



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

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AUGUST 2022

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

FROM THE PASTOR

The Civil Rights bus tour Pastor Allyssa and I got to participate in was so moving. As part of the Thriving Together: Congregations for Racial Justice program in which Pastors and Members of twelve Congregations from both the East and the West Shore have been meeting, we were privileged to be somewhat prepared before we left. Honestly, no amount of reading and discussing could have fully prepared us for what we experienced. Seeing places in person, talking with people who participated in the Civil Rights Movement and listening not only to their past experiences, but their current concerns, was transformative. I hope everyone who wants to go, go

to see some or all the sites we visited, will grab the opportunity to do so. I am still processing all that we saw and heard. I will continue to share as we go along.

We will be putting out some books and other materials to share. We have a list of videos we watched on the bus in-between stops that are very moving and we will share. We took a lot of photos that we will organize and share. We will try and give you as full a taste of this experience as we can, but that will only touch the surface. Stay tuned.

Peace, Rev. John

CIRCLE OF PRAYER GATHERINGS

Several people have approached me and shared their feelings of frustration, uncertainty, and helplessness about how to best faithfully respond to the current issues we are facing as a community, state and country. I share many of those same feelings. What is God calling me to do? What is God calling us to do? I know of no absolute way to answer that question, but I do know spending time in prayer and meditation has always helped me when facing such challenges in the past.

Sharing an opportunity to join together in a time of prayer can help us get more closely in touch with what God is speaking to us: how God is seeking to support us in our frustrations, guide us in our questions, and grant us the peace that can propel us forward. We can recognize we are not alone, and that not only is God supporting us, but we can

support one another. We can lift one another's spirits as we seek clarification about what we are being called to do as individuals and collectively as a Congregation.

I would like to propose that we meet at St. Paul's on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 for approximately a half hour, starting on Wednesday July 27 and running through the Wednesdays of August. We can make future plans from there. I welcome suggestions about other days and times, and additional thoughts anyone might have. I will be talking with Pastor Allyssa, when she returns from her vacation of course, and perhaps some others with whom we can share the leadership of facilitating these gatherings. Any questions, please contact me.

Peace, Rev. John

INTERESTED IN JOINING ST. PAUL'S

A number of people have expressed interest in becoming members of St. Paul's. Spring and Summer flashed by with numerous events. Two informational gatherings will be offered following our Worship Service on Sundays August 7 and August 21. These sessions will not last more than an hour and will serve as a chance to ask questions, receive some written materials, and get a greater sense of what membership is like. We hopefully will find a workable

date for all interested in joining St. Paul's in the early Fall.

If you cannot make either of those meetings but have an interest, please contact me and we can arrange a time to talk individually. You are under no obligation to join by attending. Information gathering help you make an informed choice. We look forward to speaking with one and all.

Peace, Rev. John



GET TO KNOW ST. PAUL'S CONSISTORY!

In a continuing effort to get to know your Consistory, please let me introduce:

Steve
Roush



I came to St. Paul's in 2016 and I found this church by getting to know members who attended the PCC Annual Meeting. I got to know Shirley in 2011 through her involvement with the ONA Ministry Team and learning about ONA through their hosting of workshops and other events during the annual meeting. I was looking for a change in other ways, such as a church where extended ministries, helping others outside our local area, was an important area. I missed that when I left a church where I grew up and transferred

to a small church where resources did not allow for this ministry.

Term Started: 2021

Term Ending: 2024

Committee Liaison to: Extended Ministries

I like working with the Extended Ministries and Consistory because it provides me the opportunity to see the many benefits that St. Paul's provides. Being an active member in any organization is important to me.

"Being an active member in any organization is important to me."

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 or 717-766-7931. Thank you!

Spotlight on Sacred Art

Welcome to a new feature in our monthly epistle. Here we'll highlight symbols, emblems, and other aspects of our church's art and architecture, explain their meaning, and reveal a little about their history. This month, our spotlight is on the **rose window** in the sanctuary and the **relief sculpture of the Conversion of Saint Paul** on the wall in the narthex.



As the namesake of our congregation, it comes as no surprise that artwork representing Saint Paul is found in prominent places in our church building, including our **rose window**. A rose window is a circular window, originally named for the intricate patterns made of stained glass and tracery that resemble a rose in bloom. It is a defining characteristic of Gothic church architecture and is found above the west door in many churches and cathedrals around the world. Our congregation carries on this tradition; our rose window is on the western wall of our sanctuary, above the doors that lead into the narthex (lobby).

