

## Pastor Ray's Corner

Alleluia! Jesus Christ is Risen!  
He Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!  
(Um, now what???)



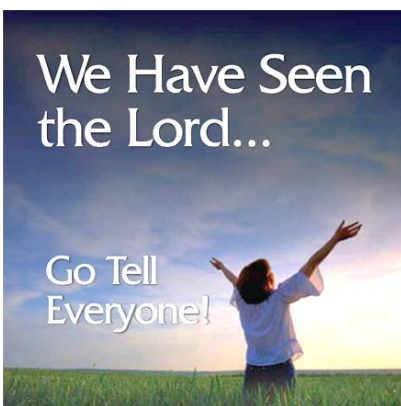
With Easter this year coming at the very end of March, and Ascension Thursday not coming until May 9, what can we say about the intervening time? More importantly, what can we say about JESUS during this interlude? He has risen from the dead, but he has not yet ascended to the Father in heaven. What did he do in between? What did his disciples do?

The Gospels tell us a few stories of the risen Jesus appearing to his disciples – in the upper room, on the road to Emmaus, on a beach. We know that he continued teaching them during this time. And just think – it's not theoretical anymore! The disciples have the living proof right in front of them that death has been conquered, and therefore they don't need to fear death anymore.

I believe that this time together was what strengthened Jesus' followers for the journey ahead. It would be a difficult journey, filled with enemies, threats, beatings, and (except for John), martyrdom. But now, having seen Jesus defeat death just as he said he would, they have a new and unshakable confidence. Even Thomas (well, the second time around) had come to have complete faith in Jesus.

Not only did the disciples now have confidence for the road ahead, but they also had hope that no-one could take from them. Sure, they would have to say goodbye one more time to Jesus when he ascended into heaven, but now they knew it wasn't really "goodbye," but only "see you again soon." All the pieces of the puzzle had fallen into place. Jesus' words and teachings now made sense. And best of all, they knew that Jesus' promise to be with them in spirit until the end of the age was a real promise.

Confidence, hope . . . and peace. Again, just as Jesus had promised, his disciples now had a peace beyond what the world can understand. Whether their efforts to share the Good News went well or not, these followers of Jesus now had a deep inner peace that couldn't be shaken. They had SEEN the risen Lord – everything now made sense, and the end of the story was in sight.



In this season of the Risen Jesus, as we share the Good News, may we too be blessed by him with confidence, hope, and peace.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Ray

## Upcoming St. Paul's and Wider Church Activities

**Worship – Sundays, 8:45am**

**Busy Bags available in side room for children**

**Sunday School for Children**

**Choir Rehearsal – Sundays, after worship**

**Handbell Rehearsal – see Amy Ney for schedule**

- **March 31, 10am – Easter service (not 10:30am)**
- **April 4, 6-11am – Mr. Sticky fundraiser sale at St. Paul's (volunteers start at 3:30am)**
- **April 7 – AED demonstration during worship**
- **April 7, 12:15pm – Worship & Parish Life Committee**
- **April 8, 10am – Prayer Chain**
- **April 9, 7pm – Consistory meeting**
- **April 21, 2pm – CROP Walk (raindate April 28), Valley View**

*Acolyte Schedule:*

*April 7 – Open*

*April 14 – Hayden Dunbar*

*April 21 – Nathan Brandenberger*

*April 28 – Olivia Brandenberger*

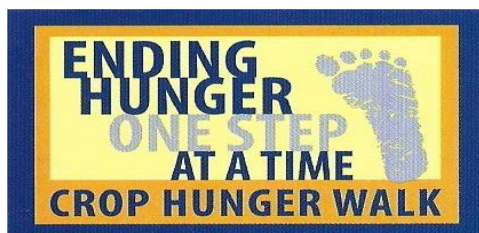


### **Mr. Sticky Sale – April 4**

On Thursday, April 4, 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!). Pre-Order forms are available at church. Please see Pastor Ray for more information, or to volunteer (3:30-11am).

### **AED Training Coming to St. Paul's – April 7**

Now that we have an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator), it's important that people know how to use it, if the need should arise. On **Sunday, April 7**, Chief Ron Radel will join us, and provide brief training during worship on using an AED. Come join us as we dedicate our hearts to God and learn how to take care of our hearts!



### **CROP Walk – April 21**

The Tri-Valley Ministerium will sponsor a CROP Walk on Sunday, April 21, starting at 2pm (raindate April 28). The fundraiser walk will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Valley View. Water will be provided for walkers. If you are interested in walking, or sponsoring a walker, please see April Fetterolf to sign up or sponsor a walker.



### **Pine Creek Outreach Ministry Seeks New Volunteers – April 27**

The volunteers at Pine Creek UMC who serve our community through their food bank and clothing closet are seeking new volunteers to assist with this important outreach. There will be an informational meeting at their church in Kushwa (Spring Glen) on April 27, 1pm. If you would like to help out in our community, this is an excellent way to do so. FYI, our own ongoing food collection helps to support both this ministry and St. John's Emergency Food Closet in Hegins.



