



SAINT PAUL'S NEWS

welcoming saints and sinners since 1900

February 24, 2021

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

The Israelites and Us...

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

Lent, a season of waiting, a season of reflection, a season of preparation. Lent is a season of change.

Ecclesiastes three begins: “There's a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens...” The text goes on giving times and season references for a multitude of life's events, affirming for everything there is a season. Even in this season of the pandemic there is time.

It seems to me that in this season, in this year particularly, we are seeking and searching extra hard to discover what changes are awaiting our future. Will we soon be able to get back together in worship, who will be gathering with us when we meet for worship? I know some are beginning to cry out as the Israelites in slavery, and wonder “how long O Lord, how long will you let your people suffer?” Believe me, I see and hear and feel your prayers as well.

This time is hard on all of us. We are coming to the end of winter, to the one-year anniversary of a pandemic-style virtual worship, and we are getting tired, just missing one another and hoping to soon return to whatever a new normal will look like.

I wanted to write today to share with you, your Pastor and Consistory know your longing, we share your longing. While infection rates are falling, we still have questions to answer,

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how will we come back together? How many can gather at one time? What are the requirements and restrictions around our meeting together?

While many precautions have been put in place, we hope and pray they are enough to keep us all safe when we do gather. We have sanitizers, thermometers, special cleaners and air filters already installed. We have volunteer medical professionals and community organizers to help coordinate changes that need to occur, and most of all we have one another on the journey. We are not alone.

Later this week our "Way Forward" Team, including members of staff, consistory, medical professionals and community representatives will gather to review plans, advise and seek ways that we may design a return to worship and what that will look like along with options of place and time.

The season has seemed long and drawn out, our hearts have experienced highs and lows and yet have longed to reconnect in community worship. While no plan will be foolproof and perfect, we do recognize the longing and weigh emotional health and physical health needs.

Please bear with us a little longer, please hold the leadership teams in your prayers as we work to discern our best way forward for this community of faith, through thoughtful examination and of the best data and information we may have available. As Earl Fisher says every week at the closing of our LIVE Stream service. "Stay safe, stay well and trust us, we will be together again when it is safe to do so." And I say to you, for everything there is a season. And this season too shall pass, and we shall gather together again.

Shalom,
Pastor Tim

In our daily prayers...

You are invited to join your faith family in prayer as we lift up:

- **Greyson Greenawalt**
- **All Front-line Health Care and Essential Workers**
- **Katy Mahon**
- **Mina Hoover**
- **Clarence Snider**
- **George Cartin**
- **Chris Lupo**
- **Nathan Rearick**
- **The Purcell Family**
- **Family of Sonja Swain**
- **Family of John Packer**
- The many who are suffering from the COVID virus, as well as all those caring for them at home and in hospitals and nursing facilities



***** News from Home *****

Saint Paul's Talent Show...Last Call!



Final Details:

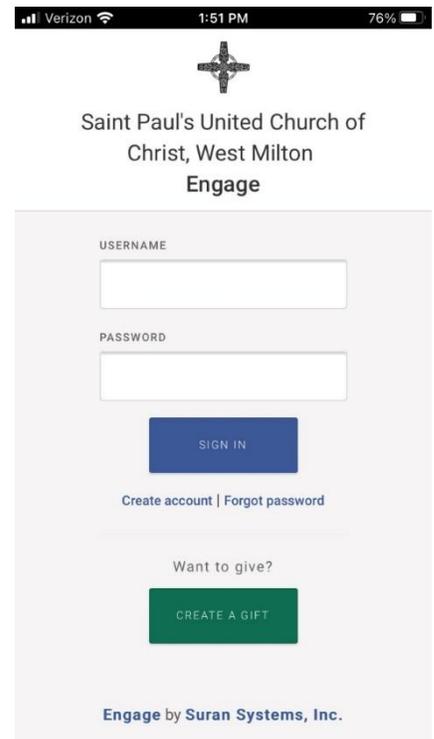
- All submissions are due to Russ Wynn by February 27.
- It's different, it's virtual!
- Record yourself using "landscape" mode.
- Sing, dance, play an instrument, read poetry, perform a monologue, anything goes!
- Email Russ with the subject line SPUCC Talent Show 2021 (russlw@gmail.com)
- Be sure to introduce yourself at the beginning of your recording
- Contact Russ or Crystal for accompaniment if needed asap!!

Engage!

Get Engaged with the new system that provides our Saint Paul's online directory, group lists, and giving information (including online giving if that is your preference). This replaces both our previous online directory and easyTithe.

