



Saint Paul's Possibilities

January 26, 2024

News & Ways to Plug In

Powered by Grace and Coffee
Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

We put the manger scenes away and, in fact, there are trees that will be taken down in just a few weeks. Christmas season has just come to an end. Yet, Lent is upon us. I guess it's appropriate, if we think about it, that Lent and Easter follow so closely to one another that we get the full circle of Christ's life in a matter of four months this year from late November to the end of March.

I often hear from friends and family how amazing the Christmas season is, yet Lent, the season leading up to Easter, is the most amazing because there are less distractions from the meaning of this season, from reviewing the life of Jesus leading up to Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Passion Friday, and Easter Morning! While Christmas is the celebration of God's gift to us all, Easter is the most amazing gift: *it is the defining moment of our faith.*

This year, Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14 (yes, Valentine's Day). On that evening, there will be soup and sandwiches available in the Fellowship Hall if you are coming from work or want to join your family for a quick meal before worship at 7 p.m. At our worship that evening, we will embark upon a journey together - a journey of Love. We will explore reminders that may draw us in and keep us close in this season. We will receive the imposition of ashes to remind us whose we are and how much we are loved, and we will just be together. I pray you are able to work out a way in your schedule so that you may join us. If you are unable to attend, or would like to receive the imposition of ashes earlier in the day, you may do so by dropping by the church anytime that day.

As for our Lenten journey, there are multiple ways to join us in exploration of the season of Lent. Each Sunday of Lent, in Biblical texts, music, children's message, hymns, and sermon we will explore the steps Jesus taught us to help us love more radically. Then, on Monday mornings at 11:30, we will have an opportunity to dig a bit deeper into the texts, ask me questions about the sermon, and just sit and discuss what the message and texts may say to us, individually. There is never a wrong question or answer, and everyone is welcome. Then, on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. during this season,

we are going to explore together a seven-week study, entitled: *"The Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-centered Life."* I feel moved to offer this study. It's an accessible way into which we can journey through Lent to an Easter of greater love and thus peace in our lives, especially in our busy lives today. In this study there is something for everyone and again no wrong answers or questions and there is nothing wrong with just coming, sitting, and being to listen.

This letter to you this week seems a little more informational and not so conversational, however it feels like it's purpose is just to let you know what our journey through Lent will look like and how impactful I feel in my heart that it can be. That's why I pray you will be here whenever you can, make it a personal goal to be in worship, to join a Monday or Wednesday study, or call and set up a time where we can discuss further one-on-one. As I was writing this, I also realized maybe I need to hold space by the fireplace in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:15, so folks may grab their coffee and join me there just to chat and be in discussion about our journey as a faith community into a deeper understanding of Love. Just remember that these discussions can center around ways and ideas we continue to be the church, because to me love defines the way we be the church.

However you choose, however your schedule works out, I hope you will be present whenever you are able, for I mean it when I say we aren't the same when you are not here. And we certainly are a more interesting family when you are—we each make it that way.

Stay safe, and in the words of the blessing of Bishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, "God Bless us all, and may God hold us all in those almighty hands of Love."

See You @ The Farm, Pastor Tim

Please Join Us in Praying For ...

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Linda Beaver | Donnie Poeth |
| Pat Bender | Ira Ranck |
| Cookie Breining | Sherri Schrieber |
| Jeanie Council | Paul Shaner |
| The Engle Family | Kasey Stahl |
| Gail Ernest | Adam Taylor |
| Greyson Greenawalt | Jaelynn Walker |
| Al & Ruth Henry | Thomas Ward, Jr. |
| Katy Mahon | Mental Health Needs |
- Those with Life-Long Illnesses



