



Saint Paul's Possibilities

February 9, 2023

News & Ways to Plug In

Powered by Grace and Coffee

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

God in the details...

I was reminded this week of God's presence in the details when one of our youth looked at me and said, "By Jesus looking at Matthew, he was letting him know, in that look, that it was going to be ok, right?" Wait, what? You saw that? You caught that small, three-second clip in the middle of the chaos in the show?

We had just finished watching "The Chosen" in Confirmation Class, we had a round table discussion about what our youth saw and experienced in the episode, and everyone was picking up their stuff, and heading out the door. And this one young man stopped to share with me his takeaway. He hadn't mentioned it when the class was responding. In fact, he was quiet with his head down then. But that didn't mean he hadn't seen it and was wrestling with it a bit, which brought him to his understanding. This detail mattered.

In the chaos, and laughter, and instructions to "Please lay your phones face down," in the poking each other, and the sibling banter, God was in the midst of all of it. And yes, I choose to believe every one of the youth get it, in their way and in their time. No, not all the same way. Not in some grandiose way, but they get it. I hope it's because they are in a safe space to speak and be heard and be respected.

It also confirms something else for me: details matter! Details of how we act and react, how we treat one another, how we serve one another, how we act-out our faith, even how we look at one another. Those details matter and are being noticed, much more so than the words we say. I haven't repeated this for a while, but the saying that impacted me so hard in seminary from St. Francis was this: "Preach the Gospel always, use words only when necessary." I believe putting it another way, we could say, "Everything we do and say should be

preaching the Gospel of Jesus. Every detail matters."

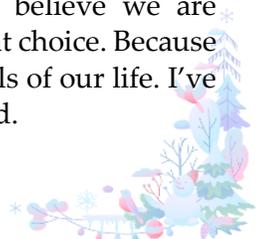
Oh, I went to church and I attended Bible Study and, so what if I don't like that person or talk badly about him or her or step in front of those people, or try to manipulate my way, or look out for me and my family first, I have to take care of myself you know? Others are watching you. Even if they aren't or you think no one sees or knows your motivation, then what? It's ok? No, I believe the details in our living matter. We all make mistakes. We all fall short. And yes, grace covers us all. And Jesus gave and gives us that grace over and over. But in that grace, we are called to make a difference, to try to do better in the details of our living. Are we trying to continually do better, serve in greater ways, live in more loving ways for our neighbor, every neighbor, is that what the details of our living show?

I believe this is the journey we are on to create and live into God's Kingdom - Heaven right here where we are, when we continually consider the details of our living and ask ourselves, "Is what I'm doing in this moment living and preaching the Gospel of Christ?" "Am I doing things to create safe space for all?" "Am I serving the poor and hungry?" "Am I helping the marginalized?" "Am I paying attention to others? No, not just giving a cursory glance - but truly paying attention?"

Multiple times as of late I have caught myself feeling a way about something, getting frustrated with situations and at a point following my frustration. I have heard and learned more of the details that helped me to understand the situation a little better, that led me to soften or rethink my response. And it happened because I assumed and didn't take time to seek to understand the details. Pay attention to life's details and look for God in every one of them.

I think what you might find will change you. For every time we encounter God, I believe we are changed for the better. We have that choice. Because I guarantee you God is in the details of our life. I've discovered it every time I've looked.

Peace, Pastor Tim



Would You Join Us in Praying For...

Linda Beaver	Tammy Moore
Judy Brown	Katy Mahon
Heather Council	Kasey Milheim
Family of Jerry Deweese	Ruby Mitch
The Engle Family	Newton/Anderson Family
Gail Ernest	Mary Renninger
Dave Fulton	Valerie Ritter
April Giumento	Chuck Schworer
Greyson Greenawalt	Greg Trawitz
Dave Humphries	Terry Watson
Joanna Johnson	Mason Wuerdeman
The Leeser Family	Wynn-Haven Family

Updates to our prayer list are made weekly from our Prayers and Love Facebook group and by calling the church office.

On the Journey Together

You Are Invited ...

Saint Paul's Annual
Meat-a-Balls, Spaghetti
&
Talent Round Up!

