

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

May 2023



The risen Lord is going ahead of you.

Greetings! We are in the Easter season, celebrating Jesus' resurrection. Jesus is alive! And the risen Lord is with us and leads us in God's way.

Let's look at the Easter story from Mark 16. When women visited Jesus' tomb after the Sabbath, they found the empty tomb. And they met a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side. He said, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him" (v6). The truth of Jesus' resurrection assured the disciples that to continue to go on a journey as witnesses to God's Kingdom work. Jesus' resurrection contains the truth that not only God is bigger than our limits, the death, but also God is not dead but alive. And this living God is with us, and it's the truth that helps us to live our lives as God's children. The truth that God is with us always comforts us, enables us to endure what we have, and encourages us to move on from unpleasant or unwanted situations.

As you have heard, St. Paul United Methodist Church Council decided to stop the discernment process in April. Some people were happy with this decision, and others were not. As a church family, we had tried to make a decision together, but after we started it, we didn't have enough participation to proceed with the process from the congregation. The council members prayed and talked to each other about its meaning and decided to stop the process. (Please check out the lay leader's (Donna House) article for more information) I understood that people who were not happy with the result would leave the St. Paul UMC and find a faith community to go on their spiritual journey according to their faith. Yes, as you feel, it is heartbreaking, and it is always to say goodbye to people who have been with us. We make life decisions according to our beliefs, which is proper; however, sometimes, our choices involve heartbreaking experiences.

All St. Paul UMC's people who decided to stay in the United Methodist Church and people who chose to leave the United Methodist Church feel heartbreak, and I feel sorry for you ALL experiencing it now. Whether you decide to stay or go, I, as pastor of the St. Paul UMC, remind you the truth that God is with God's people... ALL people.

You may feel uncertain about the current and future situation of your personal and the St. Paul UMC's spiritual journey. Please think about the women who were heading to Jesus' tomb. As you can imagine, the women felt darkness, uncertainty, and worry. However, God met them and gave them a new direction that Jesus would go ahead of them. And Jesus did. Like the scripture and God's promise, God will be with you, and God will go ahead of you all and lead you in God's way.

Let's not judge but love and bless each other. Let's keep each other in our prayers. John Wesley said, "Agree to disagree." It would be ok to have different opinions, theology, and interpretations of the scriptures. Please think about how many denominations are in the world. Their theology and understanding of the scripture are different. And we don't judge them because God's love is bigger than our thoughts, and God's way is higher than ours. Each denomination, each church, and each individual is a part of God's Kingdom. Let's humbly take the truth to our lives and do our best wherever we go and whatever we do to let God's Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

God's unconditional and unbounded love is for ALL God's people, whether we decide to stay or go. And sincere God will go with and ahead of all of us.
May God bless all of you and your journey.

In Christ,
Rev. Myungha Baek



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.

We continued to explore aspects of "who Jesus is" and God's plan to save the world through Jesus at our Uprising! Youth gatherings thru a lens of the Book of Luke and the "Life Revealed" (video-based) series developed by Alpha and The Bible Project.

We looked at Jesus's victory over sin and death thru seeing the allegorical film "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe".

Several of our group, along with other St. Paul members and those from other SMILE churches participated in the "Rise Against Hunger" event as our weekend activity for April 1 & 2. Our facilitators said the group set "efficient time" records for set up and for actual packing of the 10,000 meal kits. But the real reward, was of course, serving God through serving His children in need.

We've offered an additional (and optional) youth event in the Franklin Graham "God Loves You" tour stop at Charles County Fair Grounds with music by Newsboys on April 29.

The vigil for Patuxent alum and former Panther football player Dajon "Mustard" Brooks was moved indoors to the PHS auditorium from Patuxent stadium on Friday evening, March 10 due to rain. The event was still very well attended, and we believe God blessed it with some healing for some of those present. I (Youth Pastor Dave) was invited to give the opening prayer at the gathering and did so.

HS Sunday school continues to consider and explore practical aspects of trusting and following Jesus in our daily lives.

Youth Pastor Dave

Staff Pastor/Parish Relations Committee: Becky Grover, Chair

SPPRC is continuing to work on bringing staff job descriptions up to date.

Lay Leader: Donna House

Holy Week services were very moving and well attended by St. Paul folks and Olivet UMC on Friday night. I want to thank Sherry for all the special music throughout the services. Particularly moving was the "Via Dolorosa" done by Rick Muldoon and Sherry. The messages were very moving, and the Good Friday service had important messages from seven participants from the two churches. Many thanks for such a wonderful week.

There are some short courses being offered by the Washington East District 2023 Lay Servant Academy for April – July. To register for classes, please go to the BWC website and view the Events Calendar. This is the first round of classes; additional ones will be announced later in the year. Please share this information with folks you know. All courses are \$40 each.

