



St. Paul's Happenings

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

April 2026

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

The Resurrection and The Life

The celebration of Easter is to celebrate Christ's Resurrection from the dead. What we need to do is to open our hearts to Christ where death holds us captive. To do so, one needs to think how death has a grip on our life.

Christ who is The Resurrection and The Life is ready to work in our life now. Perhaps it is true that death's power over our life is such that we are half dead now! Why do we walk around half dead when there is Newness of Life available here and now? Christ Is The Resurrection! It is not a distant event – we can experience Christ in heart and life now!!!

Through Christ, New Life can grow out of hopelessness and despair. Deadened hearts can awake to New Life. We can become alive with caring for other people.

There are no situations which are hopeless. We need never to be bound by death in dealing with forces that would trap us and hold us down. With Christ every day is Resurrection Day! The power that raised Christ from the tomb can resurrect us from the daily deaths that hold us now.

Jesus is The Resurrection and The Life. The power that assures real existence for us in this earthly life after the death of the body will raise us up to a New Experience in God's Eternal Kingdom in Christ.

The Lord is Risen.

The Lord is Risen Indeed!

In Christ,

Pastor Bill Long

I am the
RESURRECTION
and the
LIFE.
HE
who believes in
ME
though he die,
yet shall
HE
LIVE.

John 11:25



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VISIT US ONLINE AT

StPaulsuccManheim.org

An Update on 1st Floor Renovations

Wow! What a difference a month can make – especially when it comes to our Clean Out- Update- You'll Grow vision from God!

Last month at this time, we could see some changes happening to our 1st Floor Renovation. We saw rooms being cleaned out, things moved around, and some wires being changed around.

Since then, we now see new hvac units in the first floor Sunday School classroom (soon to be the 3 C's Café), in the nursery, and even in the south facing upstairs rooms as well.

The nursery is now finished with new ceiling tile, new lights and new carpeting. Toys and supplies have received a thorough weeding out and cleaning as well. The nursery bathroom has been updated too – it includes a toddler friendly toilet that's lower and easier to use and the room is no longer an escape risk as the only exit from the bathroom is out into the Nursery itself.

Right away, you will notice the new paint, ceiling tile and lights as you

walk in the door off the parking lot and see the hallway of the first floor. New floors are being installed as I write this. Even the elevator door has been painted, giving the illusion of a new elevator!

And in what is going to be the 3 C's Café, you will see that the old yellow carpet is gone! In it's place is new carpet and vinyl flooring. There's new paint, ceiling tile and lighting too! And in the corner, you'll now see that a cozy spot we're going to call The Nook. A place where small groups can gather for prayer, Bible Study, etc. More work will be done in the next few weeks to include the café counter, and furnishings will be arriving soon too. The 1st phase of the project should be done by early to mid April and then the 2nd phase will begin in Fellowship Hall.

Be sure to stay tuned as event locations may change during this time due to construction.

And thank you for your patience, prayers, support, and grace in this endeavor!



Feel free to enjoy a delicious cup of Whiff Roasters coffee after worship either in Fellowship Hall or soon to be in the new 3 C's Café! You'll have a chance to grab some tasty treats, and 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.

Holy Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated every Sunday in April.

A Communion Service, open to all, will also be held at Pleasant View Retirement Community on **Wednesday, April 15 @ 1:30 pm.**

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

April Scripture Readings

Sunday, April 5, Resurrection of Our Lord: Acts 10:34-43/Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24/Colossians 3:1-4 /St. Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday, April 12 – Easter 2: Acts 2:14, 22-32/ Psalm 16/1 Peter 1:3-9/St. John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 19 – Easter 3: Acts 2:14, 36-41/ Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19/1 Peter 1:17-23/ St. Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, April 26 – Easter 4: Acts 2:42-47/Psalm 23/1 Peter 2:19-25/St. John 10:1-10



April Happenings @ St. Paul's

Bible Study

The Wednesday Night Bible Study will continue their study of Hebrews at 6:30 pm beginning again on Wednesday, April 8. We will either meet in Fellowship Hall, 3 C's Café or the Library, depending on the construction schedule. All are welcome!

Women's Fellowship Sub Sale

Women's Fellowship will begin taking orders for their Sub Sale on Sundays, April 12, 19 & 26 with a pick-up date of Thursday, May 7 from 2-4 pm.

Stop by their table outside the church office on those Sundays to place your order – prices are the same as last year!

