



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!

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' 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

Rev. Allyssa's email: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

Eric's email: ericdundore@outlook.com

Web Address: saintpaulsucc-mech.org

FROM THE PASTOR

At our Annual Meeting in January, I spoke about the transition we continue to make between a more Pastor-Centered Congregation to a Ministry-Centered Congregation. Discussions about how to consciously do this going forward will continue, even as we have already made some of those transitions.

In a Pastor-Centered Congregation, all decisions, all plans, all structures go through the Pastor's "office." This tends to limit how much a Congregation will do. While this model is not who we fully are presently, there are strong "remnants." Another additional marker is that members feel like they must attend, be a part of every event, everything that is happening at St. Paul's because this is what "good" church members do. The Pastor is there (or expected to be there). When there are fewer things going on, that is more possible, but that is not the case now.

Before, when a core group of people went to all the events, communication and information sharing happened during and across these various events. Most often the Pastor was there to give input and gather news. In a Ministry-Centered Congregation, clearly everyone will not be attending all the events because of their number, conflicting times, and people's differing interests. We do not want anyone falling into the trap of thinking because you mention something to one person at one gathering, it will get communicated to the people it needs to. Please, please, please, ask questions, share your comments and concerns, and raise any issues with the Chairs of Committees or Ministry Teams, Consistory Members, Rev. Allyssa, or me. Confidentiality is still important and will be practiced, and we need to make sure the information gets to the appropriate people. This is how we can effectively and efficiently identify what our needs are and how we are meeting them, for ourselves, and for the communities we serve. The whole Congregation, the whole Body, needs to know what the various parts are doing.

Another adjustment will involve making sure any work we are doing, ministries we are a part of, match our overall vision as a Congregation and the missions we have articulated for ourselves. That happened more organically previously when many people were involved in all the same activities. Now, with people spread out more, and folks concentrating on their area(s) of interest and passion, we must make sure we

stay connected as a whole, that we are supporting one another in our work, and it all is consistent with our overall vision and mission. There is a risk that we could separate into "camps" with each group focusing on their individual work without recognition of how that impacts other ministries. One concrete example of that is how we raise funds for different work and projects. We have line items in our budget to help with that, but we often discover we may need more funds. As such needs arise, those requests must be coordinated so we are not constantly asking the Congregation to make additional donations. This Body of Christ needs to work together, in concert, so no one part feels overly stressed or ignored.

The communication that occurs through our Consistory becomes even more crucial. Consistory is tasked with keeping the whole Congregation in mind, and what our overall goals are. When Consistory gathers, either in person or on-line, these are the occasions in which we hear reports from all the various ministries and we can better make decisions that take into consideration the whole vision and mission of the Congregation and the various needs we have. Sometimes that might mean saying "No" to a request, for the time being, because of the impact of fulfilling that request on the whole Congregation.

Worship Services will be the time when the biggest cross-section of our Congregation gathers. This time is made even more sacred, as it is our best chance to connect with one another. We are working on making Fellowship Times more available both before and after our 10:30 Worship Service. Your help making that possible is greatly appreciated. This is when we gather as the whole Body of Christ at work here in Mechanicsburg. We need this kind of connection to grow, to learn, to find support and peace.

Part of Rev. Allyssa's and my jobs, working with Consistory, is to create a structure, a "container" that allows us to function as a Congregation in which all people indeed feel welcomed, respected, and heard. We will pay particular attention to insure all our Ministries are working together and not as separate entities. We will bear in mind, our ONA Covenant, our vision, and our mission, and how we are living into all these commitments and responsibilities.

In many ways we are already functioning like this. We now need to consciously organize ourselves to work

in this way as best as possible. Communication and understanding are the key factors in helping this transition to happen well. We each and together have been called to various Ministries by God. May we

continue to support one another in serving God in these ways. Thank you.

Peace, Rev. John

BECOMING A NEW MEMBER OF ST. PAUL'S

We are always blessed when people let us know they are interested in becoming members of St. Paul's UCC. We have a number of people who recently have expressed interest, and some others who have been waiting patiently to join.

We will have a New Member Orientation gathering on Sunday February 5th after the late Worship Service, beginning around 11:45 AM., in either the Sanctuary or the Welcome Room.

This is a "no-pressure" meeting in which we introduce ourselves to each other, share some printed

materials, and ask questions. If you cannot attend that meeting, please contact Rev. Allyssa or Rev. John and we will arrange a time to meet with you and share this information.

