



St. Paul United Church of Christ
31654 Mound Road
Warren MI 48092
586/264-4777
Rev Korderro Brown, Pastor
Worship Service &
Sunday School — Sunday, 10 am
Office Hours: M-Th, 9am-1pm
www.spuccwarren.com
email: stpauluccwarren@gmail.com



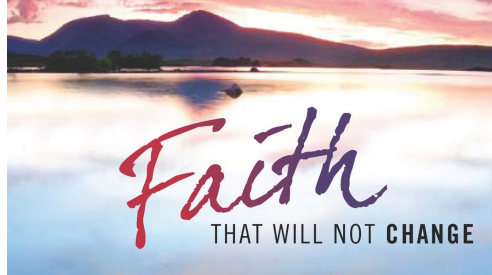
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The Good News

June 2024

PASTOR KORD



Dear SPUCC Family,

In these times of change and uncertainty, it's natural to feel overwhelmed and unsure of what lies ahead. Yet, as a family of believers here at St. Paul, we are blessed with a hope that transcends all circumstances.

This hope is not just wishful thinking or blind optimism; it is a steadfast assurance grounded in the promises of our unchanging God. We have witnessed His faithfulness through the years, and we can trust that His love, power, and presence will continue to guide us. This past year has been particularly challenging as we have lost several beloved members of our congregation. Their absence is deeply felt, and we grieve together as a church family.

However, even in our sorrow, we find comfort in the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Their lives and faith continue to inspire us, reminding us of the preciousness of our mission. As we navigate through these shifts, let us hold tightly to this hope and allow it to transform our hearts and minds. Our mission at St. Paul remains clear: to spread the gospel and live out the teachings of Jesus. We are called to make disciples, to share the good news of Christ, and to teach others about His love and grace. This great commission is more pressing now than ever before. In every season, we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus, sharing His love and truth with a world in desperate need of hope. Let us embrace this mission with renewed vigor, trusting that God will equip us for every good work.

As we face changes in our personal lives, our church, and our community, let us see them as opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ in new and powerful ways. This may include exploring new ways to engage our community and ways to integrate fresh ideas in our worship. Together, as the family of St. Paul, we can be a beacon of hope, reflecting the light of Jesus to those around us. May our faith inspire us to action, and may our actions glorify God and draw others to the transformative power of His gospel.

With love and hope in Christ



St. Paul held its monthly Consistory meeting on May 14. With the weather warmer now, I have shut down the boilers. This will be much better on the gas bills. The lobby looks great, and the floors and painting are finished. We looked into an awning for over the front of the lobby entrance, but the cost of having something installed was just way too expensive. The painting class, when starting back up in the fall, will be using the old CSI room off the back of the church behind the choir room. Pastor Kord is still working on plans for the vision for the church going into the future. Where do we see ourselves in 3, 5 and/or 10 years from now? If you are interested in that team, please see anyone on Consistory. The Women's Evening Overall meeting was very interesting and helpful. Remember, Oct 9th will be another evening Overall mtg. Please remember this is open to both men and women. There is a lot of good information. More to come from Women's Fellowship. We have a new project started by Trudy and Joy. It is a free lunch program at the church scheduled for June 13th for the community. This is a great way for St. Paul to reach out to the community and maybe help those who are having a difficult time finding a way to purchase a lunch. The outside of the church will be getting a very needed cleaning and updated landscaping with new mulch, flowers and butterfly plants. Please remember, if there is anything that needs attention (building, service, etc.), please let a member of Consistory know, so we can address it at our meeting or sooner.



- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Brent Grawburg |
| 4 | Buster Fritz |
| 9 | Maria Momeyer |
| 12 | Faye Mork |
| | Sandy Stilwell |
| 18 | Dawn Regier |
| | Rev Paul Kuntzman |
| 20 | Mike Gawel |
| 23 | Rev Kord Brown |
| 30 | Laurie Gebert |

Our Rummage Sale is just 3 months away! September 20 & 21, 2024!



The rummage sale is only one of the Women's Fellowship fundraisers. But this is our big one! The money is not only used to help support well-deserving missions (locally and far away), but most importantly, our own St. Paul Church building. We are able to offer our support with the donations from the Rummage Sale. Yes, we need your rummage as well as your families, friends and neighbors. And we need your help.

Please remember not to overstuff the bags and boxes, or leave items outside at the front or back door, or put on the tables in the Fellowship Hall. There are different rooms with signs on the doors to help keep the items together. Clothes can be placed on the stage. No furniture, computer equipment, broken items, text books, old magazines, or stuffed toys.

