

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
626 Williams Grove Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: 717-766-7931

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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!

Please wear a mask inside.

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
Pastor/CE & Youth Director..... Allyssa A. Boyer
Administrative Assistant.....Renee E. Durbin
Director of Music.....Eric R. Dundore
Chorister' 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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00 ♦ Office email: stpaulstaff@outlook.com
Phone: 717-766-7931

Rev. John's email: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Allyssa's email: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

Eric's email: ericdundore@outlook.com

Web Address: www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsuccmechanicsburg/>

FROM THE PASTOR

Lent is upon us. This is now the third year (I think—time feels mashed together) where Covid will be impacting what we are doing. As has been true for so much, Lent, like life, continues to happen, and it is up to us to adjust as to how we will safely participate in it. And we are called to look at this time, the forty-day journey, and ask ourselves: what will I do during this time to draw closer to God, so each of us may more clearly hear God's reassurance, peace and love, and God's unique calls to us.

While Lent is a time of self-reflection, we may not have recognized how previously we did this self-reflection in the company of each other. Being part of a Congregation, a Community of Faith, reminds us we do not walk this path alone. When we are able to gather, we are reminded by each other's presence that our journeys are encouraged, supported, and sustained through each other's presence. And our concrete bodily presence with each other, also reminds us of God's Presence with us, that God's Spirit is within us, accompanying and guiding us. We do not travel alone.

Lenten devotionals are available again. You may have old ones or books that have devotions within. Pick something and try to read it each day. The discipline of such a daily practice enables us to better engage in other disciplines: prayer, meditation, walking meditation, times of silent reflection. It also helps us to more regularly engage in other actions that are geared toward helping others. The Lenten reading group will be meeting again. We will meet in-person in the afternoon. We are still looking at whether an evening group, either in-person or via Zoom is something people want to do. If you are interested in such a gathering, please let us know.

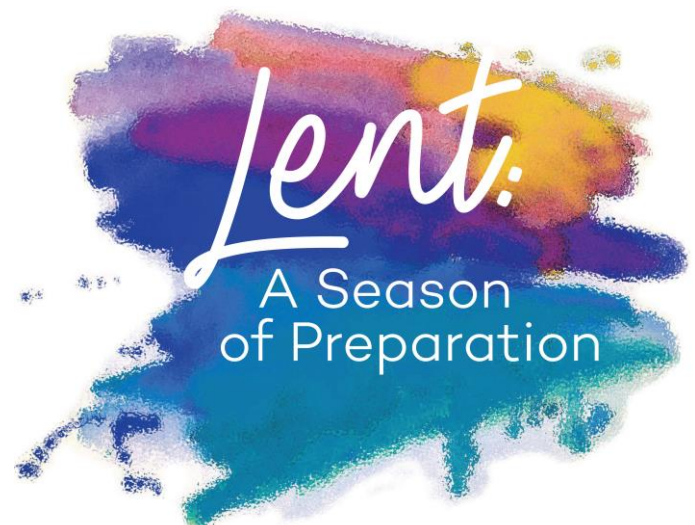
We will have an Ash Wednesday Service in-person this year. We will also offer the Imposition of Ashes outside in the morning, in a "drive-through" fashion. Please look for the time that will be offered.

Our Lenten Sunday Services will be focused on this journey we are making, alone and together. Each Sunday will have a particular focus on aspects of our journeys.

Our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services will be structured differently this year. We will have a Sunrise Service; the location is still to be determined. Easter, the celebration of new life will reveal itself again this year. We will need to be paying attention, so we get to experience it.

There are ways we can participate together. I hope we will choose, always keeping our health and the health of others in mind, to engage in our Lenten journeys with each other, remembering our presence points to the Presence of God within us, among us and through us.

Peace, Rev. John



2022 CONSISTORY HAS BEEN INSTALLED!



Consistory is the governing body of St. Paul's UCC.

