

# St. Paul's Happenings

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

May 2021

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

## Extra Renewed Spirit by Joan Hess, Council President

After last week's Easter celebration, I've an "EXTRA" Renewed Spirit! We should all have that "new" feeling. What He endured is beyond our comprehension, but we know it was all for us, and we are eternally thankful.

So, now where do we go from here? We now have the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic behind us. We can once again move around freely! We have spring awakening in front of our eyes with such beautiful colors in pinks, whites, purples, etc. This reminds me of today's church readings on "spiritual" awakening.

Our world is so fractured. We Christians need to "listen" to our Father in heaven and heed to His words for us to get along in this world. *"As the Father has sent me, I also send you."* – John 20:21

We need to help someone with a shallow faith into a strong trusting relationship of faith with our Father. We breathe because He created us.

*"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the Glory of God."* – 1 Corinthians 10:31

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[StPaulsUCCManheim.org](http://StPaulsUCCManheim.org)

## Extra Renewed Spirit

Continued from page 1

As we continue our journey, we anticipate Pentecost Sunday on May 23. On this day we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit onto the disciples after Jesus' Ascension. (Ascension Day is May 13.) And, this is the beginning of the church's mission into all the world.

Remember to wear **RED** this day!

Start today and plan to forge ahead spreading God's Word everywhere you go with everyone you meet.

Know God, Love God, Serve God.

In Christian Love,

Joan Hess



## Did you Subscribe Yet?

Have you subscribed to St. Paul's Youtube Channel yet?

There is **no cost** to subscribe to St. Paul's UCC's Youtube Channel. Subscribing to our channel is very much like bookmarking or adding our channel to your favorite listing or videos.

By hitting the subscribe button and following the prompts, you'll now be the first to see the latest St. Paul's UCC's livestreamed worship service. That video will be the first one on your list of videos to watch in your queue as well.

So, please don't be afraid to hit the subscribe button for St. Paul's Youtube Channel.

If you have questions, please feel free to call the church office at 717.665.2447.

## May Scripture Readings

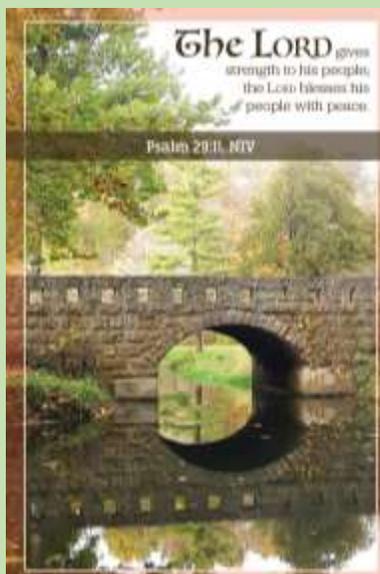
**May 2 – Easter 5:** Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21 & St. John 5:1-8

**May 9 – Easter 6:** Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; & St. John 15:9-17

**May 16 – Easter 7:** Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13 & St. John 17:6-19

**May 23 – Day of Pentecost:** Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35; Romans 8:22-27; St. John 15:26-27, 16:4-15

**May 30 - Trinity Sunday:** Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; St. John 3:1-17





When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.



## Pentecost Sunday & Picnic Sunday, May 23

On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, the people of St. Paul's will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit in an exciting and brand new way!

### **The Power of Pentecost:**

Pentecost started as a Jewish festival commemorating God's giving the Law to the Israelites 50 days after they escaped from slavery in Egypt.

Just 10 days after the risen Jesus ascended to heaven, his (Jewish) disciples gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost. But God transformed the occasion by giving them the Holy Spirit, as he'd promised. The disciples saw something like flames among and on them, heard a rushing wind and began speaking in many languages. The pilgrims in Jerusalem heard about Jesus in their native tongues (see Acts 2:1-12).

In Christian churches, Pentecost was once as important as Christmas and Easter. Today, congregations still observe it in special ways, using the color red to symbolize the Holy Spirit's power. Worship services sometimes include hymns, prayers and Scriptures in various tongues. To simulate the original Pentecost experience, congregations may say the Lord's Prayer in several languages at once.

