

JULY 2023

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

THE EPISTLE



Letter from the Associate Pastor By Rev. Allyssa Boyer

The Penn Central Conference (PCC) of the United Church of Christ (UCC) held its 61st Annual Meeting in June. Annual Meeting is a multi-day gathering of people from the 85 congregations that comprise our conference. Congregations send delegates to vote on resolutions and other matters of business, but there are also workshops, guest speakers, and plenty of opportunity for fellowship among delegates, clergy, and guests. PCC is one of the 38 regional bodies that make up the UCC; geographically, it covers the middle third of PA, from the New York border to the Maryland line.

The theme for Annual Meeting this year was "Renewing the Covenant We Share."

(continued on the next page)

MONTH HIGHLIGHTS

10-13 VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL

15 COMMUNITY
GARDEN WORK
DAY

Any level of experience is
welcome

29 CENTRAL PA PRIDE
FESTIVAL

A day of fun. Stop by
and visit with many
members of the church
serving throughout the
day

Cover Image: A group of
volunteers from St. Paul's helps
move a family into new housing
through CWS.

Letter from the Pastor

By Rev. Allyssa Boyer

(Cont.) Covenant may sound like an old-fashioned word, but it is vitally important to who we are as followers of Christ. One of the guest speakers at our Annual Meeting was the Rev. Jane Fisler-Hoffman who wrote a study on covenant for the UCC. In her workshop, Rev. Fisler-Hoffman reminded us that, as members of the Body of Christ (and of the UCC) we are all in covenant with God, and with each other. Covenant is more than a contract. It's a sacred bond, an earnest wish to be in right relationship, recognizing that we can do far more together than we can apart.

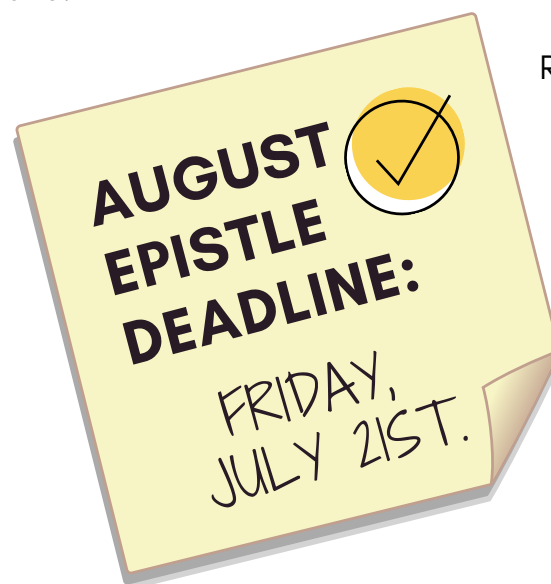
In the UCC, we practice covenantal polity (polity describes the way denominations and other church bodies are governed). Some churches have episcopal polity; they are governed by bishops who have authority over the church. Some churches have presbyterian polity; they are governed by a hierarchy of councils. Some churches have congregational polity; the local church is completely independent of any governing authority except for their own church council.

But in the UCC, our polity is a bit different. We don't have levels of church governance; we are not a hierarchy. We have settings, or expressions. The local church is one setting of the UCC—we, the congregation of St. Paul's in Mechanicsburg, are a local church. But that is not the only setting we are a part of. We are part of an association, the Mercersburg Association, and a conference, the Penn Central Conference, both settings of the UCC with which we, as a local church, are in covenant. And we are in covenantal relationship with the national setting of the UCC, too.

No one setting of the church tells the other settings what to do. Instead, we have entered into sacred relationships with one another, seeking to do Jesus's ministry as best we can as part of the various expressions of the church. It's not an easy type of polity to be a part of. It requires a lot of communication, patience, flexibility, and grace. But it is a mature way to relate to one another, granting each other autonomy while still recognizing our interdependence.

