



St. Paul Ministries

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

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



Serving the Underserved in our Neighborhood

Over the past 10 weeks St. Paul's community hasn't missed a meal. Quality carryout meals prepared by a chef from Miami Valley Career Technology Center utilizing extraordinary high-quality free food resources from the Life Enrichment Center have made lunch possible every Tuesday and breakfast every Saturday. Five to six volunteers who are not at risk for the virus plate the meals in our kitchen and welcome and serve coffee to the gathered community. Averaging 150 meals per day we, with partners, have distributed over 3000 meals over the past 10 weeks.

This outreach has been to neighborhood families, seniors from Huffman Place, addicts and homeless, people in recovery, and three sober living communities in east Dayton. St. Paul's team and partner agencies are on the sidewalk with masks, maintaining social distance, greeting people, providing peer support and on-site counseling, outreach for housing, and applications for ID's. Hygiene bags, emergency clothing, toilet paper and hand washing capability in a newly designed mobile hand-washing station are also part of every meal. A listening ear, prayer and/or an online weekly devotion sent to a cell phone are made available. We have developed many new relationships as continuing to care for vulnerable people from our St. Paul Community.

For now, we expect to maintain this pattern for June but are longing for the day when volunteers from our partner churches can rejoin our outreach as well as provide the hospitality of our sanctuary and wonderful dining facilities.

Rev. Dr. Stephen Gill



Friends in line for Tuesday Lunch



Billy Brokschmidt, Recovery Specialist

Couple donates \$1,500 of their stimulus checks to cover the housing expense of a needy immigrant family during Covid-19 crisis

An immigrant mom, laid off from her hotel job because of the Covid-19 pandemic, was fervently praying that God would provide for her family and help them through the crisis.

Thanks to this generous donation, this immigrant family, consisting of a single mom and her three minor children are able to keep a roof over their heads for the months of May, June and July. She hopes that by August jobs will be available so she can continue to support her family on her own.

In appreciation, she sent the following Thank You note to St. Paul UMC (to respect her privacy, her name has been omitted):



This kind of donation helps St. Paul in its vital ministry to needy families in our neighborhood.

If you have received excess funds that you don't need, please consider donating through our website at www.stpauldayton.org today to help a needy family survive these difficult times.

Thank you, and God bless!



MISSION MITES

One tradition that we are missing at St. Paul is the weekly collection of Mission Mites for mission giving outside our walls. Plans were under way to support Henderson Settlement in May. As former volunteer [at St. Paul & Henderson], Ruthanne Lamb, used to tell us, "Henderson Settlement is a rural St. Paul". Henderson is a UMW National Mission Institution that is experiencing hard times because of Covid19 and the severely depressed economy. Help St. Paul to shower Henderson Settlement with financial donations this summer! Please send your gifts to Henderson Settlement, P.O. Box 205, Frakes, KY 40940.



Congratulations to our 2020 Belmont High School graduate, Caitlin Ankeney!

Caitlin completed her four years at Belmont with a 3.9 grade point average! She participated in ROTC for all four years and ended her high school career as the Commanding Officer. She plans to attend college and major in Physical Therapy. She has been accepted at both Xavier and the University of Dayton.

Caitlin is a member of St. Paul UMC where she participated in our after school and youth programs for many years, attended summer camp at Camp Wesley and Mission u.

Best wishes go out to this bright and shining star!



Academy for Spiritual and Social Practices

St. Paul's Academy for Spiritual and Social Practice is experiencing a new depth of connection in this season as we reach out to more people with a message of hope, love, and peace. We are noticing a gentle flow of the Spirit in our work and risings of opportunities that were not obvious just a few months ago. It is a time of letting go of old ways of doing and opening to a new more life-sustaining, healing way to be in community.

There comes a time on our spiritual journeys when we recognize that contemplation is more about how we live than how we pray. If you are interested in exploring and learning together how to live a more centered life on a contemplative path, we warmly invite you into our virtual Prayer Circle that meets Wednesdays at 3:00pm and Saturdays at 10:00am. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity or joining us on Zoom for a time of Centering Prayer, reflective readings, and sharing together, you can email Beth Vanoli at vanolibeth@gmail.com.

We are developing more ways to connect through the Academy and will be adding other different experiences over the summer so keep an eye open for more information to come.

A very successful tax season!



