



Celebrate St. Paul's!



132 years of service

133 Church St. P.O. Box 177 Bowmansville, Pa. 17507 717-445-6256
www.stpaulsuccchurch.org Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Volume 14, Number 4
April 2018

What's Inside?

Easter Service

Kitchen Upgrades

Alpha Course

Next Shelter Meal

Bible Study Continues

**Breakfast
Update**



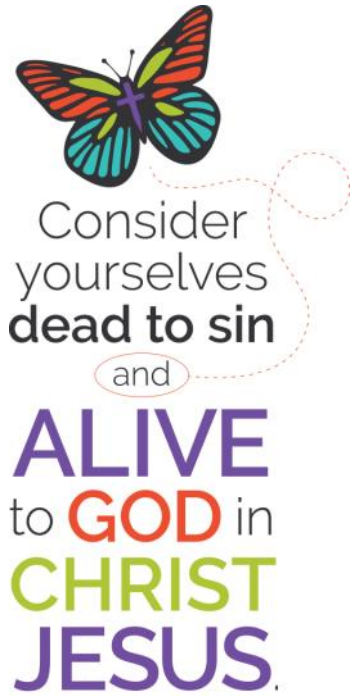
Expectations For Life

An important element to living with sustainable faith, to being expectantly unsatisfied, is understanding that what we experience is life under curse. Praise God that curse is temporary, and we are right to rejoice in this. But while it lasts, we are also right to grieve it. Living with the consequences of sin is supposed to hurt, and it does! The curse on humanity hurts Jesus' followers as much as it hurts anyone. Before we focus on the blessings that come with living unsatisfied, it's important to acknowledge this is not because of God's design—it's because of what we have chosen.

The Disney movie *Pirates of the Caribbean* contains a striking illustration of our kind of curse. Featured in the movie is *The Black Pearl*, a pirate ship whose crew is condemned to sail under a curse of living death. Stolen Aztec gold came at a very high price: the thieves were dead many times over, but they had not lost their lives. Neither had they lost their appetites. Until the curse was lifted by a blood sacrifice, they would eat and pour drink down their throats, but they could not enjoy the taste and would never be satisfied. They longed for true death; this living death was unbearable.

For people who are, as Paul puts it, "dead in your transgressions and sins" (Eph. 2:1), living under a curse of our own, this is an apt picture. People need the intervention of God, who "made us alive with Christ" (Eph. 2:5). And while we are dead, we can pour all manner of things into our souls in the hope of either bringing us to life or killing us—but they all flow right through us.

Continued on page 2



Mission Statement

We, the congregation of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, who have accepted the gift of love and salvation through Jesus Christ, strive to take this message into the world through our prayers, words and deeds. We invite all people to accept these gifts with us.



For those who are alive in Christ, it can be tempting for us to focus so much on the blessings we have in Christ that we forget we still must live with the curse as well. Sometimes we live as if we believe that for Christians God casts a special kind of magic over the things we enjoy in this world and our experience with the good things in

life should be superior to what others receive. This is wrong! Why would God want us to be satisfied with a world full of shadows of the real thing? Just because my family is a Christian family doesn't mean they have the power to make me feel complete. Just because my house and car are purchased with funds I earned in honest work as a follower of Christ, doesn't mean they will make me truly happy. And just because our church is full of people Jesus has forgiven, doesn't mean I can find truly, completely fulfilling community there. God did not make us to be satisfied by these things.

Ignoring this reality can keep us in pursuit of satisfaction, with our heads down, so we miss the best parts of life. And it can drive some to despair. It's far better to acknowledge the curse, grieve its effects even while we enjoy God's blessings, and long for its end, as our patient God does.

You could say we're in a long-distance relationship with God. We have the curse between us—despite our status as forgiven people, we cannot yet stand in God's actual presence. We cannot bridge the distance between us and God. Christ himself has become that bridge—we can be friends with God, spiritually reconciled to him. But we cannot live where he lives, cannot understand the world as he does, cannot achieve unimpaired intimacy with him for now. That distance hurts, as it should. And ironically, the closer we grow to him, the less satisfied we are by that relationship. The more frustrated we are by the distance between us.