Dinner begins a 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 19
followed by a fabulous talent
show for all ages

Free will offering to benefit local Missions and Music

Saint Paul's United Church of Christ
1125 Mahoning Street, Milton



Word, Wine, and Wisdom

Join your Saint Paul's Family on Friday, February 24, at Union Cellars, Lewisburg. Drop in anytime between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. This is a brand new gathering which combines fellowship and conversation and an opportunity to get to know each other better. Bring your questions, share your thoughts, or just stop and spend some time in fellowship. It's a safe space for all in a relaxed environment, and if the weather permits, we can be inside or out. Oh, and you don't have to have a glass of wine, it just happens to be that wine is available in this setting. See you at the UC!

Sharing Our Gifts

Sharing Our Tables

The next "Sharing Our Tables" Community Meal is Sunday, February 12, from 4-5 p.m. If you signed up to help with providing brownies, you may bring them to the church Saturday morning between 10 a.m. and noon or on Sunday morning. And, if you want to prep them ahead of time for the meal, please cut them to 4 x 4 inches and put one per zip lock baggie. As always, thank you ALL for all you do in love and support of all our neighbors. There are still a few spots open to help a bit on Saturday morning between 10 a.m. and noon and on Sunday between noon and 3p.m.

February Little Red Wagon

For the month of February, our Emergency Food Pantry is in need of a bit of restocking. If you wish to help our neighbors and families in need, please consider picking up a few extra items on your next grocery shopping trip and placing them in the little red wagon in the Narthex anytime during the week or on Sunday morning. *Did you know this was Pastor's Tim's Little Red Wagon when he was a kid? (And no, it didn't have square wheels originally.)* Our emergency pantry has been utilized almost daily in the past week. So, thank you for all you do, as the needs have increased, you have increased your support of this ministry. Your help in this way will go a long way to showing God's love to others. Here are the items that are needed:

Apple Sauce	Peanut Butter
Grape or Strawberry Jelly	Canned Chicken
Box Mac and Cheese	Instant Potatoes
Canned Mandarin Oranges	Toilet Paper
Dish Soap	Laundry Detergent
Paper Towels	Toothpaste



Saint Paul's Celebrations

February 9 – Happy Birthday Makaila Huff

February 14 – Happy Anniversary to
Diane & Dick Bettleyon
Carol & Bobby Snyder

February 18 – Happy Birthday David Kazibwe

(If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please let our office know)



Stewardship

Gifts & Offerings February 5, 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: 444

Virtual Reach: 3,894

Attendance In Person: 99 (7 Visitors)

Christian Formation: 29

Plate Giving \$ 2,732.00

Loose Plate \$ 156.00

Online Giving \$ 386.23

Operational Total \$ 3,274.23

Restricted Giving \$ 520.00

Total Giving \$ 3,794.23

Financial Best Practices

Continuing to share questions and answers from "Healthy Church Financial Practices," ... Question: How many accounts does the church have in which the Financial Team manages and oversees?

Answer: Saint Paul's has five accounts, four liquid fund accounts and one investment account. The liquid accounts are: an operational checking account, a restricted checking account, a debit card only account, and a savings account. All of these accounts are set up with multiple control mechanisms in place.

The operations account is where funds given without designation are deposited for the operations of the church, be it salaries, utilities, Christian formation, and hospitality, for example. The restricted account is for giving that is designated for a specific purpose such as the food pantry or missions to help with purchasing groceries, utilities or rent assistance as well as for music ministry or flowers. These monies go into the restricted account, are tracked as such, and can only be used for the specified designation. While monies from operations must sometimes be used to make up the difference in funds on hand for restricted expenses the opposite can never be true. This is why when asked if we would rather have monies given to restricted or operations, we always suggest operations as that account can cover everything.

The debit account is a very limited use account, never has more than \$1,000 in the account at any one time and typically is used to hold funds should a specific expense need to be paid for with a debit /

credit card. For instance, if there is a hotel room needed for someone who is seeking shelter, the amount for the room can be transferred directly from the restricted account under the category "missions" in order to track it appropriately. This account is monitored closely, is set up to send an email to our bookkeeper every time it is used and all income and expenses are monitored and certified monthly with receipts, by both the bookkeeper and the treasurer.

The last liquid fund account is the general savings account where excess balances are deposited in order to make the church's funds work for the church in gaining interests. These funds are easily accessible should a need arise to pull funds from the reserve account and again this account is tracked, monitored, and reviewed monthly.

