



MISSION

To form faithful followers of Jesus Christ for the transformation of State College and the world.

VISION

MEETING new people
MAKING real relationships
MOVING into new expressions of love and service.



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NEXT DEADLINE:

September 11 at noon for the October 2024 newsletter

The Messenger

A publication of St. Paul's United Methodist Church & Wesley Foundation

September 2024

As many of you know, I was given the opportunity to take a month of renewal leave this summer, during which I spent time on silent retreat in a monastery, took a pilgrimage to a place from my past, and dedicated some time to writing and making art. Being intentional about stepping out of some rhythms and habits allowed me to notice more. I noticed birds. And ants. And the coolness of the grass under the trees. I noticed the smell of the soil, and the way the warmth of the sun feels on my skin after being in air-conditioning. I noticed how it sounded like a blanket covering the earth when it finally rained, and I went out into it, barefoot, dancing and laughing, and holding my arms up like a vessel being filled, a baptismal blessing. How many times does it rain, and I completely miss the blessing, content as I am to complain instead?

The gift of a month of just abiding in rest and in God's goodness, at least for me, was the opportunity to notice the myriad ways that God is showing up right where we are. As we move from summer into fall, we are thinking about where we are, as St. Paul's United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation. For decades now we have forged an identity as a people who have chosen to be here, on this particular corner on College Avenue. That decision has been founded on the truth that we are a community that is shaped by Penn State University in so many different ways. But we are not simply an extension of an academic institution: we are the church, the gathered and called people of God in this valley. As we think about our place, I wonder how we might notice God in our midst? How is God present in the 40-some thousand students who arrive on our sidewalks each fall? How is God present in the engineering department? At the arboretum? In section SD of Beaver stadium? Maybe these parts of our local context have become so usual to us that we no longer notice how God is showing up.

Beginning September 8th, we will journey together in a worship series called "College Avenue," in which we are going to be exploring some of the common ground between the Academy and the Church, and the ways in which our faith isn't something separate or in opposition to science or history or the arts. Instead, we will notice the intersections and overlaps, and the ways faith and science were never meant to be sparring partners or opposite poles of a binary, but part and parcel, together, of what it means to be fully human. If we live with that kind of holy curiosity, and a determination to keep asking questions and learning together, how might it change the way we live in relationship to the university? How might we find new ways to practice being on College Avenue? How will we be people of knowledge and wisdom, of truth and justice, of how and why?

Come and join us this September as we explore these questions and notice God right where we are, discovering new ways to be St. Paul's United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation, on College Avenue in State College, Pennsylvania.

Pastor Greg Milinovich

STAY CONNECTED!

St. Paul's sends out a regular email update, "What's Happening," with information about upcoming activities, mission and service opportunities, and worship services. Contact the Church Office today to receive these updates!

stpauls@stpaulsc.org



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to donate:



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Church Notes & Opportunities

★ Help Needed

Our livestream has become an important way that we stay in touch with people here in State College, and around the country! It has become a critical part of our worship life together, and we need your help to make it continue! We are looking for additional volunteers to help with our slides, cameras, and sound. If you would be interested in helping out once a month or so please contact Pastor Greg, so we can get you connected, trained, and ready to help!



★ Food Bank Sundays

The first Sunday of each month is designated as Food Bank Sunday at St. Paul's. Check the "What's Happening" email for the current needs list. The Food Bank requests that you do not give baby food or formula, expired or opened products, products with alcohol in them, or over the counter medications. Drop off non-perishable donations in the bins at the College Avenue and Calder Way entrances to the Church.

★ St. Paul's Prayer Group

St. Paul's Prayer Group meets each week, on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm, to pray together. If you would like to join us in prayer, please contact Linda Keisling (bltoadhall@comcast.net) or Eileen Rotthoff (esr16801@yahoo.com) for more information. Each week, we also send out a prayer list, with ways we can pray for our Church, the community, and the world. To receive this list, send an email to prayers@stpaulsc.org.

★ Women of Faith, Hope, & Love

WFHL will resume our school year schedule on September 11 on the third floor of the Education Building. Both in-person and Zoom options will be available. We meet on Wednesdays at 9:30-11:30 am, share our prayer concerns and praises, and have coffee and tea. Our book will be *Thrive*, a study of the book of James, by Jennifer Cowart. If you would like to have a book ordered for you (at a cost of around \$14), leave a message by phone or email (bltoadhall@comcast.net or 814-861-4127), referencing WFHL.