**Pentecost Worship:** On Sunday, May 23, St. Paul's UCC will observe Pentecost and invites everyone to wear **RED** that day!

We'll begin worship in the Sanctuary and celebrate Holy Communion together. After communion, we'll move to the church parking lot to continue to celebrate the Holy Spirit in worship. (For those of you with mobility issues, please feel free to begin worship from your car by tuning into FM 88.1.)

Our church picnic will follow the worship service in St. Paul's parking lot. We'll start with some games to get to know each other again after the pandemic shutdown. And then at approximately 11 am, we'll feast on Andy Ressler's world-famous Chicken BBQ, baked potato and applesauce. Dessert will be provided by Scoops Ice Cream truck. **To RSVP for the picnic, please sign up outside the church office by Sunday, May 9.**

Social distancing rules will apply, so masks should be worn when not eating. If you do not feel safe eating the prepared meal, please feel free to bring your own food and/or utensils. You may also want to bring your own lawn chair for easier social distancing.

### **Pentecost Geraniums**

We're going to blanket the church Sanctuary in **RED** for Pentecost Sunday! If you would like to blanket the Sanctuary in red with geraniums, please complete a form from you bulletin or contact the church office at 717.665.2447 or [stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net](mailto:stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net). The cost is \$6 for a 6.5" pot of red geraniums and may be placed in honor of or in memory of loved ones.

**The deadline to place your order is Sunday, May 9, 2021.**



## Women's Fellowship

It is great that we are able to get together again to catch up on each other and be able to praise the Lord at our meetings for our many rich blessings. It also gives us a chance to look ahead in anticipation of future projects.

We were happy to be able to share in the joy of the birth of Jacob Fisher with a rose placed on the altar. Another blessing!

**We are looking forward to our next meeting and all of the beautiful May flowers which always follow the April rains, scheduled for Thursday, May 27 @ 1:30 pm.**

Again, thank you for the many telephone calls, greeting cards and contacts that were sent out to those at home, in retirement communities and those recuperating from various illnesses and last but not least –

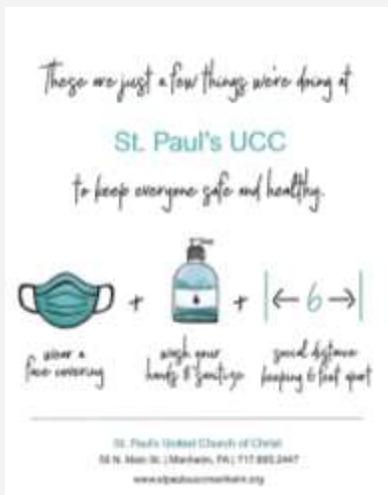
loneliness. What a blessing you have been not only to me, but to so many others. Please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers. We and they feel it!

We are starting to see more of you at Sunday worship, which is great, even though we don't always recognize each other with a mask on. However, it is important to continue with this gesture of caring. This too will pass!

As we look forward to warmer days and longer evenings, we will look for you on Thursday, May 27 @ 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. I am thinking positive! Please stay well and continue to love, serve, and praise the Lord.

In His Love,

June Smith & Deb Kleinfelter



## FREE Community Breakfast

The May FREE Takeout Community Breakfast will be held on Saturday, May 15 from 9-10 am.

The takeout breakfast will be served from St. Paul's Parking Lot.

Contact Sandy Bareford at 717.341.5931 or by email at [sandybareford@gmail.com](mailto:sandybareford@gmail.com) if you would like to help out and serve breakfast.



## Book Club

Book Club will meet on Monday, May 10 @ 6 pm to discuss "The Screwtape Letters" How a senior devil instructs a junior devil in the art of temptation by C. S. Lewis.

