



St. Paul Ministries

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**Academy for
Spiritual and
Social
Practices**

St. Paul UMC, located in inner-city East Dayton, is already a significant mission site, steeped in Wesleyan tradition, where a diverse community of people come to practice discipleship. The mission of the church is: Belong, Believe, Bless. As we fulfill this mission, our emerging call is to reach out and invite others to join us as we seek to balance personal and social holiness through functional and contemplative practices. The purpose of creating the Academy for Spiritual and Social Practices is to bring together faithful practitioners traveling a spiritual path who have a desire to learn more about themselves and deepen their relationship with God and others.

Vision

In this time of upheaval in both society and the church, we envision a space that offers opportunities to share spiritual and social concepts, methods, and principles through education and practice with all people who have a desire for a deepening relationship with God through the midst of the ordinary activities of daily life.

Mission

The Academy of Spiritual and Social Practices offers educational classes and contact opportunities with the purpose of building relationships within a diverse community using Jesus' ministry as our foundation:

- To be a visible outpouring of God's love and compassion
- To recognize the potential in everyone
- To practice radical inclusiveness
- To create a positive impact on systems that oppress the vulnerable
- To champion restorative justice

UPCOMING ACADEMY EVENT

CREATING TRAUMA-INFORMED MINISTRIES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2020

10 AM TO 2 PM

Trauma is pervasive and complex in our society. As faith-communities committed to being in ministry and relationship with others, understanding trauma and how it affects and hampers our ability to perceive our world accurately can be life-giving to those who have had traumatic experiences. A trauma-informed approach can help us have a more accurate and less judgmental lens with a better understanding of trauma survivors behaviors and responses. It is in that depth of understanding that the love and hope of God can be practiced with those seeking assistance as we create safe, healing spaces.

Objectives of the training:

- What trauma is and how does it affects us
- How relationships are at the heart of healing
- How we can take care of ourselves as we journey with others
- What we can do together as a community of faith to create a culture of care and nurturing and foster resilience

Anyone interested in being part of this training, call the St. Paul office at 937-252-4467 for more information and to make a reservation.



Multicultural Thanksgiving, Las Posadas, and Tres Reyes with St. Paul Dayton's Hispanic-Latino Ministry

On the Sunday before **Thanksgiving**, more than 80 people from various nations gathered around a banquet table to thank the Lord for his goodness in the spirit of the original Thanksgiving celebration. Unfortunately, much of the original intent of the holiday has been lost in our contemporary American culture. Not only has it been reduced to an occasion for overeating and football, but for many native Americans it has become a day of mourning -- a reminder of oppression suffered at the hand of European invaders. At St. Paul, however, the true spirit of the holiday remains alive and well. For us it is a day to celebrate inclusiveness and cultural diversity, and to offer our heartfelt thanks to our Creator.

Because of a generous donation from Crossroads Church, each family in attendance was surprised and delighted to receive a Thanksgiving care package, complete with a frozen turkey and all the trimmings, for their own Thanksgiving dinner at home.

Christmas at St. Paul is an exciting season! On December 14, Normandy UMC hosted **Breakfast with Santa**, an annual event they have held at St. Paul for many years. All of the children who participate in worship and other programs, along with their immediate family members, are invited. Breakfast is served, after which, with much fanfare, Santa appears for a photo-op with all of the families, and each child receives an age-appropriate gift. Then, a day later, on December 15, we had a FULL HOUSE -- at least 120 people -- at our annual Hispanic-Latino ministry's **Las Posadas** celebration. Our theme this year was "The Bells of Christmas." Highlights: A popular Latin American carol, "Las Campanas de Belén" ("The Bells of Bethlehem"), was joyously sung by the children with their jingle bells, and Samira Alvarado performed a solo of the contemporary Christian hit song "Así Eres Tú" ("That's the Way You Are"). (Visit our website's Media Gallery at <http://www.stpauldayton.org> where, thanks to our dear friend Terry Ronald, you may view highlights of our Advent programs and more).

Once December 25 has passed, most people think Christmas is over. **Not at St. Paul!** On January 5th, our Hispanic-Latino community celebrated "**El Día de los Reyes,**" (**King's Day**), a Latin-American tradition that celebrates the arrival of the three Wisemen (Kings) from the Orient. It is a day to enjoy homemade "Rosca de Reyes" (King's Cake) and "champurrado" (Mexican hot chocolate). Inside the King's Cake is hidden a plastic "baby." Whoever finds the baby is in charge of bringing tamales to be enjoyed by the group in February. Three of the boys, dressed as the kings entered the Sanctuary just in time to help serve Holy Communion. Since King's Day is traditionally the day for exchanging gifts, due to generous donations from churches and individuals, each child had a bag of gifts handed to them by the kings after the service, and each family received their Breakfast with Santa photo and a \$50.00 Kroger gift card.



