

# St. Paul's Happenings

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

March 2026

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

## Ordinary Things by Pam Herman, Church Administrator

In looking at what is considered an ordinary item, I especially appreciate and love how God uses something ordinary and turns it into something extraordinary which ultimately points to His Glory.

In the past few weeks, we've heard about some of these ordinary things during worship together. And as we enter into the season of Lent, I'm sure you will hear of many more. Here are a few examples:

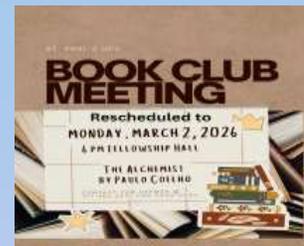
**Salt:** Something as simple as table salt has so many purposes and meaning. Salt is used to clean, preserve, reduce bitterness in coffee, deter pests, whiten, sanitize, soothe, exfoliate skin, moisten and can help with healing. But my favorite use of salt is how it flavors our food. In Matthew 5, Jesus says that *"You are the salt of the earth."* In other words, in serving Him, you add flavor to those around you and give them a taste of what it means to be a follower of Jesus!

**Light:** Imagine living in complete darkness and how that would impact your everyday life. Many who live in the arctic where sunlight disappears for a significant amount of time, must expose themselves to artificial light in order to combat serious depression. While darkness can represent fear, grief, heaviness, and even death, light means the opposite – hope, joy, health, growth, forgiveness and life. Ephesians 5 says *"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of the light."* And in Matthew 5, Jesus says that *"You are light of the world...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

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# Ordinary Things Continued

**Water:** A basic element to life, now through the Word, water is all about baptism and being washed clean, which symbolizes a new life - a new life in Christ.

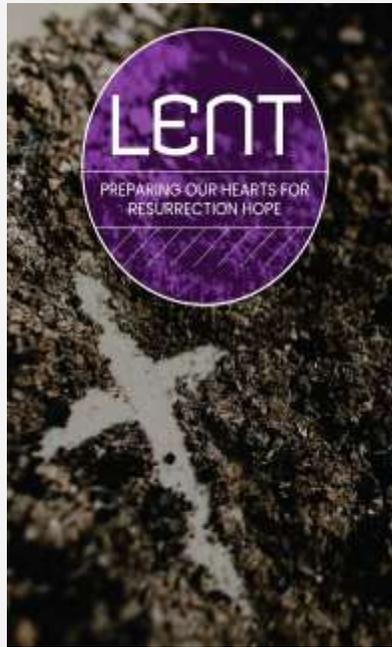
**Ashes:** Many times we think about ashes as being dirty. (As I write this, my hands still have some soot on them from our Ash Wednesday worship service.) And while, ashes can signify death and deep sorrow, God turns them into a symbol of new life, humility, a transformation of repentance and renewal. A letting go which is why we begin the season of Lent with ashes – it helps us to let go of the old ways and begin a journey of the new way of life through the cross of Jesus.

These are only a few of the ordinary things that are made extraordinary. As we continue into the season of Lent, I invite you to continue to seek out ways that the ordinary things in our lives have been turned into

something extraordinary by God. And don't forget to look in the mirror – you may just see how God has changed you as well.

Lenten Blessings,

Pam Herman



## Coffee Hour

Feel free to enjoy a delicious cup of Whiff Roasters coffee after worship in Fellowship Hall! 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 March.

A Communion Service, open to all, will also be held at Pleasant View Retirement Community on **Wednesday March 18 @ 1:30 pm.**

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



## March Scripture Readings

**Sunday, March 1 – Lent 2:** Genesis 12:1-4/Psalm 121/Romans 4:1-5, 13-17/St. John 3:1-17

**Sunday, March 8 – Lent 3:** Exodus 17:1-7/Psalm 95/Romans 5:1-11/St. John 4:5-42

**Sunday, March 15 – Lent 4:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13/Psalm 23/Ephesians 5:8-14/St. John 9:1-41

**Sunday, March 22 – Lent 5:** Ezekiel 37:1-14/Psalm 130/Romans 8:6-11/St. John 11:1-45

**Sunday, March 29 – Palm/Passion Sunday:** St. Matthew 21:1-11/Isaiah 50:4-9/Psalm 31:9-16/Philippians 2:5-11/ St. Matthew 26:14-27:66 or St. Matthew 27:11-54

# March Happenings @ St. Paul's

## Book Club

Get your copy of *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho about a shepherd boy who travels from Spain to Egypt in search of buried treasures in the pyramids. We'll meet to discuss this book on Monday, March 2 @ 6 pm in Fellowship Hall.

