



Saint Paul's Possibilities

April 12, 2024

News & Ways to Plug In

Powered by Grace and Coffee

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

It's true. I am the pastor of a busy church with some amazing people we call family. I grew up in an amazing church with people we called family and still do, to this day.

As many of you know, I grew up in a small one-room country church in the hills of southeastern West Virginia. It seemed to me we were always busy as I remember it. Lord's Acre sales, Bible studies, church functions for fellowship and worship, revivals, all-day picnics, and Gospel sings, etc. And so today, for us being busy in the church with our church family doing everything from missions work, to Christian formation, fellowship, meals and worship, hay rides and monster truck outings, ice cream socials and talent shows, nothing really makes me think we are too busy, or that we are going to tire and be weary.

There is one friend of mine from a previous church, who when we used to gather and talk about church activities would always want to remind me of a message from Paul in his letter to the church of Galatia. One particular verse from Chapter 6, Verse 9: "Don't grow weary in well doing." It's been 15 years of ministry, and I haven't grown weary yet. I've been thinking about this, wondering if the way *not* to grow weary is to allow others to help us, too--to be in community as interdependent participants?

So, recently when someone mentioned us as being busy, I thought of this text and decided to dig a bit deeper. The text itself appears to me to be written as an instruction not to stop doing good as the church, but to guard ourselves to ensure the good works are being done in the name of Jesus. It also struck me that there is a possibility that we get so enthralled with doing good for others we don't or can't or won't accept help from others ourselves.

How about you? Do you easily accept others help or offers for help? All too often I am afraid we say "no" to those who offer us help. We deny needing anything, for we may look weak or in need ourselves. Maybe we are and maybe we aren't in need. However, allowing others to help us creates a bond and relationship which I believe Jesus knew and taught. Jesus, I believe, wants us to be in close relationship with one another, to know one another well, and how can that happen if we are afraid of allowing others to help us.

I often hear people say, oh I don't need the help, save it for someone who needs it. Yet I believe we all need it in some way or another. Maybe we do have the ability to care for ourselves and most of our own needs, yet allowing someone to come along side us is important. Often people say I love helping others, yet what we have to realize is allowing others to help us can be a blessing too. Denying others help is denying the blessings we so often like to receive ourselves.

This week I heard of someone who doesn't attend church say, I can't believe how your church has supported you during this time. And another person who doesn't attend the church ask one person how they were doing so well considering what she had been through. Her answer was my church has been with me all the way. The people in these stories are great helpers of others. And yet when they needed help, they realized it and accepted it graciously. So many were impacted in positive and beautiful ways.

The next time you think about how strong and mighty and independent you think you should be, remember this--God didn't create you in God's image to be so mighty and strong, alone and independent. God created you to be in an interdependent relationship with Christ and all our brothers and sisters.

Thanks be to God for you being the church.

Blessings, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report



What Are the Ways We Stay Connected @ The Farm?

In last week's Farm Report, we provided information about our Saint Paul's online directory called Engage. If you need any help with getting connected to Engage, please reach out to Donna in the church office. This week's "connection" is a focus on our private Facebook group page called "Saint Paul's UCC Prayers and Love." This group was created at the start of the pandemic as a space to request prayers and share joys and concerns and God moments, to stay connected while we were not worshipping face to face on Sunday mornings, to fill the void of not being able to be together in community as a faith family. The group page continues to be a source of staying connected and sharing our love of and prayers for each other. As a private Facebook group page, members must request access and be approved and is reserved for faith family and friends connected to Saint Paul's while our public Facebook page now with 898 followers is for all who wish to connect to our worship services, events, and activities...to learn about us being the church.

Continuing a special request for pictures ... one of the best parts of our online Engage Directory is seeing pictures of our members and friends! You can upload your own picture to be included with your name in the directory or if you prefer, you can send Donna a picture, and she will add it to our online directory for you.

