



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.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Campus Ministry	4-5
Care Ministries	6
Children's Ministry	7
Church Notes & Opportunities	2
Mission & Justice	8
SPYF	3
United Women in Faith	6

NEXT DEADLINE:

April 9 at noon for the
May 2025 newsletter

The Messenger

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

April 2025

"...didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit?"

-1 Corinthians 6:19, The Message

"The flesh is able to receive and sustain the very life of God." These words, from the early church theologian Irenaeus, in the poem "Capable Flesh," invite us to consider something both ordinary and profound: our bodies are holy. Simply living in them—breathing, moving, feeling—is an essential spiritual practice. Some time in the second century, Irenaeus wrote, "... even at its beginning, the humble clay received God's art."

Many of us, whether through cultural messages or personal experiences, have learned to see our bodies less as art, and more as obstacles to holiness, rather than vessels of it. We may feel that our bodies are too flawed, too weak, or too unruly to reflect the presence of God. But Paul, Irenaeus, and so many others insist otherwise: if God chose to dwell in human flesh through Jesus, then our own embodiment must also be sacred!

We usually think of spiritual practices as things we do—prayer, fasting, service, study. But what if part of our calling is simply to be—to inhabit our bodies with gratitude and awareness? In a world that often disconnects us from ourselves, giving attention to our breath, savoring the warmth of sunlight on our skin, or even acknowledging our pain with compassion can be profound acts of faith.



Jesus did not shy away from embodiment. He touched and healed, ate and drank, walked dusty roads, and wept openly. He showed us that to be human is not to be apart from God, but to be infused with God's life.

Will you wonder with me about what it might look like to honor our bodies as places where God dwells? Perhaps it is offering ourselves kindness rather than criticism. Perhaps it is resting when we need rest or moving in ways that bring us joy. Perhaps it is recognizing that the bodies of others—no matter how different from our own—are also sacred.

As we continue through Lent, considering "Everyday Holiness," rather than trying to transcend our bodies, maybe we can lean into them. Let us know our bodies not as barriers to holiness but as living, breathing testimonies to God's presence. After all, our flesh is indeed capable of receiving God's art and sustaining the very life of God.

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



St. Paul's UMC
State College



@SPWFUMC
@abbajavacoffeehouse
@StPaulsMusicSCE
@stpaulsshoebank



[st.pauls.sc](https://www.stpauls.sc)



venmo

Church Notes & Opportunities

✧ Women of Faith, Hope, and Love

Women of Faith, Hope, and Love meet on Wednesdays at 9:30-11:30 am, share our prayer concerns and praises, and have coffee and tea on the third floor of the Education Building. Both in-person and Zoom options are available. Contact Linda Keisling for more information (bltoadhall@comcast.net or 814-861-4127).

✧ Thank you!

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you for the many, many cards celebrating my 100th birthday. It was a very special event and your messages of encouragement and love, send me on another year.

God Bless,
Emmie Bence

✧ St. Paul's Prayer Group

St. Paul's Prayer Group meets each Wednesday at 5:30 pm via Zoom 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.

Holy Week at St. Paul's

April 13 Palm Sunday

Worship with Communion 9 am
Live & Livestreamed Worship 10:30 am

April 17 Maundy Thursday

7 pm

April 18 Good Friday

7 pm

April 20 Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service 7 am at Hintz Family Alumni Center
Worship with Communion 9 am
Live & Livestreamed Worship 10:30 am





Our main goal at SPYF (St. Paul's Youth Fellowship) is to be a safe space where we can grow in relationship with God and one another, and we do that each week by spending time together. But we need you to make our connection complete! We know that youth are busy with so many activities, but we would love to have you commit a couple hours each week for the sake of your own spiritual journey, and our own mutual benefit.