Mike Cornelius

Every one of our newsletter articles can begin with the statement: "We are living in extraordinary times!"

We began the tax season with a new IRS program and three familiar faces: Vicki Morris in charge of appointments, Kirby Lupton and Mike Cornelius as volunteer tax preparers. The new program worked very well and then came COVID 19 in March! Kirby continued his appointments at St. Paul on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, using social distancing and extra sanitary precautions. Mike decided to work from home so he made weekly trips to St. Paul to pick and return tax packets.

As a result, this dedicated group served 181 clients by preparing their federal and state returns for free. The total federal refund for our site was \$213,002.00 and the total Ohio refund was \$38,480.00, averaging \$1,176.81 per federal return and \$212.60 per Ohio return. The St. Paul tax program serves a genuine need in our community. Our heartfelt message to the St. Paul tax crew: "**Job Well Done**". Thank you



2020 Virtual Mission u

Disappointed you will not be able to go to Mission u this year? We have the next best thing—a virtual experience that will explore the Spiritual Growth Study, *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*. Here’s a great opportunity to meet up with old friends, enjoy good worship, and learn about new ways to navigate life in these strange times—all from the comfort of your own home (or wherever you may find yourself). Zoom classes will be offered in August with a variety of times available to suit your schedule. Registration will open later this summer. Watch for details on the West Ohio UMW and UMC eNews and websites along with eNews from your districts. In the meantime you will want to purchase the study book (pictured above) through the United Methodist Women’s website at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/finding-peace-in-an-anxious-world or go to Amazon to download a copy to your Kindle.

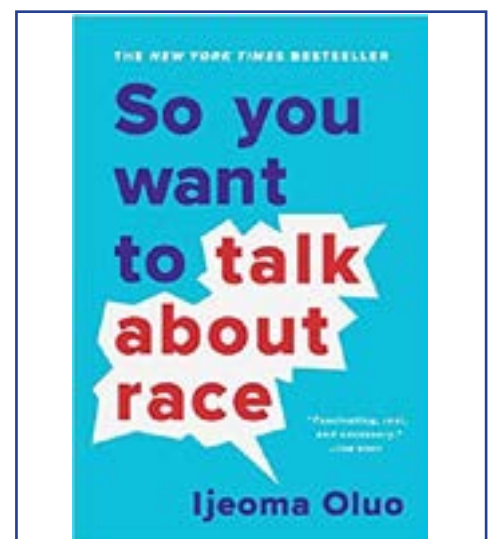
FOOD PANTRY AND STUFF SHOPPE’S PANDEMIC RESPONSE

During this pandemic, St. Paul has remained true to its mission but it looks a little different! The thrift store, Stuff Shoppe, has been closed to the public as has the church building. During this time, all the winter clothing has been bagged up to go the St. Vincent de Paul. All three rooms of the thrift store have been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized. Our new line of spring and summer fashions have been stocked. All this hard work was completed by super volunteers Judy Haines, Mary Kahn, Judy Kreutzer, Mike Kreutzer, Diane Turner and Linda Schmidt while the thrift store and the church have been closed. Plans are being made to open the store with masks being worn and a small number of people permitted in for a specified time period. Because we are not moving the usual volume of clothing, we will not be able to accept donations until August.



Judy Kreutzer

The food pantry has also taken on a new routine. We are still open on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday for shorter hours: 10am – 1pm. The clients wait outside while their order is filled. Until further notice we cannot offer the choice pantry where customers select their own groceries. We need and are accepting all food items for the pantry during our reduced office hours of 9am – 1pm weekdays. Plans are being made to go into another phase of service on June 1st. Customers will be allowed in 1 person at a time but their food will still be bagged up for them. Staff member, Cora Crain, has been working hard to keep this service going with the help of volunteers Dan Vanoli and Mike Kreutzer. We are truly grateful for all the wonderful donations. We give a special thank you to Christ UMC and Chris Wright who organized a drive by food collection in their parking lot every Thursday at a certain time.



Upcoming Book Study and Discussions

“When we identify where our privilege intersects with somebody else’s oppression, we’ll find our opportunities to make real change.”

—Ijeoma Oluo

Beginning in July, we will be starting a virtual book study on the New York Times Best Seller, *So You Want to Talk about Race*. If you are interested in learning more, email Beth Vanoli at vanolibet@gmail.com, or call at 937-901-9649. You can buy the book at any bookstore or on Amazon.