

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

August 2023



Acts 29

Greetings, St. Paul UMC friends and family!

If I ask you, 'Who/what is the church?' then you, as a United Methodist, won't hesitate a second to sing, 'I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together.' (UMH#558). Yes, you are right. Church is about people – you and me, but what kind of people are they? There are many opposing voices or doubts about the institutional church exists. Walk the streets and ask people if they are Christians. It won't be challenging to hear, 'I'm a Christian, but I don't go to church.' 'I have good faith and so don't worry about me coming to church.' 'My faith is personal, so I don't need a church.' If you encountered them, what would you say?

As we start a new season, we want to rethink the church. Many good things are happening in our churches. As your pastor, I witness God's working among us almost every day. What are these all for? What is God trying to do? Before we get caught up with the church's business as usual, we want to go back to what God intends for the church as we think about the church's birth/early story in the Bible.

The Book of Acts is a Biblical account Luke wrote about the earliest church Jesus established. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he promised to his disciples, "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father" (John 14:12, NRSV). Jesus wanted his followers to continue to do the works that Jesus did for the people.

Jesus also instructed his disciples not to leave the city. When they stayed in the city and gathered together, as Jesus said, something happened to them. They were grief-stricken by the loss of their teacher and afraid of their opponents. They focused on themselves, but now they saw something bigger than themselves. As a result, an ordinary fisherman who worked in the lake for himself became a fisherman who worked in the marketplace among the people and invited them to the true Kingdom of God. A coward became a hero who didn't mind dying for his cause. A cruel persecutor became the greatest evangelist. A new community was formed called the church.

What is the church? The church is a gathering of people who declare 'It is not about me' – of people who find that there is something much bigger than themselves in their lives; who are empowered by the Holy Spirit; who are sent by God to join in the mission of God, not the mission of a church.

The book of Acts ends with chapter 28, but God's story continues. We, St. Paul United Methodist Church, are called to continue to write the story of Acts. We will be a living history of Acts 29. I'm excited every time I open the book of Acts, expecting how God is touching each of us. I'm also humbled by God's mighty power that enables an ordinary person to be extraordinary.

It is not about an institutional church story. It is God's story of how God invites God's church to God's mission, God's redemption work. It is not about them but about you because you are the church. You are the main character of Acts 29.

Let's continue to write the story of God together with our lives. It is our calling as a church. May God bless you in this new season!

Rev. Myungha Baek



Rev. David S. Showalter

The goal of St. Paul Youth Ministries is to nurture our youth toward LIFE-LONG Discipleship of Jesus Christ through a theology of “intergenerational adoption” of our youth by congregants of all ages. We begin in “Youth Ministry” and “end” in “family”...the family of God.

St. Paul Uprising! Uth supported Vacation Bible School in helping disciple our “little’s” and assisting our larger church family volunteers in that effort during the last week of June. Sixteen Uprising! youth helped to staff VBS including some friends who our youth invited along in this fun ministry endeavor. And we had a BLAST!!!

The summer months of July and August will see “The Uprising!” combining fun, service, witness and learning as is our typical pattern. We have several ideas in those areas that are being firmed up at this time.

Debby and I were blessed to have visited our good friends Jim and Donna Weeks (former St. Paul Uprising! Uth Advisors) in Sicily over the period of mid-June. We ask St. Paul to continue in keeping the Weeks family in our prayers as Jim’s Dad (Jim Sr.) passed away just after our return.

I continue to work with Pastor Baek in working toward turnover of St. Paul Youth Ministry stewardship to whomever God chooses to serve in that leadership capacity upon my retirement at the end of August 2023.

Youth Pastor Dave



If you are not interested in this position, **please pass this on to anyone you think would be interested!**

St. Paul United Methodist Church – Lusby is seeking a Youth Leader. This is a part-time position and is available immediately. A complete job description can be found at: <https://stpaulumc-lusby.org/job-opening/>

For consideration, please email a cover letter and resume to sprc@stpaulumc-lusby.org

To speak with someone concerning this position, please email sprc@stpaulumc-lusby.org or contact Becky Grover at 410-474-8866. You may also contact the Church Office (410-326-4475, stpaulumcinfo@gmail.com), and someone will respond to your inquiry.

