

# ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## MESSENGER

### October 2023



"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice!"

Sundays from September 24th to October 15th, we have a lectionary reading 'Philippians,' a Paul's letter to a faith community in Philippi. He started a church in Philippi on his second mission trip in 51 A.D. He wrote this letter about 10 years later while imprisoned in Rome. The letter's central theme is 'Rejoice!' Therefore, as we hear Paul's teaching with Philippians, let's find out what 'joy' is for Christians.

Joy is the very nature of God and Christianity. When God created the world in Genesis, God said, 'It was good.' Imagine the face of God when God said that "it was good." Do you imagine a smiling God? Do you imagine God whose face has a grin on it? Some sneer at Christians, saying that they are always serious. Even some Christians associate the image of being holy with one of being severe and solemn. Being holy is setting ourselves apart from the world's cultural values and living according to God's will.

Joy is a mark of a Christian. It is a fruit of the Spirit. In Jesus' coming into our life, the angels announced (Luke 2:10-11), 'I bring us the good news of great joy!' because Jesus is the good news of joy. Jesus freed people from any limitations and bondages when he did his ministry. The truth enlightened the intellect after their long journey of searching. The ordinary were released from the fear of death and delivered from the guilt of sin. The lonely realized that Jesus was their everlasting friend. People were filled with joy and couldn't help going out to spread the good news to others. The list is endless.

Think about yourself. What good news has Jesus brought to your life? Doesn't that give you more than enough reason to rejoice?

- I rejoice because Jesus is my reason to live for. He is worth living and dying for. He is my Savior, best friend, hiding place, and rock.
- I rejoice because all of you share that joy with me.
- I rejoice with you who want to know God's Word, Love, Grace, and Truth more.

- I rejoice with you getting closer to God and being changed little by little by the grace of God.
- I rejoice with you striving to practice Biblical principles at your workplace.
- I rejoice with you going out and seeking the justice of God.
- I rejoice with you finding St. Paul United Methodist Church your spiritual home, so you don't want to hold your urge to talk with your friends about how good the church is.
- I rejoice with you, filled with God's creative Spirit, that you want to start something new with the church.
- I rejoice with you brooding over new ideas for reaching new families, raising awareness of our natural environment, expanding our mission and service, and reaching new people.
- I rejoice because these things are actually happening among you.

They are neither stories of our glorious past nor wishful thinking about our unknown future. They are stories we are currently writing that I'm witnessing with my own eyes.

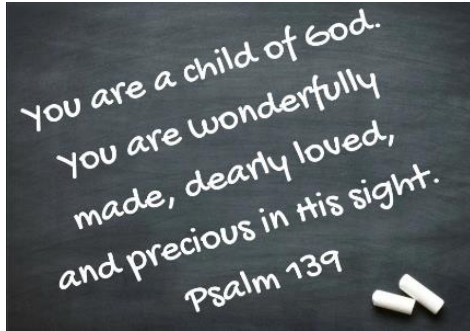
- I rejoice because these are signs that God's creative Spirit is hovering over us.
- I rejoice because the joy of the Lord is our strength that will enable us to get through any possible hurdles, we may jump over while we seek the kingdom of God and bless others.

More than anything else, I rejoice... because God loves you.

I rejoice... because you are my joy.

Dear St. Paul UMC family and friends, let us rejoice in the Lord always!

*From Rev. Myungha Baek*



October has brought us a great harvest of fellowship that only continues to grow in strength and love as St. Paul continues our Wind in Our Sails Journey. Many have lent time, talents, and treasures to foster our children and youth ministry. Thank you for your continued support. We have upcoming Youth events (planned by the youth) for the glory of God so please share these events with young people and families to exemplify the bounty of our congregation's spiritual blessings for our community.

We are especially looking for extra help for Trunk R Treat indoor activities and look forward to a Children/Family District Retreat at West River in November. The next fellowship event will be held on November 19th as a Progressive Thanksgiving Dinner with more info to come in the next few weeks. Don't forget our Children and Family Christmas pageant on December 24th.

I am humbled to be asked to lead this mission and look forward to all the exciting opportunities coming our way.

As we begin to move forward in our study of the epistles this month in our church family please remember:

*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (John 1:12; Thessalonians 5:11)*

May your Joy be full. Yours in Christ,

Ms. Sherry

**September 14, 2023 Church Council Committee Reports**

**Evangelism-Missy Lauber**

Trunk or Treat

- Trunk or Treat will be October 28th from 1-3PM
- The Activity Center and Parking Lot have been reserved
- There will be games and a costume contest. There is also the possibility of live music provided by the praise band and possibly a "hayride" type of thing.
- We need people to decorate their trunks. The more people the more fun for the kids. We also need candy if people wish to donate as this event draws around 100 plus children each year.
- A smaller banner to advertise the trunk or treat is in the process of being ordered
- A Trunk or Treat flyer has been created and emailed to Kathy in the Church Office, Pastor Baek, Susan Baker for Sunday School, and Diane Schmidt for the Backpacks. A hard copy will also be given to SPUMPS to make their own copies. If anyone would like a copy, I can email it to them.

