THE EPISTLE



Letter from the Pastor By Rev. John Ward-Diorio

The last Sunday in May is Pentecost. We celebrate the gift of God's Spirit to one and all, and the event that helped us recognize this is true. A rush of strong wind, divided tongues like fire resting on the Apostles, these images portray a Spirit that is stirring and alive with energy.

We are grateful for God's Spirit that is aways within us, always seeking to guide us, uplift us, comfort us, and love us. These images of God's Spirit are calmer and can even be hard to notice. We raise up the necessity of offering prayers and practicing meditation so we might better discern what God's Spirit is sharing with us. Listening and patience are crucial. Speaking to one another can help bring clarity. And we need to remember God's Spirit exists in more than one way.

(continued on the next page)

MONTH HIGHLIGHTS

106 YARD SALE 8AM-1PM. Join us as volunteers or reserve a space for yourself. Donations are due to the church ASAP.

21 ONA SUNDAY
Open and Affirming
Sunday, Celebrate St.
Paul's 20th Anniversary
of our ONA commitment.

28 PENTECOSTCelebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Cover Image: Easter Sunrise Service at St. Paul's by the Columbarium. Photo Credit: Rev. Allyssa Boyer

Letter from the Pastor By Rev. John Ward-Diorio

(Cont.) The images of Pentecost stir in us, like that mighty wind, the vision that we are indeed called to act. The Spirit of God blows where it wills, and we too are called to go where God wills us. More than likely that will be to places and spaces that we do not know well; that might make us uncomfortable, especially at first. The wild wind of God's Spirit is always accompanied by the reassuring aspect of God's Spirit within us so that we might have the courage to go and act, and the faith to believe we will receive clarity of what those actions might be.

Our actions may well include speaking up and speaking out. Those tongues of fire resting on the disciples are a reminder that our words might ignite some strong reactions from others but that is something that Jesus did and those who have followed him through time do. We must be steeped in what Jesus has taught us and how Jesus has shown us to live as we were created to live.

Our words and actions, as "heated" as they might be, must come from places of love, care, and compassion for all people, all God's Children, and the whole of Creation. More often than we care to admit, "heated" words emerging from such places are what are needed.

Graceful engagement is a term used in our Open and Affirming work with members and other Congregations. "Grace-Filled" engagement is action and is not necessarily quiet and subdued, demure, and bashful, but rather calls on our words and actions to be filled with the understanding that God's Grace is ever present. Strong wind and fire are sometimes called for. In conversations, through sermons and prayers, together we figure out what that might best look and sound like, how it might ignite others' passion as well.

The celebration of Pentecost calls us into this space where we are reinvigorated, where God's Spirit stirs mightily within us, and we dedicate ourselves to acting in the ways Jesus taught us and showed us. May we be so moved.

May God's Spirit stir within each of us, Rev. John

MLC'S LEAVING SUBCOMMITTEE

By now most of you have heard that the Mechanicsburg Learning Center, after more than forty years of operating at St. Paul's, will be moving out the end of June or soon thereafter. The Consistory has created a subcommittee to investigate the best use of the rooms they will be vacating. Suggestions raised already include expanded classroom and meeting space for our Congregation, library space, and/or finding another group or person that would benefit the wider community: perhaps a Head Start program, another pre-school/day care, a therapist, a spiritual director, space for the LGBQT+ center on the West Shore, Adult day care, a program serving people with disabilities. There are many options that we want to investigate and determine what is realistically possible, and keep the Congregation informed along the way.

If you have suggestions or thoughts about how the space might be best used, please reach out to one of the members of the subcommittee. We will follow up on those suggestions. If you would like to volunteer to help as part of the subcommittee, please let us know that as well.

Current members are: The Rev. Allyssa Boyer; Consistory Chair Sherry Spencer; Consistory Liaison to MLC Chris Grice; Property Chair Art Williams; Property member Eric Dundore; volunteer Tom Richey and The Rev. John Ward-Diorio.