Costumes in the basement closet are going to be donated to a local theater group.

We will start to move the rummage from the various Rummage Rooms on Monday, June 17 at 10 am. It takes much time to do the sorting and moving. You don't need to belong to a Circle or be part of Women's Fellowship to help out (men can help too). We usually work a few hours during the day, some evenings and some Saturdays.

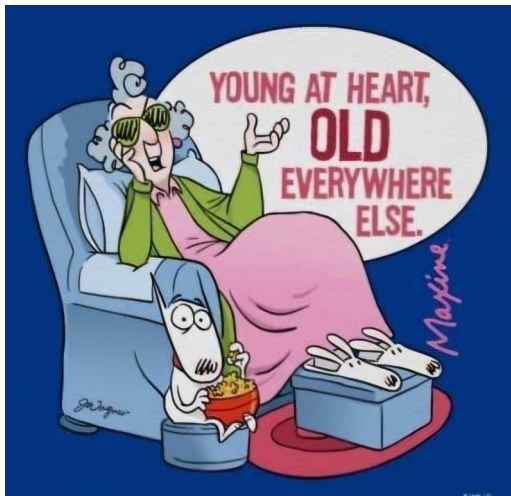
To date, the Pre-Rummage Sale total was \$534! We still have the white/gold china place settings for \$5.00 a set, serving trays, bread pans, bowls, coffee/tea servers. We will put these items on Facebook Marketplace this month.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kim at 586-855-2041 or Maria at the church office 586-264-4777 during office hours.

Thank you for all of your support!

Prayer for Father's Day

Lord, we lift up Christian men everywhere and pray that Your Spirit of grace and truth may rest and remain on each one. We pray that these men may grow in grace and in knowledge of Christ Jesus their Lord, and that they become strong in the Lord and in His mighty strength - and not rely on their own abilities but rest in Him alone. May the beautiful character of the Lord Jesus be increasingly reflected in each one, and may all men throughout the world be godly witnesses to the truth of the gospel both in their own home and with others. Build up the body of Christ we pray with an army of Christian men who will become a reflection of the Lord Jesus so that they may grow into mighty men of God. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.



“Our Father, who art in heaven...” we say it every week in worship, but how often do we think about what it means? This month, let’s take a closer look at the Lord’s Prayer and the Bible’s attitude toward prayer.

“Our Father, who art in heaven,” first, this establishes our relationship to God, that we are God’s children, that God stands to us as a heavenly parent, a closer and more loving relationship than simply worshipper and deity.

“Hallowed be thy name.” This continues the Judaic principle that the name of God is holy. In fact, the name of God was so holy to the ancient Israelites that it could not be written out or spoken aloud. The name by which they knew God was “Yahweh,” or “I Am.”

“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” This sentence bundles a number of concepts together, principally that God’s will is as important on earth as it is in the realm of heaven. We may live in a corrupted and corruptible state, but God’s will is just as important as if we lived in a state of perfection.

“Give us this day our daily bread.” We need not worry about the future, only today. God cares for everything and everyone, and will provide for us each day. Jesus expands on this theme in the Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew, he points out that we cannot lengthen our lives by even one hour by worrying. “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” (Matthew 6:34 NRSV).

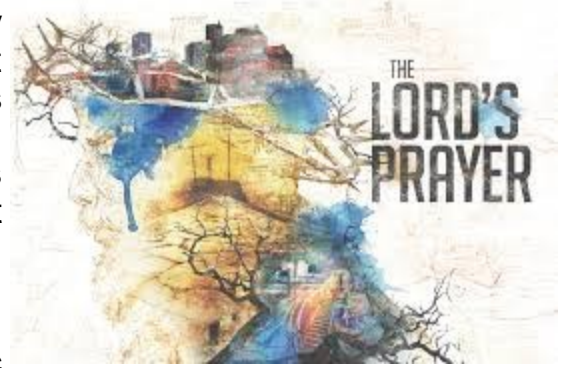
“And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Note the order of forgiveness here. We are forgiven in the same manner as we forgive others. We must forgive others *before* we can be forgiven. That is no accident. That too is in line with the Sermon: “For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.” (Matthew 7:2 NRSV).

“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” God will not tempt us. “No one, when tempted, should say, ‘I am being tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil and tempts no one. But one is tempted by one’s own desire...” (James 1:13-14 NRSV). Instead, God can help us turn away from the lure of our own desires, when they are evil.

