

St. Paul's Happenings

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

March 2025

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

The Forty Days Journey by Pastor Bill Long

No season of the church year invites us into a journey more than the Forty Days of Lent. What is this Lenten Journey? One description comes from the Prophet Joel. "For the Lord says "Return to me with all your heart... Rend your hearts and not your clothing." On our Journey into the heart of God we contend against anything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor.

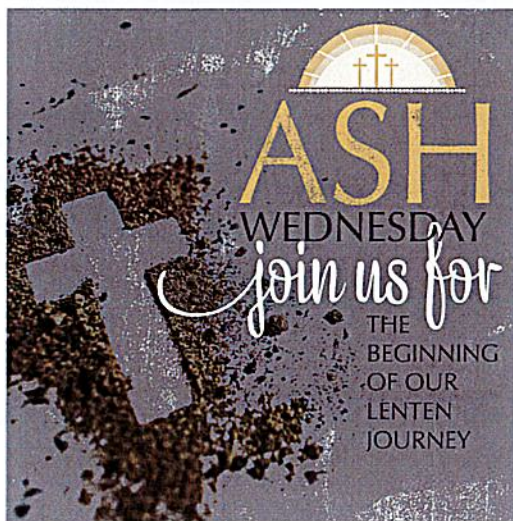
On Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, we begin our Forty Days of Journey toward Easter (April 20). We mark our foreheads with dust as we acknowledge that we die and return to earth. At the same time, the sign of the cross is marked on us reminding us to whom we belong. We have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that: "Now is the Day of Salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2) Through Lent we return to our baptismal call to bear the fruits of God's love and mercy to our world.

Our Journey is also into Jesus' death and resurrection and into a renewal of our baptism into Christ.

Join with me in Our Journey.

In Christ,
Pastor Bill Long

Please join us for Ash Wednesday
Worship on March 5, 2025 @
7 am.



INSIDE this issue



Page 3



Page 3



Page 4

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StPaulsuccManheim.org

Healing & Community

In the healing texts, Jesus does not just cure people's diseases and cast out their demons and then say, "Mission accomplished." He's always after something more than that because the healing is never fully accomplished until there is a restoration to community. People are healed of disease, and then he tells the folks just standing around watching to go get them something to eat. The widow's son is raised from the dead and then [Jesus] gives him back to his mother. And ... the man healed of demons is then told to stay with his people

and speak of what God has done. In the Jesus business, community is always a part of healing. Even though community is never perfect.

—Nadia Bolz-Weber, *Accidental Saints Published in The Newsletter Newsletter in April 2016*

You are invited to come together for worship and healing on **Sunday, March 16 @ 9:30 am**. Anyone who craves God's healing presence will be invited to come forward for an anointing during the worship service.



Next Steps

Come and enjoy some coffee and light refreshments 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 Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025.**

In Case of Inclement Weather



Sorry to say, but there's still the possibility of inclement weather even in March. In case of inclement weather, be sure to call the church office at 717.665.2447 (after 8 am on Sundays) for service or event changes or cancellations.

Postings will also be on WGAL, WGAL.com and our website – www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org.

Sermons will be available online on our website as well.

Holy Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated every Sunday in March for Transfiguration & Lenten Sundays.

A Communion Service will be held at Pleasant View Retirement Community on **Wednesday, March 19 @ 1:30 pm @ Hoffer Auditorium.**

If you worship from home and need communion elements, please contact the church office at **717.665.2447.**

March Scripture Readings

Sunday, March 2 – Transfiguration of Our Lord: Exodus 34:29-35/
Psalm 99/2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2/St. Luke 9:28-43

Sunday, March 9 – Lent 1: Deuteronomy 26:1-11/Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16/
Romans 10:8-13/St. Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, March 16 – Lent 2: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18/Psalm 27/
Philippians 3:17-4:1/St. Luke 13:31-35

Sunday, March 23 – Lent 3: Isaiah 55:1-9/Psalm 63:1-8/1 Corinthians
10:1-13/St. Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, March 30 – Lent 4: Joshua 5:9-12/Psalm 32/2 Corinthians
5:16-21/St. Luke 15:1-3, 11-32



Spring Happenings @ St. Paul's

Ash Wednesday Worship

We begin the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday worship service on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 @ 7 pm. The service will include the Imposition of Ashes to remind us both of our inevitable return to earth's dust and at the same time, our forgiveness and reconciliation to God through Jesus.