The Farm Report

Family Meeting Follow-Up

Thank you to everyone who was able to be present for our Annual Family Celebration Meeting this past Sunday. Thanks to you we hosted a record number of members present for this meeting and celebration! Hey, it is true if you feed us we will come! As a follow-up to that meeting, we will be gathering Friday, February 7, beginning at 4 p.m. for a work day / hours at 433 High Street to help remove the remainder of our 'personal' items, including church records from the building. This will also be an opportunity for those who would like to visit the building one last time before the sale closes. We will then transport the items to the Farm and then share in a meal together. Additionally, as we develop questions and answers for our "way forward" we will be holding a session of announcements immediately following worship on pre-announced Sundays. In the meantime if you have questions or things you would like considered, please do not hesitate to reach out to a Consistory Member or contact Pastor Tim to let us know your thoughts and questions. Likely if you have a question, others have the same questions. Thank you in advance, Your Leadership Team

And the Winner Is ...

Congratulations Jon Hagan! While the voting was close and all 9 of the chilies were delicious, (note to self, next year we should have the Chili Cookoff and include a Beano fundraiser on the same day), John Hagan won for his entry, Timberline Chili. Thank you to all the Chili makers and cornbread cookers, dessert makers and side providers! What a fun day and another event to add to our annual calendar! All good down @ The Farm fun!



Free Parking!

Ever pull in and think wow a place close, up front, we can grab that spot! Did you know we can park about anywhere on the property, around the barn, out in the front lot by Reitz Blvd. and even in Dr. Brown's employee parking lot as well? We would like to invite you to explore parking options, if you would, and in doing so, help us welcome our more mobility challenged family members and first-time visitors as well, by leaving the parking lot closest to the building open? Please always leave the spots closest to the handicap ramp open for those who need it. Even during the week. Thank you in advance for helping welcome all in this manner.

Lenten Wednesday Interactive

During the Lenten Season we will be sharing a message and Lenten journey of "More Love..." The messages will be based off of a few book studies and small group discussions. One of the groups that has spent time focusing on Love over the past Fall and now in early winter is our Wednesday Night Interactive group. Wednesday February 21, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, we will embark on a new study. No books needed. However, we will read a Biblical text each week and focus on points of following Jesus in crazy radical love of neighbor. While this will be a different study for us, it should be interesting and very engaging as we share in our small group. All are welcome and each week will connect in a seven-step series "*The Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus Centered Life.*" I promise you it will be anything but boring. Come and find out...to borrow an old phrase: "here's the church, (while we may not have a steeple) we are some crazy Jesus loving people." See you 6:30 p.m. @ Wednesday Interactive in Fellowship Hall. Watch this space for the scripture reading and some preview questions for our first Lenten session. You, yes you, are welcome to come explore with us.

Our Neighbors' Pantry

Our little red wagon has been helping us supply our Emergency Food Pantry for over three years now. And wow, it has supplied many a meal for many families, helping fill our pantry and thus our neighbors' pantries, too. Thank you. Please know your donations mean so much to so many people. Currently our prevalent needs are **grocery and gas gift cards**. To help in this way, you may place gift cards in the offering plate or drop them by the office. Again, thank you for all you do! Being the church, serving our neighbors, it's who we are called to be.

A few upcoming Sundays available to sponsor altar flowers are: February 11, 18, & 25 and March 17 & 24. Use the online form on the homepage of our website or call the church office to schedule a Sunday. Flowers are \$50 and are beautifully arranged by our own Susie Gearhart at The Blooming Rooster in Lewisburg.

You are invited to a night of ...

Tails, Talents, Spaghetti & Meatballs



Sunday, February 11
Dinner at 5:00 p.m.
followed by a fabulous talent
show for all ages.

Saint Paul's @ The Farm
50 Brookpark Circle, Lewisburg

Free will offering to benefit local Missions and Music

Reach out to Gloria Lehman or the church office
to sign up to share your talent.

