

St. Paul's Messenger

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Week 29



AUTUMN LEAVES

Autumn leaves
so happy and bright,
God adorns the earth
to the eye's delight.

His soft breezes drift them
with elegant flair,
surrounded by refreshing
cool, crisp air.

Waking our senses
with each new day,
encouraging happiness
and to live His way.

Lorraine Battista /2020

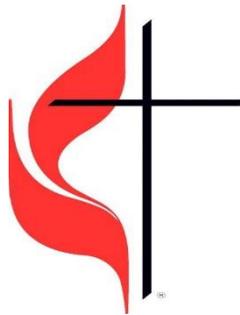
A funny you may have heard before... We can tell it's autumn in the northeast by the changing colors of leaves. In Florida, they can tell by the changing colors of license plates.
:-)



Annual Fall Cleanup

This Saturday, October 10
8-12 noon

Our annual fall cleanup is this Saturday, October 10 from 8 am to 12 noon. We will be working outside while practicing social distancing. Everyone is invited to help. Please bring a mask and your garden tools. (Rain date - Saturday, October 17). Questions - call or text Candy McCafferty 302-530-3864 or email mccaffertyc@comcast.net



Saint Paul's United Methodist Church Annual Charge Conference

October 15, 2020
7 pm

All members of St. Paul's UMC are invited to attend our Annual Charge Conference with our District Superintendent, the Rev. Joseph Archie, on-line, on Thursday evening, October 15, at 7 pm. During the Charge Conference, the pastor's compensation will be set and a list of nominees to serve on various church committees will be voted upon. The pastor's narrative and other committee reports will be shared. You may join us on-line by clicking on the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81157640207?pwd=UHMreXdqMFZ3UkJhUGFrOXZYwU1BRdz09>

I hope you will plan to join us as we look back on 2020, to date, and look forward to 2021.

- Pastor Dave



On Friday, October 30th, St. Paul's Family Ministries Team will be hosting "The Screen on the Green" outdoor movie night, featuring the film, "Secondhand Lions".

Join us on St. Paul's back lawn at 7pm. This event will be done safely and ALL Covid precautions will be taken. You will be directed to the parking area in back, then as you enter the green, please wear your masks, use the provided hand sanitizer and your family will be given a designated square on the lawn. All spots will be measured ahead of time, to adhere to proper social distancing.

Plan for a cool night. Dress warm, and bring your lawn chairs, blankets and your own snacks or you can purchase pre-packaged water, soda, snacks/candy for \$1.00 at the concession stand!

Secondhand Lions is a 2003 American comedy-drama, that tells the story of an introverted young boy who is sent to live with his eccentric great-uncles on a farm in Texas. Starring Haley Joel Osment, Robert Duvall and Michael Caine.





The Family Ministries Team

*“God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts.
Use them well to serve others” -1 Peter 4:10*

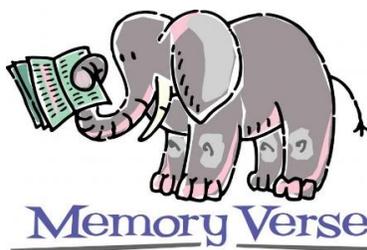
The Family Ministries Team is a volunteer committee open to any member who would enjoy being part of an active and interesting group. We welcome members who have a desire to help plan, prepare, and carryout both social and spiritual activities for the congregation. We sponsor events such as the church-wide advent brunch, the welcome back picnic and even a hayride. See any member for more information and let us know if you would like to be part of the team!

Current Members

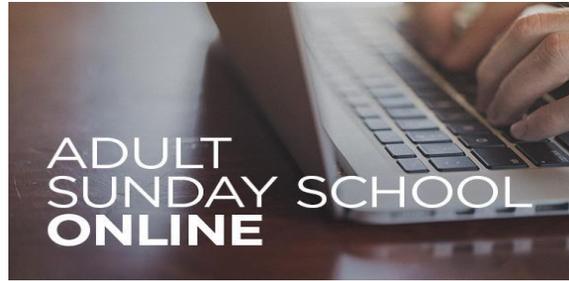
Carl Clark	Jenn Lee
Doris Ferzetti	Natalie Gibison
Lisa McClure	Fran Smart
Dave McClure	Lisa Hutchinson
Nancy Pollack	Teresa Powell

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Family Life Ministry at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church is to provide an opportunity for all church members, in all stages of life, to participate in social and spiritual activities of the church which promote personal and spiritual growth and to equip them with the hope and strength found through a relationship with Jesus Christ.



“Create in me a clean heart, O Lord; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence; and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation; and sustain in me a willing spirit.” - Psalm 51:10-1



On-line Adult Sunday School: The Social Justice Bible Challenge

This fall, the Freeborn Garrettson Adult Sunday School is offering a class entitled *The Social Justice Bible Challenge* which is a collection of reflections by spiritual leaders and writers from around the world, edited by Marek P. Zabriskie. Each week we read and study a passage from Scripture and then come together on Sunday mornings at 11 AM to engage in challenging discussion that leads to action as we strive to carry out God's mandate to love and serve others.

