



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
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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!***

*Live stream services on St. Paul's Facebook Page & YouTube Channel.*

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

Pastor.....The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio  
 Associate Pastor..... The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer  
 Administrative Assistant.....Renee E. Durbin  
 Director of Music.....Eric R. Dundore  
 Chorister's Director.....Jonneke A. Dundore  
 Assistant Music Director.....Mark A Dundore  
 Organist.....Sarah A Myers  
 Assistant Organist.....Patrice G. Miller  
 Audio & Video.....Jeffrey A. Dundore  
 Sexton.....Michael W. Hatz  
 Consistory President.....Sherry Spencer  
 Pastor Emeritus....The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold  
 Ministers.....The Entire Congregation of St. Paul's

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

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

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## FROM THE PASTOR

Much occurred during our Ash Wednesday Service: the Imposition of Ashes, the celebration of Holy Communion, our Lenten backpack receiving supplies, prayers offered, Scriptures read, meditations spoken and the Chancel Choir offering a beautiful rendition of "There is a Balm in Gilead." I am still singing that to myself (quietly I promise).

People reacted differently to the Service afterward. Many I can only speculate about because they seemed uplifted leaving the Sanctuary. Two people in particular spoke with me about how a new way of looking at Lent, and some of the music we sing, and Scriptures we read, had opened up for them and they were excited about reflecting on this going forward. And one person reflected that they still had no idea what the Ashes meant and what Lent was really all about, and what they were supposed to be doing or focusing on.

The Service did not touch them in the same way.

Such is the mystery of Worship, of our faith journeys together and

individually. Sometimes we are touched, moved, and sometimes we are not. Sometimes the Imposition of Ashes, the words "Remember You Are Dust and to Dust You Shall Return," this reminder of our mortality hits us hard, as we grieve our loved ones' deaths and our physical separation from them. Sometimes the Ashes remind us of our place in the whole of creation, and that can lead to a sense of peace or a sense of being inconsequential. Sometimes the Ashes remind us of our limits and the call to do what we can, given those limitations. Sometimes the Ashes are nothing more than a black mark on our foreheads or wrists that washes off.

Each of us, depending on where we are at any given moment, react differently to what happens in Worship. We hope to provide an experience that touches as many people as possible, opening up deeper connections with God, and we understand

that does not always happen. We additionally hope that people will not give up, if a particular Service leaves them with more questions than insights.

The Season of Lent, this journey we take over the next 40 days leading to Holy Week and Easter, is a time to put extra effort into making those connections, those deeper connections with God. Since such connections are not always made, we can be tempted to give up. Lent emphasizes the call not to give up, at least not for the next 40 days.

What helps us not give up? What helps us open the door further to new insights? Scripture can. Music can. Devotionals and prayer can. Serving others can. Worshiping together can. That is why we put those items as examples in our backpack and we carried it out because we have to take what is in that backpack out and work with it during our times outside of

Worship. We practice that during Lent. We see what works or works best of us. We think about what else we might add to the backpack that we have found we need.

Perhaps a journal? Perhaps some items to create a sacred place for prayer and meditation? Perhaps a blanket, so we can go outside to pray?

And the point is? Drawing closer to God; developing a more open spirit so we might better understand our connection with God, how God is seeking to offer us peace and love, and what God is calling us to do. For each person, that will be different, and it will not happen every time we pray or meditate. But we create an increased chance of that happening when we do pray more often, turn to God more often. So, we try, we commit for 40 days and we see what happens.

Sometimes, if we are fortunate, our practices then extend beyond Lent, into the whole timeline of our lives. So, each year, we see, we try.

