

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER November 2023



“Who do you think you are?”

Greetings!

First, please read Numbers chapter 13 in the Old Testament.

The 12 spies returned from exploring the Promised Land at the end of forty days. Here, we have the only statement on which they could agree: “It flows with milk and honey.” Then they continue with the report: “Yet...” Have you noticed how often people are inclined first to say something good about a person or situation, but before long, they come out with a negative statement that cancels out the good?

“Yet, we saw the Nephilim there. There is no way that we could take the land. They are giants, and we are like grasshoppers compared to them.” (Numbers 13:33)

How could the people of God identify themselves with grasshoppers? Didn’t they have God’s promise? Moses declared, “See, the Lord your God has given you the land. Go up and take possession of it as the Lord, the God of your fathers, told you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged” (Deuteronomy 1:21). God promised that wherever the soles of their feet were placed, it would be theirs.

They were victimized by what they saw with their naked eyes: the giant. It happened to the Jews when they forgot why they got out of Egypt – to possess the Promised Land. Well, they are not the only ones. It happens to us also when we lose our sense of purpose and direction. In other words, when we lose hope. When we lose the purpose God placed in us, we begin to compare ourselves with the size of the giant things we can see with our naked eyes – bigger cars, bigger houses, bigger churches, more significant jobs, etc.

The consequence was tough. The first generation of the Jews who came out from Egypt all died in the wilderness, and the second generation roamed around the wilderness for forty years to restore their identity before God due to their disobedience. In other words, they didn’t have the eyes of faith and hope. Our God is not a God of grasshoppers.

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Let us remember that we are children of God. But our size doesn't matter. God's size matters. We are the people who confess that God is the Creator, Savior, and Sustainer. And this God promised us that God will make us God's children and lead us in God's way. This belief and hope give us our true identity. And our true identity is revealed in the world by our words and actions.

My beloved St. Paul United Methodist Church family and friends, who do you think you are?

It is your turn to answer the question.

In Christ,
Rev. Myungha Baek



Crisp Autumn mornings and color changing leaves are quickly appearing bringing the end to another harvest season. Take time to enjoy the last hurrah of fleeting warm days and bask in the beauty and amazing artistry our Heavenly Father has given us in nature's tapestry.

Are you ready to prepare your heart, mind, and soul for the advent season? "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." ([Philippians 4:6](#)) This reminds us to be grateful for everything we have, even in difficult times. By expressing gratitude, we can find joy and peace in our lives and strengthen our relationship with God.

Thank you for the congregational support of the Family Fiesta of Faith and Fellowship in September. I know the more than 40 participants enjoyed the afternoon spent together as a church family and look forward to future events. Please consider joining us next time if you were unable to attend; I know you won't be disappointed.

The BW Conference invites Elementary age children and families to a weekend retreat at West River November 10-12. If I have enough youth interested in attending without a parent (and I can secure another adult to attend with me) I am willing to take a group to the event near

November

Annapolis. It sounds like a great time. If you are interested, contact me at cyleader@stpaulumc-lusby.org or call/text: 443.624.4484 before 10/22 so we can plan accordingly for the weekend.

Finally, Christmas Eve we would like to have a short Children's pageant called "*Stellar Christmas*" related to the outstanding summer VBS program. I'm told there is "no rehearsal" for this program so if you have family coming in from out of town with interested children this could be a perfect event for them. St. Paul current children are encouraged to be a part of the celebration, so please contact the office or Ms. Sherry for more information.

Calendar of Events:

Weekly Children and teen Sunday School @ 10:30 AM

Uth Meetings 5-7PM (with supper served) 11/5; 11/19; 11/26

Have a joy filled November!

Sherry Mervine, Children and Youth Leader



Ecclesiastes 3:1 "To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under heaven."

Autumn is my favorite time of year. Pumpkin spice, campfires, sweatshirts, sweaters, family, friends, fellowship & Thanksgiving. I'm so very thankful God led me to St. Paul UMC. I thank Him every day for the blessing of my St. Paul Family.

Our church campus is hopping with activity—Scouts and sports teams & ministry! The Bayside Blues is a new student group utilizing the Activity Center batting cages. Our Lady Star of the Sea (OLSS) JV and Varsity boys and girls basketball teams hold practices twice weekly. January 2024 SOMD Rolling Thunder will begin batting practices on a regular basis and another Bayside Blues team may be joining us too. Check out the November calendar for all the upcoming activities.

Happy Fall Y'all!

Kathy Matthews
Administrative Assistant

October 5, 2023 Church Council Committee Reports

Evangelism-Missy Lauber

Annual Trunk or Treat on will be rain or shine on 10/28/23 from 1-3. If it rains, we will all be inside the Activity Center.

We have 8 volunteers willing to decorate their trunks so far. I am hoping to get more individuals to sign up.

Sherry Mervine is running a costume contest, and there will also be games. There is going to be live music provided by our Praise Band.

