



St. Paul Ministries

101 Huffman Avenue • Dayton, OH 45403

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



Letter from the Pastor

There is an old Zen Buddhist story of a man riding a horse. Along the way, he comes upon a friend of his at an intersection. The friend asks, "Where are you going?" The man replied "I don't know; ask the horse!" As January carries on in this new year of 2023 and February approaches, it can be easy to feel like that man on the horse, along for the ride with no idea where we are headed. Richard Rohr, the great theologian and philosopher, wrote that this horse in our modern day is technology. Its algorithms determine where our desires land and where our thoughts wander. Whether or not we are hungry for pizza, Chinese food or burgers is just an advertisement or post away. In my role at the Dayton Equity Center, I hear story after story, each day about the ways in which people feel isolated by technology. The 45 interviews for our Power forklift course this month revealed story after story of people who submitted job applications on internet platforms, like Indeed, without any response, or a person on the other end of the line to talk to them. For these men and women, as well as the rest of us, it feels like the more they engage, the more directionless they feel, as career path, after job, after interview, passes them by. As I greet people on Saturday mornings at St. Paul, I hear story after story from people who feel like they are going in an unknown direction with no control.

That feeling is not foreign or unique. For each of us, the horse that is carrying us in some unknown direction may take on a variety of roles and have many names. It could be addiction, greed, manipulative relationships, political ideology, or our own quest for popularity and status. The horse may be named loss, depression, old age, or illness. Whatever the horse is named, though, the Scriptures remind us that we can take back the reins and go in a new direction. I'm reminded of another story that may sound familiar to you as well; Zacchaeus was indeed a wee little man, but finding a way to a sycamore tree, he was looking for a Savior. When Jesus spots him and asks him to come down, Zacchaeus doesn't invite Jesus cordially to his home, rather Jesus invites himself over! After a long conversation and meal (this often works to change me too), Zacchaeus has decided to go in a new direction: giving away the money that he stole, repaying those who he wronged, and giving above and beyond with a generous heart. Then Jesus said, "today, salvation has come to this house" (Luke 19:9 NIV).

In my own United Methodist tradition, we believe God has much more for us than simply climbing up to get a better glimpse of Jesus, or even sitting down at the table with him. No, the grace of God empowers us day by day to go in a new direction, even if we have never gone that way before. As I begin to work with another 25 formerly incarcerated individuals, folks from this resettlement community, and folks in recovery, I see them striving for a new direction as they acquire certification and job opportunities. These witnesses to God's redeeming power remind me that I too, can go in a new direction. Wherever the horse took you last year, you don't have to go that way any longer, I hope you don't just turn over a new leaf, in this new year of 2023. I hope you're able to say with Jesus, "today, salvation has come to this house." May God continue to bless your home and please keep the house of God located at 101 Huffman Ave. in your prayers, with your presence, and your pocketbooks this year so that we can continue to invite people to go in a new direction.

Ashton Dupler

GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME...and the generosity of St. Paul UMC's friends and partner churches are but one manifestation of that goodness, especially at Christmas time. As a result, the family of God continues to grow in all of its multicultural splendor. The photos offer a chance to reflect on the memories created here in December 2022.

Photos by Terry Ronald



ST. PAUL'S DYNAMIC DUO

Jerry Murphy, age 86, and Terry Ronald, age 85, have acquired a new name at St. Paul – *the Dynamic Duo!*

Jerry, a member of Christ UMC in Kettering, volunteers at least 2 days a week at St. Paul in addition to volunteering at his home church. The mark of Jerry's handiwork can be found in every room at St. Paul including the creation of a scale model of the church building which is on display in the sanctuary. He just completed a painstaking project to revitalize a World War II display names of St. Paul members who served in the military and those who gave their lives in the line of duty. It is on display in the balcony of the social room. Today, Jerry was installing a new ice machine in the kitchen. He has served St. Paul faithfully for at least 11 years.

Terry, a resident with his wife Vicki of our Huffman Historic Neighborhood, handles all the tech work related to worship in addition to being the go-to person for all wifi and computer needs. He is an avid photographer who takes photos at all our special events such as Breakfast with Santa. Terry volunteers hours and hours every week and in addition serves on our Lead Team. Terry and Vicki act as liaisons with the Huffman Historic Neighborhood Association which holds their monthly meetings at St. Paul. Terry has served St. Paul faithfully for 7 years.

It is clear to all who are familiar with the varied ministries at St. Paul UMC that we run on volunteer power! Jerry and Terry exemplify the heart and mind of the volunteer spirit. We are so thankful to all the dedicated volunteers who take their responsibility so seriously. We love you and appreciate you so very much.

FREE TAX PREPARATION

For families earning \$70,000 or less

St. Paul United Methodist Church
101 Huffman Ave, Dayton OH 45403

First come, first served!

- **Note for this year: Drop off tax materials**
January 28 – April 14, 2023
M, W, F 9am – 1pm

Please bring:

- W-2 (2022)
- Forms and packet from 2021
- Tax-deductible receipts
- Bank name, account number, routing number
- Photo ID
- Dependents' social security cards

Service provided by



Volunteer Income Tax
Assistance program

St. Paul UMC Semi-Annual Steak Dinner

Saturday, March 11, 2023



4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Adults — \$15.00

Children (11 & Younger) — \$10.00

Reservations Accepted



Come dine with us!

MENU

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



St. Paul Preaching Schedule

February 5	Rev. Dr. Jocelyn Roper
February 12	Rev. Deb Egloff
February 19	Ashton Dupler
February 22 [bilingual]	Ash Wednesday
	Rev. Dr. Jim Wilson
	Rev. Susan Whigham
February 26	Rev. Ashton Dupler
March 5	Rev. Dr. Jocelyn Roper
March 12	Rev. Deb Egloff
March 19	Rev. Ashton Dupler
March 26	Rev. Ashton Dupler

