

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER April 2024



'Hang in there with hope'

Have you ever waited for something so long without despair? When I was 12 years old, my father promised me to buy a trumpet. I had awaited it for 15 years. My father kept his promise 15 years later. I received a trumpet on my 27th birthday. It took a lot of work to wait for it so long. But I had always remembered it. I had put my trust in his words.

It's a blessing that we have four seasons in our area. It's been getting changed, but we still have four seasons. As we enjoy each season, we also wait for the next season, especially between winter and spring. It has been one of our topics when we meet people. However, have you ever doubted that we won't have next season? In this case, Spring season? Have you ever thought that we won't have a cherry blossom festival? While we suffered from cold weather in the winter, we might have had worries and shared our discomfort with cold weather. However, we know that we will have a wonderful spring day one day.

We are in the Easter season, and Jesus will ascend into heaven. Then, waiting time starts: waiting for Jesus' second coming. It seems like our wait for Jesus' second coming is endless. While we are waiting for Jesus' second coming, we are getting old, losing our loved ones, and our days are getting shorter. Because of those experiences, waiting for Jesus' second coming seems endless and worthless. But no, it's not. Maybe we cannot see Jesus' second coming before we die. But it's OK. Because we are God's people, and God is OUR God! We don't know the exact date he will be here one day because Jesus said so.

Then, why do we wait for Jesus' second coming? Let me give you a simplified answer. Our salvation will be perfect on that day. We still have weaknesses and the possibility of making mistakes and committing sins in this world. There will be judgment, too. However, God will restore us perfectly according to God's original purpose for us.

Please recall what you have felt in the season change between the winter and spring. And our wait for Jesus' second coming would be like that. It seems like we had endless winter time; however, the day has come without knowing. Until the day, we need to be faithful to God. We need to keep up the good work by faith. We need to hang in there with hope of it. We need to stand firm in where we are as believers and followers of Jesus Christ, our King, Savior, and Sustainer. And don't worry, we are not alone. We have a

We have a helper, the Holy Spirit. We call the Holy Spirit a sustainer. Why? The Holy Spirit helps us to maintain, manage, and sustain our lives. I don't know the details about your life. But as we move forward to the next season, I'd like to encourage all of you with Jesus' Word.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God[a]; believe also in me.² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (John 14:1-3)

Indeed, Jesus will be here again! Let's be patient and hang in there with hope!

In Christ,
Rev. Myungha Baek

Renewal Leave

Greetings!

I want to share again with you.

As I wrote in the February newsletter and the SPRC chair, Donna House, announced on March 17, I'll be on 'renewal leave' this year.

UMC clergy are encouraged to care for themselves as they have 3 months of 'renewal leave (sabbatical)' every 7 years of full-time ministry. I have served as a full-time UMC clergy member for 10 years. So, I'm eligible to do it, and our District Superintendent approved me to do it this year. I decided to do it this year because, over the last three years, I have gone through challenges and changes with St. Paul UMC. So, I feel that it is time to recharge, renew, and refresh myself for the future.

I split these three months into two: the whole month of April (30 days, be back on May 1) and Summer (from 6/24 to 8/22 - 60 days, be back and preach on 8/25).

While I'm gone, St. Paul UMC will continue to worship God and do ministry. We have clergy and laity to preach during that time. We also have an on-call pastor who will provide pastoral care when you need it. The St. Paul UMC leaders will continue to do ministry and serve God and God's people with you all. I believe God will continue to work with you, shining His light upon you and making you a vessel of His love because St. Paul UMC is God's church.

Lastly, please keep me in your prayers so I can come back as refreshed and renewed. I could not have done it without your support because we are a team. We will continue to move on with God's help and guidance.

In Christ's love,
Rev. Myungha Baek



Children and Youth

Sherry Mervine, Leader



As the end of our Lenten Journey nears remember "I am as strong as I was when Moses sent me on that journey, and I can still travel and fight as well as I could then" (Joshua 14:11) The same can be true of our school year as the beginning of 4th quarter looms in April calendars.

When people give up too soon, when short-term commitment is the norm, and when endurance is a lost art, God still brings the power of endurance to his people. We all have moments when we feel overwhelmed by our failures and our mistakes. We fail to understand that Jesus wants us to come to Him for help. Turn your eyes upon Jesus when you need to find strength to make hard decisions or finish a task to meet a goal.

Upcoming Children and Youth events at St. Paul

April 20 9AM-Noon Community Trash Clean-up

In honor of Earth Day, SPUMC will schedule to go through pre-selected/pre-approved neighborhoods in Lusby, White Sands, and St. Leonard to pick trash. Sporting "St Paul Cares" tshirts we will be a visible presence in our community.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Size of T-shirt: (\$15 donation suggested)-

Small Medium Large XL 2XL

Order by 3/31



May 18 5:00-7:00 PM Spaghetti/Silent Auction

Family fun events combined with Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser featuring Silent Auction of donated materials of theme baskets. Claim a theme or donate an item or two to put in a theme basket by 5/5/24.

