

The Messenger

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

August 2025



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:

August 13 at noon for the
September 2025 newsletter

You've surely seen it before, maybe on a billboard or a bumper sticker, maybe on a social media post featuring a pristine beach at sunset: "Live your best life."

Sure, it sounds good. But what does it really mean? Is it about having the perfect morning routine or learning all the best habits? Is it having financial independence by the age of 40, or purchasing your dream home? Is it about curating a life that looks good in pictures and gets plenty of likes? Or is there something else?

This September at St. Paul's UMC and Wesley Foundation, we're beginning a new worship series called "The Good Life: What Are We Living For?" Each week in September we'll walk through some of Jesus' most difficult and surprising teachings from the Gospel of Luke; teachings that challenge conventional wisdom and invite us into a radically different way of living.

The good life Jesus describes isn't about comfort, control, or climbing the ladder. It's about letting go of what holds us back and leaning into love, trust, compassion, and joy. It's about reimagining what it means to be blessed—not in terms of wealth or success, but in the richness of our relationships and the depth of our care for others.

If you've ever wondered whether the life you're chasing is really the one your soul longs for, you will want to journey with us in this series. If you're hungry for more than just more, come and join us! As always, we invite you to come with your questions, your doubts, and all your uncertainty. We aren't presenting a pre-packaged convenient truth for sale. Instead, we are exploring together the good life: a life that cannot be bought, but only received and lived by grace. Oh, how we want you to be a part of that with us!

Pastor Greg Milinovich



9/7 Luke 14:25-35
The Cost of the Good Life

9/14 Luke 15:1-10
The Joy of Letting Go

9/21 Luke 16:1-13
The Wisdom of Investing Differently

9/28 Luke 16:19-31
What we Refuse to See

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



venmo

Church Notes & Opportunities

✧ Women of Faith, Hope, and Love

Women of Faith, Hope, and Love (WFHL) will resume on September 17. We are a small group of multigenerational women who gather for Bible Study, sharing prayer concerns and praises and support for each other. Regular meetings are weekly during the school year, at 9:30-11:30 am in the 3rd-floor gathering space of the Education Building. Watch the "What's Happening" emails for the book title and more details.

✧ First Sunday of the Month Lunch

Join us Sundays following the 10:30 am service for lunch in the Social Room. We would love for you to bring a side or a dessert to share! We will provide coffee, lemonade, and water. Come and sit around the table with us—it's a great time to get to know one another AND eat good food!!



In November of 2023, we held a churchwide vote and overwhelmingly decided to become a Reconciling Church. But what does that mean? In the years leading up to that critical vote, we had several group conversations, town halls, book studies, and seminars about inclusion, the Bible and sexuality, racism, and much more. In the months since then, we have had new friends and members come alongside us on the journey. With that in mind, we plan to have a series of "Courageous Conversations" over the course of the next several months, including the following:

September 9

What does the Bible really say about homosexuality?

October 21

God, gender, and pronouns: does our language matter?

November 18

So we are a reconciling church... now what?

We hope you will join with our pastors as we have these conversations to practice curiosity, remember our vision, continue learning, and grow together in Love. Follow the weekly "What's Happening" emails on Wednesdays throughout the semester for more details.

Summer at St. Paul's



Pride Parade!



celebrating confirmation



UMCOR flood buckets



planting together <3



Summer of Wonder (see story on pp. 4-5)



Children's Ministry

Liz McMillan

emcmillan724@gmail.com

Summer of Wonder

What a privilege it was for us to spend some time with Joe Humphreys in his happy place by Spring Creek at Fisherman's Paradise learning about his life's passion, fly fishing! Joe showed us some of the flies that he makes by hand and uses when fishing, showed us what it is like to fish at night, and perfected some of the kids' fly fishing technique. Joe is truly a legend for his fly fishing prowess and also the passion he has for passing down the knowledge and skills he has accumulated over the years!



Please join us!

BACK TO SCHOOL *Picnic*

Join us as we kick off another year of
fun, learning and accomplishments!

All St. Paul's members are invited as we look to continue to
meet, make and move! ALL ARE WELCOME!!

SUNDAY SEPT 7
6:00 TO 8:00 PM

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided.

Please bring something to share!

A to M....bring a dessert!

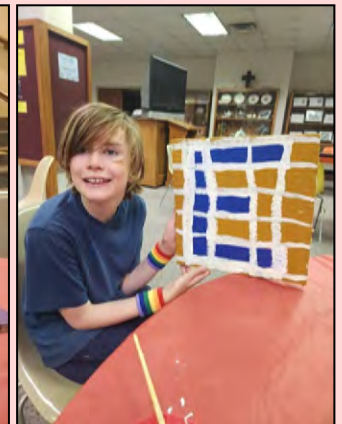
N to Z....bring a side dish!

