

Fall 2022 newsletter

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

The Pastor's Epistle

*"See that none of you repays evil for evil,
but always seek to do good to one another and to all.
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

I Thessalonians 5:15-17 NRSV

In the Introduction to Voices: Native American Hymns and Worship Resources, D. Donald Donato (Cherokee, Choctaw) writes, "... the Apostle Paul was not the first to urge people to 'pray without ceasing.' Native Americans have traditions which stress that because life is a gift from God, everything one does with life is a gift back to God and, thus, a communication with God. Speaking and singing in ceremonial settings, such as Christian worship, are very pointedly communicating with God. But even love songs and songs full of humor are prayer. Because the Creator formed human beings to feel the emotions which accompany the songs, and because all of life is a prayer, so too is music. Such has been the belief among Native Americans since the oral traditions began thousands of years ago."

During the fall of each year, my thoughts often turn to gratitude, harvest, and stewardship. Our Native American neighbors and ancestors have so much to teach us about our relationships with Creator and creation. This includes our ability and willingness to care for the earth out of gratitude for the many ways in which the earth sustains our lives ~ all a part of God's created order. Each year I must ask myself, "In what ways am I showing utmost respect to God and for God's creation through my life?" I consider worship, stewardship of resources, care for nature, seeking environmental health, acknowledging my role in climate deterioration, seeking opportunities to have a positive influence on others, and so on.

I invite you to join me in seeking God's will for our lives as we endeavor to be ever more faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to our care. We do have opportunities to influence change: in our practices, in seeking climate justice, in the ways we model faith-filled living and healthy relationships with one another and with the earth and all of its inhabitants. May we embody a living faith that is ever growing and bearing the fruit of God's reign.

Rev. Beckie Sweet

Fall Worship Series: Holy Ground

During worship on the Sundays between Sept. 11 and Oct. 23, we will connect more deeply with God's Creation. In so doing, God will lead us to actively claim our call to be caretakers of the earth and its inhabitants. We will explore being stewards of God's created order.

The Joys of Summer—here are a few fun things we did

Older Adult Ministry Picnic a Huge Success



Listening and learning after lunch to (L-R) Sally Grubb, Diana Riesman, and Rick Manning

On June 14 around 40 friends from St. Paul's gathered at the small pavilion at Stewart Park. Chair Barbara Eshelman provided festive decorations for the tables, and we met together for the first time in over two years.

We heard from Friends of Stewart Park about the waterfront trail, the inclusive playground and Wharton Studio Museum. The program was fascinating and informative but most fun was getting a chance to see and catch up with those that we have missed for so long.

We look forward to the next event coming up on Thursday, September 15.

July 28 Baseball Game a Hit



A dozen members of St. Paul's and friends attended the Syracuse Mets' game on a balmy Thursday evening, along with over 300 other United Methodists. Bishop Mark J. Webb tossed out the first pitch

and many UMC parishioners sang the National Anthem at home plate.

The game was tied until the bottom of the 9th. The Mets hit a home run, batted in one runner, and won 5:3. The best parts of the game were the dollar hot dogs and drinks and the fun of being together. Join us at the next game on Friday, September 9.

Why do lions move at the end of summer?

Because the pride goeth before the fall!

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From the desk of Jami Breedlove-Crouch, Loving Care Ministries Coordinator

Wanted: Hospitality Ministers and Coffee Hour Hosts

We are beginning to plan our fall programming and, thanks be to God, we can gather again.



Hospitality Ministers greet people outside and inside the building, assist people with signing in and finding a seat if needed. Hospitality Ministers are sometimes the first people that visitors see; for parishioners, they are a welcoming presence.

We hold fellowship time outside the Aurora Street entrance where we offer refreshments to worshippers and passersby, too. Pandemic permitting, we hope to resume coffee hour inside when the weather cools.

The duties of the Coffee Hour Hosts require little time and expense. I prepare items in advance so set up is easy. With willing helpers many hands make light work! Hosts may purchase or bake goods and donations of snacks and drinks are welcome. If you would like to help, please contact Jami Breedlove at lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org



Purchase Flowers for the Altar



We have flowers each week at the worship service. You may purchase flowers to commemorate any occasion or individual. Please fill out the form below or contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org.

