



THE MESSENGER

OUR MISSION IS TO GROW IN FAITH, TO WORSHIP GOD, TO SERVE OTHERS, AND TO WELCOME ALL.



GOOD news

**Virtual Easter Pageant
10 AM Easter Sunday**



CARING FOR CREATION

**ZOOM MESSY CHURCH
APRIL 18 AT 4 PM**

MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY

MAY 2, 2021

7 MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Help us celebrate Music Appreciation Sunday by recording a video.

Holy Week

<p>Palm Sunday, March 28</p> <p>Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem</p> <p>"Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Leaf, branch 📖 Read Mark 11:1-11 💬 When do you feel happy? What brings you joy? ✅ Find a green leaf and wave it. Dance for joy and sing a song. ✝️ Thank you, Jesus, that you are a part of my life! Amen. 	<p>Holy Tuesday, March 30</p> <p>A Woman Anoints Jesus</p> <p>Jesus said, "She has done a good thing for me."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Perfume 📖 Read Mark 14:3-9 💬 Anointing is a sign of love. Whom do you love most? ✅ Hug, kiss someone who is close to you. Tell them that you love them and why. ✝️ Thank you, Jesus, for the people I love! Amen. 	<p>Mundy Thursday, April 1</p> <p>Jesus Shares a Special Meal, Communion, with His Friends</p> <p>Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ A plate and cup you really like 📖 Read Mark 14:22-25 💬 With whom do you like to share a favorite food or drink? ✅ When you eat today, think of all the people who make your food possible. ✝️ Thank you, Jesus, that you feed my soul, too! Amen.
<p>Holy Monday, March 29</p> <p>Jesus Cleans Out the Temple.</p> <p>"My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Coins 📖 Read Mark 11:15-19 💬 Where and when do you feel close to God? ✅ Write down the names of people who are important to you. Thank them today. ✝️ Thank you, Jesus, that you love me as I am! Amen. 	<p>Holy Wednesday, March 31</p> <p>Jesus Washes the Feet of His Disciples</p> <p>Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Feet 📖 Read Luke 21:37-38 💬 How do you feel about your feet? ✅ Wash your feet with soap and water. ✝️ Thank you, Jesus, that you brighten my life! Amen. 	<p>Good Friday, April 2</p> <p>Jesus Dies. His Life Is Complete</p> <p>Jesus said, "It is finished."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Cross 📖 Read Mark 15:20-41 💬 How do you feel about the cross? ✅ Pray for someone who is struggling. ✝️ Thank you, Jesus, for loving me when I was a sinner! Amen.

2 WALK WITH JESUS THROUGH HOLY WEEK

For each day during Holy Week, there will be a video and a short devotion.



WILL YOU WALK WITH JESUS THROUGH HOLY WEEK?

Walking with Jesus through Holy Week captures some of our most human experiences: feeling down, tired, exhausted, lonely, helpless, and abandoned.

I invite you to join me in walking with Jesus through Holy Week, from Palm Sunday, March 28 to Easter Sunday, April 4.

The purpose of Holy Week is for us to connect more deeply with God and to become more like Jesus. Walking in his footsteps will help us do that.

Step-by-step we follow Jesus from the great "Hosannah!" celebration of Palm Sunday, to him throwing out the money-changers, him being anointed, teaching in the temple, sharing the special Passover meal with his friends, all the way into the darkness of him feeling abandoned, godforsaken, and being crucified. The tomb in which Jesus is buried, becomes the womb from which he rose.

Each day of Holy Week you can fol-

low the guidance of a symbol, a quote from Jesus' journey, explore a question, and participate in a hands-on activity. In about ten minutes per day you can immerse yourself in the life, passion, and resurrection of Jesus.

Nothing human is foreign to Jesus. I experience the Covid pandemic as heavy, weighing on us all. I feel down and tired of it. I'm grieving the loss of friends, family, community, and meeting face-to-face in person.

Walking with Jesus through Holy Week captures some of our most human experiences: feeling down, tired, exhausted, lonely, helpless, and abandoned. Have you ever felt a little like that? When was that? Your feelings and experiences matter! They bring you closer to Jesus.

