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**FROM THE PASTOR**

Together we remain part of the Body of Christ at work in the world, in particular in the greater Mechanicsburg area. While we need to remain separated in body for the health and safety of everyone, we remain connected in spirit. God continues to be present with each and everyone of us, even more so now in times of struggle. May we continue to listen for God's guidance and reach out in connection with one another.

At this point in time, all Worship Services and all events are cancelled for in-person participation through the end of April. This includes all Holy Week and Easter Services and events. We are having discussions about a "New Life" Service and Celebration when we return. We will continue to update everyone as to plans and any changes. We will continue to Live Stream our Worship on Facebook at 10:30 AM Sunday mornings, and upload it to our website. Terry and I will continue to be in our offices during the week (maintaining social distance) so we can coordinate all that continues to go on with the life of our Congregation. It remains busy. Allyssa and I meet (maintaining social distance) as we discuss and plan the best ways for us to maintain our programs. Eric and I meet (maintaining social distance) to discuss and plan Worship.

We will continue to discuss how we might expand our connections with each other. Terry is sending out daily All-Church emails with information and updates. If you are not receiving those and would like to, please let Terry know and give her your email address. Our Consistory Members are calling folks to check in. We divided up our Church Directory, so if you receive a phone call from a Pennsylvania number you don't know, it may be one of them. Herb Bomberger is reaching out to his Adult 1 Class. Called to Care is maintaining contact with people they connect with. Allyssa, after conversations with our Sunday School teachers, is sending out some Christian Education resources that can be used at home. If you have a child or grandchild at home and would like access to those resources, please contact Allyssa. We

are investigating some spiritual resources that could be accessed at home as well. We are looking at adding a Zoom account for the Congregation so we might have video conferencing options. We are trying to do our best, even as we all know it is not the same as seeing each other in person. We look forward to the day when we will be able to connect in that way.

We have looked at our calendar for May. There is too much uncertainty at this point to say for sure what we will or won't be able to do. We will reschedule or schedule any events we need to, such as Confirmation and Reception of New Members. If you have any questions at all about that, please contact us.

We are grateful for the contributions we have received to purchase food to help the Mechanicsburg School District provide food for children and families who lack food. The Schools have been offering breakfasts and lunches that can be picked up at the schools on Monday and Wednesday. This is a federal and state funded program. They also are putting together weekend food supplies that District Buses are delivering to those children and families who cannot get to the schools. St. Paul's is joining other Congregations who are donating food to these efforts. Our first assigned date to drop off food is Wednesday April 8. I have a feeling we will get another assigned date later in the month. We have people who have volunteered to shop for the food items needed. Monies donated will fund these purchases.

As you can see, we remain active in many different areas, and we continue to have bills we have to pay. If it is possible, and you are not already signed up for automatic payments to St. Paul's, if you could mail in your pledges to stay current, that would be a big help. If you want to sign up for automatic payments through your bank, we can help you do that as well.

I miss seeing and connecting in-person with our Congregation. I know that I am not alone. And I know, by following the guidelines, we are helping to flatten the curve, helping make not only ourselves and families safer, but also our immediate and extended community.

The only way we make this better is to work together. And it will get better. We will come through this. Hopefully we are being reminded in our isolation that nothing keeps God from being present with us. God is indeed with us and will continue to be. And we are being reminded that we are blessings to each other, and we can continue to be, and soon we will be able to be blessings in person again.

Stay safe. Be well. Take care.

Peace, Rev. John



*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 was March 22nd. St. Pauls' will accept donations to this special offering for two weeks after we are back in Church for our services. You can of course make a donation now by noting that it is for OGHS.

