

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SHARING THE GOOD NEWS



MARCH 2023

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

We are excited to announce the launching of a new program for kids ages 3 through 5th grade called Kingdom Kids!

Kingdom Kids began on February 19th and is offered in conjunction with the 10:15am worship service through May. Parents can worship without distraction knowing their children are receiving intentional faith-based instruction along with music, dancing, and extension activities under the loving care of Kate Clark.

Kingdom Kids is a pilot program designed to take the place of the traditional 9:00am Sunday School class for children ages 3-5th grade.



Volunteers Needed!

In keeping with our safe church policy, there must be two responsible adults in the Nursery with the children for Kingdom Kids. If you are interested in assisting Kate Clark on a rotating basis, please speak to her. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for you to add your name next to the Sunday(s) that work for you to serve as an assistant in Kingdom Kids. Adult volunteers must have a valid Child Abuse Clearance and Criminal History Check on file with Nancy Ziegenfuss.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 12th by donating canned goods or money. The pantry shelves for FISH were filled once again and \$125 in cash was given to Pennridge FISH.

Thank you to Tessa, Isaiah, and Jocelyn who collected donations prior to the worship service.



Sunday, March 26th | 6:00-8:00pm

The ReCharge youth will be going bowling!

Drop-off and pick-up is at Earl Bowl. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Cost is \$5 per person. Please contact Holly Weideman or Nancy Ziegenfuss if you need to arrange for transportation. RSVP via recharge@stpaulsuc.net.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 8 | 10:00am

Come on out for egg hunts, crafts, refreshments, and a visit with the Easter Bunny!
ReCharge youth and youth in grades 6+ are invited to help hide the eggs.



We are excited to announce that this year's **Camp Sonshine** theme will be *Pets Unleashed: Where Jesus Cares "Fur" You*.

Kids are crazy for critters with whiskers, tails, feathers, or scales! That's why kids will think **Camp Sonshine's Pets Unleashed** is the cat's meow. During our time together, the kids will be introduced to Jesus, God's Son who lovingly cares for us.

This summer's **Camp Sonshine** program is scheduled to take place on Friday, July 28th and Saturday, July 29th with a family meal being served at 5:30pm each evening. At 6:15 pm, following the meal, the evening camp activities will begin. A **Pets Unleashed** celebration will be held on Sunday, July 30th during the morning worship service. Save the dates NOW!

Let's fetch some faith-filled fun!!

Volunteers Needed!

In order to make **Camp Sonshine** an awesome experience for the children who attend, we will need lots of volunteers. There are plenty of opportunities to help. Take a look at the following list and see where you best fit. When you know how you'd like to help, please speak to Nancy Ziegenfuss.

Publicity	Games	Bible Adventures
Decorations	Drama	Photography
Technology	Music	Registration
Kitchen Crew	Crew Leader	Behind the Scenes Prep
Projects-with-a-Purpose (crafts & mission combined)		



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

“You’re Grounded for LIFE! And 49 Other Crazy Things Parents Say” by Joey O’Connor is just one of the many delightful books you will find in our church library. Yes, the book title immediately caught my eye and the contents filled me with laughter. Chapter titles like, “What Part of No Didn’t You Understand?” and “Do I Look Like I’m Made Out of Money?” and “Just Wait Until Your Father Gets Home!” all resonated with me – not just as a child hearing those statements and questions come my way from my parents, but then me repeating many of those same statements and asking those same questions of my son in his teenage years. The author’s goal, however, using humor and wisdom, is an attempt to instill in the teenager an appreciation for their parents when they say such things – even if the teenager doesn’t understand.