FREE Community Breakfast

The FREE Community Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 18 from 8:30-10 am in either Fellowship Hall or more likely the 3 C's Café, depending on construction timeline.

On the menu this month is a Breakfast Frittata (sausage, egg, spinach and tomatoes) with toppings of mushrooms, peppers, or onions and a side of roasted potatoes served with fresh fruit and a beverage.

If you would like help out at the breakfast, please feel free to contact Erica Hoffman at 717.203.1449 or by email at ejhoffman826@gmail.com.

Fellowship Breakfast

The Fellowship Breakfast will be held on Thursday, April 23 @ 8:30 am @ The Kounty Kitchen Family Restaurant. Please RSVP to Claire Reed at 717.951.4325 by Monday, April 20 if you plan to attend.

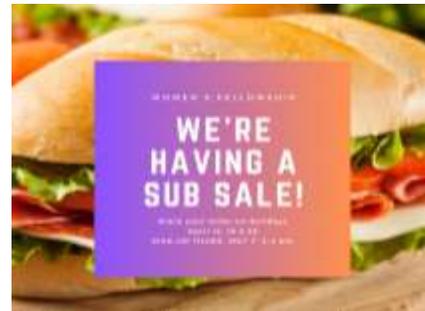
Women's Fellowship

The next meeting of Women's Fellowship will be held on Thursday, April 30 @ 1 pm in either Fellowship Hall or the 3 C's Café. See page 4 for more details.

Check Out Our Website

For the latest info and weather updates, please visit our website found at www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org.

Pardon our appearance as we have continuing renovations on the first floor. Current planned events may move at the last minute depending on rooms used - check our website or with the church office at 717.665.2447 for updates.



Easter & Holy Week Schedule



Holy Week @ St. Pauls begins with a Preparatory Worship Service on Wednesday, April 1 @ 7 pm.

A Maundy Thursday Worship Service with Holy Communion will be held on Thursday, April 2 @ 7 pm.

A Community Good Friday Worship Service will be held at Pleasant View's Hoffer Auditorium on Friday, April 3 @ 2 pm.

And our Easter Worship Services will include an Early Easter Worship Service @ 8 am in the Memorial Garden (weather permitting) and the 9:30 am Easter worship service with a light continental breakfast served in between the services.



Women's Fellowship

Our next meeting for Women's Fellowship will be held on Thursday, April 30 @ 1 pm likely in the 3 C's Café.

We need to make our final plans for our **Sub Sale with our sale dates set for Sundays, April 12, 19 & 26 with our pick-up date of May 7 from 2-4 pm.**

The price will stay the same. Be sure you see one of our ladies at the table outside the office to place your orders.

By the time we meet, we will have completed our Easter Journey and renewal of our thankfulness for the life and love of our Precious Savior. May we also have a renewed spirit to continue with our ministry here at St. Paul's.

As always, please remember our homebound members. I personally had a number of calls, thanking us for the cards received. Our St. Paul's Warriors always need our caring cards, thoughts and prayers.

Just a reminder to keep knitting or crocheting those hats and scarves for children. If you need yarn, please see me. We do have a nice supply of yarn to be used for that purpose.

In His Love,
June Smith & Dottie Drumheller

Mission of the Month

The April Mission of the Month is St. Paul's Shepherd's Fund.

The Shepherd's Fund helps members and special friends of St. Paul's during a difficult financial time whether due to illness, unexpected disaster, unemployment, or other life challenges. Those in need would need to meet with Pastor Bill Long to receive assistance from the Shepherd's Fund.

Please use your April special envelope to support our friends in need right here at St. Paul's. What a wonderful way you can truly Make a Difference through the Love of Christ to Know, Love and Serve God!



Food Pantry Update

Food assistance is available to anyone living in the Manheim Central School District through the Manheim Central Food Pantry. For more information, call Ruth Ellen Brown at 717.664.1097.

Current needs for the Manheim Central Food Pantry are:

Diapers sizes 4-6, baby wipes, applesauce, canned pineapple, canned chili, canned mandarin oranges, and baked beans as well as plastic or reusable grocery bags.

Please be sure your donations are not expired, opened, or used. For more information, go to <https://manheimcentralfoodpantry.org/>

Inclement Weather Policy

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 at stpaulsuccmanheim.org.

