

APRIL 2025



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St. Paul's United Church of Christ

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE GOOD NEWS

Sharing Life's Journey by Building Our Relationships with Jesus and Each Other

A FINAL NOTE

FROM PASTOR TRUDY

The weeks of Lent are quickly passing us by and we begin to look ahead now to Holy Week – the shouts of ‘hosanna’ and the ‘waving of palms’ are before us – the shouts of ‘crucify Him’ follow close behind as we approach the cross and remember our Savior’s betrayal and crucifixion. But, oh, how blessed we are as we remember our faith story does not end on Good Friday! No, the words I hear and the song I hear calling to us loud and clear is that *He Lives* – we serve a Risen Savior!

From those shouts of ‘hosanna’ - as Jesus entered Jerusalem - until the night of His betrayal – Jesus was in teaching mode with His disciples – by His words and actions. The inspired Word of God as it comes to us through John’s Gospel – gives us what Bible scholars call Jesus’ ‘farewell discourse’ (John 13:1-17:26) – Jesus’ final testament as He instructs His disciples about maintaining faithful discipleship when He is not physically present.

The ‘farewell discourse’ in John’s Gospel gives us the stories of Jesus kneeling at the feet of His disciples and washing their feet and Jesus giving a new commandment, ‘that you love one another – just as I have loved you.’ In this final testament, Jesus promises His disciples that even when He is no longer physically present with them – God will send a Helper – an Advocate – the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of Truth – to lead and guide them. He speaks of how their sorrow will turn into joy. Jesus knows of the troubles of the world and the hatred in the world and the pain, heartache, sorrow, struggles and difficult moments that His followers will face. And at the end of His final testament Jesus prays for His disciples (John 17:1-26) – twenty-six verses of Jesus in prayer on behalf of His disciples – praying ‘that they may all be one.’ Like all scripture, ‘these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God’s Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name’ (John 20:31). How wonderful for these stories to have been passed on to us through God’s Holy Word – passed on from one generation to another!!!

We have been blessed and have written many stories together over these past five-and-a-half years; another chapter in the book of St. Paul’s United Church of Christ’s long history. But we aren’t quite finished yet! We have a few more stories to write as we walk together through these last weeks of serving Christ as pastor and people. We will journey together through Holy Week and remember all that Christ has done for us. We will gather together and weep at the thought once more that The Perfect One, God’s Son, suffered and died for us. But our sorrow will turn to joy when we gather on that glorious Easter morning – proclaiming: He is risen! He is risen indeed; also gathering at the Table as one to share in the broken bread and the cup of blessing; and witnessing the Rite of Confirmation for Jaxon Moyer and Simon Ziegenfuss. What a day of celebration it will be! With each final word of our story - in each final moment of the time we will share together – let us remember God called us together in His time for a certain length of time - to be in service to His Son, our Risen Savior – who continues to teach us to love; to lead us by the movement of the Holy Spirit, Our Helper and Guide; to yes, pray for us from God’s heavenly throne; and to believe that Jesus is the Christ, God’s Son, and that believing, we will have life in his name! It has been my great and humble privilege to serve as your pastor and to be a part of your story! God be with you until we meet again!

In Christ’s Service, *Pastor Trudy*

APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES

Services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel via our website.

Worship is held at 10:15am in the sanctuary.

Kingdom Kids is available for preschool and elementary-aged children during worship.

Lay Liturgists: Marty & Lori Milkowich

April 6 | 5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10

April 13 | Palm Sunday

Scripture: Luke 19:29-40

April 17 | Maundy Thursday hosted by St. Paul's Sacrament of Holy Communion & Service of Tenebrae

April 20 | Easter Sunday

Rite of Confirmation & Sacrament of Holy Communion

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

April 27 | 2nd Sunday of Easter

Service of Farewell

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Worship and reflection resources: Sanctified Art, Everything [in] Between: Meeting God in the midst of extremes, a Lenten series in Luke's gospel; New Century Hymnal; Worship & Praise Songbook; Hymns for the Family of God.

2025 ALTAR FLOWERS

A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex to sign up to sponsor altar flowers. Please note there is **no charge** to sponsor these silk flowers. If you are sponsoring to honor a person or a special occasion, such as a birthday or anniversary, please call or email the office (215-257-7268 or secretary@stpaulsucc.net) with the information you would like in the bulletin by Tuesday of the week you are sponsoring the flowers.