★ St. Paul's Good Samaritan Fund

St. Paul's Good Samaritan Fund helps people in our community with financial assistance for basic needs, such as rent to prevent eviction, and electricity assistance to prevent shut-offs. Won't you help us to love our neighbors? Just send your check—made out to St. Paul's, with "Good Sam Fund" written in the memo line—to the Church Office. Thank you for supporting those in need in our community!



United Women in Faith

State College District UWF Annual Day on October 19, 2024 at Covenant UMC in Lock Haven. Watch for more details and the registration form.

UWF Susquehanna Conference Annual Day: November 2 at First UMC, in Hershey, PA. Program: "Be Still and Know." Watch for more information and the registration form.

Reading Program Discussion Group: September 9 at 1:30 pm at Nancy Silverman's home to discuss *Our Strangely Warmed Hearts: Coming Out into God's Call* by Karen Oliveto. Contact Suzy Lutz for more information (814-466-6389).

Executive Board Meeting: October 21 at 1:00 pm at Glenda Manbeck's home.

Circles

All ladies are welcome!

Deborah: The next meeting will be on September 18. Watch for more details. Contact Virginia Flick for information (814-441-1743).

Friendship: Contact Joanna Carlson for information (joannacarlson@gmail.com).

Mary and Martha: Contact Nancy Guild for information (814-238-0666).

Ruth: The next meeting will be on September 12 at 11:30 am in the apartment living room at Foxdale.

Have questions or need more information?

Contact Suzy Lutz (814-466-6389) or Virginia Flick (814-441-1743)



St. Paul's Youth Fellowship (SPYF) will gather for the church picnic on September 8, and then start regular SPYF meetings on Sunday evenings at 6:00-8:00 pm on the third floor of the Education Center on September 15. Our gatherings include playing lots of games together (some games are active, some are not), sharing a snack, and having some conversation aimed at helping us grow closer to God and one another. We will also be helping out with the cleanup of the Foxdale yard sale on September 14 at 11:45 am, and we will be selling our parking spots for home football games beginning Saturday, September 7. We would love to have you join us (if you are in grade 6-12). If you have any questions, please contact pastor Greg (gmilinovich@susumc.org or 908-894-8692).



Wesley Foundation & Campus Ministry

Sarah Voigt 814-238-6739 ext.139 svoigt@stpaulsc.org www.wesleypsu.org

Wesley Accessibility Project Update



This summer, the Wesley Foundation has been under construction! It is the mission of Wesley to feed, know, love, and welcome students—to be a “home away from home” for our student community. In recent years, we have noticed, however, the ways in which our space is not accessible for everyone. In an effort to begin work in this area, a team of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation members met with Hoffman Leakey Architects and then contracted with JC Orr to design and implement an accessible entrance into the coffeehouse, as well as two new accessible non-gendered restrooms. Thanks to the giving of Wesley donors over the years, as well as the Wesley parsonage fund, we had the necessary funds to cover these expenses. Please look for an announcement this fall for an open house to share our space with all of you!

Penn State Homecoming Pizza Party & Parade

Come out and join us on Friday, September 27 at 5:00 pm for a pizza party in the St. Paul’s Social Room. We will provide the pizza; you are invited to bring a side to share. After sharing in pizza, we will go and watch the Penn State Homecoming Parade together, starting at 6:00 pm. This year, the Wesley Foundation will have a float in the parade! We would love to see you! Please let us know on St. Paul’s Hub if you plan to come (<https://bit.ly/PizzaAndParade>); this will help us do the pizza math!

The Path Between Us:

An Enneagram Journey to Healthy Relationships

Join a group of folks for conversation centered around this book, as together we delve into conversations about the Enneagram and what that looks like in relationship with others. Please plan to have read the book before the first meeting, as we will reflect and share on wider themes (i.e. what we want, what we fear, what we offer, etc.) across all 9 numbers each week. The group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, beginning Tuesday, September 17, at 7:00-8:00 pm, in the Wesley Lounge. (No prior Enneagram knowledge is necessary.)



Wesley’s Closet

Wesley’s Closet, which gives out gently used coats and winter accessories, along with new underwear and socks, for all members of our community, students and year-round community members, begins SOON! We are looking for volunteers to help staff the Closet, as well as donations of underwear (all sizes). You can find Wesley’s Closet donation bins at all Church entrances and exits. Contact Pastor Sarah or Renae Schunk with questions.