We will proceed with careful consideration, balancing differing needs and suggestions, and seeking to further fulfill the calls God places before us.

In Our Hearts and Prayers

Addie (Stork-Whitson); Kevin & Karen Allison; Barb Bell; Marshall Bender; Cindy & Dick Bensel; Beverly (Hayden); Bill & Bob (Gabriel); Barbara Blust; Braylan; Anna & Dale Burns; Nancy Cabrera (Runkle); Jeff Carlson (P. Miller); Alyssa Claar (A. Thompson); Pat Cleland; Heather Connelly (Bomberger); John & Sheri Conner (Layne); Donna D'Agostino; Emily Degnitz; Evelyn Diorio; Allen Dreibelbis; Nancy Dreibelis; Bob & Eve Fenner; Jerry Foulke & Lynn Carson; Fenton Fox & Rick Holtzapple; Diane Freeman; Steven Freeman; Ron Gabriel; Bill Gladstone (Aumiller); Sandy Gordon; Floyd Gouse; Grammer; Mike Greenwald; Harriet & Mark Grimm; Dr. Mark Hagenbuch (Bomberger); Jane Hall; Mike Hatz; Jim and Leslie Hoehn; Brenda Hoffer (Stork-Whitson); Dan & Will Jones; Jean & Will Jones; 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; Shirley Keith Knox; Kristine and Family (Ward-Diorio); Kuntz Family; Chris L.; Jean & Craig Layne; Leibowitz Family, Debbie Lever (A. Thompson); Liam (Simpson); Larry Linder (Stork-Whitson/Williams); Judy Linton & Family; Jess Logan; Luca; Taran M. (Taylor); Manny (Sharp); Marie (Murphy); Michael & Ernie (Richey); Anita Miller; Charles Miller (Lloyd and Matthew's dad); Joanne Miller; Sue & Dayne Miller; Tasha Misner (Trout); Carol Moran; Ernie Moyer; Randy, Dar & Sarah Murphy; Gene & Ruth Ellen Myers Susan Myers (A. Thompson); Nyugen, Thu (P. Boyer); (Boyer); Richard & Nancy Reba (Richenbacher); Carol Rhoads; Jason & Rachelle Rhoads; Wes Rhoads & Family; Alan and Diane Richenbacher; Monisha Ridley; Philomena Rosati; Franklin, Andrew, Levi Roth; Jack Runkle; Rhoda & Ned Rupp; Scott & Tracey (Davinroy); Jean Searle; Susan Shanaman; John Shandra; Karen Shapiro; Sherry (Short); Shondra; Corky Short & Candy LaRue; Barbara Sterner; Terry; April Thomas (Bomberger); Cathy Thomas; Edward Thorn; Tracy Thrush Family; Kathy (Wolford Witmer) Toth; Shannon & Phoenix Trout; Bill Utley (Boyer); Rosalie Utley (Boyer); Vickie (S. Miller); Jean and David Weiss; Ryan Wilson (Bomberger); Chelsey Wirth; Fran Wolford; Mitchell Worley (Jones); Suzanne Worley (Jones); Kevin Young (A. Thompson); Zachary (Taylor).

BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Kimberly Krug
- 02 Cameron Burns
- 03 Milo Stavely
- 04 Martha Spong Valerie Chapman-Jones
- 05 Emily Pineo
- 07 Gregory Miller
- 08 Andrew Wentz
- 09 Kathryn Amtower
 Joy Perry
- 10 Bruce Perry
- 12 Clarence Solt Jr. Cassidy Westbrook
- 13 Rhondá Jacobsen Rebecca Strock Sophia Chripczuk
- 14 Gail Parthree
 Katelyn Chamberlain
- 15 Brynn Bergstresser Mary Runkle
- 16 Liam Urmston Allyssa Boyer
- 17 Mackendra Shea Dixie Brown
- 18 Glenn Kline Oliver Weiser Joan Moyer
- 19 Aurora Chandler
- 20 Rick Holtzapple
- 23 Rachael Hersh
- 24 Kathi McConnell
- 25 Lloyd Miller Linda Alburger
- 27 Michael McCorkel
- 28 Deena Trone
- 29 Susanne Mullin
- 30 Ned Rupp

