



St. Paul Ministries

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



Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well and warm during this season! I wanted to take a moment to celebrate St. Paul's Steak Dinner. I was watching the ecosystem that springs to life thanks to an army of volunteers and it made me think about gratitude and reciprocity. I am sure you can imagine those spaces of grace, where you laugh at the coffee table or nearly slide off your seat, leaning in to hear your loved ones' incredible story. The Steak Dinner is one of those spaces of remarkable gratitude, one that weaves a vibrant multicultural tapestry that enriches our lives in so many ways.



In our fast-paced world, it's truly a blessing to have a place like St. Paul where we come together to break bread, share stories, and appreciate the diversity that makes our community so special. The annual Steak Dinner has become a cherished tradition, not only for its mouthwatering dishes but also for the warm, inclusive atmosphere it fosters. Over the last year, I've witnessed our community grow closer as we embrace the richness of various cultures, traditions, and backgrounds. It's within these walls that we've learned to appreciate the beauty in our differences, finding common ground through the universal language of gratitude and hospitality.

Robin Wall Kimmerer, biologist and Potawatomi woman, defines this kind of gratitude in her essay entitled "The Serviceberry;" "Gratitude is so much more than a polite "thank you." It is the thread that connects us in a deep relationship, simultaneously physical and spiritual, as our bodies are fed and spirits nourished by the sense of belonging, which is the most vital of foods. Gratitude creates a sense of abundance, the knowing that you have what you need." These moments are not just found in the scriptures or a noble ideal; gratitude is a practice.

Ephesians 3:20 reminds us that God has provided exceedingly and abundantly, more than we can ever ask or imagine; yet we can forget to be grateful if we don't take time to practice. I encourage you to join us in that practice, on Sundays, Saturdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, serving or in service, worshiping. We have another opportunity to create this appreciation for God's abundance on November 19th with Multicultural Thanksgiving. It's a space where we not only celebrate our own cultures but also discover new ones, fostering understanding, tolerance, and unity. I hope you will join me.

As we gather year after year, we not only indulge in delectable dishes but also in the flavors of life itself, exploring stories, traditions, and experiences from all corners of the globe. This multicultural tapestry we've woven together is a reflection of the world's diversity, reminding us that we are all threads in the same human fabric.

Joan was complementing one young volunteer, Samira, on her handling of the dessert cart. She replied "thank you for the opportunity!". Let's continue to honor the tradition of St. Paul's Steak Dinner as a space where gratitude knows no borders, and where our differences are cherished as valuable assets to our shared experience. In this haven of diversity, we find a reflection of the beautiful mosaic that is our global community.

With warmest regards,
Pastor Ashton Dupler



New gift items are needed for the Children's Santa Shop to be held on Saturday, December 7. Over 50 children will shop, free of charge, for all members of their immediate families. Gifts [\$5-\$10 range] are needed for children of all ages, teens, and adults. If you can help make this event a success, please bring the gifts to the church by Thursday, December 5.

Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude for the following groups who have provided delicious meals for our Tuesday Lunches in 2023:

Aley UMC
Church of the Cross
Lewisburg UMC
Restoration, Centerville

Christ UMC, Kettering Community Care
Eastmont UWF
Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist
Sulphur Grove UMC

Christ Kettering UWF
Faith Community UMC, Xenia
Normandy UMC

**Please contact Joan Johnson at 937 252-4467 if your group would like the rewarding opportunity of furnishing a meal or meals in 2024.*

Our appreciation goes out to the organization, Lasagna Love, for furnishing delicious homemade lasagna for lunch on the 3rd Thursday of each month and to Stuart & Sandy Postle for coming to serve and clean up. We also give heartfelt thanks to Bob Knell and the Wayts from Normandy UMC for serving pizza every 4th Thursday. The delicious pizza is provided by The Pizza Factory on Wayne Ave. at a very generous discount.

It is amazing that our ministries have rebounded so well after COVID. We have 7 amazing groups that provide Saturday Breakfast on a regular calendar basis:

Aley UMC
Hope Collective UMC
Southern Hills UMC

Belmont UMC Youth
Normandy UMC

Englewood UMC
St. Charles Catholic

*Dear Friends,
You are cordially invited to enjoy a
Multicultural Thanksgiving Dinner
with our Hispanic-Latino community*

**Sunday, November 19, 2023
7 p.m.**

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

*Please bring a covered dish,
salad or dessert to share, if possible.*

**Let us give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good! - Psalm 36:1**

