



St. Paul United Methodist Church

Empowered by the love of Jesus Christ,
St. Paul United Methodist Church opens doors
of service, justice and peace to the world,
and windows to a life in Christ for all people.

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The Birch Tree

I think the birch tree in my front yard observes the Lenten season better than I do. Right now the snow is falling clinging to the tree's bare limbs as it stands amid a blanket of snow in silent surrender to a whistling winter wind. The tree appears dead, but it is only dormant as it prepares deep in its roots for the coming of spring. Then God's warm sunlight will awaken this plant; and its leaves and tiny white flowers will burst forth in a fancy spring dress; bees will feast on its flowers, robins will nest in its boughs, and squirrels will swing from its limbs. And the buzzing of the insects and the chirping of the birds will play a song of spring that will make this birch tree dance while standing still.

Isn't this what Lent is all about? As we celebrate the events of Jesus' life on this earth, should we not immerse ourselves in the ebb and flow of how he experienced this life? From the asceticism of his 40 days in the desert to his triumphal entrance into Jerusalem, from the absolute despair of his Crucifixion to the amazement and joy of the Resurrection, should we not walk in his every step and experience these events in our hearts? Half of Christianity reveres the crucifix while the other half the empty, resurrected cross; yet it is only together that they tell the whole story of following the One who proclaimed himself, "The Way." Lent is a time to refocus ourselves on our journey – to re-evaluate what is really important in our lives. We are all members of the Body of Christ, and we would be naïve not to think that the Passion of Christ is still an ongoing trail of suffering in today's world. Some of us are actively suffering right now and need help and prayers to survive, and others are being called by God to provide whatever they can to those in need.



Jesus left us with the toughest challenge of all. He asked us to love one another as I have loved you! Both John Wesley and St. Francis of Assisi agreed that the best way to accomplish this command is by getting close to the disadvantaged. This is why I serve and will continue to serve at St. Paul United Methodist Church. I readily admit I cannot see Jesus, but I certainly see those whom Jesus champions and calls "His little ones!"

The older I get the more I have come to realize that the more you participate in the "Passion" of Jesus, the more you experience the joy of Christ's Resurrection. By "Passion" I mean not just the sadness and suffering that reality deals each one of us, but I also mean Jesus' enthusiasm for us working together to help and comfort each other and heal the wounds on the Body of Christ. Simply put, we cannot get to the Resurrection without going through the cross. On this Easter Sunday may the preparations we made deep in the roots of our souls during Lent explode into acts of charity that leave our hands and feet dancing for joy in unison with all the other members of the Body of Christ! I know for sure that the birch tree in my front yard will be joining in the dance!

Hallelujah! He has risen!

Dan Vanoli

Special SUNDAY
PLEASE give generously

UNITED METHODIST

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

YOUR GENEROUS GIFT TODAY

HELPS FAMILIES RECOVER, COMMUNITIES REBUILD AND HOPE TO BE RESTORED AFTER DISASTER STRIKES



"They ... learn to socialize, to get along with other children, to share and engage with those around them. Their time at preschool can give them some sense of belonging."

—JENNIFER FARRINGTON,
educator at the Elm St. School facility

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that ... you may share abundantly in every good work."

—3 CORINTHIANS 9:8, NIV

THE BENEFIT BANK[®]

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO RESOURCES

YOUR TAX REFUND IS YOUR MONEY! You shouldn't have to pay to get it! Don't get nickel and dimed this tax season. E-file your federal and state taxes with us, free. Keep your full refund.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE is available to most low and moderate income Ohio households through The Ohio Benefit Bank [OBB]. Free tax services through the OBB include free e-filing and ability to receive your refund in as little as 7 – 10 days, with not fees or other charges. Since the program's inception in 2006, the OBB has helped hundreds of thousands of Ohioans claim tax credits and benefits that are worth millions of dollars.

St. Paul United Methodist Church has several years' experience in running one of the largest tax preparation sites in the Dayton area. At this time, we have 5 experienced volunteer tax preparers who are offering appointments weekdays during the morning, afternoon and evening in order to accommodate as many people as possible. Vicki Morris, our program coordinator, will set you up with an appointment by calling the church at 252-4467.