Our congregation is engaged in many wonderful ministries: growing veggies in our community garden, helping refugee families resettle in Central PA, caring for those who are sick or hurt, providing a safe space for LGBTQ+ youth to be themselves, the list could go on and on. But Annual Meeting is a wonderful reminder that we aren't in this alone. We are part of larger expressions of the Body of Christ. We can do even more when we work together. I hope everyone has a chance to attend an Annual Meeting at some point, or General Synod (like Annual Meeting, but for the national setting of the UCC, held every two or three years). Getting the chance to meet people from other UCC churches, forming friendships, learning from each other, supporting one another... it is a gift to walk the path of discipleship with others from the wider church, bonded by covenant, knowing we don't walk alone.

Peace,
Rev. Allyssa



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 **sacristy**.



The interior of St. Paul's UCC's sacristy.

A sacristy, also known as a vestry or preparation room, is a room in Christian churches for the keeping of vestments and other church furnishings and sacred vessels. In St. Paul's UCC's building, the sacristy is a small room located directly behind the chancel in the sanctuary. It is accessed through a door behind the pulpit. There is also an outside door to the sacristy; this is where the altar flowers are dropped off by the florist on Fridays. Inside the sacristy, there is another door that leads to the machinery for the organ and the

steeple bell that our organist chimes before worship begins.

Our sacristy includes a small sink, a refrigerator (for communion wine), a table, and cabinets. This is where many of the supplies for worship are stored, including candles, candle oil, the patens, chalices, flagons, and trays for Holy Communion, altar linens, banners, and paraments. A copper relief reproduction of DaVinci's "Last Supper" hangs on the wall. Underneath the artwork, there is a small, framed prayer: "Almighty God, whose presence is found especially near in this holy place: grant that in seeking to serve thee here I may have the blessings of a serene spirit, a clean mind, a humble heart, and dedicated hands. May that which I do here be of use to all who seek thy presence in this place, that thy name may be glorified this day and evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

The team in charge of the sacristy and its contents is called the Chancel Committee. Currently, our Chancel Committee chairperson is Steven Roush. He maintains our inventory of candles, oil, candle holders, flower vases, and communion elements. The sacristy is a beloved nook in our church. Many people do not know it's back there, and yet without it, we would not be able to uphold our worship customs and traditions.



This cabinet in the sacristy stores altar linens and the paten, chalice, and flagon we use during Holy Communion (in felt bags).

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!

In Our Hearts and Prayers

Addie (Stork-Whitson); Kevin & Karen Allison; Jim Barger; Barb Bell; Marshall Bender; Cindy & Dick Bensele; Beverly (Hayden); Braylan; Bria (LaRue); Anna & Dale Burns; Nancy Cabrera (Runkle); Jeff Carlson (P. Miller); Cass and Jay (Mullin); Alyssa Claar (A. Thompson); Rosie Clapp; Don Coldren (Grice); Heather Connelly (Bomberger); John & Sheri Conner (Layne); Mary Cooley (Richey); Donna D'Agostino; Emily Degnitz; Allen Dreibelbis; Nancy Dreibelbis; Betsy Eichelberger; Jerry Foulke & Lynn Carson; Fenton Fox & Rick Holtzapple; Diane Freeman; Steven Freeman; Ron Gabriel; Bill Gladstone (Aumiller); Floyd Gouse; Shirley Grammer; Mike Greenwald; Harriet 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); Ralph Kiner; Jesse King; Dave Kirkwood; Glenn Kline; Kristine and Family (Ward-Diorio); Chris L.; 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); Charles Miller (Lloyd and Matthew's dad); Sue & Dayne Miller; Tasha Misner (Trout); Carol Moran; Ernie Moyer; Randy, Dar & Sarah Murphy; Gene & Ruth Ellen Myers (Boyer); Susan Myers (A. Thompson); Nyugen, Thu (P. Boyer); Patrick (Gabriel); Richard & Nancy Reba (Richenbacher); Amy Rhoads; Carol Rhoads; Jason & Rachelle Rhoads; Wes Rhoads & Family; Alan and Diane Richenbacher; Harry Reidinger (Sponsler); Philomena Rosati; Franklin, Andrew, Levi Roth; Jack Runkle; Rhoda & Ned Rupp; Thomas Schwartz (Sizemore); Scott & Tracey (Davinroy); Jean Searle; Susan Shanaman; John Shandra; Karen Shapiro; Sherry (Short); Shondra; Corky Short & Candy LaRue; Terry; April Thomas (Bomberger); Cathy Thomas; Edward Thorn; Tracy Thrush Family; Shannon & Phoenix Trout; Bill Utley (Boyer); Rosalie Utley (Boyer); Vickie (S. Miller); Jean and David Weiss; Ryan Wilson (Bomberger); Mitchell Worley (Jones); Suzanne Worley (Jones); Kevin Young (A. Thompson); Zachary (Taylor).