Our rose window, made of faceted glass, depicts the symbol of Saint Paul: an open book with a sword behind it. The inscription in the book is *Spiritus Gladius*, which means “sword of the Spirit.” (*Gladius* means “sword” in Latin, that’s why swordsmen in ancient Rome were called gladiators.) This is a phrase from Saint Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, “take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” (Ephesians 6:17). Early Christian figures are also often associated with the tools of their martyrdom. Tradition holds that Paul was beheaded (by sword) in Rome, perhaps part of the executions of Christians ordered by the emperor Nero. The open book represents the Bible, but it also represents Paul’s epistles (letters) in the New Testament, some of the earliest Christian documents that exist.

Saint Paul is also portrayed in a relief sculpture in our narthex. This sculpture illustrates Paul’s conversion on his way to Damascus, a story from Acts 9: “Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting” (Acts 9:3-5). And, “We are one body in Christ” is phrase found in Paul’s letters (Romans and 1 Corinthians). Understanding that we are all connected to one another, we are all part of Christ’s body, is a significant part of Saint Paul’s theology... and St. Paul’s UCC’s theology.



Are you curious to learn more about a particular symbol, artwork, or other feature? Let us know by contacting Pastor Allyssa or Rev. Anna Thompson. We would love to hear from you!



THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER:

Addie (Stork-Whitson); Kevin & Karen Allison; Barb Bell; Joanne Bender; Cindy Bense; Mary Bense; Beverly (Hayden); Bill & Bob (Gabriel); George Bingaman; Barbara Blust; Melba Bomberger; Paula Boyer, Brendan and Family (Richey); Brian (Shearer); Missy Brouch (Myers/Mihmet); Jenny & Erica Budd (Lingenfelter); Anna & Dale Burns; Nancy Cabrera (Runkle); Deb Cashman; Charlyn and Family (P. Miller); Cheryl (Freeman); Alyssa Claar (A. Thompson); Pat Cleland; Mary Clark Coleman (Riesmeyer); Heather Connelly (Bomberger); John & Sheri Conner (Layne); Rita Davidson (Plymette); Evelyn Diorio; Ethan Dixon & Family (Thompson); Dotty (Richey); Jim and Gail Dougherty (Ritter); Allen Dreibelbis; Nancy Dreibelbis; Richard Ecks (Plymette); Edison (A. Thompson); Harry Felton (Sponsler); Bob & Eve Fenner; David Fetterman (Aumiller); Fenton Fox & Rick Holtzapple; Ron Gabriel; Lenny Gardner (Shearer); Jack and Jean Gatesman (Richey); Bill Gladstone (Aumiller); Betty Goodfellow (Ritter); Floyd Gouse; Shirley Grammer; Roger Grice; Harriet & Mark Grimm; Dr. Mark Hagenbuch (Bomberger); Jane Hall; Noah Helwig (Trout); Jim and Leslie Hoehn; Brenda Hoffer (Stork-Whitson); Michele Hughes (Murphy); Ingrid (Richey); Jane Leader Janeczek (Aumiller); Janie (Biss); Dan & Will Jones; Josh (Ritter); Julia (Fox/Holtzapple); Elaine Kansy (Hoehn); Karen (Fox/Holtzapple); Martha & Gene Keith; Stephen Keith; Rev. Dr. Chris Kennedy (Ward-Diorio); Jesse King; Dave Kirkwood; 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); Luca; Taran M. (Taylor); Manny (Sharp); Margueritte

(Myers); Marie (Murphy); Joe Mazzei (Mihmet/Myers); Michael & Ernie (Richey); Michelle & Family (Mihmet); Charles Miller (Lloyd and Matthew's dad); Jessica Miller (Chapman); Linda Miller; Melissa Miller (Bender); Sue & Dayne Miller; Tasha Misner (Trout); Ernie Moyer; Randy, Dar & Sarah Murphy; Beth Myers (Richey); Gene & Ruth Ellen Myers (Boyer); Bob Nies (A. Thompson); Nyugen, Thu (P. Boyer); Ryan Onufer & family (Grice); Jim & Mary P. (Rhoads); Panker Family (Richey); Eric Potts (A. Boyer); Randy (Bender); Anne Rankin; Richard Reba (Richenbacher); Robert Reiner (Bender); Carol Rhoads; Jason & Rachelle Rhoads; Nancy, Tom & Dan Richey; Franklin, Andrew, Levi Roth; Rhoda & Ned Rupp; Betsy & Benny Rushong; Sam (Freeman); Jane & Tom Scott & Family; Scott & Tracey (Davinroy); John Shandra; Sharon and Family (Lingenfelter); Sherry (Short); Corky Short & Candy LaRue; Conner Snow & Family; James Sowell (Sandy Kline); Barbara Sterner; Dory Szeles (Sterner); Wendi Taylor; April Thomas (Bomberger); Cathy Thomas; Edward Thorn; Tracy Thrush Family; Tiberius (A. Thompson); Kathy (Wolford Witmer) Toth; Shannon & Phoenix Trout; Bill Utley (Boyer); Rosalie Utley (Boyer); Vickie (S. Miller); Evelyn Warfield; Suzy Weeks (Richey); Jean and David Weiss; Leita Wentz; Susie White; Doris & Luke Williams; Geri Williams (A. Thompson); Ryan Wilson (Bomberger); Chelsey Wirth; Fran Wolford; Mitchell Worley (Jones); Suzanne Worley (Jones); Kevin Young (A. Thompson); Russell Young (Rushong)

