



# St. Paul's Happenings

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

March 2024

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

## Can You Imagine? By Pam Herman

It took me 2 years to work up the courage to see the movie, Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*. It took me that long to face the violence depicted in the movie depicting Jesus' last hours on earth and the amount of hatred placed on Our Lord.

Surprisingly, the beatings, the lashings, the brutality of the movie wasn't the worst part for me. Oh it was terrible – can you even imagine what it must have felt like to face such utter brutality and the very worst that man has to offer? It didn't take me long to realize watching the movie, that Jesus was dead way before He even touched the cross. He was a dead man walking when He carried His cross to Golgatha.

No the hardest part for me was hearing the words, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani." Or "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me." I certainly don't know Aramaic, but it was clear – clearer than anything else I've ever heard uttered, that Jesus was in absolute anguish and even harder to hear still was that He felt entirely alone. Entirely alone. He felt far from God's presence and it broke Him. Can you imagine how that must have felt?

Actually, there's no way we could know what it must feel like to be that far from God's presence. The words that Jesus says on the cross were originally uttered by David in Psalm 22. David is feeling far from God because of what is going on in his life. Feeling far from God is the ultimate consequence of his (and our) sin. And Jesus must experience being far from God in order to fully pay the price of our sin. I imagine this is why, in the garden of Gethsemane, that Jesus asked that the cup be passed from him three times. It's one thing to know what you are about to face regarding the physical pain. It's quite another to know you're going to have to face it alone, without your Father, God which is a true spiritual loss.

Can you just imagine what that felt like?

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## Can You Imagine?

Can you just imagine having your worst day ever and having no one to pray to, to call out to, to feel God's loving presence? To know that you are so far from God, you may never make it back to Him?

And thanks to God's wondrous plan filled with grace and mercy, we never have to know what that feels like. Because Jesus spent time on the cross being far from God's loving presence as He uttered those words, My God, My God, why have you forsaken me, we never have to be far from God. Jesus paid the ultimate price for the ultimate consequence of sin.

And my question to you is: do we truly appreciate the magnitude of Jesus' suffering on the cross **the** great gift that was given to us –

do we seek God out in our lives the way we should for such a gift?

This Lent and Holy Week, I invite you to take some time to reflect on how far Jesus must have felt from God to utter those words "My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?" Hear that anguish, feel the heartbreak and remember, He was forsaken so that you won't ever have to be. Jesus gave us the ability to be able to go directly to God in all that we experience, whether it be strife, joy, heartache, frustration, fear, etc. But do we? Or do we act like toddlers saying "I do it," "I'll do it myself!" Let's each one take some time in prayer to bring God into our lives, no matter what's happening, to draw close to Him, and to say thanks for His gift.



## Inclement Weather

Whether March comes in like a lion or a lamb, here's what to do if the weather is more lion-like and wintry:

Call the church office at 717.665.2447 (after 8 am on Sunday mornings) for service or event changes and cancellations. Postings will also be on WGAL, WGAL.com and our website. Never miss a service due to weather or vacation! Online sermons and bulletins are posted on our website:

[www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org](http://www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org)

## March Scripture Readings

**March 3 – Lent 3:** Exodus 20:1-17/  
Psalm 19/1 Corinthians 1:18-25/  
St. John 2:13-22

**March 10 – Lent 4:** Numbers 21:4-9/  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22/Ephesians 2:1-10/St. John 3:14-21

**March 17– Lent 5:** Jeremiah 31:31-34/Psalm 51:1-12/Hebrews 5:5-10/  
St. John 12:20-33

**March 24 – Palm/Passion Sunday:**  
St. Mark 11:1-11/Isaiah 50:4-9/Psalm 31:9-16/Philippians 2:5-11/St. Mark 14:15-47

**March 31 – Resurrection of Our Lord:** Acts 10:34-43/Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24/1 Corinthians 15:1-11/  
St. Mark 16:1-8



## Holy Communion

- ◆ The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served every Sunday in March, and on Maundy Thursday, March 28 @ 7 pm.
- ◆ A Communion Service will be held at Pleasant View Retirement Community on **Wednesday March 20 @ 1:30 pm in Hoffer Auditorium.**





# March Happenings

## Lenten Meals & Worship

Mid-week Lenten meals and worship continue on Wednesdays in March. Light meals will be served at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall, with the worship services held @ 6:30 pm. The focus for the services will be "Between Job and Jesus."

