others" menu heading. Thank you. While there if you want to sign up for fellowship time – please do!*

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

**LECTORS**

- 3/01 8:00 Eric Dundore  
10:30 Megan Riesmeyer
- 3/08 8:00 Becky Thompson  
10:30 Vonny Eckman
- 3/15 8:00 Sherry Spencer  
10:30 Craig Martek
- 3/22 8:00 Patrice Miller  
10:30 Mary Runkle
- 3/29 8:00 Rick Ayers  
10:30 Shirley Keith Knox

**USHERS**

Head Usher: Deb Cashman

**FLOWER DELIVERY**

- 3/01 Kim & Jim Pirtle
- 3/08 Terry & Gene Shaner
- 3/15 Patty & Dave Scott
- 3/22 Lois & Dave Ritter
- 3/29 Susie White

**ACOLYTES**

- 3/01 8:00  
10:30
- 3/08 8:00  
10:30
- 3/15 8:00  
10:30
- 3/22 8:00  
10:30
- 3/29 8:00  
10:30

**NURSERY**

- 3/01 Jonneke Dundore, Terry Shaner
- 3/08 Sue Ward-Diorio,
- 3/15 Art Williams,
- 3/22 Jonneke Dundore, Liane Gladwin
- 3/29 Terry Shaner, Melissa Cawley

**COMMUNION PREP**

- 3/01 Pew - Steve Roush



- 3/01 8:00 am Chancel  
10:30 am Youth
- 3/08 10:30 am Chancel
- 3/15 10:30 am Hand Chimes
- 3/22 10:30 am Youth Choir
- 3/29 10:30 am Chancel Choir



- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 01 Patty Scott        | 18 Jason Rhoads        |
| Jennifer Sheaffer     | 20 Jeff Dundore        |
| 02 Josette Grice      | Donna Sterner          |
| 03 Jill Morell        | 22 Kay Huber           |
| Sherry Spencer        | Bill Mullin            |
| 04 John Layne         | 24 Glenn Schultz       |
| 07 Jessica Obrock     | 25 Julie Lantis        |
| 08 Kevin Allison      | 26 Chris Bowers        |
| Jenn Martek           | Tim Davinroy           |
| 09 Jeffrey Nye        | Wyatt Gates            |
| 11 Susan Thorn        | Richard Hoffman        |
| Darryl Wentz          | Michael Lamb           |
| 12 Slater Ward-Diorio | Lois Ritter            |
| 14 Doug Haas          | 28 Mike Brown          |
| 15 Beth Mihmet        | Ben Eichman            |
| Nancy Steck           | 29 Sue Ward-Diorio     |
| 16 Jim Hoehn          | 30 Amanda Smith-Miller |
| Leslie Hoehn          | Elizabeth Miller       |
| 18 Luke McCorkell     | 31 Aaron Miller        |
| Kyle Miller           | Tom Olsen              |



- 02 Anita and Lloyd Miller
- 03 Janet and Charles Wotring
- 05 Connie and Herb Sutton
- 11 Chris and Tina Bowers
- 21 Theresa and Raymond Krouch
- 21 Leroy & Jane Wentz
- 30 Julie & Rowdy Lantis
- 31 Becky and Tim Drazba

**United Church of Christ Homes 25th Helping Hands Dinner & Auction – Saturday, May 2nd, 2020** at the Hershey Country Club. St. Paul's will contribute a Coffee Break gift basket. If you'd like to make a monetary donation towards the cost of the basket items, please place in an envelope in the offering plate marked for UCC Homes Basket, cash or checks payable to St. Paul's, no later than Sunday, April 5th. Proceeds benefit the Benevolent Endowment Trust Fund. Event tickets are \$90 per person (\$45.00 charitable gift.) 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm Silent Auction & Social Time. 7:00 pm – Dinner – Live Auction to follow dinner. For reservations call 717-303- 1502. Contact Melissa Cawley with any questions.

### **Spring Garden Update**

We are looking forward to warm spring weather and the opening of St. Paul's Community Garden! Our first workday is tentatively scheduled for April 18 but will be dependent upon the weather and when we can work the soil. Our Community Garden annually supplies more than 1,000 pounds of vegetables to New Hope Ministries to feed hungry families across Central Pennsylvania. We hope that you will prayerfully consider helping on these monthly workdays and also consider signing up for garden maintenance through the summer. We need members who can take care of the garden in the months of May – September. Spring and early summer months involve keeping the weeds under control and harvesting our early spring root veggies. Mid-late summer months means more harvesting and replanting of crops. Could you sign up for a day a week (Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays) for a month? Our sign up sheets will be on the Community Garden Bulletin Board and on the St. Paul's website ([www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org](http://www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org)) in late April for you to indicate your availability. Watch for more information in April and May about how you can get involved.



