



# THE MESSENGER

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

**Easter**  
AT ST. PAUL'S UCC

6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service  
10:30 a.m. Easter Celebration Service

April 14 at 4pm

**MESSY CHURCH**

**PETER'S DISCIPLESHIP**

**Spring Clean-Out Days**

April 6 @ 9a-12p and April 11 @5:30p

**MEET & EAT**

April 28 | 11:40 a.m.

**UPCOMING EVENTS** APRIL/MAY

- 7 APRIL - CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION
- 5 MAY - MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY
- 28, 5 & 12 APRIL - MAY - NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION



## WHAT IS EASTER ABOUT? UNLOCKING THE MEANING OF EASTER

Love got them going. Before sunrise on Easter morning, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome walked to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body. Love got them going. One more time they wanted to demonstrate their love for Jesus. While walking, they asked themselves, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" The stone was large and heavy. As they approached the tomb at sunrise and looked up, they saw the rock was rolled away. They walked into the tomb. They were shocked. It was empty. An angelic figure told them, "Jesus is not here. He has risen. Go, tell His disciples, that He will be walking ahead of you and you will see Him."

The women were awe-struck. This was not just unexpected, but unfathomable. They had witnessed Jesus, the lover of their souls, nailed to the cross, bleeding, and dying. Their hopes and dreams were shattered. Slowly, the reality of death settled in. "It's over!" They had hoped that Jesus would set them free. With Je-

sus' death, their dreams evaporated and their hopes were crushed.

We know what that feels like. Death comes in various shapes and sizes, like small or larger disappointments. It can be feeling at a loss and at your wits end. We have been there, when the future did not look rosy, but rather bleak.

The Easter message reverberates that all is not lost. He lives! God raised Jesus who was dead. And God raises us to a new life with Jesus. We are set free, renewed, transformed. With Jesus there is hope. This is the heart of Easter.

Resurrection is possible for us. Easter is the key to this new life for us. We are raised and can rise with Jesus from grief, addiction, suffering, darkness, and brokenness. During this season we will explore in worship what binds us and hold us back from the joy of life. We will focus on how Jesus unlocks new possibilities for us. Easter is the key to hope and new

life.

No matter how dead you may feel inside or how dead your dreams may feel, God is making a way for you. With God there is hope.

I can feel that very hope as we are endeavoring on our huge renovation project. Following our Easter Celebration Service we will break ground for a better St. Paul's. I am very hopeful as we are making progress with our Renewing Capital Campaign to raise funds for this much needed renovation. I am hopeful as we will have a group of guests at our next Messy Church, plan for a New Member Orientation and for teaching a Confirmation Class in the fall. And so much more!

Invite a friend and join us for an extra special Easter Celebration Service and a season full of hope and new possibilities!

*Pastor Dietmar*



# MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

The Music and Personnel Committees are updating the job description of the Senior Choir Director. It's sad to announce that Amy Caron has decided to retire from the position after 19 years. Amy's responsibilities in teaching voice and directing the University Chorale at Susquehanna have increased. The good news is that she's not going away, but will likely spend time singing in the choir.

If you know of someone who might be qualified to conduct our Senior Choir, please email [jobs@saintpauls-ucc.org](mailto:jobs@saintpauls-ucc.org). We will be initiating a search soon. — Marv Rudnitsky



# PETER'S DISCIPLESHIP MESSY CHURCH APRIL 14



Join us at St. Paul's UCC for Messy Church on April 14 at 4 p.m.! We will explore the story of Jesus' disciple Peter. All are invited, and children need to be accompanied by an adult. Expect a lively afternoon filled with engaging activities and crafts in our fellowship hall, followed by a time of celebration in the sanctuary. We will conclude with a family-style meal together. Come and enjoy the Messy Church experience with us! Kindly [RSVP](#) so we can prepare

enough supplies and food for everyone.

Jesus invites a diverse group of individuals to "follow him," urging them to make decisions that reflect his teachings and to show compassion towards others. Just like Peter, our journey of discipleship will have its share of joy, challenges, and moments of testing faith. Despite this, Jesus knows and continues to encourage us to "follow him."

