

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

November 2022



“St. Paul UMC’s Journey to the Discernment Process”

Greetings, St. Paul UMC family!

I hope you stay in God's grace in the season of change and abundance.

As I announced, the church council decided to start the discernment process. I want to explain what we will go through down the road with some background.

Since the 2016 General Conference, the UMC has tried to settle a resolution about the long-struggling issue of homosexuality. Therefore, at the 2019 special session of the General Conference, UMC added ¶2553 to the Book of Discipline. It is about the process of local churches’ disaffiliation due to the issue. In addition to the ¶2553, each Annual Conference of the UMC sets up a guideline to help local churches that consider disaffiliation.

According to the BWC’s guideline, the local churches need to start a ‘church activity-based discernment process’ if local churches think about disaffiliation. It has five steps, and our District Superintendent initiates the process. (<https://www.bwcmc.org/news-and-views/trustees-outline-process-for-disaffiliation/>)

1. A viewing of “Stay or Go: Real Talk for United Methodists Exploring Their Future.”

=> Congregations are asked to view the BWC webinar recorded in the Spring of 2022 called “Stay or Go: Real Talk for United Methodists Exploring Their Future.” This webinar is a discussion with panelists from UM Next and the Wesleyan Covenant Association as they answered questions about their visions for ministry after separation.

2. Study, Living Faithfully: Human Sexuality and The United Methodist Church, (Abingdon Press, 2017).

=> This is a four-week small group study with an honest approach to the matter. Each chapter of this study includes stories from diverse viewpoints referring to the United Methodist structure and practices to guide the group’s reflection and conversation.

Continued on page 2

3. An open forum where a safe space will be created for questions and answers that have arisen after the steps above. The forum will include the District Superintendent.

4. The District Superintendent will assist congregants who are interested in transferring their membership to another UMC congregation if their church conference decides to disaffiliate.

5. The general terms and conditions from the Conference Board of Trustees and the calculation of the church's withdrawal liability payment from the Conference Board of Pensions should be shared with all professing members of the congregation.

=> Similar to the actions taken after a church vote to close, it is the responsibility of the district superintendent to assist congregants who are interested in transferring their membership to another UMC congregation should the church conference decide to disaffiliate. The congregation will also have access to Wespath resources that help to explain the Withdrawal Liability Payments and the impact of disaffiliation on Clergy Benefits.

Defining an activity-based discernment process, which can be used by all BWC churches, will help to alleviate the concerns within a congregation that could arise with a less structured approach. The intent of the process is to provide a fair discussion about the disaffiliation matters that is, at the same time, not too cumbersome on a congregation and its leaders.

Once we start the process, please participate in each step actively, and share your questions, thoughts, struggles, and comments. Dear members of St. Paul UMC, it should be you who can decide St. Paul's future, and it is your responsibility to take care of St. Paul UMC. Please take time and pray, and participate in each process. It's in your hands.

It's a discernment process. It is a process we need to take as a church to discern St. Paul's future life and ministry. It will help us to think and discern each one's thoughts and beliefs about the issue. We will take enough time and go through the process.

Maybe you want to ignore it because it's a complex and heavy issue to carry on. But if we put our heads into the sand and forget it, it will be messier. It is time to get together and pray more, share each other's thoughts and listen to each other with love and sound hearts. St. Paul UMC is the church that God called us to work with for the mission of God's Kingdom. God will ask us one day what we did with it. Please be patient with us, pray with us, and for us.

Maybe you have questions in your mind. If you want, please contact me, your pastor. I'll pray for you and do my best to help and provide all the resources. Let's walk together and work together. We will go through it together. May God's peace is with you all when we go through the process together.