OFFICE CONTACTS & INFORMATION

Senior Pastor:**Rev. Myungha Baek**
Church Email:.....PastorBaek@stpaulumc-lusby.org

Youth Pastor:.....**Rev. Dr. Dave Showalter**
Church E-Mail:..... dave4godsteens.stpaul@comcast.net

Admin. Assistant:.....**Kathy Matthews**
Church E-Mail:..... kmatthews@stpaulumc-lusby.org

OFFICE PHONE:**410.326.4475**

OFFICE EMAIL:stpaulumcinfo@gmail.com



Celebration of Service

Join our fellowship honoring Pastor Dave and Ms. Debby
**Sunday, August 6th immediately following the
10:00 Combined Worship service.**

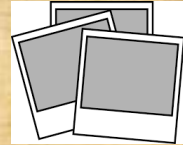
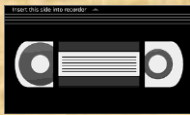
Details: Hot Dogs, fried chicken, condiments, tea, lemonade, and paper products will be provided by the kitchen. Guests are invited to bring a side dish in a disposable container **along with ingredient card** according to the following last name alphabet breakdown.

A – G: Deserts

H – R: Side Dish

S – Z: Fruits & Veggies

**“Luv U guys...All God’s Continued Absolute, & Extravagant
Best 4 Each of U and UR Families!” and “Always remember
how much U R Loved!**



Please forward photos, videos & words of support to share at
our celebration of service for Pastor Dave and Debby Showalter to:

stpaulumcinfo@gmail.com

July 13, 2023, Church Council Committee Reports

Lay Leader: Donna House

Plans are under way for our whole church meeting “Wind in our Sails” on Saturday, August 19th from 9:00 – 11:30 am. Council members will continue to meet from 11:30 - 3:00 pm to begin to make plans for future ministry of St. Paul UMC. Please RSVP your attendance to Kathy in the office or to me at donnalhouse@comcast.net. Anyone who cannot attend can submit any feedback on what they love about our church and ideas/dreams for the future.

I am excited to share I had two wonderful experiences that showed God’s love in action. Our “Stellar” Vacation Bible School brought the scripture to life for 40+ children and 40+ volunteers. The activities and music were amazing, and the week was so well organized, ending in a family picnic for all participants. A huge SHOUT OUT to Keri Gray for her coordination of a wonderful week.

I was at West River UMC Camp in Churchton, Maryland from July 2nd – 7th and was the director for the middle school cabin with 31 campers and 5 volunteers. We had an amazing week learning about the “Fruits of the Spirit” - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Goodness, Kindness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control! The campers and volunteers really connected with the scripture and lives were changed. When not in Bible study and worship, campers enjoyed the giant swing, rock climbing wall, archery, banana boat, paddle boards, team building, trampoline, swimming and much more! I pray the camping ministry at St. Paul comes back to life and campers and volunteers once again participate in this wonderful ministry. Please let me know if you are interested! I will be back at West River the week of June 30, 2024!

Also, we were blessed to have another new member to SPUMC in July, Don House.

Finance Committee: Karen Hill

2023 Expense Budget is available upon request.

Operating Expenses in June included: Annual conference attendance expenses and routine operating expenses. Kathy and Cindy worked to complete the Conference Fund reports and other annual filings.

VBS – encourage all to submit expenses associated with the 2023 vacation bible school.

The Finance Committee continues to discuss areas for cost savings in relation to the Operating Expenses. Year to date Expenses is higher than Unrestricted Income (see information below)

Reminder: Tax Exemption Certificate – available from Church Office for qualifying purchases
Encourage reporting of expenses and requests for reimbursement be made in a timely manner.

— AUGUST 2023 —

St. Paul UMC Finances as of 30 June 2023

	Actual (YTD)	Budget (YTD)	Annual Budget	Annual %
Contributions	\$ 156,733.46	\$201,679.78	\$399,519.35	39.2%
Expenses	\$ 190,786.27	\$196,624.25	\$399,519.35	47.8%

The St. Paul UMC congregations has graciously made an additional \$17,089 in benevolent (restricted giving) to benefit the ministries, missions, and those in need in 2023.