We will be receiving New Members on Sunday February 26th during the Worship Service. If you are not available that day, we will make arrangements for another Sunday.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Allyssa or Rev. John. Thank you.



GET TO KNOW ST. PAUL'S CONSISTORY

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

**Sherry
Spencer**



I came to St. Paul's in the spring of 2019. I came from a northern York County United Methodist church where I was deeply entwined. That church family was marching in a direction that I could not support. I did an extensive online search to find a home. What a special and rare thing I found at St. Paul's. My first visit here, Kim said "oh what a nice necklace". My second Sunday here, Wendy and Jodi said "you should sit right here with us". You may not realize, but this kind of second nature, welcoming behavior is very impactful. I

am so happy to have found a welcoming church family that is marching in a better direction. I enjoy working with the finance team, because I get to work firsthand with the conscience, caring members of that team. I have learned a lot from my teammates.

STAYING CONNECTED

Posts, tweets, chats, word of mouth - there are so many ways to communicate these days! But this information doesn't always make its way to our church clergy who want to know if there is something going on with you or a loved one! Please call or email the church office or our clergy, and let them know of illness, surgery, life events, etc. Don't want to share it? It doesn't need to go on the prayer chain, but our clergy still want to know. The church office can be reached at 717-766-931/ stpaulstaff@outlook.com. Rev. John's contact information is 717-525-4689/revjohnwd@outlook.com and Rev. Allyssa's contact information is 717-798-4541/allyssaboyer@outlook.com. If you need to share your concern after 4 PM on Friday or over the weekend, please contact Revs. John and Allyssa directly.

To My Church Family,

Thank you to everyone who offered kindness, friendship, and prayers sent our way when my husband, Frank "Benny" Rushong, died just before Thanksgiving, 2022. Your cards, messages, even the presence of many at his memorial service on November 22nd, plus your ongoing caring still, have been incredible support for me and my family. God bless you all. Sincerely, Betsy Rushong

To Rev. Allyssa, Youth Fellowship, and Others,

Thank you for the beautiful caroling at Christmas time. I look forward to it every year and it brings me so much joy. Sincerely, Donna Sponsler

To St. Paul's UCC Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful altar flowers that were delivered. I very much appreciated the kindness. Sincerely, Evelyn Warfield

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

02/05	Christopher Royer	02/17	Rachel Drazba
	Linda Miller	02/19	Frances Wolford
02/06	Anna Thompson		Wyatt Paulus
	Deb Fox	02/20	Zachary Davinroy
02/09	Bethany Pirtle		Karin Stork-Whitson
02/10	Barbara Westhafer	02/21	Catherine Thomas
	Amy Wentz	02/22	Jane Hall
	Douglas Jacobsen	02/23	Kassidy Sweeney
02/12	Steven Roush	02/25	Harriett Grimm
02/13	Elizabeth Royer		Christine Chandler
02/14	David Ritter	02/26	Donna Sharp
	Don Dupes	02/27	Candy LaRue
02/16	Charles Miller		Alyssa Lingenfelter
02/17	Molly Cowan		Michael Shea
		02/29	Allan MacKinnon Jr

ANNIVERSARIES

02/25 David and Jean Weiss

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

MARCH EPISTLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
Friday, February 17th, 2023.

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIP FOR 2023 IS NOW OPEN.

It will cost \$30 to sponsor the flowers in 2023. You may go on the church website, under the heading, "Sign Up" to sign up.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP FOR 2023 IS NOW OPEN.

It will cost \$30/MONTH to sponsor a child in 2023. You may go on the church website, under the heading, "Sign Up" to sign up and for more information.



THRIVING TOGETHER: CONGREGATIONS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

In May 2021, St. Paul's UCC applied and was accepted into a new faith-based, multi-year initiative, administered by Messiah University, called Thriving Together. Three representatives of our church — Kathy Aumiller, Rev. John, and Rev. Allyssa — joined with a cohort of people from eleven other congregations in the capital region working to understand our histories and places, review and renew our missions and values, and develop ministries that address the needs and hopes of our communities, with a focus on racial justice. This religiously- and racially-diverse cohort has engaged in multiple experiences together, including several day-long seminars, a tour of Camp Hill and Harrisburg centered on "race and place," and, in the summer of 2022, a week-long bus tour that traveled to many locations significant in the Civil Rights Movement.

