



# St. Paul Ministries

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



Dear Friends,

Can you believe that it is August already? Where has the time gone? We have been through so many challenges this year and I praise God for you and all of your efforts in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ wherever you go. Let Your Light Shine!!

This is also one of my favorite times of the year. The Olympics are taking place, and by the time you read this letter, the Olympics will probably be over, but I am constantly rooting for Team USA in all events. I have always been a Track and Field fan during the Olympics. I think about how these are events for individuals, but it still takes the whole team to help an individual be successful. As I think about the Olympics happening, I would like to share a story with you.

“Kenyan runner Abel Mutai was only a few meters from the finish line, but got confused with the signs and stopped, thinking he had finished the race. Ivan Fernandez, (Spanish speaking) was right behind him and, realizing what was going on, started shouting to the Kenyan to keep running. Mutai did not know Spanish and did not understand.

Realizing what was going on, Fernandez pushed Mutai to victory.

A reporter asked Ivan, “Why did you do this?” Ivan replied, “My dream is that one day we can have some sort of community life where we push ourselves and also others to win.”

The reporter insisted “But why did you let the Kenyan win?” Ivan replied, “I didn’t let him win; he was going to win. The race was his.”

The reporter insisted and asked again, “But you could have won!” Ivan looked at him and replied: “But what would be the merit of my victory? What would be the honor of this medal? What would my mother think of it?”

The values are transmitted from generation to generation. What values do we teach our children and how much do you inspire others? Most of us take advantage of people’s weaknesses instead of helping to strengthen them.

This story reminds me of a scripture in Acts 20:32-36.

<sup>32</sup> “Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup> I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. <sup>34</sup> You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. <sup>35</sup> In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

<sup>36</sup> When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed.

My favorite part of this story is when Ivan was interviewed, and the “world” wanted him to be selfish. Instead, he chose to help others. Isn’t THIS what being a Christian is all about. Helping others when they are down. Helping OTHERS when they need strength. Helping OTHERS when they need encouragement? Isn’t this what we are called to do as a Community. To be the hands and feet of Christ wherever we go?

I think it is important to remember the words that Paul said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)

Covid through us into a time that no one expected. However, we have learned how to overcome challenges that tried to keep us from worshipping and sharing with each other. Now, I believe, we are in a time of a “Re-Launch”. We are learning and “Re-Learning” how to be the church. May we all have a Spirit of rejuvenation, a Spirit of helping one another, and a Spirit of loving and caring for each other. I am also asking for all of us to remember each other in prayer. Prayers of encouragement! Prayers of Unity! Prayers of strength for our fellow believers and for those that we need to reach out to in order to introduce them to Jesus.

The Number one thing that we can learn from the story of the Olympian is that we may be the only Bible that some people ever READ. How are we representing God’s Word to God’s Children?

In Christ’s Love!

Pastor Ben Webster

## Thank You note to Saint Paul Church and Friends

*With much appreciation I send you this thank you. The celebration that you had with me on my final Sunday at Saint Paul after six years there and 42 years of service in ministry was a satisfying way for me to enter a real season of retirement. I have loved being with you guys and certainly appreciate the dinner, cards, well wishes, gift certificates, and the gift of a family membership to the Cincinnati Zoo.*

*I guess most of you know in retirement my first goal has been to have a total knee replacement. I was able to move up the date of surgery to July 1st and have successfully completed two weeks of recovery and therapy with the removal of staples the freedom to start to drive again. Elaine has been a big help and encourager. Yet earlier this week her soon to be 100-year-old mom fell in her apartment and broke her hip. She has now had surgery for a partial hip replacement. Elaine now has two patients to look after. Fortunately, I am becoming increasingly independent which gives her some primary time in Cincinnati with her mom.*

*With increased activity in our near future, we are looking forward to utilizing the zoo membership and the many opportunities to visit restaurants and enjoy some activities.*

***For all that has been, Thanks.***

***For all that will be, Yes! Dag Hammarskjöld***

Pastor Steve and Elaine Gill



## Fall Offerings from Contemplative Ministries

*Contemplative Ministries offer opportunities to practice the sacred rhythms modeled for us by Jesus—pray and serve, pause and work, solitude and community. Everyone has the capacity to engage in contemplation and grow deeper in relationship with Christ. The only requirement is a desire to seek God and be open to the Spirit's movement in our lives.*

### **Virtual Offerings**

**Centering Down:** breath work, Centering Prayer, reflective readings and discussion. Starting September 8, we will begin the study of a new book, *Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a Time of Pandemic and Beyond* by Matthew Fox.