This group meets once per month. It consists of deacons, elders, and the pastor. Deacons are elected by the congregation and serve a two-year term. To be a deacon, you need to have been a member of St. Paul's for one year. To serve as an elder, you must have served as a deacon. Elders also serve a two-year term.

Duties of Consistory members include serving communion, serving as head usher for one month per year, being a liaison to one of the various committees, setting policy for the church and representing the congregation between its annual meetings.

To help you get to know your consistory, each month, we will highlight a member of consistory.

Name: Carol Sizemore

"I visited St. Paul's many times before joining in 2009. I found this church when attending a



PFLAG meeting. While visiting I experienced how welcoming our church family is and learned St. Paul's stands by their ONA statement."

Fun Fact about me: I moved to Mechanicsburg two years after retiring. I enjoy reading, cooking, traveling, gardening, spending time with my sons and their families and with my friends.

Term Started: 2019

Term Ending: 2022

Committee Liaison to: Called to Care

I like working with the Called to Care committee because: I already serve on CC so it seemed like the best choice.

"I have learned so much about St. Paul's while serving on Consistory. I'm happy I had the opportunity to meet and work with so many other members of our church family."



THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER: Addie (Stork-Whitson); Alex & Family; Kevin & Karen Allison; Amy & Mike (Fox); Joe Baker (W.Wentz); Barb Bell;

Joanne Bender; Mary Bensel; Beverly (Hayden); Bill & Bob (Gabriel); George Bingaman; Tina & Chris Bowers; Aileen Blanc (Ritter Butz); Barbara Blust; Melba Bomberger; Brian (Shearer); Brian (Riesmeyer); Missy Brouch (Myers/Mihmet); Jenny & Erica Budd (Lingenfelter); Anna & Dale Burns; Nancy Cabrera (Runkle); John Callaghan (Wotring); Sally Chiselko (Martek); Tom Chronister (Chronister); Cindy (Rhoads); Alyssa Claar (A. Thompson); Pat Cleland; Mary Clark Coleman (Riesmeyer); John & Sheri Conner (Layne); Rich Cowan; David (Mullin); Rita Davidson (Plymette); Hudson Davis (Riesmeyer); Evelyn Diorio; Ethan Dixon & Family; Dotty (Richey); Jim Dougherty (Ritter); Allen Dreibelbis; Richard Ecks (Plymette); Linda Eichelberger (Chronister); Harry Felton (Sponsler); Bob & Eve Fenner; David Fetterman (Aumiller); Tom Figiel (Weiser); Dawn Fox; Fenton Fox & Rick Holtzapple; Diane Freeman; Ron Gabriel; Lenny Gardner (Shearer); Bill Gladstone (Aumiller); Betty Goodfellow (Ritter); Tina Gordon (Burns); Floyd Gouse; Shirley Grammer; Harriet & Mark Grimm; Teri & Dave Guelcher; Dr. Mark Hagenbuch (Bomberger); Jane Hall; Noah Helwig (Trout); Jim and Leslie Hoehn; Brenda Hoffer (Stork-Whitson); Gloria Hoffman; Joshua Holbrook (Nolan); Jay Houser (Haagen); Michele Hughes (Murphy); Lee Jackson & Brian Medkeff-Rose; Jane Leader Janeczek (Aumiller); Janie (Jody Biss); Jeff (G.& P. Miller); Joe (B. Thompson); Dan & Will Jones; Julia (Fox/Holtzapple); Elaine Kansy (Hoehn); Martha & Gene Keith; Stephen Keith; Rev. Dr. Chris Kennedy (Ward-Diorio); Jesse King; Bob Kinkley (Fox); Glenn Kline; Sandy Kline; Kristine and Family (Ward-Diorio); Audra Kucharick (Aumiller); Jean & John Layne; Debbie Lever (A. Thompson); Larry Linder (Stork-Whitson/Williams); Lori (Murphy); Naomi Losch (Endy); Luca (Knox); Taran M. (Taylor); Manny (Sharp); Marie (Murphy); Margueritte (Myers); Martin Family (Ward-Dirorio); Joe Mazzei

