St. Paul United Methodist Church



Newsletter Date September 2024

ESSENG

Greetings!

I want to share a story that I recently read. It beautifully illustrates the essence of living as disciples of Jesus and the impact our actions can have on others.

Paul was out on the streets of Manhattan with his coworkers, heading to the airport after a business trip to NY. It was a weekend evening, so finding a taxi was challenging. However, miraculously, a cab pulled up from the other direction.

As soon as the cab pulled up, his coworkers, quick as a flash, ran to get in. In their haste, they knocked over a roadside vendor's cart, causing a pile of fruit to crash. However, Paul's coworkers ignored it and shouted from inside the cab. "Paul, we have to get in the car." "Or we'll miss the flight!'

But Paul couldn't get his feet off the ground. After telling his coworkers to leave first, he approached the old lady, who was the street vendor. Upon closer inspection, the old lady was disabled and difficult to see. A sighted person could have picked up the scattered fruit on the ground and put them back, but since she was blind, she was sitting there in despair and wiping away her tears.

After Paul had organized the vegetables and fruits on the ground back to where they belonged, he took some money out of his wallet and placed it firmly in the old lady's hand, saying, "Ma'am, I think this will make up for your losses." Please accept it. The old lady then asked, "Are you Jesus?" Paul, puzzled to hear this, said, "No, ma'am, I'm not Jesus." With tears in her eyes, the old lady responded, "A few moments ago, when my cart fell over and my fruit and vegetables scattered, I had no one to turn to but Jesus." So, I prayed, "Jesus, please come and help me." And at that very moment, you appeared and helped me. "You must be Jesus. "

Due to this incident, Paul missed his flight earlier and had to stay an extra night in a New York City hotel.

The story ended with this question.

"When was the last time someone confused you with Jesus?"

The Sunday lectionary given to us in September is the Book of James. It is a letter written by James, Jesus's brother, and it provides practical guidance on how to live as disciples of Jesus. The theme verse is "be doers of the word" (James 1:22), which aligns with our journey of following God's lead.

May God bless us and help us follow God's way as we strive to live as disciples of Jesus and be His hands and feet.

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

- From Pastor Baek

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Worship Committee 2
Evangelism2
Trustees3
SPPRC 3
Lay Leader4
Joys & Hopes5
Finance6
2024 Budget6
Children & Youth7
Children's Message7
Prayer Committee8
Sunday School8
Birthdays8
Bible Studies9
Upcoming Events10-11
Calendar12
Announcements13
Office Contacts13

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- September 7th—Church Rummage/Yard Sale
- September 8th—Bring your "Grands" Sunday
- September 15th—National Back to Church Sunday
- October 17th—SPUMC
- October 26th—SPUMC Trunk or Treat

ST. PAUL UMC VISION STATEMENT

"St. Paul United Methodist Church is a **Christ-Centered family** that offers H.O.P.E., by



WORSHIP COMMITTEE BARB MILLER, CHAIR

September 15: National Back to Church Sunday Thoughts are to plan something special for this date.

Service Attendance:

July 7	10am Combined 52 + 6 online
July 14	10am Combined 56 + 6 online
July 21	10am Combined 45 + ? online
July 28	10am Combined 59 + 5 online
August 4	10am Combined 48 + 5 online
August 11	10am Combined 55 + 5 online
August 18	10am Combined 64 + 4 online
August 25	10am Combined 58 + 8 online

Becky Grover has offered to help with the Liturgical Colors in the sanctuary. Thank you!

The next Worship Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 5th at 6:30pm in the Library.

Update visitor packets World Communion Sunday Laity Sunday All Saints Sunday Sunday before Veterans Day Sunday before Thanksgiving Advent begins December 1

October 6 October 20 November 3 November 10 November 24

"Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."

- Mark 16:15

EVANGELISM MISSY LAUBER, CHAIR

Save the Date for Trunk or Treat October 26th 1-3 PM

Flyers are in progress and sign in Prince Frederick near Safeway has been booked. Banner will go up for this event on the second to last weekend in September. The CLC and parking lot have been booked.





Managing the property, equipment, and investments God has entrusted in our ministry.



As a reminder, SPPRC meetings are closed as established by the <u>Book of</u> <u>Discipline</u>, and all information shared in the committee is confidential. The congregation may share any joys or concerns with the committee. The next SPPRC meeting is September 26th where we will begin the important task of Pastor's yearly evaluation.

