

St. Paul's

**April
2024**



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NEXT BEACON is May 17th
All articles are due in by May 10th

April
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Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Words From Wang – *The Earth is the Lord's...*

The creation story in Genesis provides us with a simple metaphor of how things came to be “in the beginning.” It illustrates how God fashioned the heavens and the earth, the birds of the air, the four legged and two legged that walk the earth, those who inhabit the waters, the lilies of the field, and the trees that *clap their hands*. The God who saw to it that all creation was blessed is the same God that expects those created in God’s image (that’s us) to tend it and to till it. In addition to the Genesis story, the Psalmist eloquently penned inspiring words in Psalm 24:

*The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;
for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.*

And when the Creator made human kind, it became very clear that to “have dominion” (Genesis reference) meant to nurture and protect all that God has given for the benefit of all creation; the circle of life, the balance of nature, as it were. And history has proven that the best way for us to honor the Creator is, while we naturally draw from the land, the air, and the sea, that we consider only what is needed to sustain life. And our faithful response is to return thanks and to demonstrate a strong commitment to our custodianship of all things natural. This is our creed as inhabitants of the earth and must be practiced at every level; mentally, physically, and spiritually. The Psalmist/worship leader continues in the next verse with a question:

*Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?
And the people answer,
Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.*

One exception to the “clean hands” metaphor is the fact that there are those among us who are willing to get their hands dirty in all the ways that we nurture and tend God’s Garden, including those who literally love the feel and aroma of “dirt” on their hands (a.k.a. the green thumb). Those same “tenders” do not really consider it “dirt” but rather, life-giving humus; that it literally possesses the decomposed past that when recycled and repurposed, literally produce new life.

I could not be happier that recent conversations during our “Let’s Talk Church” meetings have generated some newfound energy around the topic of Creation Care (see article). And anyone who does not attend church on “Earth Day Sunday” (April 21st) will miss our unofficial launch as we seek to be more intentional in educating and promoting the integrity of creation. Our planet needs our help so we trust that many of you will step up in supporting our work in this very important ministry at stewards of God’s earth.

May the growing power of this new season of rebirth only enrich and bless what we are called to do in tending and tilling the miracle of God’s creation - and as we celebrate the cycles and seasons of life.

See ya’ in church.
Pastor Bob

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Music Coordinator Position Created

St. Paul's church members have probably noticed a few changes in how we have been handling music matters in the past several months. After much discussion and deliberation, the newly revised personnel committee, with the church council's blessing, has offered Kristin Scheets an addendum to her current job as worship accompanist and vocalist.

As the "music coordinator," Kristin will manage certain administrative tasks and provide oversight to our music ministry and staff, especially as it pertains to music offered during worship services throughout the church year (i.e., choirs, ensembles, and special music). Her duties officially began during the month of March and will be evaluated on a monthly basis. She will also report to, and periodically meet with, the worship committee.

As the summer season approaches, she will be the person charged with scheduling special music while our regular choirs and ensembles take the summer off. We all certainly appreciate what Kristin brings to the worship life of St. Paul's Church, and we couldn't be happier that she will be expanding her role with us. Church members are asked to please refer any and all music concerns or questions to Kristin in the coming months.



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ST. PAUL'S UCC



Worship Opportunities

(April-May)

April 7: 2nd Sunday of Easter

Scripture: *John 20:19-31*

Sermon Theme: *The Kind of Peace that Unlocks Doors*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

April 14: 3rd Sunday of Easter

Scripture: *Luke 24:36b-48*

Sermon Theme: *Why are You Frightened?*

April 21: 4th Sunday of Easter/Earth Day

Scripture: Psalm 23, John 10:11-18

Sermon Theme: *Green Pastures, Still Waters, and Restored Souls*

April 28: 5th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon Theme: *Abiding in Divine*

May 5: 6th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 15:9-17

Sermon Theme: *Friends; the Final Episode*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

May 12: 7th Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

Scripture: John 17:6-19

Sermon Theme: *Yours, Mine, and Ours*

Note: Faith, Food, and Fellowship Sunday in fellowship hall

May 19: Pentecost Sunday

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Sermon Theme: *Praying For A Moral Pentecost*

May 26: 1st Sunday after Pentecost/Trinity Sunday

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

Sermon Theme: *Holy to the Third Power*

Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Nolan Lotesto	4/3
Nancy Kramer	4/8
Charlie Lang	4/8
Terri Deuerling	4/8
Jamie Szabo	4/10
Greg Lucas	4/10
Evelyn Winter	4/11
Jane Dawson	4/12

Pete Singer	4/17
Jeremiah Wikman	4/18
Edward Bourdage	4/18
Janet Henneman	4/19
Eve Mertes	4/21
Brian Butler	4/22
Ursula Kriegel	4/30



Wendy Manser	5/6
Laurie Revak	5/7
Kamila Kay	5/8
Sheryl Gee	5/11
Steven Ticknor	5/11
Kailee Kruse	5/14
Jack Glauner	5/14
Sue Phillips	5/14
Laura Middaugh	5/17
Julia Zickus	5/17

Molly Schneeweiss	5/21
Kurt Albertsen	5/21
Jack Vogt Jr.	5/23
Gary Gee	5/24
Peter Kirsch	5/24
Keith Chappell	5/25
Arlene Jezierski	5/29
Doug MacKenzie	5/29
Sandy MacMillan	5/30

Church News



Who Do You See?

Here is a photo from the past, St. Paul's softball team, the St. Paul Saints. Who can identify the MOST people in the photo? **It's a contest so don't share!**

Send your responses to info@stpaulsucccl.org We will publish who had the most correct people identified in the next Beacon and who these fierce softball warriors are!

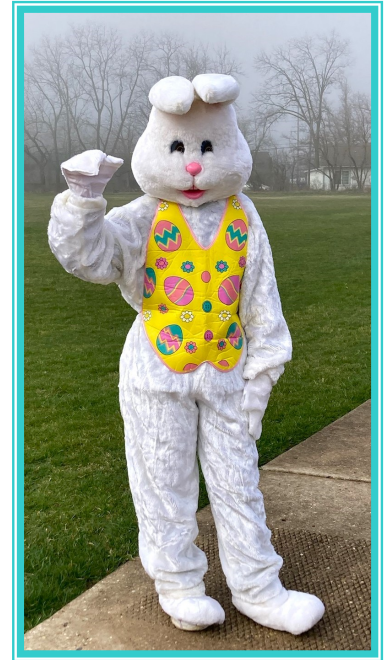


Church News

Another Fun



Although the grass was wet, it didn't dampen the spirits of about 40 children as they raced off to collect eggs on Saturday!! The morning included refreshments, hearing the Easter story and a song with Pastor Bob, hunting for eggs, photos with the Easter Bunny and bringing home a goodie bag.



It's always wonderful to see some new families visit St. Paul's. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped with this event!

Enjoy the pictures from the hunt.

Your Church Life Ministry



Church News



April



UPCOMING EVENTS

AT A GLANCE

APRIL

14

APRIL

FAITH, FOOD &
FELLOWSHIP
SERVICE
10:00 A.M. BRKF
10:30 A.M.
WORSHIP

18

APRIL

MARY CIRCLE
MEETING
CWS DISASTER
HYGIENE KITS
1:00 P.M.

21

APRIL

EARTH DAY
SUNDAY
SERVICE
10:00 A.M.

27

APRIL

FEED MY
STARVING
CHILDREN
11:30 A.M.

28

APRIL

ST. PAUL'S
FELLOWSHIP
BINGO
11:00 A.M.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST