



Saint Paul's Possibilities

March 16, 2023

News & Ways to Plug In

Powered by Grace and Coffee

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

What does the Lord require of you?

I love this excerpt of text from the prophet Micah, when asked the question, *"what does the Lord require of you?"* the response has resonated with humankind for millennia, *"...act with justice, love, and mercy, and walk humbly with God."* (6:8b)

These words have been set to music, signs have been emblazoned with them, and my hope is that our prayer is filled with requests for God to lead each of us in responding to daily life in this manner. It strikes me that none of this is exactly easy. It requires more than a cliché thought or a flippant response. This short response to the question, what does God require of us, is powerful and packed full of hope and expectations.

I find the last part is particularly hard though, *"to walk humbly with God."* Sometimes in our culture and society, we are met with things that feel anything but justice, love, and mercy. Sometimes we feel embattled by those around us who subject us to lies, lack any form of what we might consider mercy, and that which we feel is unjust. Yet, that is not ours to judge. We must remain humble and kind always. It reminds me of Jesus' words about shaking the dust off your feet and moving on. Don't allow yourself to succumb to others who proclaim anything other than justice, love, and mercy.

A dear friend told me today that she is speaking on Saturday to a group she is gathering with about just this... kindness, mercy, and love and that without those three things, in the midst of all you do, you will lack God in the midst of anything you do. I heard that and thought, how powerful? Micah was pretty clear about what was required of us and how we are individually responsible for our relationship with God.

It's this question we must ask ourselves over and over. Am I reflecting justice, love, and mercy? Am I offering grace and kindness to others, am I a living example of Christ to all those I come in contact with?

It's not easy, yet it's who we are asked to be and portray. It's who we strive to live into being day after day.

Let us pray. Father of grace and mercy, be with us we pray, infuse us in a way to light a fire of hope in the community in which we live, work, serve, play, fellowship, and worship. Help us that we may work and do justice, that we may love unwavering, and yes, walk humbly with you. This we pray, Amen.

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Tim

Would You Join Us in Praying For...

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Linda Beaver | Joanna Johnson |
| Kim & Reuben Council | The Leeser Family |
| The Engle Family | Brian Lieberman |
| Gail Ernest | Katy Mahon |
| Mindy Gemberling | Jack & Shirley Thurstin |
| Greyson Greenawalt | Barclay Wilson |
| Tom & Mary Hepner | Wynn-Haven Family |
| Dave Humphrey | Unspoken Requests |

Updates to our Prayer List are made from our Prayers and Love FB Group and phone calls to the church office.

Hope is never lost

Draw Close for Holy Week

- April 2, Palm Sunday, 10:30am
- April 6, Maundy Thursday, 7:00pm
- April 7, Good Friday, 7:00pm
- April 9, Easter Sunrise @ COH, 6:30am
- April 9, Easter Sunday, 10:30am

1125 Mahoning St, Milton
www.spuccwm.org

On the Journey Together

Katy Mahon's Journey

It's March, and you know what that means, it's kidney disease awareness month! Kidney disease has consumed my life. It's made it hard to do things I want to do. I'm 17, and instead of going to go school dances or hanging out with friends, I get to go to dialysis four days a week for four hours each day. Most people don't know how it feels to be on dialysis. Hemo dialysis cleans and filters your blood like your kidneys would. After dialysis I feel sluggish. Doing simple things like walking up the stairs is hard. I feel weak and exhausted. People say I'm brave and ask how I do it. And the answer is, I don't have a choice other than to keep fighting. I'm not brave. I do what I have to do to survive. ~Katy

Katy has found multiple ways to raise awareness of her disease and helping others who are fighting the disease through fundraisers, toy drives, and being a walking example of serving others in whatever way she can. Katy is one of our confirmands and can be found working Fresh Express, helping in the church kitchen, serving meals, and volunteering in the community.



Pictured are Katy, her mom, Amy, and a part of her care team at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville. For the past two years, Katy has sponsored a toy drive for her birthday. Items collected are shared with children and teens who are hospitalized.

Friends Who Breakfast

Mark your calendar for our next "Friends Who Breakfast," on April 12, at 9:30 a.m. at Silver Moon Restaurant, Lewisburg. It's a wonderful time to catch up with old friends and meet new friends and have a yummy breakfast! All are welcome. To learn more, check in with Merle Kay Englehart at 570-568-0755

Bell Choir

Details are still being determined for the return of our Saint Paul's Bell Choir. Please stay tuned! In the meantime, if you are going to return to bell choir or would like to join new, please let Russ know.