Similarly, the more deeply we know God, the more uncomfortable we become in this world where righteousness rarely rules the day. The more the Holy Spirit produces his fruit in us (Gal. 5:22-23), the more we struggle to feel at home here. "This memory of Eden haunts us all," Sting sang in his song "Desert Rose." We are indeed haunted not just by what was, but increasingly as our faith grows, by what will be.

In the light of this curse on humanity, it's wise to have realistic expectations for what life will offer. We greatly compound our pain and invite disappointment when we expect it to deliver a kind of pervasive and persistent happiness and fulfillment it won't. In fact, we may just spend our lives driving hard after something we can't achieve—and missing out on what we actually can.

Pastor Bob

Looking Ahead

April 1	Easter Sunday/Communion
April 8	Thank You Luncheon
April 9	Alpha Course Begins
April 12	Messy Church
April 26	Shelter Meal
May 13	Mother's Day
May 20	Pentecost Sunday & Strengthen the Church Offering
May 27	Trinity Sunday/Communion Memorial Celebration
May 28	Memorial Day/ Cemetery Tribute

Easter Sunday:

Join us on April 1st as we celebrate our risen Savior and share in communion during a special worship service at 10:30 AM.



Alpha Course:

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone is welcome.



Sessions will be held at St. Paul's on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM beginning on April 9th. If interested please see Pastor Bob.

Consistory Updates

Kitchen Update:

During the month of April we will be doing some upgrades to our kitchen area. These improvements have been made possible through the



grant we received from the Anne Brossman Sweigart Charitable Foundation, a donation from Willie & JoAnn Starks, and other anonymous donors.

We are looking forward to these much needed improvements and are hoping it will inspire us to offer a few more meals to our community and outreach missions.

We will keep everyone up to date with our progress through future newsletter articles and pictures. If you have any questions or would like to help in any way please see Tim Lutz.

Shelter Meal:

We will be providing another meal at the Women's Shelter in Ephrata on Thursday, April 26th. If you would like to help with the meal by preparing a dessert or side dish or to help serve please see Tim, Nancy or Ron. We prepare a meal for approximately 15 women and children once a month on an ongoing basis.



Consistory Meeting

The next consistory meeting is scheduled for **Friday, April 6 at 9:30 AM.**

Prayer Concerns: We will be updating our prayer list monthly by starting a new list at the beginning of every month. Please continue to review the list and if there are any updates during the month please see Dee Sprecher. We also have prayer request cards located in the parlor room and in the pews upstairs for your convenience. You can fill out the request and hand it to Pastor Bob or place it in the offering plate.



As you continue your own prayers and concerns outside of the sanctuary this week, please remember the concerns we have raised as a community.

Our list of prayer concerns from March:

Candy, Cheryl's niece, Cindy, Gary, Doris, Felicia, Gold family, Harold & Barbara, Lynda, Ozga family, Rich, Rev Hoch, Wednesday's walk for students, the dairy famers, and God's healing for all of us.

Suggested Prayer... "Most gracious and loving God, we lift up our list of prayer concerns this day and every day that all who are listed might know and feel your presence with them in their time of need. God, continue in your support for all of our friends and family listed and those who are forever in our hearts so that they might feel you with them each day, Amen."



If you would like to ask for prayers for someone you may contact Pastor Bob. Below is a list of the individuals on our Prayer Chain that will pray for you throughout the week.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Pastor Bob Peiffer | Lynda Cooper |
| Kieran Connelly | Nancy Caffrey-Schafer |
| Donna Ozga | Steve Renninger |
| Chris Storms | |

Remember our Shut-Ins

Please remember those members and friends in nursing homes and retirement villages in your prayers:



Ray Freeman
Brethren Village Retirement
Community Room 230
3001 Lititz Pike
Lancaster, Pa. 17606

Betty Sweitzer
Jim Waddell
Lois Kirkpatrick
Retirement Villages in Garden Spot Village
433 South Kinzer Ave, New Holland, Pa. 17557

Pastoral Visits or Emergencies

If anyone is in need of any pastoral assistance you may contact Pastor Bob Peiffer at 717-925-6520 or at his email rpeiffer55@gmail.com. You can also call the church office at 717-445-6256.