Circleville Park

** Use the 3225 Circleville Road
address when using GPS **

Arts Festival

Arts Fest is always such a lively week in State College, showcasing so many fabulous artists (of all ages!), as well as all the best parts of our beloved downtown community! We gathered to put our own artistic talents in motion to work on a collaborative art project to be hung in the Church Office and mirror our treasured mural on Calder Way!



Talk to Liz about helping with children's ministry!

Wesley Foundation & Campus Ministry

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

New Image of Welcome at Wesley Foundation



Check out our most recent newsletter sharing the work of the Wesley Foundation (www.wesleypsu.org or www.stpaulsc.org)! Here is a highlight from the newsletter:

We are excited to announce that over this past year, we have undergone an accessibility project at the Wesley Foundation, opening up our entryway to make room for a stair lift and adding two new gender-inclusive accessible restrooms. In creating this new entryway, we had an opportunity to change the look, to add new art, and to find new ways to share who we are, from the moment students walk in our doors.

In exploring what image might connect with the work that we do at the Wesley Foundation here in State College, PA, Pastor Sarah came across the work of Kelly Latimore, a modern day iconographer (whom you should definitely check out)! One of the many pieces that Kelly has created is this representation of The Parable of the Mustard Seed. In his description of the piece, he says, “Jesus’ parables’ significance points to everyday life. The parables are meant to be lived.”

The Wesley Foundation at Penn State has, for decades, been described by students as a “home away from home,” and we have lived into this vocational calling. Like birds, students fly in from various places, making their home here, for a time, only to eventually fly away, taking what they have learned to a new place, a new home. While some might describe the work that we do in small ways, “just cups of coffee and tiny interactions,” we think this is what Jesus described as the kin-dom of God. Tiny seeds and small bushes. Unimpressive to some, and yet to others sanctuary, rest, home. What if Jesus is inviting us to think small that we might continue to be surprised with the miracle of the mundane, the growth that is happening beneath what we can see, and the ways that God IS present in the world around us?! May we have eyes to see!

**Abba Java
opens on
Monday,
August 25!**

How Can YOU Help?

⇒ Help us make meaningful connections with our student community by joining in one or more of our “welcome back opportunities!” Check out our schedule to sign up where you might be interested (https://docs.google.com/document/d/18_opl2GIASEE2A8aFCxL28hqF5tkjJt5tMJC9O1Zrl8/edit?usp=sharing).

⇒ Help us welcome students to State College with a free yard sale, building relationship as we offer items to make their dorm rooms and apartments homey. Please bring donations to Wesley by August 17. For questions about donations or to volunteer for set-up on the day of the event, please contact Julie Simon (simonjm91@gmail.com or 814-861-5239) or Sarah.

⇒ Abba Java opens on Monday, August 25! Have you considered volunteering in Abba Java? It's a great opportunity to chat with students and fellow congregation volunteers and share love with all! We are looking for people to volunteer on a regular basis AND to substitute when others are away on vacation. Email Karen Morgan if you're interested in participating in a volunteer training (wesleypennstate@gmail.com).



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

wesleypsu.org



St. Paul's Care Ministries

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

Who Are Stephen Ministers?

Interested in learning more about joining our Stephen Ministry Team? Come to the Social Room at noon on Sunday, September 14 for a Stephen Ministry Information Session. Learn about Stephen Ministry at



St. Paul's and how men and women can join the team. Light refreshments will be provided. Please contact Renae with any questions.



The **Good Samaritan Fund** is one way St. Paul's is **Meeting, Making, and Moving** in social justice!

Your donations to St. Paul's Good Samaritan Fund help people with emergency needs, such as rent, housing security deposits, utility bills, car repairs, temporary housing, and bus vouchers. Just send your check—made out to St. Paul's, with "Good Sam" written in the memo line—to the Church Office. Or, donate online through St. Paul's Hub (stpaulsc.ccbchurch.com). Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need!



St. Paul's Youth Fellowship (SPYF) will gather for the church picnic on September 7, and then start regular SPYF meetings on Sunday evenings at 6:00-8:00 pm on the 3rd floor of the Education Center on September 14. 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 have service opportunities (like assisting with the Foxdale yard sale and selling the church parking spots during home football games) and other fun events. We would love to have you join us (if you are in grade 6-12), and if you have any questions, please contact Pastor Greg (gmlinovich@susumc.org or 908-894-8692).



United Women in Faith

Reading Program Discussion Group: August 11 at 1:30 pm. Meet in the Foxdale Board Room. We will discuss *Solito. A Memoir* by Javier Zamora Hogarth. Contact Suzy Lutz for more information.

Executive Board Meeting: **August 4 at 1:30 pm at Glenda Manbeck's home.**

On June 2, United Women in Faith held our Spring Banquet potluck in the Social Room. We honored two Women of the Year for 2025: Faye Maring and Pam Zimmerman. Pictured with them are co-presidents, Suzy Lutz and Virginia Flick, as they receive their pin (with money going to missions) and certificate.