Books are still available if you didn't get to pick yours up yet. The books can be found on the table outside the church office. If you can't finish the book or find it a difficult or disturbing read, please don't let that stop you from attending the book club. There are lots of great insights in this book on how to live a Christian life that will be discussed on May 10!

October will feature "Diary of a Country Priest" by George Bernanos.



## Revelation Bible Study

The Revelation Bible Study continues on Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. The study is open to anyone, even if you didn't get to attend earlier this year.

Social distancing protocols will still be in place to keep everyone safe so please wear a mask.

For more information, contact the church office at 717.665.2447.

## News from the Nursery

Hello! It has been a long time and the time is here.

I'm excited to share that the nursery is getting a make-over and will be opening again on May 2, 2021!

I am working on a wish list through Amazon, if you would like to help get something the nursery needs. There will also be other ways to help.

With that being said, I will be in need of volunteers to make this happen. I would need 8-10 volunteers or more that I could put on a rotating schedule, and a back-up or two. The more volunteers I have the better.

Working in early childhood education, I know what extra precautions are needed to open the nursery safely. Volunteers will need to wear a mask. Parents will have the choice to wear one on their child(ren). A few simple changes but nothing that will take away from the children's time here.

I'll be making a paper with the changes.

Most importantly, join me in welcoming, having fun and enjoying the little ones of our church family.

Please contact me by:

1) text - please include your name  
717 -376-6064

2) calling - if I don't answer please leave a message 717-376-6064

3) email - smiles4u@dejazzd.com

In His service,

Rhonda Raia  
Nursery Coordinator



## Rightnow Media

Streaming now in Rightnow Media:

### **Patterns of Evidence: The Red Sea Miracle Parts 1 & 2**

Join award winning filmmaker, Timothy Mahoney, as he retraces the steps of Moses and the Israelites, looking for answers. As he investigates the possible locations of the Red Sea crossing, he interviews top-level secular and biblical scholars in search for clues that support the Bible's timeline for this pivotal event in history. Now, see the evidence as the Bible comes alive with dramatic recreations, 3D animations and never seen before footage. For adults.

### **Lessons from the Land – The Gospels**

Grab your Bible and pack your bags for adventure as Barry Britnell takes your kids on a journey through to the Bible lands! Visit the places where Jesus lived and taught: step inside a first-century synagogue, take a boat across the Sea of Galilee, and walk through the busy streets of Jerusalem. For youth and adults.

### **VeggieTales: Ultimate Silly Songs Countdown**

The wackiest, the funniest, and the most singable silly songs from the VeggieTales vault of fun! For all ages.

Don't have your free access to Rightnow Media? Contact the church office at 717.665.2447.

## Coming soon – Summer Fun for Families

The Growing in Faith Team (GIFT) is planning several summer events for all ages to be held on Sundays:

- ◆ July 18
- ◆ July 25
- ◆ August 1
- ◆ August 8



The theme is Growing in Our Faith and will feature outdoor "growing" activities – that means, dirt, water, seeds, plants, and more! There's even talk about growing a Pizza Garden – all the goodies that go into making a pizza taste great! The fun will likely end with a Pizza Party and lots of fun.

## Missions



### The May Mission of the Month is the Manheim Ministerium Assistance Fund.

This is a new mission for St. Paul's UCC. The Manheim Ministerium is a group of Manheim churches committed to helping others in the Manheim community.

The Manheim Central Food Pantry is a Manheim Ministerium Program. Community Connections is another.

Manheim Ministerium also provides emergency assistance to those living in the Manheim Central school district for transportation, medical, prescriptions, housing, and food needs. Call 717.618.9777 if you or someone you know in the MC school district needs assistance.

Please use your May special envelope to make a difference for local families in need right here in Manheim.

## Food Pantry Update

137 households were served in March – this includes 384 total individuals. 3 new households were served for a total of 5 new individuals. Current needs include:

- ◆ Cereal
- ◆ Canned Soup
- ◆ Tissues
- ◆ Pull Ups
- ◆ Diapers, Irg sizes 4, 5, 6
- ◆ Canned Fruit/Applesauce

Please drop all donations off directly at the Food Bank, located at 334 West Gramby Street, Manheim.

