



St. Paul Ministries

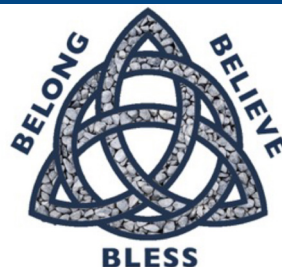
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St. Paul, a United Methodist Church, and so much more...



Resuscitating the Body of Christ

Throughout the past month we have focused on who we are in Christ and how the profound nature of this consciousness takes us to dramatic new attitudes, actions and activities. This has resulted in resuscitation here at St. Paul. (The spiritual equivalent to when NARCAN (Naloxone) is administered to the overdosed opiate user.)

While immersed in politics, religious organization, sports, and enamored with wealth, celebrities, and international power plays, most American Christians are detracted from having footing firmly planted in a profound relationship and trust in God. Even those of us who have a foundation in Christ have not been exercising and building on these truths. Rather, we are addicted to following the fads, trends, and the whims of the world. This is why many believers experience instability in unstable times. Because Christ is co-creator of the world, the "footers" that we who are in Christ have are everywhere. Instead of being rigid and narrow we have the flexibility and dynamic capacity to function. Change not only is possible but becomes our new normal.

Over the past 19 months as the pastor at St. Paul I have noticed dramatic change in my own perspective resulting from changing my context and with whom I am spending time. It would be possible to be here with a critical view and look down on people, or judge actions. However, since I came to preach the Gospel of the Cross, Surprise!!!, I discover the Bible perspective is primarily favoring the poor and not my middle class judgements. This has resulted in my own spirit being resuscitated.

Franciscan Priest Richard Rohr writes,

The vast majority of people throughout history has been poor, disabled, or oppressed in some way (i.e., "on the bottom") and would have experienced history in terms of a need for change. We see in the Gospels that it's those on the bottom who tend to follow Jesus: the lame, the poor, the blind, the prostitutes, the drunkards, the tax collectors, the sinners, the outsiders, and the foreigners. It is demonstrably those on the inside and the top who crucify him: elders, chief priests, teachers of the Law, scribes, and Roman occupiers.

Once in a position of power and privilege, we struggle to read or understand many Scriptures. (for example, the Sermon on the Mount)

"But when Scripture is read through the eyes of vulnerability—what we call the "preferential option for the poor" or the bias from the bottom—it will always be liberating and transformative. Scripture will not be used to oppress or impress. The question is no longer "How can I maintain the status quo?" (which just happens to benefit me), but "How can we all grow and change together?" Now we have no top to protect, and the so-called "bottom" becomes the place of education, real change, and transformation.



Here at St. Paul UMC, like Richard Rohr's Center of Action and Contemplation, we too are primarily into action and increasingly into deep contemplation of the Scripture.

We are mostly a safe but edgy place. And by the way, know that whoever you are and from whence you have come, at St. Paul you will be treated like you Belong.

—by Reverend Dr. Steve Gill

Keep your whole tax refund!

File your taxes for FREE with the Ohio Benefit Bank, a program of the Ohio Association of Food-banks. Trained counselors at St. Paul United Methodist Church can help you file your federal and state returns online. They will help you with tax credits such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and Education credits to help maximize your refund. Call the church at 937-252-4467 to make an appointment.

St. Paul is still in critical need of volunteer tax counselors

*You can make a half day
commitment and choose
the day of the week.
Training is online.*

ST. PAUL GIVING

Often St. Paul is on the receiving end of generosity from individuals and groups. This report highlights the giving of the St. Paul congregation in 2016. Our Conference and District Apportionments have been paid in full. In addition, the following donations were sent to West Ohio Conference: One Great Hour of Sharing-\$182.00; World Communion-\$107.50; Student Day-\$82.76; Peace with Justice Sunday-\$26.00; Human Relations Day-\$47.55; Native American Awareness Day-\$25.00; U.S. Disasters-\$186.70; and Horizon Prison Ministries-\$100.47. In addition, donations were made to HIV/AIDS ministry-\$171.00; UM District in Flint, MI-\$102.47; Grace UMC, Springfield-\$63.00; Wesley Community Center-\$158.00; Camperships-\$566.00 and support for Elizabeth Heft, our missionary in Bethlehem-\$512.00.



As reported previously, the roof repair took place in October and has been paid for. St. Paul received donations from 53 individuals and groups for this capital campaign. The inside water damage repair has just been completed by Matt Shade, our Trustee Chair, with help from Eric Geer. This work entailed renting a lift and scaffolding. While this equipment was onsite for installation, Becker Lighting donated beautiful LED fixtures for the sanctuary and the social room which were installed by Terry Ronald. Large ceiling fans have been purchased for both rooms and will also be installed by Terry Ronald. It is exciting to see all the improvements coming to fruition. Our ability to continue the building improvements was made possible by a generous grant from the Fred M. Luther Charitable Trust. Stop by and see for yourself...St. Paul has truly been blessed in order to be a blessing!

Save the Date for St. Paul's Steak Dinner!

Saturday, March 18, 2017

4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Adults — \$10.00

Children (12 & 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**





Needs List...

