



# SAINT PAUL'S NEWS

welcoming saints and sinners since 1900

July 21, 2021

“What happens here doesn’t stay here...”

## “Don’t Steal My Blessing”

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Church Family,

I can’t take credit for this – and no, it isn’t stolen - but it certainly reminded me of what I often hear, especially from people who often help others. This time, someone came into my office and relayed a story about offering to help someone. He said, “Don’t say no, don’t steal my blessing.”

I was visiting with someone yesterday who was relating a story of sharing a meal with someone who had been ill and the person was responding, “No, you don’t need to do that.” I often hear another version of that, which is, “Share it with someone in need, we are ok.” You know what my response is to this now? “Don’t be stealing my blessing.”

I think it is often our self-sufficient selves that feel we need to respond, “You don’t need to..., You shouldn’t..., We’re fine..., Give it to someone else who needs it...” when something is being offered specifically for you. Have you ever considered that if it has been put on someone’s heart to do something for you, it’s for you? Not to be denied or turned away. Maybe we shouldn’t refuse so easily, maybe we shouldn’t take away someone’s blessing.

A story was shared with me recently that my friend was in line at the grocery store check-out – a woman in front of her. The two spoke cordially during the time in line and after the first one woman checked out and took her groceries, she came back. Not wanting to intrude, my friend stepped back and waited until the woman was done with her business. The first woman left and my friend finished loading her groceries, then checking-out. As my friend finished checking out, the cashier said, “The woman in front of you paid \$56 toward your grocery bill.” Surprised, my friend thanked the cashier. As the story was told to me, my friend didn’t need the assistance, and

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didn't realize what the woman ahead of her in line was doing when she returned to the cashier. If my friend had known that, maybe she would have responded, "Oh no, you don't need to do that." However, as it turns out, the woman was able to do something she obviously wanted to do for her and the blessings from that small act abounded and were paid forward.

One note about this exchange that struck me and my friend both was the fact that the woman had used her SNAP card to pay the \$56 - her own food money - to help someone else. While we know nothing else about the situation, we know this: the woman felt something from her heart she wanted to do and she did it.

Do we realize what it means or how much it means, the value of giving to others? What do you think others think when we refuse or reject a small token of their offering, be it a meal, a monetary gift, a visit, whatever it may be? Ours is the gift to give, I've always heard that and I believe it. Our sharing is a gift to give to others.

Many of you know my favorite Christmas Song is the "Little Drummer Boy" don't ask me exactly why, I just remember as a kid I used to play that 45 (no age comment please) on my portable record player over and over and over. As I thought of this story today, I thought of the verse of the song:

*"Little baby Pa rum pum pum pum, I am a poor boy too Pa rum pum pum pum, I have no gift to bring, Pa rum pum pum pum. That's fit to give our king, Pa rum pum pum pum, Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum. Shall I play for you, Pa rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum, rum pum pum pum. Mary nodded, pa rum pum pum pum. The ox and lamb kept time, pa rum pum pum pum, I played my drum for him, pa rum, pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum, rum pum, pum, pum. Then he smiled at me, pa rum pum pum pum, me and my drum..."*

I know, first-hand, it is hard to accept when people want to share something with us or do something for us, it's hard to just say thank you, yet I believe "thank you" may be better than stealing someone's blessing to give, don't you? Here's to saying, "thank you," and paying it forward. For in everything find a blessing.

Peace,  
Pastor Tim

## In Our Daily Prayers...

Dick Albright  
Dick Bettleyon  
Nancy Cochran  
Family of Shawn  
Dunmeyer  
Gail Earnest  
The Erdley Family  
Gladys Fawcett  
Greyson Greenawalt

Steve Harding  
Mina Hoover  
Mary Rose Knelly  
Tom and Priscilla Lanks  
Cindy Lloyd  
Katy Mahon  
John Marsala  
Mike McCollum  
Cindy Mohr

Jack Mosier  
The PA Songbirds  
Raquel Prager  
David Reid  
Jane Scurfield  
Sherri  
Alecia Snyder  
Donna and Russ Wynn, Sr.  
Jane Yorks



## News from Home...

### Do you have your child-line clearances?

According to PA state law and our own by-laws, at Saint Paul's, we require clearances to work with children in our church. As we think about both our summer programs and our upcoming fall planning, we would like as many people as possible to complete their child-line clearances. The Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) requires certain individuals to obtain clearances in order to be a volunteer with children. The purpose for requiring clearances is to protect our children, ourselves, and the church.