ANNIVERSARIES

- 02 David & Christine Grice
- 03 Edward & Susan Thorn
- 06 Bruce & Joy Perry
- 08 Kenneth & Cheryl Malick
- 09 Richard & Kristine Amtower
- 11 William & Barbara Westhafer Sr.
- 13 Dale & Anna Burns
- 19 E. Timothy & Leann Davinroy Albert & Mary Jane Huebner
- 21 Milo & Amy Stavely
- 24 Timothy & Brenda Kern
- 25 Don & Merikay Wood
- 28 Darryl & Winifred Wentz
- 31 Michael & Tracy Shea

Thank you for Serving
Head to our website, under the "sign up" heading, to volunteer.

| | | I | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday, May 7, 2023 | Sunday, May 14, 2023 | Sunday, May 21, 2023 | Sunday, May 28, 2023 |
| 10:30 A.M. | 10:30 A.M. | 10:30 A.M. | 10:30 A.M. Pentecost |
| | | | |
| Acolyte | Acolyte | Acolyte | Acolyte |
| | | | |
| Lector | Lector | Lector | Lector |
| Karin Stork-Whitson | Paula Boyer | Rebecca Drazba | Eric Dundore |
| | | | |
| Greeter - Common's Table - | Greeter - Common's Table | Greeter - Common's Table | Greeter - Common's Table |
| Consistory | Rebecca Drazba | Nancy Richey | |
| Steven Roush | | | Greeter - Sanctuary Exterior |
| | Greeter - Electronic Door | Greeter - Electronic Door | Door |
| Greeter - Electronic Door | | | |
| -Consistory | Greeter- Sanctuary Exterior | Greeter - Sanctuary Exterior | Greeter - Electronic Door |
| Paula Boyer | Door | Door | |
| | Sherry Spencer | | Altar Flowers Delivery |
| Greeter- Sanctuary Exterior | | Altar Flowers Delivery | Martha Keith |
| Door -Consistory | Altar Flower Delivery | Nancy Richey | |
| Sherry Spencer | Erin and Ben Anderson | | Kid's Place Attendant |
| | | Kid's Place Attendant | |
| Greeter - Communion Server | Kid's Place Attendant | Erin or Ben Anderson | Kid's Place Attendant |
| -Consistory | Jonneke Dundore | | |
| Wendy Hayden | | Kid's Place Attendant | Counting Team Member |
| | Kid's Place Attendant | | Martha Keith |
| Greeter - Communion Server | Kim Pirtle | Counting Team Member | |
| -Consistory | | | Counting Team Member |
| Jim Pirtle | Counting Team Member | Counting Team Member | |
| | Sherry Spencer | | |
| Altar Flower Delivery | | | |
| Dale Thorpe Don Dupes | Counting Team Member | | |

NEW MEMBER MEETING

On Sunday April 30, after our Worship Service we will have an informational meeting for people who are possibly interested in becoming New Members of St. Paul's UCC. This is a no pressure gathering so we can share information and answer questions. If you are interested in joining St. Paul's but cannot be at this meeting, please contact either Rev. Allyssa or Rev. John. We hope to see you there.



20TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR ONA VOTE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! On SUNDAY MAY 21 we will celebrate 20 years of being ONA here at St. Paul's United Church of Christ. WORSHIP will be a CELEBRATION and Fellowship afterwards will be a CELEBRATION!!! We look forward to seeing one and all!

Kid's Place Attendant

Kid's Place Attendant

Counting Team Member

Counting Team Member

Susan Ward-Diorio

Don Dupes

Mary Runkle

Joan Mover

Spotlight on Sacred Art

This month, our spotlight is on Peace Church. The congregation of St. Paul's UCC descends from a German Reformed congregation, a church brought to North America by German-speaking immigrants fleeing poverty and warfare in Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries.