TRUSTEES JIM HOUSE, CHAIR

The St. Paul UMC Trustees meet on the first Thursday of each month for their business meeting. Items discussed include church projects, church maintenance and finances. Work sessions are scheduled as needed to maintain the facilities and complete projects.

Completed projects in the months of June and July include:

- 1. Relocation of the SPUMPS classroom from the main hallway to the SPUMPS hallway.
- 2. Stripping, scrubbing and waxing of the floors in the SPUMPS wing including four classrooms and the hallway.
- 3. Met with Missy Garber, church custodian, and SPPRC representatives to discuss building and custodial needs and review/sign custodial job description.

Upcoming projects include:

- 1. SPUMC Home Mission Project The Trustees have decided to make the Saturdays in November our mission project to rehab the current Fellowship Hall adjacent to the sanctuary. James Ritter is spearheading the project. Please mark your calendars to lend a hand with cleaning out the closets, drywall, insulation, flooring, ceiling tiles, etc... This is a facelift that is LONG overdue!
- 2. Continue floor stripping, scrubbing and waxing of main hallway and classrooms.
- 3. Rekeying of locks for doors into the CLC
- 4. Inspection of the fire suppressant system for kitchen scheduled for summer
- 5. Scheduling the yearly inspection of Pastor Baek's parsonage and making any needed repairs.

The trustees maintain a detailed list of projects across our campus and are working to complete them. Please inform a trustee if you see any area that needs repair and/or if you have an idea for improvement. We want St. Paul UMC to be an inviting, safe space for all to worship and fellowship.

SPPRC DONNA HOUSE, CHAIR

The SPPRC has not met formally over the summer months but will be meeting in the fall to complete the BWC Conference Pastor Evaluation form and compensation package. In addition, they will be developing evaluation forms for the Lay Staff to provide them feedback by the end of the year.



LAY LEADER DONNA HOUSE

Summer has been a blessed time to worship at St. Paul UMC with one service at 10:00 am since June 30th. While Pastor Baek has been on sabbatical in South Korea, we were able to have some guest preachers and thank Rev. Brown, Rev. Watson, Everett Baker and Melvin Grover. July 28th was very special when we had a focus on worship music genres led by Sherry Mervine and our Praise Band. We were also blessed to have many visitors throughout the summer months and we pray those folks join us again. The fellowship times that followed worship were a wonderful time for the congregation to be together and get to know each other better. Many thanks to all who contributed and to Kathy Matthews for coordinating the setup of this special time.

On Saturday, August 17th, we held our 2nd "Wind in Our Sails" meeting with 22 in attendance, 2 on zoom and remarks from 2 members who couldn't attend. We gathered at 9:00 am and began with fellowship and refreshments, followed by an opening from Pastor Baek. We reviewed the 3 outcomes from last year's meeting – trial combined service, fellowship time each Sunday and monthly churchwide activities. Committee leads shared a brief summary of what their group does.

Then folks shared their JOYS of St. Paul and there were MANY! We are so blessed to have such a close church family that deeply cares about each other. We have beautiful music each week, wonderful staff members, many outreach ministries, a new prayer committee and card ministry and SO much more.

We then shared our HOPES for St. Paul - where did we see we needed to go next?! Lots of wonderful ideas were suggested to further our ministry in this little church on the corner. After that, each participant was given 3 dots to mark their top three HOPES for this year and to identify where the "Wind" is taking us. **In order, they are:**

1) Our **first priority was to** <u>continue with ONE service</u>. It is such a joy having all of us together each Sunday. We will keep the current worship time of 10:00 am until the Worship Committee meets to propose any time change. We need to consider the time for Sunday School and fellowship time while deciding the best flow.

2) We want our church to GROW so our **second priority will be <u>publicity</u> through Facebook, flyers, community outreach and more**. Maybe a Fill-A-Pew Sunday or other Sundays where we focus on inviting others. A perfect opportunity will be next Sunday for the Backpack Blessings and "Grand" Sunday on September 8th. Please INVITE those who are in school next Sunday so we can bless them.

3) The **third focus area is** <u>financial stability</u>. We have made positive changes in budget and for that we are grateful, but our income thus far this year is still \$30,000 below the expenses. We will continue to tighten our budget strings and look for cost saving measures. We ask that you prayerfully consider your giving now and in the future to the general budget.

