

## Summer 2022 newsletter

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

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.” Col. 3:14-15

Dear Friends in Christ,

It feels like Summer is finally here! It seems hardly possible that I have had the privilege of serving as your senior pastor for nearly a year already. Time sure flies when we are having fun! And why are we having so much fun? Because we cherish relating to one another with the love of Christ. Because of that bond of faith, we relish the opportunity to worship together, create and repair together, study and make music together, enjoy picnics, social and recreational events together.

But I am reminded this week that not all faith responses are categorized as “fun.” During Lent this year we focused on “Roll Down Justice,” seeking God’s justice for all in the world and for all the world. Jesus leads us to seek the best in God’s creation, and in order to do that, we need to effect change. Racism and gun violence are at an all-time high. War is still raging and creating countless victims every day. Lack of care for the environment wreaks havoc on the balance of the earth. Too many people live in poverty. How will we respond as people of faith in Christ?

This Summer, I hope to engage St. Paul’s in creating harmony within our faith-lives. The harmony of which I speak will partner fun, spiritual nurture, justice-seeking, and peace-making to create a balance within our lives. Opportunities for worship, growing in faith, speaking-up for justice, generosity, service, creativity, and fellowship will all be offered as we each and all seek ways to live out our Christian discipleship.

I look forward to experiencing our united witness for Christ this Summer!

With JOY!

***Rev. Beckie Sweet***

### **Summer Worship Series: “Discipleship by the Sea”**



*During our worship services in July and August, we will encounter Jesus ~  
The man, the prophet, the teacher, the healer, and the troublemaker!  
We will discover, through a focus on the Gospel of Mark,  
The ways in which Jesus models discipleship and calls for us to follow.  
In Mark, Jesus is almost constantly at the shoreline, in a boat, or in between.  
We will be around the water and boats with Jesus as we seek to be the disciples  
Jesus has called and gifted us to be!*

Volume 85, Issue 3 St. Paul’s Letter (USPS 477-060) is published for free by St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, 402 N. Aurora St., Ithaca, NY 14850. Postmaster: Please send all address changes to 402 N. Aurora St. Ithaca, NY 14850. Periodical Postage Paid at Ithaca, NY 14850-9998

## Where we've been

### HUB field trip

On March 25th, a small group of St. Paulians went to the Upper NY Mission HUB in Liverpool. Before our trip we requested monetary donations from the congregation and St Paul's raised enough money to fill thirty buckets. After we met the staff and learned about the HUB and its mission, part of our group filled Cleaning Kits with supplies. This process packs \$75 worth of products into a round, 5-gallon space. That the buckets had Lowe's on the sides instead of the Methodist logo was a matter of expense: The HUB saved that cost to purchase more cleaning supplies.

While the packers worked, two of the group sorted t shirts by size, then boxed and labeled them. At the end they inventoried the remaining supplies.

Some of the buckets will go to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA. Other buckets will go to the main warehouse in Louisiana, to help there. The staff was incredibly grateful for what we accomplished. The volunteers enjoyed helping the HUB and working together to fill needs around the country. Submitted by Holly Mathison



Dwight and Holly taking inventory; Diana packing and David getting supplies; Jami, Diana, Dwight, and Holly at work. Photos by Anne Horst



Holy Week included the **Palm Sunday Parade**. We were singing in the rain and enjoying the bright day--sometimes both at once as we circled the block of St. Paul's UMC.

Photo by Cynthia Lunine

### Resurgence Tent Revival in Saratoga Springs



Several of the St. Paul's Reconciling team attended the Resurgence Tent Camp meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

Linda Yetter, Amy and Jackson Robinson, and Jami and Diana Breedlove- Crouch, pictured left to right, heard Mark Miller, Christian composer and artist, perform on the organ Friday night.

On Saturday Mark led worship. Preaching on Saturday was M. Garlinda Burton from

Tennessee. Using the text from Ezekiel 37:1-10 she exclaimed that the “dry bones” are rattling.

We were uplifted not only by the music and worship but by the chance to spend time with our church family, too. The Resurgence Tent Revival was a wonderful time for fellowship with others from around New York State and to see old friends who we talk to at the Annual Conference.

## **Where We Are**

### **From the desk of Jami Breedlove Loving Care Ministries Coordinator**

Since I began to work at St. Paul’s last September, I have tried to develop more meaningful connections with church friends and family. As we come to church to worship, we have a chance to present ourselves not only to God but also to one another.

What do we seek when we come into this building? Are we looking for kindred spirits? Are we looking to share our hearts with someone else? Do we need to talk and pray with others?

During the pandemic I felt lost. There were very few encounters with the St. Paul’s church family, and I have since found that others felt this way, too.

But for others, not going to church has become a habit that is hard to break. Many say, “I enjoy watching church on the computer with my coffee in hand and in my sweats,” and I know that easy is good, but have you discovered who needs to see you?

Seeing you can be the lifeline that someone needs to stay afloat. Seeing you could be the difference between their hope and despair. Hebrews 10:25 tells us that we should not abandon our meeting together, but encourage each other, and even more as we see the day drawing near.

In today’s world, each day brings a new worry. But we get help when we give help. So ask God who needs you! When a face or a name comes to mind call them on the phone, make a time to get together for coffee or a walk, especially if you haven’t seen them for some time. Then invite them back to church and see what a difference it makes in your life, as well.