I am taking candy donations for individually wrapped candies right up until the time of the event.

Lay Leader-Donna House

God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.

St. Paul UMC is alive! It has been a busy few weeks and I feel so blessed to be a member of such an amazing congregation.

On September 10th, we began a pilot of a combined service with everyone invited to the sanctuary at 9:00 am. We have been blessed to have such beautiful music from our Choir, Praise Band and hymns at every service since. Many, many folks have shared that their favorite parts of the combined service has been worshiping as one church, the fellowship of meeting new people, and the wonderful music. After each service, we have gathered in the Activity Center of the CLC for more fellowship time together with a continental breakfast. We thank so many of you for filling out surveys after the service, giving us feedback on what worked and what could be tweaked. And we listened! We averaged 60 in person worshippers each week and the survey results will be presented to Church Council on October 5th where a decision will be made to continue with one service, go back to a 9:00 and 11:00 (both in the sanctuary), or a hybrid of the two. An announcement will be made on October 8th. God's wind has truly blessed us as we have traveled down this river together.

On September 17th, we welcomed FIVE new members to the St. Paul UMC family. Please welcome: Kathy Matthews, Shannon Roberts, Austin Roberts, Madison Roberts, and Andrea Abrams. These folks are already very active in our church and we are truly blessed to have them formally be a part of our congregation. We have some additional members joining in October and we welcome them and any others who are ready to commit to St. Paul UMC.

September 24th was another AMAZING day! Our new Children and Youth Director, Sherry Mervine, masterminded "Fiesta of Fun, Faith and Fellowship" that began at 11:30 and ended at 1:30 pm. **40+ folks** joined us for a huge taco bar and desserts, played Mexican Trivia,

learned salsa dancing, recited some scripture in Spanish with Sharon Evans, played indoor soccer (who knew Pastor Baek had such great soccer skills) and finished with a traditional Mexican pinata. Kudos to Stacy Kackley for heading the kitchen committee and to all of her volunteers for an amazing lunch. Many thanks to all of those that donated items towards lunch and for the offering taken to offset costs. Tons of thanks for those that helped set up and take down the tables and decorations. It truly was a wonderful day. I can't wait for our next event, "Trunk or Treat" on Saturday, October 28th!

Sunday School-Susan Baker

Positive points: We have Sunday School teachers for all classes currently offered.

Class reports: The adult class is in need of additional people to facilitate the class.

Our teacher is having health limitations. The Adult class participation is generally 2 - 3 participants and 1 facilitator / teacher. "Wesley's 22 Questions" continues to be the topic being discussed. High School class has one participant with 2 teachers. The Elementary class has 1 - 2 participants with 2 teachers. They are doing lessons that align with scripture reading in worship.

Possible changes: The Adult class is looking into moving to the room across from the library if the combined service continues. The Elementary class would like to use a round table to replace the 2 rectangular tables. We are looking into a whiteboard for use in this class.

Needs: We need additional leadership for the adult class. Monthly/ quarterly whatever works with our volunteers. Materials can be worked out. Please contact me, Susan Baker 410 474 3896 if you are available or have a suggestion. Remember the dream of a preschool class and middle school class.

Please continue to pray as God guides you for the Sunday School Ministry at

St. Paul UMC. Thanking God and all those who help make the Sunday School Ministry possible by praying, participating, and teaching. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

OFFICE CONTACTS & INFORMATION

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

Children & Youth Leader.....**Sherry Mervine**
Church E-Mail:.....cyleader@stpaulumc-lusby.org

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

OFFICE PHONE: **410.326.4475**

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**Jigsaw Puzzles
Swap or Trade**

Tom Moore is a community member here in Lusby. He loves to put together jigsaw puzzles. Tom would like to swap or trade 1,000 piece + puzzles. He graciously donated several 1,000 piece puzzles to the church. They're on the long table in front of the church office windows.

Please **text** Tom at 740-255-6971 if you're interested



DONATIONS FOR "SMILE" FOOD PANTRY

Non-perishable grocery items are collected each month from our Christian Life Center (CLC).

**Please place your donations in the box
labeled for SMILE.**

**Project Echo and CareNet
also have donation boxes to support the
needs of those they serve.**

More information is available in the Christian Life Center

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jimmy Pouncey	11/2	Caleb Turner	11/12
Sophia Nagers	11/3	Madison Roberts	11/14
Ella Ulrey	11/4	Matthew Weitzel, Jr.	11/14
John Read	11/6	Savannah Garber	11/15
Tylan Ebert	11/8	Vicki Scroggs	11/15
Daniel King	11/10	Da Humphreys	11/18
Gail Lewis	11/10	Jillian Ebert	11/19
Shannon Roberts	11/11	Irene Cornett	11/26
Michael Denton	11/12	Tara Gardner	11/26
Ronald Ebert	11/12		

GIFT CARDS

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



Submissions for the December *Messenger* are due November 14.

Thank you