**March 6** – the meal will be served by Church Council and will feature soup and crusty bread.

**March 13** – the meal will be served by volunteers and will feature Pizza and Chips.

**March 20** – Ron Forry and friends will serve Chili and Corn Bread.

## FREE Community Breakfast

Come out and enjoy a warm, delicious breakfast on Saturday, March 16 from 8:30-10 am. Baked Oatmeal with fruit will be served.

If you would like to help out, please contact Sandy Bareford at 717.341.5931/sandybareford@gmail.com.

## Preparatory Worship

A Preparatory Worship service will be held on Wednesday, March 27 @ 7 pm. At one time, this service was held to spiritually prepare for Holy Communion and was held each time the church offered Holy Communion.

St. Paul's will hold this Preparatory Worship Service to prepare us for The Last Supper in Maundy Thursday's worship service.

## Maundy Thursday

A Maundy Thursday worship service will be held at St. Paul's @ 7 pm on Thursday, March 28 and will feature The Stations of the Cross. Come experience what it was like the last days of Jesus' life as we prepare for Easter Sunday.

## Good Friday

A Community Good Friday worship service will be held by the Manheim Ministerium on Friday, March 29 @ 2 pm in Pleasant View's Hoffer Auditorium. This worship service will include area pastors and will focus on Jesus' last words from the cross.

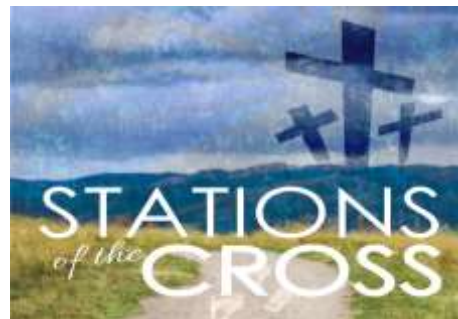
## Prayer Vigil

Please sign up for a half hour time slot to participate in an at-home prayer vigil held Saturday, March 30 @ 7:30 pm through 6:30 am Easter Sunday, March 31.

## Fellowship Breakfast

Join your friends from St. Paul's at the Kountry Kitchen Restaurant north of Manheim on Rt. 72 on Thursday, March 21 @ 8:30 am.

Please RSVP to Claire Reed at 717.951.4325 by Monday, March 18.



# Easter Sunday @ St. Paul's UCC



On **Easter Sunday, March 31** there will be two worship services:

- **An early worship service @ 8 am will be held in the Memorial Garden.** In case of inclement weather, the service will be held inside.
- **And at 9:30 am, worship will be held in the Sanctuary with Holy Communion**
- A light **Continental Breakfast** of coffee and baked goodies will be available in Fellowship Hall between the two services ending @ 9:20 am. Coffee will only be served between the two services - there will be no coffee hour following the 9:30 am worship service.



## Women's Fellowship

Since we are getting ready to say farewell to Winter, that means it is time to get on board and support our early Spring Sub Sale!

**We will be taking orders for subs on Sundays, April 7, 14 & 21. The pick-up date is Thursday, May 2 from 2-5 pm. The cost is \$6 per sub.**

Our first meeting of the year will be held on Thursday, April 25 @ 1:30 pm to take care of business and to get caught up with each other.

In the meantime, please don't forget our homebound members. They always need our love and support.

