

Newsletter Lent Easter Spring 2022

From Pastor Beckie

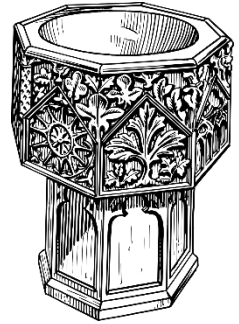
Cherished Friends in Christ,

The early church created Lent as a season for the church to accompany people entering the final stretch of their preparation for baptism at Easter or rites of reconciliation and restoration during Holy Week (Maundy Thursday).

The early church developed the fifty days of Easter Season as a time for the church to accompany the newly baptized or reconciled on a journey of formation in doctrine and ministry.

WE are about to embark on a journey of remembering our baptismal vows as we journey through Lent. Marcia McFee and Mark Miller collaborated to provide the framework for worship filled with inspiring music which will kindle within us a burning passion to witness for Christ by pursuing justice ministries in our community and world. The series titled, "Roll Down Justice" leads us to consider how our worship, study, relationships, mission, and outreach in the name of Christ, should flow from the waters of baptism like an ever-flowing stream of love.

On this journey we are called to encourage and challenge one another to faithful expression of faith, while the Spirit holds us accountable to continued growth in faith. Please invite friends and acquaintances to join us as we seek to bring Christ to the world.



LENT 2022 WORSHIP SERIES:

"Roll Down Justice"

by Marcia McFee and Mark Miller

Inspired by the prophet Amos, this series reminds us that we are called to "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

God called us to worship, study, and then engage in action as Christ-followers, which will make this prophecy reality.

During Lent we will combine powerful scripture, proclamation, and music to help us reflect on our baptismal covenant, seeking justice and bathing in God's love.

Special Services for Lent

Ash Wednesday ~ March 2 at 7:00 p.m. ~ Begin the Lenten journey with repentance, seeking justice.

Palm Sunday ~ April 10 at 10:30 a.m., preceded by Palm Sunday Parade at 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday ~ April 14 at 7:00 p.m. ~ Sharing the Last Supper with Christ

Good Friday ~ April 15 at 7:00 p.m. ~ Remembering Jesus' Passion

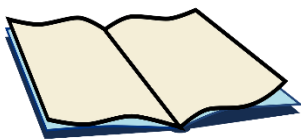
EASTER - April 17 at 10:30 a.m. ~ Resurrection Celebration! Christ is Risen!



The offering will be used to repair and maintain the parsonage.

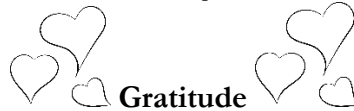
Thank you for your gracious giving and support of our pastor's beautiful home!

Lenten Devotional Booklet



Several St. Paulians have contributed meaningful and thoughtful words, art, and music for this year's Lenten Devotional Booklet. The booklets will be available the week of February 27th, as Lent begins on March 2nd. There will an entry for each day of this season of self-examination, commitment, and growth. Pick yours up at the church outside the sanctuary doors.

St. Paul's is a compassionate community, lead and transformed by the Spirit.



Many thanks to all those who participated in adorning St. Paul's for the Advent~Christmas season, and to those who moved the decorations back into storage after the new year. Many hands made joyful work!

Opportunities here, near, far, coming soon and later



Happy 100th Birthday Rachel!



St. Paul's own Rachel Kaufmann will celebrate her 100th Birthday on **Feb. 28th!** What a great feat for an awesome lady! May God bless you with many more years to share with us! Help us see that she gets 100 cards for this extraordinary day! Address your cards to:

**Rachel Kaufmann
116 Dearborn Place
Ithaca NY 14850**



Children's and Youth Ministries at St. Paul's



St. Paul's is seeking adult volunteers and persons who are interested in applying for part-time staff positions as we re-launch our Children's and Youth ministries. As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, we have the opportunity to reimagine the ways that we share Christ's good news with the young and engage them in exciting opportunities for mission and service. If you or someone you know are interested in either volunteer or staff opportunities, please contact Rev. Beckie Sweet at pastor@stpaulsithaca.org.



