



## St. Paul Ministries

101 Huffman Avenue • Dayton, OH 45403

937-252-4467 • FAX: 937-254-5227

Visit our website: [stpauldayton.org](http://stpauldayton.org)

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

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



## A FAREWELL LETTER FROM REV. DR. STEPHEN GILL

*So then let's run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of sin that traps us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. Hebrews 12:1-2a*



This week I was invited to record a short video with a large number of people from the Miami Valley District as it recognized pastors in transition. One of the groups being recognized was retirees. I was given a baton (one that is used in a relay race that says, run with perseverance.) When I was given the baton, it was announced that I had served as an elder in the United Methodist Church for 42 years.

I've come from a track family. Several of my brothers were state level track stars in high school. My son Nathan ran track and particularly the 4 by 400-meter relay race in high school and college. I have seen the baton passed many times. I've also seen it dropped. Races are often won or lost by what happens at the baton pass. Most relay race participants practice passing the baton. I have as a pastor passed the baton a number of times and as of June 20th will do so again.

The race that we have together been running at Saint Paul United Methodist Church has frequently been really demanding. We have been asked to endure and persevere and discover capacity way beyond what we thought we could do. We have proven ourselves as winners beyond almost everyone's expectations, including our own. In the past year as I have been preparing for a day when I would retire again, I have hoped for and sought to see others who are stepping into leadership and am proud of the vast number of diverse leaders that we have at Saint Paul. As in any track meet there are many different events, each starring different runners but all serving together as a team. Our team has been team Jesus. There has been a cloud of witnesses to the race we run, and we have benefited from the support and encouragement of a really supportive crowd.

As of June 27, a new pastor, Ben Webster, will be joining the team. His appointment was announced and there is excitement in having him here at St. Paul. I will be joining the cloud of witnesses along with the many others who have transitioned over the past 138 years here. As is the United Methodist tradition of transition of pastors I will not be available for pastoral work but will continue to be prayerful and joyous in the way this congregation serves as an important manifestation of the Body of Christ.

With Gratitude and Thanksgiving, Steve



We are happy to announce that staff member, Beth Vanoli, was dedicated as a Deaconess in the United Methodist Church on May 3rd. As a Deaconess, she is part of a covenant community committed to a lifetime vocation in ministries of love, justice, and service. The Order of Deaconess/Home Missioner is an official order of the church. This order for laity has been in existence for over a hundred years. Deaconesses and home missionaries are mandated by the United Methodist Discipline to: "a) Alleviate suffering; b) Eradicate causes of injustice and all that robs life of dignity and worth; c) Facilitate the development of full human potential; and d) Share in building global community through the church universal." (§¶ 1913) Deaconesses are tasked with gaining theological training before being consecrated and commissioned and must complete seminary-level courses in the theology of mission, Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, polity, and church history.

Beth will be commissioned by Bishop Gregory Palmer at Annual Conference in June and appointed to serve at St. Paul as the Coordinator of Spiritual and Social Education. Her primary focus will be to offer opportunities that explore the intersection of contemplation and social action through education and practice with those who have a desire for a deepening relationship with God.

---

### **Question:**

**What do 2 Episcopalians, 1 Baptist, 1 Anglican, and 1 Pentecostal have in common?**

### **Answer:**

**The St. Paul United Methodist Church clothing room.**

Judy Kreutzer (an Episcopalian) is a volunteer in the clothing room. She began working in the Food Pantry about 10 years ago as part of a St. Mark's team that stocked shelves one Saturday a month. As food deliveries changed, the pantry no longer needed regular Saturday stockers. When she retired, she decided to volunteer again at St. Paul, but was asked to work in the clothing room once a week. She hails from Oakwood, volunteers in the butterfly garden at a Section 8 Senior Housing complex in West Carrollton and tutors a high school girl once a week.

When the pandemic closed the clothing room for several months, enter Linda Schmidt (another Episcopalian). She and Judy decided to give the rooms a thorough cleaning. Linda and Judy scrubbed shelves, racks, and floors (sometimes on hands and knees) two years in a row now. Linda is a cleaning heroine and also a volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul coming from Troy to supply chicken dinners to the homeless men, women, and children who are guests at St. Vincent. She volunteers, as well, at the Section 8 Senior Housing complex butterfly garden.