**CALLING ALL PEOPLE WHO ARE LOOKING TO GET OUTSIDE!** Mark your calendar now for our first Community Garden Work Day - **DRUM ROLL PLEASE – APRIL 18th**. Even though Cumberland County is now under the Governor's shelter in place order, our garden is obviously outside and will be providing much needed food and as long as we maintain social distancing, we feel this ministry should continue. Due to the current conditions, we cannot have more than 10 people gather, so we are going to try to limit our work day to two shifts of six people each - one from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM and one from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We will start by cleaning up the garden for the

season by rototilling and fertilizing and will also be planting early season crops - like radishes, beets and onions. Please bring your own garden gloves and kneepads. Bottled water, donated by Classic Cleaners, will be provided. We promise you will have a good time being outside and knowing your work will help to feed others. Since church services are online at this point, we will need you to sign up on the garden page of the church's website (<http://saintpaulsucc-mech.org/community-garden/>). Now more than ever this garden will provide much needed nourishment for people in Central PA.

**Sunday June 14. Save the Date!** 4:30 - 8:30 on Sunday evening June 14 in Fellowship Hall. Love to Dance? Hate to Dance? This event is for everyone - all ages, all dancers, all sitters. Dust off your dancing shoes, or wear your comfy sitting pants. There will be a DJ, pizza, desserts, music, and a cake walk. It's a great event to meet and hang out with your fellow St. Paul pew-mates. This special event is brought to you by the Youth and Stewardship Councils.

### **SAVE THE DATE!!**

Our VBS, based on the 3 LOVES - Love of Creation, Love of Children, Love of Neighbor, will hopefully be held June 22-24. It will be an inter generational program for all ages. Stay tuned for more details in the future.

### ***St. Paul's on a Mission Egg Update!!!***

Cumberland County is on "Stay at Home Orders" until April 30th. Brenda is still planning on making the eggs but not until the end of April (so they will be as fresh as possible.) The "After Easter Eggs" will be available when we are all together again, hopefully early May.

If you want to cancel your order *or if you didn't get a chance to order it is not too late*, please email Brenda at [bkern59@verizon.net](mailto:bkern59@verizon.net), or call her at 717-512-9838 (leave a message if no answer.) Reminder we make milk or dark chocolate peanut butter or coconut eggs for \$1.00 each. This is SPOM's biggest fundraiser in the year. And besides they really are yummy no matter what time of the year you are eating them!



**THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER:**

**Alex & Family; Joe Baker (W.Wentz); Donald Beaver (Keith); Barb Bell; Joann Bender; Jack Benoist (Ritter); George Bingaman; Barbara Blust; Bob & Nancy (Gabriel); Brian (Shearer); Brian (Riesmeyer); Missy Brouch (Myers/Mihmet); Tammy Boehm & Betty (Stork-Whitson); Annette Burke (Sutton); Anna Burns; David Bush & Family (Trout); Nancy Cabrera (Runkle); Jack Carr & Family (Williams); Deb Cashman; Sally Chiselko(Martek); Kirt Chronister; Alyssa Claar (A. Thompson); Pat Cleland; Mary Clark Coleman (Riesmeyer); Colin & Family (Gabriel); Stacy Cole (Ward-Diorio); Marc Cooley (Richey); Rich Cowan; Rita Davidson (Plymette); Hudson Davis (Riesmeyer); Dani DeLellis(Knox); Diane (Short/Larue); Evelyn Diorio; Ethan Dixon & Family; Jim Dougherty (Ritter); Grace Drager; Allen & Nanci Dreibelbis; Dixon Earley (Rushong); Susan Easton (Fox); Linda Eichelberger (Chronster); Erin (Short/Larue); Bob & Eve Fenner; Tom Figiel (Weiser); Diane Freeman; Anne French (Ward-Diorio); Ron Gabriel; Lenny Gardner (Shearer); Betty Goodfellow (Ritter) ;Floyd Gouse; Shirley Grammer; Greenawalt Family; Teri and Dave Guelcher; Jane Hall; Mandi Hannah (Hoehn); Wendy Hayden/Jodi Biss; Kermit Henning (A. Thompson); Phyllis Hershey; Joshua Holbrook (Nolan); Fenton Fox & Rick Holtzapple; Kirk & Eileen House (Murphy); Jay Houser (Haagen); Michele Hughes (Murphy); Jerry & Sandy Hutchinson (Burns); Lee Jackson; Jenny, Eric & Erica (Lingenfelter); Jim (Rhoads); Dan & Will Jones; Lily Jordan (Mullin); Karen & Margo (Stork-Whitson); Ken (Lantz); Rev. Dr. Chris Kennedy (Ward-Diorio); Dot Kinzer; Shirley & John Knisely; Jean & John Layne; Larry Linder (Stork-Whitson); Lori (Murphy); Naomi Losch (Endy); Manny & Louise (Sharp); Marie (Murphy); Sean McDonald & Crew of Roosevelt (Rushong); Stephanie McGonigle (Warfield); Ruby Menke (Warfield); Linda Meola (Roush); 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; Steve Mitchell; Becki Molinaro & family(Stork-Whitson); Roxanne & Steve Morgan (Dundore); Trendy Mowery (Aumiller); Randy, Dar & Sarah Murphy; Gene & Ruth Ann Myers (Boyer); Patricia Nalepka (Jon Nalepka); Tom & Betty Olsen; Ryan Onufer & family (Grice); Mary P. (Rhoads); Lynne Patton (Taylor); Don Perry (Ritter); Joy Perry; Bob Perry (Ritter); Bonnie & Dennis Plymette; Bobby Pfaff (Larue/Short); Marion Quinlan (Ward-Diorio); Randy (Bender); Richard Reba (Richenbacher); Robert Reiner (Bender); Amy Rhoads; Wes Rhoads; Jo Rice (Rushong); Jerry Roventini & Family (Boyer); Tom Row (S. Miller); Marian Royer; Rick Royle (Hoehn); Ned & Rhoda Rupp; Benny Rushong; Sam (Freeman); Irv Sanders(Kern); Robyn Scaer (Hoehn); Tom & Pat Schiffgens; Rev. Glenn Schultz; Jane & Tom Scott & Family; Dennis Scouler (Rushong); Erin Shane (Thorpe); Linda Shea & Family; Corky**

