



# SAINT PAUL'S NEWS

welcoming saints and sinners since 1900

June 9, 2021

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

## “A Free Life”

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Church Family,

“Rescue me from myself...” I made that statement before a group of 24 pastors, lay-leaders, and church officials during an interview one afternoon. A few of them, with agendas to deny my call to ministry due to my sexual orientation (“no one like that can be called by God”), jumped on that prayer and asked immediately, “what do you do that is so bad you have to be rescued from?” With a pregnant pause, I took a deep breath and explained my prayer.

The explanation was one I learned from my childhood pastor and one which had deep meaning and understanding to me as I not only explored ministry, but began to dig deeper into my faith. I am human, I have wants that are not always God’s desire for me. I want to walk away and ignore people I don’t agree with or like, or tell people how wrong they are, or interpret scriptures the way I want to, or, may I be forgiven, even profess what God intended.” I need to be focused on serving others and how the Holy Spirit is moving me. Anything that I do that separates me from doing God’s will instead of what I want, is what I need rescued from.

That quite satisfied the answer to their question and defeated their purpose for asking, however, that wasn’t my reason for answering it, that is how I feel, and it is an important question to ponder. What do we need rescued from in ourselves? This is a daily, if not hourly, or moment by moment question, as I understand it. In a world that says it’s me first. In a world that promotes self over others, in an engrained mindset that says, it’s every person for themselves, Jesus said, love your neighbor.

I love the way Paul tells the story of love and service to the church of Galatia, in chapter five, verses 13 to 15, “*It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don’t use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom.*”

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*Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom.*" To me, that's an act of God rescuing me from me. Being free doesn't mean doing what I want for me, it means doing what God is calling me to in the best way to serve others, as many others as I possibly can, by spreading the message of God's love for one another and for all. And hopefully that becomes what I want, God's will.

We always run the risk of manipulating situations to fulfill our wants or our story line or our understanding, proof texting, so to speak, yet we need to feel and understand where God is leading. So, I ask once again, will you join me in praying that prayer with me, not just every Sunday, but every day. "God, rescue me from me, that I may discover the true freedom through serving others, which is how we show others they are loved. Amen."

Peace,  
Pastor Tim

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### **In Our Daily Prayers...**

Dick Albright  
Dick Bettleyon  
Judy Bettleyon  
Gail Earnest  
Gladys Fawcett  
Greyson Greenawalt  
Steve Harding  
Mina Hoover

Amy Keller  
Mary Rose Knelly  
Cindy Lloyd  
Keith Long  
Katy Mahon  
Tammy McCarty  
Sandy Merritt  
Cindy Mohr

Laura Prager  
Family of Tina Reid  
Jane Scurfield  
Alecia Snyder  
Ruth Spear  
Donna and Russ Wynn, Sr.



### **News from Home...**

**Masks, Social Distancing, Offering Plates, Communion, Hymnals, Coffee Hour, and more...** So many questions to answer around things impacting the way we used to practice worship. Your Consistory will be reviewing recommendations and talking through options and ways forward at next week's Consistory meeting, Tuesday, June 15, 2021, beginning at 6 p.m. at 1125 Mahoning Street, and will update guidelines/changes in next week's eNews. Consistory meetings are always open to the body of the church.

**Compassion Camp: Be Loved. Be Kind. Be You...** This year's Vacation Bible School theme is "compassion for others, ourselves, and the world." This VBS will be spread over five Wednesday nights starting with a light family supper and will be geared to children ages Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Clear your Wednesday evening calendars and watch for more detailed information later this week!



**Community Research Project...it's on!** Next Thursday, June 17, 6 to 9 p.m. Our first, adults-only, Community Research Project is happening! This first event be at Whispering Oaks Vineyard in Sunbury (<https://www.whisperingoaksvineyardpa.com>). Live music will be provided by: Prairie Dogma, "a nice blend of the good stuff" beginning at 6:30 p.m. And, Son of a Butcher food truck will be on hand to grab dinner. This will be our first of these, mostly third Thursday, events which are being planned with the help of Lisa Bernard and Amy Rearick. Come on out and enjoy some time in fellowship with your Saint Paul's family. Just one more way of getting reacquainted and newly acquainted with church family.



**"Pasta and Performance!" is Sunday, June 27**, in the Fellowship Hall at 1125 Mahoning Street. Join us as we celebrate this year's Talent Show and share in a spaghetti dinner, meatballs and all. This year will be a hybrid talent show including the videos you submitted (with your permission) and live performances. Please contact Russ Wynn as soon as possible to schedule a time slot for your talent. We are looking for all kinds of talent...from all kinds

of people! Remember that talent is not necessarily musical - you may be great at writing or reading poetry, maybe acting is your thing, or dancing, or crafting...show us what you've got!!