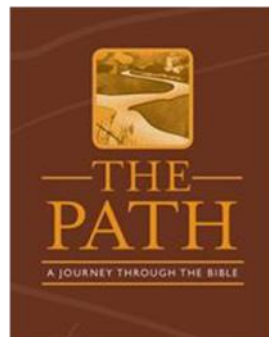
Church office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:00 am until 1:00 pm.



Hear all the latest...

Bible Study Continues:

We are continuing our series of *The Path*, “an amazing 360-degree overview of the vast, sweeping epic of God’s extraordinary love for ordinary people.” They are held at 7:00 pm on the second, third, and fourth Wednesday evenings of each month alternating between Zion’s Reformed Church in Ephrata and St. Paul’s Church . Please see the calendar for details.



Lenten Breakfasts Update:

Our breakfasts have been will attended in spite of the lingering winter weather. We have received \$874.00 in donations from the first two breakfasts so far with two still remaining. If you did not have a chance to come out; why not join us?



Egg Hunt:

Just a reminder the Sunday school is preparing for our annual Easter egg hunt on March 31st beginning at 2:00 PM. A fun day is planned with egg hunts, candy scrambles and prizes for all. Open to children and adults alike.



If you have not sign up there is still time! Stop by the bulletin board downstairs to let us know you are coming.

If you would like to make a donation of colored hard boiled eggs or candy they can be dropped off anytime prior to Friday March 30th.



See what *great love* the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called *children of God!*
1 JOHN 3:1, NIV

Teachers' Meeting



Our next Christian Ed meeting has not yet been scheduled.



Birthdays



April

- 3 Stephen Ozga
- 7 Katlyn Martin
- 14 Todd Cooper
Nancy Caffrey-Schafer
- 15 Betty Sweitzer
- 17 Bill Sellers
- 18 Jeffrey Renninger
- 19 Brandon Martin
- 26 Tim Lutz
- 27 Larry Shupp

Happy Birthday!

Sandwich Sales:

The Women’s Guild will be having their next sandwich sale on April 28th. They are selling Italian, ham and turkey subs for \$4.00. If you would like to place an order please see Alta or Dee prior to April 24th.

Please pick up all sandwiches between 8 and 9 am on Saturday, April 28th.

Thank you for supporting the Women's Guild.



Food Bank News

April need– During the past several months we have been serving more families resulting in a growing need for more donations.

Currently, the food bank is asking for baked beans, canned potatoes and laundry detergent. If you can provide any of these items please place them in the shopping cart by the side door entrance.

Thank you!



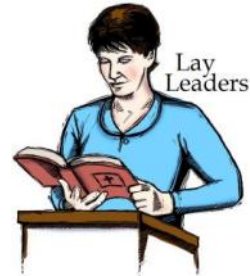
Anniversaries



- Nick & Nancy Schafer - 20 years on April 4
- Porky & Thelma Sprecher – 68 years on April 8
- Andrew & Errica Shelly – 10 years on April 26



Monthly Volunteers



April 1	Sara Renninger **
April 8	Cheryl Borja
April 15	Mary Renninger
April 22	Dee Sprecher
April 29	Sara Renninger
May 6	Cheryl Borja
May 13	Mary Renninger
May 20	Sara Renninger
May 27	Dee Sprecher **

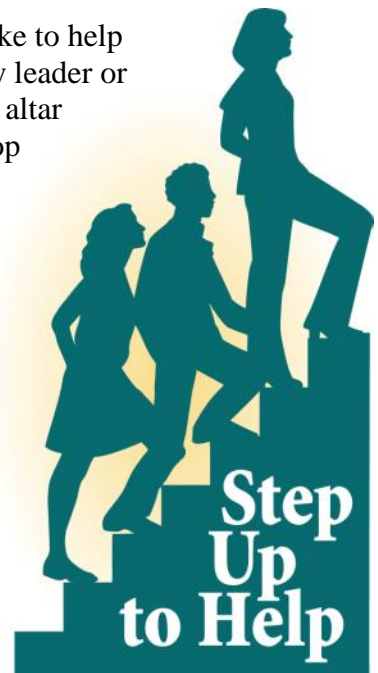
April 1	Mary Renninger
April 8	Sharon Blechschmidt
April 15	Kieran Connelly
April 22	open
April 29	Lynda Cooper
May 6	Mary Renninger
May 13	Sharon Blechschmidt
May 20	Kieran Connelly
May 27	open

** Indicates communion



April 1	Tim Lutz
April 8	Pete Martin
April 15	Dee Sprecher
April 22	Gretchen Martin
April 29	Clint Cooper
May 6	Patty Lutz
May 13	Steve Renninger
May 20	Nancy Connelly
May 27	Chuck Eckenroth

If you would like to help as a greeter, lay leader or be a part of the altar guild please stop by the church office for details.



