



THE MESSENGER

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



HAVE A HEART - HOW TO CONNECT WITH THE HEART OF GOD

Our hearts are the seat of our faith and of our emotions. You can have a heavy heart when something weighs you down. When people don't care, you think of them as having a hard heart, a heart of stone. Your heart can break and be shattered when you feel deep pain and suffering. Your heart can beat higher when you are excited. You can speak straight from the heart when you share what really matters to you. You can love with all your heart.

The Bible is full of heart imagery, just like the ones mentioned above. Our hearts

when his friend Lazarus died, and he wept. Jesus died (at least partly) of a broken heart when he overlooked Jerusalem and saw people stray from God's ways like sheep without a shepherd. When God's people refuse to listen to God and love God, the prophet Ezekiel longs for God to replace their hearts of stone with loving hearts. When Jesus appears to his disciples on the road to Emmaus, their hearts are burning with excitement. Jesus reminds us that our hearts spill over in what we say and do whether for good or for ill. Jesus encourages

those who are longing for healing, "Take heart!" The word "courage" has "heart" at its core (core means heart).

The current Covid-19 crisis, the violence we witness in the streets, our national leaders who are fighting and



Pastor Dietmar and his wife Sigrid spent a very refreshing vacation in a lovely little cabin in the Poconos.

wrestling toward Election Day - all of it makes me feel like screaming, "Have a Heart!" Where has all compassion gone? When do you finally realize, "We are together in this!" Where is the empathy that acknowledges each other's humanity? Where is the "walk-a-mile-in-each-other's-shoes?"

Our ongoing worship series through October is an invitation for you to return to the heart of the matter, the heart as the seat of our faith. It is to help you open up and get more deeply in touch with your heart, with your emotions and with the living God. It is to mold you and shape your heart to become more like the heart of Jesus.

I invite you with all my heart to make worship a priority during this season. Let God soften your heart, open it up and make it more tenderly caring. Will you join me as we focus together at the heart of our faith which is certainly a matter of the heart!

I hold you in my heart, wrap you in prayers and love, entrust you in God's care, and know that you are with God in good hands.

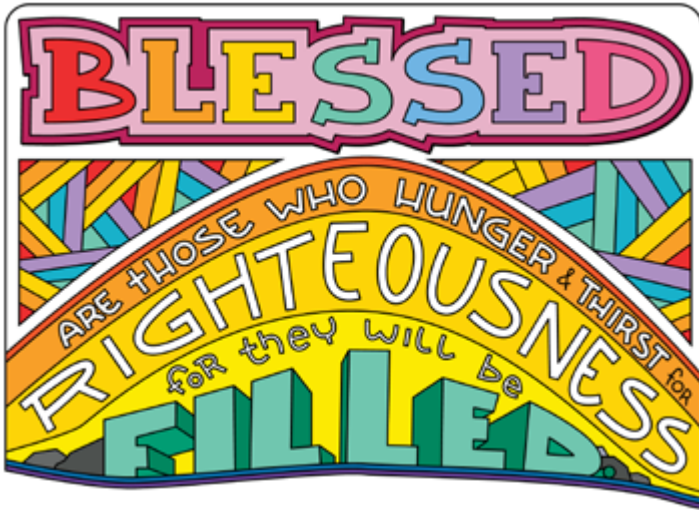
Wholeheartedly,

Pastor Dietmar

Pastor Dietmar is always available for you. Please call him at any time on his cell phone (570) 541-0121.

“ I hold you in my heart, wrap you in prayers and love, entrust you in God's care, and know that you are with God in good hands.

and emotions connect us to God. On Sundays we sing "Change My Heart O God..." King David asks God to clean his heart and to renew his spirit when he became accessory to murder for Bathsheba's husband, Uriah. Jesus' heart broke



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Each Sunday, a video will be posted on the [St. Paul's website](#) for your family to watch at your convenience. Each week's coloring page and family guide will be posted there as well. The link to the program will be posted on our [Facebook page](#) and will also be emailed out to everyone in the Friday eNews.

