



Saint Paul's Possibilities

February 2, 2024

News & Ways to Plug In

Powered by Grace and Coffee Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

I received a phone call from a retired church executive this week who said, "You know I have asked a lot of questions about who Saint Paul's is, how people find you, and to what you attribute your church growth - and I think I've figured it out." I laughed, and wondered where the conversation was going. I soon found out as she shared, "You all embody the love you speak of." As I reflect on her analysis, I believe that is a wonderful, but precarious place to be in. When you work to embody love, to make it who you are, you are never out of something to do.

Saint Paul's will be 124 years old in October of this year. One hundred twenty-four is a long time to practice loving one another. It's 124 years of sometimes getting it wrong and sometimes getting it right and here we are in 2024 still trying and still working to get it right. I appreciated her, someone on the outside looking in, complimenting this family by saying, "We embody love." I also know we have grace for one another and we continue to try and try again. Love, being love, being the church who follows Christ's lead to love, takes personal awareness of every member and friend of the church and it takes grace.

Love, for us to be whom I believe God created and calls us to be, must overshadow every conversation from business and financial to serving our neighbors, to worshipping and fellowshiping with family whether it is where a few or many are gathered. Love takes the place of, "Well, you know most churches..." or "Well, you know people like to..." or "Well, we meant it in jest..." or "Well, that's just the way it is..." The way it is and the way it must be is love. There's no hidden agenda. If you are asking yourself, "I wonder why he wrote this?" Was someone doing or saying something? And the answer is, yes and no, nothing in particular. I believe we all just need to be reminded daily, we are on a journey to love. We must strive daily to share the love of God and God's presence in everything we do.

In order to get there, we must remember not to make things about ourselves. In fact, the older I get, the more I realize there isn't much in life that is about us individually. It is about who we are as children of God. There is nothing that separates us from one another - but us - and that's not who we are created to be. One of the saddest things in my life is when the "church" takes stands that exclude others, that withhold God's love because someone doesn't do or act the way the

majority feel they should. People begin to talk and get others to agree with them. And thus, people walk away because who can feel safe in a place where there are exceptions to being loved? Talking about others behind others' backs isn't love, is it? It's human nature, yes, but not love. See what I mean about how we must be diligent with the radical love Jesus lived and taught and called us to, because sometimes it goes against our learned nature or our cultural expectations?

I am so fascinated by this faith family, I understand why others are too, because when I see Saint Paul's I see a big "mixed salad," as one church official called us. Because she said, "Every piece of the salad maintains its integrity and flavor, yet mixes with the rest to create something even greater." And I would add: "Especially when it's bathed in love." This faith community is made up of a few people who have been here for most of their lives and a lot of people who have been here maybe five years at the most. This family welcomes people from all over. Love spreads from this place across five counties and numerous towns surrounding us. Love brings us together and binds us together as family. And this is where it is precarious: It takes our diligence to not allow words or actions to separate us, to overshadow any part of who we are, from serving, to fellowshiping, to worshipping, to just being. It takes diligence of always leading with love.

Love, so simple and so strong, and yet so easy to complicate. Fragile at times, too. And so we are called to nurture it and be diligent about its practice and actions. We are to be mindful of our words, our tone, our intentions, and our actions - diligent and active in our radicalness of its use. Love, I pray you never tire of hearing about love, because I believe my friend and colleague knows of what she spoke, we embody love. Thanks be to God.

Love, Pastor Tim

Please Join Us in Praying For ...

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Linda Beaver | Al & Ruth Henry |
| Pat Bender | Katy Mahon |
| Cookie Breining | Paul Shaner |
| Jeanie Council | Jaelynn Walker |
| The Engle Family | Thomas Ward, Jr. |
| Gail Ernest | Wynn-Haven Family |
| Greyson Greenawalt | 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.



The Farm Report

General Store @ The Farm (opening soon)

As a part of our growing service to neighbors and friends, we are expanding our footprint here @ **The Farm**. We have negotiated the lease of the building at 220 Brookpark Circle (the yellow building facing Reitz Boulevard on your left as you enter the parking lot) and plan to begin operating Fresh Express from that space next week, February 8, 2024. On Monday of this week, 15 volunteers arrived there to begin working on the space - spackling, painting, cleaning and moving items from our emergency pantry over to the new space. Our hope is that we will be able to live into more of our dreams utilizing that space.

The **General Store @ the Farm** will house Fresh Express, an expanded Emergency Pantry (to include more items), and a non-profit partnership space allowing and encouraging other agencies in the area to connect neighbors with resources. All this will be housed on the north end of the building. The south end of the building will be made available to community support groups, our youth gathering space, and a new beginners meditative yoga class for members and friends, to name a few. The possibilities and opportunity is here.

As for Fresh Express, the space will allow for better traffic flow, expanded workspace and protection from the weather for more of our volunteers. Those opportunities led us to dream more of our dreams. Suffice it to say we are extremely excited!

The **General Store @ The Farm** will be manned by volunteers with set hours to offer kindness, a place for conversation, and help for our neighbors. What else will you find @ The General Store? Watch for rockers on the porch soon

Something is happening here...and that something is love.

Friday, February 9 ~ 4:00 p.m.

You are invited to join your faith family at 433 High Street, West Milton to walk through one last time before we close on the sale of the building. Pastor Tim will offer a final closing prayer in the Sanctuary at 4:30 p.m. Anyone who wishes to remain to help with moving final items from the building would be appreciated.