Entering the second and final year of the program, our cohort is preparing for several more learning sessions together, including a trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. Our Thriving Together connections have created opportunities for our congregation to learn and to witness to racial justice: members of St. Paul's joined in the POWER Interfaith Freedom Express rally in Harrisburg, and attended a book reading by Lisa McNair, sister of Denise McNair who was killed, along with three other girls, in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, AL in 1963. St. Paul's Against Racism, Creating Change (SPARCC) will be reading Lisa McNair's book, "Dear Denise: Letters to the Sister I Never Knew," this February. Our congregation has been invited, with other congregations from Thriving Together, to worship together on Good Friday this year at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Harrisburg. This will give us an opportunity to "cross the racial divide" that is also called the Susquehanna River, to pray, sing, and join at the Table.

Christians have a responsibility to love all their neighbors regardless of race or ethnicity. This is part of the Great Commandment proclaimed by Jesus the Christ. We at St. Paul's UCC have a special responsibility in this regard because we have also pledged to be an Open and Affirming congregation, entering a covenant to affirm our regard for the worth and dignity of all people as beloved children of God. Our congregation has made a commitment to work diligently to end all oppression and discrimination that afflict people. Through Thriving Together, we are working to uphold that commitment, and we hope that the Thriving Together initiative will lead to deeper connections with people of faith throughout the Harrisburg area, and a deeper commitment to pursue antiracism in our personal lives, our congregational life together, in the wider community and beyond.

YOUTH SUNDAY

The youth of St. Paul's UCC are working hard to create a worship service that praises God, inspires the congregation, and draws us closer together as disciples of Christ, on Youth Sunday, February 12, 2023. We look forward to worshipping with you!

NEW HOPE CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS EXPRESS

Thanks for your generous support to New Hope this Christmas! St. Paul's donated a total of 174 pounds of gifts and \$150 in gift cards to assist families here in Mechanicsburg.

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 our **green paraments**.

Parament is the name for the pieces of cloth that adorn the pulpit, lectern, and altar table in our sanctuary. In many churches, including St. Paul's, the color of the paraments corresponds with the color of the liturgical season the church is celebrating. In our tradition, we recognize seven liturgical colors: violet, blue, white, green, red, black, and rose (pink). Green is the color for Ordinary Time.



The green pulpit parament, featuring a cross and a fish.

Ordinary Time is the name for the season following Epiphany, before Lent, and again following Pentecost, before Advent. This "ordinary" has nothing to do with being "dull" or "mediocre." The word "ordinary" as used here comes from the ordinal numbers by which the weeks are identified or counted, from the first week of Ordinary Time in January, to the 34th week that begins toward the end of November.

Our green paraments are embroidered with Christian symbols. The green pulpit parament includes a cross and a fish, symbols of resurrection and discipleship. In Matthew 4:19, Jesus says, "Follow me, and I

will make you fishers of men," to a group of fishermen who became Jesus's first disciples. From the earliest days of Christianity, the fish has been an important symbol of Christian discipleship.

The green paraments on the lectern, where the lector reads from the Bible, are adorned with crosses, as well as a chalice and wafer, and a seashell and drops of water. These symbolize Holy Communion and Baptism, the two sacraments that we celebrate in the United Church of Christ.



The green lectern paraments, featuring crosses, a chalice and wafer, and a seashell and water drops.

St. Pauls UCC February 2023 Worship Leaders

TimeToSignUp.com - Online Sign Up Sheets

Sunday, February 5, 2023 10:30 AM	Sunday, February 12, 2023 10:30 AM	Sunday, February 19, 2023 10:30 AM	Sunday, February 26, 2023 10:30 AM
Acolyte	Acolyte	Acolyte	Acolyte
Lector Patrice Miller	Lector Shirley Knox	Lector Karin Stork-Whitson	Lector Becky Thompson
Worship Welcome Team Member-Common's Table - Consistory Steve Roush	Worship Welcome Team Member - Common's Table	Worship Welcome Team Member - Common's Table	Worship Welcome Team Member - Common's Table
Worship Welcome Team Member-Electronic Door - Consistory Christine Grice	Worship Welcome Team Member - Electronic Door	Worship Welcome Team Member - Electronic Door	Worship Welcome Team Member - Electronic Door
Welcome Team Member- Sanctuary Exterior Door - Consistory Fenton Fox	Altar Flowery Delivery Martha Keith	Altar Flowery Delivery Dale and Don Thorpe and Dupes	Altar Flower Delivery Becky Thompson
Communion Server- Consistory Wendy Hayden	Kid's Place Attendant Erin or Ben Anderson	Kid's Place Attendant	Kid's Place Attendant Sue Ward-Diorio
Communion Server - Consistory Nancy Richey	Kid's Place Attendant	Kid's Place Attendant	Kid's Place Attendant
Altar Flower Delivery Jonneke Dundore	Counting Team Member Fenton Fox	Counting Team Member Martha Keith	Counting Team Member
Kid's Place Attendant	Counting Team Member	Counting Team Member Fenton Fox	Counting Team Member
Kid's Place Attendant			
Counting Team Member Joan Moyer			
Counting Team Member			

