



THE MESSENGER

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

THANK YOU to all who make St. Paul's what it is

Rally Day
October 2

Volunteer Appreciation

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
WORK DAY

Saturday, October 8

October 9 at 6 PM

Messy Church

MESSY CHURCH

KIDS NIGHT OUT
October 15 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM

holy mo'ly

“Thank you” seem such little words that we may overlook and neglect them. But they are the essence of who we are, at the heart of our faith. The great Reformed theologian Karl Barth stated that our lives are a living “thank you” in response to God’s grace and love. The medieval mystic Meister Eckhart states, “if the only prayer you ever pray is thank you that’s enough.” St. Paul’s began every one of his letters to the early churches (except one) with expressing heartfelt gratitude for the ministries of the congregation. Like, “I thank God for you and for your faithfulness to the good news...” Gratitude is at the heart of who we are.

That’s why we take this year’s Rally Day Sunday, October 2, as an opportunity to say thank you to you, the members and friends of St. Paul’s, for your love, dedication, and commitment to God’s work. You are the hands, the feet, the hearts, the brains, and the muscle of our beloved St. Paul’s, and for that we are deeply grateful. I very much like the motto of the Lutheran Church (ELCA), “God’s Work, Our Hands.” God is at work through you when you share your gifts and talents in service to others. In and through you, I can see the very heart of God.

I am lifting up some ministries that are making a huge difference. So many committed people are serving behind the scenes, investing “blood, sweat, and tears” to keep the wheels of St. Paul’s spinning. Our worship services are meaningful and moving because the people of the Worship Team are planning and decorating. People provide wonderful children’s messages, and our choirs, musicians, and soloists are amazing. The Prayer Shawl Team provides tangible reminders of God’s love and care with the shawls they give to people who are facing hardships. Similarly, the members of our Card and Care Ministry Team are faithfully writing notes in loving and caring support of those who are hurting and suffering. The prayers, care, and love



remind people that God is with them in and through the hardship and challenges they are facing.

Our Loaves and Fishes food outreach ministry provides necessary supplies for those from our community who would not be able to make it through the month without our help. What an amazing group of volunteers are making that happen! The Christian Education Team is vital in making Sunday school, Kids Night Out, Teen Group, and Vacation Bible School happen. A great team of volunteers plan for and make the monthly Messy Church program happen. It’s the place where children and families experience faith hands-on.

The Living into Right Relationships Team keeps us focused on justice, compassion, fairness, and care for God’s creation and our fellow citizens. This team helps us become more sustainable by using less energy, helps us face racism, helps us face and learn from our dark and painful history, and helps us become more equitable and inclusive. The PFLAG team reminds us that God loves all people, and so do we, including those from LGBTQ+ community and their families and friends.

The Property Team ensures that our church facility feels like home, a comfortable place where we gather for worship

and work. The Stewardship and Finance Team ensures that God’s work is well funded and all finances are appropriately accounted for. The Church Growth and Membership Team focuses on reaching in and beyond St. Paul’s to spread the good news of God’s love to all. The Hospitality Team assists with funerals and helps with arranging receptions. The Personnel Team ensures that we have well qualified persons on staff, that they are properly interviewed, hired, trained, evaluated, and follow our church policies. The Church Council members are the church leaders who oversee and guide the overall mission and ministries. The Tech Team ensures that we can worship electronically from home and that our video and audio is up to snuff.

On this Rally Day Sunday, I extend my heartfelt gratitude on behalf of those we serve, on behalf of Church Council, and personally to you, for being invested in our mission, for making the wheels go around, for sharing yourself in service to others, for giving of your talents, time, and treasures, for caring, in making St. Paul’s such a great congregation that is true to God’s mission. You are the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus in action. For that I am sincerely thankful.