Judy's friend, Diane Turner (a Baptist), was looking for an opportunity to give back as a volunteer as well. She comes on Wednesdays and keeps the clothing rooms stocked and straightened. Diane is someone who can help the shoppers put outfits together and has an eye for styles and colors for clients. She lives in Huber Heights and works part-time at the Widows Home, which is just a few blocks east of St. Paul on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. She is an activity assistant, loves her residents and particularly enjoys leading Bible study.

As it happened, another friend of Judy's, Cathy Skardon (an Anglican), who had enjoyed volunteering in the clothing room at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Salem Ave. was looking for another volunteer opportunity as St. Andrew's had closed. Cathy lives in Oakwood, but is originally from Australia, and spends Wednesdays sorting and hanging clothes at St. Paul. She is also a volunteer at the Dayton Peace Museum, a faithful butterfly gardener at the West Carrollton Section 8 Senior Housing complex, and can be counted on when anyone at her church needs a helping hand.

Cathy recruited her friend, Barbara Curtiss (a Pentecostal), who worked with her at St. Andrew's to come on Wednesdays as well. Barbara has so much enjoyed the sorting, hanging, and comradery that she has been coming faithfully 4-5 days a week from her home in West Carrollton to keep the clothing room stocked and sort clothing into bins to draw from in a hurry when needed. Barbara has great fashion sense and knows what is in style and what clients will like. She has brought some of her own wardrobe in to donate and it is always a hit with the shoppers. Barbara is also a volunteer at Good Neighbor House in Dayton.

# SUMMERCAMP

A diverse group of 12 children from St. Paul UMC are super excited about going to camp this year! All of the children have received camperships, thanks to the Conference, UMW, and St. Paul UMC. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who generously contributed to make this happen. They will be heading to the **Wesley Ultimate Camp** in Bellefontaine, Ohio, July 14-16, 2021.

The campers are: Jarretka Hoover; Jordan Wessler; Lauryanna and L.J. Simmons; Samira Alvarado; Erik and Kimberly Marquez; Chris and Samantha Monroy; Yodani Perez; Delfina and Edwin Palma; and Genesis Leiva -- 8 girls and 5 boys. Please pray for our children!

## CAMPING NEEDS LIST:

Beach towels, bath towels, hand towels, washcloths, new or lightly used and clean sleeping bags, body wash, travel toothbrushes and toothpaste, small shampoos, deodorants, rain ponchos, small flashlights and batteries, as well as cash donations to purchase Bibles.

---

## *Hispanic-Latino Ministry Update*

Our Hispanic-Latino community of faith is thankful that we are able to meet in person again on a limited basis, even though we are still observing COVID guidelines such as wearing masks, using hand sanitizers, and social distancing. Since April, we have been able to hold two larger Worship events: **Easter** and **Mother's Day**.