I am available for any of these things. I enjoy seeing you all and talking with you. Let me know how I can be a friend at [lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org) or (607) 269-5509. May God bless you as you renew your hearts, minds, and spirits through your relationships with God and each other.



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**If April Showers Bring May Flowers, What do May Flowers Bring?** Answer: Pilgrims

**What do you get if you cross a sheep dog with a daisy?**

A Collie-flower

**How does a flower get a boat across a lake?**

It rose.

**How is a flower like the letter A?**

A bee goes after it.



## Flowers for the Sanctuary

We have had some spectacular flowers in the sanctuary, and we would like to keep them coming.

The great news is now that you have flowers blooming in your gardens you can volunteer to share a bouquet. Just let Jami know and she will reserve a Sunday for you to bring an arrangement.

Participation with the Christmas and Easter plants was heartwarming, and we also want to continue that momentum; you can honor a loved one past or present by making a financial gift. Bring awareness to the congregation of a special birthday, anniversary, or thanks by sponsoring flowers with a donation of \$25.00 or more.

We will buy, arrange, and place flowers on the altar. Space permitting, we will list them in the bulletin. If you would like to sponsor a bouquet email Jami Breedlove, Loving Care Ministries Coordinator, at: [lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org)



### Centering Prayer, an invitation from Rev. Pam Carey



Centering prayer is a type of contemplative prayer that concentrates entirely on the presence of God. The intention is to sit with God and to be open to God's presence. You don't ask for anything, you don't expect anything other than to be in God's presence.

Since the human mind tends to be busy, it goes off on tangents when we are silent. In centering prayer, we choose a word to remind us of the presence of God. Some possibilities are: God, Love, Peace, Here, or Shalom. If you find that your mind has wandered, don't judge it; that is what minds do. Instead use your word to return to God's presence.

You can practice centering prayer on your own or with other people. I find it easier to do in a small group where we sit quietly together, open to God's presence among us.

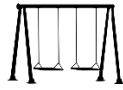
I lead a small group in the Durham room on Sunday mornings to practice together. We start promptly at 9:45 with a brief introduction and then spend 20-30 minutes in silence. We finish with a short prayer to hold the people preaching that morning in the light of God's love.

I hope you will join us.

Rev. Pamela Carey

*"A little Madness in the Spring / Is wholesome even for the King" Emily Dickinson*

## Where We're Going



### Prayers for Service and Love



Join Anne Horst and Holly Mathison on the playground as we pray for the community of St. Paul's: past, present, and future. Help us acknowledge the service and love that is offered here in the evenings 6:30-7:30. Come for one session, or all.

June 2: Praying for the pews

June 9: Guided prayer by Rev. Pamela Carey

June 16: Praying over the directories and the building

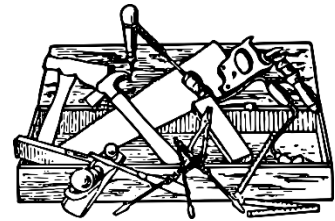
June 23: Praying while walking through Fall Creek

### Parsonage Renovations Coming Soon

Gratitude is due! We'll be able to start the long-awaited parsonage renovations this summer! The Trustees in particular are very grateful for the generous donations you have provided; we received nearly \$5,000 from your Easter offering. Please continue to remember this cause; you may designate your donations payable to St. Paul's UMC noting, "parsonage renovations" in the memo.

### Workdays Approaching

Trustees are planning workdays for Saturday, June 4 in two shifts: 10-12 and 12:30-2:30. Sign up on SignUpGenius. There will also be shifts on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. Times for the later dates will be announced.



Workdays are a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and making friends, while also tidying, gardening, and making repairs.

### Older Adult Ministry's Picnic in the Park



St Paul's **Older Adult Ministry** invites you to the **Small Pavilion at Stewart Park on Tuesday, June 14**. Bring your own lunch and find out what's new with one of our most vital ministries 11:30-12:30. Then hear the Friends of Stewart Park update us on the waterfront trail, inclusive playground, and Wharton Studio Museum from 12:30-2:00. Stewart Park has celebrated a centennial, weathered storms, restored and rebuilt itself. Come break bread and learn with us.

### Faith in Science-Fiction

Come explore the genre of Science Fiction through the lens of our Christian faith. With video clips from sci-fi classic TV shows and movies, our discussion will examine the topics of Individual Gifts





and Inclusivity, Utopias and Dystopias, and Communion and Communities in tandem with our beliefs.

Rev. Dr. Joellyn Tuttle will lead the two-session exploration on Wednesday, June 29, 6:30-8:00 pm and Thursday, August 18, 6:30-8:00 pm at St. Paul's UMC. Come for one session or both. All video clips are rated PG-13, adults and youth welcome! RSVPs by the Monday prior to the session you wish to attend are appreciated, but not required. They help us plan our meeting space. Email: [jrwuttule@gmail.com](mailto:jrwuttule@gmail.com) and enjoy.

### **Fire Safety Training**



Calling all Hospitality Ministers, Ushers, Committee Chairs, and staff: please mark your calendar for the next fire safety training. It will be Saturday, July 9th 9:30-10:30 in the sanctuary of St. Paul's. This is one of four annual mandatory trainings. Bring your ear plugs. It will get loud.

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