



**June-July 2020
Newsletter**

Rev. Paul Forrey,
Pastor

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at St. Paul's Church!

A Message from Pastor Paul Forrey

What a strange time we have been living through! A pandemic has struck the world, and at the time of this writing 350,000 have lost their lives to COVID-19 worldwide, including 100,000 people in our own country. Store shelves have been missing items we're looking for, restaurants and other businesses have been closed, many of us have been working from home. Millions of people in our country have lost jobs, resulting not only in a loss of income but also the loss of employer-based health insurance for themselves and their families. We are facing a momentous healthcare crisis and economic crisis. And all of this at a time when we cannot come together in church to experience the support and prayers of our church family.

Communities and businesses around the country are just beginning to open. For the most part, we see that people are honoring guidelines for safe gatherings of people. We watch and pray that we will not see a resulting spike in virus cases.

We hope to be able to resume in-person worship services at the church sometime in June. Please know that some experts are cautioning churches to prepare to stay online-only for the long haul. Our Church Council has worked to devise strategies to promote our

safety once we do resume services in our sanctuary. These strategies are based on recommendations from the KY government and on recommendations from the United Church of Christ. In May you received a letter from Council President Daryl Knauer detailing the policies the Church Council voted unanimously to enact. That information is repeated here in this newsletter for you as well. Following these guidelines is essential for protecting the safety and health of each of us, our families, our coworkers, and everyone with whom we come into contact.

As we move into the season of Pentecost and reflect on ways that God's Spirit energizes the church for life and ministry in Christ's name, we do well to remember that the Holy Spirit has always empowered the church to offer ministries of caring during crises. We recall the story of St. Gregory who left the monastery to become the pope in the 6th century. During the time that Rome was devastated by invading armies and a plague was ravaging the city, Gregory sold church property to feed the poor. In every time and place, God's Spirit raises up the church to become new life for the world.

May it be so in us!

A Message from Council President Daryl Knauer

I am very pleased to share the good news that we should be able to gather again in our beautiful sanctuary as soon as early to mid-June! Governor Andy Beshear has given the “green light” for places of worship to reopen and your Council is hard at work implementing new policies to keep us all safe.

You may not feel comfortable yet returning to church and that is certainly understandable. It is, of course, a personal decision. We will continue to provide “virtual” worship through our website and Facebook page.

When you are ready to return for in-person worship, you will find the following measures have been put in place by Council and leadership teams to ensure your safety:

Policies Concerning Safe Gatherings

- First, please do not attend worship services if you are ill or are experiencing symptoms such as coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, throat soreness, or new loss of taste or smell. These could be symptoms of COVID-19, and you should contact your healthcare provider immediately.
- The Governor’s new guidelines limit us to using one-third of our sanctuary seating capacity at any one time; for us this is a maximum of 40 people. If more than 40 people desire to attend worship, we will hold two services on Sunday morning—9:00am and 10:30am.
- Everyone will be required to bring and wear masks or face coverings at all times while we are at the church.
- Only the front door to the church will be open in order to limit access to the facilities. Access will be limited to the sanctuary, upstairs hallway, and upstairs restroom.
- We will observe physical distancing at all times. We will refrain from shaking hands, hugging, or other forms of physical contact. Certain pews will be blocked off, and ushers will direct families to seating and will dismiss us pew by pew. We will all abide by the ushers’ directions. Weather permitting, Pastor Paul will greet us outside as we depart. Pastor Paul will preach only from the chancel at the top of the stairs.
- There will be no Sunday School classes for children or adults through at least the month of June. The Board of Christian Education will soon communicate a plan to hold a remote VBS program by which children and families can participate in their homes.
- No coffee or refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall prior to or following the service.
- Surfaces in the sanctuary, upstairs hallway, and upstairs restroom will be disinfected prior to and following every service.

(continued)

- To minimize risk of cross-contamination, no printed bulletins will be provided, and hymnals and Bibles will be removed from the pews.
- Per the Governor's guidelines, we will not hold congregational singing or choir performances. We will enjoy instrumental music during the service.
- If we use the restroom, we are expected to wipe any surfaces we touch with cleaning supplies provided in the restroom.
- Giving plates will be set in the sanctuary for us to place our offerings.
- We will not observe Holy Communion in the foreseeable future. However, upon request, Pastor Paul will offer a private communion service in the sanctuary or in a home, maintaining safe distancing. Pastor Paul will post a video of a communion service to the church website so that we can observe the sacrament in our homes.
- Services will be recorded and uploaded to the church website and Facebook by Sunday evening or Monday morning for those who, for personal preference or health reasons, continue to stay at home.

