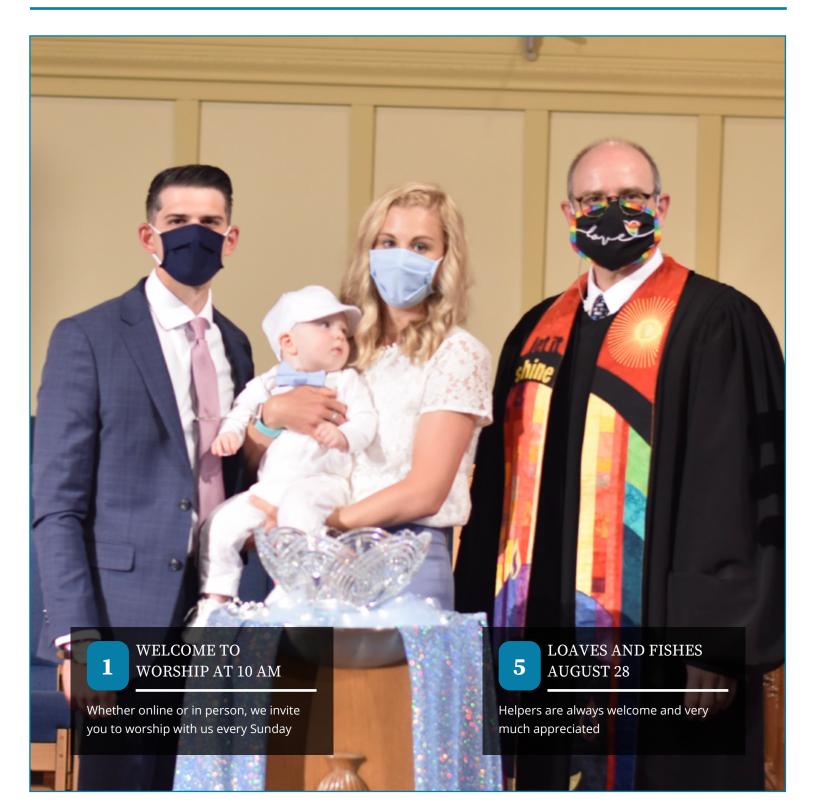


OUR MISSION IS TO GROW IN FAITH, TO WORSHIP GOD, TO SERVE OTHERS, AND TO WELCOME ALL.



GRACE AND GRIT - WE NEED BOTH

In the face of adversity it is helpful to return to the roots of our faith. We need both, grace and grit, to survive, succeed, and thrive.

Grace means that you are God's beloved. Nothing can change that or can take that away from you. That insight and experience was at the heart of Jesus' ministry. Before he endeavored to serve, heal, and teach, he was baptized in the river Jordan. When lesus came out of the water, heaven opened and God's Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove. Jesus heard God's voice exclaiming, "You are my beloved! I am well pleased with you!" This is God's gift to you and to me. And we do well to return to this foundation especially in uncertain times. As St. Paul affirms, nothing can separate you from the love of God, not adversity or challenges, not Covid-19 or the associated separation, isolation, pain and suffering, not our government's actions, inactions, or the demonstrations, not if you feel not good enough or undeserving, nothing, nothing can separate you from the love of God. That is an amazing reality, a solid foundation you can always return to. It is great to know that we have this grounding in faith! It its wonderful to remember especially in these uncertain times, "I am God's beloved!"

Grit means we face life's challenges right where we live, down on the ground in our day to day living. Immediately after Jesus' baptism, the Spirit led him into the wilderness where he was tempted by the Devil/Satan. If you are true to your self and to your calling, who God wants you to be, you are not spared adversity. Sooner or later you will face it and it will test you and what you are made of. Just as John the Baptist was called crazy and Jesus a drinker and glutton, good people will oppose you and call you names. Following Jesus' example of having a heart, of lifting up the marginalized, of living generously, of practicing kindness, of serving the hungry, hurting, suffering, grieving, will not necessarily earn your people's affirmation. Remember the Civil Rights Movement. Rooted in faith, the giants of this movement gave us bold examples about how to rally for justice and peace, to stand up for those who are oppressed, to ensure that the lives of minorities matter. Our UCC Statement of Faith affirms that we need "courage in the struggle for justice and peace." It is a long journey, arduous and demanding. God is calling us to it to speak up and to stand up for the marginalized and hurting.

