

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER March 2024



Greetings, St. Paul UMC family!

I pray that everyone and yours are doing well.

Every Sunday, we pray 'Lord's Prayer' together. In the prayer, we confess, 'Give us our daily bread.' 'Our daily bread' literally means "food for the day." The Message Bible translates this as, "Keep us alive with three square meals." Yes, "three meals" is enough. Maybe some don't need 'three meals' a day, but it means enough meals for us to be alive. It also gives us a thought of our greed and desire. Some can't be satisfied with 'daily bread'. They want to have more than others, even though they have enough. That's why there are so many fights, wars, and famines on earth.

When God created the world, God made sure that there was enough food for everyone on the planet, and that hasn't changed. But what about the reality: on one side of the earth, there is so much food that people waste it, and on the other side, there are so many people starving to death because they can't afford even one meal a day. Where did this unbalance come from? It's because of human greed - having more than we need. That's what the Bible calls 'sin'.

Followers of Jesus are supposed to be people who ask for their 'daily bread,' but is that really the case? I don't know how many Christians ask for a year's or even a lifetime's worth of food. We pray hard for blessings but are so stingy when sharing our blessings with others.

After teaching the Lord's Prayer in Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable of a friend who comes in the night (Luke 11:5-8) as an example of a simple prayer seeking the Kingdom of God. It goes something like this: A friend comes unexpectedly in the middle of the night. This person has no bread left at home, so he goes to his friend's house, knocks on the door, and asks to borrow some bread. In Palestine at the time, it was considered rude not to knock on a closed door, but he risked rudeness and knocked on the door. The friend doesn't like it, but the friend gets up and gives him some bread.

Now, what does this story have to do with the Kingdom of God? Most people understand this parable as a teaching about "persistent prayer. We interpret it to mean that we should pray without giving up until we get what we want, even if it means annoying God. But, in this Lenten Season, let's try to see this differently. The man who knocks on his friend's house at night does it for his guest, not himself. His guest is hungry. And it's only "three loaves of bread." This is "daily bread." This is the humble prayer of a man seeking the Kingdom of God: Asking God for others.

So, from now on, we should stop praying for our own selfish interests and start praying for the needs of others. We should pray that our neighbors have the "three loaves of bread" they need. If we have it, we can share it. If we don't have it, we can pray to God, who will answer our prayers and give us abundant life.

We, the St. Paul United Methodist Church family, want to follow what it means. We will host 'Rise Against Hunger' this year again on March 23rd (1:30 pm – 3:30 pm). We will pack 10,000 meals for those in need. We did it for the first time last year, and they were delivered to Madagascar. A package is simple, but it will be a 'daily bread' for someone in the world. As pastor at St. Paul UMC, I am grateful for you and your generosity. The money for the food (\$ 4,200) has been fulfilled. (and please continue to support it for the next year.)

Now, we need your muscle to pack, make our prayers happen, and turn it into something tangible. We will send out a sign-up sheet soon. Please mark it on your calendar and join us. Invite your family and friends to make a 'daily meal' for others, not ourselves. It will be our action prayer as the friend who knocked his friend's house in the middle of the night for his guest. It's St. Paul UMC's Lenten prayers with our actions.

“Lord, may your Kingdom come.

Give (all of) us (in the world) our daily bread each day.”

May God bless you!

Rev. Myungha Baek

Children and Youth Sherry Mervine, Leader



Thank you to the folks who attended the viewing of Jesus Revolution last month. Those couch potato viewers were encouraged to become partici-“taters” in helping to open St. Paul to all members of our community and find new avenues to do outreach.

As winter begins to fade with growing flowers and budding trees, St Paul is blooming with many activities for youth in our community this Spring.

Please join us for the Rise Against Hunger on March 23 @ 1:30PM and Children’s Easter Egg Hunt on March 30 @ 10AM.

Pioneer Club events will be postponed until after VBS to allow more opportunities for interested families to register their children. Please continue to share the news of our club starting in September.

