



# Saint Paul's Possibilities

February 16, 2023

News & Ways to Plug In

## Powered by Grace and Coffee

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

I love us! Oh, I know that phrase has become somewhat cliché, but seriously - I LOVE US! I love the time we spend together, and I am always excited to see you when you come through the doors of our faith home. Or I look up and see some of you helping at Fresh Express, or run in to you out in the community, and I smile because I see you as family. I don't believe that will ever change.

To be sure, something I've learned over my 13 years of pastoral care is that if I could tell you to come to church for worship, a special event, a meal, or even to help with mission work, you may or may not listen. And frankly, I'm not sure that's how it should work. I know some faith communities operate that way - telling folks how to believe, when they must be present, even what to give in financial support. That is between them and their own faith community. I don't believe we need someone telling us do this or do that, especially when it comes to living our faith.

Your faith is personal between you and the Holy. I certainly can make suggestions for no other reason than I think it may be helpful to you. But to tell you to do something relating to your faith, I don't think it's how this faith thing works.

With that said, may I make a suggestion of something I believe will be spiritually meaningful for us all?

Next Wednesday evening, February 22, at 7 p.m. we are having an Ash Wednesday service here in our Sanctuary. That is not unusual. However, the service may be a bit different than what we normally observe on Ash Wednesday. While there will be time for contemplation, reflection, and being marked by ashes, there will also be several intentional moments, where we name those whom Jesus ministered to which were considered outsiders, outcasts, and outlaws.

As each person or group is named, a candle will be lit as we prepare for our Lenten journey "Friends in Low Places." As we journey through the Lenten season,

my hope is that you will be here Ash Wednesday and each Sunday of Lent to explore with your faith family - *Who are we being the church with? Who do we minister to? Who ministers to us? How do we treat all our neighbors (those like us and those who may not be like us)?*

Now, you may say to me, "Pastor Tim, we've got this, we don't need a series to talk about it." And I think, as a faith family, many times we do get it. We have a great welcoming response to many in our community. But I would caution you that we may think we have it, however Jesus and the Holy, I also believe, often have plans for us that push us beyond our boundaries and comfortable places. And since the Holy has placed it on my heart and on my mind, I figure I better listen. There is always something for us to learn. Especially in the margins with Jesus' ministry. Maybe it's because I think Jesus and the Holy were with me whether I realized I was on the margins or not. Jesus was there all the time.

So, I can't tell you to be present. However, I want to say to you that I would like you to make a special effort to be here for every step of our Lenten journey this year. It's times like this, I believe, which make a difference in the life and growth of a faith community.

*Peace, Pastor Tim*

Join us for Lent, as we explore Jesus' care for the

**outsiders,  
outcasts,  
& outlaws.**

*Friends  
in low  
places*

beginning Ash Wednesday @ 7PM

**Sundays  
@10:30am**

1125 Mahoning St, Milton  
[www.spuccwm.org](http://www.spuccwm.org)

## Would You Join Us in Praying For...

Linda Beaver	Katy Mahon
Judy Brown	Kasey Milheim
Heather Council	Ruby Mitch
The Engle Family	Newton/Anderson Family
Gail Ernest	Mary Renninger
Family of 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
Tammy Moore	Unspoken Requests

## 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. as this brand new gathering combines fellowship, 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. See you at the UC!

### Pizza and Movie Night

All families are welcome to join us, Sunday, February 26, at 5 p.m. as we gather for pizza and a movie in Fellowship Hall.

## Saint Paul's Calendar – February 16-26

Feb 18 – Happy Birthday David Kazibwe  
Feb 19 – Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9a  
Feb 19 – Jump Start Sunday School 9:15a  
Feb 19 – Worship 10:30a  
Feb 19 – Confirmation 5p (spaghetti serving!)  
Feb 19 – Meatballs, Spaghetti, & Talent Round Up 5:30p  
Feb 20 – Monday Morning Reflections 11a  
Feb 20 – Volunteer Monday 12-2p (we will transform our space from winter to Lent)  
Feb 21 – Happy Birthday Brent Noll  
Feb 21 – Happy Birthday Shaddon Rice  
Feb 21 – Consistory Meeting 6:30p  
Feb 22 – Happy Anniversary  
Jane Rowe & Michael Humphries  
Feb 22 – Ash Wednesday Service 7p  
Feb 23 – Fresh Express Food Distribution 1-5p  
Feb 26 – Happy Anniversary Richard & Amy Armstrong

## Sharing Our Gifts

### Sharing Our Tables

We had another successful Community Meal on February 12. What a blessing as over 35 volunteers ranging in age from 2 to 92 helped with prep, brownie baking, cooking, packaging, delivery to three separate locations simultaneously, serving 190 meals to our friends and neighbors in the community, and clean up! Thank you for being the church in the heart of the community. The next Sharing Our Tables Community Meal is Sunday, April 16.

### Little Red Wagon

Thank you to everyone who dropped items into our "little red wagon" in the Narthex. In true Saint Paul's style, you have packed the Emergency Food Pantry! Your kindness and generosity is so appreciated and helpful for our neighbors and families in need. Thank you to "Volunteers on Monday" and Diane Bettleyon throughout the week for keeping our Emergency Food Pantry clean and organized.

### OGHS Coin Boxes

Our annual One Great Hour of Sharing Coin Boxes will be out on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Everyone is invited to pick up a coin box to fill with loose change during the Lenten season. 100% of all collected monies will go to support disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within the Wider Church, including communities like our own.