Join us for
Family Night
2nd and 4th Sunday Nights
5-7 pm
Family meal
Classes for ALL ages

- Nursery
- PreK-Grade 2
- Grade 3 - Grade 6
- Grade 7 - Grade 12
- Parents/Adults

Here, you're family.
50 Brookpark Circle, Lewisburg, PA

A Special Invitation

To all our Families from Pastor Tim

Here we believe our Children, Youth, and Families are the foundation upon which we build our church. Our families in this faith community have varied configurations and ages. Colleen Franciscus is our Director of Christian Formation and has recruited some amazing people to assist her with children, youth, and family nights here @ The Farm, beginning next Sunday, January 28, at 5 p.m. Our hope and prayer is that if at all possible each family will make these nights a priority. There is something for every age group, including parents and grandparents. Read more about it below and follow the links to sign up. Dinner will be provided and will start at 5 p.m. for each gathering. Watch for news of some special fun outings, coming for this winter and spring! Think lions and tigers and bouncing things too!

A Note from Colleen ... Please join us for Family Night - kicking off **Sunday, January 28!** We'll begin with a family friendly meal @ 5 p.m. (donations per family accepted, yet not required) followed by classes for the entire family! Let's learn and grow together! We'd like to know if you are planning to join us for our kick-off night. Click the link below or use the QR Code to sign up (you can select multiple slots at a time to sign your entire family up in one click). See you soon!



<http://tinyurl.com/spuccfamilynight>

A Word of Welcome

This past Sunday we welcomed ten new official members to our faith community. Those members included Deb & Dennis Burns of here in Lewisburg, Jen Van Horn & Louise Litzy of Riverside, and Alaina & Adam Taylor (aka parents of Kasen and Calie) of New Berlin. All three couples Pastor Tim had the privilege of being a part of their uniting in marriage which he hadn't realized until they were standing in front of us during the new member welcome. Additionally, we welcomed Susan Cardellino of Lewisburg, Bob Gift of Milton, and Krysta and Tylor Moyer (aka Fin and Cooper's parents) of Milton. What a gift all of these families bring to our faith community. Two came by profession of faith and six by membership transfer from previous faith communities. We give thanks to God for their presence with us and their desire to grow their roots deeper in this faith community. We look forward to getting to know each of them even better, although most have already been quite involved in the life of this faith community. So, would you seek them out and offer them a warm and loving down @ The Farm welcome, as we say to each of them, Welcome Home!



Celebrations

- Jan 28 – Happy Birthday Earl Fisher
- Jan 30 – Happy Birthday Barclay Wilson
- Feb 4 – Happy Birthday April Masker
- Feb 4 – Happy Birthday Christine Parker
- Feb. 9 – Happy Birthday Makaila Huff



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. We are currently wrapping up "Everybody Always." All are welcome to jump in for this great discussion. Lenten Study begins on 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 8 & 22**

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! Up next ... **February 11 Spaghetti & Meatballs & Talent Show!**

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. **Jan 26 & Feb 23**

Stewardship

Gifts & Offerings January 21, 2023

"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: 1,104 Virtual Reach: 8,310

Attendance In Person: 145 (5 Visitors)

Christian Education: 68

Plate Giving	\$ 2,205.00
Loose Plate	\$ 344.00
Online Giving	\$ <u>808.13</u>
Operational Total	\$ 3,357.13
General Restricted Giving	\$ <u>62.00</u>
Total Giving	\$ 3,419.13

2023 Giving Statements and Annual Report were distributed on Sunday, January 21. If you did not receive yours, please stop by the church office during office hours.

Upcoming Worship

January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

"Shock & Awe?"

Psalm 111; Mark 1:21-28

Worship Leader: Drew Faust

Lector: Rhonda Newton Acolyte: Ben Barbella

Flowers: Staci Wagner Breakfast: H. Zeyn & R. Rohrer

Offering Counter: E. Fisher; D. Spear

February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

"A Hard Left"

Isaiah 40:21-31, 10; Mark 1:29-39

Worship Leader: Jen Arnold

Lector: Dave Muffley Acolyte: Bo Gill

Flowers: Mike Haven Breakfast: The Kisters

Offering Counter: S. Brown; D. Spear

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