## Lenten Meals & Worship

Come out and enjoy a warm, delicious meal at 6 pm on Wednesdays through March 25. Worship will follow the meal @ 6:30 pm.

Hosting the meals are:

**March 4** – Wed. Bible Study will serve Baked Potatoes with toppings

**March 11**- Church Council will serve beef vegetable soup with bread

**March 18** – Women's Fellowship will serve Hot Ham and Cheese Sandwiches and Chicken Corn Soup

**March 25** – Anyone who would like to serve this meal, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447.

## FREE Community Breakfast

The FREE Community Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 21 from 8:30-10 am.

On the menu this month is Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Toast w/Jelly served with a beverage and fresh fruit.

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](mailto:ejhoffman826@gmail.com).

## Fellowship Breakfast

The Fellowship Breakfast will be held on Thursday, March 26 @ 8:30 am @ The Kounty Kitchen Family Restaurant. Please RSVP to Claire Reed at 717.951.4325 by Monday, March 23 if you plan to attend.

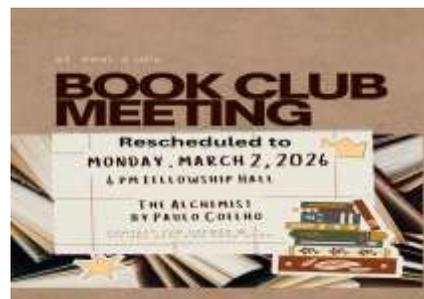
## Women's Fellowship

Attention all ladies! It's time once again for Women's Fellowship to meet. The first meeting of the year will be held on Thursday, March 26 @ 1 pm in Fellowship Hall, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be postponed until the April meeting.

## Check Out Our Website

For the latest info and weather updates, please visit our website found at [www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org](http://www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org).

Pardon our appearance as we have begun renovations on the first floor. Current planned events may move at the last minute depending on rooms used - check our website 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 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 and the 9:30 am Easter worship service with a continental breakfast served in between the services.



## Women's Fellowship

Change is happening all the time within our group and sometimes it is hard to keep up, but we know our Lord is in charge. This is a good thing!

Women's Fellowship will be hosting the Lenten Meal on March 18 @ 6 pm. We will be serving homemade chicken corn soup, warm ham/cheese sandwiches and cookies for dessert made by our ladies. All you have to do is come on out, enjoy the food and fellowship and be spiritually fed.

Our Spring Sub Sale is in the works. Look for our ladies in the hallway at the table on Sunday, April 12, 19 & 26. The pick-up date will be May 7 from 2-4 pm. Thank you for your continued support of this project.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 26 @ 1 pm weather permitting in Fellowship Hall. Please try to attend this meeting.

I wanted to share with you that I had a telephone call from Phyllis Smeltz's

daughter, Denise, to let us know that Phyllis passed away and that now she is at peace. More information will be coming later. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Keep supporting our homebound members! They greatly appreciate hearing from you.

Just a reminder as I don't want you to be bored for the rest of the Winter months, 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 March Mission of Heifer International and during the week of March 8, we will also collect for One Hour of Sharing.**

Heifer aims to end hunger/poverty by supporting and investing in local farmers and communities.

One Hour of Sharing is a UCC Fund that helps with various humanitarian and disaster relief efforts worldwide. Please use your special envelope for

March to support these missions that Know, Love & Serve God.

## Food Pantry Update

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. Contact is Ruth Ellen Brown at 717.664.1097.

