



## 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...*



## My Special Prayer

I lay in the bed, snuggled tight in the blankets waiting for it to be my turn. I made my list in my mind, because I wanted to be ready when she asked.

“Okay, sweet girl, it’s your turn,” my grandma said as she sat down on my side of the bed.

“Now I lay me down to sleep...” I started, being careful not to rush through it too quickly, even though I knew the whole thing by heart. Grandma had told me many times that God wants to hear every word that I say. I finished the prayer, having paused at the end of each phrase, like she taught me, so I could think about what I was saying. (Grandma didn’t know it, but I wasn’t really thinking about my words when I paused because I was busy counting to five in my head so that I could wait long enough to start the next part.)

“Do you have any special prayers?” This was the part I was ready for, but before I started I asked the question I had been longing to ask.

“Grandma, am I big enough to learn the ‘big girl prayer’?”

Each night that we would go to sleep at grandma and grandpa’s house, grandma would tuck us in after our baths and snacks, and I would listen to my older sisters saying three sets of prayers instead of just two like me.

“Yes, sweets, I think you’re ready. It starts like this, ‘Our Father, who art in heaven.’”

I was giddy with excitement! From the first phrase, the prayer created an amazing picture in my mind — God in a white jacket with a white hat; a huge canvas in front of him. He held a big brush in his hand and had thousands of colors of paints to choose from. I was sure the angels were doing art in heaven, too, even though the prayer didn’t mention them. This prayer, the big one that I had listened to my sisters pray was everything that I had been longing to be able to say.

It’s now been more than thirty years since my grandma sat next to me, feeding me the Lord’s prayer phrase by phrase, allowing me to repeat each one. That nightly routine that she created in me has stuck: snuggle into bed, first “Now I lay me” then the Lord’s Prayer, and then my special prayers, where I’m sure to be thankful before I ask and to always ask for others before myself.

I would like to say that I always pause between each phrase and think about what I’m saying, like my grandma taught me, but I don’t. I would also like to tell you that I say the words slowly, giving God a chance to hear every word, but I don’t always do that either. I would really like to claim that when I pray I still get giddy with excitement that the creator of the whole universe, the one who put the stars in the sky and made the mountains and designed all the creatures on the land and in the sea, is ready to listen to my every word, to hear my special prayers and respond to me. But it seems that somewhere along the way I lost it.

This Lenten season I’m determined to reignite my childlike prayer life. I’m going to work to rediscover the pathways that lead me to communion and intimate conversation with our Father. I’ll do it by reading and sharing the practices of the saints before me, by trying daily disciplines and putting into practice those that I connect with the most, and by reflecting on what I am hearing, feeling and learning. It will be a wonderful forty days of seeking!

If you, too, have lost your zeal for conversations with God, or if you’ve never had it and you’re ready for it, or even if you have it and want to go deeper, I would like to invite you to join me! If you’d like to participate, or simply want to know more about it, you can email me at [elizabethheft@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethheft@gmail.com) or call the church office.

# Lent 2019

*"A Season of Spiritual Preparation for a Deeper Walk"*

Join Pastor Steve for 4 sessions following Sunday worship from 11:30-12:30 pm.

When: March 10, 24 and April 7, 14.

Prior to the first session take a 20-25 minute abbreviated character and temperament type survey. This will serve as a foundation for entering this time of self-examination, sharing the characteristics of your type and finding your personalized spiritual path based on your discovery.

There is no cost but you will need to pick up the *Please Understand Me* survey prior to the first session. They will be available in the office and on Sunday mornings on the piano. Everyone is invited. Steve has been utilizing this over the past three decades as a foundation for strengthening relationships, building teams and for understanding one's pathway for personal spiritual growth.

---

## *St. Paul UMC Semi-Annual Steak Dinner*

**Saturday, March 30, 2019**



**4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.**  
**Adults — \$10.00**

**Children (11 & Younger) — \$5.00**

**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**



# St. Paul UMC Listens

On Saturday, February 23, 2019 The Greater Dayton Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Caucus presented "Community Actions that Promote Social Justice and Equality: Exploring the Challenges Facing Immigrants and Refugees."

St. Paul's Hispanic-Latino Ministry pastor, Susan Whigham, and Anna Beckmyer, ESOL instructor with the Miami Valley Career Technology Center (CTC), shared a table to represent St. Paul UMC, the Life Enrichment Center ESOL program, and the various ESOL classes offered by the CTC in the greater Dayton area.



The Honorable Judge Walter Rice gave the opening address. He spoke about the welcoming spirit of the Dayton community, the contribution of immigrants to our city, and the need for everyone to learn to listen to each other's stories to promote greater understanding between cultures and individuals. He reminded us that, when we really listen to one another and understand life from the

perspective of another person, it's almost inevitable that we will form better relationships and begin to care more about each other. Better communication and understanding leads to peace in the community.

We also heard immigrant and refugee panelists talk about issues and challenges they have experienced in adapting to and becoming integrated into their new communities.

Twenty-one organizations that are addressing these issues attended the caucus, including El Puente after-school program; Kids in New



Directions (KIND); Montgomery County Public Health; ABLE (immigration legal services); Leaders for Equality and Action in Dayton (LEAD); and Welcoming Schools: Celebrating Dayton's ELL community.