Thank God, Jesus' journey did not end on the cross and in the grave. God raised him from the dead and God raises us also to a new life. This is the most amazing transformation, from death to life, from grieving to joy, from the dark night of the soul to a bright Easter celebration.

You will find a brief video for each day of Holy Week on our church's Facebook page and the mini devotional on our website. In ten minutes per day, you can experience hands-on why Holy Week matters and how it can help you connect more deeply with God and become more like Jesus.

Blessings,

Pastor Dietmar

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Happy Easter!

This month, the Christian Education Committee is excited to present the first ever Easter Pageant at St. Paul's!! Many thanks to all who participated and made this unique endeavor come to life. I would like to express a special thank you to my creative director, Joanne Lauer, without whom I could not have possibly made this happen. Thanks to Sigrid for sewing all the parts together into the final, brilliantly original product.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Illustrated Ministries Lenten Series, Reflections on the Heart, this year. It was a wonderfully heart-warming program that really delved into the importance of what we treasure and hold dear and how we can relate that to God's love for us, who we are, and how we live our lives.

The Sunday School program, Illustrated Earth, returns on Sunday, April 11th. We will pick up where we left off in Mod-

ule 2: Plants and Food Stories and learn about the Feeding of the 5,000 (Mark 6:31-44). For April 18th we will discuss Rest for the Land (Leviticus 25:1-7) and on April 25th we will talk about the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-9). The month of May will be all about ANIMALS!!

I know how hard it is to find the time to engage with yet another online program, but for those who have been following my work, thank you. My tenure as Youth Leader at St. Paul's will conclude on May 30th as I have decided to resign from the position. It has been a tremendous opportunity to serve the children and families of St. Paul's and the children of our community. The Wednesday afternoon Kids Group was so much fun! I send my deepest appreciation out to Linda Turner and Kim Burkhart who were ardent supporters, making themselves available each week to assist. The challenge of bringing a Vacation Bible School program to life during the pandemic pushed me out of



my comfort zone and taught me a lot of new skills with Zoom and its capabilities, video recordings and editing, and my adaptability was thoroughly tested. Keeping a youth program running, for those who had the time and interest to follow, allowed me to travel to new places, to stretch my creativity, and to test new bounds that I otherwise would not have reached.

Thanks to all who have been so supportive of my work, those who sent me notes of encouragement, and the children and families who participated in my programs. It's been a wonderful experience.

Stacy Heinemann



MESSY CHURCH

Join us for Messy Church on April 18 at 4 PM. You can sign up on our [website](#).

It has been a wonderful experience to have Messy Church again since January. Every month, we average about 18 to 20 households with a total of around 40 to 45 Zoom participants. Singles and families, people of all ages are meeting for one hour via Zoom and leaving that meeting smiling. It is so good to see the

kids again! We craft, explore a story, and play games and enjoy each other's company via Zoom.

Each month, our faithful helpers deliver little goodie bags with the craft materials and a snack to the participants. If you haven't participated in Messy Church yet, sign up for our April Messy Church and join the fun!

Sigrid and the Messy Church Team

APRIL



BIRTHDAYS

- 4/1 Wyatt L. Beaver
- 4/2 Dorothy Deans
Cindy Frymoyer
- 4/5 Ellen Berger
- 4/6 Maggie Frymoyer
Henley Kranzel
- 4/7 Jane Berger
- 4/8 Owen Feiler
- 4/9 Dakota Namminga
Jackie Naugle
- 4/10 David Lauer, Sr.
- 4/11 Meghan Hawk
Joshua Wagner
- 4/12 Sarah Reed
- 4/13 Charles Klingler
- 4/14 Jessica Smith
- 4/16 Vivian Beaver
- 4/17 Don Groner
Sharon Womer
- 4/19 Eric Dahlmann
Shannon Hermann
Flo Hummel
Joe Williams
- 4/21 Emma Herrold
James Smith, Jr.
- 4/23 Jim Taylor
- 4/24 Jason Martello
Jack Riegel
Andrew Womer
- 4/25 Lauren Imhoof
- 4/28 Barbara Lewis
- 4/29 Joseph Erdley
- 4/30 Brian Derr
Sarah Garbo



ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/3 Dorothy & Al Deans
- 4/21 Ann & Don Groner
- 4/29 Beverly & Steve Sees

PRAYER LIST

Members:

- Kim Burkhart
- Al & Dot Deans
- Helen Hannah
- Allen Wetzel

Friends:

- Scott Depew
- The family of Carol Garbo
- Terry Garbo & family
- The family of Suellen Lewis
- Joe Namet
- Kathy S.

Rick Sosbe
Parents and children affected by
Covid-19
All who lost their jobs
All who keep working in critical situa-
tions, especially the health care workers
Those who live in abusive relationships
All who are grieving
Special prayers for all those who are
serving in the military, leaders of the
world, those who are working for peace
and understanding, and all the children
of the world.

EASTER FLOWERS

PRESENTED BY:

- Raven Rudnitsky in honor of 5 special
Feilers and furry critters.
- Raven Rudnitsky in honor of 4 special
Carons and furry critters.
- Raven Rudnitsky in honor of 3 special
Burkharts and furry critters.
- Raven Rudnitsky in honor of Marv for
more reasons than I can count.
- Charlotte Barben & Susan Harman in
memory of Jim Kauffman.

Dietmar Plajer in memory of my mother,
Christa Plajer.
Susan Bolig in honor of Mary Bolig.
Susan Bolig in honor of Ruby Strawser.
Susan Bolig in honor of Brooke & Cas-
sidy Alvieri and Lily, Marley & Charlotte
Stumpf.
Ben Williard in memory of Harry Snyder,
Darlene Snyder and Albert Lagerman,
Sr.

NON-LILY MINISTRY FOR HOFFMAN HOMES

PRESENTED BY:

- Ray Benner & family in memory of Betsy
Benner.
Their children: Carol, Lee, Ray, Craig
& David Klingler in honor of Charles &
Dolly Klingler.
- LaMar & Sue Henise in memory of Stan-
ley, Georgina, and Judy Wagner.
- Jevan Beaver in memory of Neil & Susan
Beaver.
- Charles & Dolly Klingler in honor of Car-
ol, Lee, Ray, Craig & David Klingler.
- Charles & Dolly Klingler in memory of
their parents, Ammon & Mae Klingler

and Henry & Maude Walter.
Tina Burgess in honor of the Jevan Bea-
ver family.
Tina Burgess in memory of Neil Beaver.
Sally Lauer in honor of our tech crew
and musicians.
Charlotte Barben & Susan Harman in
memory of Edward S. Barben.
Raven & Marv Rudnitsky in memory of
all who have gone before us whom we
hold in our hearts.
Daria Kaminskyj in honor of Hoffman
Homes for Youth.



NOOMA ZOOM STUDY WEDNESDAYS AT 7 PM

Join us for meaningful conversations around interesting faith topics. Each Wednesday, we will watch a brief video from the Nooma Series by Rob Bell and engage in conversation about it. Join us by clicking on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89959048290>



PHONE LIVE STREAMING 570-225-9545

Worship by Phone - You can call (570) 225-9545 to listen to the live worship service from your phone on Sunday morning at 10 AM. You can also call this number at any time during the week and listen to the worship service from last Sunday and even past weeks.



MIXED ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Members of the Mixed Adult Sunday school class (Richard's class) meet via Zoom phone every month to be together in conversation with one another about what is going on in their lives and for a prayer.

RISING WITH JESUS TO A NEW LIFE - EASTER SEASON WORSHIP

“Dare to Dance Again - Rising with Jesus to a New Life” will be the focus in our worship services for the Easter Season beginning with Easter Sunday, April 4. We will explore how we can rise together with Jesus from illness, addiction, oppression, limitations, and be revived and refreshed by the the power of the

dancing Spirit of God among us. The message of “The Lord of the Dance,” a Shaker Hymn points to the center of our worship season. Join us on Sundays in person (with masks and social distancing), via Facebook Live, through our website, or by calling 570-225-9545.