Please note: we believe following these new guidelines is essential for protecting the safety and health of each of us. We must insist that everyone comply with these policies at all times to avoid putting any of us, our families, or our co-workers at risk.

We will continue to follow news and guidance on this ongoing virus and will revise or adapt our plans as the situation requires.

In a virtual meeting May 27, your Council decided to remain closed at least through part of June. This decision was made after much debate and was guided, in part, by a health assessment being used at Cincinnati Children's Hospital that indicates the local risk of infection remains high.

While this may be disappointing for those eager to worship again in person, please know that we appreciate how you feel. The primary goal of Council is to protect the health and safety of our congregation when we reopen.

We are continuing to monitor local conditions and are working hard to put in place new protocols designed to protect all of us when we begin to gather again as a community of faith.

Council will meet on June 8 to "test drive" the new safety measures to make sure they are both practical and as effective as we can make them. I will update you after that happens.

News from the Board of Christian Education

The Board of Christian Education has determined that we cannot safely resume children's Sunday School in June. The guidelines from Governor Beshear and his team include that places of worship should wait to reopen youth services (including, but not limited to, Sunday schools) until childcare services have reopened on June 15, 2020. Once we resume Sunday School, we will need to follow the same guidelines as childcare services. The need for physical distancing also means we will hold no adult education classes on Sundays.

In place of Sunday School, we will have our Children's Chat with the children staying in their pews. They will then be given a packet of

activities that go along with the Children's Chat, such as coloring sheets, to do during the worship service. We will also supply each child with a bag of supplies (crayons, pencils, etc) that will be kept in the sanctuary for use each week. When we are able to resume regular Sunday School, children will continue to use that personal bag of supplies.

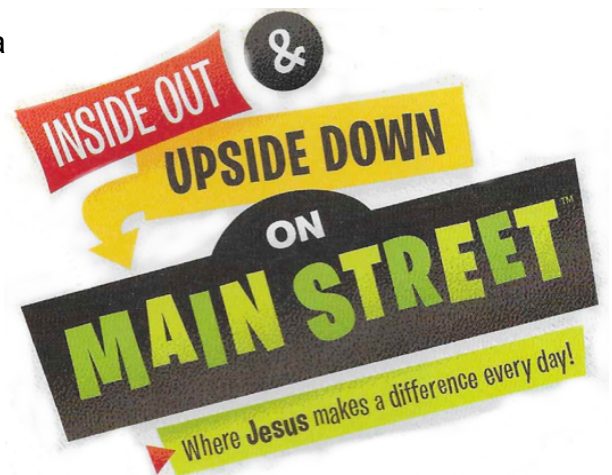
If you and/or your children will not be attending in-person worship but you would like for your children to receive the activities, please let us know. We will be happy to deliver materials, have them available for pick up outside the church office, email them, or send them via USPS.

2020 VIRTUAL VBS PROGRAM

Begins Sunday June 14

Join us for a summer on Main Street – Where Jesus makes a difference in our lives every day! Each week we'll explore one of the parables Jesus used to teach us a new way of living: showing gratitude instead of complaining, turning fear into love, and showing forgiveness, grace, and faithfulness in our daily lives!

This year our summer vacation Bible School program will be hosted online! The program begins on Sunday June 14 and will last for five weeks. Each week a bag of activities will be available for pickup or delivery (with many resources available for download online). Weekly activities will include a "Mission Possible" activity for children and their families to work together on a special project!



We will create a private Facebook group for participants and families to interact and share news, pictures, and pictures of children's activities.

~ Please look for an email containing a link to an online registration form! ~

News from the Board of Missions

The Little Church That Cares

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2

Though our planned missions may not be "business as usual," St. Paul's Alexandria is still "The Little Church That Cares." Here is an update of how our missions are persisting.