The Altar Guild is looking forward to having your help in creating a beautiful and colorful Easter display for 2025. **We are asking you to purchase whatever color or type of potted flower(s) you like and drop them off at church Saturday, April 19 between 9:00 and 11:00am.** Please include a tag with your name on your flower. We will then create a "garden" at the base of the cross with all of the beautiful flowers you have chosen. You may take your flowers home after the service.

We will also have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for you to indicate if your flowers are *In Memory of* or *In Honor of* someone. This will then be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

Any questions, please contact Debbie Koehler either by email (debkoehler@yahoo.com) or by phone (215-206-1743).

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES SCHEDULE

Two Lenten gatherings for each date as follows:

11:30am – 1:00pm: Mid-day with a bag lunch

5:30pm – 7:00pm: Soup and sandwich evening meal provided by host church except for Maundy Thursday (soup only).

April 2	Mid-Week Lenten Service	St. Paul's
April 9	Mid-Week Lenten Service	St. Stephen's

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 17	Maundy Thursday Service	St. Paul's
	Evening service only; 5:30pm meal with Tenebrae service to follow in the Sanctuary; soup only for this evening meal	
April 18	Good Friday Service	St. Stephen's
	Two service times; self-guided labyrinth with reflection stations	

everything [in] between: Meeting God in the midst of extremes a Lenten series in Luke's gospel

Our series, inspired by the Narrative Lectionary (Year 3), allows the Gospel of Luke to guide us through Lent. We have experienced the familiar stories of – the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, the fruitless fig tree, and the Lost Sheep. As we move through the final weeks of Lent, we will hear more familiar stories including the story of that famous tax collector, Zaccheus! Perhaps you grew up singing “Zaccheus was a wee little man” in Sunday School. So many of these scriptures hold significance in pop culture, church history, politics, and everything in between.

Through all these familiar stories we have explored and will continue to explore, Jesus emphasizes the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God.

Join us in these remaining weeks of Lent – journey with us to the cross in Holy Week – as St. Paul's, St. Andrew's and St. Stephen's join together to explore and experience Lent and Holy Week 2025.

(the above article includes excerpts taken from the overview of the Lenten series provided by Sanctified Art)

LAY LEADERSHIP CONVOCATION

The PSEC Lay Leadership Convocation will be held April 26 from 8:30am–3:00pm at Christ Church UCC, Norristown. The theme is "New Wineskins for New Wine" with a keynote address from Rev. Cean James. For more information, including registration, go to: <https://layconv25.eventbrite.com>

A MESSAGE FROM THE CONSISTORY PRESIDENT

Dear St. Paul's Members,

I regretfully inform you that effective March 10, 2025, our Christian Education Director, Jeremiah Link has resigned. We have greatly appreciated Jeremiah's work with our youth each Sunday. He will be sorely missed, and we wish him well in his future endeavors. Unfortunately, beginning Sunday, March 16, we will not have Children's Chat as part of our worship service, and Kingdom Kids and Sunday School for older youth will be suspended until further notice. Pastor Trudy will provide a Children's Bulletin based on the theme of the service which will be available to any children attending services during our time of transition.

I would also like to keep you updated on the progress of finding a new pastor. Consistory, as the transition team, has sent to the PSEC a description of what we would like a "bridge" pastor to do for us. Our "bridge" pastor will be appointed by the conference to be responsible for basic pastoral leadership including preaching, visiting our sick and shut-ins, performing weddings, baptisms, funerals, and serving communion. We anticipate that the "bridge" pastor will serve us for 3 to 8 months following Pastor Trudy's departure. We have also begun working on the "short profile" of our church which we will use to select an interim pastor.

If you have any questions as we go through this period of transition, please contact me or any member of Consistory. Thank you for your continued participation and support in the life of St. Paul's.

Blessings, *Rick Moyer*

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR

Praise The Lord!
Sing to the Lord a new song.
Sing His praises in the assembly of the faithful.
Psalm 149:1 (NLT)

With two of our dedicated choir members moving away later this Spring and another heading off to college in the Fall, the choir needs more voices! There's no need to wait for those departures to happen, we'll happily welcome additional voices anytime now, it would be a real blessing to have a larger choir for the coming church seasons, including Easter. No experience necessary! We rehearse for about an hour and it is a fun time of singing, learning and fellowship. Please note our altered rehearsal schedule during Lent as printed on the church calendar. As I have mentioned several times over the past several years, please consider joining us even if you can't commit to every week. As much as possible, I try to make our rehearsal schedules accommodating to our modern hectic lives. Come make a joyful noise with us.

