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**FROM THE PASTOR**

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I hope you are persevering. Remember, God is with each and every one of us, all the time. Even when things seem to be the bleakest, God is there with us. In the midst of on-going concern and anxiety about getting the Covid-19 virus or giving it to someone else, how are families, friends and neighbors are doing, how the health care workers and all the essential workers are doing, how those who have been laid off or furloughed are doing, how those on the margins are being impacted even worse than most other people, in the midst of all that and more the loneliness of isolation can compound all our concern and anxiety.

I have always enjoyed interacting with people. I did not fully realize how much I *need* those interactions to feel hopeful about the day, and all that lays before us in the days to come. At least for myself, being able to look someone in the eye, hear their voice, share their tears and laughter, have even a brief conversation, is a concrete reminder that we are in this together, and together, guided by God's Presence, we will find new life, in small ways and large ones. I am so grateful for everyone who has reached out to me, and to everyone who has reached out to others. Whatever form those connections take these days, phone calls, email, Zoom, letters, a wave and a nod of the head, they make a difference. May we continue to love each other, being good neighbors with each other.

Our plans for the next couple of months and even into the Fall are still very up in the air. We will be following the news and listening for what health officials recommend. We will be developing plans A, B, and C. Though we very much look forward to the day we can Worship together again, sit in class together, have fellowship together, engage in outreach together, we will be very careful about "opening back up" so we are not putting anyone at greater risk. As you are aware, since we have not really experienced an epidemic quite like this, we are learning as we go. If we err, we will err on the side of caution.

Since so much is changing and sometimes very quickly, we will continue to keep you up to date via All-Church emails. If

you do not have an email and want to stay current, you can call another St. Paul's member who does. Terry or I can fill you in as well, but I will say, she and I have remained very busy over this time, so our recap may be rather condensed. If you have specific questions though, please do not hesitate to contact either one of us, as well as other St. Paul's folks.

We are very grateful for the donations we recently have received. We thank you for your pledges, your advance pledges, and the extra donations you have offered. We are still behind because of the shortfall in plate donations we usually receive. If you can offer those, we would be very appreciative. One long-time member, who will remain anonymous, recently called Terry and asked her if she would help him walk through setting up the on-line banking process, where your bank sends us the donation you would like to make each week, or month or however you would like to set it up. Afterwards, this person and I talked, and they said: 'wow that was really easy! I cannot believe I didn't set this up before.' It can be done, and it is not painful.

Thank you again for all your gifts. Do not, never underestimate the gift of your presence. God's Presence can be felt when we reach out and make connections. Such connections are always important, and even more so at the moment.

Stay safe. Be well. Take care.  
Peace, Rev. John

**Vacation Bible School** is currently scheduled for June 22, 23, and 24. However, in light of the coronavirus pandemic, how we do VBS may look very different this summer, and require even more creativity and flexibility. The Council for Christian Education is working on planning possible alternatives to our traditional VBS program. If you have any suggestions, or would like to volunteer to help organize or run VBS, please contact Pastor Allyssa. VBS is one of the most influential ministries in the life of our church. Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and prayers as we seek to figure out the best way to adapt VBS for our present circumstances.

## ***Celebrating our New Graduates***

St. Paul's UCC treasures the opportunity to recognize all of the hard work of our new graduates and commend them for their accomplishments. This year we will create a digital photo collage of our new graduates, which we will share on social media, as well as a collage on poster board that we will display at the church building. If you or your loved one is graduating from high school, college, trade school, or graduate school, and would like to be included in our celebration, please email us with:

- A photo of the new graduate
- Information about their diploma/degree
- Information about their future plans

Please indicate whether you would like your photo, name, and/or information published on our digital collage online, or only on the poster board collage that will be displayed in our church building. Please email the above to Allyssa Boyer ([allyssaboyer@outlook.com](mailto:allyssaboyer@outlook.com)) by **Wednesday, May 13**. We are planning to further celebrate our new graduates by delivering a gift from the congregation, as well as a sweet treat, to their homes. Congratulations, class of 2020! We are so proud of you!

**Sunday June 14** - The Youth and Stewardship Councils had been planning a DJ event for all ages on this date. However, with the pandemic, the councils are meeting on May 11 to discuss future plans.

***SPOM Fundraiser – Egg update!*** If you ordered eggs Brenda Kern is planning on filling all orders and having them available at the church pavilion on the next garden workday, Saturday, May 9th from 9 to noon. The eggs will be made and wrapped using gloves by Brenda and 1 other person in her home. This is SPOM's biggest FUNDRAISER and that is so important! She will not be handling any money. A money box will be on a table for payment. Please try to bring exact change (there will be change, you will make your own change) or check made out to Brenda Kern. Your orders will be bagged as usual and will be in alphabetical order on tables 6 feet apart. Please stand at least 6 feet apart if a line starts

for payment. If you cannot make the pickup time, let Brenda know. Thank you for your continued support! Be safe and healthy.



***To St. Paul's Members*** - Thank you for all the prayers, cards and inquiries after my recent surgery. I truly appreciated it, *Gene Shaner*

Wow – The UCC Churches in the Penn Central Conference donated a total of 825 fabric face masks for the residents of UCC Homes. Of that 825 – 181 of them were made by St. Paul's members: Elaine Daly, Sally Haas, Kathi McConnell, Kit Royer, Patty Scott, Sherry Spencer and Merikay Wood. Our thanks for responding so quickly to the needs of those in the of those in the UCC Nursing Homes.