When William Penn planned land parcels, he segregated the Germans from the Scots-Irish, who originally settled Cumberland County. But after



Penn's death, the land was resold to German families whose farming techniques worked well in the Cumberland Valley, since the land and climate was so similar to the farmland they left behind in the Palatine and Württemberg regions. Jonas Rupp, with his wife and seven children, purchased the 265-acre "Providence Tract" in 1772 and immediately set to work clearing and farming the land. By 1780, there were over 50 German families operating farms in the area. At first, the Germans limited their religious observances to family worship at home, but by 1796, they decided they needed a church building. Jonas Rupp donated the land and deeded it to the church fathers, who signed their names, and mothers, who signed with 'X's. That church building, begun in 1798 and dedicated one year later, is Friedenskirche, Peace Church—used by both Reformed and Lutherans "in peace" for over fifty years.

Peace Church is constructed of limestone, a plentiful resource in our valley; built by stone mason Thomas Anderson and carpenter Martin Rupp (Jonas Rupp's son). Built in the Georgian style, it is known for its symmetry, its wine-glass pulpit that rises over nine feet off the floor, and its beautiful arched windows. The Conrad Doll organ was installed in 1807 after years of debate between the old Germans, who thought the organ was a modern atrocity, and the younger generation. Before the electric air pump renovation of the organ in 1974, St. Paul's youth were asked to pull on the bellows straps to keep the air pressure high enough for the organ to sound (a tough task on hot days).

On June 28, 1863, Peace Church was at the center of Confederate Brig. Gen. Albert Jenkin's artillery brigade as they fought with Union troops located a mile east at Oyster Point (where the Friendly's restaurant in Camp Hill stands today) who were defending Harrisburg from Confederate attack. Two Virginia cavalry units deployed to support the charge, rounding up civilians and detaining them in Peace Church to prevent them from providing information about the Confeder-

We hope you'll join us for worship at Peace Church on Sunday, June 4, at 9:15 AM; a wonderful way to honor our ancestors in the faith, and to share their discipleship with future generations at St. Paul's! ates to nearby Union troops. On June 30, the Confederates were recalled south by Gen. Robert E. Lee; the Battle of Gettysburg began the next day. This conflict in the Cumberland Valley would be the northernmost engagement of the Civil War.

Events and Announcements

SPRING MECHANICSBURG COMMUNITY DINNER

Once again St Paul's UCC is pleased to participate in the Mechanicsburg Community Dinner. This hosted event is by churches several Mechanicsburg and will serve approximately 100 people on Sunday, May 21, on the lawn of First Church of God, 28 E. Main St.

Our church was asked to supply a variety of desserts that are ready to serve and 4 bottles of sour cream in squeeze bottles. If you are willing to help please contact Paula Boyer at 717-433-1136 pbstwins@aol.com. her know what you are providing and how many servings. The committee is asking that the food be at the First Church of God by 4:30 pm. If you can provide a dessert or sour cream but cannot get it there on that day Paula will be able to arrange a pick up with you.

SHARING OUR GIFTS AT PENTECOST

On the holiday of Pentecost, we honor the gifts bestowed to the people of the Church by the Holy Spirit. As part of our celebration, we are asking you members



and friends of St. Paul's UCC—to share your gifts with us. On May 21 (the Sunday before Pentecost) we will have flame-shaped cards available. Please take the time to reflect on the question, "What is my gift to my family, friends, church, or neighbor," and write your answer on a flame card. You do not need to write your name. The cards will be displayed in the sanctuary on Pentecost. Thank you for helping us to celebrate!

POLLYANNAS

Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting 11:30 am, Tuesday, May 23 at CC's Kitchen in Mechanicsburg. Please contact Bonnie Plymette if you are planning to attend.