If you are in 6th-12th grade, join us for SPYF each Sunday evening at 6:00 pm, as we gather to grow closer to God and to one another through a fun evening of games, dad jokes, snacks, casual conversation, and deep discussion about where we see God in the world around us, and how God is inviting us to be people of love. Over the past couple of months, we have engaged in conversations about what God might look like if we could see them; how we speak truth to power, like Bishop Budde; and how we can be people of peace even when it feels like the world is an out-of-control storm. We have played balderdash, body body, psychiatrist, Pictionary, the kitchen utensil game, and so many more! In all of this, we are building relationships, community, trust, and safe space that is helping us to have a foundation of Love in our whole lives. Come and join us!



Wesley Foundation & Campus Ministry

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



Wesley Foundation
End of the Year

BBQ

Celebration

Wed
April 30
6-8pm

Register
here



To read more
about the
Wesley
Foundation
at Penn
State, visit
wesleypsu.org

new wesley foundation merch!!



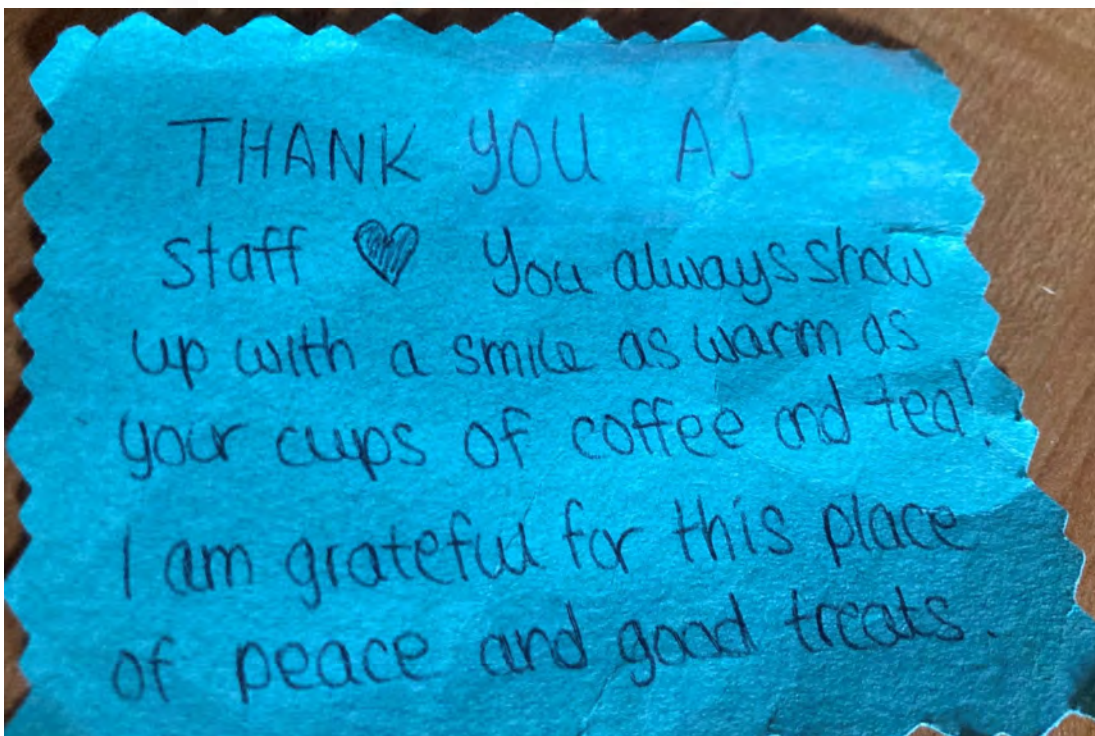
NEW T-SHIRT AND SWEATSHIRT DESIGN



ORDER NOW



Email Pastor Sarah at
svoigt.wesley@gmail.com
to place order



a thank you
from one of
our students
:)



St. Paul's Care Ministries

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

Does the Joy of Easter Seem Far Away?

For those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time, Easter can be a time of painful loneliness and emptiness. If you are smiling on the outside but full of pain on the inside, and the joy of Easter seems far away, help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, and pray with and for you. Stephen Ministers have been specially trained to meet your emotional and spiritual needs. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with Renee. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!



Adapted from Stephen Ministries: Media Fact Sheet. Copyright ©2013-2025 by Stephen Ministries. Used by permission.

