



St. Paul Ministries

101 Huffman Avenue • Dayton, OH 45403
937-252-4467 • FAX: 937-254-5227

Visit our website: stpauldayton.org

Like us on Facebook: St. Paul United Methodist Church of Dayton

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



Amazing Grace

This past Sunday we had a carry-in lunch after service with an invitation to everyone to eat and stay for our annual church meeting (Charge Conference). Because food often brings people together, about 20 persons in worship remained. I think people also stayed because of the warm and inclusive fellowship. At the tables we began by talking about St. Paul's goals. I expected this to be perfunctory because we simply needed to fulfill a report for the annual meeting. We realized that the questions asked of us didn't fully apply. Instead of complaining we had a meaningful conversation of what an extraordinary community of faith we are and what makes that true.

When Rev. Tom Miller arrived to oversee our business meeting he reminded us that last year he led our church conference when we had no heat. What a difference a year has made in our ability to offer true hospitality to a vast community of people: homeless, churches that come and serve, conference and district meetings and United Methodist Women. There is an old hymn that says, "And are we yet alive and see each other's face? Glory and thanks to Jesus give, for his almighty Grace." Because of the gifts of many and the abundant grace of God we are not only surviving but thriving.

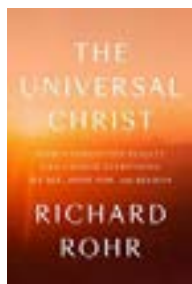
As people of God we are not just thriving because of the blessings of material goods but more importantly through the enormous gifts of friends, who serve, feed, clothe the poor, and send us offerings. The accomplishments of the dramatic building improvements and the expansion of our community based work happen because we have teams of people with sweat equity in St. Paul.

Four years ago we restated our mission using three words, Belong, Believe and Bless. We are an outcropping of the Body of Christ. We recognize and treat everyone who enters the doors as belonging. Exclusively belonging to this congregation isn't required. We believe that most of you reading this letter belong with St. Paul.

Our ministry has been expanding through the recruitment of more people and reaching beyond the walls of St. Paul into the community. Our St. Paul leaders have been providing leadership in the District and Conference as well. Our deepening beliefs and shared gifts and talents have made us aware that we have truly become a teaching parish. We are not poor and needy but wealthy in the ways of God and prophetic in how we are manifesting the ministry of Jesus here on the edge.

Finally, if anything has been evident in this past year it is that no matter what the circumstance, we are servants of Christ, and that isn't because of a paid staff but because Christ paid the price for all of us. What grace!

— Rev. Dr. Steve Gill



The Universal Christ II

Start the Advent Season off right by joining us for an afternoon of fellowship and exploration into what it means that Jesus was called "Christ"

Saturday, December 7
11:00 am-2:00pm

Because of the overwhelming response from the August workshop, we are offering another opportunity to do a deeper dive into the latest book by Fr. Richard Rohr, one of the world's most influential spiritual thinkers. The format will be similar as it was in August with video of Fr. Rohr from The Universal Christ Conference that was held in New Mexico last March along with small group discussions on topics taken from the Center for Action and Contemplation's companion guide.

We hope you will join us again. If you missed the August event, don't stay away. Those who were not with us for the first workshop will still be able to take advantage of this exploration into the transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant, unfolding work in the world.

This a free event but a love offering will be taken. Lunch will be provided.

Call the church to reserve your place: 937-252-4467
Questions? Email Beth Vanoli at vanolibeth@gmail.com

Tuesday Lunches in December

- 3 North Riverdale Lutheran
- 10 Germantown UMC
- 17 Concord UMC
- 24 St. Paul Volunteers
- 31 The Olive Harvesters

Saturday Breakfasts in December

- 7 Belmont UMC
- 14 Normandy UMC
- 21 Aley UMC
- 28 Belmont UMW Youth

Dear Friends:

You are cordially invited to attend
our annual Christmas Celebration

— Las Posadas —

Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 6:45 p.m.

to be held at

St. Paul United Methodist Church
101 Huffman Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45403

After the service, please join us in the activity hall for dinner.
Join in the fun as the children break open the piñatas.

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

We look forward to seeing you here!



December Calendar

- 1 First Sunday in Advent
- 7 Universal Christ Event
- 8 United Methodist Women following worship
- 9-12 Santa Shop
- 14 Breakfast with Santa 9:30 a.m. [by invitation only]
- 15 Las Posadas 6:45 p.m.
- 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m.

Open dates for the opportunity to provide a Tuesday Lunch in 2020:

January 7

February 4

March 3

June 2

June 30

July 14

September 15

December 15

Contact Don Beebe at
614-28603984 for your group
to reserve a date.

Did you know...

- That St. Paul's Steak Dinner realized approximately \$2,900.00 for our outreach ministry.
- That the United Methodist Women of St. Paul are taking orders for homemade buckeye candy for \$6.00 a dozen. Call the church office at 252-4467 to place your order.
- That the church office and programs will be closed the week of Christmas and also January 1-3, 2020.
- That St. Paul has "Steak Dinner" salad dressing for sale for \$4.00 a pint. Contact the church office to purchase.
- That we are extremely thankful for each of you!