Mission Trip Planning Meeting – April 19

If you are interested in joining the projects and outreach of our June 17-20 Mission trip to Deep Roots in Earleville, MD, please plan to attend a preliminary **Planning Meeting on Sunday, April 19** during Coffee Hour likely held in the 3 C's Café. We'll be discussing preliminary plans for Bible study, potential projects, and needs at Deep Roots and then processing any paperwork needed for Deep Roots.

Deep Roots is a farm in Earleville, MD that serves those experiencing homelessness. Deep Roots provides housing, food and clothing assistance and mentoring opportunities for families in need.

For more information about the Mission Trip, contact Erica Hoffman at 717.898.8452 or by email at ejhoffman826@gmail.com. For more information about Deep Roots, go to www.deeprootsinc.org.



Council Highlights

Church Council met on Tuesday, March 17, 2026. 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.

Endowment Fund: Donations totaling \$7,300 were received in February.

Treasurer’s Report:

Benevolence: \$2,286 was received for the February Mission of the Month, which was the Manheim Central Food Pantry and OCWM giving was \$890.

Operating: \$16,041 was received in February for current operating expenses; budget is \$10,417/month.

Capital: \$2,881 was received in February for the capital fund.

February’s giving was \$5,648.75 over last year’s giving, likely due to those who made up for the January dates missed due to weather.

Pastor’s Report:

- Shared dates for vacation in 2026.

Committee Reports:

New Voices asked Council to consider adding upgrades to the 2nd floor hallways ad offices for 2026 instead of waiting until 2027. This will require a congregational meeting and vote.

Council agreed to consider this suggestion but will not make a final decision until pricing is received and more discussions is had.

Property Board: New Radiator grates were installed in the new Café. New side doors for Fellowship Hall have been ordered and will come in under budget.

Old Business: None

New Business: Welcome to new council members Sue Frederick & Lynn Brewer. Election results were:

- President – Karen Brandt
- Vice President – Carolyn Peters
- Treasurer – Gretchen Miller
- Secretary – Mike Givler

Next meeting date is Tuesday, April 21, 2026 @ 6 pm.

Council minutes are posted

- In the church office,
- On the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall and
- On the 2nd floor bulletin board near the elevator.



Thank You Notes

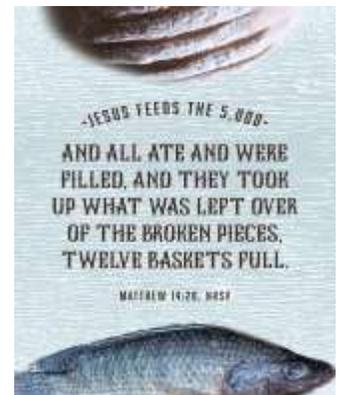
Continued thanks for prayers for Jim and me. We’re hoping that Jim will be home by the time the April newsletter is published. He’s progressing well and has been fitted for a custom brace for this left ankle as he has not motor control there the foot dangles when the leg is lifted. This support greatly improves his ability to walk and manage stairs. We’re praying for continued improvement beyond what he’s regained so far, but it will be a slow progress.

Erica Hoffman

Thank you to everyone who donated soup for this year’s Souper Bowl campaign.

Over 470 items were received and taken to the Manheim Central Food Pantry thanks to Carolyn Peters & Cheri Long!

It is so exciting to think that we are continuing to feed more than the 5,000 Jesus fed in the wilderness! He’s still feeding people! And so are you!



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 with a pastoral emergency, please leave a message, as calls are monitored daily and your call will be returned shortly.

Please remember to update us on your changed address, phone number or email. You can contact the church office at 717.665.2447 or by email at stpaulmanheim@ptd.net.

If you know of anyone who is not receiving updates, emails, or church correspondence, please contact the church office and let us know. Thank you!