BLUE SQUARE CAMPAIGN

Are you seeing blue squares on your social media feeds? The "Stand Up to Jewish Hate" campaign is aiming to raise awareness and combat antisemitism and hatred against Jews. The Jewish Federation of North America is encouraging all people to post and share a blue square (found on everyone's emoji keyboard) to stand up against prejudice. The blue square occupies just a tiny portion of our screens, representing the approximately 2.6% of Americans who call themselves Jewish, but who are on the receiving end of 55% of all religious-hate crimes. We can show our love and support for our Jewish neighbors by posting and sharing the blue square on our social media.

CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP

Caregivers Support Group, an offshoot of the Called to Care Ministry, provides an opportunity for caregivers to find support, encouragement, and practical ideas and resources in caring for their loved ones. The group is for anyone in a caregiving relationship, whether your loved one is at home, in a facility, or at a distance. Group members have a wealth of ideas and knowledge, as well as the desire to be present for each other on an ongoing basis. Chris Royer, PsyD and Chris Bowers, LCSW are cofacilitators and bring many years of professional as well as personal experience to this role.

Our group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6-7 pm at St. Paul's. You may attend in person or via zoom, and the zoom link is sent out by email the day before the meeting. We are always open to new attendees and welcome you warmly. Please call or text Chris Bowers 717-645-9621 if you are interested in attending.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. PAUL'S UCC'S NEW GRADUATES

Joseph Cawley, Ava Drazba, Allison Moyer, Ryder Paulus, Bella Shaner-Elliott, Logan Velez, Emily Pineo, Maddie Simpson, Rachel Thompson, Becca Ward-Diorio, and Lily Ward-Diorio.

Please join us in celebrating our new grads at fellowship time following worship on May 21. New grads, we are so happy to share in the excitement of your graduation, and so very proud of you!

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

Spring has sprung for St. Paul's trees. Thank you so much to everyone who purchased trees for St. Paul's over the past few years! The trees are all native to PA, and include familiar names such as Sugar Maple or Redbud, but there are also some beautiful trees that you may not have heard of before – such as American Hornbeam, Blackgum, or Hawthorne. Nature (and St. Paul's) loves diversity – we have tall trees and not so tall trees, trees with big leaves and little leaves, trees with showy blooms and camouflaged blooms, trees with smooth or rough bark, trees with beautiful fall color and trees that just seem to drop their leaves – and all of them are hosts for PA insects, birds, and other native animals as well as being gorgeous by themselves. Thank you for supporting St. Paul's Green Initiatives, including PA native trees and plants. If you are interested in getting your yard (or other areas) to be more native for Pennsylvania, a great resource is PA's DCNR page. https://tinyurl.com/28wrte92









CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On June 4, please join us for worship (9:15 AM) at historic Peace Church as our confirmands affirm their baptism and are welcomed into the membership of our congregation. Let us celebrate the covenant they are making with God and our congregation by welcoming them into the full life and ministry of St. Paul's UCC with joy!

PRISM

All singles are invited to attend our potluck lunch after church on May 28th. 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



YARD SALE

Saturday May 6, 2023 8AM – 1PM This event was so successful last year, we're going to do it again – hopefully, without all the rain!

This is a Rain or Shine Event. If the event must be moved inside, we will accommodate as many reservations as possible. If your reservation cannot be accommodated, it will be refunded.

Please let us know if you would be willing to help with this event in any way. (Call the office or let any of the committee members know). There are many jobs available from set up to clean up. A signup sheet will be posted in the commons.

Thank Jow!

A big thank you to St. Paul's for the lovely altar flowers as well as visits and cards from the Called to Care Team.

One does not expect to have two bouts of pneumonia within four months but hopefully I am on the way to a full recovery.

Thank you again and God Bless. Carol Hartman Fleisher

Martha, Jonne, and the Entire Kitchen Crew,

Thank you so much for the time and effort each of you contributed to a lovely luncheon for Richard.