Good Samaritan Fund

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Good Samaritan Fund! In 2024, with congregation support, we were able to assist approximately 275 people with \$34,643.76. Your generous gifts have enabled St. Paul's to assist those in our community to keep their apartments, get into new apartments, keep their electricity on, get assistance with medical needs, and miscellaneous urgent needs. Your 2025 gifts have enabled us to assist with support of \$3,827.74 to date, and we have a current balance of \$4,233.01. Thank you for your continued support! Please consider designating additional funds to "The Good Sam Fund" to continue our financial assistance to our neighbors in need. Thank you!



United
Women
in Faith

District UWF Spring Spiritual Enrichment Event: April 5 at 9:00 am at Grace UMC, Phillipsburg. Lunch provided. Theme: The Blessings of Friendship.

Our Unit Spring Banquet (potluck): June 2 at 4:30 pm. *SAVE THE DATE. WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION.*

Reading Program Discussion Group: April 14 at 1:30 pm in the Foxdale Board Room. We will discuss *A Right Worthy Woman* by Ruth P. Watson. Contact Suzy Lutz for more information.

Executive Board Meeting: TBA

Circles

Contact Circle leaders for the most current information.
All ladies are welcome to attend!

Deborah: Save the date: April 6. Watch for more details. Contact Virginia Flick.

Friendship: Contact interim leader Virginia Flick for information.

Mary and Martha: TBA Contact Nancy Guild for information (njeg2@verizon.net).

Ruth: April 10 at 11:30 am, we will meet in the apartment living room at Foxdale to discuss *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Contact Peggy Hoover for more information (pxh6@psu.edu).

Have questions or need more information?
Contact Suzy Lutz (814-466-6389) or Virginia Flick (814-441-1743)



Children's Ministry

Liz McMillan

emcmillan724@gmail.com

Lenten Mission Project: Easter Baskets for Park Forest Preschoolers

Let's share our love of Jesus with the children who attend Park Forest Preschool by giving them an Easter Basket! The preschool has requested that the baskets be identical, so we are collecting a \$10 donation to sponsor a child. Donate online (<https://stpaulsc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/270/responses/new>), or put your donation in the offering plate designated for "Preschool Easter Baskets." Contact Cindy Regel with questions (cindy.h.regel@gmail.com or 814-880-6794). St. Paul's children will assemble the Easter baskets during Sunday School on Palm Sunday (April 13).



St. Paul's Summer Musical Camp

St. Paul's invites all children entering grades 1-7 to Summer Musical Camp on Monday, August 4 - Friday, August 8 at 9:00 am-12:00 pm, with a Friday night performance. This year's camp will present "It's Cool in the Furnace," a musical about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Contact Joanna Carlson for more information and registration (joannacarlson@gmail.com), and spread the word about this fun opportunity for kids to grow in faith and creativity!

Sunday School Spring Curriculum

As we continue our Lenten and Easter journey with Jesus, we will discuss Peter's denial, Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey, and Jesus joining his disciples on the beach for breakfast after his resurrection. Join us each Sunday morning at 9:00 am in the Christian Education Building as we celebrate and wonder together.

The youth Sunday school class has begun their study of Lent using the youth edition of Adam Hamilton's *24 Hours That Changed the World*. The first two sessions have combined videos of Hamilton touring the holy land and many of the historical sites from the end of Jesus' life and thought-provoking, introspective questions about what Jesus might have been feeling as he engaged with the disciples during The Last Supper and in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Children's Procession on Palm Sunday

All children are invited to join the Palm Procession at the beginning of the 10:30 am worship service on Palm Sunday, April 13. Please meet at the back of the sanctuary before the service. Children will walk down the aisles waving palms during the first hymn and remain up front through the children's message.