UWF Woman of the Year Faye Maring (center) and co-presidents Suzy Lutz and Virginia Flick



UWF Woman of the Year Pam Zimmerman (center) and co-presidents Virginia Flick and Suzy Lutz

Circles

No Circle meetings in August
All ladies are welcome to attend!

Deborah & Ruth Circles are meeting together on September 11 at 11:00 am in the Foxdale Apartment Living Room. The program will be on *Laughter* by Peggy Lynch. This meeting is open to all. Contact Virginia Flick or Peggy Hoover (pxh6@psu.edu) for more information.

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



Mission & Justice

Rwanda Update

Rwanda & St Paul's Shoe Bank Partnership

St. Paul's Shoe Bank recently had an opportunity to pay it forward. They received a large donation of shoes from a local business that were not suitable for our purposes, but were in great condition. They asked Carol Falke if they could be used for her Rwandan students and their local community. Those shoes, along with others from our used shoe racks, traveled to Rwanda in June. The photos show the shoes found a home with happy adults and children. A win for everyone!

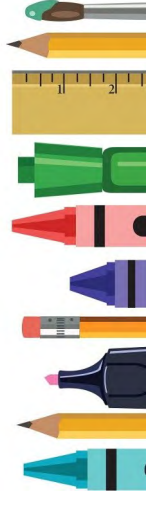
For information about volunteering at the Shoe Bank contact Jan Becker (jbbteapot@gmail.com). To find out more about Hope Made Real, contact Carol Falke (falkes248@gmail.com) or visit the website (hopemadereal.org).



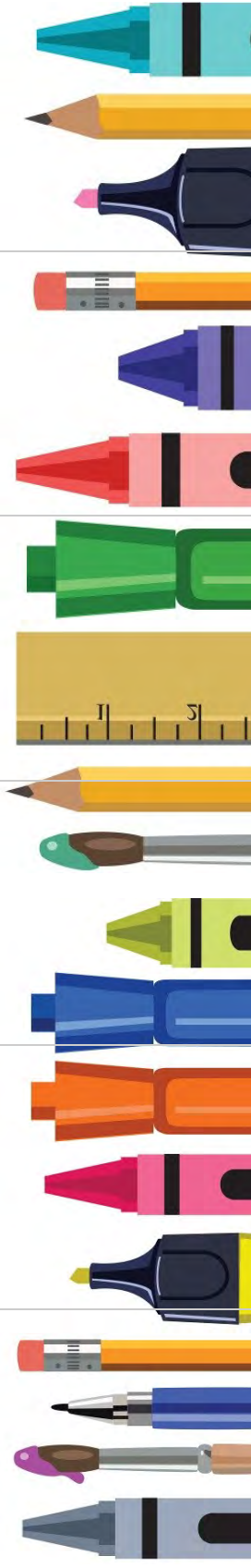
HOPE
MADE
REAL



August 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:30a Accountable Disciples	2 7:30a Walk To Emmaus 9:00a Shoe Bank
3 10:00a Worship with Communion	4 8:45a Musical Camp	5 8:45a Musical Camp 6:00p Troop 31 Adult Leaders 6:00p Troop 31 Adult Planning 7:00p Troop 31 7:00p Troop 31 PLC	6 8:45a Musical Camp 5:30p Prayer Gathering	7 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group 8:45a Musical Camp 10:00a Staff Meeting	8 6:30a Accountable Disciples 8:45a Musical Camp 7:00p Musical Camp Performance	9 7:30a Walk To Emmaus 9:00a Shoe Bank
10 10:00a Worship with Communion	11	12 5:30p Finance Committee 7:00p Troop 31	13 5:30p Prayer Gathering 7:00p Troop 31 Committee	14 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group	15 6:30a Accountable Disciples	16 7:30a Walk To Emmaus 9:00a Shoe Bank
17 10:00a Worship with Communion	18	19 7:00p Troop 31	20 5:30p Prayer Gathering	21 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group 10:00a Staff Meeting	22 6:30a Accountable Disciples	23 7:30a Walk To Emmaus
24 9:00a Free Student Yard Sale 9:00a Worship with Communion 10:30a Live & Livestreamed Worship 11:45a Worship Discussion	25	26 7:00p Church Council 7:00p Troop 31	27 5:30p Prayer Gathering	28 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group	29 6:30a Accountable Disciples	30 7:30a Walk To Emmaus 9:00a Shoe Bank
31 9:00a Worship with Communion 10:30a Live & Livestreamed Worship 11:45a Worship Discussion						





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www.wesleypsu.org

Pastors

Greg Milinovich
Sarah Voigt, Director of the Wesley Foundation

Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9:30 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 (August 13 at noon for the September 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.