We were so very pleased and were delighted to get to know some of you a bit

So many thanks, Sandy [Gordon] and Family

Dear Congregation of St. Paul's, Thank you so much for the flowers from Palm Sunday. It was a delightful surprise and the flowers were lovely. But more touching was the care I feel from you all! Thank you, and your prayers were answered!

Deb Cashman





A Tribute to Mike Hatz

By Wendi Taylor

As Mike Hatz retires as sexton of St. Paul's United Church of Christ of Mechanicsburg, he takes with him the blessings of the congregation for a job well done. Reflecting on his relationship with the church, Mike said "I may not have made a major contribution, but I always wanted to do a good job.

"When I started 20 years ago, people would encourage me by telling me how happy [they were] that I was keeping our church clean. They were always nice and complimentary."

"We should have come up with a new title for Mike Hatz years ago," said Rev. John Ward-Diorio. "Yes, he was our Sexton, and he did an excellent job caring for our building and grounds. Because of his experience and the responsibility he took, he anticipated our needs for funerals, weddings, different services and all sorts of things that needed doing and took care of them without being asked. Minister of Building and Grounds is a title that is more accurate."

Retirement has been a big change for Mike. For the first time in 20 years, he has his weekends free. "It felt strange not to go to the church on Saturdays and Sundays."

Mike was hired when Tom Herrold was pastor. Dr. Herrold gave Mike a job description and "... he let me set up my own schedule," Mike explained.

"In all of our HR (Human Resources Committee) meetings, we never had a complaint that he was not doing his job," said Sherry Spencer, chair of the Human Resources Committee. "And his job description was eight pages long!"

Mike said that he has always enjoyed good communications with the congregation. "The people make this church," explained Mike. "They show they care about people and the neighborhood by their actions and not by quoting scripture." Mike wants to thank the congregation for hosting a retirement reception for him. "It's such a nice thing they are doing."

Anyone who knows Mike knows he loves children. In addition to the 20 years Mike has spent caring for our church, he has spent 47 years dedicated to teaching and caring for children as both a kindergarten teacher for 30 years and the director of the Mechanicsburg Learning Center. And even in retirement, Mike is still working with children, five days a week from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at his friend's newly-opened daycare center at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mechanicsburg. "I really enjoy educating children ... taking them from where they are to where they need to be, and what they need to know," Mike said.

Dr. Herrold remembered what a wonderful teacher Mike was for his children, Steve and Lauren. Starting at St. Mark's, and then taking up residence at St. Paul's, the Mechanicsburg Learning Center (MLC) was blessed with the leadership and professionalism of both Mike and his wife Sharon. "Always approachable and interested in the children he taught, Big Mike was loved by his kids and always helped to make MLC the success it has become, Dr. Herrold said. "His thoroughness and work ethic as sexton also benefited St. Paul's Church in these last years. (Continued on the next page.)

(Cont.) For many years, Mike has been a credit to our community and its children."

Mike and Sharon's connection with MLC kept things between the church and the center working smoothly for years. "This allowed the relationship to flourish even through changes," Rev. John said.

Art Williams, chair of the Property Committee, which oversees the care of the church, said it has been a pleasure working with Mike. "We will miss the many blessings that Mike brought to us through his work and his cheerful demeanor."

"... (I)t was always fun to see Big Mike trying (and failing) to sit low on the floor in room 13 surrounded by very small children as he skillfully and animatedly read them a story. He knows his way around kids as well as he knows our building," Art said.

"He, of course, knows every nook and cranny of our building and grounds, and certainly knows how to do his job. But more than that, Mike was always aware he was working in a house of worship," Art continued. "He was always careful to be respectful of the building and considerate of the people in the building as they went about their church business."

Art, Rev. John and Mary Runkle, member of the Human Resources Committee, referred to Mike as Big Mike. "He always had a smile, and asked about me and my family, " Mary said. "My daughter, Lyne, was a youngster here at MLC when Big Mike was one of the teachers.