Our charts will remain on display in the church office during the next month, if anyone is interested in looking them over. A detailed listing of all the JOYS and HOPES brought up during our meeting will be included on the following page, for your reference. You are welcome to ask anyone who was there, office staff or myself if you have any questions. We thank all who attended this past Saturday and those that provided input.



The Wind of God is Blowing at St. Paul. We've checked the sails and have set the sails for the next year. God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.



MUSIC:

Praise Band * Joyful * Hymns * Choir * Willing to do music at request of guest speakers

PASTOR & STAFF:

Technical abilities for media & communication Online information * Pastor who enables us * Wonderful pastor and support staff * Support from Lay & Office staff * Staff welcoming to everyone

COMBINED SERVICE:

Bringing together old and new * 10 AM Combined Service * Online worship options * Online communion option * Passing of the Peace

WELCOMING FACILITY:

Decor * Seasonal displays * Christmas Walk * Fun social media posts * Real flowers at holidays Bulletin boards * Efficient Trustee Team

EVENTS:

Holiday Dinners * Christmas Cantata * Stellar Family Service * National Day of Prayer * Prayer services * Special events together * Trunk or Treat

FELLOWSHIP/FAMILY:

Fellowship time * Faith * Friendships * People Community Connections * Homemade baking Smiling faces * Companionship * Missions * Life in the Church * Getting to know one another Loving, Friendly Congregation

BIBLE STUDIES:

Monday woman sharing and caring * Faith * Community Fellowship * Tuesday night bible study * Small group studies

MINISTRIES:

Donations from supporters * Prayer Ministry * Appreciation by recipients of Card Ministry Sunday School growing * Flexibility of leaders Christmas shoebox ministry * Heartfelt * Rise Against Hunger * Blessings with help * VBS

MISCELLANEOUS:

Activities * How the summer went * Growth

Hopes

BIBLE STUDY:

Small groups during the day * More attending Bible Studies * Small groups in homes * All members weekly prayer meeting * Sanctuary open more for prayer

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Viable children's & adult Sunday school * Grow Sunday school attendance * Grow VBS * Schedule outside of fellowship time

COMBINED SERVICE:

Continued combined service * Earlier start time for service (9:00, 9:15, 9:30) * Outside service * Combine traditional & contemporary music * Music focused services throughout year * Continue Passing of the Peace

MINISTRIES & ACTIVITIES:

Healing services * Quarterly Friday night events * Grow event participation * Events in Activity Center * Community events to draw in visitors * Continue prayer, card and all other ministries * Input about future of card ministry * Another Rise Against Hunger event (2 per year) * Missions Trips * Continue with Compassion (sponsoring a child) as a church congregation * Inclusiveness (BWARM)

ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS:

Financial stability * Transparency with administration to support ministries * Updated directory with complete data (email, birthdates, photos, etc)

PUBLICITY:

Marketing of events * Word of mouth * Update website * Work with preschool to grow younger membership * Grow our social media presence

PEOPLE & MORE:

Name tags * Keep fellowship time * Helping other people enthusiastically * Return of former attendees * Increased participation in events * Attract younger families * Fill a Pew service to increase attendance * Grow youth group * Grow adult fellowship * Increased volunteers for ministries and Sunday school





2024 BUDGET = \$348,825

As a non-profit, the budget assumes unrestricted income and expenses are equal for a net income of \$0.

Expenses continue to be higher than income each month.

Financial summary for July is not yet available.

FINANCE KAREN HILL, CHAIR

Goal: Monitor financial status of St Paul United Methodist Church to support the continue upkeep of the facilities and support for the Mission and Evangelical activities of the church

2024 Budget is upon request.

A new church reporting system was put in place by June 1 to support statistical reporting, communication to members, membership etc. to replace the current Power Church software.

An updated Donation / Reimbursement form is available at the church office or electronically upon request.

An audit of the 2022 and 2023 financials has been completed with no issues. Recommendations were discussed during the July Finance Committee meeting concerns improvements to aid tracking of both income and expense items more clearly.

An Audit of the Cemetery Fund will be planned for later in 2024.

A new finance policy has been established for the creation of new Ministry Groups. No new ministry will be initiated without approval of both the Finance Committee and the Church Council.