Lenten Meals & Worship

Lenten meals and worship will be held on Wednesdays, March 12-April 9 with the meal starting @ 6 pm followed by the worship service @ 6:30 pm.

March 12 – New Voices will serve Cheeseburger Soup with Crusty Bread

March 19 – Council meal to be determined

March 26 – Bells & Chancel Choirs will serve Sloppy Joes with salad

April 2 – Bible Study meal to be determined

April 9 – Women's Fellowship will serve Chicken Corn Noodle Soup and Ham Sandwiches

Focus for worship will be based on the book "B.L.E.S.S. – 5 Everyday Ways to Love Your Neighbor and Change the World" by Dave & Jon Ferguson.

Psalm Bible Study

The Psalm Bible Study will be on hold through Lent but will return on Wednesday, April 23 @ 6:30 pm.

FREE Community Breakfast

The FREE Community Breakfast will be served on Saturday, March 15, from 8:30-10 am.

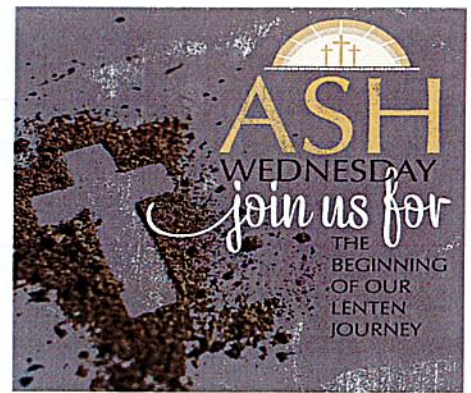
Baked Oatmeal with Blueberries will be served with beverage. Takeouts are also available.

If you are able to help out with cooking or would like to help serve, please contact Sandy Bareford at 717-341-5931/sandybareford@gmail.com

Fellowship Breakfast

Come out to Kountry Kitchen Family Restaurant on Thursday, March 27 @ 8:30 am and enjoy good food with great friends.

Please contact Claire Reed @ 717.951.4325 by Monday, March 24



Looking Ahead to Holy Week & Easter Sunday

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Palm/Passion Sunday – April 13 worship @ 9:30 am

Preparatory Worship – Wednesday, April 16 @ 7 pm This service is designed to help you through the emotional events of Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday.

Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 17 @ 7 pm Journey through the events of Holy Week with Jesus through the Stations of the Cross

Good Friday – Friday, April 18

Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 20 Early Easter Worship @ 8:am in the Memorial Garden with a light Breakfast served from 8:30 am-9:20 am followed by a 9:30 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion in the Sanctuary.



Women's Fellowship

Spring has just about sprung and with that it means it's time for the ladies of Women's Fellowship to meet!

Our first Women's Fellowship meeting of the year will be held on Thursday, March 27 @ 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. We'll spend our time together catching up and planning for the April 9 Lenten meal.

As always, please remember our homebound members with caring cards, warm wishes, and your thoughts and prayers.

In His Love,
June Y. Smith &
Dorothy Drumheller

March Missions

The March Mission of the Month is Heifer International and for March 9 One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Both Heifer International and One Great Hour of Sharing help to feed

families in need. Heifer helps to empower families to raise their own food and OGHS supports families in times of disaster and provides refugee services as well. Please use your March special envelope to support Heifer International and the special OGHS envelope to support One Great Hour of Sharing.

Make a difference through the Love of Christ in helping to feed those most in need.

Food Pantry Update

Thanks for all who donated soup during February's Souper Bowl soup collection. St. Paul's collected 497 cans of soup or 475 lbs. and 23 lbs. of miscellaneous items (saltines and other crackers.) Thanks so much for your commitment to feed the 5,000 again and again!