These days we face many challenges as we live day to day and we can all benefit from daily engagement and exploration of the Word of God. *The Social Justice Bible Challenge* bridges the gap between knowing what the Bible says and actually living it.

We have already had two discussions based on readings from Genesis and Exodus. We were led to a not too trivial question: "What one small thing can you do to develop a food system that reflects the experience of Holy Communion...where all are fed in a manner which restores relationships between God and our neighbors?" Any ideas....?

We thought of all of the good people in our church who prepare and/or deliver food to those in our community who are in need. We thought of the good response that we get for various food drives throughout the year that address the hunger that many of our neighbors deal with every day. We are grateful to all who give and who share and who serve.

But as we thought about the problem of those who are malnourished and the subsequent health problems that ensue, we want to take another step forward as we address this problem. We wondered, are there ways to make the food that we give to others healthier? Are we carefully reading the labels on the foods that we purchase so that we might reduce the fat, the salt, the sugar, etc.? Is there a way that we might include more fresh fruit and vegetables in the food that we share?

We are seeking answers to these and many other questions and more as we try to answer the call to action. If you are willing to face the challenge to think more deeply about what you read in the Bible and how God is prodding us to act in response to His Word, we invite you to join the class: *The Social Justice Bible Challenge*, Sunday mornings at 11:00 via ZOOM. Request an invitation to ZOOM by emailing Agnes Barkley@ shewho46@gmail.com

Our other Adult Sunday School Classes are temporarily on hold. Keep checking back to your Messenger for updates.

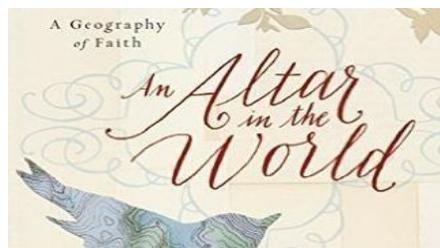


Everyone is cordially invited every Thursday afternoon, at 1 pm, to join both Pastor Dave's for a brief devotional followed by an opportunity to discuss church life, and ask any questions.

Topic for this week: Saying "No,"

Day & Time: Thursday afternoon beginning at 1 pm

To join this Zoom Meeting, copy and paste the following address on your website browser:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86024126920?pwd=WEIKcU5KZnA4b2NaWWF3bUtQbmJZUT09>



Sermon Series: An Altar in The World

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, until recently, many Christians have been unable to worship in their local church on Sunday morning. This threw a lot of us off kilter. The local church has been the place where we have communed with God. Still, what the stay-at-home order has forced us to do is to look for and worship God in other ways and places.

For some time now, the locus of the presence of God has been shifting. We experience God in the local church: in the liturgy, word, and sacraments, yes, but now, even more so, Christians are looking for God in the world. In her book *The Geography of Faith: An Altar in the World*, Barbara Brown Taylor reveals the meaningful ways we can discover the sacred from simple practices such as walking, working, allowing yourself to get lost, and saying "no". During the months of September and October, we will look to discover the many *altars in the world* where we can give thanks and worship God.

Preaching Schedule

October 11	The Practice of Saying "No": Sabbath Keeping	Pastor Dave
October 18	The Practice of Encountering Others: Community	Pastor Dave
October 25	Laity Sunday	
November 1	The Practice of Being Attentive to God: Prayer	Pastor David



More Church News

The Messenger: Looking for Contributions

I can use all the help I can get putting together our weekly *Messenger*. Please consider sending in your prayer requests, ministry ideas, poems, jokes, baby pictures, reflections, etc., to DaveMcMillan@Comcast.net.

Still No Public Office Hours

Our church staff continues to work primarily off-site. If you need to reach the church office, please call 302-478-3135 or email us at stpaulsumcde@comcast.net. We are periodically checking emails and phone messages and will get back to you as soon as possible.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Dave (484-883-1050) and Pastor Finch (302-545-3232) are available for pastoral care. If you have any concerns, or would like to talk, please give either a call.

Sunday Morning Worship Service

Our sanctuary is now open for worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. This service is being Live Streamed but also recorded for later viewing. Go to our website at www.stpaulsumcde.org, Live Streaming can be found under the heading *Highlighted News*. To view a recorded service, click *Services* at the top of the home page, under RECORDED SERVICES, click *View Our Services*, then select the service you are looking for.

Prayer Shawls

Do you know someone who would enjoy the wonderful love and attention of receiving a prayer shawl? They are knitted or crocheted by Church members to be shared with members and non-members of our Church or anyone who "needs" one. YOU are the one who provides the thoughtfulness of presenting a shawl to someone of your choice.