(Mihmet/Myers); Michael (Richey); Michelle & Family (Mihmet); Charles Miller (Lloyd and Matthew's dad); Jessica Miller (Chapman); Joanne Miller; Linda Miller; Melissa Miller (Bender); Sue & Dayne Miller; Tasha Misner (Trout); Steve Mitchell; Ernie Moyer; Randy, Dar & Sarah Murphy; Beth Myers (Richey); Gene & Ruth Ellen Myers (Boyer); Nicole & Family (Westhafer); Bob Nies (A. Thompson); Ryan Onufer & family (Grice); Jim & Mary P. (Rhoads); Lynne Patton (Taylor); Pattie Poole (Fox/Holtzapple); Randy (Bender); Richard Reba (Richenbacher); Robert Reiner (Bender); Carol Rhoads; Jason & Rachelle Rhoads; Jo Rice (Rushong); Nancy, Tom & Dan Richey; Sandi Ritter-Butz; Rose & Pat (Short); Franklin, Andrew, Levi Roth; Tom Row (S. Miller); Rhoda & Ned Rupp; Betsy & Benny Rushong; Sam (Freeman); Jane & Tom Scott & Family; Scott & Tracey (Davinroy); Debbie Sharp and Family; Corky Short & Candy LaRue; Conner Snow & Family; James Sowell (Sandy Kline); Tom Steel & Family (Shaver-Durham); Barbara Sterner; Dory Szeles (Sterner); Wendi Taylor; April Thomas (Bomberger); Cathy Thomas; Edward Thorn; Tracy Thrush Family; Kathy (Wolford Witmer) Toth; Shannon & Phoenix Trout; Betty Underwood & Family (Richey); Ron Unrsh (S. Miller); Bill Utley (Boyer); Rosalie Utley (Boyer); Evelyn Warfield; Anthony Warner (Simpson); Billy Webber (Ward-Diorio); Suzy Weeks (Richey); Amy Wentz; Leita Wentz; Geri Williams (A. Thompson); Lou Ann Williams (Cashman); Ryan Wilson (Bomberger); Chelsey Wirth; Fran Wolford; Mitchell Worley (Jones); Suzanne Worley (Jones); Kevin Young (A. Thompson); Russell Young (Rushong)



Do you have an update to the prayer list? Let us know in the church office.



Articles for the March Epistle are due to the Church Office by end of the day, Wednesday, Mar. 23rd.

Church Calendar - The most up to date calendar is on the Church website. Help us keep it current by scheduling your meetings & other events at the Church thru the Office at stpaulstaff@outlook.com or 717-766-7931. Thank you!



Services are now livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.



MARCH Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 3/01 Jennifer Sheaffer | 3/18 Luke McCorkel |
| Patricia Scott | Kyle Miller |
| 3/02 Josette Grice | 3/20 Donna Sterner |
| 3/03 Jill Morell | Jeffrey Dundore |
| Sherry Spencer | 3/22 Kay Huber |
| 3/04 John Layne | William Mullin Jr |
| 3/07 Jessica Obrock | 3/24 Carol Fleisher |
| 3/08 Jennifer Martek | 3/25 Julie Lantis |
| Kevin Allison | 3/26 Lois Ritter |
| 3/09 Jeffrey Nye | Wyatt Gates |
| 3/11 Susan Thorn | Michael Lamb |
| Darryl Wentz | Tim Davinroy |
| 3/12 Slater Ward-Diorio | Chris Bowers |
| 3/14 Douglas Haas | 3/28 Benjamin Eichman |
| 3/15 Elizabeth Mihmet | Michael Brown |
| Nancy Steck | 3/29 Susan Ward-Diorio |
| 3/16 Jim Hoehn | 3/31 Aaron Miller |
| Leslie Hoehn | Thomas Olsen |
| 3/18 Jason Rhoads | |