St. Paul's Festival Chimes is looking for more ringers! If you can read music, we can teach you the tips, tricks, trills, and techniques. We follow St. Paul's safety protocols regarding COVID-19 and offer fun-filled weekly rehearsals and monthly performances in worship. Please share this with your friends and family! Contact Dorothy Preston at 607-539-6293 or dorothypreston721@gmail.com if you are interested or would like more information.



St. Paul's Celebrates 24th Reconciling Anniversary

In 1998 St. Paul's UMC voted to become a Reconciling Congregation. This means that All people are welcome to worship and participate in the ministry of the church regardless of sexual orientation or gender identification. This year we celebrated our 24th Reconciling Anniversary. continued

When we became a Reconciling congregation we joined Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) because we believe that together, with other like-minded churches, we can make a change within the United Methodist denomination.

Reconciling Ministries Network equips and mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to **resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.**



The language of our mission comes from the United Methodist baptismal vow. Simply put, we work to advance justice and inclusion for all LGBTQ people in The United Methodist Church and beyond.

Since 1984, RMN has worked to transform hearts, churches, and communities. We do that through grassroots organizing, resourcing and educating, denomination-level change-making, pastoral care, and working with you, faithful people hopeful for a reconciled Church.

RMN began as a faith-based response to institutionalized homophobia braided into the fabric of The United Methodist Church. Now, over 30 years later, the Reconciling movement spans four continents, 1,000+ churches, and 40,000+ individuals and still growing. Love is still growing!

Last year, RMN put forth amended guidelines for new applicants hoping to join Reconciling Ministries Network. RMN sent existing Reconciling churches the new guidelines and asked us to consider updating our Reconciling statements.

St. Paul's Reconciling team felt that this was a good time to take a look at our statement to make sure the language was current as well as stating clearly our intentions as a congregation. As a team we worked together to bring you the newly revised statement that is currently being reviewed by Church Council.

At St. Paul's we have a vibrant growing Reconciling committee and all had a hand in blending together the original Reconciling statements with the new guidelines presented by RMN.

We are most proud of the teamwork and careful contribution of all of our team. We feel that while our new statement includes all of the ideas put forth by RMN it also is rich in history and values the hard work and original content that was so carefully crafted 24 years ago.

We look forward to presenting the revised Reconciling statement to the Church Council and on the church website after Council approval.

For further information regarding Reconciling Ministries Network: www.rmnetwork.org



Update by Jami Breedlove

Loving Care Ministries focuses on creating community and companionship especially to our beloved Senior members and those who need extra support or have special needs.

A lot of headway has been made fellowshipping with those in residential centers and home visitation. My goal has been to visit monthly to these members either individually or in a group.

I am hoping to have volunteers to help with visitation or phone calls. If you feel called to take part in this rewarding and important ministry email Jami Breedlove at: lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org.

Also a big **Thank You** to all of the volunteers that are sending cards each month through the **Card Ministry**. When I visit people each month, I see the cards that you have sent and hear how much the connection and prayers mean to those who receive them.



Another chance to be in community at St. Paul's is by joining the **St. Paul's Flower Club!**

Each week we will oversee the flowers that grace the altar in the sanctuary. If you would like to take part by arranging flowers that are purchased or garden-grown email me and we will get you involved in the fun.



Where There is a Need

When responding to emergencies, the United Methodist Church has a stellar reputation thanks to the work of the Global Ministries branch of our denomination. Did you know that locally we have a resource that also does amazing post-disaster relief work, but it focuses on our region? The Missions Team has an invitation in two parts for you:

- 1.) Please donate to help restock severely depleted relief resources. Our goal is to raise \$3,750 by March 4 to assemble 50 flood buckets for distribution. Donate through March 4th; send checks made to St. Paul's with "HUB initiative" written in the memo.
- 2.) Help us assemble the buckets on Friday, March 25th in Liverpool from 4:30-6:30. We will also tour the Liverpool facility to learn more about the amazing work our church is doing in the Upper New York Conference. Join our enthusiastic tour group as we assemble and learn how to support those in need.

Links for more information: <https://www.unyumc.org/news/article/the-united-methodist-center-agrees-to-be-a-mission-central-hub> or search "Upper New York HUB" and <https://www.unyumc.org/mission/umcor-supply-list>. To register or ask questions, please contact Anne Horst ahorst@stpaulsithaca.org.