“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.” This phrase does not appear in most translations. It is a later addition. Exactly when it was added and by whom is a cause of much debate. It certainly appears in England in the 16th century, in other places at later and earlier dates. Until recently the Catholic Church did not include it. Now it (sometimes) does. It is called a “doxology,” which is simply a statement of belief.

“Amen.” Did you ever wonder why we say “amen” at the end of a prayer? It is a transliteration of a Hebrew word meaning “truth,” “certainty,” or “verily.” It is a way of saying “so be it” or “let it be so.” It is a word of agreement.

When and where are we to pray this prayer? In secret. Jesus says we are not to practice our piety in public like the hypocrites do. We are not to “pile up empty phrases” as the non-believers do.



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Scripture has a lot to say about prayer in general. “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6 NRSV). “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 NRSV). “Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving.” (Colossians 4:2 NRSV).

How effective is prayer? “Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.” (Jesus, upon being asked about the efficacy of faith; Matthew 21:22 NRSV). This perspective is echoed in Mark, “So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” (Mark 11:24 NRSV).

Prayer is not ignored in the First (Old) Testament. It is built into many of the scriptures there. Many of the psalms are actually prayers, such as Psalm 55. In Proverbs, Solomon puts prayer in its proper perspective: “The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is his delight.” (Proverbs 15:8 NRSV). “The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.” (Proverbs 15:29 NRSV).

Finally, Jesus tells us a parable about (our) “need to pray always and not lose heart.” (Luke 18:1-8). In the parable, a woman has a matter before a judge, who refuses to “grant her justice.” Yet she keeps coming back to him. Finally, to stop her from coming back, he accedes to her pleas so she will bother him no further. Jesus makes the point that God will grant justice to his “chosen ones who cry to him day and night.” Perseverance in prayer is important.



Mike & Kelly Gawel
June 28



- * Dick, Diane, Beth, Joy & Trudy for planting and maintaining our lovely flowers
- * To all those who brought in flowers and donated money towards them
- * Glenn for lobby updates
- * Mike for weeding the flowerbeds
- * Dawn, Erich, Mike, Amelia & Josh for refreshing the landscaping

GAIL

Well, we're on the home stretch now. The painting is done and the new flooring has been installed. The handles for the cabinets and the switch plates have been installed. All that remains are the furniture and the finishing touches - the wall decor, signage and possibly plants. As far as the furniture goes, we have a bit of a catch 22. The furniture which is the most durable is out of our price range. It would cost over \$10,000 to furnish the lobby! We are researching alternatives which are more cost effective but will still provide quality for the money spent. This has proved to be a challenge. We hope that by the time you read the next newsletter, we will have solved this conundrum and the lobby will be completely finished. We have also looked into awnings for the door and found them to be cost ineffective. A simple awning over the door would cost \$4,000 to \$6,000. An awning up the ramp would cost \$40,000. While some rain does blow in through the door on occasion, the floor is commercial grade and very durable, and can withstand this small amount of wetness. It was determined that this money could best be spent elsewhere, such as upgrading the floor in the hallway of the educational wing and possibly painting the walls there. So we decided against the awning and will focus on the furniture and finishing touches. While all of the committee members have worked hard on the lobby refresh, a special shout out goes to Maria Momeyer, without whom this project would not have been successful. Stay tuned for future developments.

SUE

Do you read the St. Paul monthly newsletter??? It isn't meant to be only church news. Since COVID (that nasty word), we have kinda done away with passing of the peace and since there are so few of us, I miss that connection. There are so few ways to interact with each other and I feel we are missing out on some great friendships. OK, now that I got your attention — I lied. One of the best ways to stay connected and make new friends (AND keep the old friends) is to join in the fun times of RUMMAGE!!! It's coming faster than a speeding bag of clothes needing to be sorted and folded. Believe it or not, we actually have a good time and there is no right or wrong way to do anything. I can't encourage, beg, cajole or threaten you to join us — but I can tell you — you are missing an opportunity to get to know someone that you only know that sits on the other side of the Church. AND ANOTHER THING — if you missed the Women's meeting on the presentation from the CARE organization — you missed a good one. And now for the non-church part of my news. Yes, my great grand-daughter is just beautiful and perfect just like all my gr-grands. We finally celebrated Easter and Mother's Day last weekend with as many that could make it (as usual). Today was a good day to have coffee in my rocker on my little patio and enjoy the birds and my flowers (except the unwelcomed squirrel who ate 2 flowers off my Gerber Daisy). I hope he got heartburn!



See you in church.

Update: That little devil was at it again. Digging in my flower pot. He didn't find the 2 new flowers, so I gave the pot a good dose of Cayenne Pepper. That should teach him who is boss!