**You care  
for the land  
and water it;  
you enrich it  
abundantly.**  
Psalm 65:9, NIV



**March 6, 2020, 6 am to 6 pm. 2019 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** - World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian

women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. If you would like to participate in this prayer vigil at St. Paul's, please reserve your time(s) on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Common Area. You can come to our Sanctuary to pray or if you prefer, you can sign up for a time and note that you will be doing it outside—this way we will know that the time slot has been filled. Let us join with churches around the world in prayer on this day.



St. Paul's Prayer Shawl Ministry

**THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** - will meet at 1 PM Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup>. The Prayer Shawls will be blessed

at both worship services on Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**PFLAG** invites you to our next meeting on Monday, March 16, 7 PM, when our guest speaker will be Nicole Miller. Nic is an advocate of the LGBTQ community who speaks out for those who are victims of bullying and discrimination. *Our meeting in March will be in the Youth Room.*

**30 Hour Famine** — St. Paul's youth will participate in the 30 Hour Famine, Friday March 20 (7:30 PM) to Saturday, March 21 (6:00 PM). This event includes fasting from three meals, participating in a local mission project, learning about hunger and poverty, and spending time in fun and fellowship. This is an awesome event, but we need adult volunteers (chaperones, drivers, etc.) to help make this year's Famine a success. If you would like to volunteer to help with 30 Hour Famine, or for more information, please contact Pastor Allyssa (717-798-4541; [allyssaboyer@outlook.com](mailto:allyssaboyer@outlook.com)) Thank you!

**Pollyannas** will be having their next lunch meeting 11:30 am, Tues, March 24 at Brothers Family Restaurant on Gettysburg Pike. Please call Bonnie Plymette, 591-8471, if you are planning to attend.

**Calling all active members of St. Paul's!** - *St. Paul's on the Run* is organizing a team again for the *Harrisburg YWCAs Race Against Racism*. This year's run/walk will be held Saturday April 25th. The run begins at 8:30 am. Runners and walkers are encouraged to participate! It's a very nice event which begins on Commonwealth Avenue behind the Capitol Building in downtown Harrisburg. We have had great teams the past few years so we'd invite you to consider joining our team. Kathy Aumiller is again the team captain. Any questions about the run can be sent to her at [kaumiller56@gmail.com](mailto:kaumiller56@gmail.com). Register by visiting the YWCA website at <http://www.ywcahbg.org/events/16th-annual-race-against-racism#.Xk1q8CVOmaO> and click sign up now. Look for the St. Paul's on the Run team!

on the 2nd. Come out, learn something fun to make and enjoy some fellowship at the same time. This is something all ages will enjoy. Questions, please see Rev. Anna Thompson.



**Maundy Thursday Service:** Thursday April 9th at 6:30 PM. Entire Service will be in Fellowship Hall focusing on the Last Supper. Light Meal served



**Good Friday Service:** Friday April 10th 7:30 PM Similar to the Tenebrae; light and shadow, readings, prayer and reflection

**Easter Egg Hunt** — Grab your baskets and plan to join us for St. Paul's annual Easter egg hunt: Saturday, April 11! The hunt begins at 10:00 AM sharp; please arrive by 9:50 to ensure a smooth start, and please bring a basket along. This is a relaxed-pace event open to toddlers through 4th-graders and their families. Youth (grades 5 through 12) who help with the children's egg hunt are invited to stay for a Youth egg hunt. If you would like to help with the Easter egg hunt as an adult volunteer, please let Jonne Dundore or Pastor Allyssa know.



&



## Everyone is Welcome and Invited to the Following Events



**Lenten Reading Group**

**Lenten Group:** Mondays  
March 2nd thru April 6th – 1:00 PM & 7:30 PM in the Parlor.

**Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week** by Amy-Jill Levine.



**Palm Cross Workshop** Thursday April 2nd, 5:30 pm in the Commons. Come join us and assist in making the crosses that

will be handed out on Palm Sunday. If you would like to practice on paper before coming, check with Terry in the office for the directions. No problem if you would rather wait till you come

### Easter Sunday April 12th

**Sunrise Service:** 6:30 AM at Simpson Park Pavilion. Directions to Simpson Park: the park is in Upper Allen Township, 4.5 miles from St. Paul's where the Yellow Breeches meets South York Rd. From Mechanicsburg, take South Market St. (Route 114) to where it intersects with Lisburn Road, at the bottom of the steep hill in Bowmansdale, continue straight through intersection (do not turn left onto RT 114 Lisburn Rd), you are now on South York Rd. Go under the railroad overpass and immediately make a left into Simpson Park's parking lot. The Pavilion is up the path on your right.