"Mike has consistently done a fabulous job keeping up with our church and our grounds. Thanks, Mike, for your years of service, your kindness, and for your friendship!" Mary said.

When Rev. John thinks of Mike, the word "care" comes to his mind. "Mike's care for others, is what really stands out for me about him. He took the time to get to know people. He cared about the people of St. Paul's, often asking about people who were ill or struggling.

When he saw people, he engaged with them, often leaving them with a smile. His calm presence was infectious. And what never ceased to amaze me was how many people who had him as a teacher at MLC, or whose children or grandchildren had him, remembered him. "

"Mike's care for others, is what really stands out for me about him. He took the time to get to know people. He cared about the people of St. Paul's, often asking about people who were ill or struggling. When he saw people, he engaged with them, often leaving them with a smile. His calm presence was infectious."

Mike lost his wife Sharon to cancer eight years ago in December 2014. Sharon had two children from a previous marriage when they were married and Mike loved and raised them as any father would. In 2017 Mike was also diagnosed with cancer. Throughout his life Mike had always been active – really active, playing basketball, racket ball, and cycling long distances, to name a few. He said that all that exercise has given him the stamina to stand up to the treatments that he has undergone to keep the disease in control.

While the return of cancer played a role in deciding to retire, it was not the only factor. "I am getting older and setting up those tables seems to be getting harder and heavier than ever before."

In closing, Rev. John said, "I miss (Mike's) presence and his spirit. My prayers will continue to be with him during his treatment and hopefully the time afterwards when he can relax and do whatever he pleases. Thank you, Mike, good and faithful servant of God and friend of ours. Peace."

May 2023

HTTPS://SAINTPAULSUCC-MECH.ORG/CALENDAR

| VAUNIS | MONDAY | THESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THIIBSDAY | FRIDAY | SATIIRDAY |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | | | |
| | _ | 2 4:30PM: MLC Meeting 6:30PM: Queer Bible Study | 3 6:30PM: Choristers, Hand Chimes, Youth Choir 7:15PM: Chancel Choir | 4 6:30PM: Cub Pack - Pavilion | 5 6PM: Voices of the Valley Rehearsal 6:30PM: Cub Pack - Pav. | 6 8AM-1PM - Yard Sale 7PM: Voices of the Valley Concert |
| | | Fell | Fellowship Hall Unavailable - Yard Sale | le | ı | |
| 7 8:30AM: Communion Service 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship 4PM: Confirmation Session | 8 7PM: PFLAG Meeting | 9 1PM: Prayer Shawl 5PM: Finance Meeting 6PM: Caregiver's Support | 10 6:30PM: Choristers, Youth Choir 7:15PM: Chancel Choir | 11 6PM: Safety & Security 6PM: Parish Ministries 7PM: CE Meeting | 12 2PM-5:30PM: Pavilion Reserved for MLC | 13 3:30PM: Youth Fellowship - Mini Golf |
| 14 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship 6PM: Sanctuary Reserved | 15 6PM: Property Meeting | 16 5:45PM: Consistory | 17 6:30PM: Youth Choir 7:15PM: Chancel Choir | 18 6PM: SPARCC 6:30PM: Cub Pack - FH | 19 6:30PM: Cub Pack | 50 |
| 21 ONA SUNDAY 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship 11:45: Fellowship Time 4PM: Confirmation Session | 22 1PM: HR Committee 6:30PM: Passages Bereavement Support | 23 11:30AM: Pollyannas 6:30PM: Queer Bible Study | 24 6:30PM: Youth Choir 7:15PM: Chancel Choir | 25 | 26 Office Closed | 57 |
| 28 PENTECOST 9:15AM: Sunday School 10:30AM: Worship 12:30PM: PRISM 5:30PM: Youth Fellowship | 29 Office Closed | 6:30PM: Queer Bible Study | 31 | The most up to | date calendar is on the church website. | he church website. |
| | | Help | us keep it current b | elp us keep it current by scheduling your ev | ents at the church thru the church office | ru the church office |