Current Month (June)	Actual	Budget	Variance (better / (worse))	Annual %
Contributions	\$ 27,478.04	\$ 33,369.79	(\$5,891.75)	-17.7%
Expenses	\$ 31,283.54	\$ 36,876.85	\$5,593.31	15.2%

Worship: Susan Kennedy, Worship Committee Chair

June Attendance:

9:00 – Average 44

11:00 – Average 21

In June, during the worship services:

- 1) Baptized a baby, Emersyn Ebert (6/4, 11 am service)
- 2) Gave out Father's Day gift (6/18)

In July: changed the Scripture lesson to the Book of Romans.

In August,

- 1) We will have a combined service with communion on 8/6 at 10 am.
- 2) We will have a backpack blessing during the worship services on Sunday, 8/27.

Susan Kennedy

Worship Committee Chair

Scripture Readers

Do you love to read God's word? How about sharing your love with the St. Paul congregation! If you are interested, please email Susan Kennedy at sgkennedy@aol.com to sign up. You can read in person or send in a recorded version to Pastor. Your obligation would be once or twice in a two-month period. Susan Kennedy, Worship Committee Chair

Susan Baker
Sunday School

Positive point: Thank you to our faithful teachers, facilitators and participants.

Also, the continued support of our substitutes who have filled in during this season of vacations and other absences.

Class reports-None this month.

Needs: Additional facilitators for the adult class

Teachers for the high school class

Second teacher for the elementary class

Substitutes

Participants

Contact Susan Baker call/text 410 474 3896:

Thank you for your continued daily prayers for our Sunday School Ministry.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our Lord and Savior as well as St. Paul Church in the Sunday School Ministry



CRITICAL MINISTRY NEED

**Adults to serve on SPUMC Sunday School Ministry
Team**

Long term – Short Term – Intermittent – All Age Levels

Contact Susan Baker: 410-474-3896

wildsonflower@yahoo.com

SPUMPS

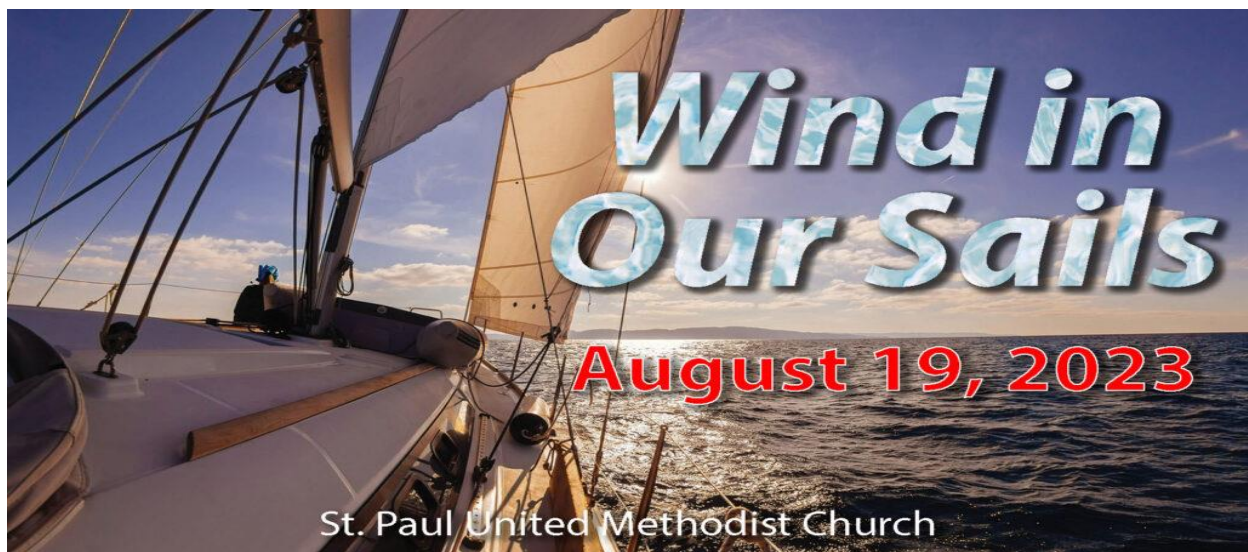
Full time & Part-time slots available for SPUMPS 2023/2024 school year.