BEWARE OF EMAIL SCAMS

Email is a very useful communication tool, but cybercriminals are getting more sophisticated in their efforts to use email to scam people. Spoofing attacks use email addresses, sender names, phone numbers, or website addresses that are disguised as a trusted source. This tactic is used to convince people that they are interacting with a familiar source, such as a pastor or other trusted church member, family member, or friend. Cybercriminals want you to believe these spoofed emails are real to lead you to download malicious software, send money, or disclose personal, financial, or other sensitive information. Please, if you receive an email asking you to give money immediately, purchase gift cards, send a money order, give your credit card number, or any other request for money or personal information, DO NOT respond to the email. If you think this may be a legitimate request, please call the sender on the phone, or send a text message. If the church is requesting donations, we will not hesitate to confirm that request over the phone. Our congregation is full of many

generous members, and we are grateful. But Cybercriminals prey on our generosity and trusting natures. Please be cautious, read all emails with skepticism, and do not hesitate to call the sender for clarification. If you believe your email has been hacked/spoofed, please let the church office know.



Addie (Stork-Whitson); Kevin & Karen Allison; Ann; Barb; Barb Bell; Marshall Bender; Cindy & Dick Bensel; Beverly (Hayden); Bill & Bob (Gabriel); Barbara Blust; Melba Bomberger; Susan Bowers, Braylan, Brendan and Family (Richey); Brian (Shearer); Anna & Dale Burns; Nancy Cabrera (Runkle); Jeff Carlson (P. Miller); Cheryl (Freeman); 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); Gail Dougherty (Ritter); Allen Dreibelbis; Nancy Dreibelbis; 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); Richard and Sandy Gordon; Floyd Gouse; Shirley Grammer; Harriet & Mark Grimm; Shirley Grove; 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; Deb Korhut; Kristine and Family (Ward-Diorio); Jean & John Layne; Debbie Lever (A. Thompson); Larry Linder (Stork-Whitson/Williams); Liam (Simpson); Lori (Murphy); Luca; Taran M. (Taylor); Manny (Sharp); Marie (Murphy); Michael & Ernie (Richey); Michelle & Family (Mihmet); Charles Miller (Lloyd and Matthew's dad); Linda 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; Alan and Diane Richenbacher; Richard Reba (Richenbacher); Robert Reiner (Bender); Carol Rhoads; Jason & Rachelle Rhoads; Wes Rhoads & Family; Nancy, Tom & Dan Richey; Monisha Ridley; Franklin, Andrew, Levi Roth; Rhoda & Ned Rupp; Betsy Rushong; Sam (Freeman); Jane & Tom Scott & Family; Scott & Tracey (Davinroy); 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; Tiberius (A. Thompson); 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); Russell Young (Rushong); Zachary (Taylor).

ASH WEDNESDAY-FEBRUARY 22

We will have an in-person Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 PM, in which we will offer Holy Communion via Intinction and the Imposition of Ashes. All are invited.

Rev Allyssa, Rev. Karin and I, and possibly other Clergy from St. Paul's, will offer the Imposition of Ashes from 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM to those who are uncomfortable or unable to come to the evening Service.

We will 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. 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."

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

Events & Announcements

POLLYANNAS

Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting 11:30 am, Tuesday, Feb 28th at Perkins on Erford Rd. We'll be in the small back room. If you are planning to attend, please contact Bonnie Plymette (591-8471).

STEWARDSHIP ONLINE AUCTION

Thanks to your generous donations and bids, the fall Stewardship Online auction was a huge success raising a total of \$1,320! We are gearing up for the Spring Online Auction and looking to fill it with your creative donations of themed baskets or other specialty items. Gift cards and consumable items are often the most popular. Do you have a unique talent or gift to share? We'd love to hear about it! The auction will wrap up by Palm Sunday so Easter baskets with creative themes are encouraged! Baskets are needed in the church office no later than Sunday, March 19th and will be on display the following week. Reach out to tell us what you're planning or if you'd like ideas. We can't wait to see what amazing creations you come up with! Melissa Cawley (melissacawley@aol.com) and Victoria Velez (vmvluv@comcast.net)

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.