Possible Themes include:

- Sports Team Basket (Commanders Blue Crabs)
- Summer Fun
- Spa Basket
- Basket for Art Lovers
- Maryland Theme
- Pet-lovers
- Americana
- Farmers' Market
- Suggest a theme
- Golf Baskets
- Travel/Getaway
- Movie themed
- Camping
- Anime Basket for Teens
- A Basket to entice foodies
- Comic Book theme
- Car Detailing items
- Craft lovers' basket



June 17-21 9AM-Noon daily Vacation Bible School - Hero Hotline

Register Here: <https://forms.gle/HdaWGeJfBFWQLF9c6>



Finance Committee Update

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 available upon request.

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

A Policy has been written for handling Restricted Funds at St Paul UMC.

St. Paul UMC Finances as of 29 February 2024

	Actual (YTD)	Budget (YTD)	Annual Budget	Annual %
Contributions	\$ 49,021.38	\$59,004.00	\$348,825.00	14.1%
Expenses	\$ 58,439.23	\$52,857.16	\$348,825.00	16.8%

The St. Paul UMC congregations has graciously made an additional \$3,066 in benevolent (restricted giving) to benefit the ministries, missions and those in need in 2024.

Current Month (February)	Actual	Budget	Variance (better / worse)	Annual %
Contributions	\$ 28,333.52	\$ 29,502.00	(\$1,168.48)	-4.0%
Expenses	\$ 29,448.31	\$ 26,803.58	(\$2,644.73)	-9.9%

March 14, 2024 Church Council Committee Reports:

March 2024 meeting is canceled. See you in April!

Lay Leader

Donna House

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

Greetings! We want to grow our St. Paul UMC and I challenge you in this new year to invite and bring at least two new families to a service, an event/dinner or a fellowship time between services. We can't wait for the community to find us... we need to bring the community to our St. Paul family. Invite a neighbor, friend, family or past members that may not have recently attended. We have an average of 70 worshippers each Sunday. If we each bring just 2 new folks to church, our attendance would be 210! Let's fill the seats and pews at St. Paul UMC and have our own "Jesus Revolution"!

continued

Looking forward to the following upcoming events:

March 23rd - Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing -Sign up on line

March 24 - Easter Tulips in the Sanctuary

March 30th – Easter Egg Dash -10:00 am

March 31st - Easter Sunday Service – 10:00 am followed by Fellowship Breakfast

We are looking for donations towards the Easter Fellowship Breakfast. Please call me at 443-624-0033 or email at donnalhouse@comcast.net if you can donate something. Many hands make little work.

Worship Committee

Barb Miller, Chair

Sunday Service Attendance:

February	4	9am	46 + 5 online	11am	_?_ + _?_ online
	11	9am	46 + 10 online	11am	17 + 3 online
	18	9am	45 + 10? online	11am	25 + 3 online
	25	9am	46 + 11 online	11am	15 + 0 online
March	03	9am	48 + 7 online	11am	15 + 1 online

Lenten Worship Schedule:

*March 28 Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm Sanctuary

*March 29 Good Friday Service 7 pm **Olivet UMC**

*March 31 Easter Sunday Service 10 am Sanctuary followed by Fellowship Breakfast

A hand-written sign will be created and posted in front of the church to inform the community about the service days and times.

Next Meeting of Worship Committee: Thursday, March 21 at 6:30pm in the Library: We will review the Lenten schedule, prepare palm fronds for Palm Sunday, discuss services during Pastor’s April sabbatical, and discuss if Mother’s Day tokens will be presented on May 12, and if so, ideas?? We will also discuss the Prayer Committee’s interest in having a recognition of the National Day of Prayer in the Sanctuary on Thursday, May 2.

SPPRC

Donna House, Chair

The SPPRC met in March and began revising the current SPUMC Safe Sanctuary Policy. This is a large task, and we are using examples from the BWC website as a starting place to streamline our current 13 page document.

As a reminder, SPPRC meetings are closed as established by the Book of Discipline, and all information shared in the committee is confidential. The congregation may share any joys or concerns with the committee.

Evangelism

Missy Lauber, Chair

Easter Egg Hunt March 31st 10am. The activities will start at 10 and the Hunt around 10:45.

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 month of February include:

- Relocation of televisions in the sanctuary
- Repairing and painting walls in the sanctuary
- New light bulbs installed in sanctuary that can be adjusted on an app
- Electrical cables in sanctuary relocated – Thank you Pastor Baek!
- Awarded grass cutting contract

Upcoming projects include:

- Scheduling inspection of the fire suppression system for the kitchen
- Acquiring proposals for the refurbishment of fellowship hall to include: new flooring, new ceiling, new outside entrance, new insulation and painting
- Mark your calendars for our **Spring clean-up of grounds on April 13th**! (Rain date is April 20th.) The congregation is invited to help! More information to follow.

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.

Kathy Matthews

Administrative Assistant

Praise God for whom all blessings flow! I'm thankful for the blessing of St. Paul UMC.

The plans to move forward with our new membership program "Breeze" is on track.

