



Saint Paul's Possibilities

February 9, 2024

News & Ways to Plug In

Powered by Grace and Coffee

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

This past Sunday, we were filled with some unexpected "Holy Joy" moments - as one of my mentors used to call it. We cried a bit and we laughed a lot. And I must admit, it felt healing for me and I hope for us all to laugh - a bit unexpected - but then, isn't the Holy's work often unexpected? And I believe that is ok.

There's an old Gospel camp meeting song entitled "Life's Railway to Heaven," and in it, the words, "Life is like a mountain railroad, with an engineer that's brave, keep your hand upon the throttle and your eye upon the rail." My translation of the message is to keep moving forward following Christ's examples of living and the Holy will care for the rest.

As we cared for family and friends this past weekend and remembered the life of our beloved brother Russ, we were taking care, in the way I believe God called us to. And in the midst of it all, the Holy interjected and infused us with some much-needed comforting levity. A great reminder that there is more beyond death, death is not the final word, nor will it ever be. There is more to come, much more. In fact, in our faith tradition, we believe the best is yet to come.

As we prepare for Lent to begin next week, I believe we need to remember not just the suffering and death that comes at the end of this season, but look forward to the joy of the resurrection that follows. As we walk the journey of Lent, let us take up more Christ-like practices of serving and loving our neighbors. Make it a goal to get to know your neighbor better. Make it a goal to set aside some time to help others a bit more, take time to spend in conversation with someone who may be lonely or feeling depressed. Take time to be in closer relationship with God through others.

Is this not what the journey is about? Can you imagine a more impactful Lent than intentionally following Christ's teaching more closely day by day? On Wednesday, February 14 - Valentine's Day - we will observe Ash Wednesday. Our Ash

Wednesday service this year will include both our Bell Choir and our Chancel Choir, and a brief Homily to introduce us to the season ahead. I hope you will be here as we mark the beginning of a great journey.

If you are unable to be here that evening, and yet would like to be marked by ashes on your forehead, please stop by the church earlier in the day and I will gladly accommodate you. Typically, the words that are said as ashes are imposed is, "From ashes we have come, and to ashes we will return." This year, I want to ask you a question to go along with that. "If from ashes we have come and to ashes we will return, what matters most in the midst of that coming and going?" Is it not love? This is the part that is up to us between the time of ashes, our earthly living, and how will we continue that living? Will it be from a place of love and service to others? And if so, are we prepared for the rewards and inbreaking of the Holy Spirit along the way?

The observance of this season is up to each of us. I know not what you - individually - need to do to draw you closer, but I do know this: A closer relationship provides for more Holy inbreaking and thus more Holy joy! Thanks be to God...Amen.

Happy Valentine's Day! Happy Lent!

Love, Pastor Tim

Please Join Us in Praying For ...

Linda Beaver	Greyson Greenawalt
Pat Bender	Al & Ruth Henry
Mary Collette Brandt	Katy Mahon
Cookie Breining	Paul Shaner
Jeanie Council	Jaelynn Walker
The Engle Family	Thomas Ward, Jr.
Gail Ernest	Mental Health Needs

Those with Life-Long Illnesses

Updates to our prayer list are made from our Saint Paul's Prayers and Love FB Group, phone calls to the church office, or fill out a prayer card located in our sanctuary.

Just a reminder ... our church mailing address is:

Saint Paul's @ the Farm
50 Brookpark Circle
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Our West Milton PO Box will no longer be available to us beginning February 15.



The Farm Report

Pics: A Word of Grace at the start of Fresh Express then groceries are sorted.

Grace Place @ The Farm

On Tuesday, January 16, Consistory discussed the possibility of moving Fresh Express out of The Church @ The Farm and over to the yellow building at 230 Brookpark Circle. After further discussions with Fresh Express leaders, it was determined this move would work best to serve our neighbors. The move would allow for more usable space in our Fellowship Hall for church events and activities as well as allow for more space, a larger sorting and packing area for Fresh Express, as well as additional distribution options.

When the move was announced in worship on January 29, the next day 15 volunteers showed up to help prep, prepare, clean and move Fresh Express supplies and our emergency pantry to its new location. Minor repairs and painting have continued and the pantry is set up and ready to go. Fresh Express saw its first distribution in the new location, that we are loving calling "Grace Place @ The Farm," on Thursday this week when more than 24 volunteers served more than 200 families. While there will be lessons to learn and most likely some tweaking to do, with the marked growth in neighbors being served by Fresh Express, this new space will keep the distribution close and allow for further growth should additional need arise. Additionally, beyond Fresh Express and the Emergency Pantry, Grace Place @ The Farm will allow space for a few household items from DIG Furniture Bank, a DIG referral space, an expanded Pet Pantry section in our emergency pantry, and meeting space for community groups. So many terrific options abound for this space as we live in to our dreams of how the Holy is calling us to be the church.

