

St. Paul's Happenings

A Publication of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Manheim

April 2024

Making a Difference Through the Love of Christ – to Know God, Love God & Serve God

April Showers Bring May Flowers

Most of us have heard this line at one time or the other. It is supposed to console us in the rainy season of Spring with the hope of flowers and plants coming to life. Sometimes it rains in our lives and we wonder if we will ever get through it or if there will be a better day coming. Every year since I've been born, it rains in April and flowers start blooming in May.

I want to take a moment to remind you that the things that feel like rain and storms in our lives are usually temporary and on the other side comes beauty and balance. I'm not suggesting you pray for rain and storms in your life, but I am suggesting that when they come, we can hope for the gracious work of God in our lives. He will take the storms and turn them into blessings if we but pay attention to what He is doing. As you see the world around you come alive this Spring, allow God to show you how He is working in your life, what good things are about to bloom for you.

Ezekiel 34:26 says: *"And I will make them and the places all around my hill a blessing, and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing..."*

Just like Ezekiel 34:26, "April showers bring May flowers" is a reminder that even the most unpleasant of things, in this case the rains of April, can bring about very enjoyable things indeed— even an abundance of flowers in May.

Blessings,
Karen Brandt,
Council President



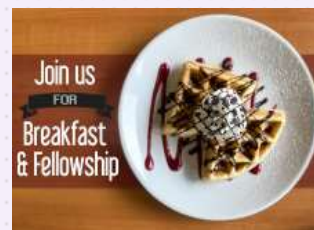
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Superimposed Love

Maybe you've heard how salvation is like a total solar eclipse: God doesn't see our sins because Jesus' holiness covers them completely. Or maybe you've heard how trials can cause an "eclipse of faith."

At WorldChallenge.org, Pastor Gary Wilkerson explains that in Greek, eclipse means "I am absent" or "I cease to exist," because people once thought the gods temporarily extinguished the sun. "For Christians, a 'spiritual eclipse' is a dark hour when God seems to be absent from our lives," Wilkerson writes.

Wilkerson points to Peter being sifted like wheat, Elijah and Jeremiah facing extreme discouragement, and David collapsing morally. Amid Satan's

attacks, "God seems completely absent," writes the pastor. "In that dark moment of eclipse, the devil has created such chaos we can't possibly see a way out." During times of testing, Christians must cry out to God and trust his faithfulness.

Completing the eclipse analogy, Wilkerson shares Titus 3:4, the "love of God our Savior appeared" (NIV). The Greek meaning of appeared here is superimposed, he writes. God looks on our fraught-filled times of eclipse and "superimposes his divine love over us."

Editor's note: A partial (90%) solar eclipse will be visible in Manheim on Monday, April 8 beginning at 2:06 pm. Please be safe in viewing the sun during this "dark hour."



Interested in Membership @ St. Paul's?

You've been attending quite often @ St. Paul's and it feels like home to you. Now what?

The next step: Coffee Hour, which is held in Fellowship Hall (downstairs) right after the worship service. Coffee and light refreshments are served and you'll have a chance to mingle and get to know a great group of people that make up the heart of St. Paul's. You'll even have a chance to chat with Pastor Bill Long about membership too. **New members will be received next on Pentecost Sunday, May 19.**

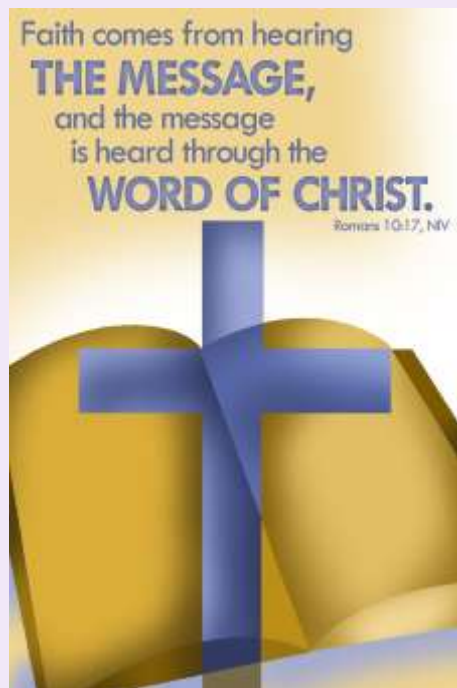
April Scripture Readings

Sunday, April 7 – Easter 2: Acts 4:32-35/Psalm 133/1 John 1:1-2:2/St. John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 14 – Easter 3: Acts 3:12-19/Psalm 4/1 John 3:1-7/St. John 24:36-48

Sunday, April 21 – Easter 4: Acts 4:5-12/Psalm 23/1 John 3:16-24/St. John 10:11-18

Sunday, April 28 – Easter 5: Acts 8:26-40/Psalm 22:25-31/1 John 4:7-21/St. John 15:1-8



Holy Communion

- ◆ The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated every Sunday in April.
- ◆ A Communion Service will be held at Pleasant View Retirement Community on **Wednesday April 17 @ 1:30 pm in Hoffer Auditorium.**



April Happenings

Psalm Bible Study

The Wednesday evening Bible Study of The Psalms continues on April 3 @ 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

A psalm is read each Sunday morning in worship, and this group is dedicated to learn more about the stories behind each of the psalms. Study guides are still available, contact Pam Herman in the church office at 717.665.2447 for more information.