In deep gratitude,

Pastor Dietmar



WE WELCOME OUR NEW JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR DIRECTOR

My name is Marie Dignam, and I am the new Joyful Noise Choir Director! I am a senior music education major at Susquehanna University where I study bassoon and piano. I am from Philadelphia and have always been involved in my church community as an altar server, cantor, pianist, and bell choir member. I am excited for my new role and look forward to working with the amazing members of the

Joyful Noise Choir at St. Paul's! The choir is open to any child, age 5 and older. Rehearsals are held 9:45-10:15am on Sunday mornings before service, and the children perform during service once a month. It is a very fun and inclusive environment for kids of any musical level to participate!

Thank you!
Marie

NEWS FROM OUR YOUTH LEADER, TORRI STARK



KIDS NIGHT OUT

The first Kids Night Out was a huge success and a lot of fun! The next Kids Night Out will be on Saturday, October 15 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's. We will be learning about Moses and God's plan for him that began when Moses was just a baby! Games, crafts, a mini-lesson, and a kid-friendly meal will complete the evening. Be sure to [sign up](#) for the October KNO to attend!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is off to a great start! Our foray into the Old Testament is highlighted by fun and whimsical Holy Moly videos that engage the kids. Each lesson comes with a take-home family sheet, so be sure to grab one when you pick up your kids!



TEEN GROUP

Our first official Teen Group meeting was a success! We played games, celebrated August & September birthdays with cupcakes, and learned that while stories in the Bible can't always be factually proven, the Truth revealed through the stories is the eternal wisdom of God which the Bible helps us understand. Our next meeting will be Sunday, October 23rd from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. The hot topic discussion will be 'Why does the Bible contradict itself at times?' Please [sign up](#) to let us know if you'll be coming!

OCTOBER



BIRTHDAYS

- 10/1 Stacy Heinemann
- 10/2 Maya Caron
- 10/4 Mary Ruhl
Evelyn Smith
- 10/7 Austin Imhoof
Lori Rathfon
- 10/8 Cindy Smith
- 10/12 Nicole Lukens
- 10/16 Kim Haizlett
- 10/17 Isabelle Snyder
- 10/20 Tami Herrold
Lori Proger
- 10/21 Katie Proger
- 10/22 Fred Kelly
Becky Namet
- 10/23 Lisa Krex
Jeremy Napp
- 10/25 Alex Brouse
Timothy Reed
Jake Ulrich
- 10/26 Lisa Taylor
- 10/29 Karen Koppenhaver
Carolyn Patton
- 10/30 Megan Campbell
- 10/31 Kyle Kelly
Randy Tanner



ANNIVERSARIES

- 10/1 Robert & Lori Rathfon
Duane & Kim Rigel
- 10/3 John & Gail Fischer
- 10/10 Don & Jan Sears
Mikel & Lori Proger
- 10/15 Joe & Cerene Dubaskas
Grant & Diane Spoons
Dean Wagner Jr. & Renee Wagner
- 10/16 Bob & Debra Brown
Matt & Taleisha Burd
- 10/17 Page & Bryan Lybarger
Jim & Missy Ferguson
- 10/20 Buzz & Janet Siegfried
- 10/21 Andrew & Cindy Wagner

PRAYER LIST

Trinity Andrade
 Bob and Helen
 Bruce Burkhart
 Russ Fairchild
 Charlie & Sharon Gale
 Gene Greiner
 Kim Haizlett
 David & Helen Hannah
 Janeen Longer
 Lauren Miller
 Cheryl Reddinger
 Jack Riegel
 Safe Haven UCC

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 Russia and all those suffering from the raging war



THANK YOU NOTES

My St. Paul's family, Thank you for all the cards and well wishes during my recovery from surgery.

Chyrl Gemberling

Wow! Thank you for your extravagant kindness and generous "welcome back" you extended to me on Kickoff Sunday, Sept. 11.

I was moved by the many cards, the kind welcome-back during worship, and the reception after Sunday service.