Remember that statement, “Someday, when you’re older, you’ll understand?” Well, this statement is also included in O’Connor’s book, written for teenagers, but yet, I find even now as a Senior Adult there are still ‘some things’ I don’t understand. They are things that deeply disturb my spirit, like daily reports of gun violence, natural disasters, great injustices that continue to occur against humanity, the decline in folks even being interested in Church. In these days of so much that I don’t understand, I need the Church more than ever, and I don’t say that just because I’m a pastor. My journey in my relationship with the Church hasn’t been a straight path filled with clear direction, but has been a winding road that has contained ‘speed bumps.’ And yet, by God’s grace there has always been continued growth, always new learning and new experiences. I can’t imagine life now without the Church; I can’t imagine not having a community of faith to support me, encourage me, pray with me and for me.

Lent has arrived – and no matter how you feel about Lent – it’s always a good time to “go deeper” within yourself and take another look at your life of faith and what it means to have Jesus in your life. What has your journey of faith meant to you? Has the Church always been in your life? Have you always been a faithful member of a Church? Or, have you felt disconnected from the Church for years or just recently? And if you have felt or are feeling disconnected, why? No matter your answers to my questions – there will be some level of hurt for everyone as the Church of Jesus Christ shifts and changes. One more saying in O’Connor’s book is, “This hurts me more than it hurts you,” but no matter who you are or where you are on your journey of faith – God is there; to heal hurts, to listen, to love you unconditionally and always welcome you with His grace and forgiveness. I appreciate O’Connor’s response on what to do when we are hurting: he says, “Thank God for Jesus! Thank God for the Holy Spirit who gives us the strength and will to follow Jesus every day.” This Lent, as O’Connor says, “think of all the ways God loved you enough to give you his Son so that you can know him personally.”

Sharing the journey, Pastor Trudy



LENTEN WORSHIP AND STUDIES

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

**Midweek Potluck & Worshipful Play
Lent 2023**

Wednesdays 6 pm to 7:30 pm

March 1:	St Stephen's UCC 110 N 6th St., Perkasio
March 8:	St. Paul's UCC 104 Green St., Sellersville
March 15:	St. Andrew's UCC 615 E. Walnut St., Perkasio
March 22:	St Stephen's UCC 110 N 6th St., Perkasio
March 29:	St. Peter's Tohickon UCC 1071 Old Bethlehem Rd., Perkasio

**Sponsored by the
UCC Cooperative of Upper Bucks Churches**

ADULT LENTEN MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Witness at the Cross

Wednesday | March 1 – April 5 | 2:00pm | Fellowship Hall

With her wit, wisdom, and vast knowledge of the scriptures in their historical context, the author has brought to life the characters who the Gospels tell us were witnesses to the Crucifixion. Levine's insights often challenge things we may have assumed we knew, and she does so with humor and generosity of heart that blesses even the simplest search for biblical understanding. The author of *Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday* is Amy-Jill Levine ("AJ") is Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford Seminary and University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies Emerita. Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies Emerita, and Professor of New Testament Studies Emerita at Vanderbilt University. She is an internationally renowned scholar and teacher and the author of numerous books including *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*. Please contact Pastor Trudy if you are interested in participating in this in-person Lenten Bible Study. (267-733-4153 or pastortrudy@stpaulsucc.net) This is a six-week Bible Study.

SUNDAY MORNING LENTEN STUDY | March 5 – April 2 | 9:00am | Fellowship Hall

You are invited to join us for a five-week Lenten study, *He Chose the Nails* by Max Lucado. You do not need to be part of a current Sunday School class to attend!

Every gift from God reveals His love, but no gift reveals His love more than the gifts of the cross. These gifts came not wrapped in paper but in passion. They were not placed around a tree but around a cross. They were not covered with ribbons but sprinkled with the blood that Christ shed on our behalf.

In this five-session video Bible study, Max Lucado explores the many gifts that Christ provided to us at His crucifixion. These include not only the gift of the cross but also the gift of the thorns that pierced His brow. The nails that tore His flesh. The seamless robe that He removed for us. The empty tomb where He forever defeated sin and death.

The hill of the cross is rich with the gifts of God's grace. These were gifts He didn't have to give. The only required act for our salvation was the shedding of blood, yet God did so much more. So, as we unwrap these gifts, we need to pause and listen for His voice. As we do, perhaps we will hear Him whisper, "I did it just for you."

