



St. Paul Ministries

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St. Paul, a United Methodist Church, and so much more...



Trusting the Will of God

As I read the Bible this morning, I arrived in the Book of Ecclesiastes. The second verse of the book penned by Solomon says, "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity!" CEB version says "perfectly pointless. Everything is pointless." What's the use? Why even try? Even if we fix a few things, will we be better off? The level of hopelessness, pessimism, fear of everything, and grief of the loss of access to friends and family have flooded these days. Our political behaviors and judgment of others who are acting foolish loom large.

But the scripture does not leave us in the pit, in our pity party or in the compulsive need to judge others. By the third chapter, verses 12-13 say, "I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and do good in one's lifetime; moreover, that everyone who eats and drinks sees good in one's labor; it is a gift of God."

The reward for doing the right things is not that you change the world, but you know you have sought to do what is right and just. The results are left to God. St. Paul has been living in the present, feeding, and caring for those around and even rejoicing in doing good. Bound together in small teams and communities that labor to do good has given us reason to rejoice. Who we are matters.

The people we serve matter and the relationships and resources shared are worth celebrating.

Living in the present does not mean that we have been able to be physically present to one another. We have phoned, texted, zoomed and prayed for and with one another. We have missed people that we know and love and yet have met others in these days. Our hope, if it is the will of God, is for us to return to some ways of seeing each other face to face. Here are the steps that we intend (God willing).

- Spanish service
- Worship in the sanctuary on Sunday morning
- Homework help with children
- Steak supper fund raiser
- Welcoming back churches with small teams to help serve Tuesday and Saturday meals

Returning to the Sanctuary for Sunday Morning Worship starting 9/13/2020

Over the past month, a team has been working on how to both safely open the sanctuary for people to be present in worship while also maintaining the significant worship provided online by Zoom. The goal is to blend these together.

We are ready to take the next steps for those with a preference to be in the building for worship.

- Arrive at 9:30-10 a.m. Sunday morning. The service is approximately an hour and the building will close after the service.
- You must wear a mask and keep 6 ft. social distance. This includes while singing except for the person leading worship.
- The only space open will be the sanctuary accessible through the Huffman Street and Fourth Street doors.
- There is no access to food, coffee, or restrooms.
- This is not being broadly advertised as we seek to establish some new patterns of behavior. However, everyone is welcome.
- If you are not feeling well, please stay home.

We rejoice that we are beginning this new phase of our life together.



We are excited to share that the Asset Builders' Club @ St. Paul will be starting again soon! We are forming partnerships with other organizations in our community in order to support our young people and the families in our community the best way we can! We are working out a plan for how we will offer educational support for students who cannot be in classrooms due to COVID-19, and hope to have ABC back up and running in just a few short weeks. If you are interested in volunteering with the ABC to help support our young people and their families during this difficult time, please email ElizabethHeft@gmail.com.

Needs List:

Canned Meat
Canned Vegetables
Canned Fruit

Peanut Butter and Jelly
Boxed Potatoes and Pasta
Cereal
Snack items such as pretzels,
popcorn, chips, etc.

Taxable items such as toilet paper,
paper towels, soap, shampoo,
toothpaste, etc.



What's coming up? Academy @ St. Paul

GETTING COMFORTABLE ON ZOOM: A FUN WAY TO LEARN ZOOM

Do you wish you could join in Zoom meetings with your friends and family but you don't know how to begin? Do you want to take part in the virtual Bible Study at church but have never used Zoom? Maybe you do Zoom meetings but don't feel you know enough about it to really enjoy the experience. If you have an email account that you can access, a smart phone, tablet, or computer with a camera and mic, you can join this fun webinar to learn the basics of Zoom. Questions? Email Beth Vanoli: vanolibeth@gmail.com

There are three sessions to choose from:

Tuesday, September 22 @ 10:00am

Thursday, September 24 @ 2:00pm

Thursday, October 29 @ 2:00pm

Register now!

<https://mailchi.mp/e712999404f9/getting-comfortable-with-zoom>

VIRTUAL PRAYER CIRCLE

Join St. Paul's drop-in Contemplative Prayer Circle. We gather on Zoom every Wednesday at 3pm and Saturday at 10am for Centering Prayer, reflective readings and discussions. Questions? Email Beth Vanoli at vanolibeth@gmail.com.

To register for the circle and receive an email with the zoom link prior to each meeting:

<https://mailchi.mp/57047ab60621/academy-of-spiritual-and-social-practices>

MORE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE

Peggy Hewitt from Otterbein UMC will be facilitating this virtual workshop on three consecutive Thursdays at 10am starting on October 15. You will need to purchase *Holding Up Your Corner: Talking about Race In Your Community (Participants Book)* wherever you buy books. Questions? Email Beth Vanoli at vanolibeth@gmail.com. To register for the workshop and receive an email with the zoom link:

<https://mailchi.mp/fc3e785fb4fd/holding-up-your-corner>

Help!!!

We are still operating in the carry-out mode for Tuesday Lunch and Saturday Breakfast. Weekly, 300 meals are prepared at Life Enrichment Center and warmed up at St. Paul. Volunteer groups of four are **needed** to package the meals for distribution. St. Paul staff will interact with individuals in the community. We are adhering strictly to the Health Department guidelines by wearing masks and gloves and practicing social distancing. The kitchen area is sanitized daily. Feel free to stop by any Tuesday between 11:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. to see how things are working.

If you and your group can help, please contact Don Beebe at 614-286-3984 or email dsbbskl@gmail.com

St. Paul UMC Semi-Annual Steak Dinner

!!!CARRY OUT ONLY!!!

Saturday, October 17, 2020

3:00 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Adults - \$10 / Children - \$5

Please call 937-252-4467 to reserve your meals.

Meal Pickup: Enter church through sanctuary or office entrances, wearing a mask. Wait in sanctuary (social distancing) for your order. Exit by office door.

There will be a limited number of handicap parking spaces on 4th St. and on Huffman Ave. for curbside order and delivery.

MENU

**Cubed Steak with Mushroom Gravy • Baked Potato
Green Beans • Tossed Salad or Applesauce • Dinner Roll
Homemade Desserts**



Hispanic-Latino Ministry Update

Our ministry with the Hispanic-Latino community has continued at St. Paul even during the pandemic. While our programs are shaped differently than before, we continue to serve in significant ways.

- By providing interpretation for social service applications, school registration, housing purchases and sales
- By distributing food from the pantry while practicing social distancing and taking appropriate sanitary precautions
- By forwarding, through Facebook Messenger, the Spanish services recorded by Pastors Henry Folgoso and Dani Ortega at first UMC in Middletown
- By staying in touch and praying with individuals by phone, text and Facebook Messenger

Now, Lord willing, we will begin gathering once a month for Worship and fellowship. Our first meeting will be Sunday, September 13, beginning at 6:45 p.m. **Welcome Dayton** will join us to offer information about the **2020 Census**.

Our plan is to continue gathering for worship on the second Sunday of each month at 6:45 pm. The schedule is subject to change. For more information, call Pastor Susan Whigham, at 937-586-8578.