This is a great way to open the curriculum to all of St. Paul's to enjoy.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at youth@saintpauls-ucc.org.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm.

Stacy Heinemann, Youth Leader

Hello St. Paul's family and friends!

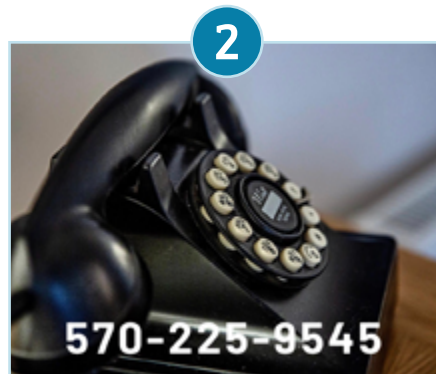
After receiving feedback about Children's Sunday School, the Christian Education Committee decided we can best serve the families of St. Paul's by presenting our Beatitudes program as a video series.

“ Trust God with all your heart; do not rely on your own understanding.
Seek God's will in all you do, and God will show you which path to take.
Proverbs 3:5-6



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.



PRAYER SHAWL ZOOM MEETING TUESDAYS AT 2 PM

Each week we meet via Zoom for an hour or two to connect with each other. Pop in and join the fun! You don't have to knit or crochet, we are as much about fellowship as about ministry. We would love to see you! Here's the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8962233957>



MESSAGE TO THE PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE FROM OUR NEWLY ELECTED CONFERENCE MINISTER

us. And I do not believe this is how we ever should have envisioned our church.

Instead, our churches

navigates tough waters together. When one fails, other boats come to its aid. When a boat is without a captain, others help to find one – even from among the crew. And when a boat needs to be left behind, their crew is taken on. Like those boats at Dunkirk, our role is to give aid to those who need it most.

September 2, 2020

Members and friends of Penn Central Conference-

Last Saturday we held our first virtual Annual Meeting. Despite a few technological glitches it was a success. I was honored to be elected as your Conference Minister and am excited about the work ahead. I received a request to share the imagery I used in my sermon regarding my view of the Conference as a fleet of boats, and so I offer it here – with a few edits - for your reflection.

It used to be that the church was seen as a ship. A big ship. This was a metaphor in some vogue years ago. You are brought onboard as an infant and you stay for your lifetime. Some abandon ship to their own detriment (according to those on the ship) and some are thrown off. The ship remains unchanged, steady, and invulnerable.

However, that ship is gone for us. As a metaphor it may work in part for the Roman Catholic Church – but not for

comprise a fleet of boats. We are a fleet headed by one admiral (Jesus), but with captains at the helms of the boats working with essential crews. In our boats now – in these waters - the captain cannot care for, navigate, steer and run the boat alone. All crew members are responsible for the life of that crew – that community. All have been empowered by God to do so. There cannot be any more free riders (especially free riders who complain). We are all essential now.

Some of these boats are yachts. Well-appointed, maintenance-free, with lots of deck chairs. Others are former yachts with few on board and the engines are straining. Still others are bass boats, rusty and aged – yet beloved and repainted every year. Ski boats, run-abouts, party boats, and maybe even one that still uses oars (and has no indoor plumbing). The variety, style, history, appearance, condition, and leadership are different – yet we remain one fleet.

In fact we look more like the boats at Dunkirk in WWII than those in the pacific theater of the war. Still, we are a fleet that

What I hope for in the years to come is not rebuilding a fleet from 1970 or even 1990.

What I hope for is a fleet that follows the leadership of Christ to go where we are needed for the purposes of rendering aid: feeding, healing, and empowering. A fleet in which all captains and crews work together to care for and maintain the boat and crew. And I hope that each boat will be tough, vital, and seaworthy.

No human community is perfect. No crew, captain or boat is perfect. All of scripture reminds us of that. But as called and forgiven, we are meant to show and model a different life as disciples. One needed now more than ever. May God's grace enable us to be such a community and such a fleet.