SECURITY COMMITTEE

The St. Paul's Security Committee meets each Thursday at 6:00 pm to discuss and develop issues and procedures to keep us and our building safe. This is a subgroup of the Property Committee. Anyone with expertise in security, or just have a wish to be part of this committee, please contact Jeff Leister at JLLeister@gmail.com or call at (913) 568-8332.

PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee met on 1/6/23. The committee members are Martha Keith, Shirley Keith-Knox, Megan Riesmeyer, Mary Runkle, Karin Stork-Whitson, Becky Thompson, Rev. John and Rev. Allyssa. Our next meeting will be 4/20/23. Any questions, please ask any committee member.

BINGO! B8 - OPEN THE GARDEN GATE! I29 - RISE AND SHINE! G55 - SNAKES ALIVE, ALL THE FIVES!

Join us for a Yankee Swap version of Bingo on Saturday, February 11 at 7pm. How does it work? Bring a gender-neutral small, wrapped gift to be used as Bingo prizes. (Max value \$5; you can also re-gift that tacky Christmas present you received!) The winner of each Bingo game selects a prize from the wrapped pile OR swaps it with one somebody else has already selected. Don't worry; we'll re-explain it that night! We'll have light snacks; if you want to bring something to share, that's great but not necessary. All ages are welcome; kids should be accompanied by an adult. Sign-up online!

QUESTIONS: Contact Jenn Martek (jennmartek50@gmail.com) or Kim Pirtle (kimpirtle20@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS CARDS?

What are you going to do with all those Christmas cards? Don't throw them away! Put them in the donation bin labeled CRAFT SUPPLIES. Our crafters

will make gift tags out of the artwork and sell for the October bazaar.

CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH THROUGH THE SPIRITUALS

The Spirituals of the African American tradition, sometimes called the “Negro spirituals” are songs created by enslaved Africans. They do not have individual composers but emerged from the whole community. They were passed orally from person to person. They were crafted in the fields where they would sing to pass the day and ease the often-tedious work of planting, tending, and harvesting the crops. Over the years, enslaved persons and their descendants adopted Christianity, the religion of their masters, and they began to include religious themes into their field songs.

Each Sunday in February - during the Sunday School hour - join us in Fellowship Hall to sing and develop a deeper understanding of these wonderful and inspiring spirituals. Each week, we will look at a group of spirituals and provide some history about the song, if known. The spirituals are wonderfully creative and contain a wisdom that comes from suffering and a hope that comes from faith in God’s promises. The African American Spirituals are a national treasure and gift to the Church of immeasurable value.

Questions: Contact Eric Dundore at ericdundore@outlook.com or 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 January 29th. We will be gathering in the fellowship hall. Please bring a favorite dish to share. We look forward to spending time with you. Questions, contact Carol Sizemore, 717-858-3105

LENTEN BOOK GROUP

We will be reading Wild Hope: Stories for Lent from the Vanishing by Gayle Boss. She is the same author who wrote our Advent Book that everyone in the group enjoyed so much. The focus of this work is on animals that are endangered and their stories. We will discuss these beloved creatures of God and how

their plights connect to our Lenten journeys. The cost of this book will be about \$16.00 if you order through us. Sign-up sheets are on the website or posted in the Common Area (you only need to sign up once). We hope to order our books that first full week in February.

We will be meeting on Mondays, from 1:00-2:30 PM and 6:30-8:00 PM. You are welcome to attend either session and do not need to attend all of them if you are unable. We will begin on Monday February 27 and go through April 3. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Allyssa or Rev. John. We look forward to seeing you there.

SPIRITUAL ROYALTIES INITIATIVE

Why a Spiritual Royalty Initiative?

Negro Spirituals are considered the earliest form of religious music developed by African Americans during slavery. The creation of spirituals can be attributed to converting enslaved people to Christianity during the Great Awakening period. The enslaved people began exhibiting Christian beliefs through music, which included their hardship experiences. Spirituals allowed enslaved people to interpret and express religious beliefs and feelings along with their struggles through music. Spirituals united them and provided them with a way to deviate from their cruel surroundings. Yet, those who created these beautiful songs we repeatedly sing in our worship did not receive credit or recognition. In fact, their songs were stolen and put into songbooks for profit while the creators remained nameless. Therefore, there is a great debt owed to these Black artists and musicians that can never be paid.