MARCH Anniversaries

| |
|------------------------------|
| 3/02 Lloyd & Anita Miller |
| 3/03 Janet & Charles Wotring |
| 3/05 Herbert & Connie Sutton |
| 3/11 Chris & Tina Bowers |
| 3/21 Leroy & Jane Wentz Jr |
| 3/30 Julie & Rowdy Lantis |
| 3/31 Rebecca & Tim Drazba |

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

ACOLYTE

LECTORS

| |
|------------------------|
| 3/6 Shirley Keith Knox |
| 3/13 Chris Bowers |

3/20 Karin Stork-Whitson

3/27 Kathy Williams

USHERS

Head Usher: Megan Riesmeyer

3/6 Steven Roush, Sherry Spencer, Rebecca Drazba, Wendy Hayden

3/13 Shirley Keith Knox

3/20 Mary Runkle, Clarence Solt Jr.

3/27

FLOWER DELIVERY

3/6 Kim Pirtle

3/13 Jonneke Dundore

3/20 Bonnie Plymette

3/27 Darryl and Winnie Wentz

COMMUNION PREPARER

3/6 Steven Roush

NURSERY HELPER

3/6 Kim Pirtle, Joan Moyer

3/13 Jonneke Dundore

3/20 Sue Ward-Diorio, Jonneke Dundore

3/27

Please visit the church website at <http://www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org/> to sign up to Acolyte, Usher, Lector, deliver the Altar Flowers, and/or sponsor Altar flowers. You will find the individual sign-up sheets under the "Serving Others" menu heading.



Dear Friends of St. Paul's, I have been touched by your thoughtfulness and thinking how nice it is to

be remembered by you. I think of you everytime I look at the bouquet of flowers. Thank you! I hope to see all your smiling faces soon.

With gratitude,
Judith and David Clovsky

Dear St. Paul's family,
There aren't enough words to express my gratitude for all of the support, friendship, notes, prayers and love that you have extended to me and my family these past few months. I have truly felt God answering your prayers with surges of courage and strength, a positive outlook, and my amazing healthcare team at The James Cancer Center at OSU. We are so grateful to have finally found our church home at St. Paul's. Thank you for welcoming all three of us into this congregation. We can't wait to get back to singing with the choir and getting involved in many more ways in upcoming months. So, thank you, and as Sherry Spencer said so perfectly in her stewardship message, "We love you!"

~ Nancy Richey

A BIG thank you to the Spring Pot Pie Sale kitchen staff – all the chicken pickers, dough mixers, sheeters, cooks, and quart fillers. Also thank you to everyone who supported the Spring sale by spreading the word and with your purchases. Your efforts resulted in the production and sale of over 300 quarts of our famous pot pie and estimated profit of over \$2,250. Many thanks for another successful event!
The Scott's and Kern's

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME



Sunday March 13th – do not forget to set your clocks ahead when you go to sleep on Saturday the 12th.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS WORKDAY

March 12th. 9AM

SOUPER BOWL

The Los Angeles Rams might have won the big game, but at St. Paul's, the Cincinnati Bengals won the Souper Bowl. Our members donated \$296.60 in the Bengals' stockpot and \$174.72 in the Rams' stockpot, leading to a total of \$471.32 that will be donated to Gather the Spirit for Justice. Thank you for giving to help fight hunger in our community!



(collected
through March
27th)

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.



BASKET DONATIONS

The UCC Homes 26th Annual Helping Hands planning committee is excited to announce that this year's event will 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 provide financial assistance in future years. Your support will assist in their mission to continue 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 6th. Please make checks out to St. Paul's. Contact Melissa Cawley (melissacawley@aol.com) with any questions.



STEWARDSHIP SPRING BASKET AUCTION

We still have space in the Spring Stewardship Online Auction!!