Treasurer's Report

The monthly report for February 2018:

Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$69,691.00
+ Receipts	8,416.08
- Disbursements	13,007.30
- Transfers	0
Ending Balance	\$65,099.78

A copy of this information can also be found at the mailboxes in the slot marked financial reports.

February's offering only total was \$5,176.00.



Offering Ushers



April 1	Tim Lutz Patty Lutz Carol Shupp Larry Shupp
April 8	Pete Martin Sharon Blechschmidt Steve Renninger Mary Renninger
April 15	Brian Martin Gretchen Martin Charlie Storms Chris Storms
April 22	Larry Klaassen Sara Renninger Clint Cooper Lynda Cooper
April 29	Tim Lutz Patty Lutz Deb Shelly Cheryl Borja



The following individuals are responsible for counting the offering after worship;

April 1	Tim Lutz & Patty Lutz
April 8	Sharon Blechschmidt & Pete Martin
April 15	Gretchen Martin & Brian Martin
April 22	Alta Hoshour & Clint Cooper
April 29	Tim Lutz & Patty Lutz

If you are unable to usher on your Sunday please find a replacement. If you have any questions regarding the schedule please see any one of the Deacons.



Sponsors



April 1	open
April 8	open
April 15	Nancy Caffrey-Schafer
April 22	Nancy Bare
April 29	open
May 6	open
May 13	open
May 20	open
May 27	open



April 1	open
April 8	open
April 15	Nancy Caffrey-Schafer
April 22	open
April 29	open
May 6	open
May 13	open
May 20	open
May 27	open

Flower and Bulletin Sponsor Sheet

The flower and bulletin charts for **2018 are posted**. If you would like to sponsor a week please sign your name on the chart for any Sunday you wish. Please fill out the appropriate form and see that Dee gets your dedication information at least one week prior to it going in the bulletin. The cost for the flowers is **\$30.00**. We will place silk flowers in the sanctuary and place your dedication information in the bulletin. If you wish to purchase real flowers you may still do so on your own. The cost of the bulletins is **\$10.00** each week. Payments can be given to Dee Sprecher. Thank you in advance for your support.

St Paul's UCC Celebrate

A publication of St. Paul's UCC
 133 Church St., P.O. Box 177
 Bowmansville, Pa. 17507
 Phone & Fax 717-445-6256
 office@stpaulsuccchurch.org
 www.stpaulsuccchurch.org



Editor:
 Deidre Sprecher
 dee@stpaulsuccchurch.org

Pastor:
 Rev. Dr. Robert B. Peiffer
 rpeiffer55@gmail.com

St Paul's UCC *Celebrate* is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of programs of the church and to report news about the community and its people.

Deadline for article submissions: The third Sunday of each month.



April

2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 S School 9:30 Easter Worship Communion 10:30 Fresh Hope 1:00	2	3	4	5	6 Consistory 9:30	7
8 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Thank You Luncheon	9 Alpha 7:00	10 Depression & Bipolar Support Mtg @ Zion's	11 Card Club 6:00 Bible Study @ SP 7:00	12 Messy Church 6:30	13	14
15 S School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fresh Hope 1:00 Newsletter Due	16 Alpha 7:00 PRC @ Zion's 7:00	17	18 Bible Study @ Zion's 7:00	19	20	21
22 S School 9:30 Worship 10:30	23 Alpha 7:00	24 Sub Orders Due Depression & Bipolar Support Mtg @ Zion's 7:00	25 Card Club 6:00 Bible Study @ SP 7:00	26 Good Samaritan Shelter Meal 5:00	27	28 Sub Sale Pickup 8-9 am
29 S School 9:30 Worship 10:30	30 Alpha 7:00					