During these uncertain times of Covid-19, of national upheaval, of unprecedented challenges, I am praying for you and wishing you wholeheartedly both, grace and grit. Grace, that you return to the living God and experience what unconditional love feels like; you are God's beloved! Grit, courage and persistence in the struggle for the soul of America, for the values of our faith, for what truly matters, that we are all created equal, called to be the ONE nation, under God, with liberty and justice for ALL.

In faith, hope, and love,

Pastor Dietmar









COMPASSION CAMP VBS

As we look around the world, what becomes clearer each day is our deep need for compassion - now more than ever. Compassion Camp's goal is to cultivate compassion for each other, ourselves, and the world. Each of the five sessions has a central scripture passage about the week's theme.



Compassion Camp VBS officially kicked off this past Wednesday with 36 participants - 21 kids and 15 adults! We have participants joining us from Punxsutawney, PA, Mansfield, OH, and Sparks, Nevada!

We had our first campers meeting through Zoom and learned what empathy is, how it relates to compassion and how knowing our feelings helps us to better understand those around us. Empathy and compassion also helps us to be more welcoming to those who are different from us, who may be hurting, and how we can help them.

This week we listened to the parable of The Prodigal Son read by Randy Tanner. We discussed how everyone in that story must have felt and what conversations the brothers and the father must have had. We also shared stories from our own experiences that related to this story.

It's not too late to join us! Compassion Camp VBS is available through a special Facebook page AND our website! You must register to participate, get a t-shirt, and supply kits! This year, VBS is for everyone!

By the way - Did you know that yawning is contagious? Even dogs and chimpanzees yawn when they see someone do it. It's true!

Youth Leader, Stacy Heinemann



COMPASSION CAMP VBS OVERVIEW

Week 1- AT THE TABLE Compassion helps us see and welcome. Luke 15:11-32

Week 2 - TO THE NEIGHBOR Compassion helps us be brave. Mark 2:1-12

Week 3 - FOR MYSELF Compassion helps us love ourselves. Mark 12:28-31

Week 4 - ALONG THE WAY Compassion helps us be present with each other. Ruth 1:1-22

Week 5 - WITH THE WORLD Compassion gives us a fresh start. Leviticus 2:



Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

On behalf of the Audio/ Video and Tech Team of St. Paul's, I want to update you on the progress of audio/video upgrades being installed in the sanctuary. Over the past few months we've been trying to give you the best worship experience possible with what equipment was available. The decision was made that St. Paul's would invest in upgrading the video recording and audio equipment that will suit livestreaming to maintain our online presence going

forward. We began using two new computers with the appropriate hardware to offer an in-house presentation and one for our live stream. On Thursday, July 9, Illuminated Integration, a company from Harrisburg, began installation of a new sound board, new wiring to the sanctuary projectors, two camera mounts (one mount in the rear of the sanctuary and one on the Mill Street side of the sanctuary). The two new cameras will provide much higher quality streaming and recording of our worship services.

Unfortunately the cam-

eras are still on backorder. Many other churches are trying to worship online and buying up equipment very quickly. We are expecting delivery of the cameras and installation in the next 3 to 5 weeks. When installation is complete, we will have a nice clean installation and all the wiring will be out of sight. For now we will continue to operate our live stream from the center of the sanctuary.

Sincerely, Jevan Beaver



This is how it started... one camera, one projector, one screen, one computer.



BEHIND THE SCENES

Over the past few months, Jevan and I have learned a lot. When we began livestreaming, we had the sanctuary to ourselves, and everything was set up right up front. Now we are in the middle of the sanctuary because our camera zoom and our cables only go so far. If you are in the sanctuary on Sunday, you will get a little bit of a behind the scenes view into what it takes to "produce" a Sunday worship service from a technology standpoint. Our goal is to soon be "invisible" again. -- Sigrid



Every last Friday of the month, tireless volunteers pack bags for our Loaves and Fishes distribution. Next Loaves and Fishes is July 31.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LOAVES AND FISHES - JULY 31

We need healthy volunteers for our Loaves and Fishes food outreach ministry on Friday, July 31, 9 AM to 12 PM, and 12:30-2:00 PM. The church will provide every volunteer with a face mask and will have ample hand sanitizer available for all.

Volunteers will pack grocery bags in the fellowship hall in the morning for the af-

ternoon curb-side pickup. Clients will drive up from 12:30-2:00 PM and volunteers will place the grocery bags in clients' cars without physical contact.