1st Thursday – April 4

St. Paul's UCC will once again participate in 1st Thursday! There will be a game with prizes for the kids, Easter eggs for everyone as well as free water bottles too. There's even something for your pets too!

A sign-up sheet is available on the table outside the Sanctuary for anyone who would like to help out for upcoming 1st Thursdays!

Women's Fellowship Sub Sale

Women's Fellowship will be taking orders for their Sub Sale on Sundays, April 7, 14 & 21 before and after the 9:30 am worship service. Pick-up day is Thursday, May 2 from 2-5 pm. Subs are \$6 each. Contact is June Smith.

FREE Community Breakfast

Come out and enjoy a warm, delicious breakfast on **Saturday, April 20 from 8:30-10 am**. On the menu this month is sausage gravy and biscuits with eggs and fruit.

A cook is needed for July-October, If you would like to help out, please contact Sandy Bareford @ 717.341.5931 or sandybareford@gmail.com.

Fellowship Breakfast

Join your friends from St. Paul's at the Kountry Kitchen Restaurant north of Manheim on Rt. 72 on **Thursday, April 25 @ 8:30 am**.

Please RSVP to Claire Reed at 717.951.4325 by Monday, April 22.

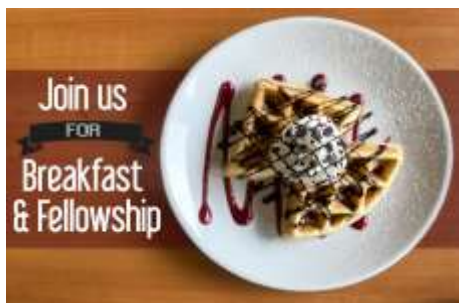
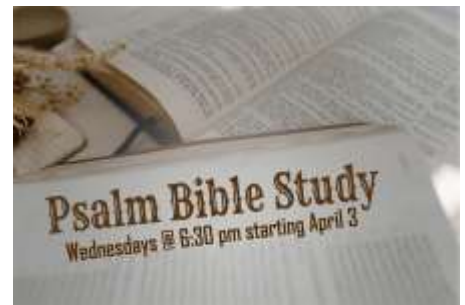
Women's Fellowship

Attention all ladies – Women's Fellowship will meet next on Thursday, April 25 @ 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. See more on page 4.

Book Club

Save the date for the next Book club meeting on **Monday, June 3 @ 6 pm** in Fellowship Hall.

Copies of *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen are available on the table outside the church office.



Pentecost & Church Picnic



Be sure to wear RED on Pentecost Sunday, May 19 as we celebrate the birth of The Church in a big way!

- We'll start worship inside @ 9:30 am and then move outside in the parking lot under the tents with Janelle Heying leading the praise team that day. We are also inviting our friends from Teen Central to attend as well.
- The Church Picnic will follow worship – on the menu is BBQ Chicken. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish – please sign up on the sheet on the table outside the Sanctuary. Games and Ice Cream will round out the day of celebration! In case of rain, worship and the picnic will be held in Fellowship Hall.



Women's Fellowship

I just looked at the calendar and cannot believe we are in mid-March already. So be it!

We are getting ready to start having our regular meetings, which will begin **on Thursday, April 25 @ 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall**. We will have some decisions to make at this meeting for future events, so please plan to be with us on April 25.

We have been busy putting things in motion and we set a date for our Spring Sub Sale. Our ladies will be set up to greet you and take orders on April 7, 14 & 21 with the pick-up date of Thursday, May 2 from 2-5 pm. Because you folks at St. Paul's are so supportive to us, the price of the subs will remain the same @ \$6.

Have a blessed Easter, remembering what our Lord has done for us and enjoy family time.

In His Love, June Y. Smith & Dorothy Drumheller

Retreat Update

The 2024 Women's Retreat was a great success – so full of JOY!

Held at Harrtman Center Campground (formerly Hartman Center), the theme for the weekend was Choosing Joy based on Philippians 4:4: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice!

Thank you Janelle Heying for your great leadership in the retreat!

Be sure to check out our JOY coloring poster in the upstairs hallway of the church. Feel free to share your JOY in the Lord and color in the poster – markers are available on the pew near the poster.



