



# Saint Paul's Possibilities

January 5, 2024

News & Ways to Plug In

## Powered by Grace and Coffee

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Family,

By now, most of you have likely heard of the passing of Russ, Russ Wynn, Jr., our beloved Minister of Music. That is the most clinical definition possible I believe, as Russ was not just a title or position. Russ was and will forever be considered a wonderful member of this family and faith community, and mostly as a beautiful child of God.

We were honored to share a piece of his life's journey with he and Mike. Russ came to Saint Paul's six years ago, seeking a more inclusive place to share in ministry for he and Mike and their God-given gifts and talents. Russ attempted to formally enter into ministry when he was young, just coming out of high school and college. He was told at that time there would not be a place for him in ministry as a result of his "lifestyle." Russ went on to pursue sharing his gifts and talents in other ways and became a teacher at all levels of education - from elementary to college.

Russ directed multiple musical groups and was involved in the local theater community and was proud of his students and all their accomplishments. One dedication to him that I read yesterday said, "Mr. Wynn and I didn't see eye to eye often (he was tough on his students and expected the best), however, I learned and now know, what he did for me. His mentoring and leadership made me who I am today and I am forever grateful." And there were others, many other memorials and dedications to Russ lauding his accomplishments and teaching. Russ had a beautiful gift and well, quite frankly, I believe we can thank the people that said there is no place for you in ministry because that just made him work harder and his living, being, and sharing God's gifts proved them wrong.

Russ quickly found his way into the ministry in the church too, this time instead of just preaching, he found his way into music ministry. Russ served most of his life as a minister of music, mostly in one church before coming to Saint Paul's. When Russ faced the adversity and challenges of being all God created him to be, first in the church, then in community, and again in the church, he, quite frankly never let that stop him. Thanks be to God! He continued on, being open to where God would lead, and God led him to a place where there was no judgment, only love and acceptance, which again allowed him to share his God given talents and gifts in amazing ways, preaching and teaching through music.

Russ's commitment and dedication to sharing the gifts God had given him and blessed all who were fortunate enough to know him were never to be denied. God had great plans for him and used him in amazing ways no matter what barriers others tried to enforce. The notes of sympathy and condolences, the notes of great gratitude and accolades over the past 24 hours alone are but a tiny proof of the amazing man God gifted the world with, in him. And I am grateful the Holy brought us together and him to this faith community.

*Please continue reading Pastor Tim's reflection on page 3...*

## Please Join Us in Praying For ...

Linda Beaver	Ira Ranck
Charlotte Beshore	Sherri Schrieber
Jeanie Council	Paul Shaner
The Engle Family	Mel Swanger
Gail Ernest	Thomas Ward, Jr.
Greyson Greenawalt	Wynn-Haven Family
Ruth Henry	Mental Health Needs
Katy Mahon	World Peace
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.*



# The Farm Report

## This Week @ The Farm

Jan 8 – Monday Morning Reflections 11:30 am  
Jan 10 – Lunch with the Pastor 11:30  
Jan 10 – Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:15 pm  
Jan 10 – Wednesday Interactive 6:30 pm  
Jan 11 – Fresh Express 3-5 pm - volunteers @ 1:00  
Jan 14 – Children & Youth Lock In (see article)

## The Little Red Wagon

Our Little Red Wagon helps supply our Emergency Food Pantry, which continues to come in very handy for our neighbors, especially this time of year. Here are some items that could use replenishing. If you would like to help in this way, you may drop off items in the little red wagon on Sunday mornings or drop off throughout the week as well.

Stove Top Stuffing	Instant Mashed Potatoes
Spaghetti	Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Pineapple	Strawberry Jam
Canned Pears	Grape Jam
Canned Carrots	Peanut Butter
Canned Potatoes	Oatmeal
Canned Peas	Cereal
Veg Beef Soup	Cranberry Sauce
Canned Tuna	Paper Towels

## Church Lock-In

On Sunday, January 14, (Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Weekend) we will host our first church lock-in in many years! This is for children and youth, with dinner and activities. For children age pre-K to early Elementary (2<sup>nd</sup> grade), come from 5 to 7 p.m. for a breakfast themed dinner and a movie. Kids are encouraged to bring a sleeping bag. Then for upper Elementary (3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up) / Middle School – starting by 8 p.m... a movie, pizza, games, and maybe a bowling outing prior), again bring your sleeping bags because you are invited to spend the night at the church (with adult supervision). High school aged children are invited for the entire evening, all activities and special activities. Sign-up here at the church at the Sanctuary Welcome Desk starting this week!

## All Church Year in Review and 2023 Ministry Celebrations

Sunday, January 21, 2024, immediately following Worship... Come for worship, join us for the celebration, and stay for lunch! Speaking of lunch, are you ready for a Chili Cookoff!

## Chili Cookoff

Sunday, January 21, 2024! Think you have the best Chili recipe? Let's put your recipe to the test! Immediately following our All Church 2023 Ministry Celebration we will host another first, a Chili Cookoff @ The Farm as our January meal. You are invited to bring your crockpot of Chili for tasting and sharing. Don't have a favorite family recipe or you're not a chili fan? Then, bring another dish to share, cornbread, salad, baked potatoes, desserts, whatever works for you. A sign-up sheet will be in Fellowship Hall beginning this week, Sunday, December 31! Bring on the Chili!

## Valentine's Day

What are you doing for Valentine's Day? Here's an offer of great love and significance. Wednesday, February 14, 2024, is also Ash Wednesday. If you are inclined, you may join members of your faith family first for a soup and sandwich meal at 6 p.m. and then for worship at 7 p.m. as a time to both celebrate Valentine's Day and mark the beginning of the season of Lent with a time of reflections and imposition of ashes. We hope you will plan to join your family here for this momentous occasion, as there was no greater love than this of which we honor and remember in this season.