If you are at risk or are closely connected with someone who is, please stay at home!

Thank you for your help!





IT TAKES MANY HELPING HANDS





Loaves and Fishes May 29

Families - 74 Children - 30 Adults - 73 Elderly - 63 Total - 166

Loaves and Fishes June 26

Families - 74 Children - 48 Adults - 92 Elderly - 53 Total - 193

Thank you to everyone who helps with Loaves and Fishes.



UPPER ROOM

Pick Up Your "Upper Room" Devotional - We have the July-August devotionals available for you in regular and large print versions. You can pick them up at the church, Tuesday to Thursday, 9-2, right inside the Mill St. door on the umbrella rack. If you cannot pick up your copy, call the church office at 570-374-8749 and we will deliver or mail it to you. If you know of someone else who could benefit from this devotional, please let the church office know.



👗 PRAYER LIST

Members:

Dot & Al Deans, Joe Erdley Helen Hannah Jimmy Kauffman Carolyn Patton Duane Rigel & family Nancy Wagner

Friends:

Mary Anne Britton Lee

Children, parents, teachers who are struggling about if, when, and how to return to school and in which way to continue learning and teaching.

Chista Mavandadi & family Kaykhosro Mavandadi All those affected by gun violence in our community Family & friends who lost loved ones due to gun violence in our community Three daughters who lost their dad in the shooting on July 10 Our country Parents and children affected by Covid-19 All who lost their jobs All who keep working in critical situations, 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 mil-

itary, leaders of the world, those who are working for peace and understanding, all the children of the world.

Prayer List Policy:

Please seek permission from the person you desire prayers for and include your name with the request.



THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Dietmar and St. Paul's,

Thank you so much for thinking of me as I graduate from high school. I really appreciate the St. Paul's mug, Amazon gift card, and the graduate recognition video. Thank you for being such a supportive church family and for providing a strong faith foundation and guidance throughout the years. Thanks again for all the love and support. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely, Olivia Lybarger

Dear Pastor Dietmar Plajer and St. Paul's,

Thank you for your donation of \$270 through Penn Central Conference. Together with your amazing support, we continue to help children in our community.

As we celebrate our 110-year anniversary, we thank you for your compassion and dedication to helping children in need and for giving them the opportunity to heal.

With gratitude, Alicia Stanley, Hoffman Homes for Youth

BAPTISM, BIRTHDAYS, AND ANNIVERSARIES



I baptized Landon R. Williard in worship on June 28. It was our first Sunday back in our sanctuary for in person worship. It's alway a delight to participate in a baptismal service. We remember that we are baptized, that we are God's beloved. God's grace means that we are loved before we can respond to that love. Grace means that God loves us whether we love God back or not. Grace means that nothing can separate us from God's love.

It's a good practice when you wash your hands, your face, take a shower or a bath to remember that you

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/2	Barbara & Tim Reed
8/6	Raven & Marvin Rudnitsky
8/8	Gladys & Robert Luckenbaugh
8/9	Peggy & Tom Peeler
8/10	Deb & Tony Martello
8/13	Ben & Kelsey Williard
8/14	Debra & Bruce Witkop
8/17	Amy & Patrick Greer
8/18	Bob & Jeanne Engel
8/19	Sigrid & Dietmar Plajer
	Kathy & Derek Straub
	Shelly & Willie Wolfe
8/20	Barbara & William Pyers
8/23	Vivian & Terry Beaver

are baptized, that you are God's beloved. You can say it to yourself "I am God's beloved!" "God loves me as I am!"

Singing, "I Was there to Hear Your Borning Cry" is deeply meaningful as it reminds us of God lasting love through our lives, from our births to our death and beyond, to guide us and to surprise us.

After the baptism I held Landon up for all to see and proclaimed over him, "Landon, child of God, follower of Jesus, member of this church." This statement applies to you, too. You are God's beloved, follow Jesus, and participate in God's work through St. Paul's.