May each of our Lenten journeys be full and fruitful this year. Peace, Rev. John



**St. Pauls UCC March 2023 Worship Leaders**  
**TimeToSignUp.com - Online Sign Up Sheets**

<b>Sunday, March 5, 2023 10:30 A.M.</b>	<b>Sunday, March 12, 2023 10:30 A.M.</b>	<b>Sunday, March 19, 2023 10:30 A.M.</b>	<b>Sunday, March 26, 2023 10:30 A.M.</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>
<b>Lector</b> Nancy Richey	<b>Lector</b> Eric Dundore	<b>Lector</b> Karin Stork-Whitson	<b>Lector</b>
<b>Worship Welcome Team Member - Common's Table - Consisto</b>	<b>Worship Welcome Team Member - Common's Table</b>	<b>Worship Welcome Team Member - Common's Table</b>	<b>Worship Welcome Team Member - Common's Table</b> Patrice Miller
<b>Worship Welcome Team Member - Electronic Door -Consistory</b> Sherry Spencer	<b>Worship Welcome Team Member - Electronic Door</b>	<b>Worship Welcome Team Member - Electronic Door</b>	<b>Worship Welcome Team Member - Sanctuary Exterior Door</b>
<b>Welcome Team Member - Sanctuary Exterior Door -Consistory</b> Steve Roush	<b>Worship Welcome Team Member - Sanctuary Exterior Door</b>	<b>Worship Welcome Team Member - Sanctuary Exterior Door</b> Sherry Spencer	<b>Worship Welcome Team Member - Electronic Door</b>
<b>Welcome Team Member - Sanctuary Exterior Door -Consistory</b> Steve Roush	<b>Altar Flower Delivery</b> Jane Leister	<b>Altar Flowers Delivery</b> Wendi Taylor	<b>Altar Flowers Delivery</b> Patrice Miller
<b>Welcome Team Member - Communion Server -Consistory</b> Wendy Hayden	<b>Kid's Place Attendant</b> Jonneke Dundore	<b>Kid's Place Attendant</b> Susan Ward-Diorio	<b>Kid's Place Attendant</b> Jonneke Dundore
<b>Welcome Team Member - Communion Server -Consistory</b> Nancy Richey	<b>Kid's Place Attendant</b>	<b>Kid's Place Attendant</b>	<b>Kid's Place Attendant</b> Art Williams
<b>Altar Flower Delivery</b> Nancy Richey	<b>Counting Team Member</b>	<b>Counting Team Member</b>	<b>Counting Team Member</b>
<b>Kid's Place Attendant</b>	<b>Counting Team Member</b>	<b>Counting Team Member</b> Sherry Spencer	<b>Counting Team Member</b>
<b>Kid's Place Attendant</b>			
<b>Counting Team Member</b> Sherry Spencer			
<b>Counting Team Member</b>			

**Church Calendar** - The most up to date calendar is on the Church website.  
 Help us keep it current by scheduling your events at the Church  
 thru the Office at [stpaulstaff@outlook.com](mailto:stpaulstaff@outlook.com) or 717-766-7931. Thank you.

# March Birthdays and Anniversaries

## BIRTHDAYS

03/01 Jennifer Sheaffer  
Patricia Scott  
03/02 Josette Grice  
03/03 Jill Morell  
Sherry Spencer  
03/04 Laura Ramsey  
03/07 Jessica Obrock  
03/08 Jennifer Martek  
Kevin Allison  
03/09 Jeffrey Nye  
Samantha Dickensheets  
03/11 Susan Thorn  
Darryl Wentz  
03/12 Slater Ward-Diorio  
03/14 Douglas Haas  
03/15 Elizabeth Mihmet  
Nancy Steck  
03/16 Jim Hoehn  
Leslie Hoehn  
03/18 Sofia McFarland

03/18 Jason Rhoads  
Luke McCorkel  
Kyle Miller  
03/20 Donna Sterner  
Jeffrey Dundore  
03/22 Kay Huber  
William Mullin Jr  
03/24 Carol Fleisher  
03/25 Julie Lantis  
03/26 Lois Ritter  
Wyatt Gates  
Michael Lamb  
E. Timothy Davinroy  
Chris Bowers  
03/28 Benjamin Eichman  
Michael Brown  
03/29 Susan Ward-Diorio  
03/31 Aaron Miller  
Thomas Olsen

## ANNIVERSARIES

03/02 Lloyd & Anita Miller  
03/03 Janet & Charles Wotring  
03/05 Herbert & Connie Sutton  
03/11 Chris & Tina Bowers  
03/21 Leroy & Jane Wentz Jr  
03/30 Julie & Rowdy Lantis  
03/31 Rebecca & Tim Drazba

**APRIL EPISTLE  
SUBMISSION  
DEADLINE:**

**Friday, March 17th,  
2023**

*Thank you to members of St. Paul's church family for the bouquet of altar flowers that were placed at our front door in February. It's so nice to have this gentle affirmation of others care and prayers for improved health. Hugs to all!*