St. Paul's Council Meeting March 9, 2021

In Attendance: Sara Adams, Marty Blessing, Susan Bolig, Rick Campbell, Amy Caron, Bob Engel, Beverly Heinemann, Stacy Heinemann, Jack Lewis, Ivana Lluveras, Donna Long, Peggy Peeler, Pastor Dietmar & Sigrid Plajer, Shane Sanders, Linda Turner, Kathy Ulrich, Michael Zettlemoyer.

Minutes – A motion was made by Linda Turner and seconded by Kathy Ulrich to approve the minutes from February 9th. The motion was approved.

Financial Report – Bill Hockenbrock reported. Jack Lewis made the motion to accept the financial report, Bob Engel seconded. The motion was approved.

Pastor's Report – Included in newsletter.

Unfinished Business & New Business:

• **Worship in person, via internet and by phone:** Sigrid reported: Phone calls are going well – 5-7 people join by phone every Sunday. Various members reported that they've heard from family & friends that the livestream is very well done.

• **Messy Church March 14** - Sigrid reported: Messy Church will be next Sunday – signups are happening now. Reminder about Daylight Savings time. Theme will be Lent with planting grass.

• **Wednesday Study Group School Class w/Nooma videos-report:** Going well – still good attendance.

• **Children's Sunday School/Youth Ministry, Easter Pageant** - Stacy Heinemann reported: Easter pageant is in progress. Sunday school videos are ready to go through March. Audience is usually around 3 people, so not a ton of support for the efforts.

• **Committee Support Team:** They help find people for committees if they need help. Jack reported that it would be very helpful to have a younger member involved. Ivana Lluveras volunteered.

• **Hospitality Team/Facilities Manager Needed** – To organize, plan, set up and clean up before Funerals, Special events etc. It was evident at Ethel Foor's funeral that we need someone who is in charge to organize the funerals when they come up. Susan Bolig would be okay being the coordinator, but she wants to make sure there is help for her when it comes up – people who are willing to be on-call: Marty & Ivana volunteered.

• **Easter Gift Bags** - Bags will be delivered to local families March 26 & 27.

• **Easter Service** – There will be one service at 10:00 held in-person and livestreamed on Facebook.

• **Ecclesiastical Council for Genevieve Beatty** - Saturday, Feb. 13, 2:00 PM via Zoom - Marty attended - gave update that it was a good experience, and she hopes we all get a chance to meet her and interact with Genevieve at some point.

• **Church Roof Repair** - Mike Proger met with the roofer. Replacing windows on the office wing and future of the Bridal Store - No new information except that the leftover shingles will be used for color comparison, but not on the roof.

• **Amazon Smile** - 0.5% will be given to St. Paul's if ordering from our link available in the e-news and on the website.

• **Visitation Ministry Coordinator** - Search is ongoing.

• **Leadership Orientation Zoom Meeting** - March 21, 2:00-3:00. Committee Chairperson/Liaison will invite their members. The purpose is for leaders to learn about and understand how we function as a congregation and leadership team. It helps people know what to communicate to whom.

Committee Reports:

• **Steward & Finance Committee** - Discuss Quick Books

Bill Hockenbrock reported: The committee met Sunday, March 7th. The finance committee would like to recommend no longer employing Donna Long as treasurer. Susan and other council members expressed their trust in the committee and knowing what they need. A motion was made to approve the committee's decision regarding Donna Long. The motion was passed by the council. Bill will coordinate with the personnel committee to help however he can with the search for a new treasurer.

We need to purchase 5 wireless microphones = \$1500. A motion was made and passed to approve the purchase. Stewardship and Finance suggested that this could come from a memorial fund because they are generally meant to go towards something that benefits the entire congregation.

• **Personnel Report** - Stacy Heinemann Youth Leader resignation.

With great regret, the motion was made and passed that we accept Stacy's resignation as Youth Leader. Marty Reported: 2 Searches will be run – one for new Treasurer and one for Youth Leader. The personnel committee will work with various stakeholder committees to create the job descriptions and conduct the searches.