**Short/Candy Larue; Conner Snow & Family; James Sowell (Sandy Kline); Clarence, Nancy Steck & Donna Sterner; Tom Steel & Family (Shaver-Durham); Barbara Sterner; Cathy Thomas; Tracy Thrush Family; Bill Utley (Boyer); Evelyn Warfield; Anthony Warner(Simpson); Amy Wentz; Jason & John White; Dave Wightman (Trout); Peg Wightman; Fran Wolford; Suzanne Worley(Jones); Alexa, Lacey Worrall & Family (Ward-Diorio); Carl Yohn & Deb Kassahun; Jacqueline Young (Wentz)**

**Prayers for all those out in the front line: workers, volunteers & their families: All Heath Care and All who are working in the Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Visiting Nurses & Hospice; All First Responders; All in Retail keeping the essential stores open; All Truckers getting the essentials to the places; All who are making and delivering food; All who are manning the Food Banks; All law enforcement officers, who in addition to their regular duties are tasked with enforcing the needed guidelines; All waiting for COVID-19 test results; All those waiting to get tested, All who are separated from their families and for All across the World who are affected by the COVID-19 crisis.**

**APRIL Birthdays & Anniversaries**



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 02 Bill Cashman<br>Taylor Garman<br>Peg Wightman   | 17 Heather McNeese<br>19 Thomas Stavely<br>20 Megan Kern<br>Xavier Sufrin |
| 07 Deb Kassahun<br>Suzanne Sentman                 | 22 Herb Sutton  |
| 10 Joanne Miller                                   | 23 Timothy Kiner<br>Victoria Velez  |
| 11 Becky Drazba<br>Jennifer McCorkel<br>Kim Pirtle | 24 Bridget Reemes<br>Jordan Thompson                                      |
| 12 Julia Patton<br>Matt Stumpf                     | 25 Sarah Murphy<br>28 Ron Gabriel   |
| 16 Herb Bomberger<br>Jim Paulus                    | 30 Krista Bensel<br>Ally Moyer  |



- 10 Rhonda and Jake Jacobsen
- 19 Shirley and Greg Knox
- 23 Mary and Jack Runkle
- 24 Jennifer and Mike McCorkel
- 27 Gail and Butch Parthree

## ***Dreams & Visions Into Reality Capital Campaign***

**Building Update:** Due to the Governor's orders to stay in place, the roof contractors will not be starting the sanctuary roof project until further notice.