St. Paul UMC Semi-Annual Steak Dinner

Saturday, March 12, 2016

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**





March 2016

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
<p>Worship Attendance:</p> <p>1/3/2016 32</p> <p>1/10/2016 24</p> <p>1/17/2016 32</p> <p>1/24/2016 32</p> <p>1/31/2016 28</p>	<p><i>Sub Sale</i></p> <p><i>Sat.,</i></p> <p><i>April 2!</i></p>	<p>1</p> <p>WORSHIP 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>LUNCH – 12 noon Served by Faith Community UMC</p> <p>Jr. Peacemakers 4–6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Zumba 7–8 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>ESOL Classes 10 a.m.–12 Noon</p> <p>Sr. Peacemakers 4–6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Lenten Meal 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Taizé Service 7 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>KOFFEE HOUR 11 a.m.</p> <p>Jr. Peacemakers 4–6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 9 a.m. Served by Belmont UMC</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Small Grp. 9:30 a.m. Bible Sharing 10 a.m. WORSHIP 11 a.m. Choir Practice UMW Spanish Bible Study and Worship 5–7 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Sr. Peacemakers 4–6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>WORSHIP 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>LUNCH – 12 noon Served by Aley UMC</p> <p>Jr. Peacemakers 4–6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Zumba 7–8 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>ESOL Classes 10 a.m.–12 Noon</p> <p>Sr. Peacemakers 4–6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Lenten Meal 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Taizé Service 7 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>KOFFEE HOUR 11 a.m.</p> <p>Jr. Peacemakers 4–6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 9 a.m. Served by Englewood UMC</p> <p>STEAK DINNER</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Small Grp. 9:30 a.m. Bible Sharing 10 a.m. WORSHIP 11 a.m. Choir Practice Spanish Bible Study and Worship 5–7 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Sr. Peacemakers 4–6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>WORSHIP 11:30 a.m. LUNCH 12 noon Served by Spring Valley UMC</p> <p>Jr. Peacemakers 4–6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Zumba 7–8 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>ESOL Classes 10 a.m.–12 Noon</p> <p>Sr. Peacemakers 4–6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Lenten Meal 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Taizé Service 7 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>KOFFEE HOUR 11 a.m.</p> <p>Jr. Peacemakers 4–6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 9 a.m. Served by Normandy UMW</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Small Grp. 9:30 a.m. Bible Sharing 10 a.m. PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 a.m. Choir Practice Spanish Bible Study and Worship 5–7 p.m.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Sr. Peacemakers 4–6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>WORSHIP 11:30 a.m. LUNCH 12 noon Served by Tipp City UMC</p> <p>Jr. Peacemakers 4 p.m.–6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Zumba 7–8 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>ESOL Classes 10 a.m.–12 Noon</p> <p>Sr. Peacemakers 4–6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>NO YPC</p> <p>Maunder Thursday</p> <p>Carry-in Dinner 6 p.m.</p> <p>Service 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY Church Closed</p> <p>Annual Walk for Justice and Peace 12-2 p.m. Old Courthouse Square</p>	<p>26</p> <p>COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 9 a.m. Served by Community UMC</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Early Easter Gathering 9 a.m.</p> <p>Easter Worship 11 a.m.</p> <p>NO SPANISH BIBLE STUDY OR WORSHIP</p>	<p>28</p> <p>SPRING BREAK</p> <p>NO YPC</p> <p>STUFF SHOPPE CLOSED</p>	<p>29</p> <p>WORSHIP 11:30 a.m. LUNCH 12 NOON Served by Bellbrook UMC</p> <p>SPRING BREAK NO YPC</p> <p>STUFF SHOPPE CLOSED</p> <p>NO ZUMBA</p>	<p>30</p> <p>SPRING BREAK</p> <p>NO ESOL</p> <p>NO YPC</p> <p>STUFF SHOPPE CLOSED</p> <p>NO LAS AMIGAS</p>	<p>31</p> <p>SPRING BREAK</p> <p>NO YPC</p> <p>STUFF SHOPPE CLOSED</p>	<p>Office Hours: M–F:.....9 a.m.–3 p.m.</p> <p>Food Pantry: M, W, TH:10 a.m.–2:45 p.m.</p> <p>Stuff Shoppe: M, W TH:10 a.m.–2:45 p.m. T:12:30 p.m.–2:00 p.m.</p>	



volunteer spotlight

The Tuesday Community Lunch at St. Paul is a vital ministry provided by many groups across the Miami Valley. There are approximately 30 churches that each provides 1-5 delicious meals yearly.

Recently, we were notified of a new group from Christ United Methodist Church, Kettering. They already have two groups that do several meals each a year. When the new group arrived, we realized that it was composed of Christ UMC staff! What a great idea! We found out that there is a tradition among the group that the staff member having a birthday gets to choose where the group goes out to eat to celebrate his or her birthday. Well, this just happened to be Serve Director Nancy Byrd's birthday, and she chose to come to St. Paul and provide a delicious hot meal for more than 100 folks!

In addition to their servant leadership during the meal, St. Paul received an additional gift in the music offered by Fred Chatfield, Music Director at Christ UMC.

Needs List...

STURDY VACUUM CLEANER

Canned Soups

Canned Vegetables

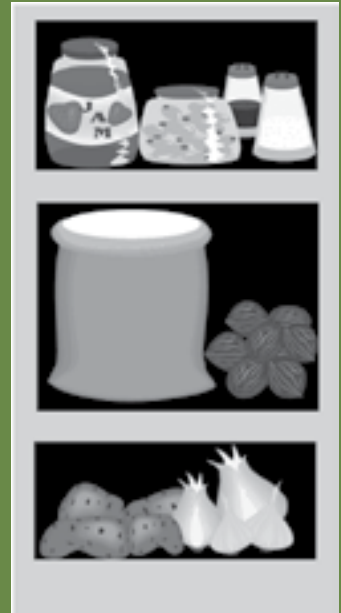
Boxed Potatoes

Canned Beans

Bagged Beans

Canned Fruit

Cereal



At a glimpse.....

During January 2016, with your support, St. Paul UMC

- served **1,372 delicious hot meals** at **Tuesday lunch** and **Saturday breakfast**;
- **provided groceries for 649 individuals and food for 9,735 meals**; **1,061 lbs. of donated food**; **1,960 lbs. of donated bread and pastries** through the **Emergency Food Pantry**;
- **placed 200+ pieces of clothing in the hands of many grateful people** and **made \$94.00 for the Outreach Ministry**. (We have not been able to open the **Stuff Shoppe** after lunch on Tuesdays because we do not have a cashier. Please consider volunteering!)

Lenten Programs at St. Paul UMC

LENTEN DINNER - 6:30 p.m.

and

TAIZÉ SERVICE - 7 p.m.

Wednesdays during Lent

Servant Opportunities

- Food Pantry Escorts
- Host/Hostess for the Pantry waiting room
- Thrift Store Cashier/Volunteers



Visit our website at <http://www.stpauldayton.org>

Like us on Facebook

St. Paul

A United Methodist Community