Prayer Walks Beginning Again!

Please join Anne Horst at the Cass Park Children's Garden to walk as a community in prayer and conversation. For five weeks on Thursdays at 4:30 pm starting March 24, we will meet together briefly to set our intention in prayer, walk halfway in silent prayer, and return in conversation. The sessions will run weekly through April 21st. Please contact Anne Horst to register: ahorst@stpaulsithaca.org



Mindful Yoga is back!

During this calm to moderate level class we will practice a breath-centered, mindful flow that can facilitate a connection with our spiritual gifts of strength, power, and flexibility. We will use Bible-inspired contemplation to facilitate a connection to the Divine flowing in each of us, making a welcoming place within our hearts to be led and transformed by the Spirit.

continued

Join this joyful, **virtual** community as we flow from pose to pose, breathe, and meditate. Newbies and regular practitioners are invited!

Session I, three weeks February 21-March 7 4:30-5:30 pm.

Session II, three weeks starting March 28. Help us pick a time by sending your availability to Anne Horst, ahorst@stpaulsithaca.org. Yoga style TBD--please tell us of your interest! Erica has many wonderful ideas of class possibilities. Dare to dream and let us know.

Register at <https://openflowyogaregistration.as.me/?appointmentType=22137143> or email Anne Horst for a link to register. Free of charge. Instructions will be on the online registration form.

Meditation

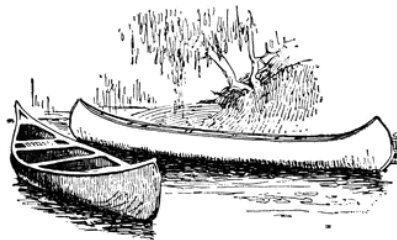
Seeing with New Eyes: Embodying the promises of Jesus

“Aligned with the One are those whose lives radiate from a core of love; they shall see God everywhere.” *a translation from Aramaic of Matthew 5:8 by Neil Douglas-Klotz*

In this virtual workshop, we will explore what might be inferred from early Christian practices from multiple sources, and Jesus’ own path and teachings and how it can be translated into our own lives. Guided meditations, collaborative discussions, techniques from other contemplative sources will be offered in this training and methodologies which can more effectively bring us into “oneness with the Father” “on earth as it is in heaven”, as Jesus promised was possible. Spiritual maturity includes many elements, but all point toward the ultimate goal of opening to divine Love as Being in our lives.”

Cynthia Lunine, Unified Mindfulness L2 Coach, will guide the group through 8 weeks on Zoom Wednesday mornings 7:00 am-8:30 am April 13th-June 1st. ***If you are interested, but cannot make this time, please send your availability and interest to Cynthia at: clunine@gmail.com, we will try to accommodate the majority. To register, please send an email to Anne Horst, ahorst@stpaulsithaca.org, or Cynthia Lunine clunine@gmail.org.

Casowasco Camp and Retreat Center Events



Casowasco is now hiring for Summer 2022. Looking for staff ages 17 and up to be counselors, lifeguards, program leaders, health professionals and kitchen staff. Apply online at www.casowasco.org.

Register to attend camp. Casowasco offers supportive small groups; daily worship and Bible studies; camperships available for all programs. See the website for more information and to register.

Mother’s Day Brunch, Sunday, May 8, 2022 seatings at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm. Adults \$30, children 4-12 years \$19 and Seniors \$26. Register online or call 315-364-8756, ext. 2153.

Open House, Sunday May 15, 2022 1:00-5:00PM. Gather for a light lunch, fellowship, and fun activities.

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Easter Plants



We invite you to purchase an Easter plant in honor or memory of a loved one. In addition to beautifying our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, some of these plants will be delivered to our homebound members through our Loving Care Team.

The suggested donation is \$22. Please make checks payable to St. Paul's United Methodist Church and write "Easter Plants" in the memo.

Please order by Wednesday, April 6 so we can include you in the bulletin.

Enclosed is \$_____ for an Easter plant.

Please print clearly:

In Memory of _____ OR In Honor of _____

Given by: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

I will donate my Easter plant **OR** **I will pick up my Easter plant**

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