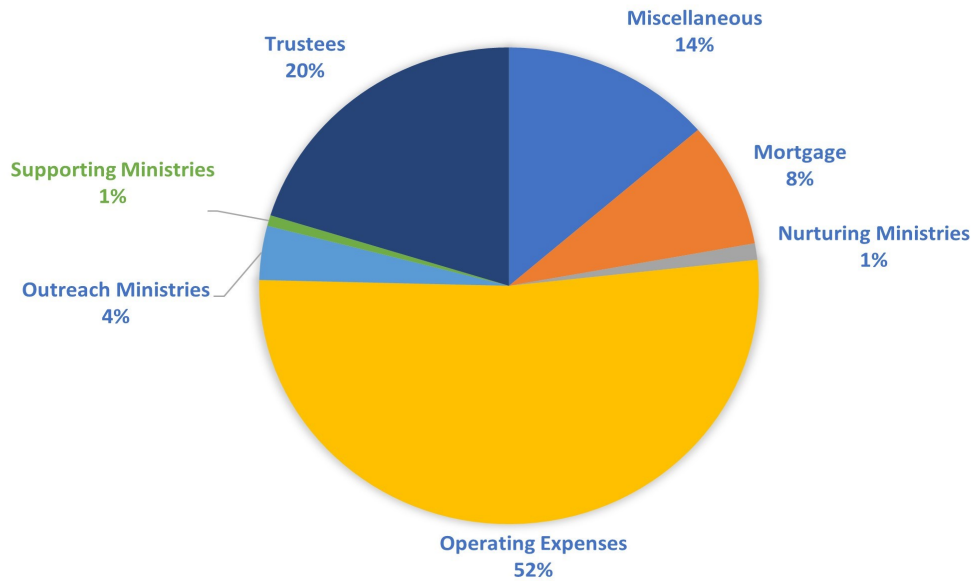
In Christ,
Pastor Baek



FINANCE
Karen Hill, Chair

Sum of Budget

2022 BUDGET
BY CATEGORY



| Category | Sum of Budget |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Miscellaneous | 56,003.00 |
| Mortgage | 34,851.36 |
| Nurturing Ministries | 4,556.25 |
| Operating Expenses | 213,863.58 |
| Outreach Ministries | 15,042.00 |
| Supporting Ministries | 2,983.34 |
| Trustees | 82,942.32 |
| Grand Total | 410,241.85 |

See additional graph on the next page.



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

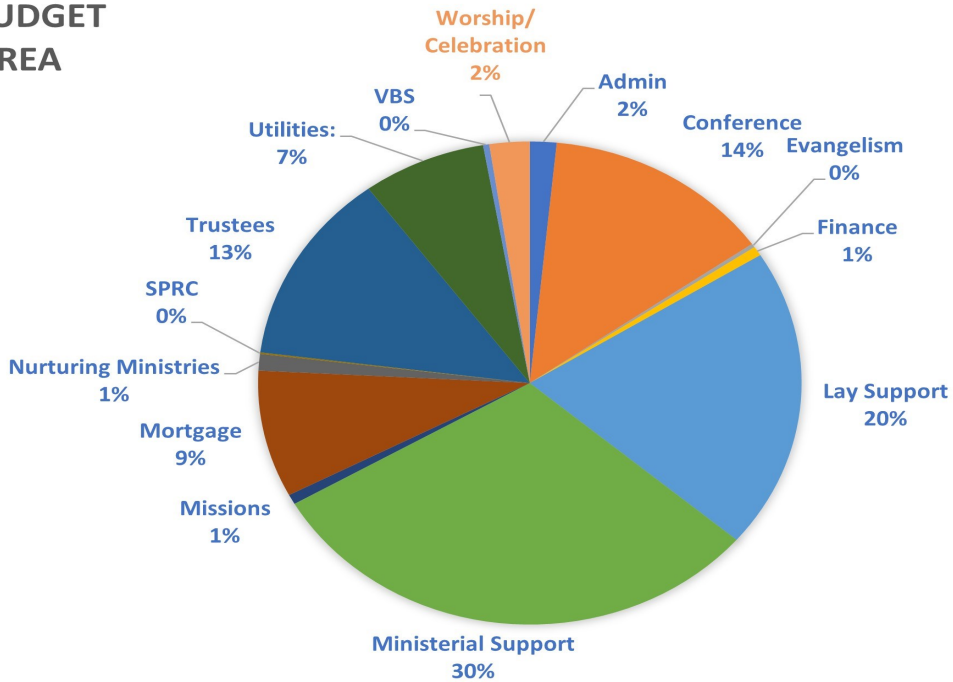
Admin. Assistant: Kathy Matthews
 Church E-Mail: kmatthews@stpaulumc-lusby.org