Clearances are required for an unpaid volunteer at a minimum of every 60 months from the date of the oldest clearance.

In accordance with the CPSL. The required clearances include:

- [Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance](#)
- [Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Clearance](#)

If you have them and we don't have a copy of them secured in our office, would you consider sharing them with us to hold on-file. If you do not have them and would consider getting them, please link above and share a copy with us. There is no charge for volunteer clearances, they are easy and available to complete all on-line, and if you need assistance in completing them online, we are here.

Often, we will hear someone say, well I don't plan on helping with the children's program or with kids. However, even if you have to step in, in an emergent situation you may need them, so we would prefer better safe than sorry. It's quick, it's easy, and it helps us stay affirmed in our goals of safe space and service to all. Again, if you have questions or need assistance, you may call the church office. All files and records are securely kept and considered private.

### Coffee Hour

Join us for a Summer Coffee Hour - with Iced Tea, Water and Lemonade, all available outside under the covered walkway immediately following worship each Sunday. We hope you will join us and hang out outside following worship. This outdoor space and event gives new meaning to "parking lot fellowship" and we are excited to be bringing back more opportunities like this for you.



### New Member Sunday



*...and you are welcome here*

This Sunday, July 25, is "New Member Sunday." If you wish to formally join as a member of Saint Paul's or have questions about membership, please reach out the Pastor Tim as soon as possible.



## Our Next Community Research Project is Next Week!

6 p.m., Thursday, July 29, Pier 87, Williamsport

Music, food, and fellowship in a place where we can gather once again. If you are not on Facebook or can't find the event on Facebook, to let us know if you may be joining us, or reach out to Lisa Bernard 570-713-8479 or call the church office 570-568-1433.



## Friends Who Breakfast

The first gathering of "Friends Who Breakfast" was this morning at Perkins Restaurant in Lewisburg (next to Applebee's), at 9:45 a.m. What a blessing for this opportunity to talk, laugh, catch up, and fill our bellies and souls. All are welcome, no age requirement, no retirement requirement, maybe you're off on Wednesdays, maybe you don't drive after dark, or you just haven't found the right time or event that you feel comfortable with. What a wonderful opportunity, and thank you, Merle Kay, for seeing the need and organizing this event!

"Friends Who Breakfast" will gather again on Wednesday, August 11, at 9:30 a.m. at Country Cupboard.



## Faith Formation and Worship News...

### Weekly Faith Formation Gatherings

Sunday Morning's with Dave and Friends... Will return Sunday, September 12

Monday Morning Preacher... Will return Monday, September 13

Wednesdays Theology Mashup... Will return Wednesday, September 15

Want to join or are you looking for online worship or a worship replay? Like you can't get enough of Pastor Tim's message (right!)? Replay of services are always available via YouTube or Facebook. Links are on our website homepage. <https://www.spuccwm.org/> or below:

Saint Paul's Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/saintpaulswestmilton>

Saint Paul's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx534qz98pw4lEcpsJznLnw>





## Compassion Camp, VBS!

Would you help spread the word? Invite your neighbors, family, and friends. Preregistration is open, yet not required. You may preregister to help us plan by linking to Compassion Camp from our website home page: [www.spuccwm.org](http://www.spuccwm.org).

Beginning Monday, August 2, to Friday, August 6, we will offer Vacation Bible School (VBS) here at the church. This year's VBS, Compassion Camp, will kick off with a light supper being offered each evening from 5:30 to 6 p.m. and then crafts, lessons, music, and activities from 6 to 8 for ages 3 to 11 (5<sup>th</sup> grade). Compassion Camp builds on "being loved, being kind, and being you."

If you are interested in assisting in some way, please reach out to Colleen Franciscus, Pastor Tim, or the church office 570-568-1433. We hope you will be here to join us. Volunteers are needed from kitchen to classroom and even bakers from home would be an option to assist. It's coming soon, would you help us spread the word?