Peace,

Rev. Carrie Call, PhD
Conference Minister
Penn Central Conference

Seeking Church Council Members for 2021-2023 Term

It is a joy and rewarding experience to serve on Church Council. In case you are personally interested to serve on Church Council for a three-year term or know of someone who would like to serve and/or would be great to serve (please ask them before submitting their name), please let Council President Raven Rudnitsky know through the church office by October 11.

We are looking for faithful and committed persons who have been members of St. Paul's for at least six months, who are regularly participating in worship and church activities, who are generously supporting St. Paul's mission and ministries through time, talent, and treasure, and who have the best interest of St. Paul's at heart.

At their October 13 meeting the Church Council will consider your suggestions. At their November 10 meeting the Church Council will finalize the slate of five new council members on which the congregation will vote at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 13.

Church Council is the governing board of St. Paul's UCC, meets monthly and decides on the operation of St. Paul's within the parameters of the church bylaws. Please keep Church Council and our church membership in your prayers as we discern our future leadership.

If you have questions about serving on the Church Council, you can ask any council member, Council President Raven Rudnitsky or Pastor Dietmar. Thank you!



NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING OCTOBER 4, 2020



UNLEASHING POTENTIAL (formerly Neighborhood Houses) OF ST. LOUIS, MO

"Unleash[ing] the magnificent potential in children, families and neighborhoods that leads to a just community for all."

Denise Carter, early childhood education director, was well aware of a rather large need within the population served by Neighborhood Houses. Many of the families are low wage earners, 75% of them earn less than \$20,000 annually. Truthfully, some simply struggle to provide many of the basic needs for their children.

To that end, she designed a program to meet the health and development needs of infants and toddlers. Thus, the "Baby Essentials" program was birthed. The main goal was to provide diapers and formula for all of the children enrolled at the early childhood education center for families who could not afford a consistent supply.

Denise met with interim director of development, Christine Krueger, and shared her desire and need for funding. Christine went in search of those sources. She applied wherever she felt the need of the program matched the granters requirements.

Fortunately, she filled out an application for a NIN direct service grant and was awarded \$3,000 in 2019.

In 2020, it was reported back to us that 100% of babies ages six weeks to 12 months received milk they needed while attending the Center. 50% of those babies also received one canister of formula per month for home consumption. Lastly, 100% of babies/toddlers ages six weeks to three years had diapers needed for Center and home use.

According to Christine, "thanks to the Neighbors in Need grant, our babies are dry and their tummies are full, and parents, who are already stressed financially, socially, and emotionally, have two less potential health issues with which to contend!"

Because of your generosity, direct service programs like that of Neighborhood Houses are grant funded, communities are strengthened, and neighbors experience love without judgment.

All children have the right to simply be children...

Please join us in supporting the 2020 Neighbors In Need Special Mission Offering.

Thank you!

ST. PAUL'S COUNCIL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

In Attendance: Joanne Lauer, Pastor Di-etmar, Jack Lewis, Stacy Heinemann, Raven Rudnitsky, Bev Heinemann, Robert Engel, Lisa Krex, John Fischer, Sigrid Plajer, Susan Bolig, Richard Campbell, Peggy Peeler, Ivana Lluveras, Carolyn Fairl, Marty Blessing, Donna Long. Excused: Ellen Miller.

Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes.

Financial Report: A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the financial report.

Pastor's Report: We are grateful to the tech team for their dedication when the new equipment was installed. Jevan took the day off from work to be present while the new technology equipment was being installed. There will be a training in the future with regard to using the new equipment. Wednesday with Wonder had amazing contributions. We have not heard back from the solar installation company. We are thankful to the people who were part of the book discussion group. It was very positive. We were very grateful for the vacation. Thank you to Raven and Sally Dries for covering pastoral concerns while we were on vacation.

Unfinished Business:

1. Worship in Person – It is going smoothly. Nineteen people were there the last Sunday.

2. Worship by Phone – How it Works: Call (570) 225-9545. There have been 12 unique callers since the start of the phone service. You can listen to the service during the week if you wish. The service can be set up, so that people are informed when the service goes live. Any service can be listened to another time.