The tub of shawls is found in the office side of the church narthex. Select the shawl. In the notebook found in the tub, write the date of presentation, name of recipient the shawl, and your name. Be sure to pick up the prayer enclosure to include in your gift. Another chance to share God's love.

Offering Envelopes

While we are under the Stay-at-Home Order, please continue to mail in your weekly tithe and offerings directly to the church office, or make your weekly contribution through the PayPal link on our church website. Go to www.stpaulsumcde.org click on *Connect* at the top of the home page, click the *Give to St. Paul's* icon, click *Donate*, and follow instructions. Please note there is a 2.5% fee for using PayPal. If you are able to mail in your offering, no additional cost will be incurred. Either way, we are happy to receive your giving. ☺



Children's Sunday School and Youth Program

Fall has returned and so has our Children's Sunday school and Youth Programs. Despite everything being different this year, we are trying to forge ahead as best as we can to provide our children and youth the opportunity to get to know God and Jesus, and become thoughtful, caring Christians.

Cherub Class (age 3 to 1st grade) – Start your Sunday morning with a story, fun, and music. Join Ms. Karen each Sunday morning at 8:30 am. Parents, set the little ones up for class and enjoy a ~ 40-minute, kid-free coffee time. Contact Karen Pollack for the Zoom invitation.

Lower Elementary (2nd grade to 4th grade) – Wrap up your weekend with Mrs. Dennett as she leads an end-of-the-day class each Sunday evening at 7:00 pm. Contact Beverly Dennett for the Zoom invitation.

Upper Elementary (5th grade to 7th grade) – Join Mrs. Macturk and Mrs. Lengel each Sunday morning at 10:45 am for Bible stories, activities, fun and games. Contact Nicole Macturk for the Zoom invitation

Youth Program (8th to 12th grade) – Fellowship and learning through fun in-person, outdoor activities at church and online Zoom class. Bring a friend or two and join Mr. Macturk and Mr. Ferzetti for fun games, activities, and mission opportunities. This group will meet about twice per month, likely at 5:00 pm on Sunday evenings. Contact Ken Macturk for the details.

Friends and family members (grandkids, nieces, nephews, cousins) – near and far - whose Sunday school programs have not resumed are welcome. Please contact the teacher directly to join Online Sunday School for Children and Youth



Bicycle Collection Event

Saturday, October 17

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Our friends at Urban Bike Project of Wilmington (UBP) have again asked for St. Paul's help in hosting a bicycle collection event to support their programs and ministry within the City of Wilmington. During this difficult year, more people are turning to the bicycle as a reliable source of transportation to jobs and as a source of exercise for physical and mental well-being. UBP is struggling to keep up with demand. As such, UBP is seeking donations from the wider community in order to replenish their supplies and continue to serve others. Items needed include bicycles (especially adult sized) and accessories such as bottle cages, tubes, tires, wheels, helmets, comfort saddles, etc.

How can you help?

- Clear out that garage, shed, basement and donate your old bicycle(s) and accessories.
- Tell your family, friends, and neighbors about the collection event.
- Monetary donations are also accepted online (www.urbanbikeproject.com) or via check payable to Urban Bike Project of Wilmington, Inc.; P.O. Box 729, Wilmington, DE 19899. Checks may also be provided in-person to the UBP staff person on October 17.
- Questions? Call or email Karen Pollack, St. Paul's contact for the event.

We care about everyone's health and safety! Please follow these requirements.

Please wear your facemask and place your bicycles, accessories, equipment in the designated area. If you would like to receive an emailed receipt, please attach a paper to one of your items that lists your name, email address and summary of your item(s). Provide monetary donations directly to the UBP staff person.

The work of Urban Bike Project is guided by three core principles: open access for all Wilmington residents, opportunities for residents to build self-sufficiency, and community-driven programming that is responsive to resident needs. Learn more at www.urbanbikeproject.com



Prayer Requests

Please pray for...

Beau Leon Chernekoff, son of Sarah and Mark Chernekoff, who was born on September 9, grandson of Linda Champagne. Beau has an older brother named Blake.

Carol Apanowicz recovering from surgery and faces possible chemotherapy

Linda Moberg who has suffered from cancer and nearing the end of her earthly life

Bicky Hulme who health has been deteriorating quickly and is currently in the Wilmington Hospital.

Elaine Linton who is having heart trouble

Florence Seney for back pain

Elisabeth Parisi for continued healing

David Finch for healing

Rick Stout for continued healing

Linda, the daughter of Dolores Garritano, who is recovering from an auto accident

All healthcare and essential workers

All law enforcement and first responders

Our nation, leaders & citizenry

Those suffering from Covid-19

Our church family and ministries here at St. Paul's UMC

All of those feeling anxious and/or lonely

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