Contact SPUMPS at 410-326-3615 or spumps07@yahoo.com

Please share with others who may be interested.

Thank you.

Susan Quisenberry, Director/SPUMPS



Church wide planning meeting

Save the Date! August 19, 2023

The winds of God are always blowing, but you must set the sails. Mark your calendar for a church wide planning meeting called “Wind in our Sails”. The entire congregation is invited to attend from 9:00 - 11:30 am for “Checking our Sails” with a light breakfast, fellowship, and meditation. We will then ask each participant to share positives of the St. Paul UMC ministry and brainstorm some ideas for the future. The leaders of our church, Church Council Members, will meet from 11:30 - 3:00 pm for “Setting our Sails” to review the feedback from the congregation and start to making plans for our future ministries. Please RSVP your attendance to kmatthews@stpaulumc-lusby.org by August 12th . Please contact Donna House, Lay Leader, if you have any questions. If you cannot attend, please email any feedback on St. Paul UMC to Donnalhouse@comcast.net and we will include that in our sharing on August 19 th .



SMILE



“SMILE” FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Non-perishable grocery items are collected the 1st Sunday of each month at our parish. A donation box is located in the lobby of the CLC.

***NEW* Additional Food Pantry Hours**

SMILE Food Pantry **added Thursday morning hours** to their weekly schedule.

Mondays	9 am – 10 am
Wednesdays	10 am – 2 pm
Thursdays	10 am – 12 Noon
Friday	10 am – 12 Noon
Saturdays	9 am – 12 Noon

Call at 410-326-0009 during store hours, or visit our Link: <http://smileinc.org>

SMILE is once again planning to distribute backpacks filled with school supplies to the children of our clients on Sat August 12. We would appreciate any donations from your congregations by Monday July 31. School supplies are typically on sale during the month of July. Items needed include backpacks, pens, pre-sharpened #2 pencils, dry erase markers, highlighters, wide ruled/college ruled paper and notebooks, crayons, washable markers, folders with and without brads and glue sticks. Items may be brought to the SMILE pantry during store

hours. Thank you for your help with this community outreach ministry! Kathy Mazur, SMILE
Pantry

SMILE holds a free Summer reading activity every Thursday from 10:30 – 11:00 at SMILE. Each child will receive a free book of their choice and a half-price off any toy from our toy department! We have a little gift for the adults also! See you next week!



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

JAMES BEAN, JR.	8/01	Kristin Halstead	8/17
SUSAN BAKER	8/03	Barbara Miller	8/17
KEITH POWELL	8/03	Brianna Bobkoskie	8/18
CATHERINE MASON	8/05	Thomas Smith	8/19
CAMREN HUFFMAN	8/06	Tony Bell	8/20
DEBBY SHOWALTER	8/08	Arnold Humphreys	8/23
DONNA HOUSE	8/08	Bonnie Zinn	8/24
RONALD GRUVER	8/09	Ezekiel Rogers	8/25
AMY ROGERS	8/10	Kaitlyn Bobkoskie	8/26
CAMERON ADRIANI	8/11	Regan Bobkoskie	8/26
RUTH DIXON	8/11	Ali Richman	8/26
KATHLEEN HUTCHINSON	8/11	Dusty Milling	8/27
BRANDON HOUSE	8/12	Alyssa Niemi	8/27
Charlotte Busey	8/15	William Kinsvater, Jr.	8/28
Christian Wathen	8/15	Beth Mead	8/29
Jonathan Artz	8/16	Collin O'Mealy	8/29
Abby Kinsvater	8/16	Lorene Bates	8/31
Molli Cornett	8/16	Dorothy Gaylord	8/31

LOST AND FOUND

SPUMC has a “Lost and Found” basket stationed in the lobby of the Christian Life Center.

Contact Kathy at the church office if you have any questions.

Submissions for the September Messenger are due August 14.

Thank you

GIFT CARDS

Every Sunday, food cards for Giant and Weis are available to purchase in the CLC. This assists in our operating budget.



St. Paul United Methodist Church

11000 H G Trueman Road, Lusby, MD 20657

410-326 – 4475

<https://stpaulumc-lusby.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulLusby>

stpaulumcinfo@gmail.com