

Pastor Ray's Corner

In Chapter 13 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus is warned by some Pharisees, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." But rather than flee for his life, Jesus makes it clear that not only is he *not* afraid, but that he is in fact making his way TOWARD Jerusalem. And then he says something that won't fully make sense until Easter morning: "I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work."

I see Jesus' reference to "the third day" as the day when Jesus would rise from the dead and vindicate his claims as Messiah, Savior, and God Incarnate. His reference to "casting out demons and performing cures" summarizes much of his earthly ministry, leading up to his arrest and crucifixion.

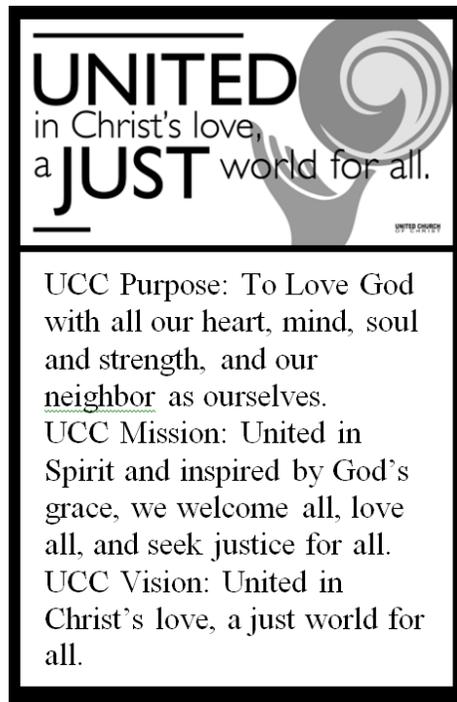
Of course – and praise God for this – the ministry of Jesus did not end with his ascension into heaven. Casting out demons and performing cures continues right up to the present day, and will continue until the Second Coming. Healings of all sorts continue to flow from the Risen and Ascended Jesus – modern medicine, medical miracles, counseling and therapy, surprising personal transformations – all of these regular and extraordinary healings continue to come from the Master Healer, and lives continue to be changed. And we give thanks for the power of God at work in our world and in our churches.

But we also know that not everyone gets healed, either from physical problems, or from mental and emotional troubles. Or they *are* healed, but only somewhat, only partially. Even for these, there is good news. Good news that Jesus continues to be with them, to walk with them, to hear them, and (when people are willing) to give them the strength to "keep on keepin' on" despite their troubles. I know a person who recently experienced a serious spinal cord injury that left them paralyzed. Despite this, this person is a marvelous example of "healing while awaiting healing." Surgeries and ongoing physical therapy have helped, but the road toward recovery is long and uncertain. And yet, this person maintains a positive spirit, and has been able to use technology to regain some independence.

Friends, the good news of Easter is that our Risen Lord lives, and he STILL heals, even if in different ways, and at different times. The miracle of Easter assures us that we will ALL be completely healed – if not now, then certainly when we enter into the fullness of eternal life at the end of our days, and join our Lord in heaven. Thanks be to God!

Peace and Blessings and See You in Church,

Pastor Ray



**Easter – the miracle
that keeps on giving.**

Upcoming St. Paul's and Wider Church Activities

Worship – Sundays, 10:30am

- Large-print bulletins available
- Busy Bags available in side room for children
- Sunday School for Children – during worship, following Children's Message
- Youth Classes – schedule TBD
- Choir Rehearsal – after worship on Sundays
- Handbell Rehearsal – see Amy Ney for schedule

Acolyte Assignments:

- April 7 – Makayla Gilbert
- April 14 – Alex Peay
- April 21 – Broc Dreisbach
- April 28 – Chase Coleman



April 7 - No communion

April 9 - 9:30am - Prayer Chain

April 9 - 7:30pm - Consistory

April 10 - TVM Wednesday evening Lenten service

April 14 - Palm/Passion Sunday, Egg hunt after worship

April 14 - One Great Hour of Sharing Offering dedicated

April 14, 6pm – Community Palm Sunday Cantata, held at St. Andrew's UMC

April 18 - 7pm - Combined Maundy Thursday Service @ Saint Paul's

April 18-20 - Prayer vigil - Thursday 9pm - Saturday 9pm

April 19, noon - Tri-Valley Ministerium Crosswalk, starting at St. Andrew's UMC

April 19, 7pm - Community Good Friday Services: Christ Church, Leck Kill; and Friedens UCC, Hegins