The "Rise for Hunger" project was a wonderful event that brought so many people together from our church and other nearby churches. It was great to hear the laughter and energy from all for such a worthwhile project. I thank God for leading the Mission's Team to bring this project to SPUMC.

It has been wonderful to have so many visitors in the last few weeks to our wonderful St. Paul family. Please make sure you are welcoming them and help them to feel at home.

Finance Committee: Karen Hill

2023 Expense Budget is available upon request.

Additional Restricted giving for Missions 'Rise Against Hunger' and Media Equipment during March.

Office QuickBooks will be upgraded to maintain support.

Office Manager working with Trustees to update data required for Tax Filing with state of Maryland.

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.

St. Paul UMC Finances as of 31 March 2023

	Actual (YTD)	Budget (YTD)	Annual Budget	Annual %
Contributions	\$ 72,486.08	\$100,670.39	\$399,519.35	18.1%
Expenses	\$ 98,960.00	\$98,178.70	\$399,519.35	24.8%

The St. Paul UMC congregations has graciously made an additional \$13,356 in benevolent (restricted giving) to benefit the ministries, missions and those in need in 2023.

Current Month (March)	Actual	Budget	Variance (better / worse)	Annual %
Contributions	\$ 20,748.01	\$ 33,569.79	(\$12,821.78)	-38.2%
Expenses	\$ 30,573.87	\$ 36,846.85	\$6,272.98	17.0%

Worship Committee: Susan Kennedy

Attendance:

March Attendance:

9:00 – Average 51
11:00 – Average 26

Holy Week Services:

Maundy Thursday - 36
Good Friday - 57
Easter Sunday - 95

Evangelism: Missy Lauber

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt/Candy Dash was held on April 8th. We served around 50 children and their families. Children and families had a chance to hunt eggs, play games, get candy and reminders for VBS and Sunday School. My thanks to Kathy Matthews who came to play games with our children as well as Arnold Humphries and the Optimist Club for organizing the egg hunt portion of the event.

Small Groups:

The Monday night Women’s Bible Study is beginning a series “The God of the How and When” by Kathie Lee Gifford and Rabbi Jason Sobel.

The Tuesday night group will be completing the short-term format of Disciple Bible Study focusing on Romans.

Please consider joining one of these small groups. We would love to have you!

The last few years have been a very difficult time in the life of the United Methodist Church. At

the 2019 general conference of the UMC, a temporary rule, called paragraph 2553, was added explaining the disaffiliation process for local churches wanting to leave the UMC due to human sexuality issues. The BW Conference asked any local churches wanting to disaffiliate to vote by April 28, 2023. Back in May 2022, St. Paul UMC provided an opportunity to learn about the differences between the United Methodist Church and the Global Methodist Church even before we started the discernment process.

On November 10, 2022, St. Paul Church Council voted to begin the 5 step discernment process to help the St. Paul UMC congregation learn about the issue. Specific participation numbers were identified to ensure that this was a church activity-based process that involved the whole church. Pastor Baek sent a 6 page letter via US mail to all 300+ members on December 6th, outlining the specifics of each step. This was also emailed to all via our church email list. The steps included: Viewing of a video, a four-week book study, an open forum, special church conference to vote and finally the payment due to the BW Conference for withdrawal from the UMC of more than \$1.2 million.

Step 1 was the viewing of the Stay or Go video that we have been advertising at each service and in our bulletin since December. The Church Council deemed 81 people needed to report that they watched the video before we moved on to step 2, the book study. As of today, we have had 46 members report they have watched the Stay or Go video. The council decided the specification to make this process happen by the 'church family,' not by just a few.

As the lay leader of the St. Paul UMC, I want to make this announcement to my beloved St. Paul UMC congregation: **The St. Paul UMC' s Council met on Thursday, April 12th and voted to end the disaffiliation process since all the steps cannot be completed by the April 28th deadline.** We are a laity led congregation and our church is a welcoming church with our doors open for all. I am happy to report that St. Paul UMC will remain with the UMC and will continue to do God's Kingdom ministry to the people in Southern Maryland and beyond as a body of the United Methodist Church.

I appreciate all your prayers, participation, and support to the St. Paul United Methodist Church. This has been a challenging time and we pray that through all of this, that St. Paul will continue to grow and be a vibrant church. Remember our vision statement: St Paul UMC is a Christ-centered family that offers HOPE, by responding to God's love and grace as Christian disciples. I look forward to our church family to continue our work for God's Kingdom.