## Thank You!

A great thank you to each and everyone for helping us clean out closets, shelves, nooks and crannies at St. Paul's on Saturday, March 23. It was hard work and we appreciate you, the helpers very much. We uncovered and displayed all items that are still of value in the fellowship hall as "treasures for the taking." The next step of our clean out will take place on Saturday, April 6 at 9 am when we place all remaining items into the garage for the Borough spring clean up. Again, we will offer coffee and donuts for all helpers. You can browse through the items which we do not need any more while you are here helping with the clean out. Thanks for your help!



On Saturday, March 23, it took many hands to carry all the items to the fellowship hall and set them up on the tables. Thank you to all who helped!

# APRIL

## BIRTHDAYS



- 4/01 Wyatt L. Beaver
- 4/02 Cindy Frymoyer
- 4/05 Ellen Berger
- 4/06 Maggie Frymoyer
- 4/07 Jane Berger
- 4/08 Owen Feiler
- 4/09 Dakota Namminga  
Jackie Naugle
- 4/10 David Lauer, Sr.
- 4/12 Sarah Reed  
Larry Smith
- 4/13 Charles Klingler
- 4/14 Jessica Smith  
Valerie Vankirk
- 4/16 Vivian Beaver
- 4/17 Don Groner  
Sharon Womer
- 4/19 Eric Dahlmann  
Shannon Hermann  
Joe Williams
- 4/20 Brenda Shower
- 4/21 Emma Herrold  
James Smith, Jr.
- 4/23 Jim Taylor
- 4/24 Jason Martello  
Andrew Womer
- 4/25 Lauren Imhoof
- 4/27 Isaiah Gruenberg
- 4/28 Barbara Lewis
- 4/29 Joe Erdley
- 4/30 Brian Derr  
Sarah Garbo



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/24 Jean LeGros & David Wilson
- 4/21 Ann & Don Groner
- 4/29 Beverly & Steve Sees
- 4/30 Jody & Sheila Sees

# PRAYER LIST

Linda Anderson  
 Rev. Julie Beall  
 Pat Cline  
 Bill & Joyce Dell  
 Shannon Hermann and Family  
 Donna Hoke  
 Donna Hutchison  
 John Kinney  
 Stacy Koch  
 Mother going through rehab  
 Noah  
 Person suffering tragic loss  
 Darren Rhoads  
 Rev. Jack Snook

All who keep working in critical situations, especially the health care workers  
 All who are grieving  
 Those in leadership positions  
 Our country - for peace, respect, understanding  
 Those who are dear and close to our hearts and those not named above  
 The people of Ukraine and all those suffering from the raging war  
 The people of Israel and Gaza  
 We pray for peace

# THANK YOU NOTES

### From Haven Ministry

Thank you for your interest and very generous donation to our shelter. With the help of generous donations and community support, we are currently housing, feeding, and clothing area individuals and

families, as well as supplying emergency food to those in need. I feel blessed to be in the position of Executive Director and I am amazed at God's grace.

Christy M. Zeigler, Executive Director

The Citizens' Climate Lobby is celebrating Earth Day. Join them for their 3rd annual Joy to the Earth on April 20 from 10-2! There will be kids activities. Bands include KJ Reimensnyder-Wagner, Woody Wolf, and Mark Alexander. Learn how to compost, make mushrooms, and all about worms! Vendors include the Susquehanna Riverkeeper, East Snyder Community Garden, the Environmental Sustainability Club from SU, Summit, CCL, and much more. There will also be a tree giveaway. Bring your old shoes as Soles4Souls will be collecting them for recycling!



## Calling all cooks!



Calling all cooks! Our next Messy Church events are coming up, and we need your help to make them a success. We're looking for volunteers to prepare delicious but simple meals for our Messy Church attendees. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your culinary skills and serve our community. If you're interested in helping out, please contact Jack Lewis directly or through the [church office](#) for more information. Thank you for your support!



This Easter Season we celebrate all the ways in which resurrection is possible for us. We will explore together what binds us and keeps us away from the joy of life. We can be in need of rising from the depth of grief, addiction, poverty, oppression, illness, and suffering not just physically and literally, but also spiritually. We will experience how to embrace God's potential for us. We will unlock the fullness of life that God created for us. Invite a friend and join us for meaningful, moving, and uplifting worship services beginning with Easter Sunday, March 31.



## We need your help!

We ask for your continued help to carry items from the fellowship hall to the garage and to assist with recycling/trash removal.

This is a big job and it takes many helpers to make it happen.

Everyone can help. We will offer coffee and donuts at 8:45 a.m. on April 6 and pizza and cookies at 12 noon on those days. Thank you!