Here's how:

- Go to <https://engage.suran.com/spuccwm> (or use the link at the bottom of the church website homepage OR point your camera app on your phone to the QR code below)
- Click on Create account (under the sign in button)
- Enter your email address (use the email address you use for church communications)
- Click Register
- Your name should populate, so click on your name
- Enter your preferred username and click the create username button
- You will receive an email from Engage to create your password
- Follow the prompts to create your password and then login
- *Make a note of your username and password and bookmark the site for future reference ;-)*
- Click on the three lines at the top right to see the information that is available for you



Word Cloud Read Out . . . A Message from Pastor Tim

Dear Family, In January, February and March of 2020 we held seven “Cottage Meetings” with the hope of having a readout during the Annual Meeting March 27, 2020 (canceled due to Covid-19). In the seven meetings we hosted, there were a series of three questions asked of all participants.

1. What brought you to / or keeps you here at Saint Paul’s, aka Why Saint Paul’s?
2. What are your hopes and dreams for Saint Paul’s?
3. How would you support those hopes and dreams?

With the time drawing near for us to return to in-person services and eventually events, I thought it was time I capture the responses in one place. I have captured them directly from the easel papers we used for those meetings. What you will find here are the responses in word clouds. The more a response was repeated, the bigger the words in the cloud.

My hope and reason for sharing these is that we, as the leadership team, are called to a place of action upon these hopes and dreams, to plan and move in a direction that will bring us closer to the dreams and the direction God would have for us as Saint Paul’s.

We have work to do, good work...Will you join me? Peace, Pastor Tim

Why Saint Paul’s?



What are your hopes & dreams for Saint Paul's?



How will you support your hopes & dreams for Saint Paul's?





Good News ... It was such a great experience to share a Christmas Pageant together... even if virtually. While we don't yet know what Easter will look like at Saint Paul's this year, we don't want to miss an opportunity to share together. So...we are planning a virtual Easter Pageant.

If you and your family are interested, please reach out to Colleen Franciscus (coll.franciscus@gmail.com) as soon as possible. Easter is only 6 weeks away! Join us as we celebrate the season together, one way or another.

*** Christian Education News ***

Sundays with David and Friends ... There's a great option for adult Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. led by David Reid. Each season, the group gathers via Zoom, and in this season, we are studying the Psalms. All are welcome. If you know nothing of the Bible or are a Bible guru, your voice and presence are welcome. Look for the group on Zoom. Meeting ID: 5705681433; Passcode 0501.

Monday Morning Preacher ... Every Monday morning at 10:30 a.m. we have a Bible Study group open to all. We gather, read anew Sunday's texts and enter into a discussion about the text from the first thing that comes to mind when we hear it anew to questioning and digging a little deeper. If you would like to participate in this group, all are welcome and all you have to do is bring your Bible or access to an online Bible and join in on Zoom. Meeting code: 570 568 1433 with passcode: 0501.

Home Brew Wednesdays ... This week's discussion... "God is with you in the Valley." Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., grab your favorite beverage and join us via Zoom! (Meeting ID: 5705681433; Passcode: 0501). We gather for our theological book discussion, share a few laughs, pray together, all from the comfort of our homes. Our current book for discussion is: **"You Are Never Alone: Trust in the Miracle of God's Presence and Power"** by Max Lucado. This book takes us through the Gospel of John and the miracles he recorded, asking some life-searching questions.

*** Mission News ***

One Great Hour of Sharing ... The theme for the 2021 One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering is "Let Love Flow." As a 5 for 5 missional giving congregation, this is the first of our Special Mission Offerings of the wider United Church of Christ. Please stop by the church to pick up a "Let Love Flow" coin box, drop in all your loose change through Palm Sunday, March 28, when the boxes will be collected in a drive-by offering.





A view from camp.

June 2021 Mission Trip ... Take Me Home Country Roads...to a place where we are planning our 2021 Summer Mission Trip! We will depart, Sunday, June 6, following worship and return Saturday, June 12. We will spend a week in the mountains and hills around Pipestem, West Virginia, helping our neighbors there. We'll stay in cabins, possibly have our own chef along for some great food, if history repeats. We will be offered several cultural adventures around the area after each

day's work. We are excited to be able to offer this great opportunity for our church family! Schedule your vacation time now and plan to join us June 6 to June 12, 2021! There will be something to do for everyone! Oh, and we have some great experienced Mission Trip leaders going with us too!

*** Upcoming Events and Celebrations ***

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| Wed., Feb. 24 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Church Office Open
6:30 p.m. Home Brew Wednesdays/Zoom |
| Thur., Feb. 25 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Church Office Open
2 p.m. to 5 p.m. – Fresh Express Food Distribution |
| Fri., Feb. 26 | Happy Birthday Brandon Reid
Happy Anniversary Richard and Amy Armstrong
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Church Office Open |
| Sun., Feb. 28 | Happy Birthday James Swan
Happy Anniversary Mark and Dianne Covert
9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship LIVE
https://www.facebook.com/saintpaulswestmilton
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx534qz98pw4lEcpsJznLnw |
| Mon., Mar. 1 | Happy Birthday Derek Helwig
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Church Office Open
10:30 a.m. Monday Morning Preacher Bible Study |
| Tues., Mar. 2 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Church Office Open |