He Chose the Nails sessions include: He Chose to Be One of Us; He Chose to Forgive Us; He Chose to Invite Us into His Presence; He Chose to Love Us Forever; He Chose to Give Us Victory

MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES

MARCH 2023: LENTEN THEME

“UNFINISHED: Discovering God’s Call in the Not Yet”

1 John 3:2a ~ “Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.”

In-person Sunday worship service in the sanctuary at 10:15am. Virtual worship (livestreaming) services are also available each Sunday. Hymns are from the Hymns for the Family of God unless otherwise indicated. A Children’s Chat followed by Kingdom Kids is included in each Sunday morning worship service.

Lay Liturgists: Donna Huff (March 5 and 19)
Mary Beth Baringer (March 12 and 26)

March 5, 2023 ~ Second Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, **John 3:1-17**

Theme: “*Called to Openness*”

Hymns: “Gather Us In” W&R#649; “Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine” HFG#67

March 12, 2023 ~ Third Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, **John 4:5-42**

Theme: “*Called by God*”

Hymns: “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” HFG#376; “Fill My Cup, Lord” HFG#481

March 19, 2023 ~ Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14, **John 9:1-41**

Theme: “*Called to Attentiveness*”

Hymns: “Open My Eyes That I May See” HFG#486; “Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus” HFG#621

March 26, 2023 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, **John 11:1-45**

Theme: “*Called to Regret*”

Hymns: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” HFG#21; “Trust and Obey” HFG#454

Looking ahead:

April 2nd: Palm Sunday ~ “*Called to Experience God’s Presence*”

April 6th: Holy Thursday (UCC Cooperative of Upper Bucks)

April 9th: Easter Sunday ~ “*Called to Resurrection*”

(8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services will be held)

EASTER FLOWERS

The Altar Guild is looking forward to having your help in creating a beautiful and colorful Easter display for 2023. **We are asking you to purchase whatever color or type of potted flower (or flowers) you like and drop them off at church Saturday, April 8th 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).

Try it – you'll like it!

Try — Sunday school for adults and junior/senior high 9:00 a.m.

Try — in-person worship at 10:15am

Try — children's church at 10:15am

Try — the handbells!

Try — the choir!

Try — a ministry team, we have several teams looking for new members!

Try — ReCharge for youth ages 10 through senior high held the last Sunday of each month (6:30 – 8:00pm)

Thank you, St. Paul's!

Thank you very much for your cards, prayers, and condolences during Aunt Grace's hospitalization and after her passing. Pastor Trudy, you've been a godsend to our family. We really appreciate you helping us get through a very difficult time. Thank you everyone for your support.

In Christian Love,
Carol & Barry

I would like to thank you for the beautiful prayers that were said for me before and after my surgery. I could feel God's love through the cards and all the concern and well-wishes your church family communicated to my sister, Cindy. The beautiful prayer shawl I received was overwhelming for me. I still have a long road ahead until I'm healed, but with all of the support and prayers, I know God is with me.

With thanks and appreciation,
Barbara Hufnagle



Hello Friends,

We are officially in ALL of the Pennridge schools! We are now serving 224 children weekly. We just had a large pack where we included enough food for each child to have 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches and several snacks to cover the 5 day break.

We are still working out of three pantries; St. Paul's UCC, Blooming Glen Mennonite and Souderton Brethren in Christ. As our numbers grow, this makes food buying and distribution very labor intensive.

Our food buyer has been conscientious about watching prices and designing menus that keep a normal 2-day weekend's bag at \$8 or less. This involves shopping at several different stores, including Amazon online, and Sam's Club, with the closest one being in Willow Grove. **WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WITH LARGE TRUCKS OR VANS TO PICK UP FOOD.** These pickups are not scheduled much ahead of time, so we need people who would be able to be called on with only a few days' notice.

We are also looking for people to deliver the bins to the schools. This would involve picking up the bins from one of the pantries and delivering them to the schools, usually sometime on a Thursday or a Friday morning.