Pantry statistics

The Lord commanded us to “feed His sheep.” Sometimes statistics seem cold and unfeeling but they can also paint a big picture of the impact we can have when we work together. In 2019, 5,020 people were served in the St. Paul Food Pantry. This calculates to food for 75,300 meals. The Food Pantry at St. Paul functions year after year because of many dedicated partnerships. St. Paul provides the space and that is enhanced by volunteers like Jerry Murphy. We provide staff in Cora Crain, Intake Specialist, and Robin Gann who makes sure we have food in the pantry. Volunteers provide hospitality and act as escorts in the choice pantry on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. These volunteers are Linda Seals, Ralph Daniels, Craig Tickel, Joyce Kennedy, Judy Hadley, Elaine King, Bill Byers, Dan Vanoli, Wayne Harper and Blaine Albert. The food is provided by The Dayton Foodbank, individual and group donations, and local businesses. The program is underwritten by very generous cash donations from churches and individuals.

People are also fed at St. Paul at Tuesday Lunch and at Saturday Breakfast. Folks are provided nourishing food, fellowship and spiritual guidance. In 2019, 10,318 people ate 14,437 meals.

The following groups prepared and served meals on Tuesday at St. Paul in 2019:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Aldersgate UMC | Fairview UMC | Phillipsburg UMC |
| Aley UMC | Germantown UMC | St. Andrew UMC |
| Bellbrook UMC | Lewisburg UMC | St. Paul Community |
| Centerville UMC | Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church | St. Paul Youth |
| Centerville Youth | New Madison UMC | Spring Valley UMC |
| Christ UMC [several groups] | Normandy UMC | Think Tank Inc. |
| Community UMC | Normandy Youth | Tipp City UMC |
| Concord UMC | North Riverdale Lutheran Church | Union UMC |
| Eastmont UMC | Olive Harvesters | |

The following groups provided and served breakfasts in 2019:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Aley UMC | Englewood UMC |
| Belmont UMC | Normandy UMC |
| Belmont UMC Youth | St. Charles Catholic Church |
| Community UMC | |

Stuff Shoppe volunteers needed

The St. Paul Stuff Shoppe, our thrift store, has served the community for many years. God has sent us two volunteers, Mary Kahn and Judy Haines, who have transformed the store operation. As a team, they serve the folks who come to shop after lunch on Tuesdays. They also give time, along with Kevin Fitzpatrick and Janet Thom, for sorting and stocking merchandise. The key to the success is having a team of two when the shop is open.

Volunteers from Christ UMC will fill this role on Wednesdays. **We need a team of two for Mondays and another team of two for Thursdays.**

Please consider joining the St. Paul team. If you are interested, please contact Joan Johnson at 937 252-4467.

Open lunch dates

The 2020 Tuesday Lunch schedule began with the first two Tuesdays open. But upon hearing this news, 2 groups came to the rescue! The Historic Huffman Neighborhood Association served on January 7 and Lewisburg served on January 14. Their generosity is so appreciated! **There are still a few dates open for 2020: February 4, March 3, June 2, July 14, & December 1, 15, 29.** Please give Don Beebe a call at 614 286-3984 if you have a small group that would like to provide a meal on one of these dates.

February Tuesday Lunches

- 4 ?
- 11 Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church
- 18 Normandy UMC
- 25 Christ UMC

February Saturday Breakfasts

- 1 Belmont UMC
- 8 Aley UMC
- 15 Normandy UMC
- 22 Belmont UMC Youth
- 29 St. Charles Catholic Church

Mark your calendars

- February 17** -- Presidents Day -- Church closed.
**Special event for staff and volunteers*
- February 26** -- Ash Wednesday Service -- 7 p.m.
- March 28** -- Steak Dinner

St. Paul UMC Semi-Annual Steak Dinner

Saturday, March 28, 2020



4:30 - 7 p.m.
Adults — \$12.00
Children (11 & Younger — \$6.00)
Reservations Accepted



Come dine with us!

MENU

**Cubed Steak with Mushroom Gravy • Baked Potato
Green Beans • Tossed Salad or Applesauce • Dinner Roll
Homemade Desserts • Beverage**