A special thank you to Council President, Peggy Peeler, and Sec-

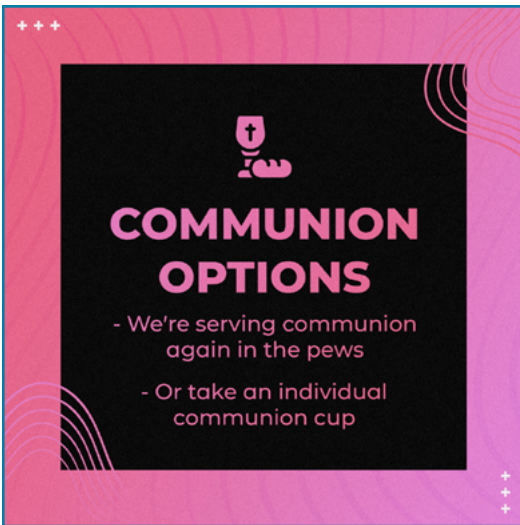
retary, Linda Turner, for planning for the day. It touched my heart!

I'm glad to be back refreshed and renewed from my sabbatical, to serve together with you, the wonderful people of St. Paul's!

Gratefully,
 Pastor Dietmar

COMMUNION IN THE PEW

We are returning to commune in the pews with the wonderful communion “bread” that Gail Fischer so graciously bakes and provides for use and the small cups of grape juice that will be handed on our communion trays through the pews. Church Council deems it safe enough to return to our regular communion practice. For those of you who do not feel safe enough, we will continue to offer the single serve sealed small communion sets that you can pick up at the entrance to the sanctuary. May our communion become a meaningful way for you to commune with the living God and to experience the love of Christ in tangible ways.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



Marty Blessing and Lois Bruno will be leading an adult Sunday school group beginning Sunday, October 2, 2022 in the Council Room from 9:15-10:15AM. All are welcome to come, even if you can only be

there occasionally. The meetings are in person and on Zoom. Please let the church office know if you would like to receive the [Zoom link](#).

Lois & Marty



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY

You can make a difference hands-on! We invite you to join us for a Habitat for Humanity work day (half day) on Saturday, October 8. We gather at St. Paul's at 8:00 AM and will carpool to an area Habitat worksite where we will work from 8:30-12:30. Any level of experience is welcome. Participants must be 18 years or older. Wear older cloths, closed toed sturdy shoes (boots) and long pants. Bring a water bottle and your favorite tool (if any). Habitat will provide all other necessary tools. Invite a friend to join the crew. Randy Tanner is spearheading this work day. With questions, please contact the church office. Thank you!





The Messy Church event with picnic was amazing on our Kickoff Sunday, Sept. 11 at East Snyder Park. We had 72 people participate. Many created true works of art by paint pouring. The tie dye t-shirts turned out wonderful. The children had a blast with the soda-and-mentos “explosive” fountains and hammering

the ice blocks to un-ice the animals. Sand art, giant bubbles, and playing with the lawn games completed the fun. The hot dogs and many side dishes with desserts were delectable. Thank you, thank you to all from the Messy Church Team, the Property and Grounds helpers, Loaves and Fishes contribution, and the many

volunteers who made this event such a great success. A special thank you goes to Ginny Lloyd who sponsored the event through a generous financial contribution.

Sigrid Plajer, Messy Church Team Leader

MESSY CHURCH OCTOBER 9 AT 4 PM

Join us for Messy Church on Sunday, October 9, at 4 PM in St. Paul’s fellowship hall. We will discover that we serve God when we serve others and think through some practical ways that we can do this. As our good shepherd, Jesus shows us how to be good “sheep” by helping others and not to be “goats,” who refuse to help others. You will create your very own bird feeder in order to help take care of the birds during the winter. And of course there will be other fun crafts and activities. We will have a story time in the sanctuary around 5:15, and will share in a family style meal around 5:30. By 6 PM we will leave having been nurtured in body, spirit, mind, and soul. Invite a friend to join us. Please sign up on our [website](#) to ensure we have enough craft supplies. See you then!