**There will be no Sunday
School for children
and youth on Easter
Sunday, April 20**



Mission & Justice

Rwanda Update



A Resurrection Journey

It's time for Carol Falke's 14th trip to visit the Urukundo Learning Center, Rwanda, Africa, April 18-May 8. You can read her stories on her Facebook page: stories about the beautiful people and country; sharing Easter worship; Carol using art to teach; kids loving books in the

library; and creative play with educational toys in the activity room. See how textbooks St. Paul's sponsored for 5th- and 6th-graders are enhancing their education, and follow ongoing secondary school construction. Please pray for safe travels and many joy-filled blessings. To find out more about Hope Made Real, contact Carol Falke (falke248@gmail.com) or visit the website (hopemadereal.org).

HOPE
MADE
REAL



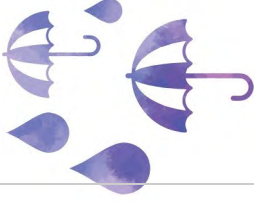

Shoe Bank Volunteers Needed



We are looking for some new volunteers at the St. Paul's Shoe Bank! We need some kid-loving people to help give new sneakers to children in need. It's fun, rewarding, and only about 6-10 Saturday mornings a year. Schedules can be flexible. Volunteers must have or obtain Safe Sanctuary clearances. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Jan Becker (shoebank@stpaulsc.org).

Follow the Shoe Bank on Facebook:
@stpaulsshoebank



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:00p Troop 31 Adult Leaders 6:00p Troop 31 Adult Planning 7:00p Troop 31 7:00p Troop 31 PLC	2 9:30a Women of Faith, Hope, & Love 5:30p Prayer Gathering 6:00p Pack 31 Den	3 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group 10:00a Staff Meeting	4 6:30a Accountable Disciples	5 7:30a Walk To Emmaus 9:00a Shoe Bank
6 9:00a Worship with Communion 9:00a Children's Sunday School 9:00a Youth Sunday School 9:00a Parents' Sunday School 9:00a Seekers & Servants 10:30a Live & Livestreamed Worship with Communion 11:30a 1st Sunday of the Month Lunch 11:45a Worship Discussion 12:00p Life After Loss 3:00p Forum Sunday School 6:00p SPYF	7 	8 5:30p Finance Committee via Zoom 7:00p PPRC 7:00p Troop 31	9 9:30a Women of Faith, Hope, & Love 5:30p Prayer Gathering 7:00p Troop 31 Committee	10 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group	11 6:30a Accountable Disciples	12 7:30a Walk To Emmaus 9:00a Shoe Bank
13 Palm Sunday 9:00a Worship with Communion 9:00a Children Sunday School 9:00a Youth Sunday School 9:00a Parents Sunday School 9:00a Seekers & Servants 10:30a Live & Livestreamed Worship 11:45a Worship Discussion 12:00p Life After Loss 3:00p Forum Sunday School 6:00p SPYF	14	15 7:00p Troop 31	16 9:30a Women of Faith, Hope, & Love 5:30p Prayer Gathering 6:00p Pack 31	17 Maundy Thursday 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group 10:00a Staff Meeting 7:00p Maundy Thursday Worship	18 Good Friday 6:30a Accountable Disciples 7:00p Good Friday Worship	19 7:30a Walk To Emmaus
20 Easter 7:00a Sunrise Service 9:00a Worship with Communion 10:30a Live & Livestreamed Worship	21 Church Closed for Holiday	22 7:00p Church Council 7:00p Troop 31	23 9:30a Women of Faith, Hope, & Love 5:30p Prayer Gathering	24 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group	25 6:30a Accountable Disciples	26 7:30a Walk To Emmaus 9:00a Shoe Bank
27 9:00a Worship with Communion 9:00a Children Sunday School 9:00a Youth Sunday School 9:00a Parents Sunday School 9:00a Seekers & Servants 10:30a Live & Livestreamed Worship 11:45a Worship Discussion 12:00p Life After Loss 3:00p Forum Sunday School 6:00p SPYF	28	29 7:00p Troop 31	30 9:30a Women of Faith, Hope, & Love 10:00a Staff Meeting 5:30p Prayer Gathering			



250 East College Ave
State College, PA 16801-4782

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
STATE COLLEGE PA
PERMIT NO 65

The Messenger is a publication of
St. Paul's United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation

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
(April 9 at noon for the May 2025 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.