April 21 - Easter: 6am Community Son-rise Service @ Pine Creek UMC, Kushwa

April 21 - Easter Sunday - 10am service, communion

April 27, 4:30-6:30pm - Stewardship supper

April 28, 2pm – Ministerium Crop Walk, starting at the “purple pump”

April 30 - 5-11am - Mr. Sticky sale

Scriptures from Side B

Several churches in the Tri-Valley Area will once again offer a Lenten worship series this year, entitled *Scriptures from Side B*. If you remember your old 45 rpm music records, Side A was always the hit, and side B was – well, who knows, because that side seldom got played. The same thing can happen in church – pastors often preach on the Gospel, and the other readings from the lectionary schedule of readings don't get as much “air time.” So this Lenten season, we will focus on some of those other, equally important readings from Scripture for Lent. Please join us. All services start at 7pm; light refreshments will be served after each service. Offerings from these services will be given to Tri-Valley Charities.



- April 3, 7pm, Pastor Ray Holland preaching at Trinity Lutheran Church, Valley View
- April 10, 7pm, Pastor Brian Beissel preaching at St. James Lutheran Church, Pitman
- April 19, 7pm – Community Good Friday services will be held at Christ Church, Leck Kill; and Frieden's UCC, Hegins

Donations Needed for Easter Egg Hunt

From now through April 7, the Sunday School is seeking donations of small individually-wrapped candies that will fit into plastic eggs. We will be using them for the children's Easter Egg Hunt, to be held at church on Palm Sunday, April 14, following worship. All donations are greatly appreciated.



Stations of the Cross

Throughout Holy Week (April 14-20), you will have the opportunity to spend quiet time in meditation. Borrowing from other Christian traditions, we will have pictures and written prayers placed around the sanctuary, depicting scenes from the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. This meditative environment is particularly appropriate for prayerful use on Good Friday.



Lent 2019 – Salem and St. Paul's

This year, we will gather at St. Paul's UCC for a combined Maundy Thursday worship and communion on Thursday, **April 18**, 7pm.

Looking Ahead . . . Easter Sunday, April 21

- The Community Sunrise Service will be held at Pine Creek UMC (formerly St. Mark's) at 6am, followed by a light breakfast in the sanctuary at Pine Creek.
- St. Paul's Easter Sunday service with communion will be held at 10am.
- Salem UCC will have a sunrise service at 6am at the Crum Pavilion in Carsonville.
- Salem UCC will have a church service with communion at 8am.

Hourly Prayer Vigil for the Holy Triduum (Maundy Thursday-Holy Saturday): April 18-20

Again this year, our two churches are partnering in a 48-hour continuous prayer vigil, between Maundy Thursday evening and Holy Saturday evening. Volunteers are asked to sign up for at least a one-hour time slot (you may also sign up for more than one). You may come to church to pray in the sanctuary, or pray at home. (If you will be praying at home, please put a * next to your name, just so we know who will be in the church building during the vigil.) Please try to schedule your time so that, between our two churches, we can cover all 48 hours. See the sign-up sheet at church.

Dedication for One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

On **Palm Sunday**, we will conclude our 2019 OGHS program, where our donations help people in need around the world and in communities impacted by disasters in the United States. Please bring your offerings, so they can be dedicated during worship on April 14.



Bethesda Mission Update

Many many thanks to everyone who donated requested items (clothing, blankets, etc.) for our recent outreach with Bethesda Mission on February 22. Our "chase car" (actually, a pickup truck) served as a very efficient way to distribute these items to the homeless in Harrisburg. Additionally, we were able to hand out handmade scarves and hats that had been previously blessed at Salem. Thanks again! (Our next opportunity to help will be on Friday, August 30.)



Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup – Recap

On Saturday, March 23, and surrounding dates, four teams of volunteers from St. Paul's gave our 3-mile assigned stretch of road a good "spring cleaning." Thanks to everyone who helped!

Celebration of Christian Music – Coming Later This Spring

Join us for a special worship service to celebrate Christian music. Once again this spring (date and time TBD) we will have a special worship service, designed to provide an opportunity to celebrate our in-house creative talents. Young or old, vocal or instrumental, solo or combo, skit or puppets, liturgical dance – please be in touch ASAP with Pastor Ray or Amy Ney to begin preparing YOUR creative offering for this special service. Following the program, we will enjoy refreshments.



Stewardship Dinner – Saturday, April 27, 4:30-6:30pm

This will be an Italian Night – All You Can Eat Supper! The menu includes: Homemade Stuffed Shells, Lasagna, Spaghetti, Salad, Italian Bread, and Homemade Desserts. Take out is Available. Come Join Us for Great Food & Fellowship!

