



SAINT PAUL'S ENEWS

welcoming saints and sinners since 1900

February 10, 2021

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

In this community...God builds a church...

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Church Family,

Five years ago, at this time, I was on sabbatical. Chip, my mom, and I were sitting in the pews here at Saint Paul's on Sunday mornings. After visiting four other churches in the area, we walked in the door of Saint Paul's and immediately felt at home. We decided this is where we would choose to worship until I had discerned where God was leading me next in ministry. I felt deep in my heart and soul that I was continuing to be called to parish ministry, to serve alongside a community of faith. I just didn't know where God would lead, so I chose to be here while I was in that time. I was blessed. I had heard from pastors and friends in a few denominations offering to counsel and be a guide for me if I would consider coming to their denomination if that is where God was leading. My answer was always the same. I need to spend more time with God in prayer before I make that decision. So that is what I did, I spent some time in conversation with mentors and close friends and worshiped here at Saint Paul's, and I spent a lot of time in prayer and reflection.

I look back now, and it feels as though that time was decades ago. Our church family has grown and changed. Many have found this place the same way we did, searching for a safe space that felt like home, where we could be spiritually fed and share the love of community. This faith community is so unique to me that so many of our family members gather from different faith traditions, and the family that is here, the family that has returned, has embraced us all. And we

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continue to embrace all who come to this place, yes even visit online. The saying you may come through the door as a visitor, but you will leave as family rings so real.

Maybe this is why we long to be together again. Perhaps this feeling is what makes our hearts yearn for the community so much. We genuinely like one another and miss one another. We genuinely love being together as a family, and interestingly that hasn't changed in five years. As people have come and gone, as visitors come through our doors even as we have spent the last year worshipping remotely and being the church in so many other ways, that feeling is still so powerful, and I give God and the Holy Spirit thanks for this feeling. And I thank all those who call this place home because we are open to moving out of God's way and allowing ourselves to go beyond our comfort zones to create, and be a part of this Holy space.

This past week, if you missed God moments on Sunday, I mentioned so many ways you, as a community of faith, have continued to be the church, just in the last week. You have dropped off flowers, you have sent cards, you have shoveled walks, you have supplied the food pantry, you have made phone calls and dropped off meals, you have provided families in need with food. The fabric of the community you create by coming together to be the church touches my heart deeply. This is the rock that I think of when I hear the familiar phrase from Jesus teaching, "upon this rock I will build my church."

I am often asked how do I write something every week. I don't know how, other than I sit down and the words begin to flow; I don't know how someone will receive it. I don't know who will read it and who won't. Or who may need to hear it. I just know I have to share whatever is on my heart. This week as I share, I share that you are all on my heart. You missing church, you being church, your life events, your fears, your hopes, your prayers, your wishes, your joys, you staying strong, I carry you with me on my heart, and so I hold you in the prayers of my heart. And I know I am not alone in this as we carry one another in prayers of our hearts.

Five years later, here we are, a community together where God continues to call us out, to use us in concert together to live, and love, and serve in community. God's plan is an amazing plan for us all, and I know now for sure, not even a pandemic can change that. Together we can and will be the church. God has built this church on the rocks of faith, of love, of grace, of service to one another, God has built this church on the rock of our very being in this community. Thank you for being here on this beautiful journey we call church. May we continue to be the church God calls us to be.

I am giving God thanks for each of you this day and each day.

Shalom,
Pastor Tim



In our daily prayers...

You are invited to join your faith family in prayer as we lift up:

- Greyson Greenawalt
- All Front-line Health Care and Essential Workers
- Katy Mahon
- Mina Hoover
- Clarence Snider
- George Cartin
- Jo Beatty (Sharon Klose's mother), healing
- Julie Saville and friends at Milton Developmental Center, healing from Covid-19
- The many who are suffering from the COVID virus, as well as all those caring for them at home and in hospitals and nursing facilities



Ways to Stay Connected

What is Shrove Tuesday and Why are We Eating Pancakes?

This coming Tuesday, February 16, is Shrove Tuesday! Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent), observed in many Christian countries through participating in confession and absolution, the ritual burning of the previous year's Holy Week palms, finalizing one's Lenten sacrifice, as well as eating pancakes and other sweets. Shrove Tuesday is observed by many Christians, who "make a special point of self-examination, of considering what wrongs they need to repent, and what amendments of life or areas of spiritual growth they especially need to ask God's help in dealing with.



As this is the last day of the Christian liturgical season historically known as Shrovetide, before the penitential season of Lent, related popular practices, such as indulging in food that one might give up as their Lenten sacrifice for the upcoming forty days, are associated with Shrove Tuesday celebrations. The term Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday", referring to the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday. Many Christian congregations thus observe the day through the holding of pancake breakfasts (or suppers in our case), before the start of Lent. On Shrove Tuesday, churches also burn the palms distributed during the previous year's Palm Sunday liturgies to make the ashes used during the services held on the very next day, Ash Wednesday.