Mission & Justice

Rwanda Update



Back to School!

Because of St. Paul's generous donation of \$4,620, 130 5th- and 6th-grade students will return to the Urukundo Learning Center this fall and receive new textbooks for Math, Science, Social Studies, English, and Kinyarwanda (traditional language)! And there is \$428 remaining that will go towards additional



books for the increase in students. Thanks for sharing your love for children's education! For more information, contact Carol Falke (falke248@gmail.com) or visit the website (hopemadereal.org).

Do You Have a Passion for Helping Others?

If so, the Mission & Justice Committee is perfect for you. That's the committee that keeps St. Paul's up to date on ways to help others in Centre County, in our country, and in the world. In recent years, the Mission & Justice Committee has sponsored opportunities to provide math textbooks to a school in Rwanda; to fill Hygiene Buckets that UMCOR distributed to victims of weather emergencies or wars; to donate items to the Mommy Shoppe; and to alleviate hunger with the Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering.

The Mission & Justice Committee also presents an Alternative Christmas Gifts program every year, so participants can honor a special person with a donation to a charity. We meet every other month on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm on Zoom. You can easily take part in the meetings from your own home. To attend the next Mission and Justice meeting on September 17, contact Joan Zimmer (frazimm@yahoo.com or 814-364-2647).



Children's Ministry

Ted Voigt 814-380-2387 jtedvoigt@gmail.com

Sunday School Resumes Sept. 8

Mark your calendars for the exciting return of our Sunday School classes on September 8! We will be singing, we will be playing, we will be learning our faith stories together. This fall, we will be starting the year with a new curriculum, and we can't wait to be back together again! On September 8 at 9:00 am, head to the Education Building and look for signs and (helpful grown ups!) to point you and your kids in the right direction.

Sunday School Kickoff Picnic

To celebrate the transition into a new season for our children and youth, we will be having a School Year Kickoff Picnic on the evening of September 8 at 6:00-8:00 pm. All are welcome! Meet us at Circleville Park (Pavilion 2, on the Circleville Road side, NOT the Valley Vista side). Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided, but please feel free to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Come and celebrate a new year with us!

Nursery Room Reopening during 9:00 am Worship

St. Paul's nursery will resume on Sunday, Sept. 8th, in Room 100 in the Christian Education Building. The room has been rearranged and is ready to welcome new babies and toddlers. The nursery is available during the 9:00 am worship service each Sunday that Sunday School is in session. Tell your friends and neighbors about our nursery!

Bibles for 3rd-Graders

Bibles will be presented to all third-grade children at the 10:30 AM worship service on Sunday, September 29. An email was sent to all third-grade parents with instructions. If you didn't receive the email, please fill out the form on St. Paul's Hub (<https://bit.ly/3rdGradeBibles>) by Sunday, September 8. Your child does not have to be present at the worship service to receive a Bible (we will make alternate arrangements to get the Bible to them). Contact Cindy Regel (cindy.h.regel@gmail.com or 814-880-6794) with questions.



St. Paul's Care Ministries

Rena Schunk 814-237-2163 ext.152 rschunk@stpaulsc.org

You Can Play an Important Role in Our Stephen Ministry . . .

. . . Because you may know of a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who is going through a difficult time and who could benefit from the focused care, encouragement, and support of a Stephen Minister. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with Rena Schunk.



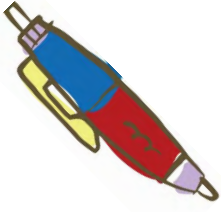

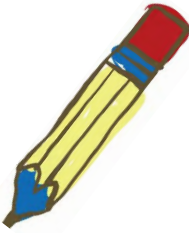
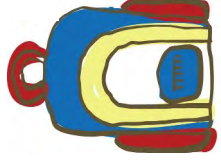
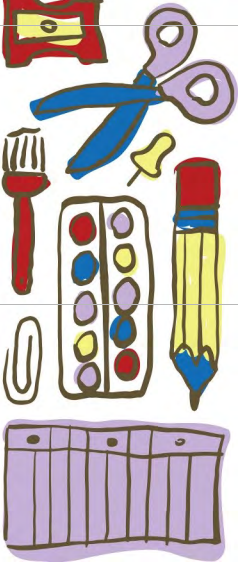
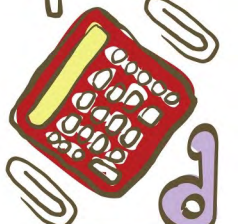
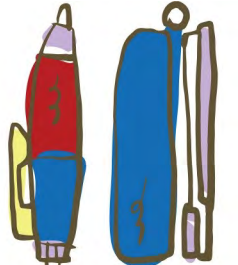
She can talk with you about how we can connect the person you know with one of our Stephen Ministers. It's a great way for you to show how much you care. Our Stephen Ministers are ready!