Other News

- The newest banners are up.
- Brand new advent banners are ordered at no cost to us and will be put up when appropriate.

**Finance Committee-Karen D Hill**

August Update:

2023 Expense Budget is available upon request.

Operating Expenses (general) continue to exceed Income for 2023.

The Finance Committee continues to discuss areas for cost savings in relation to the Operating Expenses. Year to date Expenses is higher than Unrestricted Income (see information below)

Attention Committee Chairpersons: 2024 Budget is due no later than October 1. This will support review prior to annual Church Conference, discuss challenge areas and identify funding requirements across the Operating Areas of St. Paul United Methodist Church.

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 August 2023**

	Actual (YTD)	Budget (YTD)	Annual Budget	Annual %
Contributions	\$ 198,627.16	\$265,040.17	\$399,519.35	49.7%
Expenses	\$ 255,823.22	\$264,865.95	\$399,519.35	64.0%

The St. Paul UMC congregations has graciously made an additional \$17,224 in benevolent (restricted giving) to benefit the ministries, missions and those in need in 2023.

<b>Current Month (August)</b>	Actual	Budget	Variance (better / (worse))	Annual %
Contributions	\$ 18,361.80	\$ 31,869.80	(\$13,508.00)	-42.4%
Expenses	\$ 33,948.07	\$ 29,781.85	(\$4,166.22)	-14.0%

**Lay Leader-Donna House**

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

God has an amazing plan for St. Paul UMC, and he is guiding us to set our sails. He is the wind, and we are his sailors.

God is sending new folks to worship with us, and our congregation is growing.

God found new Sunday School teachers to share His Word.

God gave us a Nomination’s Committee to fill vacant positions on committees and parishioners who are answering His call with “Yes”.

God gave us leaders for our bible study groups and eager participants to attend.

God gave us Trustees to take care of our building, volunteers to fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and beautiful music to share his love.

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

Our St. Paul UMC family has much to be thankful for over the last few weeks. We had wonderful participation at the “Wind in our Sails” congregational planning meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup> and 48 folks spent a beautiful Saturday morning together sharing their joys of St. Paul and their hopes for the future. It was an amazing time together and I am still smiling every time I think of the day. The afternoon was spent identifying our three top priorities of “new” ideas.

**Outcome #1: A Combined Worship Service** – We are piloting a new, combined service on September 10, 17 and 24 at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary. The Praise Band will be moving over, and our congregation will all be together, in one space, for worshipping and praising together. Fifty nine folks joined us for the first of these services on September 10<sup>th</sup> and all were asked to provide feedback in the form of a survey. The upcoming Combined Services will be tweaked based on the feedback that was received. The Church Council will also be reviewing the feedback from the services and use that to make decisions about worship services in the future. Please complete your survey if you haven’t done so yet.

**Outcome #2: More Fellowship Opportunities** – A fellowship hour has been added immediately following the Combined Worship Service and will be in the Activity Center (aka CLC). A light breakfast will be served with pastries, fruit, coffee and juice. About 40 folks came to the first one on September 10<sup>th</sup> and a wonderful time was had by all chatting and learning more about each other. If you would like to volunteer to assist with the fellowship hours, let me know. Donations will also be welcomed.

**Outcome # 3: More Family and Congregational Activities** – Many folks want to have more family and congregational activities where we invite our congregation and others to join us. With the retirement of Pastor Dave and Debby, our SPPRC was looking for a new youth leader. God sent us Sherry Mervine, aka choir director too, to fill this vacancy. She has come to us with MANY ideas and is our new Children and Youth Leader. Monthly activities are planned to bring families and our congregation together. Please plan to join us for the very first one on

September 24<sup>th</sup> in the Activity Center at 11:30 am. A “Fun Family Fiesta and Fellowship” is planned for Hispanic Heritage Month. Please RSVP your attendance.

Please reach out to me at any time with any questions, concerns or ideas. I am so excited for “God’s Wind to Move our Sails”!

### **Trustees-James Pouncey**

#### **What we got done:**

- 1) Workday held last Saturday. Removed broken bench, weeds, & vines in outside area.
- 2) Replaced two HVAC units in CLC for Classrooms, Library, & Nursery. Total cost was \$26k

#### **What we're working on:**

- 1) Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall: Plan in works to refurbish Sanctuary (move TV's, drywall, pews, area for praise band) & Fellowship Hall (new entrance way/vestibule facing CLC, flooring, painting). Meeting w/ contractor to get prices and will develop a plan for each area based on cost and available funds.
- 2) Directory and Signage Plan: Working on a plan to create directory sign along w/ smaller signs to label buildings and classrooms.