Adults - \$10.00; Children Ages 5-12 - \$5.00; Children Ages 4 & Under – Free. We look forward to seeing you there! **We will need volunteers to prepare food, cook, and help with setup and cleanup.**

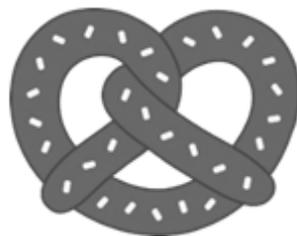
Mr. Sticky Fundraiser

Save the Date!!! Tuesday, April 30, 6am-11am, we will have a Mr. Sticky fundraiser at the church. We'll be counting on you to help sell pre-orders for Mr. Sticky sticky buns (and of course, buy some yourself!). So get your appetites and orders ready! Pre-Order forms are available at church. Please see Pastor Ray for more information, or to volunteer. **Deadline for pre-orders is April 14.**



Lenten Pretzel Recap

Again many thanks to Kyle Matter, Jonnie Adams, Pat Stehr, and other adults, plus all our kids, for making wonderful soft pretzels for Lent on March 10. In just one word? Yummy!



Save the Date – Saturday, May 4, 2pm

The entire congregation is cordially invited to join Doris Shade and her family in celebrating her 90th birthday (actual birthday is April 19). The party will be held downstairs in the church social hall. No gifts, please – just the gift of your presence. If you plan to attend, please put your name on the signup sheet in the side room, so the family can plan accordingly.

Hartman Center 2019 Schedules Available at Church

Our Conference camp and retreat center, Hartman Center, located in Milroy, PA, recently sent out the new 2019 schedule and registration form. The camp has again worked hard to keep prices low. Online registration for all camp programs is available at www.hartmancenter.com. Brochures are available at church (or ask Pastor Ray). And don't forget that scholarship assistance is available from our Church Youth Fund for campers. Check it out, and register early!



Easter Flowers
Stay tuned for ordering information to be announced in church and in the bulletins.



Recognizing Our Graduates

Join us on **Sunday, June 2**, as we recognize and thank our graduates during worship.

Graduate Recognition Sunday – June 2, 2019

Do you know any graduates (from high school *or* from college) whom we should recognize this year? If so, we will have a special dedication for them in June. But please let Pastor Ray know as soon as possible, so we can plan this event.



Name of graduate _____

Graduating from _____

If college what degree received _____

Parents' names _____

Continuing Education – if so where _____

Clubs or Activities involved in (FFA, National Honor Society, etc.) _____

Future plans _____

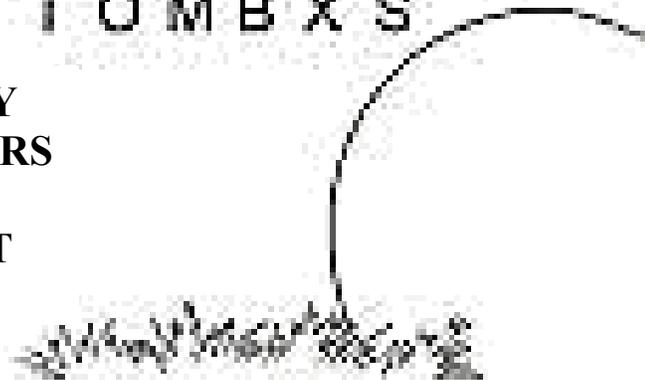
(please return this form to Pastor Ray as soon as possible)

Young People's Page

EASTER WORD SEARCH

S U E X I W R K Y B C
I A C I D B X V U R S
B D V E J K T N O R E
J N P I B V N S E T G
M E J H O Y S W E Q L
R Y M E V R O K V X S
N G C D I L S T N A U
C C L S F A E G G S S
I S E H B J A U D W E
D N V Y Y A D N U S J
D O S W T T O M B X S

RISEN SUNDAY
CROSS FLOWERS
TOMB EGGS
JESUS BASKET
SAVIOR BUNNY



.....
If you love your kids, *please* bring them to church.
If you love your church, *please* bring your kids.
.....

Harrisburg Association Spring Meeting – May 4, 9am

You are welcome to join us on Saturday, May 4, 9am, for the Harrisburg Association Spring Meeting. This will be held at Salem UCC in Elizabethville, and will be a combined business meeting and presentation. Rev. James Lewis of Trinity UMC (Elizabethville) will discuss recent updates and discussions in the United Methodist Church. Please consider being a delegate for this meeting, and find out what's new with all our sister churches.