Our donations have been holding strong, with several monthly donors for whom we are so thankful! Also, the local churches continue to support RamPacks, and we have had sizeable donations two years in a row from the Sellersville Belles softball tournament and the Rams Pinthouse and Rooftop Lounge Christmas event. We are looking forward to another sizeable donation from St. Michael's Fasnacht sale. Last year's profits were amazing!

Our future plans are to move to a facility where we could store ALL of the food, as well as pack for ALL of the schools! So, if YOU know of a location for that, PLEASE reach out.

Enjoy this unseasonably warm winter weather if you are in PA.

And as always, thank you for your support and prayers,

Donna Huff

RamPacks Board President

Pennridge FISH Current Needs

(The following list can be found in the Narthex on green paper)

800 W. Chestnut St., PO Box 9 Perkasi, PA 18944 | 215-257-7616
Monday/Wednesday 3:00-5:00pm | Thursday 6:00-8:00pm | Friday/Saturday 9:00-11:00pm

Canned Meats (spam, canned ham, beef stew)
 Canned Chicken
 Canned Sardines
 Meal Helpers (hamburger, tuna, rice, pasta)
 Shelf Stable Meals (i.e. Hormel Compleats)
 *Canned Pasta (Ravioli, Spaghettios, Beefaroni, etc)
 Boxed Mashed Potatoes
 Brown Rice
 White Rice
 Spaghetti
 Bagged Dry Beans
 *Canned Soups
 *Canned Vegetables
 *Canned Spinach
 *Canned Beets
 *Canned Fruit
 Applesauce
 Pickles
 Oatmeal
 *Jelly
 Misc. Nuts (pistachios, walnuts, pecans, etc)
 *Coffee
 Salt/Pepper

Grated Cheese (shelf stable parmesan, 3-cheese, etc)
 Ketchup
 Mustard
 Mayonnaise
 *Salad Dressing
 Alfredo Sauce
 *Diapers 2-3-4T-5T-6T
 *Diapers Size 4,5,6,7/Trainer/Night Time Pull-Ups
 *Baby Wipes
 *Toothpaste
 *Toothbrushes
 *Facial Tissues
 *Paper Towels
 Toilet Paper
 *Bar Soap
 *Shampoo/Conditioner
 Razors
 *Laundry Detergent
 *Dish Soap
 Apples/Oranges/Onions/Potatoes – Take directly to FISH after purchase
 *Hot Chocolate
 Cooking Oil
**indicates items are out completely or almost out*



FISH takes its symbol, the Ichthys fish, from early Christianity, and its' acronym stands for:
Fellowship In Serving Humanity

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AT ST. PAUL'S

1st – Dylan Benner
 3rd – Dolores Bibic
 5th – Shary Kissel
 Matthew Derstine
 6th – William Benner
 Tom Long, III
 8th – David J. Cardacin
 9th – Keefer Brown

10th – Makya Milkowich
 11th – Gordon Bosch
 13th – Angela Fuhs
 Mason Benner
 14th – Jacqueline Kemmerer
 17st – Kaiden Keiman
 18th – Logan Benner
 19th – Claudia Horoff

22nd – Kian Wells
 23rd – Martin Milkowich
 Marvin Milkowich
 24th – Adam Hough
 26th – Matthew Renner
 28th – Courtney Souder
 29th – Anthony Molettieri
 30th – Ruby Moyer

WHAT'S COOKING AT ST. PAUL'S

Recipe for: Sea Salt Butterscotch Pretzel Cookies

From: Joss Ziegenfuss

Prep time: 30 minutes Cook time: 10 minutes Yields:
about 30 cookies

Ingredients:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| - 1 c. butter | - 2 eggs |
| - 2 ½ c. all-purpose flour | - 2 tsp. vanilla extract |
| - 1 tsp. baking soda | - ¾ c butterscotch chips |
| - 1 tsp. coarse sea salt | - ¾ c semi-sweet choc, chips |
| - 1 ½ c. brown sugar | - 1 c. coarsely chopped pretzels |

Instructions:

1: In a medium saucepan, melt butter over medium heat, then bring it to a boil. Once the butter starts boiling, swirl the pan constantly until the butter passes the foamy phase and becomes a deep amber color. Remove the pan from the heat and allow the butter to cool for 20 minutes

2: While the butter is cooling, preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line baking sheets with parchment paper.