Ascension Day

Ascension Day is celebrated on Thursday, May 9 this year. This is the day that Jesus returns to His Father in heaven. It is celebrated 40 days after Easter. (Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter.)

3 Ways to Worship

As the cold and flu seasons continues, St. Paul's continues to offer 3 ways to worship.

- In person in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings
- In our parking lot by tuning into FM 88.1 on Sunday mornings
- Livestream our service online at www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org click on the Online Sermon tab

A Thank You Note

Dear Members of St. Paul's Church,

Thank you for choosing to make a difference through your donation to our Weekend Backpack program. Without it, we would not be able to have the impact we do on our school and community.

We have been able to provide meals for over 150 students so far!

Danielle Geissinger, Executive Assistant & Sara Payne, Director
Manheim Central School District Weekend Backpack Program



Missions

The April Mission of the Month is the Manheim Central Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry serves families in need in the Manheim Central School District. Close to 150 families are served monthly. The food pantry offers an assortment of canned food, pre-packaged food items, toiletries, and household products.

Please use your April special envelope to keep our neighboring families from going without a basic need: food.

Current needs are:

- Applesauce
- Canned Fruit
- Diapers
- Spam
- Reusable Grocery Bags (not one-time use plastic bags please)

Other items accepted include fresh produce, fresh vegetables and fruits, toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste, soap, shampoo and conditioner, women's personal

hygiene products, diapers and adult disposable briefs.

Please be sure that your donations are not expired, are not used or opened.

You may drop your donations off in the cart on the first floor near the kitchen or directly at the food pantry at 334 W. Gramby Street, Manheim. Drop off times are Monday & Thursdays 9 am-10:45 am or call Ruth Ellen Brown at 717.664.1097.

For more information, go to www.manheimcentralfoodpantry.org.



New Spring 2024 Pictorial Directories are available on the table outside the church office. Please remember to update the church office or your instant church directory app anytime you have a change such as a new address, phone number or email address.

You can access the latest directory app anytime from our website at www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org under the About Us and then the For Members Only tab.

Please also contact the church office if you or someone you know are not receiving any of the church publications, weekly emails, or daily devotionals. For those worshiping from home, these connections are vital for all of us to come together as one in Christ.

Also, If you are hospitalized or in crisis during weekday hours, please call the church office. For emergency weekends, please call the church office and leave a message – they are monitored daily and your call will be returned shortly.

Please note that the church office will be closed on April 1, 2024 for the Easter holiday.

Questions? Contact Pam Herman at 717.665.2447 or by email at stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net.

Deep Roots Mission Trip Update

Once again this summer we are going to Deep Roots in Maryland leaving Wednesday 6/19 and returning Saturday 6/22. Each year we go, we pick up a few more people and I'm hoping that this year will be no different.

Our accommodations are comfortable and clean. We do work during the day and at night we play games with the kids and do a lesson with them and the families. Please consider experiencing this amazing place and the families that will be there, especially the kids - you can be a part of something that truly will bring you joy!

Our first meeting will be Sunday April 28th after worship in Fellowship Hall so we can enjoy coffee hour. If you have any questions beforehand, please feel free to call me or email me at sandybareford@gmail.com/717-341-5931.

- Sandy Bareford

Council Highlights

Church Council met on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 @ 7 pm. Please note that these highlights are shared before the minutes are approved by council at their next meeting, when corrections to details may occur.

Treasurer's Report:

Benevolence: \$1,396 was received for St. Paul's Shepherd's Fund which was the February Mission of the Month.

Operating: \$12,672 was received for current expenses in February, which is above budget.

Capital: \$5,370 (\$2,000 was the rental loan repayment) was received in February with no expenses for the month.

Pastor's Report:

- ◆ New members will be received 4 times/year – on Epiphany, Easter, Pentecost, and Reformation Sundays. If interested in membership, please see Pastor Bill Long.
- ◆ May 19 will be the outdoor Pentecost Sunday service with the picnic to follow. We will begin indoors for worship to accommodate live stream.
- ◆ Easter Sunday will feature 2 worship services: 8 am & 9:30 am with a continental breakfast in between the services.



New Business: Election of Officers was held. Current officers are: Karen Brandt, President; Rick Conley, Vice President; Gretchen Miller, Treasurer, and Mike Givler, Seceretary. To streamline, the position of Assistant Treasurer was eliminated and the Spiritual Council will meet only as needed. There will be no August council meeting.

Old Business: Council approved the congregational meeting minutes from January & December with no corrections needed. UCC Lancaster Association will meet here @ St. Paul's on Sunday, April 14.

Next meeting date is Tuesday, April 16 @ 6 pm.

Council packets are posted:

- On the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall
- In the 2nd floor hallway
- In the church office for your review.

If you would like a copy, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447/stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net.