*— Linda Miller & Bill Murray*

*Both Candy and I would like to take a moment of your time to send a heartfelt thank you to the Care Team and congregation for the outpouring of support we have and continue to receive. Your deeply felt Love, compassion, encouragement, and caring ways continue to help us get through healing and these trying times.*

*We are so blessed to have you in our lives and thank you from the bottom of our hearts. In September of 2019 we first walked into the Church of St Paul's UCC and quickly felt we found a home filled with loving people.*

*Thank you to our St Paul's family. Peace be with you.*

*--Candy & Corky*

*Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers. They brightened our day! We are thankfully on the mend. Thank you also for the cards, emails, and prayers. We are so blessed to be part of a loving and caring congregation.*

*--Joan and Ernie Moyer*

*To Our Church Family,*

*Thank you all so much for the beautiful altar flowers and prayer shawl delivered to our home on Jan. 29. And more importantly, thank you for the prayers.*

*--Alan & Diane Richenbacher*

**Thank You!**





**Addie (Stork-Whitson); Kevin & Karen Allison; Ann; Barb; Barb Bell; Marshall Bender; Cindy & Dick Bensel; Beverly (Hayden); Bill & Bob (Gabriel); Barbara Blust; Braylan; Brendan and Family (Richey); Brian (Shearer); Anna & Dale Burns; Nancy Cabrera (Runkle); Jeff Carlson (P. Miller); Alyssa Claar (A. Thompson); Pat Cleland; Mary Clark Coleman (Riesmeyer); Heather Connelly (Bomberger); John & Sheri Conner (Layne); Donna D'Agostino; Rita Davidson (Plymette); Emily Degnitz; Evelyn Diorio; Dotty (Richey); Allen Dreibelbis ; Nancy Dreibelis; Richard Ecks (Plymette); Linda Felton (Sponsler); Bob & Eve Fenner; Jerry Foulke & Lynn Carson; Fenton Fox & Rick Holtzapple; Diane Freeman; Steven Freeman; Ron Gabriel; Jack and Jean Gatesman (Richey); Bill Gladstone (Aumiller); Sandy Gordon; Floyd Gouse; Shirley Grammer; Harriet & Mark Grimm; Dr. Mark Hagenbuch (Bomberger); Jane Hall; Mike Hatz; Noah Helwig (Trout); Jim and Leslie Hoehn; Brenda Hoffer (Stork-Whitson); Beth Hough; Michele Hughes (Murphy); Ingrid (Richey); Janie (Biss); Dan & Will Jones; Josh (Ritter); Julia (Fox/Holtzapple); Elaine Kansy (Hoehn); Kathy (Simpson); Martha & Gene Keith; Stephen Keith; Rev. Dr. Chris Kennedy (Ward-Diorio); Jesse King; Dave Kirkwood; Glenn Kline; Sandy Kline; Kristine and Family (Ward-Diorio); Jean & Craig Layne; Leibowitz Family, Debbie Lever (A. Thompson); Liam (Simpson); Larry Linder (Stork-Whitson/Williams); Lori (Murphy); Luca; Taran M. (Taylor); Manny (Sharp); Marie (Murphy); Michael & Ernie (Richey); Michelle & Family (Mihmet); Charles Miller (Lloyd and Matthew's dad); Joanne Miller; Sue & Dayne Miller; Tasha Misner (Trout); Ernie Moyer; Nicolas Murillo (McFarland), Randy, Dar & Sarah Murphy; Beth Myers (Richey); Gene & Ruth Ellen Myers (Boyer); Susan Myers (A. Thompson); Nyugen, Thu (P. Boyer); Ryan Onufer & family (Grice); Jim & Mary P. (Rhoads); Potts (A. Boyer); Anne Rankin; Richard Reba (Richenbacher); Robert Reiner (Bender); Carol Rhoads; Jason & Rachelle Rhoads; Wes Rhoads & Family; Alan and Diane Richenbacher; Monisha Ridley; Franklin, Andrew, Levi Roth; Rhoda & Ned Rupp; Jane & Tom Scott & Family; Scott & Tracey (Davinroy); Jean Searle; John Shandra; Sherry (Short); Shondra; Corky Short & Candy LaRue; James Sowell (Sandy Kline); Barbara Sterner; Dory Szeles (Sterner); Wendi Taylor; April Thomas (Bomberger); Cathy Thomas; Tracy Thrush Family; Kathy (Wolford Witmer) Toth; Shannon & Phoenix Trout; Bill Utley (Boyer); Rosalie Utley (Boyer); Vickie (S. Miller); Suzy Weeks (Richey); Jean and David Weiss; Leita Wentz; Geri Williams (A. Thompson); Ryan Wilson (Bomberger); Chelsey Wirth; Fran Wolford; Mitchell Worley (Jones); Suzanne Worley (Jones); Kevin Young (A. Thompson); Zachary (Taylor).**