Thank you for supporting this important ministry to our Manheim neighbors.

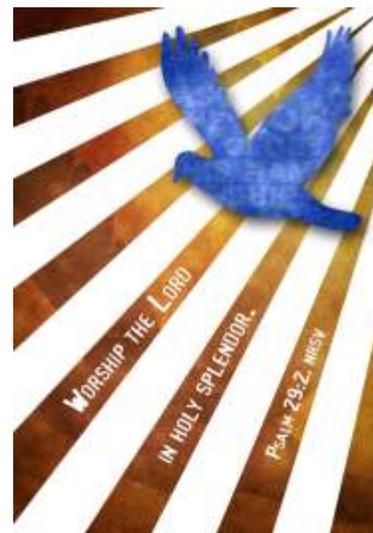
## 3 Ways to Worship

St. Paul's UCC continues to offer 3 ways to worship on Sunday mornings so that members and friends can feel safe during these hopefully last days of Covid-19.

The 3 Ways to Worship are:

- ◆ Worship Online is the safest option as you can worship from the safety of your own home. To worship online, go to St. Paul's website, found at [www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org](http://www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org) and click on the Online Sermons tab. A bulletin and a link for the sermon is available to download for each week. Please see page 2 about subscribing to our livestream videos.
- ◆ Listen Live to our 9:30 am Sunday worship service in the church parking lot by tuning in to FM 88.1. This is a very safe way to worship as well since you'll be worshipping from the safety of your own car.
- ◆ Worship in the Sanctuary @ 9:30 am on Sunday mornings. Masks are required to be worn throughout the church building and social distancing is in place in the hallways and Sanctuary to keep everyone safe.

And thank you to everyone for cooperating fully with the mask mandates and social distancing.



## Mission Trip Info

We are pleased to say that there is a mission trip this summer! Please let me know if you're interested in participating in any of the mission projects.

Deep Roots community program provides support and safety nets needed for homeless families to continue to move forward. They provide basic needs, employment program for parents, children's programming, rental assistance, family field trips, and more! Deep Roots has been changing lives and successfully ending homelessness for the past 8 years. We have always enjoyed our time down there and hope you will consider serving in some way or another! We will leave the church on Thursday June 17 and return early evening Sunday June 20.

Just a heads up- Manheim mission project-(July) -is a go this year too! More to follow! For more mission information, contact Sandy Bareford at 717.341.5931 or by email at [sandybareford@gmail.com](mailto:sandybareford@gmail.com).

# Council Highlights

Church Council met on Tuesday, April 20 @ 7 pm. Highlights of the meeting include:

### Memorial Gifts & Endowment:

Gretchen reported that the Endowment Fund is currently valued at \$1.33M up from \$1.2M earlier this year.

### Treasurer's Report:

Benevolence: The March Mission of the Month was Heifer International and One Great Hour of Sharing which brought in \$1,005. Disaster Relief giving was \$1,209 in March.

Operating: Standard expenses observed.

Capital: Income was \$2,200 in March. No expenditures in March.

### Pastor's Report:

- See page 3 re: upcoming Pentecost event.

### Committee Reports

Property Board: approval was given to move forward with the fire escape project.

New Voices: See written report

Growing in Faith Team did not meet.

### Old Business:

Upcoming Events: Pentecost Sunday & Church Picnic to be held on Sunday, May 23.



### New Business:

A letter was shared by the Penn Central Conference asking for participants for the Spring Association Meeting held on April 25.

### Open Discussion:

There was some discussion re: opening up again for outside groups. The discussion was tabled until further feedback from Property Board.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 18 @ 7 pm; Spiritual Council will meet @ 6:30 pm.

Church Closer for April is Gretchen Miller; for May the Church Closer is Carol Blanchard.

Church Council Minutes/Packets are posted in Fellowship Hall, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hallway, and are also available to you in the church office by request.