Coming next week in our Financial Best Practices is check handling & envelope giving.

Upcoming Worship

February 12, 2023

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

"He Asks for More"

I Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

Worship Leader: Kelly Kazibwe

Lector: Rev. Ed Prowant

Acolyte: Emerson Council

Flowers: Diane Bettleyon

Coffee Hour Sponsor: Diane B. & Donna S.

Offering Counter: S. Brown; D. Spear

February 19, 2023

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

"Transfiguration?"

II Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Worship Leader: Kelly Kazibwe

Lector: Olivia Hockenbrock

Acolyte: Bo Gill

Flowers: Gary & Donna Bennett

Coffee Hour Sponsor: Susie G. & Donna S.

Offering Counter: A. Mahon; D. Spear

February Greeter/Usher Team: Richard & Amy Armstrong, Earl & Terri Fisher, Amy Mahon, Sue Mahon, Judy Brown

Saint Paul's United Church of Christ 
Church Address: 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847
Church Office Contact: 570-568-1433 / admin@spuccwm.org
Pastor's Email: PastorTim@spuccwm.org
Church Website: <https://www.spuccwm.org>

WWF Update

In this edition of our “Weekly Way Forward Update” we share that we have been in discussions this week with our Conference office about our way forward, we are negotiating the final sales contract for the 10-acre parcel of land, we have a meeting Monday, February 13, about our temporary space solution and Tuesday about 433 High Street use for Face-to-Face Church (rescheduled from last week). We are still anticipating a meeting with Church Building & Loan Foundation to discuss next steps, and we have been contacted by one of the construction firms hoping to help us provide all we need for the feasibility study which is in process. As more information becomes available, we will update you as quickly as possible and share during a 2-minute update each Sunday at the end of announcements. Please continue to keep your Board, Pastor, and all those involved in this process in your prayers.

Faith & Family -Time & Talents #spuconthejourneytogether

Faith Formation

- **Sunday Morning Jump-Start** – Meeting at 9:15 a.m. in the Parlor
- **Children’s Church** (ages 3 to 2nd grade) – during a portion of our 10:30 a.m. Worship
- **Confirmation** – Meeting at 5 p.m. each Sunday evening through May
- **Youth & Family Gatherings** – 2nd and 4th Sundays at 5 to 7 p.m. February 12 & 26
- **(New) Quarterly Special Events** – 2nd to 5th graders, select Sundays 5 to 7 p.m.
- **Monday Morning Reflections** – Meeting at 11 a.m. in the Parlor
- **Wednesday Interactive** – Meeting at 6:05 p.m. in the Parlor.
- **Fourth Friday Word, Wine & Wisdom** – Begins Friday, February 24, drop in anytime between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. at Union Cellars, Lewisburg. This is a brand new gathering which combines fellowship and conversation and an opportunity to get to know each other better. All are welcome.

Music

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

Fellowship

- **Sunday Morning Coffee Hour** – Every Sunday 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- **Faith Family Meal** – 4th Sunday of each month immediately following Worship. Our next meal together is Sunday, February 19, at 5:30 p.m. Spaghetti and Meatballs, with our Annual Saint Paul’s Talent Show following.
- **Friends Who Breakfast** – 2nd or 3rd Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. (returning March 2023)
- **Community Research Project** – Dates & Times TBD

A Way to Serve Others

- **Volunteer Monday** – from noon to 2 p.m. Every level of assistance is needed, and we have a great time in fellowship and laughter. Come, roll up your sleeves and get the week started with us.
- **Blood Mobile Canteen** – Select Wednesdays (every other month) and scheduled again for March 29 from 1 to 6 p.m.
- **Fresh Express** – 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month and scheduled next for February 23 and March 9.
- **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, February 12

Calendar – February 9-16

- Feb 11 – Community Meal Prep 10a
- Feb 11 – Drop off brownies 10a (*or bring Sunday*)
- Feb 12 – Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9a
- Feb 12 – Jump Start Sunday School 9:15a
- Feb 12 – Worship 10:30a
- Feb 12 – Confirmation 3p
- Feb 12 – Sharing Our Tables Community Meal 4-5p
- Feb 13 – Monday Morning Reflections 11a
- Feb 13 – Volunteer Monday 12-2p