ANNIVERSARIES

07/06 David & Patricia Scott
07/07 Thomas & Betty Olsen
07/09 John Durham & Melanie
Shaver-Durham
07/10 Michael & Kathryn Aumiller
07/13 Anthony & Michelle Howe
07/14 Gary & Carol Fleisher
07/17 Rebecca & Layne Thompson
07/21 Gregory & Carrie Dundore
07/23 Linda Miller & William Murray
07/28 Richard & Cynthia Bensele
07/30 Gregory & Patrice Miller

BIRTHDAYS

07/01 Susan Miller
07/02 Diane Freeman
07/03 Hayden Miller
07/05 Emilia Clauser
07/06 Gloria Hoffman
07/06 Shawn Elliott
07/07 Saige Sufrin
07/07 Alan Richenbacher
07/07 Clayton Pirtle
07/08 Lawrence Schmick
07/09 Gary Dolbin
07/10 Grace Simpson
07/11 Nathan Cawley
07/11 Rebecca Lingenfelter

07/12 Chris Cowan
07/12 Todd Garman
07/13 Evan Pineo
07/14 Chelsey Wirth
07/16 Benjamin Knox
07/18 Kathryn Aumiller
07/21 Jeff Leister
07/22 Shirley J. Knox
07/23 Barbara Bell
07/24 Wendy Hayden
07/24 Madeline Sentman
07/24 Brandon Miller
07/25 Gwen Burns
07/26 James Pirtle
07/26 Elizabeth Pineo
07/27 Elsa Riesmeyer
07/27 Melissa Gates
07/28 Michael Allison
07/31 Brenda Kern

Thank you for Serving

Head to our website, under the "sign up" heading, to volunteer.

Sunday, July 2, 2023 - 9:15 A.M.	Sunday, July 9, 2023 9:15 A.M.	Sunday, July 16, 2023 9:15 A.M. Outdoor Service	Sunday, July 23, 2023 9:15 A.M.	Sunday, July 30, 2023 9:15 A.M.
Acolyte	Acolyte	Acolyte	Acolyte	Acolyte
Lector Beth Lengel	Lector	Lector Pam Smith	Lector Sue Lingenfelter	Lector Shirley Keith Knox
Greeter - Common's Table Consistory Rebecca Drazba	Greeter - Common's Table Wendy Hayden	Greeter Sherry Spencer	Greeter - Common's Table	Greeter - Common's Table
Greeter - Electronic Door Consistory Present or Past Member Sherry Spencer	Greeter - Electronic Door	Greeter Bonnie Plymette	Greeter - Sanctuary Exterior Door	Greeter - Electronic Door Sherry Spencer
	Greeter - Sanctuary Exterior Door Jody Biss	Greeter	Greeter - Electronic Door	Greeter - Sanctuary Exterior Door
Greeter- Sanctuary Exterior Door Consistory Paula Boyer	Altar Flower Delivery Don Dupes Dale Thorpe	Altar Flowers Delivery Bonnie Plymette	Altar Flowers Delivery Mary Runkle	Altar Flowers Delivery Wendi Taylor
Greeter- Communion Server Consistory Wendy Hayden	Kid's Place Attendant Don Dupes	Kid's Place Attendant Bonnie Plymette	Kid's Place Attendant	Kid's Place Attendant
	Kid's Place Attendant	Kid's Place Attendant	Kid's Place Attendant	Kid's Place Attendant
Altar Flower Delivery Darryl & Winnie Wentz	Counting Team Member	Counting Team Member Dennis Plymette	Counting Team Member	Counting Team Member Sherry Spencer
Kid's Place Attendant	Counting Team Member	Counting Team Member Sherry Spencer		Counting Team Member
Kid's Place Attendant				
Counting Team Member Sherry Spencer				
Counting Team Member				