Reminder: Food Collection Program



Remember, we have a collection box in the side room for donations of non-perishable food items and paper products. These items are given to St. John's UMC Emergency Food Closet, Hegins. For the past thirty plus years, St. John's has been helping families in the Tri-Valley area with emergency food needs. Monetary donations will also be accepted in the form of a check made out to St. John's Emergency Food Closet. **Shopping list: pasta/noodles, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned soups, paper towels, napkins, pancake mix, anything non-perishable.** For more information, or if you are in need of emergency food, please call the St. John's Food Closet at 570-682-9036 or 570-682-9187. Since we began our year-round collection in September 2013, we have collected 3235 items. **MONETARY DONATIONS to the Food Closet are also needed.**

SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE FOOD CLOSET:

Due to increased demand on the Food Closet, there is an immediate need for:

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Egg Noodles 16oz | Instant Mashed Potatoes 13.75oz | Pancake Mix 32oz |
| Syrup 24oz | Jello – lime, orange, strawberry | Mustard |
| Ketchup | Peanut Butter | Jelly |
| Pears 29oz | Peaches 29oz | Fruit Cocktail 29oz |



Upper Dauphin Human Services Center, Inc.
517 Main Street – Lykens, PA 17048

Donations for Upper Dauphin Human Services

We have an ongoing collection for the Upper Dauphin Human Services Clothing Closet (517 Main Street, Lykens): gently-worn/nearly new clothing for babies, children, and teen-agers. Please leave your donations in the collection box at church.



Wheelchair Available at Church

St. Paul's has a wheelchair located in the side room at church. This is available for use during worship, as well as short-term loan, e.g. if someone needs a wheelchair at home while healing from surgery, to get to doctor appointments, etc. You are welcome to borrow the wheelchair – but please use the sign-out sheet (on a clipboard), so we can keep track of it. Thanks.

Local Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) Meetings

- **Millersburg:** Trinity United Church of Christ, 235 Center Street, Millersburg, 7pm on Tuesday evenings: go around back of the church - through double-glass doors, down the steps to pastor's study
- **Lykens:** Our Lady of Help Catholic Church, 732 Main Street, Lykens, 7pm on Thursday and Sunday evenings: go up the outside set of black metal steps (like a fire escape) to second floor. For more information about A.A., contact Tom Moulfair 717-648-3656.



THOSE WHO SERVE IN APRIL

Altar: Volunteer Needed
Newsletter Sponsor: Bruce Koppenhaver
Financial Assistants: Jamie Stehr

Lay Reader: Dottie Frieling
Greeters: Darlene & Mark Rissinger
Ushers: Jamie Stehr

*A clipboard with sign-up sheets is located on the table in the side room. Please volunteer your time to be a greeter, usher, financial assistant, altar committee or a newsletter sponsor. Your help is greatly appreciated every week. **There are a lot of empty spaces.***



| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Cindy Maurer | All the churches in our area | Diane Loy |
| *Ashley Rothermel | Victims of mass-murders | Alzheimer's patients |
| Upper Cheyenne UCC | Migrants and Refugees | Edna Reed |
| Degnitz Family | Military, Police, First Responders | Cancer patients |
| Mike Wolfgang | Victims of fires/floods/storms | All caregivers |
| *Rev. Jimmie Schwartz | Racial & justice issues in the U.S. | Our nation |
| Ann Fay Brady | Victims of Abuse | |
| Forrest Kissinger | The people of the Middle East | |

* Indicates a new addition. Names will be on the list for one month. If you wish to continue to have a name on the prayer list please contact Ruth Koppenhaver at 570-682-3617 or to add someone to the prayer list. **Please remember to notify Pastor Ray if someone is ill or needs a pastoral visit.**

Flower Calendar

4/07/19 *****Open Date*****
4/14/19 *****Open Date*****
4/21/19 In honor and celebration of our Risen Saviour presented by Russ & Amy Ney
4/28/19 In honor of Sally & Lew Zimmerman's 40th wedding anniversary presented by family

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS ON OUR FLOWER CHART, POSTED IN THE SIDE ROOM.

The flower chart for 2019 is in the side room. Please help make our altar beautiful each Sunday. Flowers can be given in honor of someone's birthday, anniversary or in memory of a loved one.