## Mission and Outreach News...

### Community Dinner is set for Sunday, August 8

Our next Community Dinner will take place on Sunday, August 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. If you are available to assist in the kitchen or would be able to bake a dessert or help make cole slaw, please reach out to Diane Bettleyon. Diane will be at the "Coffee Table" Sunday morning immediately following worship. You may find the sign-up sheets there. This is an "every other month" meal and takes place currently as a drive-up and delivery meal here at 1125 Mahoning Street. We feed approximately 120 people for the evening meal. The menu for this month includes pulled-pork sandwiches, coleslaw and dessert. All help is appreciated.



## This Week at Saint Paul's...

- Thurs., July 22** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Church Office open  
2 to 5 p.m. Fresh Express Food Distribution at 433 High Street
- Fri., July 23** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Church Office open
- Sun., July 25** New Member Sunday  
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship LIVE Online & In-Person at  
1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847
- Mon., July 26** **Happy Birthday Michael Haven**  
**Happy Birthday Al Henry**  
**Happy Anniversary Brent and Mallory Sample**  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Church Office open



**Tues., July 27** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Church Office open

**Wed., July 28** **Happy Birthday Bryleigh Gill**  
**Happy Birthday Jeff Noll**  
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Church Office open

## Upcoming Sunday Worship...

*LIVE stream and In Person @ 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton*

**July 25, 2021**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

*“Paralysis vs. Empowerment”*

Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

Lector: Dave Muffley

Flower Sponsor: Polly Barrall

Offering Counter: D. Bettleyon; D. Spear

**August 1, 2021**

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*“Admit Nothing”*

Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

Lector: Betsy Pullen

Flower Sponsor: Available

Offering Counter: S. Brown; D. Spear

July Worship Leader: Drew Faust

July Usher Team: Lisa and Bill Bernard, Autumn or Drew Faust  
 Rhonda Newton (Check In), Colleen Franciscus (Alternate)

August Worship Leader: Jen Arnold

August Worship Team: Barb and Dave Wagner, Sue Mahon  
 Amy Snider (Sign In), Earl Fisher (Alternate)

## If you like to plan...

Here are some upcoming events to add to your calendar:

Visit the Church Events Calendar online at: <https://www.spuccwm.org/calendar>

Thursday, July 22 – Fresh Express Food Distribution at 433 High Street

Sunday, July 25 – New Member Sunday during Worship 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, July 29 – Community Research Project at Pier 87 Bar & Grill 6 to 10 p.m.

Sunday, August 1 – Communion

Monday, August 2 – 5 – Vacation Bible School Compassion Camp, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 8 – Community Dinner at 5 p.m. at 1125 Mahoning  
 (Drive-Through Format)

Wednesday, August 11 – Friends Who Breakfast at Country Cupboard, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 22 – Back to School Picnic and Swim Party



Sunday, September 5 – Communion; Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, September 12 – Rally Day All Church Potluck

Monday, September 13 – Monday Morning Preacher Returns at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 15 – Family Formation Returns  
(Dinner, Bible Study, Youth Events, Music)

Saturday, September 18 – Harvest Festival Parade 1 p.m. (SPUCC Float)

Sunday, September 26 – S'mores and a Movie

Saturday, October 9 – Hayride

Sunday, October 10 – Community Dinner at 5 p.m. at 1125 Mahoning  
(Drive-Through Format)

Saturday, October 23 – Pumpkin Patch / Trunk and Treat

Sunday, November 7 – All Saint's Day

Sunday, December 5 – Community Dinner at 5 p.m. at 1125 Mahoning  
(Drive-Through Format)

## Contact and Connect Information

Church Address:	1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847
Church Mailing Address:	PO Box 85, West Milton, PA 17886
Church Office Contact:	570-568-1433 / <a href="mailto:admin@spuccwm.org">admin@spuccwm.org</a>
Church Website:	<a href="https://www.spuccwm.org/">https://www.spuccwm.org/</a>
Pastoral Emergencies:	570-975-9536 (Pastor Tim's cell)
Pastor's Email:	<a href="mailto:PastorTim@spuccwm.org">PastorTim@spuccwm.org</a>
Church Online Directory:	<a href="https://engage.suran.com/spuccwm">https://engage.suran.com/spuccwm</a> (account required)
Church Online Events Calendar:	<a href="https://www.spuccwm.org/calendar">https://www.spuccwm.org/calendar</a>

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