



St. Paul Ministries

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



WILD CHURCH: A WESLEYAN TRADITION

By thus acquainting and familiarizing ourselves with the works of nature, we become as it were a member of her family, a participant in her felicities; but while we remain ignorant, we are like strangers and sojourners in a foreign land, unknowing and unknown.

~ John Wesley

Worshipping with nature has long been a Methodist tradition. Sometimes it was due to necessity because there was no building constructed for settlers to gather as they moved west. Sometimes our ancestors gathered outside by desire, such as it was with the popular camp movement started in the 19th Century. During this era, in the spirit of John Wesley, Methodists flocked outdoors in summer to attend these Camp Revival Meetings. We still see the vestiges of these camp meetings in places like Lakeside, Ohio or Chautauqua, New York.

At St. Paul, there is a new movement rising from this longstanding Wesleyan custom. We call it Wild Church. Each Wild Church gathering draws on basic pieces of worship rooted in tradition from a time when sacred worship places and practices took place with the living world. Our Call to Worship honors the land, the people who walked before us, those that walk with us, those who will walk after us, plants, trees, and animals. We celebrate the watershed that feeds the land. We read scripture, sing with the birds and set our intention for our time together. Liturgy is meant to call us to action and as a way to keep our liturgy fresh and meaningful, we encourage each participant to share poems and readings that will inspire us into full participation and action. We move into silence and from that quiet stance, worshippers are invited to walk the trails or find a special spot to sit and have a conversation with God. Worship ends with the community coming back together to reflect and share our experiences, insights, and inspirations.

At Wild Church, you will be called to open your heart, mind and senses—hearing the voice of God in the song of birds, feeling God’s presence in the wind, seeing God’s beauty in the trees and animals. Here we expand our experience of God and we learn why Jesus went into the wilderness to pray. When we gather this way, we discover that worship happens naturally when you let go of the questions and the expected and come to a place where Mystery is experienced and not explained.

If you are interested in joining the revival, you will find us at Mount St. John’s in Beavercreek on May 20. Details for our next Wild Church gathering are in this newsletter.

Beth Vanoli
Deaconess

**Our next Wild Church will be Saturday, May 20
10am-Noon**

**Mount St. John
4435 E. Patterson Rd.
Beavercreek, OH 45430**

KIDS ARE NOT ONLY WELCOMED, THEY ARE ENCOURAGED!

Park in Parking Lot D. You will see us gathering near the Grotto. Dress appropriately for an outside event and bring a lawn chair to put in a circle as we gather. If you have a favorite poem or reading that you want to share relating to a nature theme, you are welcome to bring it. Please note that weather is always a consideration. If you have questions, you can email Beth Vanoli at vanolibeth@gmail.com or text 937-901-9649.




Did You Know???

- St. Paul's Hispanic Ministries is sponsoring a **delicious fundraiser on Saturday, May 6 from 4-7 pm** with carry-out or eat in options. [See article below]
- Are you available to organize **fun and games for kids 3-11 on Thursdays from 6:45-9 pm**? Do you meet Safe Sanctuary guidelines, and are you able to pass a background check? If so, Hispanic-Latino ministries needs YOU! Text Rev. Susan Whigham at 937-586-8578 for more information.
- Because of very generous support from all of you, St. Paul made \$3,300 on the Steak Dinner held in March. Thank you! The next dinner will be in October.
- **The Food Pantry needs:** canned meat, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned soups, mac and cheese, pasta, rice, canned & boxed potatoes, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, snacks, drink mixes.
- **Tuesday Lunch Update:** The calendar is filled for 2023 with groups who are serving only or who are cooking and serving. When needed, we are getting food from Miami Valley Meals. We are still preparing carryout meals but people may eat inside if they choose to. St. Paul is providing the carryout containers and bottled water.
- St. Paul will participate in the **Huffman Neighborhood Yard Sales on Saturday, June 3 from 10 am – 2 pm.**
- St. Paul is in need of a sturdy, **usable swing set for the playground.**

St. Paul just completed a very successful free tax program season, having helped to complete Federal and State Tax returns for 286 clients. This program is so beneficial and appreciated by all who participate. For those getting a Federal refund, the average refund was \$1,280. For those getting a State refund, the average refund was \$255. The success of the VITA program is possible due to the unwavering volunteer service of Kirby Lupton, Arthur Mills and Mike Cornelius. You are so appreciated! Our hearts are filled with gratitude and thanksgiving.

ST. PAUL HISPANIC-LATINO MINISTRY: AN EXAMPLE OF MINISTRY "WITH"

Great emphasis has been placed churchwide on the concept of Ministry "*With*" instead of Ministry "*To*." An example of Ministry "*With*" occurred recently in our Hispanic faith community when several members took the grassroots initiative to conduct a food sale. Individual members will lovingly buy, prepare and serve the food for this fundraiser to be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 4 - 7 pm at St. Paul (see the address on the sample ticket below). **Deadline for purchasing the tickets, which are available in the church office, is Thursday, May 4, 2023.** In addition to the complete dinner, individual tickets are available for the Golden Taquitos (\$8), 1 cup of Cowboy Beans (\$3), 1 cup of Rice Pudding (\$3), and a 4 cup container of Pozole, a delicious Mexican soup with meat and hominy, for \$13. Please support this grassroots fundraiser to benefit our ministries.

	COMPLETE DINNER / \$13.00 Includes: 4 golden taquitos dorados (toppings on the side) 1 cup frijoles charros (cowboy beans) 1 cup rice pudding
	<i>*Tickets sold in the church office until Thursday, May 4*</i>
	ORDER PICK-UP: Saturday, May 6, 2023, 4-7 pm. Present your tickets at St. Paul UMC - Dayton 101 Huffman Ave. - Dayton, Ohio - 45403 Funds to benefit Hispanic-Latino Ministry