# Events & Announcements



## UCC HOMES HELPING HANDS AUCTION

The UCC Homes 27th Annual Helping Hands will again offer both an in-person experience and an online option! The Helping Hands Auction supports the Benevolent Endowment Trust Fund which enables UCC Homes to underwrite residents who are no longer able to pay for the cost of their care and who are not deemed eligible for governmental assistance programs. If you would like to contribute a monetary donation towards an auction basket from St. Paul's, please have your donation to the church office or deposited in the offering plate no later than March 5th. Please make checks out to St. Paul's. Contact Melissa Cawley (melissacawley@aol.com) with any questions.

spending time with you. Questions, contact Carol Sizemore, 717-858-3105

## ADULT 2 CLASS

Stories of Creation + Taking the Bible Seriously + Debunking the Rapture + Honoring Creation + Prayer: Intimacy with God - These and other topics will be discussed in the Adult 2 Class's upcoming series. Living The Questions 2.0: An Introduction to Progressive Christianity is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers. Featuring 35 of today's leading religious voices, each Sunday a short video segment will inspire our conversations on aspects of an evolving faith and concrete spiritual practices. Join us in Fellowship Hall to be part of these conversations. Questions: Contact Shirley Keith Knox at skeithknox@comcast.net.



## PRISM (PEOPLE RALLYING IN SINGLES MINISTRY)

All singles are invited to attend our potluck lunch after church on March 26. We will be gathering in the fellowship hall. Please bring a favorite dish to share. We look forward to



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

(Collected through March 19th)

OGHS supports partners in countries with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response.

## **SOUPER BOWL**

The Philadelphia Eagles may not have won in Phoenix, but they won in St. Paul's UCC's Souper Bowl! Thank you to everyone who donated to our Souper Bowl collection. The Chiefs' soup pot held \$156.35, the Eagles' soup pot held \$496.75, for a grand total of \$653.10, all of which will be donated to the Ecumenical Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity in helping to tackle hunger in our community!

## **LIFE AFTER LIFE SERIES**

What would life be like if there were no death? What is it like to die and what may await us when our spiritual body leaves our earthly one as Jesus promises? Starting Sunday, March 5 and continuing through Palm Sunday, SCS Adult one and two

will meet together and will be discussing these and many more questions surrounding our transition from earthly life to eternal life

Our facilitator will be the Rev. Herb Bomberger, retired UCC clergy and mental health clinician, who is a member of St. Paul's and the International Association of Near Death Studies (IANDS) professional division since its beginning. He had a near death experience (NDE) in 1976 when in an explosion on his farm. He occasionally experiences residual aftereffects to the present.

Herb will be joined by other resource persons, who will share their expertise. At the conclusion of the series, you should have a better understanding of why death should not be feared, what it may be like to transition, changes the NDE can have on a person's earthly life, preparation for end-of-life tasks and a greater, fuller appreciation of Jesus' Promise of Eternal Life and why we are "Easter People".

Hope to see you on March 5 for the "Adventure of a Lifetime".

## **LENTEN ENVELOPES**

For those of you with excellent memories, the next paragraph will sound familiar. That is because it is exactly the same as last year's appeal. And it still holds true today.

I hesitate to ask you to consider making an additional gift to St. Paul's, but I also know we can use any and all additional gifts we receive. My hesitation is because so many people have increased their pledges when asked this year and have and continue to fulfil their pledges to the Dreams and Visions Campaign. And yet I ask, because there are always uses for funds as we seek to be the Congregation God has called us to be. 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.

And what happened last year. Our Refugee Welcome Team began, very quickly, and has walked with the Perez family ever since. Funds raised through the Lenten offering are used in various ways that meet important needs. They help us keep being the Church and expanding what we can offer our community here and the communities we are part of beyond our Church walls. We are grateful for what people can offer, and in turn we are grateful for what we can then offer to others.

Peace, Rev. John