Wow is all we can say. St. Paul's thanks members of the property team for their hard work this past two weeks: Mike Aumiller, Kathy Aumiller, Eric Dundore, Jeff Dundore, Jonne Dundore, Dave Scott, Karin Stork Whitson, Art Williams, Kathy Williams & Don Wood. Thank you for everything you did! And I know all of St. Paul's joins us in thanking each of them!

### **Property Team – two weeks (March 16th – 27th) of progress!!**

I am truly amazed and thankful for the folks who contributed to all of the progress to our physical space over the last 2 weeks at the church.

I know we were taking advantage of the sad news of school and church closings, and were hampered by trying to achieve social distancing working in small teams but we have accomplished a lot of tasks over the last 2 weeks both small and large.

In no particular order:

- we had all tile flooring in the building stripped and waxed.
- we deep-cleaned the sanctuary, scrubbing the wood in the chancel and in all of the pews, and sanitized every hymnal and bible in the sanctuary.
- we erected scaffolding to scrub the wood paneling, in both the front and back of the sanctuary, from floor to rafters.
- we painted the (30 ft high) white wall at the back of the sanctuary on the inside.
- we painted the same wall, but outside up on the roof in dark brown.
- we scrubbed the stain glass of the circular window in the rear of the sanctuary, so it now allows the sun to shine in brightly on a sunny afternoon.
- we installed a new, much stronger steel cable to support the cross suspended over the altar (in anticipation of all of the pounding that will

occur when our contractor installs our new sanctuary roof).

- we completed the painting of all 260 linear feet of hallway in the church.
- we cleaned out the storage areas in the wings of the stage and some classrooms of their ancient 'treasures'.
- we completed the painting of classroom spaces where we hold Adult 1 Sunday school, and in the double room where we hold nursery time during service.
- we scrubbed and painted the Sexton's closet.
- we painted most door jambs in the church.
- we removed the huge, unused accordion room divider in the nursery.
- we scrubbed walls and surfaces, sanitized, repaired, and generally fixed up lots of little stuff.

Many people who wanted to help just couldn't due to increased risk of infection or work requirements. Thanks to you who were able, for your willingness to make our church a cleaner, more virus-free place that everyone can continue to be proud of when we can all resume regular services.

*Art Williams, 3/27/2020*

### **From the Gold Team:**

As everyone knows, we had to postpone the March 15th official kickoff of the Capital Campaign due to the state and national directives to "shelter in place" and "maintain social distancing" regarding the spread of COVID-19 as it turned into a global pandemic. We hope that you and your family have been staying safe during these somewhat uncertain weeks.

As this newsletter goes to press at the end of March, we are not sure when the Capital Campaign will be able to move forward. Hopefully, by sometime in April there will be a clearer sense about the timing for a rescheduled kickoff event.

In the interim, some facility repairs and refurbishment projects have moved forward to an extent. When we all return to the church, some brightening points within the church will be evident.

In support of the projects already in motion, perhaps some members would like to

provide advance gift(s) toward the Capital Campaign. A number of members had done that during the last quarter of 2019 and into the 2020 year. For their forethought and generosity, we are deeply grateful! It helped to pay some of the cost for Fellowship Hall's re-roofing and the new gable roof over the Christian Education building section. The Sanctuary roof is next. The less money the church has to borrow, the easier it will be to get it all paid off and allow St. Paul's to continue to flourish and provide outreach into the wider community.

If you wish to contribute toward the Capital Campaign in advance of the kickoff, feel free to send your check to St. Paul's UCC and note it at bottom "For Capital Campaign."

We will keep you informed via newsletter, All-Church email, announcements, and website. If you have any questions, please be in touch with co-chairs Kathy Aumiller (717-503-3277; kaumiller56@gmail.com) or Linda Miller (717-766-2072; LLouMiller@aol.com). Thank you!