In January, 158 total households were served by the Manheim Central Food Pantry which equals 482 individuals. This also includes 3 new households or 9 individuals. Current urgent food needs include the following:



- Egg Noodles
- Canned Beef Stew
- Canned Pineapple
- Canned Chicken Soup
- Tomato Soup
- Crackers
- Cereal
- Rice Sides
- Plastic & Reusable Grocery bags

Donations can be dropped off for the Food Pantry in the cart near the kitchen hallway and are also accepted on Mondays & Thursday from 9:-10:45 am @ 334 W. Gramby Street, Manheim. For large donations, please contact Ruth Ellen Brown at 717.664.1097.

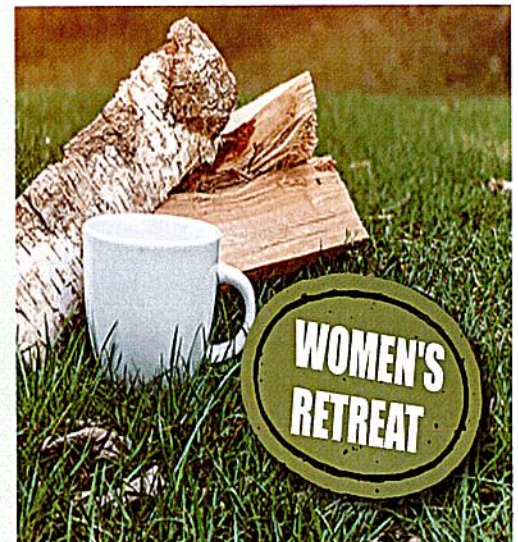
Other items accepted are fresh produce, vegetables and fruit as well as toothpaste, soap, toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo and conditioner, womens' hygiene products, diapers, and disposable adult briefs. Call Ruth Ellen Brown if you have frozen items to donate.

Women's Retreat – May 2-4

Women, when was the last time you felt any type of PEACE? Learn more about finding Peace at St. Paul's Women's Retreat to be held this year at Camp Hebron in Halifax, PA.

The retreat will be held on Friday, May 2-Sunday, May 4 and there are two options to attend. 1) Commute and plan to attend the daily events; or 2) Stay in the comfortable accommodations at Camp Hebron. Five meals will be provided by the camp.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Dani Fair at 717.615.6857 or danif2710@gmail.com.



Council Highlights

Church Council met on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Below are highlights of that meeting. 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: \$1,061 was received for UCC Homes, the January Mission of the Month (MOM). OCWM Giving was \$260 in January.

Operating: \$13,928 was received in January for current operating expenses.

Capital: \$1,300 was received for the capital fund with no expenditures in January.

Pastor's Report:

- The Community Breakfast and Mission Team Leadership update was given.
- Pastor Bill Long's vacation schedule was approved as he lines up pastoral leadership for those dates.
- The August council meeting will be cancelled.
- Pastor Bill updated council on church members in the hospital.

Committee Reports:

Property Board: see written report.

New Voices: see written report.

Old Business: An update was given on the potential sale of the 32-34 N. Main Street property

New Business: New Voices and Council will combine for a meeting to be held on April 15. Council will supply the March 19 Lenten Meal.

Council approved using an online bill payment program through Fulton Bank for the Operating Fund checking account. Any expenditures \$5,000 and above will require a physical check with two approved signatures.

Next meeting date is Tuesday, March 18, 2025 @ 6 pm.

Council packets are posted:

- On the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall
- In the 2nd floor hallway
- In the church office



Order Your Easter Flowers

Easter Flowers will once again glorify St. Paul's Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 20!

The flowers have been preordered and there is limited availability so place your order now! To place your order, simply fill out one of the order forms found in your bulletin or contact the church office at [717.665.2447](tel:717.665.2447)/stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net.

Easter Flowers offered are: White Lily 3-4 blooms; Tulips in a 6" pot; and Daffodils in a 6.5" pot. The cost is \$8.75 each. Flowers can be placed in honor or in memory of loved ones.

The Deadline to place your order is Sunday, March 16, 2025.

Contact Us

Please contact the church office if you or a member you know is hospitalized or in need of care at 717.665.2447. If you call on the weekend, please leave a message, as calls are monitored daily and your call will be returned shortly.