(Fresh flowers may be ordered from: Dee's Flowers, 22 East Main Street, Tremont 570-695-2269 or Flowers & Friends, Ridge Road, Pitman 570-847-5353.)

If anyone asks you why you do kind acts, tell them, "I am a disciple of Jesus. I am serving him by serving you, because that is what he came to do."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



| | | | | | |
|------|------------------|------|--------------------|------|---------------------|
| 4/4 | Kaden Harner | 4/5 | Brooke Ellinger | 4/8 | Mark Dietrich |
| 4/9 | Dakota Davidson | 4/10 | Makayla Gilbert | 4/10 | Dora Deibert |
| 4/15 | Broc Koppenhaver | 4/18 | Brett Stehr | 4/1 | Doris Shade |
| 4/21 | Malorie Westrick | 4/22 | Robert Troutman | 4/26 | Millie Grace Fertig |
| 4/27 | April Fetterolf | 4/27 | Pastor Ray Holland | | |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

| | | | |
|------|----------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| 4/17 | Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Deibert | 4/27 | Pastor Ray & Liz Holland |
| 4/28 | Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Zimmerman | | |

Staying in Touch With Our Shut-Ins

Some of our older sisters and brothers in Christ are homebound, or now reside in assisted living or convalescent homes. But we can STILL be in touch with them, and they would LOVE to hear from us. A list of our shut-ins is posted in the side room at church, including names and addresses. Please Check it out, and send out some cards. You will be bringing warmth and hope to some old friends.

And if you know someone we should add to the list, please let us know.



Red Prayer Bowl at St. Paul's



Remember that you can always place your written prayer requests in our red prayer bowl, located in the side room. Our Prayer Chain meets monthly to review and pray over all requests. And if YOU feel called to join this prayer ministry – perhaps you have the spiritual gift of intercessory prayer – then please let Ruth Koppenhaver or Pastor Ray know, and we will be sure to include you at the monthly prayer gatherings. Note: when the group meets and prays over requests, they are added to our newsletter's prayer list, and are removed from the prayer bowl. **Any Military Personnel to Pray For?** *Do you have family or friends serving in the military? Our Prayer Chain members want to keep them in prayer – please let us know.*

**National Suicide
Prevention Hotline:**
1-800-273-TALK
(1-800-273-8255)

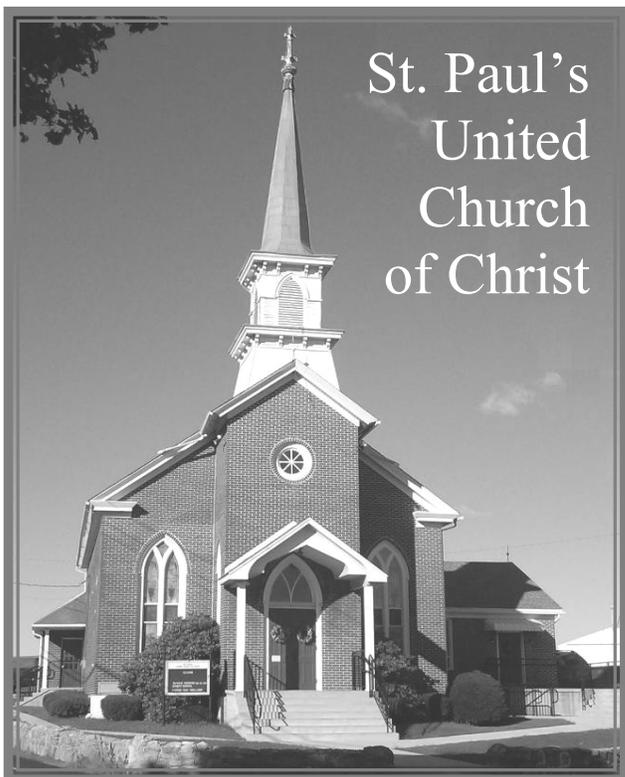


BULLETIN & NEWSLETTER DEADLINES – the deadline for information for the church bulletin is TUESDAY and the deadline for the newsletter is the 20th OF THE MONTH. You can contact Pat Miller at 570-682-3720 with your information.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2300 EAST MAIN STREET
SACRAMENTO, PENNSYLVANIA 17968

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER



PASTOR

Pastor Ray Holland 570-452-0050
Email: rayholland03@gmail.com or
stpaulsucc.sacramento@gmail.com

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Amy Ney

CHURCH SECRETARY

Pat Miller

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE

Sandy Deibert

WORSHIP SERVICE & SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, 10:30 am