St. Paul UMC Finances as of 31 July 2024

	Actual (YTD)	Budget (YTD)	Annual Budget	Annual %
Contributions	\$ 188,077.50	\$ 203,914.00	\$ 348,825.00	53.9%
Expenses	\$ 195,825.84	\$ 199,810.06	\$ 348,825.00	56.1%

The St. Paul UMC congregations has graciously made an additional \$7,607 in benevolent

(restricted giving) to benefit the ministries, missions and those in need in 2024.

Current Month			Variance (better/	
(July)	Actual	Budget	(worse)	Annual %
Contributions	\$ 27,004.80	\$ 26,902.00	\$ 102.80	0.4%
Expenses	\$ 33,768.02	\$ 26,803.58	(\$6,964.44)	-26.0%

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRIES SHERRY MERVINE, LEADER

The goal of St. Paul Children and Youth Ministries is to enable young people ages 0-18 an understanding and recognition of who Jesus is and how to live with Christian character, morals, values, and behaviors for the glory of God.

Future events:

September 7th-Rummage Sale/Parking Lot Yard Sale

September 8th- Bring your Grandchildren to church day with Ice Cream Social

Community Cleanup: October?

Fall family event-TBD



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE MINISTRY CAROL HOWARD

Are you looking for something to fill your time now that school has started back up? Well, here is an idea that will be fulfilling and worthwhile—become a member of the Children's Message Team!

Each week the Children's Message assists our youngest church goers to glean meaning from the weekly scripture and the sermon. You are given the weekly scriptures in advance and you just add your creative energies to provide a message that is usually between 3-5 minutes long for children who attend (ages and numbers of children vary each week). There are delivery options but it is preferred that you are in person for both services. You can also record the lesson for viewing during the services or combine methods and do both in person and recording. We serve on a rotating basis about once every 4 weeks but schedules are flexible with your availability.

The team wants to especially thank Melvin and Becky Grover and Sherry Mervine for their assistance with the messages these past few months. Their help was greatly appreciated while we were trying to cover people's summer vacations.

If you are interested or have further questions about the Children's Message Ministry please contact Carol Howard via text at 301-672-5129 or leave a message at the church office. Thank you for your consideration and have a blessed day.

PRAYER COMMITTEE BARB MACK, CHAIR

Under the leadership of Elaine Perkovich, the Prayer Committee is excited to share with you the coming meditation bench project for the outside area of our Christian Life Center. Elaine designed and planned, with the assistance of Arnold and Ruth Humphreys, for the construction of these beautiful benches. An anonymous donor kindly donated the first bench. The committee is asking anyone who is interested in donating towards the second bench to identify your donation as Building use Benches. The total cost of the benches is \$440.00, project will also include plaques with additional costs. Your kind donation to the meditation benches will be a blessing. Thank you!

Everyday people who are serving as dedicated prayer warriors continue to pray for the person who needs particular care. Anyone interested in agreeing to pray for someone daily please advise any member of the prayer committee or Barb Mack at 240-925-0357. The gift of prayer can make all the difference inside and outside our walls.

The Prayer Committee will meet again on Wednesday, September 18th at noon in the Library.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SUSAN BAKER

Positive report: There has been between 1-3 students for Sunday School each Sunday this summer. More than we expected when we made our original plans for the summer. Thanks to Ms. Barb for your faithful attendance. One student has been very faithful and enthusiastic. Thank you to those who filled in for my absences this summer.

We welcome your continued prayers.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/01	Zac Cummings
9/03	Terry Cave
9/03	Jim House
9/04	Valerie Kund
9/04	Barbie Ritter
9/08	Kay Robinson
9/14	Dennis Kund
9/16	Janice Beers
9/16	Jeff Carroll
9/17	Tyler Nagers
9/19	Diane Schmitdt
9/20	Judith Sapic
9/20	Taylor Deale
9/21	Martha Jefferson
9/22	Becky Grover
9/22	Dean Batchelor
9/22	Shannon Morley
9/26	Susan Kennedy
9/27	Carol Howard
9/27	Tina Humphreys
9/28	Jerry Kackley
9/29	Cameron Benton
9/30	Dawn Langley



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The hot Summer days will soon be ending. School vacation has ended for our children. It's time for adults to enter back into a time of learning. The Tuesday evening Bible Study will begin again on September 12. Each new study lesson brings a different group of people. In order to have enough books for everyone, please let us know if you will be joining us for the Old Testament study. You can contact Melvin (410-474-8867) or Becky Grover (410-474-8866) or just leave a note at the church office.