Monthly Church Luncheon

Plans for our next church luncheon are coming together nicely! Following worship this Sunday, we will gather around the tables for Corned Beef and Cabbage and Colcannon Potatoes prepared by our resident Irishman, Jon Hagan! Here are a few more details for this day: If you would like to assist in the kitchen, please let Jon or the church office know ... Bring a side dish or dessert to share ... And, wear green to worship this day to show support for Katy, Greyson, and all who live with kidney disease.

Easter Flowers

Believe it or not, it's time to order Easter flowers ... even with the snow still flying. Please find an order form on the piano in the Narthex or you may order online from the homepage of our church website. Flowers this year are being purchased through Gloria and Bill Lehman's Flower Tent. Flowers being offered this year are tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and white lillies for \$10 per six inch pot and hydrangea for \$20. Thank you for helping to adorn our worship space for Easter by purchasing flowers in honor, memory, or celebration of loved ones.

Blooming on March 24

Congratulations to our own Susie Gearhart! Susie will open her second location of the Blooming Rooster Florals and Gifts, this time at 322 Market Street in Lewisburg. There will be an official ribbon cutting on Friday, March 24 at 2 p.m. at the new location. Susie will maintain two shops, keeping her flagship store at 30 Elm Street, Milton, and now a new second location in Lewisburg. She will carry a great selection of fresh and silk florals, gift items, along with some household goods, candles, purses, shawls, scarves, and hats. It is such a joy to celebrate and walk the journey with Susie. We hope you will stop in and visit her at either shop soon. PS, for those so inclined, a one-day soft opening will occur from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 18! Stop by and say hi! Her store hours going forward will be: in Milton - Thursday and Friday 11a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Lewisburg, Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Congratulations Susie, may all you do be filled with God's blessings for the gifts you share.

Roast Beef Dinner

The Masonic Temple at 117 North Front Street in Milton is holding their annual Roast Beef dinner. The dates are Saturday, March 18, and Sunday, May 14, from 4-6 p.m. The cost is \$13 and take outs are available. Questions? Call the Masonic Temple at (570) 742-9402.

March 16-26 Calendar

Mar 16 – Happy Birthday Chuck Sample
Mar 18 – Masonic Temple Milton Roast Beef Dinner 4p
Mar 19 – Happy Birthday Cato Kazibwe
Mar 19 – Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9a
Mar 19 – Jump Start Sunday School 9:15a
Mar 19 – Children’s Choir Practice 10a
Mar 19 – Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall 10a
Mar 19 – Worship 10:30a
Mar 19 – Irish Celebration Luncheon following worshp!
Mar 19 – Confirmation Class in the Parlor 5p
Mar 20 – Happy Birthday Brigid Hagan
Mar 21 – Consistory Meeting 6:30p
Mar 23 – Happy Birthday Chris Warner
Mar 23 – Fresh Express Food Distribution 1-5p
Mar 24 – Happy Birthday Chris Arnold
Mar 24 – Happy Birthday Heath Hansum
Mar 24 – Happy Birthday Mike Spickler
Mar 24 – Word, Wine, & Wisdom@Union Cellars 4:30p
Mar 25 – Happy Birthday Bo Gill
Mar 26 – Happy Birthday Doug Kister

Sharing Our Gifts

Little Red Wagon

Our “little red wagon” in the Narthex continues to be a blessing for our community and families. And, by the generosity of you, our Saint Paul’s family, our emergency food pantry shelves are currently in good shape to help others. If you wish to support our “Little Red Wagon” ministry, you may continue to provide gift cards to local grocery stores or gas stations which are also used to help those in need. You may drop gift cards into our offering plate on Sunday morning or to the church office.

Still a Few Coin Boxes Left

Grab a coin box on the table just inside the Sanctuary and collect your loose change to help us change the world. 100% of all monies given are shared with the UCC National Setting and then 100% distributed to churches and communities in need from helping recover from natural disasters to churches, like us, beginning new programs. So, help us help our neighbors, grab a coin box and help us in this way of being the church. Coin boxes will be collected by the children on **Palm Sunday** during worship.

Lay Your Cross on the Altar

You are invited to bring your favorite cross to place on the altar during this season, and check out these crosses anytime you are at the church as we share our life and faith journeys together.

Stewardship

Gifts & Offerings March 12, 2023

To all who offer their time, talents and gifts to create this community, our special thanks! It is good always and everywhere to give thanks to God.