3. Technology Upgrade and Live Streaming – Sigrid reported that the new cameras were installed. All the equipment is now back in the booth. We are thinking about what equipment can be sold that we don't need now. The most

we have had in church was 26 people. The Internet speed has been upgraded. Attendance is taken and put into Breeze each Sunday for tracking purposes. Every week the service is uploaded to Youtube. Newsletters are also uploaded. The service can be burned onto a DVD. Birthdays and Anniversaries are being updated in Breeze.

4. Roof Repair Update from Property and Grounds – There is no new information, but Mike Proger will be back in touch with Sun Directed.

5. Solar Panels for Sanctuary Update from Property and Grounds and the Green Team – They are waiting to hear back from Sun Directed.

6. Visitation Ministry Coordinator – We are still searching for this position.

New Business:

1. Worship Time for the Fall – A motion was made, seconded and approved to continue the worship service at a 10 AM start time for the fall.

2. "The Heart of the Matter" – A new worship series beginning Sept. 13th will focus on the heart of Christianity, what is at the core of who we are and are to become. We will be going back to the scriptures. It is like Christianity 101, the basics, going back to our roots.

3. Find Replacement for Ellen Miller – Due to health concerns, Ellen Miller has asked to be replaced on Church Council.

4. Adult Study/Sunday school with "Nooma" Video Series – This will be held on Wednesdays at 7 PM, beginning September 16th. Raven Rudnitsky and Lois Bruno will be the teachers. We will look at a DVD and then discuss it afterwards. It will last about an hour. We might do one meeting a month as a hot topic.

5. Children's Sunday School on Beatitudes – This will be held Sundays at 11:15 AM, beginning September 13th. Stacy Heinemann will be the teacher. There is a

12 week Sunday School program for the Beatitudes that we will use. It is an online program. Stacy will hold Sunday School at 11:15 via Zoom for kids only. There is a family guide for each week. The Zoom will last about 30-45 minutes. On Fridays there will be a reminder for the parents to check emails for the link. There will be an educational piece for each week. No supplies will be given out. We might try to put something together for the kids for Wednesdays. For the teens, there are things left from VBS, and this will be posted on Facebook. The Facebook page will be the center of the Youth Ministry.

6. Report from Penn Central Conference Annual Meeting, Aug. 29th – Marty Blessing reported that the Conference was conducted via Zoom in 4.5 hours. The Conference minister was installed. The budget was passed. Hartman Center is being sold. It will cost \$146,000 just to keep it going until a sale is completed. The conference will probably go back to SU when it is safe to do so.

7. Our Penn Central Camp and Retreat Center, Hartman Center, in Milroy, PA, will close and will be sold. There is an invitation to a celebration with worship, crafts, auction, fellowship and prayerful farewell on Saturday, Sept. 12th, 10AM-4PM (Worship at 1 PM).

8. Boscov's is sponsoring Friends Helping Friends. They are running it for the 14th and 15th of October. Shoppers will be asked who they are supporting. St. Paul's will get 5% of the discount offered. There is no cost to anyone. You can use the discount online and mention St. Paul's when checking out.

Committee Reports – Bill Hockenbrock asked committees to come up with a budget. This should be done by the end of September.

Communications – Two thank you notes were received. One was from Global Ministries. One was from Children and Youth

for the contribution of items we gave to kids to go back to school.

Good of the Order – Thank you to John Fisher for taking care of the counting of the money after church.

Thank you to Marv Rudnitsky, who submitted the paperwork so we are forgiven for the payroll money we were given by the government.

Next Council Meeting – October 13th

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Lauer, Recording Secretary

PASTOR’S REPORT AUGUST 2020

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

We concluded the “Liturgy of the Ordinary. Sacred Practices in Everyday Life” book study on August 20th with 10 persons participating. It was a meaningful way to explore and experience how our ordinary lives are intertwined with God’s reality and with the various aspects of our Sunday morning worship services. Thank you to all who shared very personally as part of the study.