Jacob Koch and the Property and Grounds Team

### THESE ARE THE 2 DATES YOU CAN HELP

**April 6, 9a-12p**

Remaining items from the fellowship hall and junk and recyclables from everywhere else will be moved to the garage.

**April 11, 5:30p**

The items from the garage and anything else that needs thrown away and is still in the church building will be placed on the curb for pickup by the Borough.



# ST. PAUL'S COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 12, 2024

*Because of the timing of the newsletter publication, these newsletter minutes are not the official, approved minutes. After the minutes have been approved at the next meeting, the final minutes are available upon request.*

**In Attendance:** Dietmar Plajer, Sigrid Plajer as guest, Linda Turner (Finance report), Randy Tanner, Joanne Lauer, John Fischer, Jacob Koch, Carol Miller, Allen Wetzel, Lisa Krex, Kimmie Burkhart.

**Excused:** Jon Stante, Ellen Miller, Malcolm Derk.

**Minutes of February Meeting:** The February meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Dietmar is excited about the good work happening behind the scenes on the capital campaign and thanked the team. He is also excited about the church clean out being organized by the Property & Grounds committee and thanked Linda Turner, Dan Namet, and Sigrid for all their work with the clean out effort as well as others that have pitched in so far. "Entering the Passion of Jesus" is the theme of our Lenten season worship series.

**Financial Report:** A difference in accounting processes explained why some numbers were so different from the previous year. Linda Turner explained that dedicated funds are donations given above and beyond a regular offering, and the renovation donations for the capital campaign "Renewing St. Paul's" will be held as dedicated funds in the checking account. The February financial reports were sent out in advance of the meeting and were approved as presented.

**New Council Member:** Ellen Miller will fill Mary Dahlman's vacancy on council.

**Strategic Planning:** Fall 2024 planning - Pastor Dietmar said he is pondering and evaluating possibly having small group meetings at people's homes, and coffee before the service is up and running.

**Associate Pastor:** The position is posted and there will be a rubric that the committee will use to review the candidates. This will be a silent search for confidentiality reasons. Once the committee narrows down the search, a candidate will be presented to the congregation.

**Renovation Project:** A groundbreaking ceremony will be on Easter Sunday, March 31 after the 10:30 worship service. While the front sidewalk is under construction the first week after Easter, everyone entering the building will need to use the front door and access it via the Market Street side.

**Spring Clean Out:** Help is needed on three dates: Saturday, March 23 from 9-12 to move items to the Fellowship Hall; April 6 from 9-12 to move items to the garage; April 11 at 5:30 to

move items to the curb. Pastor Dietmar will do a decommissioning of items we no longer use during the Palm Sunday service, and items will be available to pick up in the Fellowship Hall after the service for a small donation.

**Safety Plan:** Jacob Koch provided an update on the 'To Do' list. Front doors with crash bars are still being priced (around \$9,000 for repurposed doors and \$15,000 for new doors). He said they will wait until after the big renovation is over to see what the budget looks like before making any decision/recommendations. The second AED for the Fellowship Hall is on order, but it may take several months to get here due to supply chain issues.

**Youth Leader Search:** No update.

**Nursery Coverage:** We are still in need of someone to coordinate coverage.

**Capital Campaign Committee:** John Fischer reported that the committee has approved the materials that will be used and are discussing who will be doing what. Pastor Dietmar discovered broken stained glass windows from the original building during the clean out and hopes to repurpose the glass and make angels, crosses, etc. out of it. He and the committee will discuss the idea in more detail.

## General Information:

- People are needed to count money after the Sunday services. There is a rotation schedule and people will be trained. Please contact Rick Campbell if you are interested in helping.
- Amy Caron is stepping down as choir director. The Music Committee is looking for someone to take over the music ministry and is working on a new job description.
- Easter Worship Series: "Resurrection Stories: Unlock Yours!" Please invite people with keys & key tag gifts.

## Communion:

Maundy Thursday, March 28: Randy & Pastor Dietmar (bread & grapes).

Easter Sunday, March 31 @ 6:30: Randy, Jacob, Allen, Shane?

Easter Sunday, March 31 @ 10:30: Lisa, Joanne, Torri, Linda

April 7: no communion since Easter Sunday is the week before.