Soup Kitchen Keeps Serving

Gary Sperry has continued delivering food to Tender Mercies the past few months, changing up the menu so it can be a one-man show. In April, he delivered 20 pizzas and in May used the meat the Soup Kitchen had already acquired from JTM foods to deliver 72 burgers, buns, cheese, potato salad, potato chips, condiments, and plates and utensils. The burgers were well received by the residents and they turned it into a picnic.

Because of social distancing, the Tender Mercies staff does the serving, feeding around 60 people each time. Gary adds, *"The real thanks belongs to each and every one who donates and supports our mission. We are 'The Little Church That Cares' and I am so proud and happy that my mother and father introduced and made me a part of the St. Paul's family."*

Volunteers Making Masks

Beekee Hayselette has been putting her sewing skills to work making masks for those who need one when we open the church doors for service again. She's made two types of masks: ones with built-in filters that are wear and wash, and pocket masks that have removable filters. These are also washable.



Anna Wheeler has also been making masks and sharing them with her church family, enabling many of us to safely go grocery shopping and run necessary errands during the pandemic.

Staying in Touch

Care Team and Council members continue reaching out to members in assisted living facilities with regular phone calls. They also have been a source of comfort for those who have had to be in the hospital and can't have in-person visitors.

Barb and Helen are bringing smiles to many shut-ins and others with in-person visits following social-distancing guidelines.

Continuing to Make an Impact

St. Paul's is still having an impact on Family Promise, providing gift cards for grocery stores, gas stations, and restaurants. Church members are also making donations—financial, cleaning, and food items to various organizations (schools, Hosea House, Care Mission, and more).

This is only a small part of what our church family has been doing the past couple months to help out. Tell us what you've been doing to help others during the pandemic. No matter how big or how small, every bit of kindness and sharing God's love is meaningful. Send your story (and photos) to missions@stpaulsalexandria.org. We can feature it in our next newsletter.

Want to Help?

Isaiah House Ministries Food Distribution

Saturday, June 27 – starting at 8am

Parking lot of [St. Elizabeth Hospital, 1500 James Simpson Jr Way, Covington](#) (click on link for directions).

thank
you!

Thank you to everyone that had thoughts of me, made phone calls or sent cards. I appreciate the thoughtfulness. --Betty Bihl

St. Paul Friends,

Thank you for the phone calls, cards, and prayers following my accident and surgery. Your thoughtfulness and friendship lifted my spirits just when I needed it. I'm blessed to be part of such a caring congregation. -- Karen Zimmerman

We will honor our 2020 Graduates in July. Please call or email the office by June 25 with the graduate's name, school they graduated from, and their future plans.



What Makes a Dad

*God took the strength of a mountain,
the majesty of a tree,
the warmth of the summer sun,
the calm of a quiet sea,
the generous soul of nature,
the comforting arm of night,
the wisdom of the ages,
the power of the eagle's flight,*



*the joy of a morning in spring,
the faith of a mustard seed,
the patience of eternity,
the depth of a family need,
then God combined these qualities;
when there was nothing more to add,
God knew his masterpiece was complete
and called it "Dad."*

June Birthdays

06	Dennis Vogt	18	Tim Ash	25	Amity Kukla
07	Jim Miller	19	Glen Racke	27	Richard Barton
07	Ron Sperry	20	John Thomas	27	Debbie Yeager
09	Rita Parker	21	Jessica Vogt	29	Avery Enyart
12	Teddy Fausz	25	Kynslee Ballinger	29	Sally McNichols

June Anniversaries

03	Steve & Jami Haddix	21	Daryl & Teresa Knauer
05	Glen & Amity Kukla	22	Larry & Annette Boehm
08	Jim & Kathy Miller	23	Scott & Leah Fryman
15	Chris & Leah McDonald		
21	Brian & Bunny Clos		

July Birthdays

01	Kyle Ballinger	18	Ralph Olson	30	Violette Fausz
09	Jeff Steelman	22	Leah Fryman	31	Brenna Losey
10	Reid Kukla	25	Erin Stacey	31	Emma Losey
13	Lewis Connell	27	Jeff Enyart		
16	Tom Greiser	30	Audrey Haddix		

July Anniversaries

03	Robert & Mary Weinl	20	Tim & Sharon Ash
05	Carl & Pat Schuchter	21	Keith & Julie Behymer
06	Greg & Lori Davis	28	Mike & Connie Ballinger
08	Tom & Anna Wheeler	31	Shawn & Beekee Hayslette
19	Rodney & Amy Meyer		

PRESENT (via WEBEX): President- Daryl Knauer, Vice President-Charlene Rogers, Financial Secretary-Jeff Enyart, Treasurer-Sandy Smith, Recording Secretary-Debbie Yeager, C.E.-Claudia Chalk, Trustees-Sally McNichols, Stewardship-Cammy Burling, Missions-Sarah Lester, Worship-Fred Losey, Pastor Paul Forrey, and Technical Support-Craig McAlpin.