## Pretzels at St. Paul's!

The pretzel shape reminds us of the medieval way of praying, with arms folded over the chest. During worship on February 25, our young people brought this symbol to life – and yum! Working with Kyle and Jonnie Matter and Ann Strohecker, they made pretzels for everyone to enjoy after church. Thanks, everyone!



PRETZELS!



## Welcome Linda Boltz!

Many of us already know Linda, and during worship on March 17, she made it official by becoming a member at St. Paul's (in addition to her home church in Tremont). So please welcome her – officially!





### Bethesda Mission Recap

Many thanks to our volunteers who served supper at the Men's Mission on March 9. This is always a very gratifying and humbling opportunity to serve those in need. Stay tuned for our next opportunity to serve.

### Caitlin's Smiles Recap

Also, many thanks to our families and young people who helped assemble craft kits on March 26. These kits will benefit many young people who are hospitalized long term. Stay tuned for our next opportunity to serve.



### Northern Cluster Lenten Service – Wonderful Music!

Members and friends from our Northern Cluster of UCC Churches enjoyed an upbeat musical program on March 3, held at Salem UCC. Jeremy Goodling, a talented Christian musician from McAlisterville, shared his musical gifts with us. Afterwards, we enjoyed refreshments downstairs.

### Ongoing Assistance Needed for Chase Coleman

Please keep Chase and his family in your prayers: for Chase, for healing, patience, and strength; and for his family, for strength and comfort. In addition to prayers, there are two ways we can assist the family with the many expenses they will incur:

1. You can donate online to: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/care-for-chase/donate>
  2. You can mail or drop off a donation at the Gratz Bank (mention that it is for Chase's fund): Gratz Bank, c/o Chase Coleman Medical Expenses, 1625 West Main Street, P.O. Box 816, Valley View, PA 17983
- Cards can be sent to: Chase Coleman, 614 Valley Road, Hegins, PA 17938

Thank you for any and all the ways you can provide support for Chase and his family.

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## Graduate Recognition Sunday Coming Soon

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 at church. Please let Pastor Ray know as soon as possible, so we can plan this event. *(We are tentatively planning this for Sunday, May 19, if that date will work for the graduates so they can join us in church.)*

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.)

## Treasurer's Report – February 2024

	TOTAL
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Interest Checking	1.98
Mission Offerings	
One Great Hour Of Sharing	20.00
Total Mission Offerings	20.00
<b>Offerings</b>	
Envelopes	5,029.00
Initial Offering	13.00
Loose	90.00
Total Offerings	5,132.00
Outside Contribution	300.00
Reimbursement from Salem	
Electric-Parsonage	52.89
Oil-Parsonage	317.10
Payroll-Dental	44.37
Payroll-Health Pastor	554.00
Payroll-Life/Disability	37.67
Payroll-Pension	351.56
Payroll Pastor Salary	2,264.58
Rent Value-Parsonage	250.00
Spouse Supplemental	84.51
Water-Parsonage	48.64
Total Reimbursement from Salem	4,005.32
Special Services Income	
Flowers	120.00
Total Special Services Income	120.00
Stewardship Income	
Redners receipts	114.22
Total Stewardship Income	114.22
Wall damage	500.00
Total Income	10,193.52
<b>Gross Profit</b>	10,193.52
<b>Expense</b>	
Building & Maintenance	
Repairs-Parsonage	99.98
Repairs Church	500.00
Trash Removal	156.00
Total Building & Maintenance	755.98
Charitable Contributions	
St John's Food Closet	500.00
Total Charitable Contributions	500.00
Computer and Internet Expenses	141.81
Ministry Expenses	
Worship Supplies	21.19
Total Ministry Expenses	21.19
Office Supplies	
Copier Lease	126.56
Printing Supplies	72.58
Total Office Supplies	199.14



## Treasurer's Report – February 2024 (cont'd)

	TOTAL
PA Income Tax	152.09
Payroll expenses	
Dental Insurance	88.75
Health Insurance	
Spouse Supplemental	169.02
Health Insurance - Other	1,108.00
Total Health Insurance	1,277.02
Life/Disability	75.34
Pension	703.13
Payroll expenses - Other	4,986.67
Total Payroll expenses	7,130.91
Utilities	
Electric-Church	149.59
Electric Parsonage	105.78
Oil Church	966.95
Oil Parsonage	466.64
Water Church	61.24
Water Parsonage	97.29
Total Utilities	1,847.49
Total Expense	10,748.61
Net Ordinary Income	-555.09
Net Income	-555.09



### Food Collection Program

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 570-682-9119 (Sharol Snyder). Since we began our year-round collection in September 2013, we have collected 5380 items. **MONETARY DONATIONS are also appreciated. IMPORTANT: Please make sure there are no expired items, and if you bring things in boxes, please use small boxes - they are easier to lift.**



### Donations for Upper Dauphin Human Services

We have an ongoing collection for the Upper Dauphin Human Services Clothing Closet (727 Main Street, Lykens): gently-worn/nearly new clothing for babies, children, and teen-agers. Please leave your donations in the collection box at church.