## Stewardship

### Gifts & Offerings February 12, 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: 282 Virtual Reach: 2,232

Attendance In Person: 108 (5 Visitors)

Christian Formation: 26

Plate Giving \$ 1,448.00

Loose Plate \$ 99.00

Online Giving \$ 802.22

Operational Total \$ 2,349.22

Restricted Giving \$ 211.00

Total Giving \$ 2,560.22

### Financial Best Practices

As we write these financial notes, we are recalling the song, "I'm Just a Bill" which is a great educational song about how bills are created, voted upon and become law in our U.S. Legislative body. It's important to understand processes in which things occur, especially in our faith community as it offers transparency and builds trust. This week two topics to cover include check handling and offering envelopes.

Church checks are processed from our church data management accounting system and written from one of two Pinpoint Credit Union accounts--operations and restricted. The checks are two different colors and have different numbering schemes as to preclude any confusion as to which account they are written from. Checks are maintained in a secured environment, never pre-signed or predated and always require two signatures, with signers not related, nor responsible for any other cash control mechanism. Each check has a detachable record of the payment which is filed with the corresponding voucher or bill and retained in our files for seven years. Once a check is drawn from our financial institution for payment, an electronic version is available. Our financial institution account statements are reconciled monthly by our bookkeeper and verified by our Treasurer.

The next topic for this week is offering envelopes. Three years ago, we changed the way we provide offering envelopes. At your request, we can provide a box of 52 envelopes. However, they are not unique in any way, i.e. they don't have an assigned number or name. If you use envelopes and you place a check in the envelope, then there is no need to place your name on the envelope. However, if you place cash in an envelope and wish it receive a credit on your

annual giving statement, you must write a name on the outside of the envelope, and your address, should you be new, in order to receive credit for your contributions.

We hope this week's financial updates are helpful to you and look forward to sharing more with you as we continue to grow and explore all of whom Christ calls us to be. Check out next week's continued financial best practices updates as we discuss accounting system and electronic giving.

## Upcoming Worship

### February 19, 2023 - Transfiguration Sunday

*"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: Donna Spear

Offering Counter: A. Mahon; D. Spear

### February 22, 2023 - Ash Wednesday

*"The Back Story"* Luke 1:1-4

Worship Leader: Kelly Kazibwe

Lector: Dane Santos

Acolyte: Riley Gill

### February 26, 2023 - First Sunday in Lent

*"Shoulders to Stand On"* Isaiah 46:4; Luke 1:51-53

Worship Leader: Kelly Kazibwe

Lector: Barclay Wilson

Acolyte: Sadie Faust

Flowers: Priscilla and Tom Lanks

Coffee Hour Sponsor: Susie Gearhart

Offering Counter: A. Henry; D. Spear

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

## Weekly Way Forward Update

This week, as planned, a team from your Consistory met with a team from the Central Oak Heights Board of Directors to discuss possible temporary housing of offices, some activities, and Sunday Worship beginning June 1, 2023. The meeting was for information gathering and exploration of space. Mutual schedules were discussed, and the team physically walked the grounds. Next Tuesday, when Consistory meets for their regular monthly meeting, they will discuss the findings of the team and other possible solutions. Suffice it to say, no known stone is

going unturned as we seek the best solution for our faith community as we continue to serve, fellowship, and grow together as seamlessly as we possibly may during the time of our transition.

Next, the leadership team is scheduled to meet with the UCC Church Building and Loan Foundation officers on Friday, February 24. This team will assist with direction and priorities of our way forward. The Feasibility Study is under way for the purchase of the property which should be completed no later than March 20, 2023. Further on the sale of the 433 Property, we are to meet with our realtor early next week to discuss price and marketing options. Face to Face continues to pay for all utilities a portion of the insurance and will be sharing a thanksgiving gift, as they are able, over and above actual costs. Face to Face church continues on a month-to-month lease and continues to maintain the building inside and out, keeping the inside of the property extremely clean.

Any further updates will be provided on Sunday mornings during our announcements and as always you may contact a member of Consistory or Pastor Tim with questions.

Faith & Family -Time & Talents  
#spucconthejourneytogether

### Faith Formation

- **Sunday Morning Jump-Start** –Parlor at 9:15a
- **Children’s Church** (ages 3 to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) – during a portion of our 10:30. Worship
- **Confirmation** – 5p Sunday evenings through May
- **Youth & Family Gatherings** – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 5 to 7p.
- **Quarterly Special Events** –Next on Sunday, Feb 26 at 5p Pizza and a Movie for all families.
- **Monday Morning Reflections** –Parlor at 11a
- **Wednesday Interactive** –Parlor at 6:05p
- **Fourth Friday Word, Wine & Wisdom** – 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.

*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>

### Music

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

### Fellowship

- **Sunday Morning Coffee Hour** – Every Sunday at 10 in Fellowship Hall
- **Faith Family Meal** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month immediately following Worship. Our next meal together is Sunday, February 19, at 5:30p Spaghetti and Meatballs, with our Annual Saint Paul’s Talent Show following.
- **Friends Who Breakfast** – 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 9:30a Next on March 15 at Silvermoon.
- **Community Research Project** – Dates & Times TBD

### A Way to Serve Others

- **Volunteer Monday** – from noon to 2p. 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 6p
- **Fresh Express** – 1 to 5p on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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, April 16