**Thanks
for Your
Help!**

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

AUGUST 2022 WORSHIP LEADERS

TimeToSignUp.com - Online Sign Up Sheets

Sunday, August 7, 2022- Consistory Only for Welcome Team 9:15 A.M.	Sunday, August 14, 2022 9:15 A.M.	Sunday, August 21, 2022 9:15 A.M.	Sunday, August 28, 2022 9:15 A.M.
Acolyte	Acolyte	Acolyte	Acolyte
Lector Shirley Knox	Lector Eric Dundore	Lector Karin Stork-Whitson	Lector
Worship Welcome Team Member-Common's Table - Consistory Wendy Hayden	Worship Welcome Team Member - Common's Table Winnie Wentz	Worship Welcome Team Member - Common's Table Candy LaRue	Worship Welcome Team Member - Common's Table Joan Moyer
Worship Welcome Team Member-Electronic Door- Consistory Sherry Spencer	Worship Welcome Team Member - Electronic Door Darryl Wentz	Worship Welcome Team Member - Electronic Door	Worship Welcome Team Member - Electronic Door
Welcome Team Member - Sanctuary Exterior Door - Consistory Steven Roush	Worship Welcome Team Member - Sanctuary Exterior Door	Worship Welcome Team Member - Sanctuary Exterior Door Corky M Short	Worship Welcome Team Member - Sanctuary Exterior Door
Altar Flower Delivery Joanne Miller	Altar Flower Delivery Darryl and Winnie Wentz	Altar Flower Delivery Jonneke Dundore	Altar Flower Delivery Dale and Don Thorpe and Dupes
Nursery Attendant Kim Pirtle	Nursery Attendant	Nursery Attendant	Nursery Attendant Shirley Knox
Nursery Attendant	Nursery Attendant	Nursery Attendant	Nursery Attendant

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/1	Constance Miller Judith Clovsky	8/13	Wesley Rhoads
8/2	David Scott	8/14	Shawna Simpson
8/3	Jean Weiss	8/15	Jeffrey Whitman
8/4	Ashley Bergstresser	8/16	Sally Haas Erin Moyer Kimberli Nalepka Steve Mitchell
8/5	Ronald Chronister Richard Bensel	8/19	Dorothy Miller Thomas Pineo
8/7	Anthony Howe Barbara Blust Mark Boyer	8/21	Jonathan Knox Edward Thorn Martha Keith
8/8	Carol Sizemore Elaine Daly	8/22	Gary Fleisher
8/9	Ernest Moyer Ryder Paulus Rachel Thompson	8/24	Leann Davinroy
8/10	Andrew Cowan Carter Miller	8/25	Martin Velez
8/12	Christine Grice	8/26	Michelle Howe Carol Visscher
		8/29	Brady Nye Cheryl Malick



Thank you to my St. Paul's family for all the cards and prayers during my recent hospital

stay. Also for the lovely Alter flowers. It means so much to belong to such a caring church
God Bless,
Joanne Miller

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/1	David & Shawna Simpson
8/11	Amy & Brett Hockenberry
8/12	Mark & Paula Boyer
8/16	Doris & Wayne Albrecht Suzanne & Matthew Sentman
8/17	Vic & Martha Brown III Bethany Pirtle & Scott Hinderliter
8/19	Allan & Pamela MacKinnon Jr Christopher Royer & Elaine Daly
8/21	Douglas & Sally Haas Kevin & Karen Allison Martin & Victoria Velez
8/23	Art & Kathy Williams
8/24	Clayton & Carolyn Pirtle
8/25	Shannon & Brian Sweeney
8/27	Christine & Marc Brickman
8/31	John & Susan Ward-Diorio Jr. Chris & Molly Cowan