• **Weeklong Vacation request from Pastor Dietmar:** Easter Monday, April 5th – April 11th. The motion was made and approved by the council.

• Pastor Dietmar encouraged attendance at the Bucknell Panel on **Faith in Action: Christians and Gun Violence Protection** being held Wednesday, March 10th.

Next council Meeting: April 13, 2021

Respectfully submitted,
Shane Sanders, Council Secretary

Pastor's Report - February 2021

Our St. Paul's Mission is to grow in faith, to worship God, to serve others, and to welcome all.

"Holy Vessels: A Season of Recovery" is our Lenten worship series which we began with Ash Wednesday, February 17. Sea glass is the symbol of our worship services that guides us through the season. Like shattered glass we experience brokenness and the sharpness of grief during the pandemic. God's grace can wash over us and sand off the sharp and painful edges of loss and grief and transform us into beauty. I am deeply grateful to Isabel Proger for creating a motherload of beach glass and to our amazing worship team members, Carolyn Fairl, Shane Sanders, and Jevan Beaver for decorating the sanctuary to perfection to reflect this theme. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to those who provided the Children's Messages during February: Erin Smith, Jane Taylor, and Stacy Heinemann, and to those who functioned as lectors: Marv Rudnitsky, Kathy and Jake Ulrich, Bill Bowers, and Barb Lewis.

Messy Church on February 14 was all about love. It was a delight to have about 40 persons on 20 screens connecting via Zoom explore faith in fun, hands-on, and interactive ways. The Messy Church planning team provided craft supplies and snacks to all who signed up for the

event. From the safety of their homes children, families, and grown-ups crafted, explored a story (provided by Jane Taylor), and played games. I'm so very grateful that we have the Messy Church program up and running again during the pandemic. Part of the terrific planning team are Lois Bruno, Deb and Terry Burns, Chyrl Gemberling, Alice Justice, Jack Lewis, and Sigrid Plajer.

Justin Rhoades (33) died at his home on January 27. His family is in shock and deeply grieving. I officiated the service for Justin Rhoades on Wednesday, February 3. Ethel Foor (84) died on February 20 and I officiated the service for Ethel in our church sanctuary on Saturday, February 27. My mother, Christa Plajer died in Germany on February 3 and I travelled together with Sigrid to gather with my brothers and their families to grieve and celebrate her life. We participated in the memorial service for her on February 10. I am grateful to Rev. Darin Namminga, who filled in on very short notice to lead the worship service on February 7, and to Rev. Sally Dries for being available for pastoral care emergencies. It was good to be able to participate from Germany in our St. Paul's church meetings, although it made for a few short nights for us.

St. Paul's music ministry keeps providing special contributions for our wor-

ship services. I am very grateful to Maya Caron for directing the Bell Ensemble during this season, to Amy Caron for bringing out the best in the Senior Choir singers and including people from out of town, and to all who provide solos and ensemble music during these challenging Covid-19 times. Our two pianists, Jaime Namminga and Carolyn Patton, keep excelling on the piano and help us open our hearts and souls to the living God.

Thank you for your prayers, your witness, your giving, your service, and your faithfulness to God and to God's work through St. Paul's. You are the hands and heart of Jesus in action.

February 1-28, 2021

Days worked	18
Days off	03
Continuing Education	00
Compassionate Leave	07
Vacation days	00
Holidays	00
Total Days	28

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Dietmar Plajer

**MUSIC
APPRECIATION
SUNDAY**
MAY 2, 2021

Musicians, we need YOU.

Can you play an instrument for us? Sing a song, either a solo or with friends? It's easy to record on a smartphone, tablet or PC. Our tech team can talk you through it and plan for the congregation. Share your gifts and talents.

Thank you for your support and your commitment to Saint Pauls.