Your Pastor Dietmar

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 8/1 Richard Lybarger
- 8/2 Bill Teisher
- 8/4 Bob Brown Dione Mercer Talisha Probst
- 8/5 Oliver Namminga
- 8/7 Amelia Gentile Jack Lewis John Snook
- 8/8 Cobyn Cressinger Rebecca Sporar (Laniewski) Ashtyn Lukens Carolyn Proger Jordan Teisher
- 8/10 Nathan Lewis Gibby Mease Corey Troup
- 8/12 Heather Zeigler
- Bill Young
- 8/15 Sara Adams Donna McElroy Rory Smith
- 8/16 Andrew Burd Denise Haddon
- 8/17 Taleisha Burd Sally Hayhurst Gladys Luckenbaug
- 8/20 Gayle Dively Allison Reed
- 8/21 Matthew Beaver Mary Bolig Thomas Krouse Brooke Manley
- 8/23 Bruce Hummel
- 8/24 Linda Forster Janet Siegfried Ben Williard
- 8/25 Norman Golden Justine Laniewski Landon Williard
- 8/26 Tayla Der
- 8/27 Helen Hannah Derick Shambach Landon Spriggle
- 8/28 Darlene Attig Peggy Peeler
 Sara Poudrier
 Devin Rhoads
 Jane Ruhl
 Tyler Smith
 Verlyn Smith
 Thomas Spriggle
 8/29 Joyce Mensch
 8/30 Bob Engel

St. Paul's Council Minutes June 9, 2020

In Attendance: John Fischer, Joanne Lauer, Pastor Dietmar, Jack Lewis, Stacy Heinemann, Richard Campbell, Susan Bolig, Raven Rudnitsky, Bev Heinemann, Marty Blessing, Robert Engel, Peggy Peeler, Bill Hockenbrock, Ivana Lluveras, Lisa Krex, Carolyn Fairl, Sigrid Plajer

Excused: Ellen Miller

Minutes: A motion was approved to accept the minutes.

Financial Report – A motion was approved to transfer the funds from the Diane Sheaffer estate less the \$25,000 for technology equipment, and the sale of the church van, the sale of the 414 N. Market St. property, and the funds for the roof repair to the United Church Fund.

A motion was approved to change the Office Manager's vacation days due to the fact that she is working fewer hours.

A motion was approved to change Donna Long's position from an hourly one to a salaried position.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Dietmar is excited about the "Wednesdays with Wonder" series which we will hold on Facebook. People can submit a quote, poem or such that they believe imparts some wisdom. The Card and Prayer Ministry is active again.

Unfinished Business:

Safely Reopening St. Paul's – The taskforce reported on the steps put into place to safely re-open the church. A letter will be sent to the members of the congregation. Ushers and greeters will be needed.

Technology Upgrades for Live Streaming – All of the technology has been ordered to be used with the online streaming. Some of it has been backordered and should be available by late July.

Payments from Payroll Protection Program Funds – Everybody has been paid and will be paid one more time from the funds garnered from the Payroll Protection Program that St. Paul's applied for. **Vacation Bible School** – It will begin July 15th for five consecutive Wednes-

days from 5-6:30 PM and will be offered through Zoom. It will be for all ages. It is called "Compassion Camp". The Youth Leader Stacy Heinemann is renovating the classroom.

Wednesdays with Wonder – People are enjoying the posts that have been submitted.

Spreadsheet of People to Call – People can call people they have previously contacted to notify them of the reopening of the church.

New Business:

"As People of Faith..." - Letter to the Editor by area clergy – This letter was published in the Daily Item.

Summer Book Study - Pastor Dietmar will present some options for a Zoom book study this summer for 6 weeks. It will be for one and a half hours per meeting. Let Dietmar know if want to participate.

Committee Reports

Fellowship Committee - Rachel Rice believes that we should not have any Kick Off Sunday activities or hold the hayride. She is suggesting that the money for these two events be placed back in the general budget. A motion was approved to cancel the Kick Off Sunday events and the hayride and place the money budgeted for these two events back into the general budget.

Property Committee – Our custodian can do what is necessary to clean the church for the re-opening.

Respectfully Submitted Joanne Lauer, Recording Secretary

St. Paul's Council Minutes June 29, 2020

In Attendance: Joanne Lauer, Pastor Dietmar, Jack Lewis, Stacy Heinemann, Richard Campbell, Susan Bolig, Raven Rudnitsky, Bev Heinemann, Marty Blessing, Robert Engel, Peggy Peeler, Lisa Krex, Carolyn Fairl, Ellen Miller

Excused: John Fischer, Ivana Lluveras **Minutes:** A motion was approved to accept the minutes from the last meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Safe Reopening for In-person Worship – Things went well. About 32 people attended. It was discussed that the only entrance and exit would be the front entrance due to cleaning considerations.