In some Christian countries, especially those where the day is called Mardi Gras or a translation thereof, it is a carnival day, the last day of "fat eating" or "gorging" before the fasting period of Lent. So what better way to celebrate than a pancake supper, and since we can't yet sit around the table together, well your Mission Team has come up with another way to participate... Read on...

~some information for the Shrove Tuesday explanation adapted from Wikipedia



Shrove Tuesday Pancakes, Ashes, and Devotional Details:

Tuesday, February 16

- Pick-up in the parking lot between 4:30 and 6:00 p.m.
- Individual servings include pancakes, sausage, butter, and syrup
- Please call the office or email Donna to pre-order by Monday, February 15
- Cost is by donation and all proceeds benefit this summer's mission trip
- Ashes will be provided for the LIVE Stream Ash Wednesday Service at 7 p.m.
- A Lenten Devotional will be provided as well.

Are you warming up your pipes?

By Russ Wynn, Jr.

It's the "Saint Paul's Got Talent – Talent Show"

Season 2 – the Virtual Edition!! ~ Featuring Saint Paul's Family and Friends!

Time to tune up the instruments, warm up the singing voice, dust off the dance shoes, or whatever else you may need! Since we had such a great time last year at the talent show, we decided we are not going to let anything stand in the way of doing it again! BUT...as with everything else this year...it's going to be a little different! It's all going to be Virtual...or online...or not live! AND...we will all be able to enjoy, and still feel a sense of connection as we share our talents and abilities...and have a great time doing it!

So...what do you have to do? Record yourself (If you use your phone, please do it in "landscape" mode) doing whatever it is you're good at! Whether it be singing, dancing, playing an instrument, reading poetry, performing a monologue or a scene...whatever your talent is...share it by recording it. (Or better yet, have someone record you!)

ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE TO RUSS WYNN BY FEBRUARY 27TH!

Email Russ at: russlw@gmail.com Just put the subject as "SPUCC Talent Show 2021"
Please make sure to introduce yourself and your talent at the beginning of your recording!

So...like I said, this will be a little different than last year, but it does actually afford some other opportunities that we would not have if we were doing a live performance! (Like – ANYONE can participate...wherever you are!! Be creative! If we have a nice day, perform outside! The possibilities, and talents, could be endless!!)

Crystal and I will make ourselves available for any accompanying, but please PLAN IN ADVANCE!! No last-minute accompaniments, please! Just contact Crystal or myself to schedule time.

If you have any further questions, contact Russ @ (570)490-5897. Texting would be great! Maybe we can even get a take and make dinner to go so we don't miss out on the great spaghetti dinner either! Hope to hear and see many of you VERY SOON!



Connecting Members to Ministry: New Year, New System, New Ways to Stay Connected!



With 2021, Saint Paul's is transitioning to a new, comprehensive system for church records, financials, directory, electronic giving, payroll and accounting. The new system, called CDM+ (Church Data Management), allows for us to combine five different systems into one concise database and save money, too. Additionally, the new system allows us to create and save a database of members, friends, births, weddings, baptisms, death records and special events as well as communicate better within ministry teams.

The transition continues with Engage. Engage is the online piece of the CDM+ system that provides our online directory, group lists, and giving information (including online giving if that is your preference). If you haven't received an email from Donna yet with how to connect with Engage, it is coming soon. The goal is to get everyone transitioned/connected by the end of February. Feel free to reach out to Donna with questions or if you need help.

Please know that there are multiple privacy settings in the Engage system to protect you and your personal information. While the directory links fully to your individual profile, no one can see your financial information except for you, and you do have to have a log in to get in to the system so no one can even see the directory without our permission and their log-in information.

2020 Financial News and Giving Statements

This year, your giving statements are attached to copies of the 2020 Budget review and the 2021 Budget, as well. In the absence of an in-person gathering for an all-congregational annual review, Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper Donna Spear has prepared full packets of all financials for members and friends of Saint Paul's. You may call or stop by and ring the bell at the church office to pick up your packet. As soon as it is safe, we will deliver more of them as well. Please call 570.568.1433 for more information or to request delivery.

*****Christian Education News*****

Home Brew Wednesdays

This week...What does it mean to give sight to the blind?

Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., grab your favorite beverage and join us via Zoom! (Meeting ID: 5705681433; Passcode: 0501). We gather for our theological book discussion, share a few laughs, pray together, all from the comfort of our homes.

Our current book for discussion is: **"You Are Never Alone: Trust in the Miracle of God's Presence and Power"** by Max Lucado. This book takes us through the Gospel of John and the miracles he recorded, asking some life-searching questions.



Sundays with David and Friends

There's a great option for adult Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. led by David Reid. Each season, the group gathers via Zoom, and in this season, we are studying the Psalms. All are welcome. If you know nothing of the Bible or are a Bible guru, your voice and presence are welcome. Look for the group on Zoom. Meeting ID: 5705681433; Passcode 0501.