Sigrid Plajer, Messy Church Team Leader



EVERYBODY HAD FUN AT ST. PAUL'S PICNIC AND MESSY CHURCH ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

ST. PAUL'S COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

In Attendance: Rev. Dietmar Plajer, Peggy Peeler, Sara Adams, Sigrid Plajer as guest, Bev Heinemann, Allen Wetzels, Josh Wenrich, Randy Tanner, Linda Turner, Kathy Ulrich, Shane Sanders, Bob Engel.

Excused: Michael Zettlemyer, Amy Caron, Kim Burkhart.

Jevan Beaver joined the meeting to discuss the new projector/screen system. The current screens will not accommodate the new laser projectors for which we received generous donations. Illuminated Integration provided a quote of \$24,773.89 which includes projectors and screens, including for the rear of the sanctuary, and installation. We received donations of \$10,000 for the laser projectors, leaving a balance of \$14,773.89. Stewardship & Finance recommended to Council that we approve taking \$16,000 from our United Church Funds Extra Funds account to cover the extra cost. A motion was made by Kathy Ulrich, seconded by Sara Adams, and approved by Council to take the money from the United Church Funds for this purpose. After the presentation and approval, Jevan left the meeting.

Minutes of August Meeting: A motion was made by Bev Heinemann, seconded by Bob Engel, and approved by Council to accept the minutes as submitted.

Financial Report: The Financial Report was reviewed by Linda Turner with nothing out of the ordinary to report. We did have a loss of Net Income for August of \$9,259.96; however, year to date we have a gain of \$10,242.71. Bob Engel made a motion, seconded by Josh Wenrich, and approved by Council, to approve the Financial Report.

Guest Musicians: Over the summer, Fred Hooper played piano and brought in a guest violinist. Fred was paid \$100 as a guest musician; the violinist was not paid. Fred gave half of his pay to the violinist. A motion was made by Shane Sanders, seconded by Allen Wetzels, and approved by Council, to pay Fred an additional \$50 to make up for what he gave to the violinist. It was discussed that the Music Committee will be drawing up a policy on who can authorize guest musicians in the future and the procedure for paying them.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dietmar thanked everyone for the reception on Kick-Off Sunday and for everyone being supportive of Rev. Darin Namminga while Pastor Dietmar was on sabbatical. There was an article on page 2 of the September newsletter about Dietmar's experiences during sabbatical.

Communion: Communion will go back to normal in October; however, the pre-packaged communion cups will be available for those who are not yet comfortable returning to normal communion. Council members from each class year will prepare and distribute elements. For October, it will be Bob Engel, Bev Heinemann, Peggy Peeler, and Kathy Ulrich. Since it's been

almost 3 years since we have had normal communion, there will be re-training and training for Council members.

Offering: Since we do not take up offering like we did 3 years ago, it was suggested by a member that we either eliminate or shorten the offering portion of the service. A decision was made to remain as is for now as a time of reflection during the playing of the music.

Side Door: The side door will remain locked during the service and attendees will enter through the main doors as we have been doing. We are encouraging the wearing of name tags and entry through the main doors allows the greeters to remind everyone.

Church Picnic/Messy Church: Due to rainy weather, the event was cancelled on September 11th and is rescheduled for September 18th.

Worship Service: Sunday, September 18th the theme and message will be Gratefulness/Gratitude. For those who did not receive a journal, more will be available on the 18th.

Group Study: So far only 3 people have signed up for the Monday evening study group "Practice Your Faith" based on "Naked Spirituality" by Brian McLaren. Anyone can join the conversation at any time.

Treasurer: Personnel and Stewardship & Finance interviewed Darin Namminga for the position of Treasurer. S&F is recommending hiring Darin at \$19.00 per hour and he will track his hours. Bev Heinemann made a motion, seconded by Bob Engel, and approved by Council to offer Darin the position.