#### **Issues:**

Two trustees do not plan on returning next year. The nominating committee will need to look at these vacancies.

### **Children and Youth Leader-Sherry Mervine**

#### **Children and Youth Ministry Report:**

1. Calendar Updates:
  - a. All Youth Group meetings to be held at St. Paul will be held: 5:00-7:00 PM
  - b. Next Upcoming Family event: Family Fiesta of Faith and Fellowship  
9/24 @ 11:30AM. Volunteers and food donations needed. Please RSVP!!!!
  - c. Uth Mtgs:

9/17	5:00-7:00	Uth Group
10/1	5:00- 7:00	Uth Group
10/8	5:00-7:00	Uth Group
10/15	2PM	Aladdin Jr. – Long Beach Comm Center- St. Leonard
		<i>*Preregister with Ms. Sherry/Permission forms needed</i>
10/22		Corn Maze Event
		<i>*Preregister with Ms. Sherry/Permission forms needed</i>
10/29		OFF
11/5	5:00-7:00	Uth Group
11/12		OFF
12/28-30		Colonial Williamsburg/Busch Gardens Sleepaway
		<i>Details pending</i>

Children/Family Ministry:

- 10/28 Trunk R Treat with/activity support
- 11/10-11/12 Children Retreat @ West River
- 11/19 4 PM Progressive Thanksgiving Dinner @ Activity Center
- 12/24 "Stellar" Family Christmas Pageant Time: TBD

2. Plans are well underway for the Family Fiesta of Faith and Fellowship event. If you are interested in donating food items please take a tab or two and then sign the clipboard on the table so we know what to purchase prior to the event. Volunteers are also needed to run events and help throughout including setup on Saturday evening. Stations will run around 20 mins each and we plan to be finished around 1:30 that day. Please consider helping in some way.
3. Please see the attached flyer and email with details regarding the BW Conference Children's Retreat from November 10-12 at West River. Cost : \$130/adult; \$120/child



**Sunday School-Susan Baker**

Positive points: Thankful for Sherry Mervine stepping up to teach the teens with Missy Lauber. Bountiful blessings with Barb Mack and Shannon Roberts teaming up to teach the elementary class. The church handed out 5 Bibles to young people on Backpack Sunday. It was nice to return to this tradition. God is good!

Class Reports: The adult class continues to have an average of 2-3 participants with 1 facilitator/teacher. "Wesley's 22 Questions" is the topic being discussed. The High School class had a student and 2 teachers. The elementary class has 1-2 students attending with 2 teachers.

Requests: Please continue to pray as God guides you for the Sunday School Ministry at St. Paul UMC. Continue to consider your personal participation in a class. Our dream is to have a preschool class and a middle school class. You can contact me Susan Baker at 410 474 3896

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.

## Save the Date!

### Trunk-or-Treat

Date: 10/28/23

Time: 1-3pm



Come and show God's love to our community by decorating your trunk and passing candy and the peace of Christ to our children!

Contact Missy Lauber at [mлаuber13@gmail.com](mailto:mлаuber13@gmail.com)

or the church office to sign up.

Candy donations welcome as well.



### 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**

**Thank you for supporting our community missions.**



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## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Quinn Carver	10/2	Cindy Adams	10/16
Stephanie Bean	10/5	Leigh Ann Langley	10/18
Joseph Bell	10/5	Joe Mulvey	10/19
Karen McCarthy	10/9	Bill Soffos	10/19
Marion Carter	10/11	Lauren Meyer	10/20
Mel Grover, Jr.	10/11	Mitchell Richman	10/21
Cameron Scott	10/13	Torrie Bell	10/25
Gene Benton	10/14	Anna Bobkoskie	10/25
Ruth Humphreys	10/14	Gary Lewis	10/27
Noah Langley	10/14	Brady Langley	10/29
Maxwell Scroggs	10/14	Mikayla Miller	10/29
Elizabeth Taylor	10/14	James Adams, Jr.	10/30
Everett Baker	10/15		

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## 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**

YOU ARE INVITED TO:

# CHILDREN AND FAMILY RETREAT

## WEST RIVER CAMP

### Activities



- Games
- Crafts
- Outdoor events
- Socials
- Nature field trip
- Journey of Faith



Fees include all  
inclusive meals and  
lodging

November 10-12

For 1st-5th  
Grade + family

More info:

[cyleader@stpaulumc-lusby.org](mailto:cyleader@stpaulumc-lusby.org)

410-326-4475

### 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 November Messenger are due September 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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