Bagged Beans

Bagged rice

Boxed Potatoes

Boxed Macaroni and Cheese

Canned Beans

Canned Fruit

Canned Soups

Canned Vegetables

(a variety of colors for good nutrition)

Cereal

Pasta

Spaghetti Sauce

Boullion

(beef and chicken)

Dates to Remember — Winter 2017

Regularly-scheduled activities

The following activities will continue throughout the months of February and March:

- Sunday Morning Group Study: 9 a.m.; Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
- YPC - Sr. Peacemakers, M & W/Jr. Peacemakers T & Th: 4-6 p.m.
- Tuesday Worship: 11:40 a.m. followed by lunch at Noon
- Saturday Breakfast: 9 a.m.
- Las Amigas (Hispanic-Latino Womens Support Group): Wednesdays 6:45 p.m.
- Spanish Bible Study and Worship: Sundays 5 p.m.

Special Notes:

- **Friday, February 3:** Sub making project. Subs will be ready for pickup after 2:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, February 5:** UMW - 1 p.m.
- **Monday, February 20:** Presidents' Day - Church Closed - No YPC
- **Wednesday, March 1:** Ash Wednesday - Service 7 p.m.
- **Saturday, March 18:** Steak Dinner - 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Saturday Breakfasts in February:

4	Belmont UMC
11	Aley UMC
18	Normandy UMC
25	Belmont UMC Youth

Tuesday Lunches in February:

7	Faith Community UMC
14	Normandy UMC
21	Centerville UMC
28	Christ UMC Youth

Office Hours:

M-F:.....9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Food Pantry:

M, W, TH:10 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Stuff Shoppe:

M, W TH:10 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

T:12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

September-December Worship Attendance:

9/04/2016	25
9/11/2016	44
9/18/2016	75
9/25/2016	36
10/02/2016	32
10/09/2016	32
10/16/2016	38
10/23/2016	33
10/30/2016	33
11/06/2016	41
11/13/2016	43
11/20/2016	43
11/27/2016	42
12/04/2016	34
12/11/2016	30
12/17/2016	75
12/18/2016	48
12/24/2016	75
12/25/2016	31



There's still time to order our famous East Dayton Subs (\$3 each)...

Call 937-252-4467 to place your order!

(Pick-up begins on Friday, February 3)

Christmas by the Numbers

The month of December is chock full of events and excitement at St. Paul. The month begins with the **Parents' Christmas Shop** which served 30 families with gifts for 93 children and youth. All the Young Peacemakers' Club children attended **Christmas on Campus** at UD on December 8. Thanks to **Christ UMC** for providing a van to transport the children and thanks to **Tracie Maynard** for volunteering to drive the van. The **Santa Shop** provided a free shopping opportunity for 50 St. Paul children and youth. The staff was very impressed with the children's thoughtfulness in choosing gifts for their family members. A big thank you goes out to **Pam Eyer** who organized the wrapping of all the children's gifts. **United Methodist Women from Eastmont, Centerville and Normandy** churches wrapped bags and bags of gifts. **Breakfast with Santa** was a gift from **Normandy UMC** for 73 children and their families. Our annual **Las Posadas** service and celebration was held on Saturday, December 17 with 75 people in attendance. **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** was very meaningful for the 75 people in attendance. And then, on **Christmas Day**, we gathered for brunch and an informal service that was attended by 31 from our community and guests from another congregation that did not have church that day.

Welcoming Immigrants at St. Paul - Dayton Hispanic-Latino Ministry Update

Both Old and New Testament Scriptures clearly tell us how we are supposed to treat people from other lands that are living among us: "*You must also love immigrants because you were immigrants in Egypt*," Deuteronomy 10:19. Psalm 146:9 states, "*I am the Lord who protects immigrants*"; in the New Testament, Jesus says in Mark 12:31, "*Love your neighbor as yourself*."

Here at St. Paul we strive to live out these Scriptures in meaningful ways by including, in the programs and services we offer, the oft-despised, marginalized and disenfranchised immigrants living in our neighborhood and beyond.

Here are some examples of how we practice inclusivity at St. Paul:

- Nearly half of the children enrolled in our state-accredited YPC program are Hispanic.
- Hispanic-Latino children who participate in YPC, Las Amigas, Spanish worship and/or Bible Study are included in all the charitable Christmas events at St. Paul: The Parents' Christmas Shop, Christmas On Campus, and the Children's Santa Shop.
- Spanish Worship/Bible Study and Las Amigas women's support group are conducted weekly as we live out the mission of the United Methodist Church which is: *Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World*.
- Joint Bilingual Worship services are offered several times throughout the year, often picking up themes from Hispanic-Latino culture.
- Our Annual Las Posadas Christmas celebration is open to the entire community which fosters cultural competencies, and is for many their first contact with the church. 75 children and adults attended Las Posadas in December 2016.



At a glimpse

In 2016, with your support, St. Paul UMC

- served 14,991 delicious hot meals at Tuesday lunch and Saturday breakfast;
- provided groceries for 103,350 meals;
- placed over 5,000 pieces of clothing in the hands of many grateful

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

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