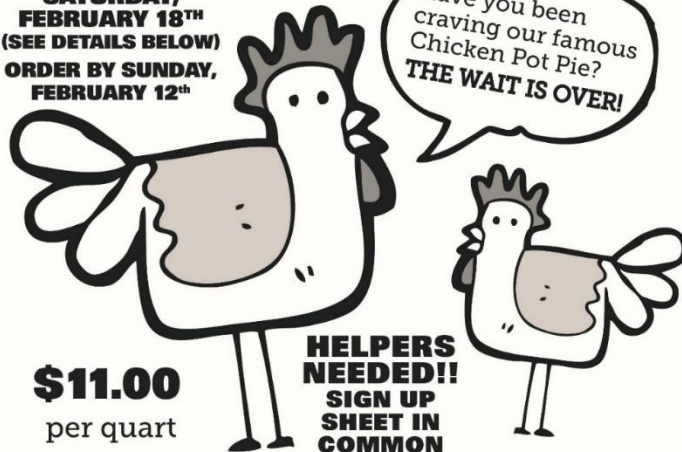
How and when will the money be collected?

St. Paul's UCC recognizes that we owe a debt to these song makers. While we can't repay the actual composers of these songs, we can collect money each time we sing a Negro Spiritual and provide that money to a local organization that seeks justice and recognition of Black music and art. Therefore, during February - Black History Month, and at other times when we sing these Spirituals in our worship, we will collect donations in the following ways:

- There will be specially marked envelopes where money can be given to this fund. Drop

ST. PAUL'S FUNDRAISER! CHICKEN POT PIE QUART SALE!

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 18TH**
(SEE DETAILS BELOW)
**ORDER BY SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 12TH**



\$11.00
per quart

**HELPERS
NEEDED!!
SIGN UP
SHEET IN
COMMON**

ALL SALES WILL BE BY PRE-ORDER • 4 WAYS TO ORDER

1. Online: <http://saintpaulsucc-mech.org/>
2. Email: stpaulstaff@outlook.com
3. Call the church office: 717-766-7931
4. Sign up sheet in the common

POT PIE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
626 WILLIAMS GROVE ROAD, MECHANICSBURG

Preferable pick up is Saturday, February 18th • NOON-3:00 PM
(MAY ALSO PICK UP AFTER 10:30 SERVICE FEB. 19TH)
Checks payable to St. Paul's UCC.

them in the offering plate or put them in the church office.

- We will provide a QR code in the bulletin and online to take you directly to our Vanco site for your donation.

In addition, St. Paul's members are encouraged to spread the word through their own email and social media to encourage others to become informed and, if they desire, contribute to this initiative. NOTE: his initiative is NOT charity, but repayment of a debt we owe. Spirituals have generated much wealth for entitled white individuals and institutions since slavery.

Where will the funds go?

The Capital Area Music Association (CAMA) is a community choral arts

organization emphasizing the music of African American composers and African American culture. The focus and goal for excellence in developing and presenting sacred and secular music and music education through their scholarship fund continue to be the impetus of presentations and activities sponsored by CAMA. Their website is www.camamusic.org.

Sankofa: Sankofa African American Theatre Company exists to engage and enrich the Harrisburg region around the African American perspective on relevant issues through thought-provoking theatre that reflects artistic excellence. Their website is www.sankofatheatrehbg.com. Please contact Eric Dundore or Shirley Keith Knox if you have any questions or concerns.

CALLED TO CARE

After 27 years of leading St. Paul's Called to Care team, Martha Keith has decided to step down. She will still be a part of the team, but leadership will be transitioned to Melissa Cawley, Carol Sizemore, and Mary Runkle. We cannot thank Martha enough for her many years of loving guidance, service and commitment to this team and the members of St. Paul's!

If you need to contact Called to Care, you may do so by contacting the church office, Revs John and Allyssa, Melissa, Carol, or Mary.

Called to Care

Church Office - stpaulstaff@outlook.com - (717) 766-7931

Rev. John - (717) 525-4689 (C)

Rev. Allyssa - (717) 798-4541 (C)

Melissa Cawley - melissacawley@aol.com - (215) 531-4257 (C)

Carol Sizemore - wrscls2604@aol.com - (717) 858-3105 (C)

Mary Runkle - maryrunkle0515@gmail.com - (717) 805-1589 (C)