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September 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00a Worship with Communion 10:30a Live & Livestreamed Worship with Communion 11:30a Worship Discussion 11:30a First Sunday Lunch 3:00p Forum Sunday School	2 Labor Day Church Closed for Holiday	3 6:00p Troop 31 Adult Leaders 7:00p Troop 31 7:00p Troop 31 PLC	4 10:00a Staff Meeting 5:30p Prayer Gathering	5 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group	6 6:30a Accountable Disciples	7 7:30a Walk To Emmaus 9:00a Shoe Bank
8 9:00a Worship with Communion 9:00a Nursery Care 9:00a Children's Sunday School 9:00a Youth Sunday School 9:00a Seekers & Servants 9:00a Sunday School for Parents 10:30a Live & Livestreamed Worship 11:30a Worship Discussion 3:00p Forum Sunday School 6:00p Sunday School Kick-Off Picnic	9 	10 7:00p PPRC 7:00p Troop 31	11 9:30a Women of Faith, Hope, & Love 5:30p Prayer Gathering 7:00p Troop 31 Committee	12 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group	13 6:30a Accountable Disciples	14 7:30a Walk To Emmaus 9:00a Shoe Bank
15 9:00a Worship with Communion 9:00a Nursery Care 9:00a Children's Sunday School 9:00a Youth Sunday School 9:00a Seekers & Servants 9:00a Sunday School for Parents 10:30a Live & Livestreamed Worship 11:30a Worship Discussion 3:00p Forum Sunday School 6:00p SPYF	16 	17 7:00p Mission & Justice Committee 7:00p Book Conversation 7:00p Troop 31	18 10:00a Staff Meeting 9:30a Women of Faith, Hope, & Love 5:30p Prayer Gathering	19 6:00p Trustees 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group	20 6:30a Accountable Disciples	21 7:30a Walk To Emmaus 9:00a Shoe Bank
22 9:00a Worship with Communion 9:00a Nursery Care 9:00a Children's Sunday School 9:00a Youth Sunday School 9:00a Seekers & Servants 9:00a Sunday School for Parents 10:30a Live & Livestreamed Worship 11:30a Worship Discussion 3:00p Forum Sunday School 6:00p SPYF	23 	24 7:00p Troop 31	25 9:30a Women of Faith, Hope, & Love 5:30p Prayer Gathering	26 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group	27 6:30a Accountable Disciples	28 7:30a Walk To Emmaus
29 9:00a Worship with Communion 9:00a Nursery Care 9:00a Children's Sunday School 9:00a Youth Sunday School 9:00a Seekers & Servants 9:00a Sunday School for Parents 10:30a Live & Livestreamed Worship 11:30a Worship Discussion 3:00p Forum Sunday School 6:00p SPYF	30 					31 9:00a Worship with Communion 9:00a Nursery Care 9:00a Children's Sunday School 9:00a Youth Sunday School 9:00a Seekers & Servants 9:00a Sunday School for Parents 10:30a Live & Livestreamed Worship 11:30a Worship Discussion 3:00p Forum Sunday School 6:00p SPYF



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The Messenger is a publication of
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St. Paul's Hub: www.stpaulsc.ccbchurch.com

814.237.2163
stpauls@stpaulsc.org
www.stpaulsc.org

Wesley: 814.238.6739
www.wesleypsu.org

Pastors

Greg Milinovich
Sarah Voigt, Director of the Wesley Foundation

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 am-3:30 pm

Custodian Scheduled Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 am -3:30 pm

The Messenger is a monthly newsletter. Articles must be 200 words or less. Please plan ahead! The submission deadline is the second Wednesday of each month at noon for the next month's issue (September 11 at noon for the October 2024 newsletter issue). Email mboffemmyer@stpaulsc.org.

Please note when submitting articles for St. Paul's Messenger: This publication appears on our website. If you prefer to keep your address and/or phone number private, please do not include them in your article. If a contact is necessary, you may refer people to the Church Office to get your contact information.