### **Deadline for talent entries is Sunday June 20!**

**If you like to plan...** Here are some upcoming events to add to your calendar:

Sunday, June 13 – Community Dinner at 5 p.m.

Thursday, June 17 – Community Research Project 6 to 9 p.m.

Saturday, June 19 – Gerry Shreck Memorial Service

Sunday, June 20 – Grayson Greenawalt Baptism

Sunday, June 27 – Pasta and Performance at 5 p.m.

Sunday, July 4 – Communion

Sunday, July 18 – Swim Party and Chicken BBQ 4 p.m. (Gill Home)

Sunday, August 1 – Communion

Sunday, August 8 – Gill Baptisms

Sunday, August 22 – Back to School Picnic and Swim Party

Sunday, September 5 – Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, September 12 – Rally Day All Church Potluck

Monday, September 13 – Monday Morning Preacher Returns at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 15 – Family Formation Returns (Dinner, Bible Study, Youth Events, Music)

Sunday, September 26 – S'mores and a Movie



## Faith Formation and Worship News...

**Sunday Morning's with Dave and Friends...** Will return Sunday, September 12

**Monday Morning Preacher...** Will return Monday, September 13

**Wednesdays Theology Mashup...** Will return Wednesday, September 15

We continue to meet for worship at 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, and we will continue to seek ways to worship safely and make wherever we are our home. We put our faith and trust in God the one we follow and serve in the name of and live in to the assurance that "where two are three are gathered in my name, there I will be also." (Matt. 18:20). We hope you will choose to worship in person with us as you are comfortable and able.

Want to join or are you looking for online worship or a worship replay? Like you can't get enough of Pastor Tim's message (right!)? Replay of services are always available via YouTube or Facebook. Links are on our website homepage <https://www.spuccwm.org/> or below:

Saint Paul's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/saintpaulswestmilton>

Saint Paul's YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx534qz98pw4IEcpsJznLnw>

## Mission and Outreach News...

**Free Community Dinner** is this Sunday, June 13, beginning at 5 p.m. at Milton Lutheran Parish's Christ Evangelical Lutheran facility at 1125 Mahoning Street in Milton. Saint Paul's is providing desserts. If you haven't already, please contact Diane Bettleyon at 570-716-4074 (cell phone) or send her a message on Facebook to let her know if you will provide a dessert. You can drop off your dessert on Sunday, June 13, before church from 9:30 to 10:30 or after church between 11:45 and 1:00. Or, you can make arrangements for Diane to pick up from your house on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Helpers are also need during the drive-through, so contact Diane if you are able to help.

**Saint Paul's Coffee Club** is an ongoing mission project at Saint Paul's and funds community needs. Check out the organic coffees, teas, and chocolate products from Fair-Trade Farmers on hand for purchase in the display case in the lobby at 1125. These make really nice gifts or treat yourself in the name of giving back. Visit the homepage of our website <https://www.spuccwm.org/> to peruse the products, order online directly at <https://forms.gle/mV5R4NvUqkH3bbxj6> or fill out an order form at the display. Or call Donna at the office to find out more about supporting SPUCC's Coffee Club!



## This Week at Saint Paul's...

- Thurs., June 10** **Happy Birthday Emily Bernard**  
**Happy Birthday Carolyn Wuerdeman**  
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Church Office open  
 2 to 5 p.m. Fresh Express Food Distribution
- Fri., June 11** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Church Office open
- Sat., June 12** **Happy Birthday Bonnie Bossert**  
**Happy Birthday Jesse Swanger**
- Sun., June 13** **Happy Birthday Rachel Henry**  
 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship LIVE Online & In-Person at  
 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847
- Mon., June 14** **Happy Birthday Steve Brown**  
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Church Office open
- Tues., June 15** **Happy Birthday Lisa Bernard**  
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Church Office open
- Wed., June 16** **Happy Birthday Amy Armstrong**  
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Church Office open

## And a little look ahead...

Tuesday, June 15, Consistory Meeting at 6 p.m. at 1125 Mahoning Street  
 Wednesday, June 16, Staff Meeting 11 a.m. at 1125 Mahoning Street

## Upcoming Sunday Worship,,,

*LIVE stream and In Person @ 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton*

### June 13, 2021

#### Third Sunday after Pentecost

*"Kin-dom Creation"*

Mark 4:25-33

Lector: Robin Brown

Flower Sponsor: Church Family

Offering Counter: A. Henry, D. Spear

#### June Usher Team:

Drew Faust

Sue Mahon

Amy Snider

Steve and Robin Brown

Earl Fisher

### June 20, 2021

#### Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

*"I'll Take Every Day Words for a Million"*

II Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

Lector: Cyndy Kister

Flower Sponsor: Floyd Merritt

Offering Counter: D. Bettleyon, D. Spear

#### June Worship Leader:

Amy Armstrong

