

## PASTOR'S PRAYER

Gracious, Giving God, we thank You for the many gifts You have bestowed upon us. We are grateful for our Church building, which has allowed us to welcome one and all to Worship You; learn more about You and Your calls to us; and be in fellowship with one another, as we plan how best we will reach out in service beyond our doors. Please bless our efforts as we seek to raise the funds we need to repair, renovate and upgrade our Church, so it might more energy-efficiently and safely house us, allowing us to continue to focus on following Jesus' words and way, reaching out in service in Your Name to all people, to all these, Your Children.

- Amen.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
626 Williams Grove Rd.  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
[www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org](http://www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org)



St. Paul's United Church of Christ



## Dear St. Paul's Members and Friends,

We have been sharing our dreams and gathering our visions. Old and young, and those in between have all contributed. We recognize God is still speaking to us; Jesus teaches us and models for us the best ways we can live; and the Holy Spirit stirs within us. As a Congregation, where do we go from here?

We have been doing good work together. As our Open and Affirming Covenant states, we welcome one and all into the full life of our Congregation. We live into this welcome, providing a space for people to be accepted as they are, perhaps for the first time by a Church. We help other Congregations begin this journey toward living out God's inclusive love. We gather food from our garden and grocery stores, sharing it with those who are hungry. We make meals for people we know and don't know. We visit those who are sick or lonely. We find shelter for those without it. We raise funds to fight diseases that devastate families and claim friends. We Worship with our whole beings and sing and hear incredibly beautiful music. We teach our children, and as adults realize there is much still to learn. We seek to understand why we separate ourselves from God and others, and work to overcome that separation.

We choose to live into the UCC's Three Great Loves: Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation, striving to be examples of what God's Inclusive Love looks like at work in the world, and helping others to live into that as well.

To continue and expand our Worship, witness and work, to keep those doors of ours open to all, we must repair, renovate and upgrade the facilities we have been blessed with. New roofs, new HVAC, new bathrooms, new solar panels, additional security, additional space, and other manners of renovations are needed.

We will continue to keep everyone up to date. The upgrades to our roofs have begun. Our Feasibility Study is complete, with a clearer idea emerging of how much we can raise. Our visions are still broader than our Study's financial responses indicate we can cover, but as usual we will work within our means. Kirby-Smith and Associates will continue to help us secure these funds through their visits and discussions with each of you. Please prayerfully consider how you can volunteer to help and what kind of financial commitment you can make. We would love to exceed even the generous offerings first shown through the Feasibility Study's estimate. Please continue to pray for all the efforts going into our work, and for God's guidance about how much each of us can offer financially over the next three years. Let us seek to fulfill the dreams and visions God has given to us. Together we can make it so.

Peace, Rev. John



As the Co-Chairs of the campaign, we are honored to be spearheading this important fundraising initiative in the life of our church. We hope that you will support the plans that have been developed over the past two years and contribute financially in order to continue to keep St. Paul's at the forefront of service to community, children, and the environment.

- Linda Miller & Kathy Aumiller



As a member of over 50 years, the values and beliefs of St. Paul's agree with ours. It's the special people, pastors, staff and members, both past and present, that make it the right choice for us. As with a home, maintenance and upgrading is essential to the active life of our congregation. We fully support the current building program. The team of dedicated members who are overseeing this project are doing an excellent job, and keeping the congregation well informed along the way. We are so blessed to have them.

- Don & Merikay Wood



In the fall of 2017, and after 37 years together, we found a church, a pastor, and a congregation that lives out that open and affirming declaration not only on paper, not only in word, but also in many individual actions, woven into the fiber of the congregation. We found a church that acknowledges us as a couple, but also as individuals who are loved by God and who can contribute to the mission of this church. This congregation honestly does not recognize how special it is. In it, we have found a beautiful church family and a very special circle of friends.

- Jody Biss & Wendy Hayden



For both of us and our sons, the people at St. Paul's have become our family, our best friends, our loved ones. It's more than just the music that we are proud of. We will always be committed to supporting St. Paul's as we serve those in the congregational family and those far beyond who need God's love and care.

- Eric & Jonneke Dundore



At St. Paul's, our family found an inclusive and caring community of faith. St. Paul's provides the opportunity and space for each member of our family to grow in faith in a way that emphasizes compassion and justice for everyone and everything. We support St. Paul's Capital Campaign so that the programs and ministry that mean so much to our family can reach even more people and continue to grow.

- Megan & Aaron Riesmeyer (Elsa, Mia)



St. Paul's has been a tremendous partnering church! Many of their congregants come here on a regular basis to minister in the food pantry, special events, along with other areas of ministry. They bring to us the luscious fruits of their labor each summer from their wonderful garden so our guests have fresh vegetables to enjoy. We are also blessed to partner with Rev. John in helping change the lives of those who come to him with needs.

- New Hope Ministries