Daryl opened the meeting. Pastor Paul led us in a prayer.

- 1) SECRETARY'S REPORT---Sally McNichols made a motion to approve the minutes from the special council meeting held on April 1, 2020 that were posted on OneDrive. Jeff Enyart seconded and the motion carried.
- 2) CHURCH SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES--After a discussion of the current pandemic and recommendations by the Governor and the UCC leaders and Sandy Smith made a motion that we cancel all services and activities at the church through May 31. Sally McNichols seconded and the motion carried.
- 3) FINANCES:
 - We discussed the church's current financial situation. Jeff advised Council on the current state of giving and Sandy reported on the amount in the checking account. We shouldn't need to transfer money from the investment account yet.
 - Jeff reported on some opportunities to help with COVID-19 Relief locally and the ability to redirect some special account monies for this purpose.
- 4) OTHER BUSINESS:
 - Bell choir has asked for Council's approval to meet and record a few songs for the video devotionals. Mindy would set up and they would practice social distancing while playing. Chancel Choir could get together and record if they are comfortable.
 - Sally will put a message to the Class of 2020 on the outside sign.
 - If the Memorial Day Parade is held, members of the congregation may participate.
- 5) RE-OPENING THE CHURCH—A discussion was held regarding plans for re-opening the church and continuing activities when possible. Daryl asked the Trustees, Board of Christian Education, and the Worship and Ministry Committee to meet and make recommendations to Council.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 11 at 7 PM.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Yeager, Recording Secretary.

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Daryl opened the meeting. Pastor Paul led us in a prayer.

- 1) SECRETARY'S REPORT—Sally McNichols made a motion to approve the minutes from the special council meeting held on April 27, 2020 that were posted on OneDrive. Charlene Rogers seconded and the motion carried.
- 2) FINANCIAL CHECK—Sandy reported that there is \$25,373.97 in the checking account and \$18,169.20 in the temporary account. Jeff summarized the giving for the first 2 weeks of May and indicated that he expects giving will be down as May continues.
- 3) CE BOARD—Claudia reported the following:
 - No Sunday School classes in June. The service will include a Children's Chat, but the children will be instructed to stay in the pews with their family. An activity packet will be given to each child and they will each be given a bag with their own writing and coloring utensils.
 - VBS will be held virtually. Mission Possible will be the theme. For 4-5 weeks, weekly packets will be distributed to the children. They are hoping to be able to get together for a closing celebration later in the summer.
 - They are hoping for a Zoom type meeting for the children.
- 4) WORSHIP AND MUSIC—Fred reported that the committee met on May 11 for the purpose of coming up with guidelines so we can safely offer in-person services. The following were the recommendations:
 - Capacity will be 40 people. A survey will be developed via Breeze to determine if we need to have 2 services. Members without email addresses will receive a phone call.
 - We will utilize every other pew and maintain 6 feet between families.
 - Ushers will assist members in seating and dismissal.
 - The main entrance will be the only entrance unlocked. Congregants can only utilize the sanctuary, back hallway, and upstairs restroom. (Sanitizing wipes and spray will be put in the restroom and people who use the facilities will be asked to sanitize the restroom after use.)
 - Congregants must wear face coverings. Paul will remove his mask when speaking, but he will remain on the top step to maintain the recommendation of social distancing.
 - There will be no bulletins. Bibles and hymnals will be removed from the pews. Paul will provide materials on the lectern for the liturgist.
 - No communion. Paul will post a short communion service on the website. Also, if someone requests individual communion he will work with that person.
 - No fellowship hour.
 - No singing or use of instruments that expel air.

After a discussion, Sally McNichols made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Worship Committee as guidelines for opening the church safely. Cammy Burling seconded. Motion carried.

A letter explaining these guidelines and listing the symptoms of the coronavirus will be mailed to each member.