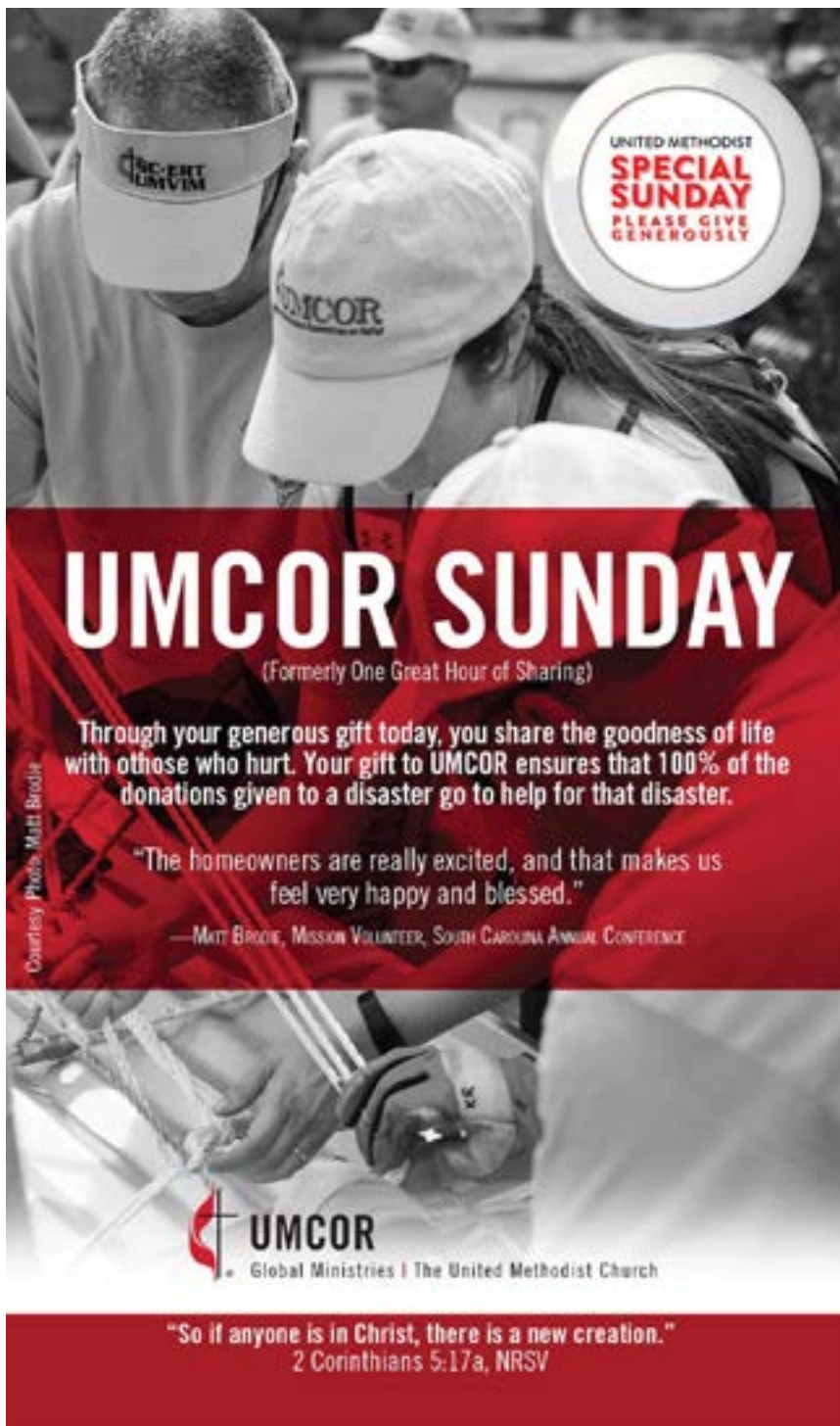
## At a Glimpse . . .

*With your help...* in January 2019

*With your help...* St. Paul Pantry served 397 people in the Food Pantry — food for 5,955 meals.

*With your help...* the Suff Shoppe distributed 200 pieces of clothing and made \$339.00 for our ministries.

*With your help...* St. Paul served 674 people and 899 meals on Tuesday and Saturday.



## MARCH

### *Tuesday Lunches*

- 5 St. Paul Community
- 12 Tipp City UMC
- 19 Lewisburg UMC
- 26 Spring Valley UMC

## MARCH

### *Saturday Breakfasts*

- 2 Belmont UMC
- 9 Englewood UMC
- 16 Normandy UMC
- 23 Community UMC
- 30 St. Charles Catholic Church

### **\* WANTED! \***

#### **A few good volunteers!**

Three teams of two volunteers each are needed for our thrift store "The Stuff Shoppe" for Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The duties will be sorting, cashiering, hanging, etc. If interested, please call Joan at 937-252-4467.

## MARCH CALENDAR

**Worship: Sunday 10:00 a.m.; Spanish Service: Sunday 6:45 p.m.**

**Tuesday 11:30 a.m.; Saturday 8:45 a.m.**

**Las Amigas: Thursdays 6:45 p.m.**

- 3 United Methodist Women
- 6 Ash Wednesday
- 30 Steak Dinner
- 10 & 24 Lenten Program after Worship