Thank You!

Thank you to the St. Paul's
Congregation.

Thanks so much for the beautiful
flowers, they warm my heart.

Thanks again.

Love and Peace,
Floyd Gouse

We would like to thank the congregation for the
prayers offered to us. We really appreciate the meals.
and transportation to and from doctor appointments.
ALSO for the prayers, flower arrangements.

My (Fenton) knee is doing good but the last two weeks
sitting with Rick has made it hurt and stiff. Needless to
say I have to start walking.

We feel so welcome at St. Paul's. We appreciate all
the love you have shown to us.

Thanks, Fenton and Rick

Events and Announcements

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL — “OPERATION RESTORATION: MENDING GOD’S WORLD”

Our kids can be menders of the universe! But, you think, they're just kids. How can they be menders of the whole universe? At “Operation Restoration,” they will practice being universe menders because that’s exactly how God made all of us. Your kids have been given the power to feed, heal, forgive, pray, and rest—essential tools to help repair all that has gone wrong in the world. They’ll learn more about their mending powers at “Operation Restoration” Vacation Bible School!

**DATES: MONDAY, JULY 10 –
THURSDAY, JULY 13
TIME: 6:00-8:15 PM**

All kids age four through rising 5th graders are invited to grow in faith as they play, learn, sing, and work to be menders of God’s creation.

To sign up, pick up a VBS registration form on the table in the Common, download a registration form from our website, or email Rev. Allyssa at allyssaboyer@outlook.com. Please return your completed form to St. Paul’s by June 25. See you at “Operation Restoration” VBS!



MECHANICSBURG COMMUNITY DINNER

Partnering with 5 other area churches, St. Paul’s is participating in the Mechanicsburg Community Dinner on July 23 at 5:00 pm located on the lawn of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 132 E. Main St. Once again, St. Paul’s is providing the macaroni and cheese. Because we are preparing to serve 150 people 7 pounds of mac and cheese is needed. The plan is for volunteers to make their macaroni and cheese and bring it to our church by 10:30 am on Sunday, July 23. The dish could be prepared ahead and placed in the refrigerator at our church. We will combine the macaroni and cheese in our roasters on that day. If you are willing to help or have any questions please contact Paula Boyer by calling, texting or sending an email. Paula’s phone number is 717-433-1136. Her email address is pbstwins@aol.com.

Also, a Time to Sign Up sheet will be sent to the participating congregations. Volunteers are needed to set up, serve, assist and greet the diners or clean up.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

On Sunday, July 16, we will hold our worship service outside (weather dependent). Worship will still begin at 9:15 AM. Be sure to dress comfortably and bring lawn/camp chairs. We will gather on the grass by the pavilion. We hope you can join us!

PRISM

All singles are invited to attend our potluck lunch after church on Sunday, July 23rd. Please bring a favorite dish to share. We look forward to spending time with you. Questions, contact Carol Sizemore. (717-858-3105)

PPRC

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee met on 6/1/23; this was a reschedule of the 4/20 meeting. 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 9/7/23. If you have any questions, please ask any committee member.