Technology Upgrades – Everything should be installed by the end of July. There are things on backorder due to the

pandemic. Jevan and Sigrid have done a lot of work to make things happen. Lectors can read the scriptures from the church or have it recorded.

"Compassion Camp" - Vacation Bible School will be starting Wednesday, July 15, from 5-6:30 PM for five Wednesdays in a row. Stacy Heinemann reported that she has people doing things for her. There are videos and promos to publicize it. We are now registering some people from outside of the community, even outside of the state. Emails have been sent out to families who were involved in Messy Church, Youth Group and Sunday School. Sigrid is posting VBS registration on our church website. Stacy has created a lot of posts. The posts are on the St. Paul's Facebook page for kids. There will be something for the teens and the adults. Stacy belongs to a community that is using the VBS material and sharing ideas. Our site was named in their corporate email.

"Wednesdays with Wonder" - Contributions are needed and welcome. We need people to share experiences.

Book Study by Zoom - July 16-Aug. 20, Thursday evenings, 7-8:30 PM. In our ordinary life we can experience some of God's extraordinary. Sign up if you want to participate by emailing Dietmar. The book is on Amazon, or Dietmar could order the books.

New Business:

Outside groups meeting at St. Paul's and Wedding on August 28 - Covid-19 release form has been created by Marv Rudnitsky. We have always supported others to use our church, such as AA. We have a wedding coming up. We are going to have something for them to sign to not hold us liable if they get sick. Dietmar is not the pastor for the wedding. We will have to revisit letting the wedding take place if the governor changes requirements.

Our roof has hail damage. We got some quotes to replace it. With Covid, everything has been pushed back with the contractors. We are looking into whether the roof could accommodate solar panels.

Respectfully submitted, Joanne Lauer, Recording Secretary

St. Paul's Council Minutes July 14, 2020

In Attendance: Joanne Lauer, Pastor Dietmar, Jack Lewis, Stacy Heinemann, Susan Bolig, Raven Rudnitsky, Bev Heinemann, Marty Blessing, Robert Engel, Lisa Krex, Carolyn Fairl, John Fischer, Jevan Beaver, Sigrid Plajer

Excused: Richard Campbell, Ellen Miller, Ivana Lluveras, Peggy Peeler

Minutes - A motion was approved to accept the minutes.

Financial Report - A motion was approved to accept the financial report.

Pastor's Report - Entries are needed for the "Wednesdays with Wonder".

Unfinished Business:

1. Technology Upgrade for live streaming - Everything has been installed but two cameras, which are on backorder. The amount will be \$20,000, under the budgeted amount of \$21,000. We will be able to sell the equipment that we had initially purchased for what we paid for it. There may be some additional expenses for streaming software and repair of existing wiring. The current setup will remain until all equipment has been installed. The two new computers ordered for the office

are in use.

2. Safe Reopening - Greeters and ushers are needed. It has been going well. We had about 20 people attend the service.

3. Worship in Person - The communion packets worked well.

4. "Compassion Camp" Vacation Bible School for all ages starts Wednesday, July 15th, at 5 PM. There are 35 people attending, 14 adults and 21 children. The supplies have been handed out. A webpage has been built on our website for the VBS.

5. "Liturgy of the Ordinary" Book Study – This study will start Thursday, July 16th, at 7 PM. Ten people signed up for the study.

6. Wednesdays with Wonder - We are not getting a lot of entries. The theme is "Where do you see God at work?" The Green Team needs to meet to discuss if we are going to conduct a study class on the environment.

7. Payroll Protection Program Funds - All the money has been used from this program and paid to the employees. Those that are getting paid currently are the ones that are still working. A motion was approved to give Bill Hockenbrock a gift card to thank him for his volunteer work with the financial statements and as treasuer.

8. Media, Technology, Communications Coordinator position, hours, and compensation - As a result of a favorable 60-day review of the media coordinator, the personnel committee recommends pay to be increased to \$15.00 per hour for an average of 22 hours per week. A motion was made to increase the pay to \$15.00 per hour for Sigrid Plajer. The motion was amended as such: Sigrid shall perform the duties by spending such time as it takes to do the job. She shall be paid a salary of \$660 every other week. While she is not an hourly employee, the salary was created using two assumptions that may change with time; namely, that it takes approximately 22 hours a week to perform the job functions, and the position is worth \$15.00 per hour at this time. It is recognized that some pay periods will require more time than the assumption, and some will require less, but the salary will remain constant. Should the assumptions prove to be inaccurate over time, the

salary should be adjusted accordingly. The motion was approved.