April 2026

Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

		<p>1 7:00pm Preparatory Worship Service</p>	<p>2 Maundy Thursday 9:00am Simply Yoga 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran</p>	<p>3 Good Friday 2:00pm Good Friday Worship @ Pleasant View</p>	<p>4 10:00am Simply Yoga</p>
					
<p>5 Easter Sunday 8:00am Early Easter Worship Service 8:30am Light Easter Breakfast 9:30am One Worship</p> <p> Easter Sunday</p>	<p>6 Office Closed 7:00pm Property Board</p>	<p>7 6:00pm New Voices Vision Team Meeting</p>	<p>8 6:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>9 9:00am Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>12 9:00am Prayer 9:00am Sub Orders 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 6:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>16 9:00am Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>19 <i>Newsletter Deadline!</i> 9:00am Sub Orders 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Mission Team Meeting</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 6:00pm Hope Served 6:00pm Church Council</p>	<p>22 Earth Day 6:30pm Bible Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>23 8:30am Fellowship Breakfast @ Kountry Kitchen 9:00am Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>26 9:00am Sub Orders 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 6:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>30 9:00am Simply Yoga 1:00pm Women's Fellowship 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran</p>	



APRIL

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Worship Attendance

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

March 1 – 95

March 8 – 81

March 15 – 89

March 22 - 97

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.

*Blessings to all
those celebrating
an April
Birthday or
Anniversary!*



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	Mary Sue Herr	Jay Hess	Bev Hockenberry	Jim & Erica Hoffman	Ava Hontz
Bridget Irons	Ernest & Pat Kohler	Maybelle Martin	Jane Moyle	Richard Moyle & Lynne Shoemaker	
Glen & Delores Mumma	Joanna Schreiber	Eric Smeltz	Menno & Betty Lou Stoner	Gerry Weller	
Barry & Scott Christ*	Linda Coe*	Wyatt Dull*	Dr. Eugene Engle*	Jona Green*	Stephen H.*
Blakely Kling*	Jace Laboranti	Rachel Martin	Karen Miller*	Verdella Stauffer*	Teen Central & Bible2school kids/staff

In the Military: Jessie Dutt & Ben Ryan

A Hymn Mix-up with a Message

C. Gray Norsworthy, a pastor in Atlanta, once shared a story about the woman who prepared his worship bulletin. She was faithful in her work but didn't have much background in church hymns. One week, Pastor Norsworthy handed her a draft of the service and hoped she could decipher his handwriting.

When he reviewed the finished bulletin, he noticed the final hymn was titled "Just As I Am, Without a Clue."

Whether it's "without a clue" or "without a plea," the truth remains the same: we all come to Jesus just as we are — and we all need him. — from the April 2026 edition of ChurchArt Online.



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 2026 issue deadline is Sunday, April 19, 2026.** 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
- Bell Choir Director – Jim Hoffman
- Custodian – Mark Lowe
- Kitchen Manager – Jerry Weller

Council:

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



PUZZLE

FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV



- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Jesus | 5. cross |
| 2. weary | 6. endured |
| 3. endured | 7. scorning |
| 4. opposition | 8. shame |



- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. Jesus | 5. perfecter |
| 2. lose | 6. him |
| 3. pioneer | 7. faith |
| 4. sinners | 8. hand |



- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. eyes | 5. right |
| 2. us | 6. grow |
| 3. joy | 7. God |
| 4. heart | 8. throne |

*... fixing our _____ on _____, the _____ and
 _____ of _____. For the _____ set before _____
 he _____ the _____, _____ its
 _____, and sat down at the _____
 of the _____ of _____. Consider _____ who _____
 such _____ from _____
 so that you will not _____ and _____"

Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV

Answer: "... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, for the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV



HANDPRINT BUTTERFLY OF NEW LIFE

The butterfly reminds us of new life and the Resurrection. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead and brings us the hope of new beginnings. This simple craft helps children celebrate that joyful truth.

What you need:

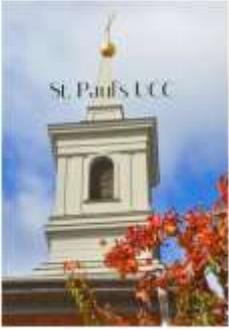
- Light-colored construction paper
- Card stock
- Glue
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Paper towel or baby wipe



What you do:

- Cut out a butterfly body from the construction paper.
- Glue the butterfly body onto the card stock.
- Use a paintbrush to coat the palm of one hand with paint.
- Press your painted hand beside the butterfly body to create a wing.
- Repeat with your other hand to make the second wing.
- Clean your hands with a paper towel or baby wipe.
- Optional: Add Luke 24:5-6 (NIV) around the butterfly or on its body:

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

50 N. Main Street, P. O. Box 129

Manheim, PA 17545

Phone: 717.665.2447

www.StPaulsuccManheim.org



“... EVERYONE WHO
LIVES AND BELIEVES IN ME
WILL NEVER DIE.
DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?”

JOHN 11:26, NASB