

Grace and Peace to you all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

As 2020 began we never could have predicted a global COVID-19 pandemic, the escalating violence against people of color, the raging fires and hurricanes causing destruction, and the effects these would have on every facet of our lives. It seems impossible to be talking about stewardship and giving when so much uncertainty exists in our world. Our worship series this fall is boldly entitled, “A Way Out of No Way.” Scripture proclaims with certainty that with God there is a way out, a way forward, always. God is our certainty. In the story of Noah and the ark, God promises that life will always win out for all people and for all creation. In the journey of Abraham and Sarah, God pours out home and family and blessing on this barren couple. Joseph dreams dreams even in prison. And the great Exodus story sees God saving God’s people again and again and again.




The act of giving is an act of hope, a declaration of faith, a sign that even though we might not see a way forward, we believe that God does. The act of giving is an act of gratitude for how God has been present with and for us in the past, and in anticipation of that promise and presence in the now and in the future. God has been present with us thus far in 2020 in the lives and ministries of our church family: through vibrant online worship, zoom meetings and small groups, anti-racism discussion groups, volunteers stepping up to help wherever needed, generous giving to our ministries and to our larger community and those most in need.

This fall our Children and Youth Ministry Coordinators are planning events for our whole church family, like Trunk-r-Treating (details coming very soon). They will be mailing out ‘blessing boxes’ to children and youth, and already have a Facebook connections page up and running. Staff and church leaders are creating many, many layers of protection within our beloved building so that we may worship in person this Autumn while still livestreaming amazing worship to hundreds of people. We will be supporting our local schools, the homeless shelter, refugee and immigrant ministries and so very much more. Subscribe to our biweekly emails by visiting our website for all announcements.

In this mailing you will find a ‘commitment to give card’ with an explanation flyer about the many ways to give to your beloved church home. You can mail in the card or go online and make your commitment (www.stpaulsithaca.org/giving). We have exciting new ways to connect with one another to offer love and support, to be good stewards of our resources, and to worship God with all that we are. How is God calling you to give through the life and ministry of St. Paul’s UMC? I can’t wait to hear! Thank you for all your love and support and generosity!

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Teresa M. Sivers
Pastor

“St. Paul’s is a compassionate community led and transformed by the Spirit”

Teresa Sivers, Senior Pastor **Debbie Allen**, Pastor of Loving Care Ministries
Anne Horst, Hospitality & Connections Ministries Coordinator **Kayla Eells**, Children’s Ministries Coordinator
Alexa Allmann, Youth Ministries & Communications Coordinator **Emily Preston**, Choral & Ensembles Director **Caleb Bates**, Organist/Pianist
Michelle Eells, Administrative & Building Ministries Coordinator/Bookkeeper