9. Roof Repair - We would like to have a feasibility study done on the roof to see if solar panels will work.

10. Visitation Ministry Coordinator -There is a retired Lutheran pastor who is interested in this position once the Covid restrictions are lifted.

New Business:

1. Vacation Pastor Dietmar - A motion was approved for Pastor Dietmar to take vacation time from August the 24th to September 2nd.

2. There will be a Pride Gathering on July 25th at Wengers grocery store in Mifflinburg to demonstrate to the grocery store how loving LGBTQ community is. They recently posted negative statements about the LGBTQ community.

Next Council Meeting - August 11th

Respectfully submitted, Joanne Lauer, Recording Secretary

Pastor's Report June 2020

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

We worked toward safely reopening St. Paul's for in-person worship in June. A task force of dedicated members helped us create a protocol and procedures to keep everyone safe at St. Paul's in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. I'm grateful to the Safe Reopening Task Force members, Mary Dahlmann, Stacy Heinemann, Joanne Lauer, Barbie Reed who worked with support from Beth Deckard. We mailed a letter, an infographic, and a pastoral letter to all members and friends of the congregation to inform them of our plans.

Our first in-person worship service at St. Paul's took place on June 28. We celebrated the baptism of Landon R. Williard whose parents, Ben and Kelsey Williard, had joined St. Paul's earlier this year. We continue to live stream our worship services via Facebook and through our church website and will continue to do that. I'm grateful to the Tech Team, Jevan Beaver and Sigrid Plajer, who invest much time and energy to make this possible. I've heard positive comments from members in our community about the great quality of our online worship services.

We created a new staff position at St. Paul's, the Media Technology and Commu-

nications Coordinator (MTCC). Many more of our church's ministries require technology and media qualifications. Creating slide shows, editing videos, and producing the live streaming of our worship services are key responsibilities for this position. To be more present in the community our website needed updating, our social media presence expanded, and our newsletter needs a facelift. Our office manager will work less hours while the MTCC will complement and expand the current work. The congregation hired Sigrid Plajer to fill this position.

I invested much time and energy into meeting electronically with committees, council, staff, colleagues and the association and conference. While it is wonderful to have the opportunity to meet via Zoom, it's also challenging not to meet in person.

As good as I can I try to care for people from a distance, be available via the phone to those who are undergoing surgery and other challenges in their lives. I continue to regularly write pastoral notes and prepare the Card and Care Ministry list on a weekly basis.

More of the worship preparation falls on me as I am currently the person to create the worsip outline and print version of it for all who participate in leading the service. We continue to create and email out our weekly Friday eNews and our next monthly "Messenger" newsletter, for which I am writing and which I am editing, is in the works.

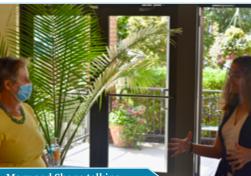
Thank you for your prayers, your witness, your giving, your service, and your faithfulness to God and to St. Paul's. You are the hands and the heart of Jesus in action!

June 1-30	
Days worked	
Days off	07
Continuing Education	00
Vacation days	
Holidays	01
Total Days	

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Dietmar







Mary and Shane talking

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR WORSHIP



We invite all musicians of the congregation and their family members and friends to provide us with special music for our worship services during the coming months. You can video tape a musical piece, playing an instrument, singing with a family member or friend on your smart phone and share the video by using this <u>link</u> or email <u>Sigrid</u> at tech@saintpauls-ucc.org for assistance. Your musical contribution will be included in our live stream worship services. Thank you for sharing yourself and your special gifts of music with us.





Why I Wear a Mask

Better safe than sorry is a good motto for me to live by as we continue to face the Covid-19 Pandemic. I am wearing a mask (face covering) not just for my own sake, but for the sake of those who have cancer, asthma, or a transplant. I am wearing a mask because doctors and scientists recommend it to be an effective way to counter the spread of the virus. I am wearing a mask because it is the loving and caring thing to do. According to Jesus, our main purpose and goal is to love God with all we've got and to love our neighbors as ourselves. I love my neighbor by wearing a mask to prevent the spread of the virus. To me, wearing a face mask is the safe, smart, caring, and loving thing to do.

Your Pastor Dietmar





St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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

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

"God is Still Speaking"

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

We thank God for...