Altar Flowers for (occasion/ in honor/memory of) : _____

Given by: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Space permitting, would you like an acknowledgement in the bulletin? yes ____ no ____

Acknowledgement: _____

Date for flowers at the altar: _____ or check if no preference: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please check if you would like to ☐ take the flowers or ☐ donate them to the church.

Why do trees dislike tests so much?

Because they get stumped on the questions!

Music to our ears

Bell Ringers Wanted



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. We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:00 starting September 8. Contact Dorothy Preston at dpreston@stpaulsithaca.org or 607-539-6293 if you are interested or would like more information.

Calling all singers!!

If you have ever thought you might enjoy singing with the Chancel Choir, now is your chance! The pandemic diminished our numbers, but our core group of singers is dedicated, enthusiastic and eager to welcome some new voices starting September 15. The Chancel Choir rehearses Thursday evenings from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. and performs 1-3 times a month in the Sunday church service. You don't have to know how to read music although some familiarity is helpful. We are especially desperate for tenors and basses. Email Emily Preston, Epreston@stpaulsithaca.org, if you have questions or want to join.

Happening Now



Reconciling Ministry at the New York State Fair!

Volunteers from St. Paul's Reconciling Ministry are at the NY State Fair. As a theme sponsor, St. Paul's received an ad in the New York Pride Network Guide published by FAIRNY, the Fairness Alliance and Information Resources of New York, Inc.

St. Paul's worked at the Pride booth on Faith Days—Sunday, August 28 and September 4—and participated in Pride Day on August 26. As a bit of background: FAIRNY provides resources for the LGBTQ community and allies and has been at the fair for over 20 years. Stop by the booth in the Chevy Court pavilion and say hello.



Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Let's enjoy a ballgame together on **Friday, September 9 at 6:35 p.m.** when we go to NBT Stadium in Syracuse to watch the Syracuse Mets take on the Rochester Red Wings. The game is followed by fireworks! The cost for tickets is \$12 for Adults; \$10 for Seniors 62+ and children 12 & under. To reserve your seats with our group, **let Pastor Beckie know by September 1.** Invite your family and friends to join in the fun!

Lend A Hand

Are you looking to **help with food insecurity around Ithaca**? You can join other St. Paulians in the following ways:

Volunteer at the **Kitchen Cupboard** food pantry at the Salvation Army. Volunteers work in teams to pack food weekday afternoons. St. Paul's is one of many congregations that support the food pantry through ACT (Area Congregations Together). Jennifer Colvin (jstevenscolvin@yahoo.com) coordinates the volunteers from St. Paul's.

Make sandwiches for people experiencing homelessness. It's a great volunteer activity to do with your family or friends. You can make the sandwiches at home and then deliver them to St. John's Community Services on State St.. We usually provide 40 Turkey and Cheese sandwiches and 20 Peanut Butter and Jelly. Please contact Carolyn Aslan (carolyn.aslan@gmail.com) if you are interested in either **Tuesday, November 8, and/or Tuesday, December 13.**

Bring non-perishable food and hygiene items for the **blue cabinets**. You can leave the items in the narthex, and volunteers will distribute them around Ithaca.

Feed My Starving Children/ Ithaca Mobile Pack 2022

This year Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack will be held in person **Saturday, October 1, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** at the Ithaca Armory. Soon our St. Paul's Mission Team will be calling for volunteers to help pack more than 3,000 meals. This will be a fun time for us to be together and with other churches. Invest your time and money to help send meals all over the world. Sign up with Jami Breedlove-Crouch at lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org.



Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance's News

Exciting changes for the first guests of the ISA: Drucila has her work permit and a job, and Jessie is entering preschool. In addition, they moved out of the First Congregational Church to a private home. A group of ISA volunteers continues to assist them on their road to independence.

On Thursday, September 8 at 6:30 p.m. the St. Paul's team that supports ISA **will meet** to evaluate the experience. If you have been a volunteer or would like to be, please attend this meeting. Contact Linda Yetter, ISA volunteer coordinator, at lindayetter@gmail.com for discussion questions.

A big celebration with potluck will follow after church at First Congregational on Sunday, September 25. Everyone who has helped in any way in the past two years is invited.

What type of vehicle should you use for a fall hayride?

How do trees get on the internet?

Why do birds fly south in the fall?

An autumn-mobile.

They log in!

Because it's too far to walk.

