



Saint Paul's Possibilities

February 16, 2024

News & Ways to Plug In

Powered by Grace and Coffee

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

On Wednesday, we observed Ash Wednesday. I imposed ashes on more than 80 people and to each one, I said these words: "From ashes you have come to ashes you will return, God knitted you from these ashes, however what we need to remember is between the creation and the end is all love. You are love." I believe with my entire being that we are all made out of love. Not something trite, not just a suggestion but God created us out of love and that is what God wants for all of God's children to know they are love.

It was interesting to me that people came for ashes who watch us online. Some I knew watched us and some I did not. I was thankful for their visits and wanting to participate in this way, a mark of connection one to another. They came to be reminded as many of us did of our connectedness. To me, our lives are a tapestry of fibers of love that God has woven together and through the work of Jesus and the Holy we begin to recognize the threads of love in one another.

In this season of Lent, we are going to be exploring the Love of God and how we are called to love - even in those we sometimes have a hard time understanding, or in whom we may not see love. Sunday's sermon title is "Jesus Loves You. I'm Trying." And I named it this because sometimes it is really hard for us to find love in the eyes of others whom we see anything but love. However, I believe during this season, this is exactly what Jesus showed us, how to do that, and if Jesus did it, maybe we want to explore how we too can do it.

There are all kinds of ways to say I love you, and yes, I realize there are multiple types and kinds of love, but let's not complicate where the Holy is leading in this season. My hope and prayer is that you will come and be a part of this Lenten Journey of "Love More..." be here whenever you can, whether it's in service, fellowship, or worship, come seeking to see the threads of love that bind us all together and then go, go out in the community seeking that same connection, threads of love that connect us together.

Jesus said, "love one another." Plain and simple. Now we just need to figure out how to make that happen in our lives. Will you join me? See you @ the Farm.

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Tim



Please Join Us in Praying For ...

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Linda Beaver | Brooke Kamerer |
| Family of Dale Beaver | Georgia Kremer |
| Pat Bender | Katy Mahon |
| Mary Collette Brandt | Crystal Reid |
| Cookie Breining | Family of Ralphie Ritter |
| Jeanie Council | Paul Shaner |
| The Engle Family | Kasey Stahl |
| Gail Ernest | Jaelynn Walker |
| Greyson Greenawalt | Thomas Ward, Jr. |
| Al & Ruth Henry | 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

It's Time for Change

Change for "One Great Hour of Sharing" that is. Our annual Lenten coin box collection begins Sunday, February 18, the first Sunday of Lent and we plan the return of the full coin boxes during our Palm Sunday celebration, March 24, 2024. Every penny counts and 100% goes toward our annual sharing our love gift with others.

One Great Hour of Sharing, part of Our Church's Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, and emergency relief and rehabilitation to areas suffering from natural disasters as well as for disaster preparedness and response.

There is a Time

Hospitality at Saint Paul's comes in many forms. There is a time of hospitality during Fellowship and Service, Worship, Prayer, Reflection, and yes, even Social events. Did you know we also consider sacred quiet time as form of hospitality? When we sit quietly during prayer, before or after we have received the communion elements, or during special times of reflection, we are participating in the hospitality of sacred quiet space. We ask you to join us in being mindful of creating that sacred quiet safe space of hospitality for those around you and all your family here at Saint Paul's.

Grace Place @ The Farm

Saint Paul's new Grace Place is up and running! After last week's first Fresh Express in the new location, the space is being used this coming Sunday for our first Arts for Missions class, and we already have another group from Face To Face Church who will be utilizing the space on a regular basis. Talk about God moments and affirmations of decisions made. We count ourselves blessed. Before the painting and cleaning are even done, Grace Place is taking on another new avenue into ministry for our faith community. Please join me in giving thanks to God for all God is equipping us to do.