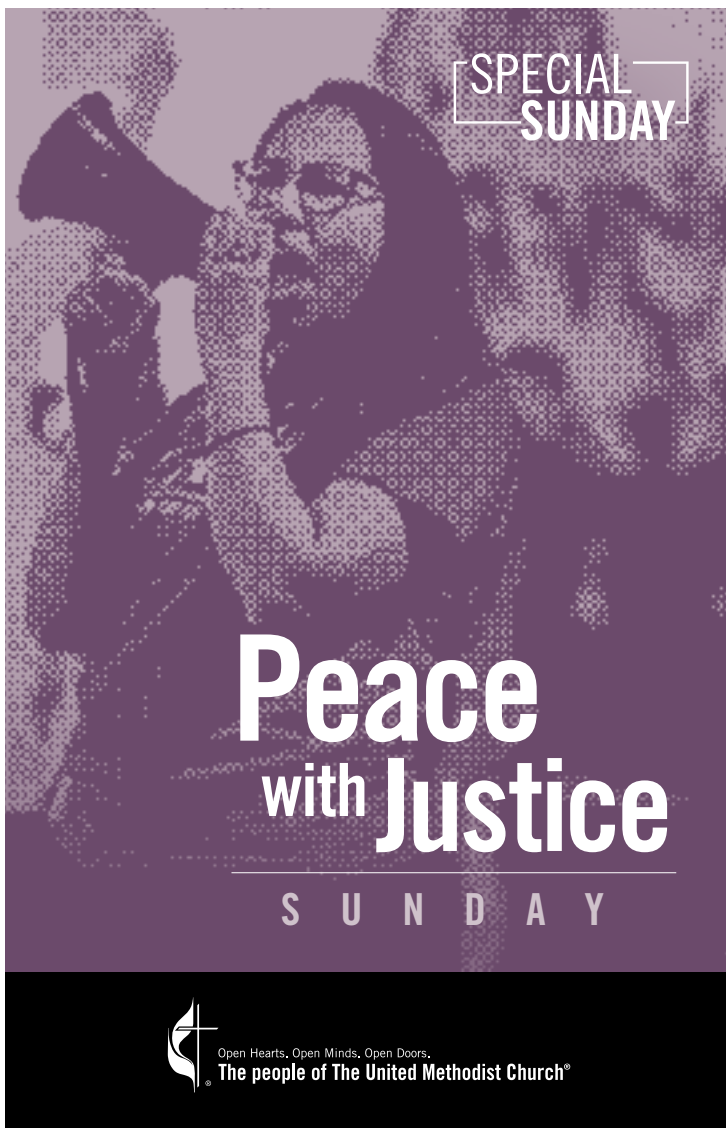


On April 4, 2021, we celebrated the **Resurrection of our Lord** in the Sanctuary, followed by an Easter Egg hunt, walking tacos, and even a visit from the Easter Bunnies in the Activity Hall. Thirty-seven people attended that day, many of them children.



In May, we held a special Mother's Day Service — **The Blessing of the Mothers**. As the theme suggests, we shared a Spanish language video in which a native speaker shared 17 minutes of verses from the Bible about mothers, children and families. Who knew there were so many! All mother and children present were blessed and anointed with oil, and each child gave their mother a beautiful rose, personalized with the words "Madre Bendecida" (Blessed Mother). Twenty-seven people attended the service that day.

Please support our Hispanic-Latino Ministry at St. Paul UMC with your prayers and designated gifts sent directly to the church office.



**W**hen you support Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift becomes a voice for advocacy around the world. Together we strengthen God's family with ministries that challenge structures of inequality and empower people and communities through systemic change.

For example, in Washington, DC, Peace with Justice funds, through the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, support Hughes Memorial United Methodist Church's Community Anti-violence Project (C.A.P.).

To help address a long litany of violence in the community, Hughes UMC joined with Howard University School of Law to begin an after-school program to help at-risk children and youth who live in the community surrounding the church.

The District of Columbia Public School system "has historically been defined by sometimes stark racial and class divides. Poverty, food insecurity, housing insecurity and rampant violence are just some of the factors that negatively impact the academic performance of the children who live near Hughes Memorial UMC," the Rev. Paul Johnson said. "It is unfair and unrealistic to expect impoverished children who are hungry, cold and scared to excel in school."

The after-school program seeks to help the children who live near the church to dream big dreams and to achieve their dreams by preparing them holistically—physically, mentally, emotionally and intellectually.

Students participating in the Community Anti-violence Project have shown improved reading scores and other advancements. But Johnson is also convinced that "in our community there is no peace because there is no justice, and there is no justice because there is no peace." C.A.P. is committed to peace with justice.

Peace with Justice is a faithful expression of shalom in the Bible. It calls the church to strengthen its capacity to advocate publicly in communities and nations throughout the world. The offering is administered by the General Board of Church and Society and benefits peace with justice ministries in the annual conferences and around the world.

Please give online at [UMC.org/SSGive](https://www.UMC.org/SSGive) or mail checks to Peace with Justice Sunday, GCFA, P.O. Box 340029, Nashville, TN 37203. Checks can also be directed to your local church. Be sure to write "PWJS" in the memo line.



## Pantry Needs:

Canned vegetables  
Canned fruit  
Canned meat  
Cereal  
Shelf milk  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Pasta  
Boxed Potatoes & Rice

Canned beans  
Tomato Soup  
Chicken/noodle Soup  
Vegetable Soup  
Crackers  
Salty Snacks  
Peanut Butter  
Jelly

Razors & shaving cream  
Deodorant  
Shampoo  
Soap  
Toilet paper  
Paper towels  
Toothpaste  
Dish Soap