Jesus Through the Eyes of Women

Beginning Wednesday, join our Wednesday evening Interactive group as we share the book and correlating scriptures concerning women of the Bible. We will explore "*How the First Female Disciples Help Us Know and Love the Lord.*" From prostitutes to beggars, merchants and mothers, what do they have to teach us about the love of Jesus? All are welcome! Our next gathering will happen April 17 when we will be talking about women in discipleship.

Youth & Family Night is for Everyone!

Our Youth & Family Night begins at 5 p.m. with a light meal every second and fourth Sunday evenings here @ The Farm. Following the meal there are age-appropriate lessons and crafts for children of all ages, a youth gathering (middle & high school), and an adult (all ages) gathering with great conversations and exploration. All are welcome as we share in some relaxed family time seeking to grow in our faith and community connections. Our next gathering is April 14 when we will start with a spaghetti dinner! We hope you will join us.

Parent / Grandparent Meeting

On April 21, following worship, we want to hear from you. As the number of families with children grow, we want to ensure we are meeting the needs and offering the best possible options for you all in Christian Formation and Family Fellowship. We are blessed to be in the position of needing additional input for plans to meet the needs of our children and young families both near and long term. Since April 21 is our next Family Dinner Potluck, we will keep the meeting as short as possible. We ask you to come with ideas and suggestions and things we can do together to make Saint Paul's @ The Farm the best atmosphere for families it can be. See you on the 21st.

Children, Youth, & Family

Summer activities are now being planned for Summer @ The Farm. In addition to activities here, there are plans for a Knoebel's outing in May, a trip to Lake Tobias, a Mini Golf Competition, our annual chicken Bar-b-que and Swim, along with several other great ways to gather this summer. Dates and times will be shared following the April 21 meeting.

Please note, parents and youth middle & high School age, our next **Confirmation Class starts September 8!** So many things happening, and we can't wait to spend time together!

Please Join Us in Praying for ...

Linda Beaver	Al & Ruth Henry
Jamie Bartlett	Katy Mahon
Debbie Basom	Daniel O'Hara
Cookie Breining	Donnie Poeth
Parker Culp	The Sampsell Family
Rebecca Derr	Family of Paul Shaner
Family of Joseph DiAscro	Darlene Steiner
The Engle Family	Baby Tristan
Gail Ernest	Thomas Ward, Jr.
Brad Gill	Sherri Waugh
Sharon Girton	World Peace
Greyson Greenawalt	Mental Health Needs

Families Affected by House Fire
Those with Life-Long Illnesses

Our prayer list is updated weekly via prayer request cards, Prayers & Love, or contacting the church office. Updates are appreciated and those who we don't have or know an update are removed at the end of each month.

Arts for Mission

Arts for Mission – Come be creative for a good cause! Plan now to attend one of our Arts for Missions offerings and sign up at the Sanctuary Welcome Desk. Upcoming events include:

Yoga with Tracy Baylor - Monday, April 15, 6:30 p.m., cost – Donation

Fresh Floral Arranging with Susie Gearhart – Sunday, April 21 @ 1 p.m. Supplies included. Cost \$50

Colored Pencil Art with Barbara Baker – Sunday, May 5 @ 3 p.m.

All events happen @ Grace Place and monies raised goes to support Saint Paul's Mission and Outreach ministries. You may reach out to the office for more information.

Saint Paul's Little Red Wagon

Our Emergency Pantry needs for the month of April include: **canned soups, pasta / pasta mixes and sauce, canned fruit and applesauce, along with peanut butter.** These items may be dropped off in the little red wagon on the church porch or any day of the week you want to stop by. As always, all donations are appreciated! Love is happening here!

**Thinking about joining
Saint Paul's as an official member?
Our next New Member Sunday is May 19.
See Pastor Tim to learn more!**



Handbell Festival Concert

Featuring bell choirs from...

The Milton Lutheran Church

First Presbyterian Church of Milton

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Lewisburg

Saturday, April 20th at 6:30 PM

at First Presbyterian Church, 47 Milton St., Milton, PA

Admission is free. Parking behind church.

A free will offering will be taken to benefit area food banks.