### Easter Services at St. Paul's:

Early Service: 8:00 AM Worship with Pew Communion (*gluten free available*)

Late Service: 10:30 AM Worship with Pew Communion (*gluten free available*)



**Easter Breakfast** 9:15 AM St. Paul's Fellowship Hall

We hope you will join us at 9:15 AM in Fellowship Hall for our annual Easter Morning

Breakfast. Everyone is invited!

Drinks and place settings will be provided. Bring a dish to share. Ovens will be available to cook or warm hot items during the Early Service. Signup sheets are on the bulletin board in the commons. Please sign up so we have a count to set up for. *We will need some volunteers to help with set-up of the tables, cooking/serving and clean-up.*

Again, this year, in order, to allow our clean-up crew enough time to get to the 10:30 worship or to go to family events elsewhere, we will be using paper plates and utensils therefore eliminating the need to wash anything. We ask that you bring your food in a disposable container or place your name on your container. After the breakfast – the cleanup crew will clear the tables and move the dishes to the kitchen. If there is food remaining in the dish, it will be placed in the Fridge. Please remember to pick up your dish following the service.



**Dear Friends at St. Paul's,**

Thank you so much for the flowers and many cards and well wishes during my recent surgery and recovery. I am on the mend, but it's going to be a long process. It has been so helpful to know that friends are praying for me.

*Sincerely, Greg Miller*

**Souper Bowl of Caring – THANK YOU!** The Kansas City Chiefs may have won the big game, but at St. Paul's, the San Francisco

49ers scored the most donations in our annual Souper Bowl of Caring event. Our youth collected \$217.19 in the 49ers stock pot and \$173.76 in the Chief's stock pot. But the real winner is the fight against hunger: in total, St. Paul's raised \$390.95 to give to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank! Thank you all for your generosity and your commitment to reducing hunger in our region.

**Dear St. Paul's UCC:** Please accept this contribution given in memory of R. Nadine Boyer and given in gratitude for all the love and prayers freely offered in her behalf by this wonderful congregation. *Love Ann Boyer*

**Our heartfelt thanks** to our caring St. Paul's family for the beautiful flowers, cards and prayers after the unexpected loss of Betty's sister. We are grateful for all of your kindness. *Betty & Tom Olsen*

**To my St Paul's church family,** Thank you so much for all the prayers, flowers, cards, calls, visits and delicious meals during my long recovery from knee surgery. It was so nice having visitors since I can't get out much. I would appreciate continued prayers as my knee has not fully healed yet and my activities are very limited. I'm not sure when the brace will come off; it could be several more weeks. *Bonnie Plymette*

**Community Dinner Thank You:** There was a good turnout for the Mechanicsburg Churches Community Dinner on Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup>. Churches participating were: McBic, First United Methodist, Church of God, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran and St Paul's. In addition, Eckels Drug Store provided ice cream and Buhrig funeral home provided the location. Approx 80 guests with about 20 volunteers for a total of 100 enjoyed a meal of Ziti, Salad, Applesauce, Rolls, Cookies and Ice Cream. Also, Buhrig provided all drinks: 5 types of coffee, 5 types of hot tea, iced tea and water.

Our Thanks go out to the following who provided salad and/or dressing for this dinner: Karen & Kevin Allison, Melissa Cawley family, Barb & Bill Westhafer & Merikay & Don Wood.

**Thank You! Thank You!** Many thanks to everyone who helped in our Winter Pot Pie Sale--- from chicken picking, dough mixing/sheeting, cooking and preparing the pot pie, spreading the word for orders, and purchasing your quarts. We couldn't have done it without your help and support. The final tally: we prepared over 250 quarts and the profit is a whopping \$1,851.61!

We do still have a few available quarts available for sale at \$9.00 a quart. Check with the Scotts, Kerns or Terry in the Church office to get yours today before they are all gone and you have to wait till next October to get more!

*Patty and Dave Scott  
Brenda and Tim Kern*

**Shrove Sunday Fellowship – A Big Thank you** to Karen Allison, Melissa Cawley, Jonne Dundore, Rhoda Rupp, Dave and Patty Scott for donating and/or helping with the setup/cleanup for the Shrove Sunday Fellowship on Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and good food. I really appreciate all who attended and all who helped. *Terry Shaner, Parish Ministries Chair.*

## ***Our Dreams & Visions Into Reality***

### **Campaign launches in March**

All members are invited to the Sunday, March 15 Spaghetti Luncheon in Fellowship Hall right after the 10:30 AM service to celebrate the launch of the campaign that will help us reach our Dreams & Visions goals. If you haven't yet RSVP'd to the invitation in the February *Epistle* newsletter and as a flyer copy that was mailed to your home, **please sign up by Sunday, March 8.** Extra copies of the invitation flyer are in the church Common. **NOTE: Helpers are needed for set-up/take-down (sign-up sheet on bulletin board in the Common).**

On March 15, while you are enjoying lunch you will hear brief updates about progress regarding our church facilities repairs, refreshed look, and needed improvements for

a safe, secure, energy-efficient place to be and to serve others. You will also learn the total of gifts that have propelled the campaign with excellent starting momentum. At the end of the luncheon, you will receive an information packet prepared especially for you to take home to open and read.