3: In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, and sea salt. Set aside.

4: Add the brown sugar, eggs, and vanilla into the cooled butter in the sauce pan and stir to combine. Pour this mixture into the bowl with the flour mixture. Stir using a rubber spatula or wooden spoon until the dough comes together.

5: Stir in the butterscotch chips, chocolate chips, and pretzels.

6: Using a medium (2-tablespoon) cookie scoop, drop the dough 2 inches apart in the baking sheet. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until the edges are lightly golden.

7: Allow the cookies to cool for 2-3 minutes on the baking sheet and then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

8: If desired sprinkle a pinch of sea salt on top of the cookies while cooling.

Recipe for: Salad served at Church Picnic at Perkasio Park

From: Jerry Fosbenner

Salad:

- 1 3pk. Romaine lettuce hearts, chopped
- onion to taste, diced (optional)
- several stalks celery
- carrots, thinly sliced

Dressing:

- ½ c. canola oil
- ¼ c. granulated sugar
- ¼ c. apple cider vinegar
- 2 tbsp. lite soy sauce

Noodle-Nut Mixture

- 1 pkg. Ramen Noodles, crushed
- ½ c. sliced almonds
- ½ c. sesame seeds

Instructions:

1: Saute the noodle-nut mixture in 3-4 tbsp. butter until lightly browned.

2: Add dressing to noodle-nut mixture and salad when ready to serve.

ENDOWMENT

Aaron Clark
Neil Clark
Robin Frank
Debbie Koehler
Rick Moyer
Terry Weikel
Chris Ziegenfuss

CONSISTORY

Aaron Clark, *President*
Marty Milkowich, *Vice President*
Jim Chrastina, *Treasurer*
Karen Weikel, *Secretary*
Brandon Barndt
Neil Clark
Paul Koehler
Rick Moyer
Arlene Peters
Marie Runkle
Patti Steich

CEMETARY TRUSTEES

Alex Potoczny
Terry Weikel
Jay Wenger



All submissions for the April newsletter are due by March 15

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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Day Off: Friday

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Nathan Gulla, Organist

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Cindy Bibic, Financial Secretary

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Brianna Link, Church Secretary

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St. Paul's
UNITED CHURCH
of Christ

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March

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bible Study 2:00pm <i>Midweek Potluck & Worship 6:00- 7:30pm @ St. Stephen's</i>	2 Christian Ed. 6:30pm	3 Fostering Hope Open Shop 5:00-7:00pm	4
5 Lenten Study 9:00am	6 Bells 7:00pm	7 Prayer Shawl 1:00pm	8 Bible Study 2:00pm <i>Midweek Potluck & Worship 6:00- 7:30pm @ St. Paul's</i> Choir after worship	9	10	11
12 Lenten Study 9:00am	13 Bells 7:00pm	14 Consistory 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm	15 Bible Study 2:00pm <i>Midweek Potluck & Worship 6:00- 7:30pm @ St. Andrew's</i>	16	17	18
19 Lenten Study 9:00am Confirmation 12:00-2:00pm	20 Bells 7:00pm	21 Prayer Shawl 1:00pm Choir 7:00pm	22 Bible Study 2:00pm <i>Midweek Potluck & Worship 6:00- 7:30pm @ Christ Church</i>	23	24	25
26 Lenten Study 9:00am  Bowling 6:00-8:00pm	27 Bells 7:00pm	28 Choir 7:00pm	29 Bible Study 2:00pm <i>Midweek Potluck & Worship 6:00- 7:30pm @ St. Peter's Tohickon</i>	30	31	