# We Did It! Plastic Cap Recycling

St. Paul's UCC has been collecting Plastic Bottle and Container tops/caps/lids to be recycled and then turned into a Park Bench. It takes 250 lbs. and \$300 to create a new park bench from Green Tree Plastics, Evansville, IN and we have now met that goal!!! As a result, please do not drop off any more plastic caps!

In just a few weeks, the caps will be gathered and prepared for shipment and taken to Evansville, IN to have our bench made.

And, an anonymous donor has agreed to pay for the bench to be created!

Thank you to everyone who has donated the plastic caps to create the bench and to our anonymous donor! Your teamwork has made this project come alive and exemplifies what it means to work together for Christ!



# Graduate Recognition

Graduate Recognition for all St. Paul's members and their families will be held in early June. If you would like to recognize a soon to be graduate or recent graduate from high school or college, please contact the church office **no later than Sunday, May 23**. Please include the graduate's name, their graduating school, and their future plans following graduation.

Please keep all graduates in your prayers. It's been a difficult year to navigate both school and future prospects.



## Homebound Visitation

As Covid-19 vaccines become more and more prevalent, many of the visitation restrictions will begin to ease and homebound visitation will hopefully soon be able to begin again.

When you feel that it is safe to have a homebound pastoral visit and/or would like Holy Communion, please feel free to call the church office at 717.665.2447 to schedule your visit.

Also, if you know of a church member that would appreciate a homebound visit and/or Holy Communion, please call the church office and let Pastor Bill Long know. It is much better to hear from several of you than none at all when it comes to visitation. Pastor Bill is really looking forward to being able to visit his people once again.

Please keep our homebound members in your prayers and feel free to send cards and share phone calls – this pandemic has been

especially hard on those stuck at home due to health concerns. Your thoughtfulness will be most appreciated! For a complete list of our homebound members, be sure to contact the church office or check the bulletin board in the upstairs hallway.



## Ascension Day

Many Christian churches will celebrate Ascension Day on May 13, which is 40 days after Easter. Theologian Friedemann Hebart explained Christ's Ascension this way:

“When Jesus’ work on Earth was done, he took leave of his disciples and went to be with his Father. A time for sad farewells, one might think. Yet the church celebrates the Ascension with special joy. What is the reason for joy when Jesus leaves his people?”

“The Ascension is not the end of Jesus’ work, but a new beginning! How could Jesus ever leave us alone? Because he has gone to be Lord of the universe, he can continue his work of life and love — among us, too. His work was not just a short episode in Galilee. In the person of the Holy Spirit, the same Lord is present among us, still revealing the Father’s loving heart, so that we, too, can believe — and sing songs of joy.”

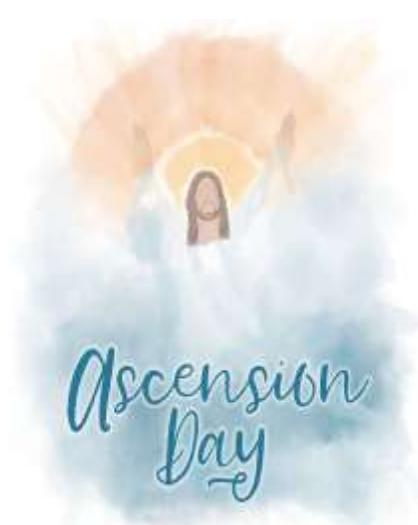
## A Change for the Prayer List

Beginning in May, the prayer list in the bulletin will no longer be available for public view online and prayer requests will no longer be mentioned during the announcements in worship.

These changes are being made in an effort to honor our members’ and friends’ privacy now that our worship service is livestreamed and available widely to the public.

The prayer list will still be included in the bulletin for those attending in person worship either in the parking lot or in the Sanctuary and in the newsletter for those who are members of the church.

Prayer is such an important part of our church community. Please continue to share your prayer requests knowing that your requests will be kept private in the church.