In Honor of Earth Day

After making people in his own image, God entrusted them with the rest of his creation. He wants us to manage well our bodies, our minds and our earthly home. Consider this stewardship quote from a Christian thinker:

"We ourselves are not masters of our own ability and knowledge. They, like our talents and health, are a loan presented for our use. We must live as people who know that such temporary possessions are not true belongings and that we must give account for our management of them."

—Albert Schweitzer



Graduation Recognition



If you would like to honor a member who is graduating from high school or college, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447 or by email at stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net no later than May 15. Please include your graduates' name, school graduating from, and their plans for the future.

Graduates will be recognized in early June in worship and in the June issue of *St. Paul's Happenings*.

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed 7:00pm Property Board	2	3 6:30pm Bible Study	4 5:00pm 1st Thursday 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	5	6 12:00pm Private Event
7 Easter 2 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Sub Sale	8	9 6:00pm Manheim Women's Club	10 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	12	13
14 Easter 3 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Sub Sale 10:30am Coffee Hour 3:00pm Lancaster Association Meeting	15 	16 6:00pm Church Council	17 1:30pm Pleasant View Communion 6:30pm Bible Study	18 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	19	20 8:30am FREE Community Breakfast
21 Easter 4 Newsletter Deadline 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Sub Sale	22 Earth Day 	23 Primary Elections	24 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 	25 8:30am Fellowship Breakfast @ Kountry Kitchen 1:30pm Women's Fellowship 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	26	27
28 Easter 5 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Mission Trip Info Meeting 10:30am Coffee Hour	29	30				

APRIL

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Worship Attendance

3/3 – 113

3/10 – 89

3/17 - 116

Attendance=those who worship in the Sanctuary, those in the nursery and those viewing the service online.

Card Shower

Jane Moyle will be turning 100 on Saturday, April 27! Let's all celebrate such a wondrous occasion with a card shower to Jane!

Contact the church office for more information on where to send Jane's cards!

Best wishes to all those celebrating an April Birthday or Anniversary!



Christian Symbols

BUTTERFLY — The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.



Requests for Prayer

For prayer requests, please contact Joan Hess at 717.665.4705. Our homebound members will remain on the list permanently as a reminder to keep these individuals wrapped in prayer and to remember them with cards, phone calls, and visits.

Evelyn Dutt	Nancy Gibble	Bev Hockenberry	Jere Hoffman	Kenneth Hontz
Bridget Irons	Sue Kennedy	Jim & Mary Long	Maybelle Martin	Jane Moyle
Richard Moyle & Linda Shoemaker		Glen & Delores Mumma	Terry Myers	Andre Ressler
Burt Savitz	Joanna Schreiber	Michael Shelley	Julia Shreiner	Eric Smeltz
Phyllis Smeltz	Menno & Betty Lou Stoner			
Linda Coe*	Charles Lukeski*	Rachel Martin*	Bible2School Kids	Teen Central Kids
In the Military: Jessie Dutt				

Community Service Opportunities



- The Manheim Community Spring Cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024 in Market Square from 10 am-Noon. Volunteers are needed - bring your rakes, shovels, and wheelbarrows. Register online to help out at www.manheimchamber.com. Let's keep Manheim beautiful!
- St. Paul's has many opportunities to serve:
 - Sunday morning Greeters
 - Coffee Hour Host/Hostesses
 - 1st Thursday Volunteers
 - Community Breakfast Cook for July-October
 - Nursery Volunteers

If interested in serving, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447 for more information.



Communication Deadlines

St. Paul's Happenings is printed monthly except for the July/August and the December/January combined issues. The deadline to submit articles is the 3rd Sunday of the month before publication. **The May issue deadline is Sunday, April 21, 2024.** Bulletin announcements are due to the church office by Wednesday mornings @ 8 am.

St. Paul's Staff & Leaders

Staff:

Pastor – The Rev. Bill Long
Church Administrator – Pam Herman
Organist – June Smith
Chancel Choir Director – John Degler
Bell Choir Director – Jim Hoffman
Praise Team Coordinator – Steve Smith
Custodian – Mark Lowe
Kitchen Managers – Sandy Bareford & Jerry Weller

Council:

Ministers – All Church Members
Karen Brandt – President
Rick Conley – Vice President
Ron Forry
Mike Givler - Secretary
Gretchen Miller – Treasurer
Carolyn Peters
J. D. Young
Non-voting Ex-Officio Member by Position:
The Rev. Bill Long



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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Manheim, PA 17545

Phone: 717.665.2447

www.StPaulsuccManheim.org

A large, vibrant green tree with dense foliage fills the background. A bright sunburst or lens flare effect is centered behind the text, creating a glowing effect. The overall image conveys a sense of nature and environmental stewardship.

EARTH DAY

"THE EARTH IS FULL OF THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD." PSALM 33:5, ESV