OFFICE PHONE: 410.326.4475

FINANCE

Sum of Budget

2022 BUDGET BY AREA



| Area | Sum of Budget |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Admin | 6,502 |
| Conference | 56,003 |
| Evangelism | 1,040 |
| Finance | 2,578 |
| Lay Support | 82,556 |
| Ministerial Support | 124,805 |
| Missions | 2,700 |
| Mortgage | 34,851 |
| Nurturing Ministries | 4,556 |
| SPRC | 405 |
| Trustees | 52,738 |
| Utilities: | 30,204 |
| VBS | 1,500 |
| Worship/ Celebration | 9,802 |
| Grand Total | 410,242 |



You shop. **Amazon gives.**

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support **St. Paul UMC** by starting your shopping going to the St. Paul website @ www.stpaul-lusby.org and clicking on the AMAZONSMILE link.



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Are you looking for an Advent Bible Study to focus your mind and heart to the real meaning of Christmas? The Heart That Grew 3 Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch from Matt Rawles' Pop in Culture Series may be just what you're looking for. Matt will help us focus on Christian issues and questions of our faith in new and unexpected ways using the iconic and classic holiday figure, the Grinch, while we explore how God is working in and through us in the world around us.

We will begin with an Introduction the week of November 13th and then start the 4-week study the following week. This study will be presented to both the Women's Group on Mon. evenings as well as Melvin Grover's Group on Tues. evenings. Classes will run the same session/lesson each week so you have some additional flexibility. Sessions include a short video segment as well as reading and reflecting on scripture.

Are you curious?

Come join us as we explore the joy of God's gift of love
to us come down to Earth in the form of a baby.

Joy to the World, indeed!

Prayer Requests



Call the Prayer Chain when you need a prayer for yourself or others. Activate it by calling anyone on the list anytime, day or night.

When called, they will pray for your concern and pass the concern on to the other prayer chain members. Do not hesitate to use the power our gracious Lord has given us. Call on Him for help and guidance.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
| John & Sessaly Boyd | 410-326-4390 | Cal & Carolyn Colvin | 301-862-3273 |
| Ben & Vonnie Dansberger | 410-326-2994 | Ruth Humphreys | 410-326-4687 |
| John & Robin Read | 443-404-8559 | Andy & Beth Rogers | 410-326-6346 |
| Dave & Debby Showalter | 410-326-2150 | Susan Leins Baker | 410-326-6234 |

"The SMILE Thrift store has an immediate need for new volunteers! Item donations are increasing, and we are looking for more people to join our team of volunteers who give back to the community with their time and talents. Help is needed with all aspects of this 100% volunteer operation. All store sales support the many outreach ministries of SMILE including the Food Pantry. As little as 2 hours a month can make a difference! Please come by the store Wed-Fri 10 - 2 or Sat 9 - 12 for a tour, or call us at 410-326-0009 during store hours, or visit our website at smileinc.org to learn more. We look forward to meeting you!"

Sue Chabot, VP, SMILE Board
suechabot7@gmail.com

Links: <http://smileinc.org>



SPUMPS staff would like to give a
BIG Thanks to all who participated
in getting the playground together.
We really appreciated!!!

Susan Quisenberry
Director of SPUMPS Preschool



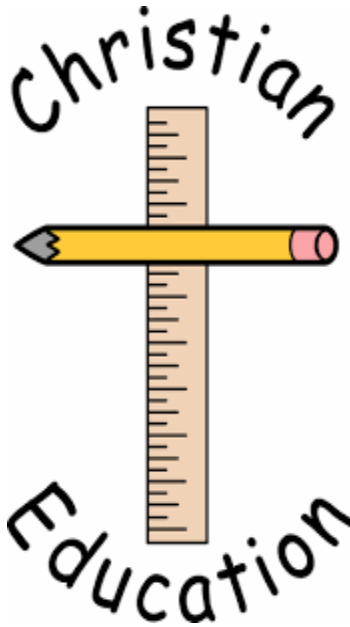
www.TheDDB.com



"SMILE" Food Pantry Donations

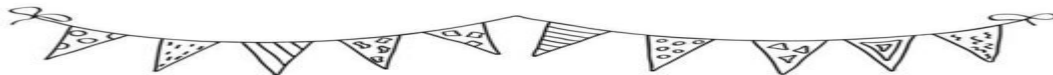
**Non-perishable grocery items are
collected the 1st Sunday of each
month in St. Paul's parking lot!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