Lenten Wednesday Interactive

February 21, our 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Interactive group will kick off our Lenten Series, "*The Way of Love: A Practical Guide to Following Jesus.*" While this study has been designed with no pre-reading required, there is a book available now through the office for those who would like to follow along. This study is being adapted from a similar study through the Episcopal Church designed by Bishop Michael Curry. Our first week's focus will be on the story of Moses and the Burning Bush as well as the Gospel stories of tax collectors and fishermen turning to follow Jesus. What does it mean to turn toward Jesus? Is it a once and done proposition? Join us as we break down practical ways and practices of keeping our focus on following Jesus in a world full of distractions. Scripture focus for our first gathering will be Exodus 3:1-15 and Mark 2:14. Join us for some laughter and love as we journey through Lent.

This Week's Events

Wednesday, the 21st, at 9:30 a.m. join for "Friends Who Breakfast" at Silver Moon Restaurant in Lewisburg. Friday, the 23rd, gather for a Lenten version of Word, Wine and Wisdom at Union Cellars. And, on Sunday, the 25th, at 5 p.m. join us for family night @ The Farm. Plus, our weekly Monday Reflections and Wednesday Interactive.

Our Neighbors' Pantry

Our Emergency Pantry has an ongoing need for Gift Cards. If you are so inclined the pantry is out of Gas and Grocery cards completely. Cards in any denomination are helpful. If you bring them to the office or place them in an envelope with your name on them, they are tracked and you will receive credit for them on your giving statement. Gift Cards are a way to allow our neighbors in need to purchase things like personal hygiene products, paper products, and other items not covered by assistance programs. Thank you for considering helping in this way.

Celebrations

Feb 18 – Happy Birthday David Kazibwe

Feb 20 – Happy Birthday Tylor Moyer

Feb 22 – Happy Birthday Piper Stahl

Feb 22 – Happy Anniversary

Jane Rowe & Michael Humphries

Spaghetti, Meatballs & Mouse Tails

Oh, what talent abounds, from cooking, to wood turning, to metal smithing, needlepoint, shell crafting, and quilting, talents for this year's Spaghetti, Meatballs, & Talent did abound! We are so very fortunate to have in our midst so many talented souls, gifted by God and willing to share their talents. What a blessing!

Great thanks go into the tireless work of Gloria Lehman, her creativity, her planning, her teaching, all never cease to amaze us and the fact she is so willing to share it all with us, wow! This past Sunday evening the annual event brought out more than 100 people for dinner and a show! And neither disappointed! With a huge note of thanks to Gloria, and all the participants, we first give thanks to God for the gifts and second to all the talented singers, musicians, the comedians, our own talented MC, Cory Mahon, and of course, to Chip who brings Mama Palazzo's meatballs recipe each year and never disappoints!

There is no way to describe for those unable to be there the beauty and laughter of the evening. So, start planning now for next year's March 2, 2025 Dinner & Talent Show, and no, it does not fall on Super bowl weekend.



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. All are welcome to jump in for this great time of conversation. Lenten Study begins this week, 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 22, Mar 14 & 28**

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!

March 17 Irish Luncheon!

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 February 11, 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: 765 Virtual Reach: 7,117
Attendance In Person: 119 (3 Visitors)

Plate Giving	\$ 2,050.74
Loose Plate	\$ 108.00
Online Giving	\$ <u>372.42</u>
Operational Total	\$ 2,531.16
General Restricted Giving	\$ <u>405.00</u>
Total Giving	\$ 2,936.16

Upcoming Worship

February 18, 2024 – First Sunday of Lent

"Jesus Love Me, I Try"

Micah 6:6-8; John 13:31-35

Worship Leader: Jen Arnold

Lector: Holly Barbella

Acolyte: Sadie Foust

Flowers: Dunmeyer Family

Breakfast: Tim&Chip

Offering Counter: D. Bettleyon; D. Spear

February 25, 2024 – Second Sunday of Lent

"To Tell the Truth"

Matthew 25:35-40

Worship Leader: Jen Arnold

Lector: Adam Taylor

Acolyte: Kasen Taylor

Flowers: Sharon Foust & Shelly Sholly

Breakfast: Peterson and Santos

Offering Counter: E. Fisher; D. Spear

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