From Victoria Velez, UCC Homes: A HUGE THANKS to all the churches and church members who responded to our need for donated fabric face masks for the residents of UCC Homes. Words cannot express the gratitude we have for our partners in this faith-based ministry. UCC Homes has always been blessed with strong support from our sponsoring congregations but feel your love even more during these trying times.

**Mechanicsburg School Food bags** – We thank all of you who have donated to the food collection that was dropped off at McBIC on Wednesday April 29th. They have indicated that as of now, they have a surplus on hand and feel it will cover the need for the rest of May. Thank you all for your continued support of our Neighbors in Need.

**Building News** - While COVID-19 has us hunkered down in our homes, our Church building/grounds is being taken care of. Our thanks go out to Kathy & Mike Aumiller, Eric, Jonne & Jeff Dundore, Dave Scott, Art & Kathy Williams & Don Wood. Between them they have laid down mulch, cleaned out storage areas, pulled weeds from our flower beds, and applied fresh paint to the walls in our building. Thank you for your dedication to St. Paul's!

## Prayer Concerns

We are grateful for the Prayer Concerns you offer us. Thank you for emailing them or calling them in. We send them out to our Prayer Chain as we receive them. We also share new and updated concerns on Sunday morning.

Since we are livestreaming on Facebook, we have decided it is best to just use people's first names and not go into too much detail about what is going on. Our concern is people outside the Congregation might try to somehow use information from those prayer concerns to manipulate or scam the people we are praying for. We do not want that to happen.

If you have a question as to who exactly we are praying for or what is going on, please call the office and Terry and I can share more information.

Thank you for your understanding.

Stay safe. Be well. Take care.

Peace, Rev. John



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

**Alex & Family; Joe Baker (W.Wentz); Donald Beaver (Keith); Barb Bell; Joann Bender; Jack Benoist (Ritter); Bill & Bob (Gabriel); George Bingaman; Jody Biss; Barbara Blust; Steven Boyer; 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, Sabrina Dixon & Family; Jim Dougherty (Ritter); Grace Drager; Allen & Nanci Dreibelbis; Dixon Earley (Rushong); Linda Eichelberger (Chronster); 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); Kermit Henning (A. Thompson); Sharon & Tom Herrold; Phyllis Hershey; Joshua Holbrook (Nolan); Fenton Fox & Rick Holtzapple; Donna Hooker (D. Miller); 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; Heather Johnson-McNutt & Family (Ward-Diorio); Lily Jordan (Mullin); Karen & Margo (Stork-Whitson); Kayden Kelly (S. Miller); Ken (Lantz); Rev. Dr. Chris Kennedy (Ward-Diorio); Molly Kilkenny (Eckman); Dot Kinzer; Glenn Kline; 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; Roxanne & Steve Morgan (Dundore); 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; Bobby Pfaff (Larue/Short); Brenda Pogue (Short/Larue); 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 Selch (Short/Larue); Erin Shane (Thorpe); Linda Shea & Family; Holly Sidesinger (Short); Conner Snow & Family; James Sowell (Sandy Kline); Clarence, Nancy Steck & Donna Sterner; Tom Steel & Family (Shaver-Durham); Barbara Sterner; Cathy Thomas; Tracy Thrush Family; Ron Unrsh (S. Miller); Bill Utley (Boyer); Evelyn Warfield; Anthony Warner (Simpson); Cookie Watts (Shaner); 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.**

# MAY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 01 Kimberly Basehore   | 15 Mary Runkle      |
| 02 Cameron Burns       | Ezra Thrush         |
| 03 Milo Stavely        | 16 Allyssa Boyer    |
| 04 Val Chapman-Jones   | Linda Shea          |
| Martha Spong           | Liam Urmston        |
| 05 Emily Pineo         | 17 Mackendra Shea   |
| 07 John Knisely        | 18 Glenn Kline      |
| Gregory Miller         | Joan Moyer          |
| 08 Andrew Wentz        | 20 Leo Garman       |
| 09 Kathryn Amtower     | Rick Holtzaple      |
| Joy Perry              | 22 Marsha Greak     |
| 10 Bruce Perry         | 23 Rachael Cashman  |
| 12 Clarence Solt       | 24 Kathi McConnell  |
| Cassidy Westbrook      | 25 Linda Alburger   |
| 13 Rhonda Jacobsen     | Lloyd Miller        |
| Becca Strock           | 27 Michael McCorkel |
| 14 Katelyn Chamberlain | 28 Deena Davis      |
| Gail Parthree          | 29 Sue Mullin       |
| 15 Brynn Bergstresser  | 30 Ned Rupp         |



- 02 Chris and Dave Grice
- 03 Susan and Ed Thorn
- 03 Michael Nolan & Karin Right-Nolan
- 06 Joy and Bruce Perry
- 08 Cheryl and Ken Malick
- 09 Kristine and Richard Amtower
- 11 Barbara and William Westhafer Sr.
- 13 Anna and Dale Burns
- 19 Leann and Tim Davinroy
- 19 Mary Jane & Al Huebner
- 21 Amy and Milo Stavely
- 24 Brenda and Tim Kern
- 25 Merikay and Don Wood
- 28 Winnie and Darryl Wentz
- 31 Tracy and Michael Shea



# The Epistle

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*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the  
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**Comments, suggestions, and  
 submissions are welcome!**

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 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  
 on St. Paul's UCC Facebook page at  
<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsuccmechanicsburg/> or  
 view YouTube that will be posted shortly after on our  
 webpage & on St. Paul's YouTube channel at  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/UCCStPauls/videos>*

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