April events will include a community cleanup event on April 20th. Signup details for location and t shirts coming soon. Please see e-messengers and weekly bulletins for updates.

Teens are interested in holding a Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction this Spring as well so please stay tuned for more information on how you can assist and participate.

Save the VBS Dates

Calling all Super Heroes of St. Paul family. We Need Your Help!

June 17-21, 2024 9AM- Noon

Registration coming soon for PK-Grade 5



February 8, 2024 Church Council Committee Reports:



Lay Leader

Donna House

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

I am so excited about the new initiatives happening at St. Paul UMC. Carol Howard is spearheading our new **“Card Ministry”** with lots of volunteers to support the project. Many thanks to all who have jumped in to help during Fellowship Times and at home. The cards will bring a smile to someone’s face and let them know that St. Paul UMC cares about them. Barb Mack has started our new **“Prayer Ministry”**. I hope you were able to stop by the Advent prayer stations on the grounds of SPUMC. We look forward to what the committee has planned for the upcoming Lenten season. **The St. Paul Trustees** have been very busy in 2024 and are planning and completing some much-needed maintenance projects on our campus. We thank them for their efforts to improve our facilities.

If you are at St. Paul on any evening or weekend, you’ll see lots of activities and people. We have several sports groups who are renting our CLC Activity Center for basketball, baseball and softball practices. The Scouts also meet every Tuesday and Thursday evening and use a variety of meeting spaces. Sandy Artz can fill you in on the wonderful things the Scouts are doing! It’s great to see our building so alive with activity and young people and their families. **Now... how do we get those folks to our SPUMC activities and Sunday services?**

As I wrote last month, NOW is the time for our church to GROW! 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”!**

Looking forward to the following upcoming events:

- February 13th - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper -5:00 pm
- February 14th - Ash Wednesday
- February 25th – Tulips for Easter order forms due
- March 23rd - Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing – 1:30 pm
- March 30th – Easter Egg Dash -10:00 am
- March 31st - Easter Sunday Service – 10:00 am followed by Fellowship Breakfast

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.

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 January include:

- New carpet installed on the stage floor donated by Pete Carroll
- Security gate installed past library door (room 11)
- Gas stove serviced and repaired in main kitchen
- Sanctuary furnace serviced and repaired
- UV water system bulbs replaced in SPUMPS wing
- Occupancy sensors installed in church office for HVAC system

Upcoming projects include:

- Begun February 5 - Relocation of televisions in the sanctuary
- Begun February 5 - Repairing and painting walls in the sanctuary
- Scheduling inspection of the fire suppressant 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
- Spring clean-up of grounds - Congregation invited to help! Date TBD!

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.

Worship Committee

Barb Miller, Chair

Sunday Service Attendance:

January 7	9am	38 + 5 online	11am	__ + ____ online
14	9am	48 + 6 online	11am	20 + ____ online
21	9am	45 + 9 online	11am	19 + ____ online
28	9am	47 + 10 online	11am	16 + ____ online
February 4	9am	46 + 5 online	11am	17? + ____ online

Lenten Schedule:

- *February 13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5 pm-6:30 pm Activity Center
- *February 14 Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm Sanctuary
- *February 25 Easter Tulip Order Forms Due
- *March 23 Rise Against Hunger 1:30 pm-3:00 pm Activity Center
- *March 28 Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm Sanctuary
- *March 29 Good Friday Service 7 pm Olivet UMC
- *March 30 Easter Egg Hunt 10 am Activity Center
- *March 31 Easter Sunday Service 10 am Sanctuary followed by Fellowship Breakfast

Next Meeting of Worship Committee: Thursday, March 21 at 6:30pm in the Library: review Lenten schedule, prepare palm fronds for Palm Sunday, discuss services during Pastor’s April sabbatical, and discuss Mother’s Day tokens.