In His Love, June Y. Smith & Dorothy Drumheller

## Women's Retreat

Please keep our women in prayer as they travel to Hartman Lodge at Hartman Center Campground for a Women's Retreat on March 8-10.

The theme for the weekend is Choosing Joy based on Philippians 4:4: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice!

Contact for the retreat is Dani Fair at 717.664.4332 or by email at [danif2710@gmail.com](mailto:danif2710@gmail.com).

## Book Club

Book Club will meet next on Monday, June 2 @ 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. Up for discussion this time will be Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*. Copies are available to pick up on the table outside the church office.



## Healing Service

On Sunday, March 17 during the 9:30 am worship service, you are invited to come forward to be anointed and share in a healing prayer.

Anyone experiencing grief, illness, addiction, spiritual loss, depression, mental illness or anguish in their lives are encouraged to attend this meaningful service of healing.

## 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](http://www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org) click on the Online Sermon tab

## Wow it was a Great Souper Bowl!

Thank you to all who contributed to the great successful Souper Bowl soup collection to benefit the Manheim Central Food Pantry. Here are the stats:

St. Paul's UCC	680	Pleasant View	451
Salem UMC	382	Zion Lutheran	259
Trinity Colebrook	47		

**Total cans collected for Souper Bowl 1,819**

We are well on our way to feeding close to 5,000 in the Manheim Area!



## Missions

The March Mission of the Month is Heifer International & for March 10 One Great Hour of Sharing.

Both Heifer International and One Great Hour of Sharing helps to feed families in need. Heifer helps to empower families to raise their own food and One Great Hour of Sharing supports families in times of disaster and provides refugee services as well.

Please use your March special envelope to help families in need through Heifer International and on March 10 with the OGHS envelope to support One Great Hour of Sharing.

## Food Pantry Update

The food pantry serves many families in need in the Manheim Central School district.

Current needs are:

- Canned Beef Stew
- Canned Chili
- Soup
- Spam

- Boxes of Rice
- 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](http://www.manheimcentralfoodpantry.org).



## From the Church Office

A new pictorial directory will soon be published, but before it is, please be sure to update the church office or your instant church directory app with your new address, phone number or email address.

You can access the directory app anytime from our website at [www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org](http://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 worshipping 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](mailto:stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net).

## Deep Roots Mission Trip Set

Deep Roots @ Clairvaux Farm in Earleville, MD will once again be the sight of our next Mission Trip which is set for June 2024.

Deep Roots is a beautiful farm near the beaches in Maryland which provides housing for families in need while providing mentorship and life skill training. In the past the team has served in mission by painting, cleaning, performing small repairs, and in the evening providing Vacation Bible School-type lessons for the children while having fun.

If you'd be interested in Serving God and travel to Deep Roots, please contact Sandy Bareford at 717.341.5931 or by email at [sandybareford@gmail.com](mailto:sandybareford@gmail.com).

The team will also serve in the Manheim Mission project in July as well.



## Council Highlights

Church Council met on Tuesday, February 20, 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: \$1,046 was received for UCC Homes for January's Mission of the Month.

Operating: \$11,810 was received for current expenses in January, which is above budget by \$1,000.

Capital: \$1,870 was received in January 2024 with no expenses for the month.

### Pastor's Report:

- ♦ Lenten meals and worship are held on Wednesdays @ 6 pm in Fellowship Hall until March 20.
- ♦ Holy week will feature a Preparatory Worship Service on Wednesday, March 27 @ 7 pm; a Maundy Thursday Stations of the Cross @ 7 pm and a Community Good Friday service @ Pleasant View @ 2 pm.
- ♦ Easter Sunday will feature 2 worship services: 8 am & 9:30 am with a continental breakfast in between the services.



**Old Business:** Council members will serve the March 6 Lenten meal of soup and crusty bread.

Dave Ludwig and Lynn Brewer were thanked for their service to the council.

Annual Congregational Meeting minutes will now be approved at council rather than waiting for an entire year to be approved.