#### Church Policy Regarding Photos Etc.

The church and/or its representatives may take photographs and make video recordings during programs. Please advise the church immediately, in writing, if you do not wish to appear in any church publications.

## Young People's Page

### The Resurrection

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." Mark 16:6 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Mark 16:1-8



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

AFRAID  
RISEN  
SUNRISE

BODY  
MARY  
JESUS

FIRST  
TOMB  
WEEK

DAY  
SPICES  
ANOINT

CRUCIFIED  
ROLLED  
STONE

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

# THOSE WHO SERVE IN APRIL

Altar:

Newsletter Sponsor: Janet Smith

Financial Assistants: n/a

Lay Reader: Ellen Carroll

Greeters: n/a

Ushers: n/a

*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.***



## PRAY FOR EVERYONE HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD BEING AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS

Alzheimer's patients	All the churches in our area	Lizzie Layton
The people of Ukraine	Victims of abuse	Victims of mass-murders & their perpetrators
Our nation	Upper Cheyenne UCC	Migrants and Refugees
Carolyn Sargent	Ann Fay & Kevin Brady	Military, Police, First Responders
Mike Wolfgang	Cancer patients & caregivers	The people of Israel & the innocent people of Gaza
Chase Coleman & family	Karen Wolfe	Racial & justice issues in the U.S.
World Peace	Misty Rice	American farmers & their families
Bill & Ginger Fishel	Emily Degnitz	Sandy Deibert & family
Lois & Paul Bennick	Julie Strohecker	Mike Frady and family
Pastor Ray	Kim Zweibel	Vicki Holland
Steve Klinger	Caitlin Shemas	Sherry Wiest
*Roseann Mele	*Family of Brian Musolino	*Becky Deibert

\* 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

04/07/24	Open
04/14/24	Open
04/21/24	Open
04/28/24	Open

*The flower chart for 2023 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.)



## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



4/5 Brooke Ellinger  
4/10 Dora Deibert  
4/22 Robert Troutman  
4/27 Pastor Ray Holland

4/8 Mark Dietrich  
4/15 Broc Koppenhaver  
4/26 Millie Grace Fertig

4/10 Makayla Gilbert  
4/21 Malorie Westrick  
4/27 April Fetterolf

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

4/17 Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Deibert  
4/27 Pastor Ray & Liz  
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.***



bringing  
cheer

### **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:  
DIAL 988**



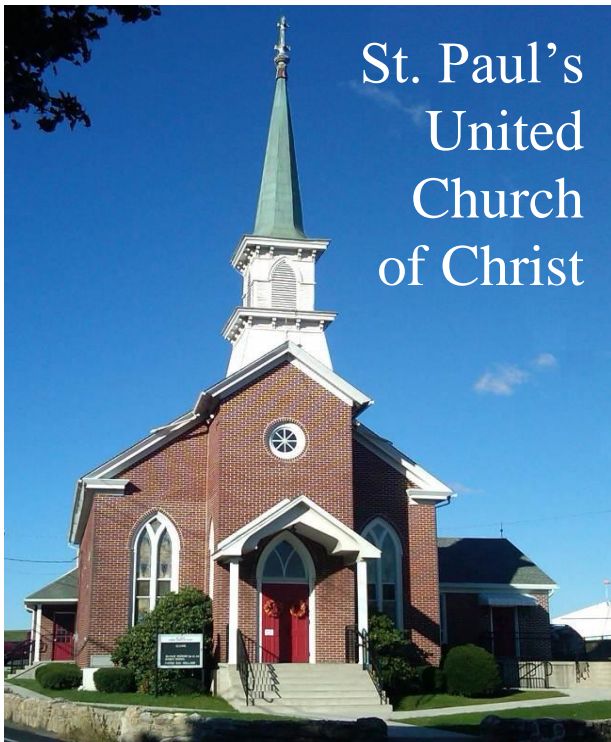
***If anyone asks you why you do kind acts, tell them, "I am a disciple of Jesus.  
I am serving him by serving you, because that is what he came to do."***

**BULLETIN & NEWSLETTER DEADLINES** – the deadline for information for the church bulletin is TUESDAY and the deadline for the newsletter is the 20<sup>th</sup> OF THE MONTH. You can contact Angie Brandenberger at 570-590-8277 with your information.

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

*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*

## **APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER**



**CHURCH:** 570-682-9828

Email: [stpaulsucc.sacramento@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsucc.sacramento@gmail.com)

**PASTOR**

Pastor Ray Holland 570-452-0050

Email: [rayholland03@gmail.com](mailto:rayholland03@gmail.com)

**ORGANIST/PIANIST**

Amy Ney

**ASSISTANT CHURCH MUSICIAN**

Sarah Degnitz

**CHURCH SECRETARY**

Angela Brandenberger

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE**

Larry Michael

**WORSHIP SERVICE & SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sundays, 8:45 am