We are looking to fill the auction with your generous donations of themed baskets or other specialty items. Gift cards and consumable items are often the most popular. The auction will wrap up by Palm Sunday so Easter baskets with creative themes are encouraged! Here are some springy (and summery!) suggestions: Backyard BBQ, Rainy Day Fun, Spring Baking Bundle, Outdoor Summer Fun, Ice Cream Dream. Baskets are needed in the church office no later than Sunday, March 20th in preparation to be on display the following week. Please share the details of your donation or reach out to Melissa Cawley (melissacawley@aol.com or 717-691-8771) for theme suggestions. We can't wait to see what amazing creations you come up with!



ST. PAUL'S ON THE RUN, RACE AGAINST RACISM AND JUSTICE CHALLENGE.

The Harrisburg YWCA is sponsoring its 18th Annual Race Against Racism.

This year, we will lead up to the Race Against Racism with a **21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge, which begins April 1!**

St. Paul's will be participating in this challenge and virtual race again, through our team St. Paul's on the Run. Any member of St. Paul's can join our team and can participate in the 21-day challenge and/or the race as well. Kathy Aumiller will be acting as Team Leader again this year. When you register, please choose St. Paul's on the Run from the team listing.

We will again be gathering in person to complete the 5K walk/run on Saturday, April 23rd beginning at 9:00 AM. Our racecourse will again be the track near the West Shore Free Church on Williams Grove Road. Kim & Jim Pirtle have again agreed to open their backyard for us to gather safely before and after we run/walk.

Registration Cost

\$30 for individuals

\$20 for teams – use code TEAM

Go to www.ywcahbg.org/events and click on the 21 Day Challenge at the bottom of their website to register.

ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL

The Mercersburg Association, and the members of St. Paul's UCC, invite your participation in the Ecclesiastical Council of Allyssa A. Boyer. The council will be held on Sunday, May 1st, 3:00 PM, in St. Paul's sanctuary. The Ecclesiastical Council is a gathering where candidates for authorized ministry are evaluated in and on behalf of the

entire UCC. You are invited to determine, with the rest of the council, if Allyssa may be ordained (pending a call) as a minister in the UCC. In preparation, you may read her ordination paper (copies will be made available in the Common, and by request via email). We encourage you to attend this Association-wide event, during which you will have an opportunity to ask questions and offer affirmation.

POLLYANNAS



Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting 11:30 am, Tues, Mar 22 at Perkins on Erford Rd. If you

are planning to attend, please call Bonnie Plymette (591-8471).

BAZAAR CRAFT WORKSHOP

Thursday, April 21, 6-8pm

Adults & Teens - Join us for a fun evening of making crafts to be sold at this year's Bazaar! These crafts do NOT take advanced skills. Each craft will have a leader to guide you through the project. We will also have ideas for more crafts you can do on your own to support the Bazaar. You can check out ideas on this Pinterest Page: <https://pin.it/5y0pMNY> Please sign-up online to help us plan: <https://www.timetosignup.com/stpaulsucc/sheet/1326209>

We're also collecting supplies for these and future crafts:

- Wine corks
- Canning lids
- Fall & Winter ribbon
- Homespun fabric
- Old picture frames
- Buttons
- Scrabble tiles

If you have questions or are willing to lead a craft, contact Jenn Martek at jennmartek50@gmail.com



SPRING YARD SALE

Saturday May 7, 2022 - Save the Date – for St. Paul's Spring Yard sale

This event would be open to the community, and we'd love to have your help. Please reach out to any of the committee members listed or contact Renee at the church office if you would be willing to help with this fundraiser.

The Yard Sale committee is working on the details for this fundraising event, but we're hoping to have:

- spaces/tables for rent so that you can sell your own treasures
- church-sponsored tables where people can donate their sellable items and we'll sell them for you
- hand-held/take-out food/drinks for sale
- a nice sunny day in the 70s (although upper 60s would be great too)

Yard Sale committee: Mary Runkle, Val Chapman-Jones, Joan Moyer, Kim Pirtle, Carol Sizemore, Susie White.