Attendance on LIVE: 180
Virtual Reach: 2,648
Attendance In Person: 94 (2 Visitors)
Christian Formation: 43
Plate Giving \$ 1,457.00
Loose Plate \$ 157.00
Online Giving \$ 252.30
Operational Total \$ 1,866.30
Restricted Giving \$ 35.00
Total Giving \$ 1,901.30

Weekly Way Forward Update

This week we were able to see the property we were scheduled to see on March 24, earlier than expected. Due to multiple constraints, work needed on the location, cost of repairs, rent, and utilities, the sight will not work for our needs. The leadership team, in conjunction with our entire Consistory, continues to search for an answer to temporary space. We have considered multiple spaces, meaning one for worship, one for administration and ministries, and another location for serving the community. The search is ongoing. At the same time, on February 28, Brad sent a note to Lynnette Weisner, the president of the Board of Milton Lutheran Church, asking one last time for an extension on our lease here at 1125 Mahoning Street until our building was completed. A response was received that they would consider our request, however, we were “to continue looking for another solution.” We have not received word on that request as of this writing, and we have certainly never stopped looking.

As for our property and the new building. Another meeting is scheduled with the United Church of Christ and the Partners in Vision team to discuss our planning with them. We have heard from Mech Tech, our engineering firm, and a report will be finalized on our feasibility study in time for this coming Tuesday’s Consistory meeting, and another construction manager is reviewing the drawings for a proposed building timeline.

Suffice it to say, the words of encouragement and hope that we are receiving from visitors, community members, and local organizations is very positive and

helpful. Many have reached out with suggestions for temporary space, and we are continuing to explore every option. All the continued prayers, hopes, and dreams are sustaining us, one another, in this exciting time and process. Thank you all for every way you are participating. Updates will continue to be provided weekly, as we have them, during announcements on Sunday morning and in this format as well.

We remain grateful for our time together at 1125 Mahoning Street and hopeful in our way forward.

Upcoming Worship

March 19, 2023 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

“What Really Matters?”

Luke 9:22-25, 51-53, 10:41-42

Worship Leader: Jen Arnold

Lector: Cory Mahon

Acolyte: Charley Jo Kister

Flowers: Kathy, Steve, and Jane Rowe

Coffee Hour Sponsor: Susie Gearhart

Offering Counter: S. Brown; D. Spear

March 26, 2023 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

“How Did We Get Here?”

Luke 19:7-10, 18:31-34, 22:24-27

Worship Leader: Jen Arnold

Lector: Rev. Ed. Prowant

Acolyte: Kadence Gill

Flowers: Available

Coffee Hour Sponsor: Kathy Showers

Offering Counter: A. Mahon; D. Spear

March Greeter/Usher Team: Bill & Lisa Bernard, Rhonda Newton, Dave & Barb Wagner, Chris Warner, Sue Mahon

Faith & Family -Time & Talents

Faith Formation

- **Sunday Morning Jump-Start** –Parlor at 9:15a
- **Children’s Church** (ages 3 to 2nd grade) – during a portion of our 10:30 Worship
- **Confirmation** – 5p Sunday evenings through May
- **Youth & Family Gatherings** – 2nd and 4th Sundays at 5 to 7p. March 26, April 16
- **Quarterly Special Events** – 2nd to 5th graders, select Sundays 5 to 7 p.m. TBA
- **Monday Morning Reflections** –Parlor at 11a
- **Wednesday Interactive** –Parlor at 6:05p

- **Fourth Friday Word, Wine & Wisdom**-Union Cellars, Lewisburg 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. Meeting again on March 24. All are welcome.
- **We are reading the Gospel of Luke for Lent** – Pick up a chapter reading list by date at church.

Music

- **Chancel Choir** – Rehearsing at 9a on Sundays in the Sanctuary choir loft.
- **Bell Choir** – Wednesdays at 5p. in the Music Room. Returning in March.
- **Children’s Choir** –Sunday mornings at 10

Fellowship

- **Sunday Morning Coffee Hour** – Every Sunday at 10 in Fellowship Hall
- **Faith Family Meal** – 4th Sunday of each month immediately following Worship. Our next meal together is Sunday, March 19, an Irish Celebration of corned beef & cabbage, colcannon potatoes. Bring a side or dessert to share!
- **Friends Who Breakfast** – 2nd or 3rd Wednesdays at 9:30a Next on April 12 at Silvermoon.
- **Community Research Project** – Dates & Times TBD

A Way to Serve Others

- **Volunteer Monday** – from noon to 2p. Every level of assistance is needed, and we have a great time in fellowship and laughter.
- **Blood Mobile Canteen** – Select Wednesdays (every other month) and scheduled again for March 29 from 1 to 6p
- **Fresh Express** – 1 to 5p on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays scheduled next for March 23, April 13 and 27
- **The Little Red Wagon** – Available weekly in support of our emergency food pantry and neighborhood needs.
- **Sharing Our Tables** – Bi-monthly community meal program in conjunction with area churches and scheduled again for Sunday, April 16

Saint Paul's United Church of Christ
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Pastor's Email: PastorTim@spuccwm.org
Church Website: <https://www.spuccwm.org>