### **Food Donations**

As many of you may know, a group of Pastors in Mechanicsburg have been meeting with the Mechanicsburg School District's Superintendent, Dr. Mark Leidy and other school administrators, learning more about all the District does for its students and families on top of educating our children. One of the important things we learned was the high percentage of our students who qualify for free or reduced meals: breakfast and lunch. Through the Wildcat Foundation, weekend backpacks with food are sent home as well.

Since the schools provide this nourishment for students, the District decided something needed to be done while the schools are closed. Breakfast and lunch bags with two days worth of food are handed out on Mondays and Wednesdays at the schools. This program is federally, and state funded. The weekend backpacks are not. Using existing donations, backpacks were distributed by School District Buses to families in lower income areas, since many of these families

lack adequate transportation. The School District has reached out to our Churches asking for food donations to help in this outreach. Several Congregations, including St. Paul's have volunteered. We are asking for your assistance.

The list of items contains the food sent home in each backpack. You have a couple of ways to contribute. You can bring these items to St. Paul's and drop them off prior to April 8 (call first to make sure Terry or I am here); you can bring these items to McBIC (Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church, 1050 S. York St., Mech.) on Wednesday April 8 between 10 AM and 2 PM where there will be a School District Box Truck to receive donations (they ask that you place your donation on the back lift of the truck); or you can make a financial donation to St. Paul's and we have some volunteers who will shop for these items. We will bring all our donations over to McBIC on April 8 between the listed hours. We are thinking we will be doing this at least one more time so if you can't do it prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> – stay tuned for updates.

If you have any questions, please contact Terry or me. Thank you for your consideration and Thank you to all who have already made a donation.

Peace, Rev. John

### **FOOD LIST**

Each bag we pack together will contain the following items:

- 2 cans of vegetables
- 2 cans of fruit
- 2 cans or pouches of protein (chicken, tuna, beans, etc.)
- 2 canned or boxed meals (spaghetti o's, soup, mac & cheese, soup, etc.)
- 1 box of pasta
- 2 single serve boxes/bowls of cereal
- 2 snack items (chips, pretzels, crackers, etc.)

# The Epistle

is a monthly publication of

**St. Paul's UCC  
1225 S. Market St.  
Mechanicsburg PA 17055**

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the  
United Church of Christ*

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

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

Pastor..... 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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00

Live stream worship Sunday morning at 10:30 am through St. Paul's Facebook page or view YouTube that will be posted shortly after on our webpage.

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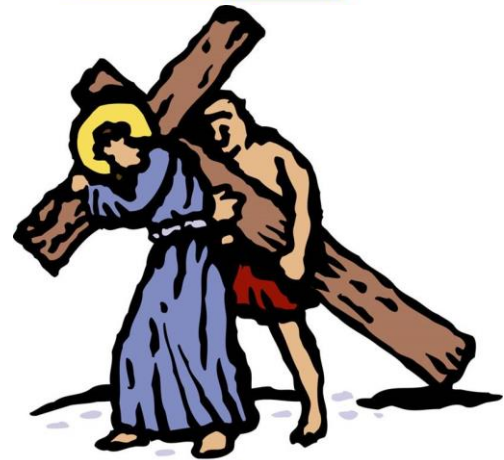
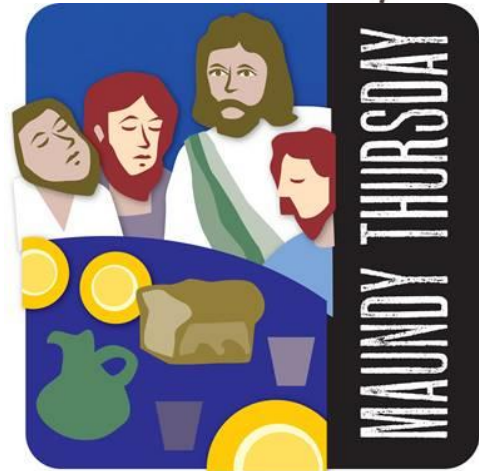
Web Address: [www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org](http://www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org)



St. Paul's Online Giving



Palm Sunday



Early on the first day of the week ...  
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

John 20:1, NRSV