Donna House
Lay Leader
St. Paul United Methodist Church
donnalhouse@comcast.net

NEW MEMBER CELEBRATION ON PENTECOST SUNDAY

We plan to celebrate new members celebration on Pentecost Sunday, 5/30. If you are interested in becoming a member or know any people who want to join St. Paul UMC, please contact Colleen Lane (Membership Secretary) or the church office (stpaulumcinfo@gmail.com, 410-326-4475)

FYI, We, United Methodist Church, have three different memberships.

a) Professing Member: Professing members are those who have professed the faith of this church themselves, using the language and ritual of the Baptismal Covenant in the Hymnal. They are members both of the UMC and the particular local congregation.

b) Affiliate Member: Affiliate members are professing members of another United Methodist Church who may be temporarily far from their home congregation and wish to connect with the life, ministry, and watch care of a congregation nearer to where they now are for a time. They retain their memberships in their home church (UMC).

c) Associate member: Associate members are non-United Methodists currently located at some distance from their home church. They have been baptized by water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in another Christian denomination wish to connect with a local United Methodist Church but wishes to retain their current denominational affiliation rather than become professing members of The United Methodist Church while in their current location.

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In Christ,
Rev. Myungha Baek

WANTED: Children's Message Ministry Teammates

Are you interested in joining the Children's Ministry Team that helps deliver a message that corresponds with the scripture reading each week to the children of our church? Members serve on a rotating basis (averaging about 5-6 weeks) and a new schedule will be coming out at the end of the month so act now to join us! You are provided the scripture in advance to give you ample time to prepare and you have several delivery options:

- in person for both services
- in person for one service and record the lesson for the other
- record a video to be shown during both services

I am willing to work with your unique schedule and availability. If you would like to join our dynamic team, please contact Carol Howard at 301-672-5129 or leave a message at the church office. Thank you for your consideration and have a blessed day! ☺

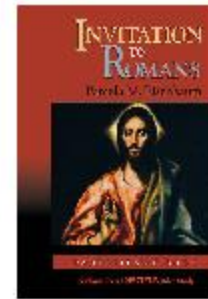
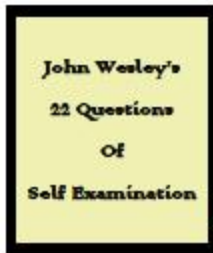


We may not be able to fly you to Mars, but you will be over the moon with excitement when you help with this year's Stellar VBS and help kids shine Jesus' light! This year's VBS will take place in the

mornings of June 26th - June 30th. We are looking for an all-hands-on-deck approach in order to reach out into the community and share God's word with his children.

Registration for participants and volunteers is available at www.vbspro.events/p/26ee40





Adult Learning & Fellowship

Sunday Mornings @ 10:00 a.m.

John Wesley's 22 Questions of Self Examination

Lead by Joan Sampson (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesdays @ 6:30 p.m.

Invitation to Romans

Disciple Bible Study 6 week course

Lead by Melvin Grover (Library)

WOMEN'S Monday @ 6:45

The God of the How and When

By Kathie Lee Gifford w/Rabbi Jason Sobel

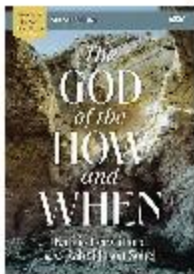
Facilitated by Becky Grover (Library)

WOMEN'S 2ND TUESDAYS @ 10:30 a.m.

Growing Older & Wiser

Life Guide Bible Studies

Lead by Sandy Derr (Library)



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

Andy & Beth Rogers 410-326-6346

Dave & Debby Showalter 410-326-2150

Susan Leins Baker.....410-326-6234

SMILE Food Pantry

Hi Pantry Volunteers,

We have an immediate need for a volunteer(s) to pick up the perishable donations Friday mornings at 8 am from the Weis Solomons and Lusby stores. The food is set aside for us in carts, and just needs to be loaded into your vehicle, brought into the pantry, weighed, recorded, and set up on the shelves. This usually takes about 1 hour from start to finish. If you can help with this service opportunity, please let me know! We are VERY thankful to Joan and Jesse Sampson for their faithful pick-ups for these past few years!

If every Friday is too much commitment, but you would be willing to help out once or twice a month, we can put together a schedule for this too. It's a great way of supporting SMILE in a behind the scenes effort. Just let me know!

Thanks for all you ALREADY do for SMILE - please pass this along to anyone else you think may be interested in helping out too!

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

“SMILE” FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

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

May BIRTHDAYS

Jade Hudson	5/1	Romaine Kramer	5/22
Marie Stanton	5/4	Jessica Busey	5/23
Ray Holmberg	5/9	John Biggans	5/24
Walter Schleuterman	5/11	Thomas Bowen	5/24
Dawn Turner	5/14	Joshua Cummings	5/24
Janet Allison	5/19	Crishana Mallory	5/24
Helen Jordan	5/19	Joan Sampson	5/25
Ian Kund	5/19	Dennis Mulvey	5/29
Will Langley	5/19	Frank DiGeorge	5/31
Madeline Humphreys	5/21	Alex Sams	5/31
Avery Kettler	5/21		

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**

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 online!”

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 June
Messenger are due May 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

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

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