Wednesdays, 3:00 to 4:00 pm

Saturdays, 10:00 to 11:00 am

**Lectio @ Lunch:** Bible study starting September 13

Mondays, Noon to 12:45 pm

### **In-Person Offerings**

**Meditation & Movement:** breath work, gentle movement, reflective readings and discussion starting September 10 at St. Paul UMC, 101 Huffman Ave., Dayton OH 45459

Fridays, 10:00 to 11:15 am

**To learn more, contact Deaconess Beth Vanoli at 937-901-9649 or [vanolibeth@gmail.com](mailto:vanolibeth@gmail.com)**

## Summer Arts Programs in the Huffman Historic District

Throughout the month of July, a partnership between the Huffman Historic District People's Wellness Collective and the St. Paul Contemplative Ministries provided 49 kids in the Huffman neighborhood with the chance to stimulate their creativity and express themselves through art and mindfulness activities. We are excited to see where future collaborations will lead. Creators of the program were Vicki Morris of the People's Wellness Collective and Beth Vanoli, Coordinator of St. Paul's Contemplative Ministries. A special thanks to our volunteers: Jenny Downey (People's Wellness Collective); Alex Morris and Rosie Miller (Huffman neighbors); Sue Whigham (Director, St. Paul Hispanic Ministries) and Beth Johnson (St. Paul member).

Check out the pictures below to see the artistic talents of all the children. They had fun participating and were a joy to watch.



**Art in the Garden (4-7 year olds):** Art In The Garden was a neighborhood project developed during the restrictive COVID times of last year by The People's Wellness Collective, a Huffman group dedicated to expanding creative experiences and life skills to the Historic Inner East area of Dayton. Our first offerings met with great success, and we would like to thank St. Paul Church for their support and welcoming us to meet there on a rainy day. Also, special thanks to Sue Whigham, who helped us reach out to the Hispanic community within Huffman, acting as interpreter, provider of transportation, reader of stories and all around helping hand!



### **Expressive Arts Circle (8-12 year olds):**

Expressive Arts Circle was developed by the Contemplative Ministries of St. Paul to encourage children to engage in art as a natural way to practice skills of mindfulness, collaboration, focus, peace, and stillness. The colors, textures and sounds of creating, pull children into the moment while allowing them to reveal their own spiritual gifts and talents.



# Wesley Ultimate Camp Experience

by Pastor Susan Whigham

Thanks to the generosity of UMW, Christ Church, the Serendipity men's group and many others, twelve of our St. Paul kids had the time of their lives July 14-16 at The Wesley Ultimate Camp in Bellefontaine, OH.

Here are just a few of the reactions:

"It was so much fun!"

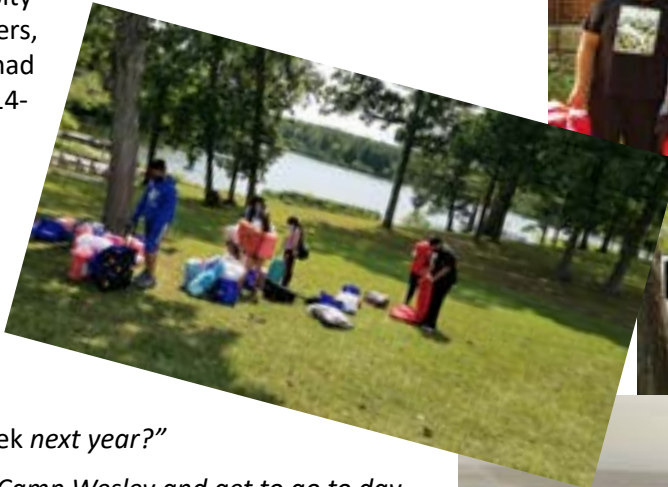
"Can we go again next year?"

"Can we go for a whole week next year?"

"The kids who live close to Camp Wesley and get to go to day camp all summer are soooo lucky!"

Some of the kids' favorite activities were archery, night-time dodge ball, canoeing and, of course, swimming! They also benefited from the spiritual focus of the camp, as there was a time for prayer and devotions each day.

To top it all off, thanks to Beth and Dan Vanoli, the kids got to eat at McDonald's and enjoy an ice cream cone on the way home!



## Pantry Needs:

*There's a real shortage of jelly in the pantry, which is essential for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.*

<b>Back to School:</b>	Vegetable soup
Markers	Shelf milk
Colored pencils	Crackers
Watercolor paint sets	Macaroni & cheese
Pocket folders	Salty Snacks
Sharpies	Pasta
<b>Other needs:</b>	Peanut butter
Canned vegetables	Boxed potatoes & rice
Canned beans	Razors & shaving cream
Canned fruit	Shampoo
Tomato soup	Soap
Canned meat	Toilet paper
Chicken-noodle soup	Paper towels
Cereal	

## Hispanic-Latino Ministry Update

Two families from Honduras who are seeking asylum in the U.S. have recently begun attending our Spanish Worship and Bible Studies. These families are in need of many household essentials including:

Dining room table with chairs; chairs that would fit in the corner of a kitchen with an existing round kitchen table, washer/dryer, beds (3 children are currently sleeping on the floor) and other gently used household items.

If you know of anyone breaking up housekeeping who would be interested in donating or selling these items cheap to help a needy family, please text Pastor Susan Whigham at (937) 586-8578.

## Save the Date!

**Family Fun Night -**  
(Games and friendship)  
Sunday,  
August 29, 4-6 p.m.

**Steak Dinner -**  
Saturday,  
October 16,  
4:30 p.m.-7 p.m.