To volunteer or learn more, please see a member of our Consistory, a leader of our Fresh Express Team, or call the church office. And let us offer a huge thank you to



all our amazing volunteers who have made this happen along with all the volunteers who keep Fresh Express such a special piece of who we are. Stay tuned for info about a "Grace Place @ The Farm" open house following worship, soon!



Arts for Missions, February 18, 2 p.m.

Our first "Arts for Missions" event will take place Sunday, February 18, at 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This event will be an acrylic paint event with Reba Rohrer. The cost of the event is \$30 which includes all the supplies you will need and proceeds will benefit our missions and outreach of the church. This past year we were able to offer 22% of our giving for work and support in the broader community, thanks to your generous support of missions and outreach of Saint Paul's. Supplies must be ordered, so you are invited to sign up today, as the deadline is Monday, February 12. Sign up at the welcome desk or by calling the church office.

Lenten Wednesday Interactive

Beginning Wednesday, February 21, our 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Interactive group will kick off our Lenten Series, "The Way of Love: A Practical Guide to Following Jesus." While this study has been designed with no pre-reading required, there is a book available for those who would like to follow along. This study is being adapted from a similar study through the Episcopal Church designed by Bishop Michael Curry. Our first week's focus will be on the story of Moses and the Burning Bush as well as the Gospel stories of tax collectors and fishermen turning to follow Jesus. What does it mean to turn toward Jesus? Is it a once and done proposition? Join us as we break down practical ways and practices of keeping our focus on following Jesus in a world full of distractions. Scripture focus for our first gathering will be Exodus 3:1-15 and Mark 2:14. Join us for some laughter and love as we journey through Lent.



Reflections on this Monday Morning with Love and Thanks to:

(Posted on 2/5/2024 on our Prayers & Love FB Page)

1. *The Saint Paul's Chancel Choir for being a wonderful group of singers. Thank you for your trust in me and your dedication and willingness to grow as a vital part of the Saint Paul's music ministry. You never cease to amaze me every Sunday!*
2. *The Saint Paul's Bell Choir for being a fantastic group, always striving to learn challenging music and doing it well, but having a fun time on Wednesday afternoons! Squirrels and all!*
3. *Saint Paul's for welcoming our family into your fold and giving us a safe, loving, and spiritual home.*
4. *Sharon Styer for being an amazing musician and friend. She truly is a Godsend and I am floored by her organization and the dedication that she has to whatever she sets her mind to.*
5. *Donna and Pastor Tim: whether it's a laugh throughout the day, or a text message sharing love, they are there to offer advice and listen to visions for the Saint Paul's Music Ministry or just the ramblings of this crazy lady.*
6. *It's incredibly humbling that Russ and God had a plan, and I'm playing a small, but very blessed part of that plan. Thank you.*

Thank you, Saint Pauls' Family, for your love, friendship, and trust. Patty Wagner ❤️

Special Ways to Gather

...coming the week of February 19! On Wednesday, the 21st, at 9:30 a.m. join for "Friends Who Breakfast" at Silver Moon Restaurant in Lewisburg. On Friday, the 23rd, gather for a Lenten version of Word, Wine and Wisdom at Union Cellars. And, on Sunday, the 25th, at 5 p.m. join us for family night @ The Farm.

Our Neighbors' Pantry

Our Emergency Pantry currently needs Gift Cards. If you are so inclined the pantry is out of Gas and Grocery cards completely. Cards in any denomination are helpful. If you bring them to the office or place them in an envelope with your name on them, they are tracked and you will receive credit for them on your giving statement. Gift Cards are a way to allow our neighbors in need to purchase things like personal hygiene products, paper products, and other items not covered by assistance programs. Your assistance in supporting this mission and outreach ministry in this way means a lot. Thank you in advance for your continued support!

"Love More"



In this coming season of Lent and Easter, Pastor Tim will be sharing messages focusing on Jesus' life examples to "Love More" and we will be ordering T-Shirts from a sweet young lady by the name of Grace who started her own "candidly kind" business. Check out her website at www.candidlykind.com and click on "Meet Grace," her story is quite remarkable. Grace is offering us short or long-sleeve t-shirts in pink or red at the following price: short sleeve t-shirts \$25 / long sleeve t-shirts \$30. If you would like to support Grace and sport our Lenten and Easter theme, you may order a "Love More" shirt by signing up on the order sheet by the Sanctuary Welcome Desk or ordering online through our website www.spuccwm.org, or contacting the church office. The deadline to order is February 12.



