



## St. Paul Ministries

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Friends,

Easter is a wonderful time to rejoice in the message of new life and to enjoy traditions, sights and possibilities that show up in the spring. One of the most common Easter traditions is the Easter egg hunt. Over the decades the hard boiling and coloring of eggs has morphed into plastic eggs filled with candy. These hunts often draw large numbers of children and families. But what does that have to do with the message of new life?

Formerly, the message of Easter was yoked to chicks hatched in the spring. Today these birds are only easily seen at stores like Rural King. There the chicks are in pens and the ongoing chirping reminds me in the midst of farm supplies that there is life.

Easter at St. Paul is not about plastic eggs filled with candy. It is about vulnerable people who gather for shelter and care. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus spoke about the threat and treatment he would face from Herod and others in Jerusalem. With a full heart Jesus said, "How often I have wanted to gather your (God's) people just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings."

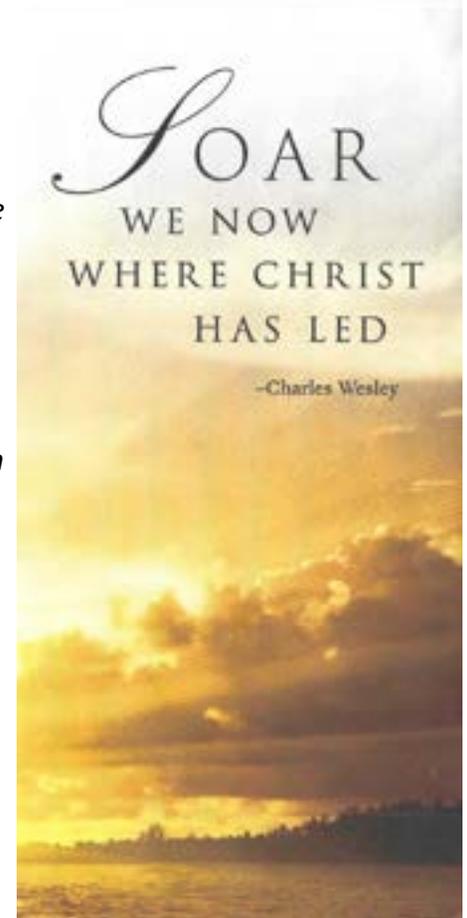
St. Paul is like the Hen. It is a place of shelter for seniors across the street, homeless from under the bridges and in the woods, children who need the loving faith stories, addicts who are being tempted on the streets, mentally ill who need kindness, average Americans who come out of isolation, prostitutes and foreigners who are not welcome elsewhere and are not always safe.

In the shelter of St. Paul, people gather seven days a week. The Risen Christ is present welcoming all of these people as His own. This spring, we have increased resources of loving leaders and outreach to all these vulnerable populations. The gifts of Hope and Life are shared. Worship and food, clothing and a safe haven are offered to all kinds of people from the East Dayton community and others from outside. People are seen and recognized. People are invited to new life.

We are Easter People offering to all an Easter experience of life, faith, hope and unconditional love. Your prayers, words and gifts of encouragement continue to enable a grace filled space and care for the body, the mind, the heart, and the soul. Thank you.

Blessings,

Steve, Pastor



## CAMP WESLEY AND MISSION U

Hints of Spring are in the air! At St. Paul this means that we begin to make plans for our children and youth to attend Camp Wesley and Mission u. A partnership between the camper, his or her family, St. Paul UMC, St. Paul UM Women and Miami Valley District UMW "Community Care" makes these incredible experiences possible. When the campers make a commitment to attend camp or Mission u, their families make a modest financial commitment. St. Paul UMC and St. Paul UMW also make financial commitments. Miami Valley District United Methodist Women then pay the remainder of the registration fees.

This year, a group of children will attend Camp Wesley's Splash-A-Palooza June 30 – July 2. Several of our youth will attend the "new and different" Mission u at Otterbein University, July 18 – 21. The youth will study the Gospel of Mark using the book, *Who Do You Say That I Am? Meeting Jesus through the Eyes of Mark*. In addition, several of our former youth will attend the new session of Mission u for young adults.

### APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 Stuff Shoppe Grand Reopening! All new selection of spring and summer clothing
- 7 Getting to Know Yourself workshop after worship
- 14 Palm Sunday — Baptisms & Receiving new members  
Getting to Know Yourself workshop after worship
- 18 Holy Thursday — Service at 7 p.m. (no Youth Group)
- 19 Good Friday — Church closed
- 21 Easter Sunday — Breakfast at 8:30 am; Bible Class at 9:00 am; Worship at 10 am;  
Spanish Worship at 6:45 pm, followed by an Easter Celebration
- 22 No Kids Connection

#### April Lunches:

- 2 Aley UMC
- 9 Christ UMC
- 16 Eastmont UMC
- 23 Bellbrook UMC
- 30 St. Andrew UMC

#### April Breakfasts:

- 6 Belmont UMC
- 13 Aley UMC
- 20 Normandy UMC
- 27 Belmont UMC Youth



*Dear Families:*

*You are cordially invited to celebrate with our Hispanic-Latino faith community on*

## ***Resurrection Sunday***

***April 21, 2019 at 6:45 p.m.***

**Location:**

St. Paul UMC  
101 Huffman Avenue  
Dayton, Ohio 45403

*Our joyful worship (in Spanish) will be followed by an Easter celebration, which will include the following:*

- *An Easter egg hunt for the children*
- *A visit from the Easter bunny*

***Be sure to invite your family and friends!***

***ALL ARE WELCOME!***