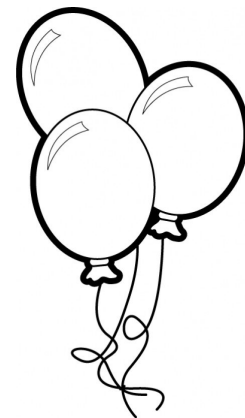


Sunday School is in need of more teachers and subs. There are experienced teachers to help anyone who volunteers and a great curriculum that we have been using for two years. The new edition is THE LIFE OF JESUS. We are especially excited about offering this series to 3-5-year-olds but we need more teachers to expand. Please pray about this ministry and if you would like to join what God is doing at St. Paul, contact the church office or Beth Rogers at 443 624-0037 (text or voice).

BIRTHDAYS!



| | | | | | |
|------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| Lloyd, Gayle | 11/1 | Ebert, Ronald | 11/12 | Gardner, Tara | 11/26 |
| Blizzard, Morgan | 11/2 | Gordon, Lachlan | 11/12 | Lauver, Jennifer | 11/26 |
| Pouncey, Jimmy | 11/2 | Turner, Caleb | 11/12 | Nash, Cathy | 11/27 |
| Gardner, Mike | 11/3 | Lavish, Alex | 11/13 | Pelzer, Charles | 11/28 |
| Nagers, Sophia | 11/3 | Roberts, Madison | 11/14 | Quisenberry, Susan | 11/28 |
| Ulrey, Ella | 11/4 | Weitzel, Jr., Matthew | 11/14 | Young, Rick | 11/28 |
| Lookabill, Anne | 11/5 | Garber, Savannah | 11/15 | Mason, Camron | 11/29 |
| Munday, Hallie | 11/5 | Scroggs, Vicki | 11/15 | | |
| Read, John | 11/6 | Humphreys, Da | 11/18 | | |
| Williams, Maria | 11/6 | White, John | 11/18 | | |
| Stephenson, Mary | 11/7 | Ebert, Jillian | 11/19 | | |
| Ebert, Tylan | 11/8 | Gibson, Teresa | 11/21 | | |
| King, Daniel | 11/10 | Dziedzic, Jason | 11/22 | | |
| Lewis, Gail | 11/10 | Langley, Sarah | 11/23 | | |
| Denton, Michael | 11/12 | Cornett, Irene | 11/26 | | |





SPUMC Advent Mission

Collection week for the shoeboxes will be November 14-21st, 2022.
Please check the link below for more information on the Samaritan's Purse website.