Next meeting date is Tuesday, March 19 @ 7 pm.

Council packets are posted:

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

If you would like a copy, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447 or by email at [stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net](mailto:stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net).

## Life and Light

Easter is the assurance that no matter how hopeless and dark things appear, God is alive and actively working. Our heavenly Father births life out of death, transforms brokenness into wholeness and shines light into darkness.

In the words of the poet Christian Wiman (from Every Riven Thing):

When the time's toxins

have seeped into every cell ...

somehow a seed of belief  
sprouts ...

tugged upward by light ...

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## All Things Spring



Remember to Spring Forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 9 as Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 10.

The first day of Spring is Tuesday, March 19, 2024! Enjoy!



# March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> Lent 3 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	<b>4</b> 7:00pm Property Board	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:00pm Lenten Meals & Worship 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 1:00pm Women's Retreat	<b>9</b> 
<b>10</b> Daylight Savings Time Begins Lent 4 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:00pm Lenten Meals & Worship 7:00pm New Voices Vision Team Meeting	<b>14</b> 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 8:30am FREE Community Breakfast
<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day Lent 5 Newsletter Deadline 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 1st Day of Spring 6:15pm Spiritual Council 7:00pm Church Council 	<b>20</b> 1:30pm Pleasant View Communion 6:00pm Lenten Meals & Worship	<b>21</b> 8:30am Fellowship Breakfast @ Kountry Kitchen 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Palm/Passion Sunday 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00pm Preparatory Service 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> Maundy Thursday 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	<b>29</b> Good Friday 2:00pm Community Good Friday Worship Service	<b>30</b> 6:30pm Prayer Vigil
<b>31</b> Easter Sunday 8:00am Early Morning Easter Worship 8:30am Easter Breakfast 9:30am One Worship						



*Best Wishes to those  
celebrating a March  
Anniversary or Birthday!*



## Worship Attendance

2/4 – 86

2/11 - 98

2/14– Ash Wednesday – 16

2/18 – 109

2/25 - 163



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## Christian Symbols

**Easter Eggs:** Although Easter eggs were once part of pagan spring festivals, they've become Christian symbols of new life. A cracked-open shell also represents Jesus' empty tomb on Easter morning. For Lent, some families used to give up eggs and dairy, so they prepared a pancake feast on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. They solved the egg surplus by hard-boiling them in various broths, which led to colored eggs. Did you know, each year, the PAAS Dye Co. sells more than 10 million egg-coloring kits, which consumers use to decorate 180 million eggs.

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## 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

Jim & Mary Long

Maybelle Martin

Jane Moyle

Richard Moyle & Linda Shoemaker

Glen & Delores Mumma

Terry Myers

Andre Ressler

Burt Savitz

Bob & 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



# Transformed

Before becoming a Christian late in life, British journalist Malcolm Muggeridge denied that Jesus was God's Son and had risen from the dead. If Jesus' body was missing, he said, someone probably snatched it and abandoned it to the vultures, leaving the bones to whiten in the sun.

For Muggeridge, the turning point was encountering a living Lord. "If you should ask me by what authority I talk about the power of Christ to change human nature, I should reply to you simply ... because he has changed me," Muggeridge said after discarding agnosticism. "I can look anybody in the face today — my friends, my colleagues and what, perhaps, is most difficult of all, the members of my family — and be sure that they know, as I know, that I am really and literally a new creature in Christ Jesus since the day when he came into my life."

—adapted from *The Wired Word*



## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month before publication. **The April issue deadline is Sunday, March 17, 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 – Assistant Treasurer  
Mike Givler  
Gretchen Miller – Treasurer  
Carolyn Peters



## St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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[www.StPaulsuccManheim.org](http://www.StPaulsuccManheim.org)

For it is by grace you have been saved,  
through faith — and this is not from  
yourselves, it is the gift of God — not  
by works, so that no one can boast.

- Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV