



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:

July 9 at noon for the August 2025 newsletter

The Messenger

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

June / July 2025

"But In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth..."

Genesis 1:1, NRSV

This summer, we're going back to the beginning.

For 10 weeks in our worship services, we'll be exploring some of the most well-known (and often misunderstood) stories in the Bible—from Adam and Eve to Abraham and Sarah, from the ark of the flood to the tower of Babel. Our worship series, "The Gospel According to Genesis," invites us to revisit these ancient texts with fresh eyes and open hearts.

You might already know these stories—or at least think you do. Maybe you remember them from Sunday school felt boards or illustrated children's bibles. Maybe you've heard them used to explain how the world works or how human beings came to be the way we are. But this summer, we'll slow down and give closer attention. We'll

listen not just for what these stories say about us, but for what they reveal about God.



These stories are full of messy people making questionable choices. There's betrayal and blessing, wandering and wonder, fear and faith. And in the middle of it all is a God who remains heartbreakingly

committed to the human family. That's where the Gospel shows up; not by importing Jesus into every chapter, but by noticing how grace, mercy, promise, and hope are already woven through these sacred stories.

Genesis doesn't give us a harsh, vengeful "God of the Old Testament," as is sometimes assumed. It gives us a God who creates out of love. A God who keeps showing up. A God who works through complicated families and unexpected people. A God who blesses, wrestles, waits, and forgives. Sound familiar?

There's good news in these old stories. Not because they're easy, but because they're honest. And because even in the most ancient of texts, God is still speaking.

So come spend your summer in Genesis with us. You might just find yourself surprised by the Gospel.

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



venmo

Church Notes & Opportunities

✧ 50-Year Members

Join us on June 15, 2025 as we recognize our newest class of 50-Year Members! Letters have been mailed to those we have on record. If you feel you are part of this class, but have not been notified, please contact the Church Office (ddormady@stpaulsc.org or 814 -237-2163).

✧ UMCOR Flood Buckets

UMCOR continues to respond to disasters across the country. St. Paul's, can we help replenish their cleaning buckets? If you feel moved to fund a partial or full bucket (costs about \$75 to fill), please make a donation through June 4 online or in the marked bucket in the back of the church (designate "UMCOR Buckets" on your online donation or check to St. Paul's). All are invited to join the bucket assembly on June 22 after worship. If you would like to help prepare for the assembly, please contact Joanna Carlson (joannacarlson@gmail.com).

✧ Food Bank Sundays

The first Sunday of the month is a Food Bank Sunday at St. Paul's. To see what items are currently needed, go to scfoodbank.org. There are tubs marked "Food Bank" at both the College Avenue and Calder Way entrances of the church for your donations. Please, no baby food or formula, expired food, or opened food packages. The Food Bank truly appreciates the help you give to their clients and thanks you for your donations.

✧ 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.



Join us for live & livestreamed
worship with communion

Sundays @ 10 am

or catch up any time on our
YouTube channel:

St. Paul's UMC State College

Congratulations, 2025 Graduates!

We are so proud to congratulate our 2025 graduates!
All of this year's students graduated from State College Area High School.



Kevin Frederick Burns
Will take a gap year
and work



Reese Elisabeth Gerardo
Will attend Penn State
University



Kayla Mackenzie Binkley
Will attend Slippery Rock University



**Peter Cooper
Brumberg**
Will attend Penn
State University



**Caedmon Charles
Milinovich**
Will attend Pennsylvania
College of Technology
-Aviation Maintenance



Children's Ministry

Liz McMillan

emcmillan724@gmail.com



End of Year CELEBRATION



St. Paul's Summer Musical Camp

St. Paul's invites all children entering grades 1-7 to Summer Musical Camp, August 4-8 at 9:00 am-12:00 pm, with a Friday night performance on August 8. 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 (joannacarlson@gmail.com). Please spread the word about this fun opportunity for kids to grow in faith and creativity.

YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT

Sunday School Class Prepares Meals for Out of the Cold and Abba Java

Students from the youth Sunday School class spent time during the last few Sundays of the school year working on giving back to the community and prepping food for Out of the Cold and Abba Java. With the stories of Paul's conversion and then his many adventures throughout his ministry fresh in their minds, our youth followed Paul's lead in sharing God's love for all! Many hands made for light work as veggie and fruit trays, along with brownies, were prepared for a finals week dinner for the college students who find Abba Java as their second home. A total of 45 breakfast sandwiches with English muffins, sausage, cheese, and eggs were assembled to be dropped off for Out of the Cold guests to enjoy for three breakfast meals!





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, Director of Care Ministries. 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. And, if you are interested in learning how to become a Stephen Minister, Rena will be happy to go over the process of how you can be a trained Stephen Minister for St. Paul's.

Adapted from Stephen Ministries. Copyright © Stephen Ministries St. Louis. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

St. Paul's Good Samaritan Fund

helps our neighbors 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 to support our neighbors in need.



United Women in Faith

Have a wonderful Summer!

We love each other because he loved us first.

1John 4:19 (NLT)

Our Unit Spring Banquet (Potluck): June 2. Gathering at 4:30 pm. in the Social Room, eating at 5:00 pm. Bring a side dish, salad or dessert and join us. All ladies are invited to attend. Bring your family, neighbors and friends.

Reading Program Discussion Group: June 9 at 1:30 pm in the Foxdale Board Room. We will discuss *All You Can Ever Know: A Memoir* by Nicole Chung. Contact Suzy Lutz for more information.

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

Circles

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

Deborah: We will have lunch at the American Ale House on June 18 at 11:30 am. RSVP to Suzy Lutz by June 13.

Friendship: Contact interim leader Virginia Flick for information.

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

Ruth: We will have lunch at the American Ale House on June 12 at 11:30 am. We will not meet in July.

Have questions or need more information?

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



Mission & Justice

Rwanda Update

Creating Masterpieces!

One of my focuses at the Urukundo Learning Center is providing opportunities to enhance education through art. That means bringing lots of clip art, good paper, art supplies, and ideas. For 2nd grade I gave students pictures of animals and birds, cut out leaves / flowers and asked them to camouflage their animal. Their teacher Bosco had students share facts about their animals in class. Being so impressed, he had several present to all students in grades 1-6.

**HOPE
MADE
REAL**

To find out more about Hope Made Real, contact Carol Falke (falkes248@gmail.com), visit the website (hopemadereal.org), or follow Carol on Facebook for stories, photos, and videos.



"The Arts must be at the heart of every child's learning experience if...they are to have a chance to dream and to create, to have beliefs, to carry a sense of cultural identity."

-James D. Wolfensohn, former chairman, The Kennedy Center

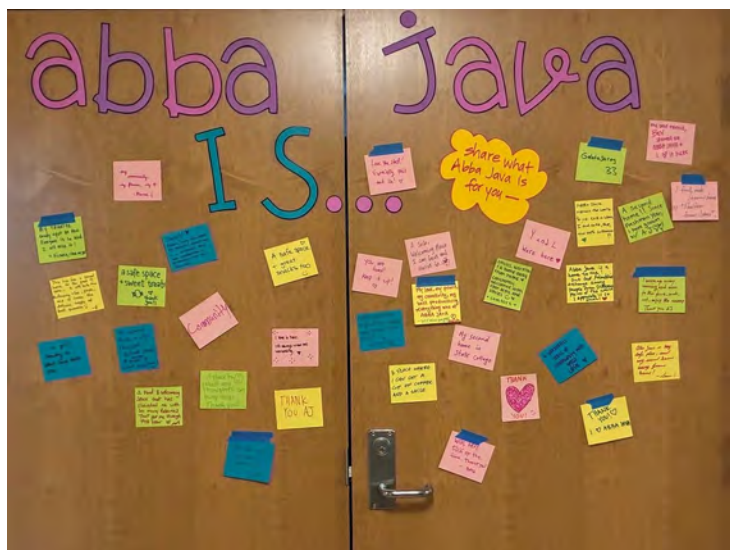


Nicaragua Mission

Thank you for donating to the Nicaragua backpack and scholarship program for their school year. Amanda was able to hand out 825 bags of school supplies. Your help with this program is always appreciated by the students and their families.

Wesley Foundation & Campus Ministry

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



Abba Java Is...

At the end of the Spring 2025 semester, we invited students to respond to the prompt “Abba Java Is...” Our hearts are FULL of gratitude hearing students’ responses and remembering what a gift it is that we get to do this work. Thank you for your support, encouragement, presence, and prayers that make this possible. You are welcome to come down to Abba Java and read some of the responses; however, here are a few:

- * “SAFETY! Abba Java has been my peaceful sanctuary and a reminder that love, connection, and friendship can still flourish.”
- * “A second home!! Since freshman year I have grown with Abba Java”
- * “Abba Java means the world to me, it is where I feel safe, rest, and 100% embraced”

WESLEY FELLOWS

intern program

apply now for
2025-26
academic year



The Wesley Foundation hires 4 Penn State undergraduate students each academic year to serve as Wesley Fellows interns. Throughout this internship students have an opportunity to explore topics of vocation, leadership, and service through the work and ministry of the Wesley Foundation, connected with their own particular area of interest. Students receive a \$1,000 stipend/semester. Use the QR code to find more information along with the 2025-26 application. If you have any questions, talk to Pastor Sarah!