SPOOF PICNIC & HIKING - SUNDAY, AUG 13TH

Join SPOOF (St. Paul's On Our Feet) for a fun day in the outdoors on Sunday, August 13th 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 11am, with cooking noon-2. Parking and restrooms are also very close to the pavilion. All are welcome; bring your friends along too! Watch for a sign-up sheet to be posted soon. Since this year's picnic is on a Sunday after our church service, rides can be provided and carpooling is an option. <https://ttsu.me/r7btsg>

TECH CORNER

Several years ago, while teaching mathematics and computer science at Mechanicsburg High School, I started a weekly email titled "Tuesdays Topic." Its purpose was to provide teachers with non-technical information ... current scams and viruses, whether or not to upgrade their software, my recommendations for software utilities, etc.

After I left teaching, I continued to post a monthly Tuesdays Topic on the web. The tag line on the web site was "computer information even your grandmother can understand."

Why a Tech Corner in a Church publication? With scammers trying every avenue to steal your money, AI being used for the wrong purpose, and just general 'what do I do now?' questions about upgrades, etc., I felt it might be a good idea to do something like this. Others agreed, and Tech Corner will start appearing in the Epistle, and on our web site. In situations where Renee doesn't have enough space in the Epistle, she will create a link to the information on our website. Previous Tech Corner(s) will also appear on our website.

Remember, nothing too technical. I'm not a software 'expert' so I won't tell you how to create a spreadsheet, put boxes in a document, or any one of a multitude of software 'fixes.' I will tell you about email 'etiquette,' how to avoid scams, what to look for in email(s) to help you avoid being compromised, and more. I'll tell you about utilities I like, whether you should upgrade to Windows 11 (and which version ... there are at least 8 different versions ☺), how to make your system 'jump higher and run faster,' why you should NEVER defragment an SSD or Nv Me hard drive, and other non-technical topics.

And finally, look for the possibility of receiving emails from the staff and me that end in @stpmech.org. Currently, the staff emails all end in @outlook.com.

It's considered more professional for a company or non-profit to have a more 'business-like' email address instead of a web-based email address (like outlook, Gmail, yahoo, msn, etc.). I've been trying to figure out a way to make this switch available to staff for a few years, and they now have the possibility to switch. They will have the option to use either address ... their current @outlook.com, or the new @stpmech.org.

Please be aware that both email addresses are legitimate email addresses.

Until the next time ...

Dave Ritter

PS Have a question that you'd like answered? Email me at dave@stpmech.org. I may determine more people might like the answer and make it one of the Tech Corner topics. That's how Tuesdays Topic got started. ☺

NEW HOPE NEWS

New Hope Ministries will hold their back to school event- School Daze Craze- on August 9th. Children of guests of New Hope will receive backpacks with much needed school items. Donations of school supplies are greatly appreciated and the following is a list of items needed.

Donations may be placed in donation boxes in the commons by **August 1st**. Any questions contact Karen Allison. Thank you for your continued support of New Hope!

- Backpacks
- Binders- 1 1/2 to 2 inch rings
- Calculators- Scientific
- Colored Pencils
- Crayons and Markers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Erasers
- Folders
- Glue Sticks/Bottles
- Highlighters
- Index Cards- 3x5
- Mechanical Pencils
- Notebook paper for binders
- Notebooks
- Pencil Cases with Zippers
- Post it notes- square
- Rulers
- Tissues- Individual Packs



Looking Ahead...