We just wanted to send a thank you for the altar flowers. Dave's Dad, Roger, has had a rough couple of months and we continue to struggle to get him to eat. We pray things turn around. The flowers were a wonderful surprise and a reminder to us of the love and support of St. Paul's.
Grice Family

To the congregation of St Paul's,
Thank you for the altar flowers, cards and prayers. The flowers and cards certainly raised my spirits. One can feel the power of prayer. How blessed I am to have the support of this church community. I continue to go to physical therapy and my pain has decreased. Progress is slower than I would like but I am grateful that I am making progress.
Sincerely,
Paula Boyer

Directory Update:
Tom and Tania Pineo
(and Elizabeth, Emily, and Evan)
1295 Ashton Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



*Thanks to all who participated in the CPR/AED training session held at St. Paul's.
Not only did we learn a lot, but we had a great time too!*

Events & Announcements



UNLEASH YOUR INNER PICASSO

Earlier, we announced an opportunity to create rainbow-themed artwork to adorn our church's Welcome Lounge. We have selected dates and times and the details are below. We'd LOVE to have you join us for a fun time of fellowship and creativity!

When:

Wednesday, August 10 from 6-8 p.m. - this is scheduled as an Adult and Supervised children night

Wednesday, August 17 from 6-8 p.m. - this is scheduled as a "reunion" of children who participated in Vacation Bible School and they will work on one collective piece of art; however, if you painted the previous week and didn't finish your artwork, would like to do another painting, or would like to be involved in the collective piece of art, please join us.

What We Will Do:

On both nights, Pastor Allyssa, Kathy Williams, and Mel Shaver-Durham will be on hand to supply you with paints, paint brushes, canvases, and other materials. PLEASE WEAR OLD CLOTHES

that you don't mind getting paint on. We have selected various rainbow-themed art ideas for you to choose from, and Pastor Allyssa will be able to give you guidance on how to paint the designs. Once the paintings are completed and dry, we will mount them in the Welcome Lounge in a cool gallery wall layout that Mel has designed.

Light snacks and beverages will be provided. This promises to be a very fun project and we thank you so much for your interest in helping to create some AMAZING artwork! Let Kathy Williams (kjlwms@gmail.com or 717-979-9255) know if you have any questions and also which day(s) we can expect you.



CALLING ALL CAKE BAKERS

Volunteer cake bakers are needed for the Mechanicsburg MEALS on Wheels. We currently have a group that buy or bake a cake the fourth Monday of the month. Over the years the number of clients has grown and now we must donate twelve cakes each month. The goal is to have enough volunteers so no one is asked more than every three months. If you are interested, please contact Joanne Miller (717.697.9620 or jmmiller14@comcast.net)

I would like to thank all the current volunteers who faithfully contribute
Joanne Miller

POLLYANNAS

Tuesday, August 23rd.

Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting 11:30 am, Tues, Aug 23rd at Hoss's Restaurant on Gettysburg Pike. We will be meeting in the big back room where we will be having our annual mystery auction as well. Please bring a wrapped item to bid on; all

proceeds go toward our sponsored child. If you are planning to attend or have any questions, contact Bonnie Plymette (591-8471).

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 28th.

Bring your backpacks, bookbags, briefcases, lunchboxes, or any other baggage you use for school or work, to worship on Sunday, August 28th. We will offer a blessing of the bags as a reminder that God's peace and presence will be with all people as they go to work and school.



HERE'S THE SCOOP!

Sunday, August 28th.

Come and join us at our Ice Cream Social: Sunday, August 28th following worship. If interested, please sign-up so we will be sure to have enough for everyone. Cool off with something sweet and creamy as we celebrate summer and gear up for back-to-school... with a cherry on top!

SPOOF PICNIC AND HIKING

August 6th, 2022

Join SPOOF (St. Paul's On Our Feet) for a fun day in the outdoors on August 6th at Pine Grove Furnace State Park! We have reserved the Brickyard Pavilion, which is close to the beach and playground area at Fuller Lake. We have the pavilion reserved for the entire day; come as early as you want and hang out as long as you want. There are several trails in the park of varying lengths and difficulty; we will have maps and descriptions for folks to hike as they want. Cool off afterwards with a dip in the lake. Or just stay at the pavilion and enjoy the shade or some lawn games that will be set up. Hot dogs, drinks and paper products will be provided. The rest of the picnic will be potluck. We will set up starting

at 10am, with cooking noon-2. Parking and restrooms are also very close to the pavilion. All are welcome; bring your friends along too! Sign up through the event pages on the church website.