Joyful Noise Director: Bev Heinemann reported that Marie Dignam accepted the position of Joyful Noise Director and started on September 11th.

PFLAG: The first meeting will be a hybrid meeting (in person and via Zoom). For safety reasons, the date, time, and place cannot be made public. Participants will connect via the website. Confidentiality is imperative, attendees must not disclose anything heard, and respect of others is required. People can contact danvillepflag@gmail.com for more information.

Sigrid Plajer was thanked for the beautiful table cover on the Council room table and also for all the technical knowledge and support she provides to the church.

Kids Night Out: So far, 8 kids are signed up for the first Kids Night Out on September 17th.

Clearances: Criminal background check, child abuse clearance, FBI fingerprinting/clearance, and Mandatory Reporting training are required for all employees who have direct contact with children and youth. All clearance expenses are paid by the church and hourly children and youth employees will be paid three (3) hours to complete the training.

Property & Grounds, Other: No updates on open items as

committee has not met recently. The furnace keeps tripping the circuit breaker and we need to make sure we have heat when cold weather arrives. Allen Wetzel will follow up with Mike Proger. Allen Wetzel reported that he mowed the cemetery and that there is a hole that will need to be filled in.

Presence in Community: Habitat for Humanity always needs help as they have constant ongoing projects and could use us any time we can get a group together. Randy Tanner will get in touch with Jay Helmer for a date/time this fall.

Adult Sunday School: Lois Bruno and Marty Blessing will begin October 2nd. The Thursday night group has been changed to Monday (see above).

Council Members: At the June Council meeting, it was announced that Craig Stark, due to work obligations, had resigned from Council. This leaves two openings – one replacing Craig and one replacing Ivana Lluveras who had resigned earlier in the year. At the June meeting, it was agreed that these two positions would be replaced in the fall, with their first meeting being in January 2023.

Church Safety Plan: We need to have a safety plan that covers fire, active shooter, dripping water, medical emergency/equipment, etc. Linda Turner volunteered to put the plan together with the help of Randy Tanner.

Financial Other: Stewardship & Finance recommended updating authorized signatures for our checking account to include Bill Hockenbrock, Allen Wetzel, Peggy Doak, Susan Bolig, John Fischer, Marv Rudnitsky, and Jack Lewis. A motion was made by Bob Engel, seconded by Allen Wetzel, and approved by Council to accept the S&F recommendation.

Stewardship: Stewardship Sunday is November 13th. We will invite 3 speakers to share why St. Paul's matters, why they give to St. Paul's, and to invite others to join them in making a financial commitment to the church. Members also will be solicited to submit a short paragraph for the November newsletter.

Personnel: Christian Ed recommended hiring an additional Kids Night Out/Nursery Attendant employee, for a total of three helpers. Once fully staffed, this position would also serve as a helper in the Children's Sunday School. S&F supports this and is recommending to Council. A motion was made by Linda Turner, seconded by Bev Heinemann, and approved by Council to add the third employee.

Rally Day: Rally Day is Sunday, October 2nd. Council agreed to present a slide show with pictures of Messy Church, Kids Night Out, Chair Project, etc. and recognize our many volunteers who make these events possible.

Right Relations: The Chair Project is complete! Shane Sanders will be scheduling a meeting of the committee soon. Hot Topics was brought up and her committee will discuss how to proceed. The committee continues to gather social justice resources.

Christian Education: New members for the committee are desperately needed.

Next Council Meeting: October 11, 2022 - in person and Zoom.

Devotions for next Meeting: Peggy Peeler.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Turner, Council Secretary

We ask you, the members of St. Paul's to volunteer to serve on Church Council and/or submit names of people who might be good to serve on Church Council to the church office by October 11. Thank you!





St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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www.saintpauls-ucc.org

Worship Sunday at 10:30 AM

also on Facebook, YouTube, and our website

“God is Still Speaking”

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

We thank God for...



PFLAG had their first stand at the Selinsgrove Market Street Festival.