## 2024 Altar Flowers

If you wish to reserve a Sunday in 2024 to sponsor Altar Flowers, please contact the church office. Or, you may use the online form on the homepage of our website. Flowers are \$50 and are beautifully arranged by our own Susie Gearhart at The Blooming Rooster in Lewisburg.

## A Night of Tails, Talents, Spaghetti & Meatballs

Coming Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 5 p.m., the famous Palazzo Family Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner will be the start of a great evening of food, lots of fun, and amazing talent and fellowship! What talent will you share? What talent will you share with your church community? Comedic, musical, anecdotal, whatever your talent, we want to experience it with you! Reach out to Gloria to sign up to share your talent or to the office to help provide desserts for the evening!

### Snow!!!

Church will always (at least that's the plan) be open. Your attendance in church on snowy or inclement weather days is at your discretion. Please, we beg you, stay safe, and make the best and safest decision for you and your family as to whether to travel to the church in inclement weather. While we know nothing replaces being here in person, if we have internet and electric, we will live stream the service as per normal.

### New Member Sunday!

Sunday, January 21, 2024 will be our first new member Sunday of the year! If you are considering membership in this faith community, please reach out to Pastor Tim for questions and more information! Membership in this faith community is open to all and required by none, much like our communion table. We pray you will consider joining as a member and reach out to Pastor Tim to learn more.

### Volunteer Opportunities

The dates for January's Fresh Express Food Distributions are: Thursday, January 11, and Thursday, January 25. Come join in fellowship @ The Farm from 1 to 5 p.m. as we unload the truck from the Central PA Food Bank and sort and distribute to our neighbors, now reaching 180+ families in our community! And, mark your calendar for the January 22 Harvest Meal at St. Andrews in Milton and in conjunction with the Bucknell Office of Civic Engagement, from 1 to 5 p.m. Always wonderful to help others!

### Coffee Hour

Each Sunday 10 a.m. to 10:30, join your church family around the tables in Fellowship Hall for coffee, hot tea, and a bite of breakfast. If you would like to sponsor Coffee Hour, please sign up on the sheet just inside Fellowship Hall.

## Celebrations

Jan 6 – Happy Birthday Matt Cardellino  
Jan 6 – Happy Birthday Brad Gill  
Jan 8 – Happy Birthday Steve Anderson  
Jan 8 – Happy Birthday Ken Bennett  
Jan 9 – Happy Birthday Ryan Arnold  
Jan 10 – Happy Birthday Tracy Baylor  
Jan 13 – Happy Birthday Ray Leeser  
Jan 13 – Happy Birthday Piper Wolfe



*Pastor Tim's reflection continues...*

It was Russ' wishes that his earthly body could be used to help in some way to find a cure so others someday may not have to face all he and Mike did. Once that study is over, in three to five weeks, Russ' earthly remains, his ashes will be returned to Mike and his family. It was Russ' wishes at that time that a memorial celebration of his life would take place at Saint Paul's. A detailed announcement of that celebration will be shared, as we know more.

I will miss Russ very much, as I know so many of us will. His love, his laughter, his nudging the choir to pay attention to the words they are singing, yet I believe he is now in a better place, fully healed, fully able to sing praise to God once again! It is with a grateful heart that I give thanks for the life of Russ Wynn, Jr., thankful nothing ever stopped him from being all God created him to be! Let his legacy be his life's example of always pursuing who God creates us to be, sharing the gifts God bestows upon us all, and let nothing stop us from serving and loving one another. Russ did these things, let us live into that example as well, not letting adversity stop us either!

There is a verse I'd like to close this message with from Psalm 59:16. In this verse, I can't help but hear Russ:

*"But I will sing of your might; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.  
For you have been a fortress for me and a refuge in the day of my distress."*

Thanks be to God!

*Peace, Pastor Tim*

## 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. On January 10 we will gather to begin wrapping up "Everybody Always." All are welcome to jump in for this great discussion.

### 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. **Jan 11 & 25**

### 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday's Family Meal** - We gather around the tables monthly for good eats and good times!

**January 21 All-Church Potluck Chili Cookoff following worship**

### 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. **January 22**

### Breakfast with Friends

Gather at the Silver Moon Restaurant on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. for a time to catch up and share stories in a small group setting. **January 17 (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. **January 26**

## Stewardship

### Gifts & Offerings December 31, 2023

*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: 396 Virtual Reach: 5,076  
Attendance In Person: 102 (3 Visitors)

Plate Giving	\$ 8,538.57
Loose Plate	\$ 244.00
Online Giving	\$ <u>641.45</u>
Operational Total	\$ 9,424.02
General Restricted Giving	\$ <u>1,326.43</u>
Total Giving	\$ 10,750.45

## Upcoming Worship

### January 7, 2024 –Epiphany Sunday

"Star Child"

Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Worship Leader: Drew Faust

Lector: Shelly Sholley

Acolyte: Lillie Franciscus

Flowers: Available

Breakfast Sponsor: Franciscus Family

Offering Counter: A. Mahon; D. Spear

### January 14, 2024

### Second Sunday after the Epiphany

"Something's Happening Here!"

I Samuel 3:1-11; John 1:43-51

Worship Leader: Drew Faust

Lector: Alaina Taylor

Acolyte: Cato Kazibwe

Flowers: Available

Breakfast Sponsor: Dennis & Deb Burns

Offering Counter: D. Bettleyon; D. Spear

*January Greeter/Usher Team: Don & Peggy Emory,  
Amy Mahon, Rhonda Newton, Sue Mahon, Reba  
Rohrer, Donna & Gary Bennett, Drew Faust*