SPPRC

Donna House, Chair

The SPPRC met in January and reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the group. Liaisons were assigned to the four paid staff members- Pastor, Administrative Assistant, Church Custodian and Children and Youth Leader - and are asked to check in with them at least monthly. The committee reviewed the current job descriptions that were revised over the last two years. Meeting dates were established for the rest of the year with draft agendas and timelines. The main goal for the next four months will be to review and revise the current SPUMC Safe Sanctuary Policy. 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

Nothing to report at this time.

Sunday School

Susan Baker

Thanksgiving for God's faithful servants leading our Sunday School classes.

Class reports: All the classes are using the scripture for the day as a stepping off point for the lessons. Thanks to Everett Baker for his innovation to have Adult Sunday School at one of the tables during fellowship time to raise the awareness of the class. Typically it meets in the classroom across from the library. Come join the class.

Thank you to Barb Mack for your many wonderful ideas for this class. Our present participants like to express themselves through art. Barb capitalizes on these gifts.

Attendance:

Adult 1 facilitator; 1-2 participants

High School 1 facilitator, participants wanted

Elementary 2 facilitators; 1-3 participants

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Please continue to ask God to guide you as you pray for our Sunday School Ministry at St. Paul UMC. Come check us out and bring someone with you.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

SPUMC Prayer Ministry

Watching the Lenten Eggs going up each week we hope that you are taking time to enjoy what is shared by your friends and church family. If you have not already picked up an egg at the Activity Center, please consider doing so. If you need a Lenten Egg, we will have some at the church services. Should you be joining us online if you provide your mailing address, we will send you one with a return envelope provided. Everyone is encouraged to share the Lenten Walk and Eggs. On Easter Sunday the Lenten Eggs will become the celebration of the Risen Lord.

Watch this week for the addition of temptation!

May the Father of all of us bless all your days as you share your Lenten Walk with Him.

SPUMC Card Ministry



The greeting card committee was in high gear for Valentine’s Day sharing God’s love in many ways. Thank you for your support of the Valentines for Vets project by helping to sticker and place Super Hero cards into envelopes during Fellowship Time. Cards were delivered to 227 vets at Charlotte Hall the Monday before Valentine’s Day. Thanks also for writing notes to our fire and rescue personnel at Solomons and St. Leonard companies. Those letters were placed into note books which were delivered on Valentine’s Day along with some treats. It is reported that both were greatly appreciated. Hugs and Kisses (the Hershey kind) and “God is Love” Valentine cards were distributed to those in attendance in church on February 11th and, finally, a big effort was made to mail Valentines to those who regularly attend via Facebook and/or who are members that are shut in. If you were unintentionally overlooked, we do not have contact information for you so call the office and we will send you a card.

Thank you for the donations that we have received to help build up our stock. We continue to take any and all cards that you receive in the mail that you don’t want. If you wish to help specifically for projects in the future, please consider donating card stock and invitation size envelopes.

There are many types of cards as there are many kinds of needs. We are looking for ways and people who need the benefit of a greeting card. Help us reach out to those who need God’s love and assurance. Please contact Carol Howard with your ideas or suggestions (301-672-5129).

March Birthdays



Stacey Scott	3/01	Sherrie Bell	03/11	Zachary Reemsten	03/15
Joe Hutchinson	3/03	Stacy Wills	03/11	Mary Sullivan	03/15
Harold McCready	03/04	Shirley Lavish	03/12	Jamie Szewczyk	03/16
Jennifer Minn	03/05	Raleigh Yetter	03/12	Celine Fisher-Flaherty	03/18
Cindy Shippert	03/06	Kristina Wright	03/13	Mike Stewart	03/20
Hannah Willis	03/06	Kathy Kindsvater	03/14	Emily Pouncey	03/27
Sharon Nicholson	03/07	Megan Shaw	03/14	Stacie Kackley	03/29
Carson Ebert	03/09	Sandra Younger	03/14	Dani Langley	03/31

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 Kathy at the church office if you have any questions.

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**

Submissions for the April *Messenger* are due March 20th.

Thank you



St. Paul United Methodist Church

11000 H G Trueman Road, Lusby, MD 20657

410-326 – 4475

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

<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulLusby>

stpaulumcinfo@gmail.com