We continue to worship in moving and meaningful ways on Sunday mornings in person, via Facebook livestream, and through our website. We added a new feature for people who do not have internet in their home to participate in worship by calling (570) 225-9545. On Sunday mornings at 10 AM everyone can tune in via phone or livestream. Also, calling the phone number during the week gives people the opportunity to take part in the Sunday worship as it remains recorded for the week. I am deeply grateful to all who provide Children’s Messages, special music, and scripture readings in person or by video! It is amazing what is made possible under the challenging Covid-19 circumstances.

We finished our “Wednesdays with Wonder” summer series of posting special video and illustrated messages on St. Paul’s Facebook page every Wednesday. I am deeply grateful to all who submitted moving messages and to the Media Technology Communications Coordinator for

posting them.

“Compassion Camp” VBS was a great success. Youth Leader, Stacy Heinemann did a phenomenal job engaging children and adults electronically and by providing ample art/craft supplies and online resources to all who participated. I am deeply grateful for all - and there are MANY - who made this wonderful VBS possible!

The Property and Grounds Team with Mike Proger as chair took the initiative to explore whether and under what circumstances we may be able to add solar panels to our sanctuary roof. A consultation with the SunDirected company from State College, PA, took place on August 4th. It is the same company that installed the photovoltaic system at Sunbury Bible Church on Rt. 11 in between Northumberland and Danville. To become more green and sustainable is a key goal for our congregation as we heed the call to creation justice. While not currently in the news, the climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges we are facing. Where and how will we as people of faith become leaders in our community towards sustainability?

I continue to provide pastoral and spiritual care for persons who face life-altering circumstances through illness, facing surgery and significant loss. Doing that from a distance as not to endanger anyone has been challenging and demanding. I am deeply grateful to Raven Rudnitsky and to Rev. Sally Dries for covering for me during my recent vacation. It

takes a special toll to be on call 24/7.

Much time and energy went into planning for our Fall Program Year, which we are preparing for together with the Christian Education Committee, the Worship Committee and the Media Technology Communications Coordinator.

You received the September 2020 Newsletter again in the new and improved format. With its appealing design it reflects more compellingly St. Paul’s vision and mission.

I enjoyed a much-needed refreshing vacation at a remote cabin in the Pocono Mountains. Until I left town and settled in the vacation place, I did not realize how tired and exhausted I’ve been. I am very thankful to Rev. Darin Namminga who provided leadership for the worship service on August 30 and delivered a deeply moving and meaningful message.

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 heart of Jesus in action.

August 1-31	
Days worked	18
Days off	05
Continuing Education	00
Vacation days	08
Holidays	00
Total Days	31

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Dietmar Plajer



A DECADE OF SERVICE

On behalf of our congregation, Church Council, Personnel Committee and personally we thank Sue Nentwig, our church Office Manager for 10 years of great work! Sue has been faithful, diligent, and conscientious in her service. She is very reliable and gets things done. Congratulations and thank you, Sue!

-- Pastor Dietmar Plajer

HELP SUPPORT

St. Paul's UCC in Selinsgrove

better than ever! **FRIENDS** *really* **HELPING** *friends* **FRIENDS**

2 BIG DAYS

SHOP OCTOBER 14TH & 15TH, 2020
NO SHOPPING PASS TO PURCHASE!

<p>YOU SAVE</p> <h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">20%*</h1> <p>OFF</p> <p>LOWEST SALE PRICES ON ALMOST EVERYTHING</p> <small>*10% discount items and exclusions apply.</small>	<p>WE RECEIVE</p> <h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">5%</h1> <p>BACK</p> <p>OF YOUR TOTAL PURCHASE</p>
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MENTION ST. PAUL'S UCC IN SELINGSGROVE
IN-STORE AT THE REGISTER OR ONLINE AT CHECKOUT
& WE'LL RECEIVE 5% OF YOUR TOTAL PURCHASE.

Visit www.boscovs.com/friendshelping_friends
for a listing of items receiving a 10% discount and exclusions.

THANK YOU NOTE

My sisters and I want to thank you, my St. Paul's family, for sending birthday wishes for our Mother's 97th birthday. Those cards put a smile on her face.

A special thank you to Ellen Miller, Lois Bruno and the Prayer Shawl Committee for the beautiful shawl she received during her illness.