Calling all Artists, Crafters, & the Curious

We are working on a series of events / classes which will be open to everyone. With so many talented artists in our midst, we thought why not take them up on offers for some classes as a way to have fun, fellowship, and raise money for missions all at the same time. The classes will be one meeting each, supplies will be provided, and the opportunity for fun will be available. Some of the classes we are working to schedule are: Watercolors with Reba Roher, Floral Arranging with Susie Gearhart, Colored Pencil Art with Barbara Baker, Scrap Booking with Lisa Bernard, and Knitting with Rhonda Newton. The cost of the classes will be determined by the supplies and anything over the cost of supplies will be put towards our Outreach and Missions for 2024!

Lenten Wednesday Interactive

During the Lenten Season we will be sharing a message and Lenten journey of "More Love..." The messages will be based off of a few book studies and small group discussions. One of the groups that has spent time focusing on Love over the past Fall and now in early winter is our Wednesday Night Interactive group. On Wednesday February 21, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, we will embark on a new study. No books needed. However, we will read a Biblical text each week and focus on points of following Jesus in crazy radical love of neighbor. While this will be a different study for us, it should be interesting and very engaging as we share in our small group. All are welcome and each week will connect in a seven-step series "*The Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus Centered Life*." I promise you it will be anything but boring. Come and find out...to borrow an old phrase: "here's the church, (while we may not have a steeple) we are some crazy Jesus loving people." See you 6:30 p.m. @ Wednesday Interactive in Fellowship Hall. Watch this space for the scripture reading and some preview questions for our first Lenten session. You, yes you, are welcome to come explore with us.

Our Church Mailing Address

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.

You are invited to a night of ...

Tails, Talents, Spaghetti & Meatballs



Sunday, February 11
Dinner at 4.15 p.m.
followed by a fabulous talent
show for all ages.

Saint Paul's @ The Farm
50 Brookpark Circle, Lewisburg

Free will offering to benefit local Missions and Music

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.

Our Neighbors' Pantry

Our little red wagon has been helping us supply our Emergency Food Pantry for over three years now. And wow, it has supplied many a meal for many families, helping fill our pantry and thus our neighbors' pantries, too. Thank you. Please know your donations mean so much to so many people. Currently our prevalent needs are **grocery and gas gift cards**. To help in this way, you may place gift cards in the offering plate or drop them by the office. Again, thank you for all you do! Being the church, serving our neighbors, it's who we are called to be.

Annual Report F.A.Q.

This week we received a call concerning the annual report asking how we arrive at our percentages for each of the budget categories. Each one is a calculation of a percentage of staff, building expenses, and category appropriate items. For instance Music and Worship includes 25% of the salaries of the pastor and a percentage of each staff member, as well as a percentage of building expenses. It's a great question and we are happy to clarify any time you may have a question.

Celebrations

Feb 4 – Happy Birthday April Masker
Feb 4 – Happy Birthday Christine Parker
Feb 9 – Happy Birthday Makaila Huff
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 Anniversary
Jane Rowe & Michael Humphries



"Love More"

In this coming season of Lent and Easter, Pastor Tim will be sharing messages focusing on Jesus' life examples to "Love More." This past week, Lisa Bernard stumbled upon a young lady by the name of Grace who started her own business with her mom which they call "candidly kind." First, if you want to read a bit about Grace and her company, you may check out her website at www.candidlykind.com and click on "Meet Grace," her story is quite remarkable. You will most likely fall in love with this young lady, her zest for life and sharing light and love, not to mention how much she helps others through her dedication to supporting non-profits from her business. Grace has designed her 2024 collection of apparel with a message of, you guessed it "More Love." Lisa reached out to Grace, shared a bit of our story and Grace offered us a substantial discount if we would like to place an order with a minimum of 20 pieces. She's 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. With this in mind, we wondered if this is something we may be interested in? Before you decide, let us share that you will be offering a newly designed Saint Paul's @ The Farm t-shirt this spring. For now, however 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.



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. We are currently wrapping up "Everybody Always." All are welcome to jump in for this great discussion. 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 8 & 22**

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 January 28, 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: 840 Virtual Reach:

Attendance In Person: 110 (3 Visitors)

Christian Education:

Plate Giving	\$ 2,389.58
Loose Plate	\$ 274.00
Online Giving	\$ <u>1,983.49</u>
Operational Total	\$ 4,647.07
General Restricted Giving	\$ <u>313.07</u>
Total Giving	\$ 4,960.14

2023 Giving Statements and Annual Report were distributed on Sunday, January 21. If you did not receive yours, please stop by the church office during office hours.

Upcoming Worship

February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

"A Hard Left"

Isaiah 40:21-31, 10; Mark 1:29-39

Worship Leader: Jen Arnold

Lector: Dave Muffley Acolyte: Bo Gill

Flowers: Mike Haven Breakfast: The Kisters

Offering Counter: S. Brown; D. Spear

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



Saint Paul's @ the Farm
A United Church of Christ Community

50 Brookpark Circle, Lewisburg, PA 17837

Church Office Contact: 570-568-1433 / admin@spuccwm.org

Pastor's Email: PastorTim@spuccwm.org

Church Website: <https://www.spuccwm.org>