## 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](http://stpaulsuccmanheim.org).

Sermons are available online on our website as well.

## It's Time to Order your Easter Flowers!

Easter Flowers will once again glorify the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026. Easter flowers have been preordered and there is limited availability. If you would like to place an Easter Flower Order in your or your loved ones's name, please complete an order form found in your weekly bulletin and return with payment to the church office. Or contact Pam Herman in the church office at 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 \$9 each.

**The deadline to place your order is Sunday, March 15, 2026 and are subject to availability.**



# Council Highlights

Church Council met on Tuesday, February 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:** An extra \$5,000 was pulled from the Endowment fund to help cover expenses due to two cancelled worship services from inclement weather in January.

### Treasurer’s Report:

**Benevolence:** \$905 was received for the January Mission of the Month, which was UCC Homes and OCWM giving was \$70.

**Operating:** \$4,532 was received in January for current operating expenses; budget is \$10,417/month.

**Capital:** \$343 was received in January for the capital fund.

January’s giving was \$11,080 under last year’s giving.

### Pastor’s Report:

- Lent began on Feb. 18. Mid-week Lenten services will be held in the Bright Chapel/Library following a meal in Fellowship Hall.
- A wedding will be performed on March 7.
- Update on member health issues.

### Committee Reports:

- New Voices: no written report as January was a work meeting to clean out the first floor areas ready for demolition that began Feb. 16.

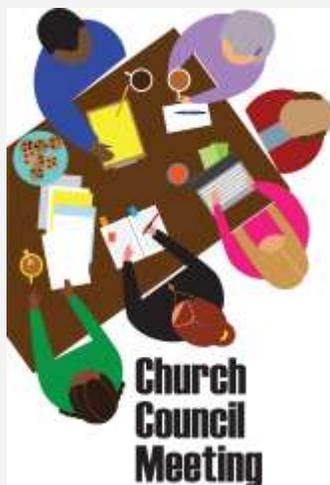
**Old Business:** Nominations – Sue Frederick has agreed to serve on council. Two vacancies remain.

**New Business:** None

**Next meeting date is Tuesday, March 17, 2026 @ 6 pm.**

Council minutes are posted

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



# Thank You Notes

Another thank you to the members of St. Paul's for your continued cards and prayers for Jim. For those who haven't heard the details, he had a stroke early morning December 23rd. He is now a temporary resident at Neffsville Nursing and Rehab on Lititz Pike. His stroke was full left side involvement with paralysis of the left arm and leg and impact on his speech and swallowing. He is slowly regaining strength in his left leg and has recently progressed back to normal foods and unthickened liquids. They have him up and walking on a cane and have started him on stairs. His arm is the last to come along, but he can shrug his shoulder and has been regaining movement in his fingers and wrist. Keep us both in your prayers as he makes progress to healing. And I continue to deal with the additional chores related to his absence and hospitalization.

Erica Hoffman

We thank you for your \$30 donation to the Manheim Central Food Pantry. It is donations like yours that allow us to help those families in need in the Manheim Central Community. Your kindness is deeply appreciated.

Ruth Ellen Brown, Client Coordinator, MC Food Pantry

# 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](mailto: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!

# March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Lent 2 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Book Club 7:00pm Property Board	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:00pm Lenten Meals & Worship	<b>5</b> 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Eli Boll Wedding 10:00am Simply Yoga 
<b>8</b> Lent 3/Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:00pm Lenten Meals & Worship	<b>12</b> 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00am Simply Yoga
<b>15</b> <i>Newsletter Deadline!</i> Lent 4 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day 6:00pm Church Council 	<b>18</b> 1:30pm Pleasant View Communion 6:00pm Lenten Meals & Worship	<b>19</b> 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	<b>20</b> 1st Day of Spring 	<b>21</b> 8:30am FREE Community Breakfast 10:00am Simply Yoga
<b>22</b> Lent 5 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:00pm Hope Served	<b>25</b> 6:00pm Lenten Meals & Worship	<b>26</b> 8:30am Fellowship Breakfast @ Kountry Kitchen 1:00pm Women's Fellowship 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00am Simply Yoga
<b>29</b> Palm/Passion Sunday 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				