A big thank you to Pastor Dietmar for your visits with our mother Violet while she was struggling with declining health. Also, for helping us with her Celebration of Life service and the interment of both our father's and mother's ashes. You are always there when our family needs you.

In Christian Love,
Gail, John, and sisters Pamela and Lois

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 [link](#) or email [Sigrid](mailto:Sigrid@tech@saintpauls-ucc.org) 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.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 1, 2020

Join us for a deeply meaningful worship service on November 1, 2020, at 10 AM where we celebrate the lives and legacy of members and friends of St. Paul's who passed away during the last year.



PRAYER LIST

Members:

Judi Anselmo
 Al & Dot Deans
 Carol Dickinson
 Ethel Foor
 Helen Hannah
 Bill & Brenda Hockenbrock
 Jimmy Kauffman
 David "Davie" Lauer Jr.
 Morgan Lewis, Jr. & Sara Adams
 Rev. Jack and Pat Snook
 Jim Taylor
 Linda and Daisy Thomas
 Nancy Wagner
 Dr. William "Bill" Weader

Friends:

All who are affected by the wildfires on the West Coast
 The family of Jerry Anselmo
 Caden
 Debra Knepp
 The partner of Herman Litzel
 Maureen Lewis & family
 Tonyka Lugaro
 Asher Noll
 Becky Hill Steffen
 Tyann
 Diana Williams
 Children, Parents, Teachers who are facing

challenges
 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 military, leaders of the world, those who are working for peace and understanding, and all the children of the world

BIRTHDAYS

- 10/01 Stacy Heinemann
- 10/02 Maya Caron
- 10/04 Mary Ruhl
Evelyn Smith
- 10/07 Austin Imhoof
Lori Rathfon
- 10/08 Cindy Smith
- 10/09 Sally Krouse
- 10/10 Robert Luckenbaugh
- 10/12 Nicole Lukens
- 10/16 Kim Haizlett
- 10/17 Isabelle Snyder
- 10/20 Tami Herrold
Lori Proger
- 10/21 Katelyn Proger
- 10/22 Fred Kelly
Becky Namet
- 10/23 Lisa Krex
Jeremy Napp
- 10/25 Alexander Brouse
Timothy Reed
- 10/26 Lisa Taylor
- 10/29 Karen Koppenhaver
Carolyn Patton
- 10/30 Megan Campbell
- 10/31 Kyle Kelly
Randall Tanner

ANNIVERSARIES

- 10/01 Robert & Lori Rathfon
Duane & Kim Rigel
- 10/03 John & Gail Fischer
- 10/10 Don & Jan Sears
Michael & Lori Proger
- 10/15 Joe & Cerene Dubaskas
Charles & Michelle Siegel
Grant & Diane Spoons
- 10/16 Bob & Debra Brown
Matt & Taleisha Burd
- 10/17 Page & Bryan Lybarger
- 10/20 Barry "Buzz" & Janet Siegfried



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

400 North Market Street
Selinsgrove, PA 17870
Tel 570-374-8749

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

“God is Still Speaking”

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

We thank God for...



HEART ART

HEART ART

Please help us display pieces of arts and crafts that depict a heart or an action or situation where people express or experience some heartfelt emotions. Hearts can be warm, loving, glowing, radiating. Hearts can be heavy and burdened. Hearts can break. Hearts can beat higher. We can speak from the heart or do things with all our heart. We will display your art in the sanctuary during our “The Heart of the Matter - A Matter of the Heart” worship series for people to see in person and on-line. We deeply believe that everyone is an artist; some people just feel more comfortable than others to share their creations. You can drop of your creation (or one that someone else created) at the side entrance of St. Paul's during office hours, Tuesday-Thursday, 9-2, or on the front porch of Pastor Dietmar's home at 504 N High Street in Selinsgrove (call or text him at (570) 541-0121 to let him know that you will drop something off). Please mark the piece you submit with your name on the back so we can return it to you. Also, if you want to, you can write a couple of sentences what this art expresses or means to you. Thank you for participating and for sharing a piece of yourself!