**8,871 lbs. total
reclaimed food**
21,632 students
553 hours open
7432 lbs. cafe food
5034 lbs. food pantry
55 volunteers
4 interns

ABBA JAVA SPRING 2025



Thank You, Volunteers!

Thank you to our Wesley Foundation volunteers!! On Wednesday, April 30, we celebrated our volunteers and graduates at our end of the year picnic at Sunset Park. We had a great time celebrating, even as many were without power due to a storm. Throughout this year, volunteers have served in Abba Java and Wesley's Closet, as mentors for our Wesley Fellows interns, and on the Wesley Foundation Leadership Team. We have had over 65 individuals (congregation members and students) work together to offer their gifts, their time, their very selves to the work of the Wesley Foundation. Thank you!! We are SO grateful for your presence in this work!



Lillyanna Faimon, Ph.D Learning, Design, and Technology

Kesley Shaulis, Ph.D Sociology and Demography

Michael Caniglia, Ph.D Sociology and Demography

Miranda Adler, B.S. Information Technology

Isa Garcia, B.S. Human Development and Family Studies

Marissa Lewis, B.A. Psychology

Eric Putre, B.S. Economics

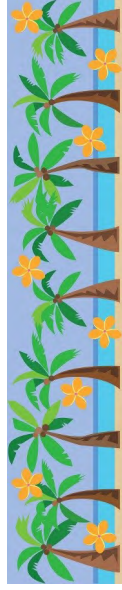
*We give thanks for the gifts that these students have shared with us
For the ways that they put down roots in this place, sharing themselves with us
We bless the years they have been present with us
For all the memories and meals, laughter and tears, we have shared
And now as they dig up what was once planted, may they carry with them our love, our prayers, our hopes
That they would remember the gift of home and welcome and never ending love
Wherever they would go.*

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

wesleypsu.org

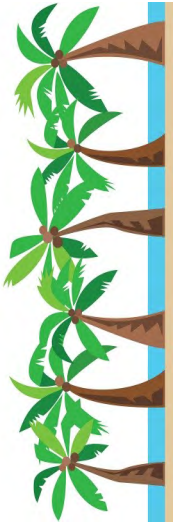


June 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00a Live & Livestreamed Worship with Communion 11:30a 1st Sunday of the Month Lunch	2 3:00p UWF Potluck Banquet	3 6:00p Troop 31 Adult Leaders 6:00p Troop 31 Adult Planning 7:00p Book Conversation: Good Soil 7:00p Troop 31 7:00p Troop 31 PLC	4 5:30p Prayer Gathering 6:00p Pack 31 Den	5 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group	6 6:30a Accountable Disciples	7 7:30a Walk To Emmaus 9:00a Shoe Bank
8 10:00a Live & Livestreamed Worship with Communion	9	10 5:30p Finance Committee via Zoom 7:00p Book Conversation: Good Soil 7:00p PPRC 7:00p Troop 31	11 5:30p Prayer Gathering 7:00p Troop 31 Committee	12 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group 10:00a Staff Meeting	13 6:30a Accountable Disciples	14 7:30a Walk To Emmaus 9:00a Shoe Bank
15 10:00a Live & Livestreamed Worship with Communion	16	17 7:00p Book Conversation: Good Soil 7:00p Troop 31	18 5:30p Prayer Gathering 6:00p Pack 31	19 Juneteenth Church Closed 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group	20 6:30a Accountable Disciples	21 7:30a Walk To Emmaus 9:00a Shoe Bank
22 10:00a Live & Livestreamed Worship with Communion 11:00a Flood Bucket Assembly	23	24 7:00p Church Council 7:00p Troop 31	25 5:30p Prayer Gathering	26 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group 10:00a Staff Meeting	27 6:30a Accountable Disciples	28 7:30a Walk To Emmaus 9:00a Shoe Bank
29 10:00a Live & Livestreamed Worship with Communion	30					





July 2025



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 5:30p Prayer Gathering	3 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group	4 Independence Day Church Closed for Holiday	5 7:30a Walk To Emmaus
6 10:00a Live & Livestreamed Worship with Communion	7	8 7:00p PPRC 7:00p Troop 31	9 5:30p Prayer Gathering 7:00p Troop 31 Committee	10 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group 10:00a Staff Meeting	11 6:30a Accountable Disciples	12 7:30a Walk To Emmaus
13 10:00a Live & Livestreamed Worship with Communion	14	15 7:00p Troop 31	16 5:30p Prayer Gathering	17 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group	18 6:30a Accountable Disciples	19 7:30a Walk To Emmaus
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27 10:00a Live & Livestreamed Worship with Communion	28 	29 7:00p Troop 31	30 5:30p Prayer Gathering	31 7:00a Thursday Morning Small Group		



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The Messenger is a publication of
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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
(July 9 at noon for the August 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.