And Coming Right Up

Young Adult Gathering

All interested **College Students, Graduate Students, and other Young Adults** (18-30 somethings) are invited to gather with Pastor Beckie on **Sunday, September 11, following worship**. The purpose is to get acquainted, discuss monthly gatherings, and determine how we can support one another. All are welcome!

*St. Paul's Older Adult Ministry invites you to join us for the
LAST DAYS OF SUMMER at Stewart Park*



Mark your calendars now: **Thursday, September 15, 4-6 pm**
at the **Stewart Park Small Pavilion**

Appetizers and beverages will be served
as we get to know one another better and
share ideas about future programs and activities

St. Paul's Blessing of the Animals Sunday, September 18, 3:00-4:30 p.m. Corner of Aurora & Court Streets



God created the animals – birds of the air, fish of the sea, and the many beloved creatures who walk or crawl on the earth – and God declared them all to be good!



All are welcome to bring their precious animals to receive a blessing.
If you do not feel comfortable bringing your animal to the church,
please pick up a blessing card containing a prayer for you to offer at home.
Contact Pastor Beckie for more information or to volunteer to help.



Porch Fest Returns to Fall Creek Sunday, September 25

Volunteer for a shift to give water to our guests, and to monitor the building so that our restrooms may be available as needed. Then stay for great music and good times.
Please contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch to volunteer at lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org.



Confirmation Class



Youth in grades 7-12 who would like to explore church membership are invited to attend the Confirmation Class orientation with a parent or guardian on **Sunday, September 25, at 6:00 p.m.** in the SPUMC Memorial Room. Please let Pastor Beckie know if you plan to attend so that we will have enough materials for everyone!



Pumpkin Fest at Moore's Family Farm

570 Auburn Rd., Groton, NY

This is a great activity so bring your family and friends, young and not-so-young to Moore's Family Farm on **Saturday, October 15**. Purchase your ticket online at moorefamilypun.com and we'll meet inside the gate around 10:00 a.m. Enjoy the 5-acre corn maze, hay ride, apple canon, refreshments, pumpkin patch, Jump-o-Lantern bounce pad, games, human foosball, and more!

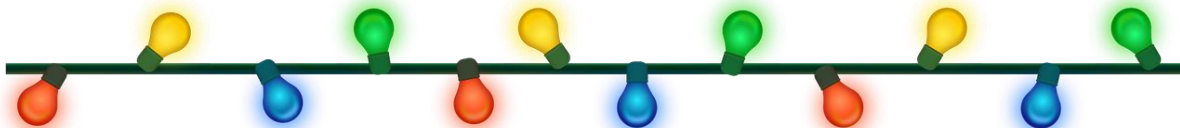
Braiding Sweetgrass Reading Group



As Pastor Beckie invites us onto Holy Ground this fall, a group of St. Paulians will be reading from Robin Wall Kimmerer's book, Braiding Sweetgrass, a set of meditations on *how* we live on earth. In her book, Kimmerer—a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and a professor of environmental biology—draws on Indigenous wisdom, science, and the teachings of plants to cultivate reciprocity among all creatures. The group meets by Zoom Mondays, 6-7 p.m., October 17- November 14. Buy books at the Odyssey Bookstore, check them out of the public library, or borrow one of our copies. To sign up or get more info, please contact Karen Kaufmann at tunafiki@twcnny.rr.com.

Kitchen Cupboard Donations Drive in November

Every fall St. Paul's collects funds for the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard. The Cupboard then buys in bulk and your generosity assists even more people all over the County.



Decorating St. Paul's for Advent & Christmas

We need your help to decorate St. Paul's Church for the Advent and Christmas season.

*Plan to stay following worship on **Sunday, November 20** to put up the tree, arrange garland, set up nativity scenes, check lights, and more fun.*

The volunteer crew did such a beautiful job adorning the building last year that we are asking for your help once again. All are welcome!

In the World

Vote Tuesday, November 8

Special Sundays with Offerings this Fall



World Communion Sunday is October 2

This offering supports national and international ethnic young adults to make a global impact for Christ. Half of the offering benefits World Communion Scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries; the remainder assists Ethnic Scholarships for U.S. and international undergraduates studying in the U.S. and Ethnic In-Service Training.



UM Student Sunday is November 27

This offering helps provide over 70 scholarships to United Methodist students to further their education and enrich the life of the Church.

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