Monday Morning Preacher

Every Monday morning at 10:30 a.m. we have a Bible Study group open to all. We gather, read anew Sunday's texts and enter into a discussion about the text from the first thing that comes to mind when we hear it anew to questioning and digging a little deeper. If you would like to participate in this group, all are welcome and all you have to do is bring your Bible or access to an online Bible and join in on Zoom. Meeting code: 570 568 1433 with passcode: 0501.

*****Mission News*****

“Take Me Home Country Roads”

Take Me Home Country Roads...to a place where we are planning our 2021 Summer Mission Trip! We will depart, Sunday, June 6, following worship and return Saturday, June 12. We will spend a week in the mountains and hills around Pipestem, West Virginia, helping our neighbors there. We'll stay in cabins, possibly have our own chef along for some great food, if history repeats. We will be offered several cultural adventures around the area after each day's work.



A view from camp.



With help for our neighbors.

We are excited to be able to offer this great opportunity for our church family! Schedule your vacation time now and plan to join us June 6 to June 12, 2021! There will be something to do for everyone! Oh, and we have some great experienced Mission Trip leaders going with us too!

Watch for news from our Mission Team coming out next week.

Fresh Express - Two Monthly Distributions Continue!

Fresh Express, our local food distribution program in conjunction with the Central Penn Food Bank, continues into 2021 on the second and fourth Thursdays monthly. The program is currently distributing grocery boxes of mixed perishable and non-perishable food items to between 115 and 120 families each distribution. Extra or left-over items are being distributed to organizations in need in our area as well. Should you wish more information about this program, contact General Al Henry, Earl Fisher or Beth Vincent!



“Reach out & touch...let the smile of God touch through you.”

(as the old hymn goes)

No, really. Reach out and touch someone. Yes, for years I worked for a telecommunications company and their advertising slogan then was, “Reach out and Touch...” I am attempting to stay in touch with everyone I can. However, if you have not heard from me in a while, I would love to hear from you. So pick up your phone and give me a call, drop me an email or card and just say hi. This time, while we have been at this now more than nine months, doesn't seem to get easier. I continue to miss you in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings, hearing you laugh and share stories in the Fellowship Hall, getting to be gathered around the tables in the Fellowship Hall packed in for a meal...wherever it is, I miss you and I know we all miss one another. So, don't hesitate to reach out, not just to me, but one another. A phone call, a card, an email or note, especially during these long days of winter reaching out will certainly be welcome.

All too often I hear, “well I don't want to be a bother...” or “they may be busy...” or “I'm not sure they would want to hear from me.” Just reach out, let them know you miss them, you are thinking of them or just to say hello. If you are thinking of others, I'm pretty sure they are thinking of you. If you need a number or an address and don't have it, call the church office, let us help you stay connected.

Coffee, Tea, AND Chocolate...



Order your Fair-Trade Equal Exchange products from Fair-Trade Farmers to benefit Saint Paul's Missions. You may learn more about the products, order and pay online via the web site: www.spuccwm.org or contact the church office. Products are:

Mind, Body and Soul Ground Coffee,
Regular, 12 ounce, \$10 per bag

French Roast K-Cups, Regular, 12 pods per
box, \$10 per box

Colombian Whole Bean Coffee, Regular, 12
ounce, \$10 per bag

Unwind K-Cups, Decaf, 12 pods per box,
\$10 per box

Decaf, Ground, 12 ounce, \$10 per bag

Black Tea, 20 bags per box \$5 per box

Decaf, Whole Bean, 12 ounce, \$10 per bag

Decaf English Breakfast Tea, 20 bags per
box, \$5 per box

Fellowship Blend, Regular, 16 ounce, \$12
per bag

Very Dark Chocolate (71%), \$4 per bar

Fellowship Blend, Decaf, 16 ounce, \$12 per
bag

Milk Chocolate (43%), \$4 per bar



Upcoming Events and Celebrations

- Wed., Feb. 10** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Church Office Open
6:30 p.m. Home Brew Theology via Zoom
- Thur., Feb. 11** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Church Office Open
2 p.m. to 5 p.m. – Fresh Express
- Fri., Feb. 12** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Church Office Open
- Sun., Feb. 14** **Happy Valentine’s Day**
Happy Anniversary Dick & Diane Bettleyon
Happy Anniversary Bobby & Carol Snyder
Happy Birthday Gladys Fawcett

9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship LIVE (<https://tinyurl.com/ran9suv>) / or
YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/feed/my_videos)
- Mon., Feb. 15** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Church Office Open
10:30 a.m. Monday Morning Preacher Bible Study
- Tues., Feb. 16** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Church Office Open
Shrove Tuesday “Pancakes (and Ashes and Devotional) to Go”
From 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the parking lot!
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