Marv Rudnitsky and the Music Committee



St. Paul's United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming congregation

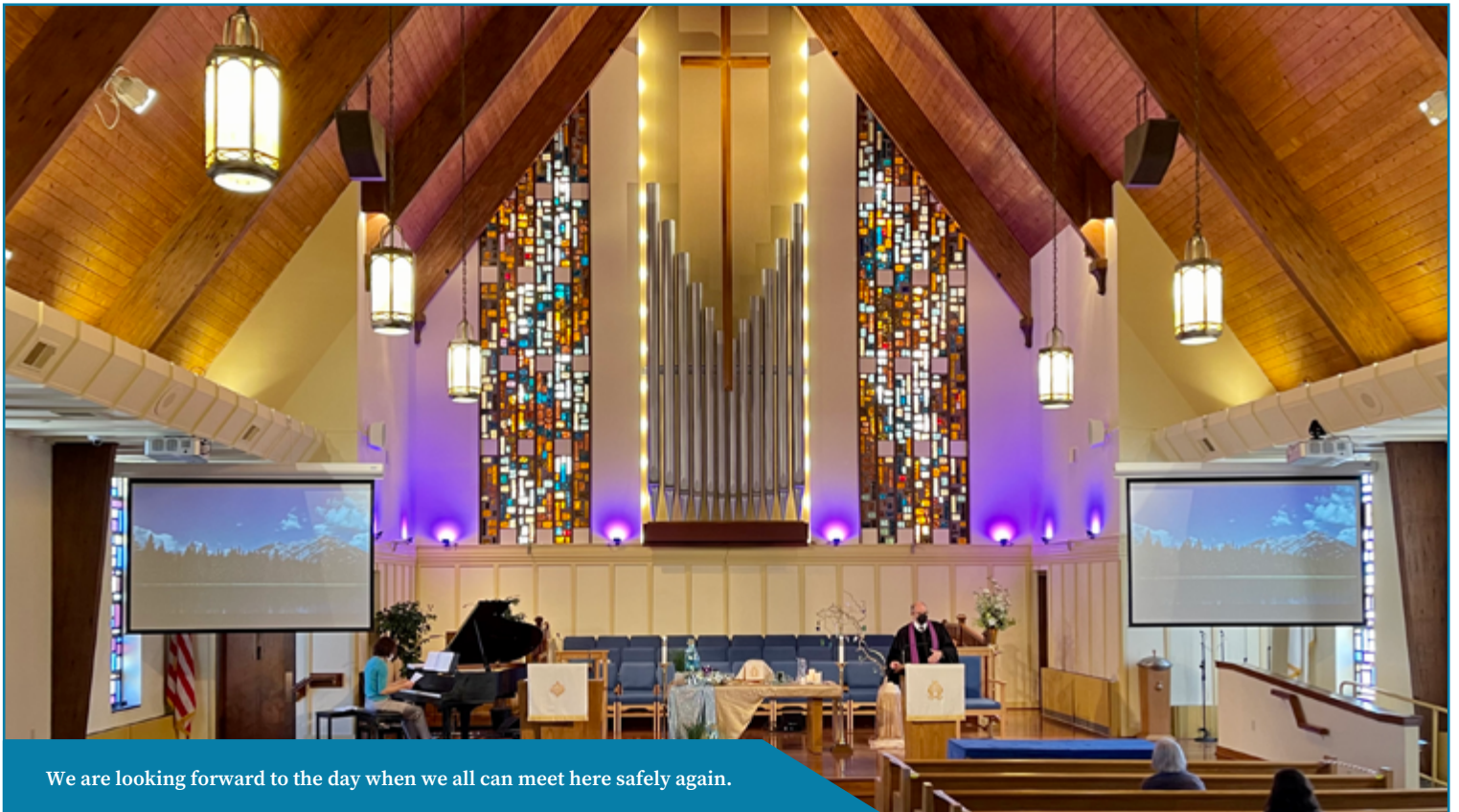
400 North Market Street
Selinsgrove, PA 17870
Tel 570-374-8749
office@saintpauls-ucc.org
www.saintpauls-ucc.org

Worship Sunday at 10:00 AM
either on Facebook or our website

“God is Still Speaking”

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

We thank God for...



We are looking forward to the day when we all can meet here safely again.