The Breeze program is expected to be up and running by June 1st. More details to come as data from our current program is transferred and the program is implemented.

I'm thankful for everyone's support and kindness during my time serving as the Administrative Assistant for St. Paul UMC. My walk with Christ continues with my church family here at St. Paul. Together we'll continue to spread the good news of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Prayer Committee

The National Day of Prayer is on May 02, 2024. This is the 72nd annual National Day of Prayer focused on bringing us all closer as a country and a community. The theme for this year is Faithfulness.

St. Paul UMC will be open to the community as well as our congregation from 7 AM to 7 PM to celebrate The National Day of Prayer. Each hour will feature a speaker to kick-off the hour' intention/focus for 10 to 15 minutes. The schedule will include praying for: Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church, Family, Child/ Youth, Community and Nature. The remainder of the hour will be for prayer and reflection.

The National Day of Prayer Closing Service will start at 6:20 PM. The service will begin with Presentation of Colors.

The Prayer Committee plans to always have at least two members in the sanctuary during the day. Please contact Barb Mack at 240-925-0357 or email mack2805170404@gmail.com, if you are able to assist.

Should you belong to any group or organization please share this information with them, as well as family and friends. Thank you for your prayers and support for this project..

From the book of Isaiah 25:1 "Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for the perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago."

April Birthdays

Amy Griffin	04/01	Josh Langley	04/13
Ann Hood	04/01	Julianna Felsher	04/14
William Kindsvater	04/01	Olivia Turlington	04/14
Heather Weitzel	04/02	Nathan Carver	04/21
Henry Weitzel	04/02	Amelia Hammer	04/24
Alison Halstead	04/06	April Minn	04/25
Emily Halstead	04/06	Savannah Carroll	04/26
Matthew Lauver	04/07	Don House	04/28
Bunny Clothier	04/09	Allen Fissel	04/29
Jennifer Hudson	04/09	Zach Hammer	04/29
Barbara Gardner	04/11		
Dillon Longo	04/11		
Donna McCready	04/11		



After listening to Pastor's sermon series about **Discipleship**, are you interested in applying it during the Lenten season and beyond? The Children's Message team is looking for:

WHO: anyone willing to commit to **SERVICE** to our children and our church

WHAT: become a Children's Message member to give the message during worship time

WHEN: rotating with other members; usually about once a month but the schedule is flexible

WHERE: in person for both services in the sanctuary, on line for both services, or a combination of both

HOW: scriptures will be provided to help you plan your lesson

WHY: sharing God's words and love with others is what we are called to do

AND, **your reward** is "Treasures in Heaven"!

Interested? Please contact Carol Howard at 301-672-5129

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.

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 May Messenger are due April 20th.
Thank you

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

OFFICE EMAIL:stpaulumcinfo@gmail.com

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.



St. Paul United Methodist Church
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410-326 – 4475
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stpaulumcinfo@gmail.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
SPUMPS Spring Break/Closed 6:45pm - Bible 9am - HeartFelt /FH @ 7pm - BS Troop/FH	6:45pm - Bible 9am - HeartFelt /FH @ 7pm - BS Troop/FH	6:15pm - Praise 7:30pm - AA, FH 7:30pm - Scout Leaders	6:15pm - Praise 7:30pm - AA, FH	3pm - Becky Grover/M. 6pm - Trustees, Library 7pm - Cub Scouts/Rms.	Office Closes at Noon 8pm - AA/FH @ FH	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship (9 am & 11 am) 10am - SS classes 10:05am - Children's 10:10am - Fellowship	3pm - M. Bliss Repass 6:45pm - Bible 9am - HeartFelt /FH @ 9am - Set up M. Bliss 10:30am - Faith Circle 11am - M. Bliss 7pm - BS Troop/FH	6:15pm - Praise 7:30pm - AA, FH	5:30pm - Finance / 6:30pm - Council /Library 7pm - Cub Scouts/Rms.	Office Closes at Noon 8pm - AA/FH @ FH		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship (9 am & 11 am) 10am - SS classes 10:05am - Children's 10:10am - Fellowship	6:45pm - Bible 9am - HeartFelt /FH @ 7pm - BS Troop/FH	6:15pm - Praise 7:30pm - AA, FH	SPUMPS Trike-A-Thon/AC is Backup Office Closes at Noon 8pm - AA/FH @ FH	Office Closes at Noon 8pm - AA/FH @ FH	Newsletter Article Due 9am - Community Trash	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship (9 am & 11 am) 10am - SS classes 10:05am - Children's 10:10am - Fellowship	6:45pm - Bible 9am - HeartFelt /FH @ 7pm - BS Troop/FH	6:15pm - Praise 7:30pm - AA, FH	7pm - Cub Scouts/Rms.	Office Closes at Noon 8pm - AA/FH @ FH		
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Worship (9 am & 11 am) 10am - SS classes 10:05am - Children's 10:10am - Fellowship	6:45pm - Bible 9am - HeartFelt /FH @ 7pm - BS Troop/FH					