# Blessings to all those celebrating a March Birthday or Anniversary!



## Worship Attendance

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

Jan. 4 – 66	Jan. 11 – 102
Jan. 18 – Snow	Jan. 25 – 60 (Snow)
Feb. 1 – 97	Feb. 8 – 93
Feb. 15 – 80	Feb. 22 – 85

## Christian Symbols

**PALM BRANCH** — When Jesus entered Jerusalem days before his death, crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches, common symbols of victory and rejoicing. Churches still use them to remember that occasion, knowing that Jesus' crucifixion was the ultimate triumph over sin and death. As early as Leviticus 23:40, God commanded Israel to use palms in a festival of rejoicing. In Revelation 7:9-10, Christian martyrs carry palm branches as they praise the Lamb before God's throne.



## 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*        | Rachel Martin       | Karen Miller*   | Verdella Stauffer*       | Teen Central & Bible2school kids/staff |             |

In the Military: Jessie Dutt & Ben Ryan

# Spring Things

**Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8.** Please remember to “spring ahead” and turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 7 before going to bed.

And for safety, be sure to check your smoke detector batteries that night as well!

The First Day of Spring is almost here – Friday, March 20! Enjoy the day!



Spring forward in faith!  
CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS and  
*join us on time for worship.*



## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month before publication.

**The April 2026 issue deadline is Sunday, March 15, 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

Danette Fair

Ron Forry

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!

## HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled:

### CODE:

A=☺	D=☼	H=☼	M=☆	P=◆	T=■	W=☒
B=▲	E=+	I=*	N=↑	R=●	U=□	Y=☂
C=○	G=●	L=★	O=↓	S=○	V=☒	Z=☂

Mt. Hermon ○ ↑ ↓ ☒

Jericho ☼ ↓ ■

Jerusalem ☆ \* ★ ☼

Dead Sea Area ■ ● ↓ ◆ \* ☼ ☺ ★ ☼ + ☺ ■

Sea of Galilee ● □ ○ ■ ☂ ☒ \* ↑ ☼ ○

Mediterranean Coast ● ● + + ☂ ☂



Answers: snow, hot, mild, tropical heat, gusty winds, breezy



These cheerful "palm trees" make a bright reminder of the celebration that greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

### What you need:

- Bananas (for the tree trunks)
- Kiwis or green grapes (for the palm leaves)
- Mandarin oranges (for the ground)

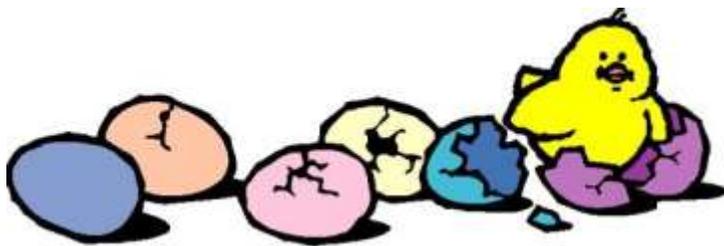


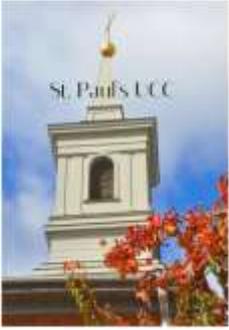
### What you do:

1. Slice bananas in half lengthwise and place vertically on a plate.
2. Arrange kiwi slices or grapes at the top to form palm fronds.
3. Add oranges at the base.
4. Serve immediately or chill until ready to serve.

### Scripture Tie-In:

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"  
—Matthew 21:9 (NIV)





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

Gracious Lord, we gather with

*believers*

across every nation and language,  
united in your love.

*Open our eyes*

to the needs of our neighbors near and far.

Strengthen our hearts with compassion,  
courage and hope. Make us instruments of  
your peace in a world longing for healing.

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen.*