STARTING SEPTEMBER 12

WEEKLY on TUESDAY EVENINGS 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Library This is a group of both MEN and WOMEN who gather to study God's word. During their study time they share and care for each other. There is no prerequisite of knowledge of the Bible. We all learn together. Currently, Melvin Grover facilitates this group.



Study Lesson Synopsis:

Explore the Old Testament's story of God and God's calling of the people of Israel through the many voices of the biblical text. Hear the magnificence of a Creation hymn, discover the law and wisdom teachings, listen to the warning of the prophets and explore the poetry of the Song of Solomon. Ideal experience

for adults who are interested in the practice of prayer and worship and would like to connect prayer practice with Scripture. The study is accessible for adults with little prior Bible experience.

Participants gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Old Testament as an integral part of the Christian Bible and a renewed discovery of our identity in God and God's vision for all things.

Sessions:

- 1. The Making of the Hebrew Bible
- 2. The Creation Story of Israel
- 3. Out of Bondage
- 4. Promise and Problem in the Land
- 5. Israel Has a King
- 6. Division and the Rise of Prophecy
- 7. Exile and Response
- 8. Restoration and Renewal





St. Paul UMC- Lusby 11000 HG Trueman Rd. 410-326-4475 cyleader@stpaulumc-lusby.org





St. Paul invites you all to connect with us on social media!

Please take a moment to visit our Facebook page and give us a thumbs-up, share your thoughts in the comments, and spread the words by sharing our posts. Your support helps us reach more people with our message of faith, love and unity within our community.

Let's stay connected and continue to grow together as a church fam-



St Paul United Methodist Church

Sep 2024 (Eastern Time - New York) 8 5 S 5 4 9am - Church Rummage 8am - Trustees Work Sat р 8 27 ø 4 Newsletter Article Due 6:30pm - Nomination SPUMPS Closed -8pm - AAFH @ 8pm - AAFH @ 8pm - AAFH @ 8pm - AAFH @ Έ 9 28 9 ŋ e 6pm - Cub Scouts/Firepit 7pm - Cub Scouts/Rms 6:30pm - Worship 5:30pm - Finance 5:30pm - Council Ē 6:30pm - SPRC 7 12pm - Prayer Committee 8 32 4 0 7:30pm - Scout Leaders 7:30pm - AA/FH @ 7:30pm - AA/FH @ 7:30pm - AA/FH @ 7:30pm - AA/FH @ 6:15pm - Praise 6:15pm - Praise 6:15pm - Praise 6:15pm - Praise Wed 2 9 14 m -9am - HeartFelt/FH @ 7pm - BS Troop/FH @ 9am - HeartFelt/FH @ 10:30am - Faith Circle 7pm - BS Troop/FH @ 9am - HeartFelt/FH @ 7pm - BS Troop/FH @ 9am - HeartFelt/FH @ 7pm - BS Troop/FH @ 6:30pm - Bible 6:30pm - Bible Ē 6:30pm - Bible 6:30pm - Bible SPUMPS Closed - LABOR 9 ន 8 N 8 6:45pm - Women's Bible 6:45pm - Women's Bible 6:45pm - Women's Bible 6:45pm - Women's Bible Office Closed - LABOR Mon 15 ន 10am - Worship (Service) œ 3 -10am - Worship (Service) 11:45am - RM Mtg/AC @ 10am - Worship (Service) 10am - Worship (Service) 10am - Worship (Service) 11:10am - Fellowship St Paul UMC - Activities 2pm - Harrell Family 11am - SS classes 9:45am - Worship Sur

GIFT CARDS

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



LOST and FOUND

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

Contact the church office if you have any questions.

Food Drop Lusby is the 3rd Friday of every month at Middleham Parking lot by SMILE, starting at 9 AM. The Maryland Food Bank provides fresh food for packing and distribution. If you can grocery shop you can enjoy a morning making a difference. Distribution Drivers are also needed.

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 Thank you for supporting our community missions.



Submissions for the October Messenger are due September 20th. Thank you.

Office Contacts & Information:

Senior Pastor		, .
	PastorBae	k@stpaulumc-lusby.org
Children and Youth Lead	ler	•
	,	er@stpaulumc-lusby.org
Office Manager	ncurti	in@stpaulumc-lusby.org
Finance Manager		Cindy Shippert
-	financemanage	er@stpaulumc-lusby.org
Church Custodian		Missy Garber
OFFICE HOURS:	Monday - Friday	9:30 am to 3:00 pm