ST. PAUL'S ON A MISSION (SPOM) EASTER EGG SALE



Peanut Butter & Coconut, Milk or Dark Chocolate. \$1 each. Orders are due by March 27th. (Exact cash or check preferable payable to Brenda Kern)

Order on the church website, sign up on the sheet in the Commons, or email Brenda Kern: bkern59@verizon.net

Eggs can be picked up:
April 2nd, Noon-1PM,
April 3rd, before and after the service.
April 9th, Noon-1PM,
April 10th, before and after the service.

Sign up to help online at
www.timetosignup.com/stpaulsucc/sheet/1325088 or let Brenda Kern know.

All proceeds go to 'Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.'

DREAMS AND VISIONS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

St. Paul's Gold Team would like to thank all church members who have been paying on their pledges for the



Dreams & Visions Capital Campaign, which is now in its second year. We are so appreciative of the support shown by the congregation. While we have pledges that have exceeded our original projections, there are still many more projects we would like to accomplish in our church building. If you have already made and are paying on your pledge.... THANK YOU SO MUCH! If you have not yet pledged, it is still possible to do so. Just contact the church office for a pledge form. Members who would like to increase their pledge, to enable us to accomplish additional projects on our list, can send your donation to the church office with Capital Campaign in the memo portion.

NEW MEMBERS

We are blessed to be receiving New Members on Sunday March 13, during Worship. There

were people unable to join at the end of January, so we wanted to make this happen as quickly as possible afterward.

Some folks have already been in touch with Pastor Allyssa or me and expressed their desire to join on March 13. If you have not done so yet please contact one of us as soon as you can. If you have been wondering about becoming a member and feel you are ready, please also contact one of us.

We are very excited to be further welcoming people into our Congregation.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Last year we offered "Mobile Ashes" or "Ashes to Go" in order to give as many people as possible a chance to participate in the Imposition of Ashes. This year we will have an in-person Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 PM and we still wanted to offer the other option of receiving ashes for those unable to come to the Service or who feel uncomfortable Worshipping together.

We will offer the Imposition of Ashes from 7:30-10:00 AM. Pastor Allyssa, Rev. Karin and perhaps other Ministers in our Congregation will be serving you.

Our plan is to station ourselves at the portico entrance (by the kitchen). People can drive up and stay in their cars; we will reach in and impose ashes on foreheads or hands, as requested by each individual. The Imposition of Ashes will be accompanied by a very brief prayer and the traditional words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." We will be masked and will use hand sanitizer. We will ask all who drive up to be wearing a mask. We believe we can do this safely as we will keep our interactions short, we will be outside, and we will be masked.

We are investigating the possibility of livestreaming the Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 PM as well. We will make sure people are notified.

If you have any questions, please be in contact with Pastor Allyssa or me. Thank you for considering participating in any way you can.

Peace, Rev. John

LENTEN ENVELOPES



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.

We have been blessed with a wonderful space to Worship, study and gather. We have been blessed with wonderful people, both staff and volunteers who fulfill many different roles in our life together and the outreach we offer to the greater community. We want to continue to be a place that truly welcomes one and all. Thus, our goal is to improve on and pass on the space and programs we offer, 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, Rev. John

DATES TO KNOW:

- 3/2: Ash Wednesday
- 3/6: UCC Homes Basket Donation Deadline
- 3/12: Daylight Savings Work Day
- 3/13: Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 3/20: Stewardship Basket Donations Deadline
- 3/25: Deadline to Register for Race Against Racism and Justice Challenge
- 3/27: Deadline to Donate towards OGHS
- 3/27: SPOM Easter Egg Sale Order Deadline
- 3/28: Spring Stewardship Auction Opens