Chris Ziegenfuss, Choir Director



As hurricanes, floods and other disasters become more frequent, the road to recovery can feel overwhelming. Your support fills CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets with the essential supplies that make cleanup a little easier for those affected. This year, CWS (Church World Service) has updated the bucket to streamline the contents and keep it as effective and budget-friendly as possible.

Each of our three midweek Lenten host churches during the season of Lent will be putting together a Church World Service (CWS) Cleanup Bucket (one, two, or more). Select any of the items below and place them in the collection bin located in the narthex area and marked *CWS Cleanup Buckets*. An inventory of the items will be taken mid-Lent and the collection list updated as to the items that are still needed to complete a bucket or two or three. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of each donated item.

- Five scouring pads (No stainless steel or pads with soap in them. Remove from packaging.)
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush (With or without handle.)
- 18 reusable, lightweight multipurpose cleaning towels (Not paper towels. Remove from packaging.)
- One 16-34oz bottle of liquid dish soap (antibacterial preferred)
- One 12-40oz bottle of liquid concentrate household cleaner that can be mixed with water (No spray bottles.)
- One 50-100ft clothesline (Cotton or plastic line.)
- Five dust masks (N95 particulate respirator dust masks preferred; No surgical masks.)
- Two pairs of heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves (Latex-free preferred. Durable for multiple use. Remove from packaging.)
- One pair of heavy-duty, reusable work gloves (Such as nitrile, cotton with leather palm, or all leather.)
- 20-28 heavy-duty or contractor-type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll (Remove from packaging.)

All cleaning items must be new and all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened.

LIVING MUSEUM

The gathering for CCC each Sunday following church fills Fretz Hall!!! As we gather in Fretz Hall, please notice the Living Museum lit up and ready for exploring. The latest theme was Mission and the many places that were explored by our members.

But we are moving on to the next theme. The St. Paul's Softball team will be displayed. If you recall, this was quite an exhibit when presented in Fellowship Hall a few years ago. For the Living Museum, the Church Softball Team will show its very beginnings with newspaper and photo releases. However, the Museum will be temporarily "closed" until the area is prepared for its reveal. Please watch for an opening announcement.

PENNRIDGE FISH

On March 7, Pastor Trudy and I met with Paige at Penridge FISH. She gave us a tour of the facility. I was very impressed with the food pantry and clothing center. What a wonderful job they are doing helping the people of the community. Thank you to the congregation for your support of Penridge FISH. Please remember they are always in need of volunteers if you are interested.

Robin Frank

Easter/Passover Holiday Bag Donation Needs *donations due by April 6*

- Rice and Rice mix
- Baking mixes (cakes, brownies, cookies, etc.)
- Canned pineapple
- Canned peaches
- Gravy packets or canned gravy
- Stuffing mix
- Potatoes (dry)

Other Current Donation Needs

- 100% Fruit or Vegetable Juice
- Spaghetti and other pasta
- Spaghetti sauce
- Rice and Rice mix
- Pasta sides
- Canned fish and tuna
- Canned meat, beans
- Canned chili and stew
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Dried fruit
- Pancake Mix
- Pancake syrup
- Cold and hot cereals
- Dry potatoes
- Gravy, broth
- Soups, all kinds
- Cake mix and frosting
- Flour and Sugar
- Condiments, spices, cooking oil
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Snacks
- Coffee, tea and hot chocolate
- Diapers: sizes 5,6; "Pull-ups"- all sizes
- Diaper Wipes
- Bath Soaps and shampoos
- Laundry detergent and cleaning products
- Paper towels, toilet paper, tissues
- Gluten Free and Diabetic foods
- Feminine products, toiletries, shaving items, deodorant, toothpaste



NOTES OF THANKS

Thank you for your gift of \$640.28 received on 2/17/25.

- Samaritan's Purse

Thank you for choosing to make a difference in the lives of our Seniors at Phoebe! Thank you for your gift of \$100.00 received on 2/24/25.

- Phoebe Richland

The Veterans of this post would like to thank you for your donation of time and talent.