In addition to marking your calendar for the March 15 luncheon, please also plan to join your church family on Sunday, March 29, for "Commitment Sunday." Announcements, all-church emails, and church bulletins will have additional details. We hope to see you on both dates!

### **The Gold Team**

#### **Traditional IRA Tax Law Modification for Tax-Free Gifts**

Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from 401(k) plans and Traditional IRAs have been modified starting in 2020 by the Secure Act that Congress passed at the end of 2019. The Secure Act pushes the age that triggers RMDs from 70 1/2 to age 72. The new law applies to those who turn age 70 1/2 in 2020 or later. (If you had turned 70 1/2 in 2019, you still need to take your first RMD by April 1, 2020, and your second RMD by year-end 2020.)

The Secure Act didn't change the age when you can start to use the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) opportunity -- it stays at age 70 1/2. That means that during a year-and-a-half window IRA distributions can be given directly to charity and not show up in your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). -- Information from *Kiplinger's Retirement Report* February 2020

This remains the same: If you have reached age 70 1/2, you can still transfer directly to charity any dollar amount up to \$100,000 from your Traditional IRA without paying any federal income tax, even if you do not itemize. Such gifts from Traditional IRAs might be an advantageous method of fulfilling your pledge(s) to St. Paul's general fund and capital campaign. Your financial institution advisor(s) can assist you in making the direct transfers based on a gifting schedule you select, such as monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. **Questions: please talk with campaign co-chairs Kathy Aumiller and Linda Miller.**

**The Blue Team (Security)** has had a walk-through by two security firms and another one is being scheduled with a third vendor. We have discussed changing to key fobs for access to the building. This would allow us to better secure the building and control who has access and when they access the building. We are looking into mounting cameras outside of the building to monitor the parking lot and property. We are checking into the possibility of adding a fire alarm system to the church building to replace our “bullhorn” announcing system. Finally, we are in the process of assembling trauma kits that would be available in the event of a major medical emergency. **See Dennis Plymette or Tim Kern with any questions or concerns.**

**The Green Team (Creation Justice)** had their first meeting of 2020 and are excited to research opportunities for a more sustainable planet. One of the many initiatives that we are working on is communication and education for the congregation as a whole. As such, we hope you enjoy our first submission to St. Paul’s Epistle.

The UCC has a great deal of information on their website, **ucc.org** that you can peruse at your leisure. Just in time for Lent, a Lenten calendar is available from **creationjustice.org** with suggestions for things we can do or think about throughout the season. Check it out online or on our new Green Team bulletin board in the Commons. Be on the lookout in upcoming bulletins for green ideas we can use at home, at church, and in the community. Think Green!

Every year, the average American family sends over 1,000 pounds of everyday household refuse to landfills and/or incinerators. Fortunately, we have the power to do something about this. There are many easy ways to reduce household waste.

**This Month’s Two Tips for Cutting Down on Household Waste**

1) Do a trash audit. What gets thrown away each week? What can be recycled? What might be composted? Are there single-use items that could be replaced with reusables?

2) Start recycling and look for ways to reduce what you recycle. This is a very simple way to keep trash out of landfills  
“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” *Arthur Ashe*

**The Red Team (Interior Beautification)** continues to make St. Paul’s a welcoming and cleaner place for fellowship, worship, and community service. Our most recent project included a cleaning and refreshing of the Youth Room, Christian Education Director’s office, and Narthex. Thanks to all who helped with that project! **If you’d like to be involved in future projects, contact Kim Pirtle or Kathy Williams.**

**Building Progress so far**

The winter has slowed down some of our forward progress on the building front, but we will be seeing much more activity in the near future. In the next few weeks you will see:

- The gable ends of the new Christian Ed building roof be covered with vertical metal siding.
- The Sanctuary roof will be torn off and the new under-structure and shingles will go up in its place. New gutters, downspouts and soffits will be put in place as well.
- The Steeple will be checked for any damage or wear and repaired/painted as needed.
- The HVAC (heating and cooling units) will be replaced with all new equipment in the sanctuary. You should know that the units in the sanctuary are now over 20 years old and are showing their age and inefficiency.

Later in the Spring we will continue to update and beautify. The General Contractor will be repairing any landscaping or lawn that they have damaged with their equipment. Plans will be created to address the new Restrooms and the HVAC in the Christian Ed building (that REALLY needs to be replaced and improved). **See Building Committee Co-chairs, Art Williams or Eric Dundore with questions or concerns!**