Celebrations

Feb 14 – Happy Anniversary Diane & Dick Bettleyon

Feb 14 – Happy Anniversary Carol & Bobby Snyder

Feb 18 – Happy Birthday David Kazibwe

Feb 20 – Happy Birthday Tylor Moyer

Feb 22 – Happy Birthday Piper Stahl

Feb 22 – Happy Anniversary

Jane Rowe & Michael Humphries



Soup, Sandwiches, & Ashes



... will all be available on Valentine's Day this year as we observe Ash Wednesday, February 14 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary with our Chancel and Bell Choirs helping to lead worship. Soup & Sandwiches will be available in Fellowship Hall beginning at 6 p.m.

On the Weekly Journey

Monday Morning Reflections, 11:30 a.m.

This is a weekly gathering with Pastor Tim to explore further the sermon and texts from Sunday's service. No experience necessary. All are welcome!

Weekly Wednesday Lunch with the Pastor

A time to just sit, relax, and discuss random topics with Pastor Tim on the porch (or if the weather is not cooperating, in Fellowship Hall). Grab your lunch at the market and join us on the porch 11:30 to 1 p.m.

Bell Choir

Directed by Patty Wagner, rehearses 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Wednesdays in the Sanctuary and performing twice a month for worship throughout the year. For more information see Patty.

Wednesday Evening Interactive

Meeting at 6:30 p.m. weekly. All are welcome to jump in for this great time of conversation. Lenten Study begins on February 21.

Fresh Express Thursdays

Come help us provide groceries for our neighbors every second and fourth Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., come for an hour, two hours, or the entire time. All volunteers are welcome. **Feb 22, Mar 14 & 28**

Sundays @ Saint Paul's

9 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary and helps lead worship weekly. Always open to new members. To learn more, please see Patty.

10 a.m. Children's Choir - children through 7th grade, directed by Sharon Styer, rehearses at 10 a.m. each Sunday morning in the Chapel, and sings on the fourth Sunday of every month. Parents, drop your kids off for choir and enjoy coffee or breakfast while they practice for 10 to 15 minutes each Sunday morning.

10:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship

3rd Sunday's Family Meal – We gather around the tables monthly for good eats and good times! Up next ...**February 11 Spaghetti & Meatballs & Talent Show!**

Monday Harvest Meal

Join us 1 to 5 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month as we help prepare and serve meals in conjunction with Bucknell's Office of Civic Engagement to our neighbors in the Milton area. Shelly Sholley is our lead contact for this meal. **February 26**

Breakfast with Friends

Gather at the Silver Moon Restaurant on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. for a time to catch up and share stories in a small group setting. **February 21 (weather permitting)**

Fourth Friday Wine, Word, and Wisdom

From 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., come sit, relax, have a glass, and sink into the conversation about words that inspire our faith as we gather at Union Cellars, 4760 Furnace Road, Lewisburg. **February 23**

Stewardship

Gifts & Offerings February 4, 2024

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34) Giving thanks for the time, talents, and resources shared here.

Attendance on LIVE: 714 Virtual Reach: 5,214

Attendance In Person: 126 (5 Visitors)

Christian Education: 43

Plate Giving	\$ 3,514.00
Loose Plate	\$ 175.00
Online Giving	\$ <u>488.62</u>
Operational Total	\$ 4,177.62
General Restricted Giving	\$ <u>174.00</u>
Total Giving	\$ 4,351.62

Upcoming Worship

February 11, 2024 - Transfiguration Sunday

"Liminal Spaces"

Psalm 50:1-6; Mark 9:2-9

Worship Leader: Jen Arnold

Lector: Merle Kay Englehart Acolyte: Nell Parker

Flowers: Rhonda Newton Breakfast: The Burns

Offering Counter: A. Mahon; D. Spear

February 14, 2024 – Ash Wednesday

"Living Proof"

Genesis 50:20; I Timothy 2:1-2; Matthew 5:43-45

Worship Leader: Jen Arnold

Lector: Amy Armstrong Acolyte: Sam Barbella

February 18, 2024 – First Sunday of Lent

"One Inseparable Mandate"

John 13:31-35

Worship Leader: Jen Arnold

Lector: Holly Barbella Acolyte: Sadie Foust

Flowers: Dunmeyer Family Breakfast: Tim&Chip

Offering Counter: D. Bettleyon; D. Spear

February Greeter/Usher Team: Bill & Lisa Bernard, Richard & Amy Armstrong, Joanna Johnson, Louise Litzy, Chris Warner, Eric Wagner