- Commander Paul Gerhart, Jr.,
John Rivers Memorial VFW Post 11322

To the members of St. Paul's,
I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all those who donated to my fundraising for the Polar Plunge and SouderThon! Because of your generosity Souderton High School raised \$5,910 for the Special Olympics through the Polar Plunge donations! We had 80 Souderton students participate in this great cause! I am especially grateful for your contributions towards the SouderThon fundraiser again this year! Out of the more than 550 student participants, I was the third highest fundraiser in the school thanks to your generosity! Souderton Area High School, via SouderThon, raised \$85,732.78!! All donations went to the Peter Powerhouse Foundation for pediatric cancer research. Thank you also to the Endowment Committee who approved donating funds to both of these worthy charities too. Thank you all for your support and generosity. It truly makes a difference in children's lives around the country!

- Jocelyn Ziegenfuss



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/4 – Marquise Stokes
4/7 – Marlana Weideman
4/8 – Joann Allen
4/9 – Bryn Hendricks
4/12 – Jeffrey Moyer
4/14 – Geraldine Scheetz
4/15 – Simon Ziegenfuss
4/16 – Scott Huff

4/18 – Jeremiah Link
4/19 – Faye Gable
Gregory Koehler
4/20 – Gina Koehler
Cassie Wells
4/22 – Brandon Barndt
Janet Dunlap
4/23 – Timothy Frank

4/25 – Pat Wenger
4/27 – Marcus Milkowich
Robin Renner
Levi Wenger
4/28 – Danielle Hauptert
Amelia Moyer
Karen Weikel
4/29 – Theresa Hawkins



Spring Gathering

Thursday, May 8

11:00am - 1:00pm

Games at St. Paul's

MAY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE: TUESDAY, APRIL 22

ENDOWMENT

Cindy Bibic
Robin Frank
Debbie Koehler
Paul Koehler
Rick Moyer
Terry Weikel
Chris Ziegenfuss

CONSISTORY

Rick Moyer, *President*
Marie Runkle, *Vice President*
Jim Chrastina, *Treasurer*
Nancy Ziegenfuss, *Secretary*
Chris Fosbenner
Scott Huff
Debbie Koehler
Lori Milkowich
Arlene Peters
Jocelyn Ziegenfuss
McKenna Milkowich, *Youth Representative*

CEMETERY TRUSTEES

Alex Potoczny
Terry Weikel
Jay Wenger

CEMETERY CONTACT

Carol Nase: 267-374-9045

Consistory minutes are available in the Narthex

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Trudy Irving, Pastor

Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00am – 12:00pm

Off: Friday

pastortrudy@stpaulsucc.net

267-733-4153

Brianna Link, Church Secretary

Office Hours: Tues./Wed. 11:00am – 2:00pm

brianna@stpaulsucc.net

215-257-7268

Nathan Gulla, Organist

nathan@stpaulsucc.net

Cindy Bibic, Financial Secretary

cindy@stpaulsucc.net

Christopher Ziegenfuss, Choir Director

chris@stpaulsucc.net

Peter Ziegenfuss, Handbell Choir Director

peter@stpaulsucc.net



April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Pastor on Vacation</i>		Prayer Shawl 1:00 – 3:00pm Finance 7:00pm	Lenten Services 11:30am & 5:30pm <i>St. Paul's</i> Choir 7:30pm			Fostering Hope Volunteer Event 10:00am Confirmation 10:30am–12:00pm
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Worship 10:15am	Bells 7:00pm	Consistory 7:00pm	Lenten Services 11:30am & 5:30pm <i>St. Stephen's</i> Choir 7:30pm	Growth & Hospitality 1:00pm		Fostering Hope Open Shop 5:00 –7:00pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Palm Sunday Worship 10:15am	Bells 7:00pm	Prayer Shawl 1:00 – 3:00pm	Choir 7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service 5:30pm <i>St. Paul's with joint Choir</i>	Good Friday Service 11:30am & 5:30pm <i>St. Paul's</i>	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Easter Sunday Worship & Rite of Confirmation 10:15am	Bells 7:00pm	Newsletter Submissions due	Choir 7:00pm			
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
Service of Farewell <i>Pastor Trudy's final Sunday</i> 10:15am	Bells 7:00pm	Prayer Shawl 1:00 – 3:00pm	Choir 7:00pm			