Spring Things 🌞🌸🌺🌻🌼🌽🌾🌿🍃🌆🌇🌈🌉🌊🌋🌍🌎🌏🌐



Daylight Savings Time will begin again on Sunday, March 9. Please remember to "spring ahead" and turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 8 before going to bed.

The First Day of Spring is almost here – Thursday, March 20! Enjoy the warmth!



March 2025

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						1
2 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	3 7:00pm Property Board	4	5 Ash Wednesday 9:00am Simply Yoga 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal		8 
9 Lent I 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	10 6:00pm New Voices Vision Team	11 6:00pm Manheim Women's Club	12 9:00am Simply Yoga 6:00pm Lenten Meals & Worship 	13 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	14	15 8:30am FREE Community Breakfast
16 Lentz 2/Healing Service 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	17	18 6:00pm Church Council	19 9:00am Simply Yoga 1:30pm Communion @ Pleasant View 6:00pm Lenten Meals & Worship 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran 	21	22
23 Lent 3 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	24	25 Special Election 	26 9:00am Simply Yoga 6:00pm Lenten Meals & Worship	27 8:30am Fellowship Breakfast @ Kountry Kitchen 1:00pm Women's Fellowship 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	28	29
30 Lent 4 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	31					



Blessings to all celebrating a March Anniversary or Birthday!



Worship Attendance

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

1/5 – 92	1/12 – 112
1/19 -Snow	1/26 – 104
2/2 – 81	2/9 – 80 (Snow)
2/16 – 81	2/23 - 122

Christian Symbols



SHAMROCK — St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, “Is this one leaf, or three?” Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.

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.

Alex & Trish Bairos	Nancy Gibble	Cody Hess	Bev Hockenberry	Erica Hoffman
Bridget Irons	Sally Lewis	Becky Long	Jim & Mary Long	Maybelle Martin
Jane Moyle	Richard Moyle & Lynn Shoemaker	Glen & Delores Mumma	Bonnie Myers	Andre Ressler
Joanna Schreiber	Michael Shelley	Julia Shreiner	Eric Smeltz	Phyllis Smeltz
Menno & Betty Lou Stoner	Briana Boltz*	Barry & Scott Christ*	Linda Coe*	Wyatt Dull*
Randy Enck	Jona Green*	Stephen H.*	Blakely Kling*	Rachel Martin*
Karen Miller*	Verdella Stauffer*	Bible2School & Teen Central Kiids	In the Military: Jessie Dutt, Ben Ryan	

Thank You Notes

- St. Paul's UCC,
Thank you so much for the generous gift you blessed Teen Central with in December. I can't wait to see how God will use it to impact our youth and community. Thanks again for your support of our mission here in Manheim.
In Christ's Love, Janelle Heying *thank you*
- Thank you St. Paul's Church for the warm and friendly get well wishes. I miss you all, my friends and those that truly care about me. You're all so warm and welcoming and I enjoy being near you. Peace and Love, Til I see you again – Dee Reidel *thank you*
- Dear St. Paul's Friends,
Just want to thank you for all of your thoughts, prayers and kind words that you gave me during my recent surgery. A special thank you to Pastor Bill for all of his visits, sharing time, prayers and words of encouragement. The cards were always such a great support.
Yours in Christ, Sally Lewis *thank you*



Communication Deadlines

St. Paul's Happenings is printed monthly except for the July/August and December/January combined issues. The deadline to submit articles is the 3rd Sunday of the month before publication. **The April 2025 issue deadline is Sunday, March 16, 2025.** Bulletin announcements are due to the church office by Wednesday mornings @ 8 am.

St. Paul's Staff & Leaders

Staff:

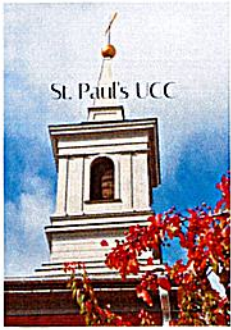
Pastor – The Rev. Bill Long
Church Administrator – Pam Herman
Organist – June Smith
Chancel Choir Director – John Degler
Bell Choir Director – Jim Hoffman
Custodian – Mark Lowe
Kitchen Managers – Sandy Bareford & Jerry Weller

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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