



## St. Paul Ministries

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



### *Letter from the Pastor*

*As your Pastor, I can't help but to take a moment and reflect on this past year. I am grateful to admit that I am blessed by all of you! When Jennifer and I first arrived at St. Paul, we felt nothing but love. You have been very welcome and supportive and I am truly thankful.*

*Can you believe that it is June already? So many things have happened, and let's admit it, some of us didn't think they would ever happen again. We continued to work together through the Covid Pandemic. We continued to support our community and to reach out to those in need. I am humbled and can feel the presence of God is at work, at St. Paul UMC and in our community. He is using each and every one of us to carry out His mission.*

*As I think of all of the ways that God has blessed us, and I am reminded that in the month of June, we will be celebrating "Pentecost" as a church. To me, "Pentecost Sunday" is a very important day in the life of the church. It's a day when we celebrate the "Gift of the Holy Spirit" and the "Birthday" of the church.*

*We are all familiar with the scripture found in Acts 2: 1-21. However, for just a moment, I would like to focus on one particular verse. It is Acts 2: 1, "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place." Let me say that again, "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place." WOW! A lot of us, when we think about Pentecost, think about the Holy Spirit coming down and everyone that was there on that day feeling the power that only the Holy Spirit can give. We even remember the amazing message that Peter preached on that day that resulted in so many people being saved. But, have you ever thought about the fact that none of this would have happened, if they weren't all in one place? If they weren't all together? Maybe, a better way to relate to this scripture is to say, "They were all united for one purpose!"*

*On this day, no one cared that Peter had "foot in mouth syndrome". No one cared that Matthew was a tax collector. No one cared that John was referred to as "The Beloved". No one cared that Thomas doubted. They put aside their own egos, their differences, their ambitions, and as a result, they were all in one accord. They were all United!!!! One Cause, One Purpose! That purpose was to serve Jesus Christ.*

*As we celebrate Pentecost, and as we move forward as a church.... let us remember what our mission is...found in Matthew 28, "Go and make disciples" This is a mission that we must all remain "United" in, no matter what the world is throwing at us. Just as the disciples were together, let us remain together and may God anoint us with the Holy Spirit to go and do the work He has called us to do.*

*As you have heard, I will be leaving St. Paul UMC to be re-appointed to Emery Chapel UMC in Springfield. I am thankful for the time that God has allowed me to be with St. Paul UMC. I will always hold St Paul UMC in my prayers and will be praying for the new Pastor at St. Paul. You have been a blessing to me and my family and I pray that you will continue to be a blessing to each other and the community.*

*Blessings to all!*

*Pastor Ben*



## 2021 TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

St. Paul UMC completed another very successful Tax Program in April, 2022. Our three dedicated volunteers, Mike Cornelius, Kirby Lupton, and Arthur Mills, Jr. processed 181 Federal returns and 157 State returns. The total federal refunds for our folks this year was \$241,359, with an average of \$1333.48. The total state refunds for our folks this year was \$31,211, with an average of \$198.80. Because of the hard volunteer work of our 3 experienced preparers, we experienced a 17% increase in the number of returns as well as a 26% increase in the refund amounts. This program is a real blessing for low income workers.



### West Ohio Conference Camp Wesley

Plans are under way to provide wonderful camping experiences for 12 – 14 St. Paul children and youth. This year the kids will be going to Camp Wesley July 13 – 15. Partnerships with the families, St. Paul UMC, St. Paul United Women in Faith, Miami Valley District United Women in Faith, and West Ohio Conference makes this venture possible. We hope to provide a hygiene kit for each child. Listed below are the items needed:

Pillows

Sleeping Bags

Bath Towels

Beach Towels

Wash Cloths

Travel Size Toothpastes

Toothbrushes & holders

Travel Size Shampoos

Travel Size Body Washes

Travel Size Deodorants





United  
Women  
in Faith

*It's official: we have a new name. United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith. While we have a new name and a new look, we still believe love in action can change the world.*

On March 1st, National United Methodist Women unveiled a new brand and a new name. This is a very exciting time for us. It is a time to reset, refresh, and renew. It allows us the opportunity to let go of things that are not working and start doing things that will make us better. We do understand that many might find this change difficult and disconcerting. Of course, we all have questions. As a way of easing us into and through this transition, you may want to visit the new West Ohio United Women in Faith website ([westohioumw.org](http://westohioumw.org)) where you can see what we are doing new and also learn more about the Informational Gatherings that are being held to help you with the transition and to answer your questions. These gatherings are both on Zoom and in-person.

Change is good. But only if you embrace it. It's a chance to create a vision for the future. It's also gives us permission to be different, which many times means bringing out more of who we are. So let's embrace our future and celebrate United Women in Faith.

If you need help in this transition, please feel free to email Beth Vanoli at [president@westohioumw.org](mailto:president@westohioumw.org).



## Contemplative Ministries Summer Programming

**Virtual Centering Prayer Circle:** Wednesdays, 3-4pm and Saturdays, 10-11am

The circle is a time of Centering Prayer and conversation. Starting in July we will be reading and discussing the book, *Everything Belongs*, by Fr. Richard Rohr.

**Wild Church Nature Walks:** Bergamo Center, June 18 and July 23, 10am to Noon

This is a time to gather in nature and appreciate our sacred world. We begin with a liturgy of poetry and readings, followed by a time of Centering Prayer. The "homily" is our soul in conversation with the Divine, each in our own way—walking the Labyrinth, the Stations of the Cross, or just wandering around the grounds and nature trails. We gather back together for a time of sharing.

**Children's Summer Art Programming:** Month of July

4-7 yrs. will meet Fridays, July 1-22, 10-11:30am, lead by Vicki Morris.

8-12 yrs. will meet the week of July 25-29, 10-11:30am, lead by Beth Vanoli.

If you are interested in any of these programs and want to learn more, you can email Beth Vanoli at [academyforspiritualpractice@gmail.com](mailto:academyforspiritualpractice@gmail.com)

## WELCOME TO THE CHURCH, EMILIANO!

On Saturday, May 21, 2022, we were excited to welcome a new child of God into the church. Emiliano Gomez Pantaleón was presented by his mother, Ana, to receive the Sacrament of Baptism. Emiliano is Ana's youngest; her two older children were baptized at St. Paul three years ago. Ana is doing a great job of making sure that her children grow spiritually by attending Worship, Camp Wesley, and other children's ministries at St. Paul.

Friends and family members flew in from as far away as Mexico and Chicago to attend Emiliano's baptism. A joyous reception was held in the activity hall afterward, during which Emiliano received a beautiful picture Bible as a baptismal gift from St. Paul's Multicultural Ministry. One of the visitors from Mexico, was also gifted with a Bible -- the first one she has ever owned.



### *Needs List*

Canned vegetables

Boxed cereal

Canned beans

Canned meat

Canned fruit

Children's DVD collections such as the Mr. Rogers Series;

Jelly

Dora the Explorer, and Diego; Sesame Street; Paw Patrol;

Umi Zoomi, etc.