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

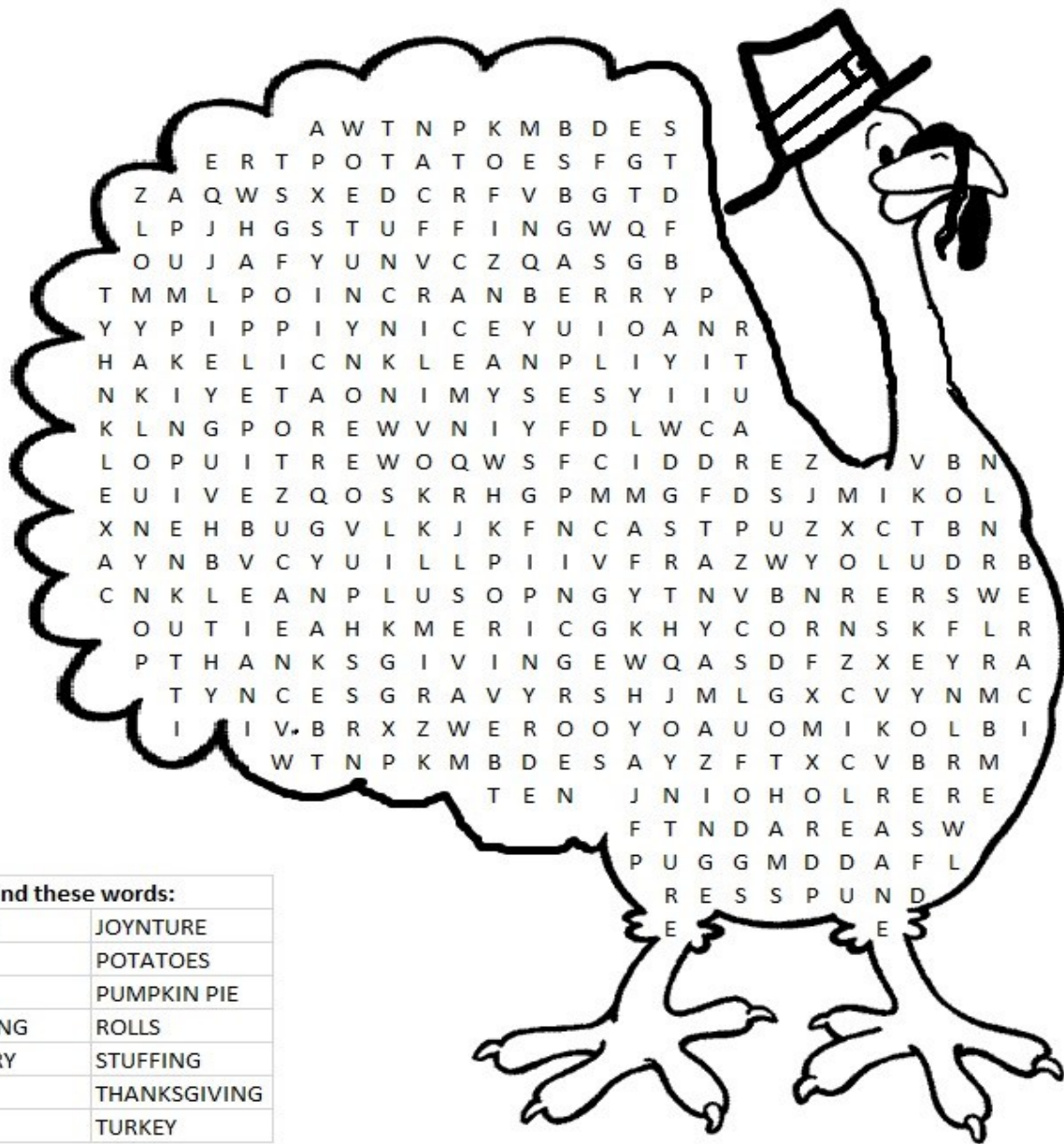
Diane Schmidt

SPUMC COVID Statement

"COVID 19 and its variants are still with us. Health Care Professionals continue to recommend vaccinations and booster shots. St Paul believes masks are a personal choice and will continue to provide them at the entrance along with hand sanitizer. And as always, if you don't feel well, please stay home and visit us on-line!"



Thank you to all the volunteers who help out in the office. I appreciate your time and support! If you're able to help in the coming weeks for just an hour or two, please contact me. Light jobs such as photocopying, filing, phones and organizing in the office are a few of the tasks. Peace and blessings, Kathy



| Find these words: | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| APPLE PIE | JOYNTURE |
| BREAD | POTATOES |
| CORN | PUMPKIN PIE |
| COWORKING | ROLLS |
| CRANBERRY | STUFFING |
| FAMILY | THANKSGIVING |
| GRAVY | TURKEY |

Riddles and Giggles

1. It has ears but it cannot hear and it has flakes but it has no hair. What is it?
2. What smells the best every Thanksgiving dinner?
3. Most people eat me, and that is no surprise. I taste great as chips and also as fries. What am I?
4. Why didn't the Pilgrims tell each other their secrets in the cornfield?

Answer Key: 1. Corn 2. Your Nose 3. A Potato 4. Because the corn had ears