SUN. AUG. 27TH.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

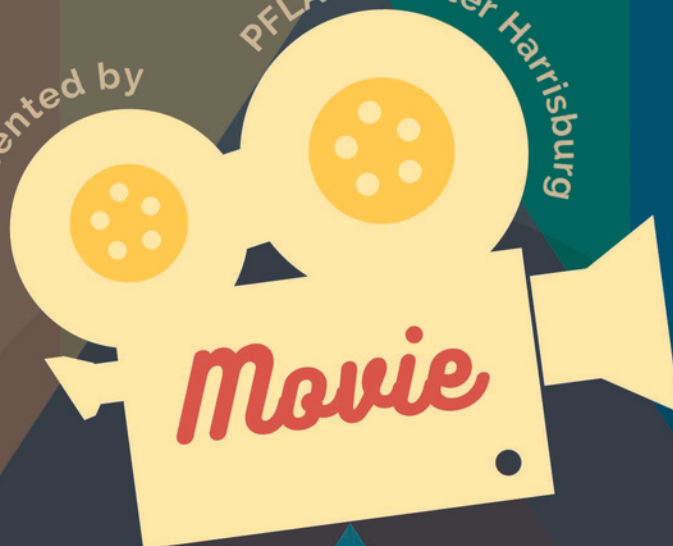
SUN. SEPT. 10TH.

RALLY DAY

FRI. OCT. 6TH.

FALL BAZAAR

Presented by PFLAG Greater Harrisburg



TRIVIA

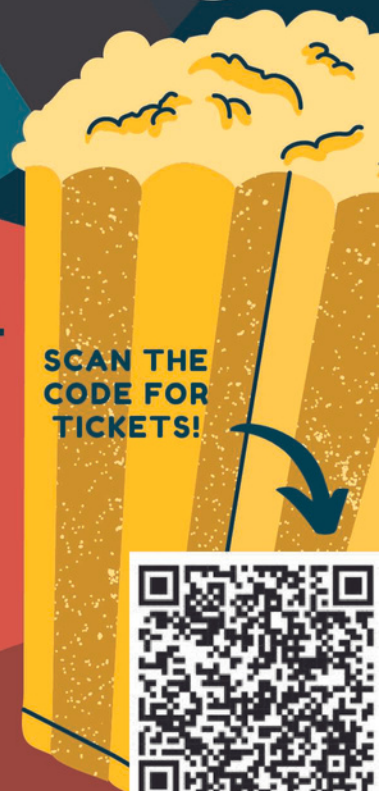
"A DAY AT THE MOVIES"

Saturday, August 19
2:00pm-4:00pm

St. Paul's UCC
626 Williams Grove Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

\$20
ENTRY

PRIZES!
SILENT
AUCTION!



Proceeds go to the
Lippert-Sizemore Scholarship Fund.

The scholarship was created to recognize and award outstanding students from our region for their involvement in the LGBTQ community, to encourage post-secondary education of LGBTQ persons and their allies, and to promote a positive image of LGBTQ persons in society.

Prize money will be awarded for the top 3 teams.
Silent Auction items will be donated by LGBTQ businesses and allies. Please support the community.
Light refreshments will be provided.

SCAN THE
CODE FOR
TICKETS!



PFLAG

HARRISBURG /
CENTRAL
PENNSYLVANIA

July 2023

The most up to date calendar is on the church website.
Help us keep it current by scheduling your events
at the church through the church office.

Rev. John Away: July 3rd - July 16th.
Rev. Allyssa Away: July 30th - August 12th.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:15AM: Worship	3	4 4:30PM: MLC Meeting	5	6	7 10AM: Room Reservation	8
	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED					CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
9 9:15AM: Worship	10 7PM: PFLAG Meeting	11 1PM: Prayer Shawl 5PM: Finance Meeting 6PM: Caregiver's Support	12	13 6PM: Safety & Security 7PM: CE Meeting	14	15 9AM: Community Garden Workday
		VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - 6PM-8pm				
16 9:15AM: Outside Worship	17	18 5:45pm: Consistory	19	20 6PM: SPARCC	21 10AM: Room Reservation	22 9:30AM: Silent Witness Peacekeepers Alliance Training
23 9:15AM: Worship 12:30PM: PRISM	24 1PM: HR Committee 6:30PM: Passages Bereavement Support Group	25 6:30PM: Queer Bible Study	26	27	28	29 PFLAG at PRIDE
30 9:15AM: Worship	31					

[HTTPS://SAINTPAULSUCC-MECH.ORG/CALENDAR](https://saintpaulsucc-mech.org/calendar)