Thursday, May 13

# May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		MAY				1
<b>2</b> Easter 5 9:30am One Worship	<b>3</b> 7:00pm Property Board	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:30pm Revelation Bible Study 7:30pm Elite Bells	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Easter 6 Mother's Day 9:30am One Worship  	<b>10</b> 6:00pm Book Club	<b>11</b> 8:30am Lancaster Association Meeting	<b>12</b> 12:00pm Manheim Ministerium 6:30pm Revelation Bible Study 7:30pm Elite Bells	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00am FREE Community Breakfast  
<b>16</b> Easter 7 Newsletter Deadline! 9:30am One Worship	<b>17</b> 6:00pm Set up for Elections 6:30pm New Voices Vision Team	<b>18</b> 7:00am Primary Election Day 6:00pm Spiritual Council 7:00pm Church Council	<b>19</b> 6:30pm Revelation Bible Study 7:30pm Elite Bells	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Pentecost Sunday 9:30am Pentecost Worship & Church Picnic  	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30pm Revelation Bible Study 7:30pm Elite Bells	<b>27</b> 1:30pm Women's Fellowship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Wedding
<b>30</b> Trinity Sunday 9:30am One Worship	<b>31</b> Memorial Day - Office Closed  					

# MAY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Happy Birthday &  
Happy  
Anniversary to  
those celebrating  
in May!**



## Worship Attendance

Worship attendance equals in person worship in the Sanctuary, those attending worship in the parking lot and online views of the sermons:

March 28 – 94

March 31 – Preparatory Service: 18

April 1 – Maundy Thursday: 52

April 2 – Good Friday: 16

April 4 – Easter Sunday: 146

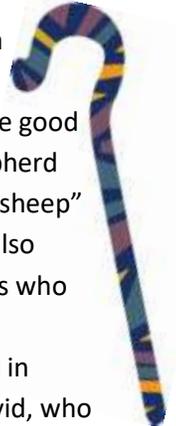
April 11 – 96

April 18 – 94

April 25 – 67

## Christian Symbol

The shepherd's crook is a symbol for Jesus, the Good Shepherd. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). The crook also symbolizes the shepherds who visited the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. It's also used in connection with King David, who worked as a shepherd when he was young.



## 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.

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with your Holy Spirit.

Help us to love one another in truth and in action.

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your Voice calls us to your loving embrace. – From 4/25 Celebrate Insert





## Ushers & Greeters

The act of greeting continues to look different than before the pandemic, so that we can keep in line with social distancing standards to keep you safe while worshipping.

As you arrive for worship, you'll be greeted by several council members and other leaders to direct you and assist you if help is needed.

## Communication Deadlines

St. Paul Happenings is printed monthly except for the July/August & December/January combined issues. The deadline to submit articles is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month before publication.

**The June 2021 newsletter deadline is Sunday, May 16, 2021.**

Bulletin announcements are due to the church office no later than Wed. mornings @ 8 am.



## A Prayer for Memorial Day



We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## St. Paul's Staff & Leaders

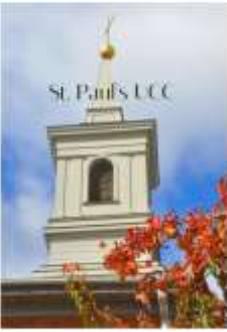
### Staff:

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  
 Nursery Coordinator – Rhonda Raia  
 Custodian – Mark Lowe  
 Kitchen Managers – Sandy Bareford & Jerry Weller

### Council:

Ministers – All Church Members  
 Carol Blanchard  
 Lynn Brewer, Secretary  
 Rick Conley, Vice President  
 Dani Fair  
 Joan Hess, President  
 Gretchen Miller, Treasurer  
 Dave Palfrey, Assistant Treasurer  
 Karen Weiss

Non-voting Ex-Officio Member by Position:  
 The Rev. Bill Long, Pastor



## St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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

[They] were amazed,  
because the gift  
of the Holy Spirit  
was poured out  
even on the Gentiles.

ACTS 10:45, ESV