**Pastor Vacation:** April 15-22 - Rev. Darin Namminga will lead worship on April 21.

**Next Council Meeting:** April 9, 2024 @ 7 pm.

**Devotions for April Meeting:** Torri Stark.

Respectfully submitted,

Torri Stark, Council Secretary





## New Member Orientation Meetings

If you're interested in officially joining St. Paul's in our mission and ministries, I invite you to join us for our New Member Orientations on the following Sundays after our worship services: April 28, May 5, and May 12. The official joining will take place during our Pentecost worship services on May 19.

The purpose of the new member orientation meetings is to learn about St. Paul's, our vision, mission, and ministries,

to clarify expectations, to connect with mentors, and to ask questions. It's always special to do this exploring in a group together with others. We will get to know each other better as we become partners in ministry.

We will be meeting in the downstairs Council Room and we will provide refreshments.

Please email [Pastor Dietmar](mailto:Pastor_Dietmar) if you're interested in participating. More info for New Members can be found [here](#).



# PASTOR'S REPORT - FEBRUARY 2024

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

I'm excited about our "Renewing St. Paul's" Capital Campaign. We have a terrific group of people on the campaign team who are working very hard to help us raise \$140,000 for the big renovation that is to begin right after Easter. We already have \$160,000 of the overall \$300,000 which we need. We officially installed the campaign team in worship on February 11: Marty Blessing, Lois Bruno, John Fischer (Co-chair), Jean LeGros, Randy Tanner, and Chanin Wendling (Co-chair). The team is preparing resources and a strategy. I hope and pray that you welcome these fine people as they will explain the need and scope of the renovation and invite you to join them in the campaign.

"Entering the Passion of Jesus" is the theme of our Lenten season worship series. We explore in depth the traditional scriptures of Holy Week and how they help us grow closer to Jesus. The series is based on a book with the same title by Amy-Jill Levine, a professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies. Better understanding the Jewishness of Jesus and his historical and cultural background

makes the scriptures come alive and become more meaningful and applicable for our lives.

Again this year, I coordinated the "Ashes to Go" service at the Selinsgrove Commons together with clergy colleagues from our area ministerium on Ash Wednesday, February 14. It is an amazing experience to meet people of all walks of life. They shared worries, concerns, and prayer requests. Remembering our mortality helps us live more meaningfully and purposefully.

We are in full swing of a huge spring clean-out of all rooms and storage spaces at St. Paul's. We need an office for our future Associate Pastor. That required us to clean out the Music Room which created a domino effect. We uncovered some treasures and many items we do not need anymore. Everyone can help at the next cleanout event on March 23, 9a-12p. We will display all items of any value in the fellowship hall beginning with Palm Sunday, March 24, for members and friends to browse through and take what they want. We welcome donations for the Major Repair Fund.

I invested much time and energy in coordinating our ministries with our commit-

tees and service teams: Christian Education, Church Growth and Membership, Worship, Music, Property and Grounds, Stewardship and Finance, and Council.

I visited more members and friends of St. Paul's at Evangelical and Geisinger Hospitals in February than in other months. I met with two couples who want to get married at St. Paul's. Nettie Inch, the mother of Kathy (and Randy) Kreitzer and grandmother of Taleisha (and Matt) Burd passed away on February 8. I officiated at the Celebration of Life service for Nettie on February 16.

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. I see God at work in and through you!

February 1-29, 2024

Days worked	19
Days off	05
Continuing Education	01
Vacation days	00
Family Leave	04
Holidays	00
Total Days	29

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Dietmar Plajer

## Confirmation Orientation Sunday, April 7, at 11:45 a.m.

I am inviting all children in grades 5 to 7 to participate in the Confirmation Class I will be teaching this Fall. There will be an orientation for families/mentors on Sunday, April 7, after church. This year, we will use a new, more engaging curriculum. The program will be interactive and integrate multiple learning styles. Participants are expected to share their gifts and talents beyond class time. Please let me know if you can attend the orientation by [emailing me](#).

— Pastor Dietmar







Join us for great food and fellowship following our worship service on April 28 in the fellowship hall. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect, chat, and share over a meal. I'm grateful to the Meet and Eat team for providing again for us. Thanks to Peggy Peeler, Beverly Heinemann, Chris Jaegers, and Susan Bolig. Sign up [here!](#)





## St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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**Worship on Sunday at 10:30 a.m.**  
also on Facebook, YouTube, and our website

*"God is Still Speaking"*

## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

We thank God for...