ADULT

Sunday School

FALL ADULT 1 & ADULT 2 DISCUSSION - PLEASE JOIN US!

The book "What Is Christianity?" provides a fascinating overview of the world's largest religion, weaving history, theology, spirituality, denominational divisions, and global growth into a single compelling story. In his book, Dr. Douglas Jacobsen describes the religion inspired by Jesus as a living faith that is still changing and developing today. The author is Dr. Douglas Jacobsen, a member of St. Paul's and he and Rhonda Jacobsen will be joining us.

Reader-friendly chapters introduce the major traditions of Christianity (Eastern Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism, Protestantism, and Pentecostalism), explaining their spiritual appeal and tracing their evolution over the centuries. Christianity's recent global expansion is highlighted, but Christianity has been a diverse and multicultural movement from the very beginning. Each chapter provides thought-provoking insights into the beliefs, values, practices, achievements, and failures of Christians as they tried to remain faithful to the message and meaning of Jesus in different times and places.

- Condenses a vast amount of information into a coherent narrative
- Explains how and why Christianity has become so incredibly diverse

- Describes what almost all Christians have always held in common
- Summarizes the current status of Christianity in each global region
- Discusses the challenges that Christians worldwide are facing today

We will be ordering copies of the book. Please contact Shirley Keith Knox at skeithknox@comcast.net or Herb Bomberger at hlmrbomberger@comcast.net.



**Articles for the
August Epistle are
due to the Church
Office by end of the
day, Monday
August 22nd.**

ST. PAUL'S BAZAAR Friday, October 7th, 2022

Mark your calendars!! This is the church's largest event with lots of help needed. There are MANY ways you can be involved!!

Kitchen

Chairpersons: Brenda Kern & Patty Scott
Cook pot pie meals, sides, other entrees; serve take-out sales; run dishwasher; clean kitchen end-of-day. Watch for pre-event food prep dates as well!

Dining Room

Chairpersons: Joan Moyer & Mary Runkle
Setup table place-settings, serve dinner orders, and clean tables between customers. Have fun interacting with lots of people!

Parking

Chairperson: Tom Olsen
Assist with parking and traffic flow, especially during peak hours.

Country Cupboard

Chairpersons: Chris Grice & Shirley Keith Knox
Donations will be needed! Baked goods, candies, canned goods, etc. Keep an eye out!

Crafts

Chairpersons: Betty Olsen
Donations are needed! For ideas on what you could make for the crafts area, see Betty.

Flea Market

Chairpersons: Dale Thorpe & Becky Thompson
Donations needed—Save that good stuff! We do limit the type and number of items we have in our Flea Market sale so that we have fewer leftovers. Donations can be dropped off now, on the stage.

YES, please!

- Holiday & General Decor
- Linens/Fabric
- Kitchenware (gadgets, bakeware, cookware, etc.)
- Working Tools/Hardware
- Small Furniture (please check with Dale or Becky before dropping off)
- Books

Thanks but, NO:

- Sporting Equipment
- Stuffed Animals/Toys
- Electronics (TVs, phones, computers, monitors, etc.)
- Board Games/Puzzles
- VHS Tapes
- Clothes
- Glassware (glasses, mugs, vases)
- Water bottles

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

United Church of Christ Homes, Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home, A progressive, team-oriented, 117 bed Skilled Nursing facility, is seeking a Director of Social Services.

- Full Time-Exempt Position

- Bachelor's Degree in Social Work or related human services field and one year in long-term care experience is required.
- Excellent wages and benefits including retirement plan
- Subject to reasonable accommodation for religious or medical reasons, proof of vaccination against the Covid -19 virus is a condition of employment for this position.

Please mail, email, or fax resume and letter of interest to: Erin Jayman, Executive Director Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home 1000 W. South Street Carlisle, PA 17013 Phone: (717) 245-2187 • Fax: (717) 245-9733 ejayman@ucc-homes.org

REV. JOHN VACATION DATES:

Rev. John will be away on vacation from Monday, August 22 through Monday, September 5th.

Therefore let us be grateful
for receiving a kingdom
that cannot be shaken,
and thus let us offer
to God
acceptable
worship,
with
reverence
and awe.

HEBREWS 12:28, ESV