We have been invited to participate in a community Bell Choir Festival! Our Saint Paul's Bell Choir along with bell choirs from First Presbyterian and Milton Lutheran Church in Milton will join together on Saturday, April 20, for a day of rehearsal and will present a concert beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church at 47 Walnut Street in Milton. You are invited to come out and support our bell choir and this opportunity to be a larger part of the area faith communities.

Celebrations

Apr 13 – Chip Palazzo

Apr 13 – Happy Anniversary
Susan & Matt Cardellino

Apr 15 – Happy Anniversary
Doug Hagerman & Randy Kessler

Apr 15 – Happy Birthday Calie Taylor

Apr 16 – Happy Birthday Elias Franciscus

Apr 17 – Happy Birthday Maddie Barbella

Apr 21 – Happy Birthday Greyson Greenawalt

Apr 23 – Happy Birthday AJ Franciscus



On the Journey

Sunday Mornings @ The Farm

- ~ Nursery Opens 8:45 a.m.
- ~ Breakfast @ 10:00 to 10:20 a.m. and again following worship
- ~ Worship 10:30 a.m.
- ~ Children's Church (ages 3 to 2nd grade)
- ~ First Sunday Communion

Music @ The Farm (All are welcome!)

- ~ Bell Choir Wednesdays @ 5:15 p.m.
- ~ Chancel Choir Sundays @ 9 a.m.
- ~ Children's Choir Sundays @ 10 a.m.

Christian Formation @ The Farm

- ~ Family Night 5 to 7 p.m. for ALL ages every 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings, dinner included. (contact: Colleen Franciscus) – Next up: **April 14**
- ~ Monday Morning Reflections 11:30 a.m. Gather with Pastor Tim in Fellowship Hall and dig a bit deeper into the week's texts. Next up: **April 15**, John 21:1-19
- ~ Wednesday Evening Interactive 6:30 p.m. Join us as we continue our new study, "Women of the Bible." Books are available at the Sanctuary Welcome Desk or in the office with a suggested donation of \$12.

Fellowship @ The Farm

- ~ Wednesday Lunch with Pastor Tim 11:30-1:00 a.m.
- ~ April 17 Friends Who Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Silver Moon Restaurant
- ~ April 21 Family Meal @ The Farm will be a brunch theme immediately following worship. Bring your favorite brunch item to share!
- ~ April 26 Word, Wine & Wisdom 4:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m. at the Parker Home, Lewisburg

Serving @ The Farm Mission & Outreach

- ~ Fresh Express 2nd & 4th Thursdays 1-5 p.m. April 25, May 9 & 23
- ~ Harvest Meal 4th Mondays @ St. Andrews, Milton 1-5 p.m. April 22 & 29
- ~ Emergency Food Pantry is always available @ Grace Place (little red wagon drop off)

Stewardship

Gifts & Offerings April 7, 2024

"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: 1,143 Virtual Reach: 4,365
Attendance In Person: 129 Christian Ed: 51

Plate Giving	\$ 2,108.71
Loose Plate	\$ 247.00
Online Giving	\$ <u>422.42</u>
Operational Total	\$ 2,778.13
General Restricted Giving	\$ 328.00
Coin Box Benevolence	\$ <u>157.25*</u>
Total Giving	\$ 3,263.38

*Coin Box Total to Date: \$946.90

Upcoming Worship

April 14, 2024 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

"The Patience of Job"

John 21:1-19

Worship Leader: Drew Faust

Lector: Richard Armstrong

Acolyte: Emerson Council

Flowers: Pastor Tim and Chip

Breakfast Sponsor: The Parker Family

Offering Counter: A. Mahon; D. Spear

April 21, 2024 – 4th Sunday of Easter

"Laying Down Life or Law?"

I John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

Worship Leader: Kelly Kazibwe

Lector: Tracy Baylor

Acolyte: Skylar Ritter

Flowers: Marianne Zeyn

Breakfast Sponsor: The Greenawalt/Sauter Family

Offering Counter: D. Bettleyon; D. Spear

April Greeter/ Usher Team: Dave & Barb Wagner, Jen Arnold, Shelly Sholley, Kris & Laurie Anderson, Betsy Pullen, Bob Gift

