

## Sunday School Is Back! Rally Day Sept. 12

Calling all Sunday School students!

We'll be back in session on Sunday, September 12. Bring the whole family! We will start at 9:30 a.m. during the worship service by welcoming all our students back and introducing our teachers. Then our first Sunday School class for the fall will be at 10:45 a.m.

Join us as we learn and grow together!

### Pumpkin Party

We are happy to return to this annual Halloween event. Come on over to Hickman Hall on Friday, October 29 at 6:30 p.m. There will be lots of food, fun and games, and prizes! Bring your friends and family, too, including parents. Just let us know how many will be coming so we can plan ahead.

### Bazaar November 6

Another activity we're very happy to reinstate is our Sunday School Bazaar!

We are collecting all your gently used items during the months of September and October to sell at our huge White Elephant sale.

Donations are needed for the following tables:



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL was an amazing Mission to Mars and Beyond! We had a great group of kids and hope to see many of them at Sunday School. More photos on page 8.

Handcrafts  
Boutique Items  
Holiday Decorations  
Deli Items  
Baked Goods  
Breakfast & Lunch  
White Elephants  
Homemade Soup

Be sure to mark your calendar so you can come and support us on that Saturday. The Bazaar is how we finance our Sunday School and Vacation Bible School Programs.

*Elaine Luoma*



St Paul's will be hosting the Red Cross Blood Drive on:

October 18th 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Please contact the Red Cross at  
800-RED-CROSS  
or at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)  
to schedule your appointment  
today!



**ALL Prayers:**

For our country  
 For everyone to get vaccinated  
 To end hate crimes  
 Logan S bone cancer needs prayers  
 Leonard H fast growing mouth cancer  
 Genieva B recovering from stroke & sister Kathy R  
 Bob P hosp broken ribs & pneumonia & wife Vicki  
 Janet B home from hospital still needs prayers  
 Those affected by Hurricane Ida including those in our area impacted by tornadoes  
 Families of military killed in Afghanistan  
 Jay P forgiveness for those who are against him  
 Dixielee L quarantine at home  
 Rev Derek G needs kidney transplant  
 Joanne K awaiting surgery for broken ankle  
 City of Taiilaq in Greenland high suicide rate  
 Pat's friend on loss of husband  
 Chris T surgery pray relieves problems  
 Baby Lilly back in hospital  
 Diane C hospitalized with hydrocephalus  
 Annamae & Jerry health issues  
 Gail & Jim moving from Seattle to S Jersey  
 Lil Q not feeling well  
 Joe J gallbladder surgery  
 Family of Elizabeth C  
 Family & friends of Bob A  
 Family & friends of Dave J esp wife Barbara  
 Baby Joey in treatment for brain tumor  
 Sue needs healing  
 Aunt Ethel hospital  
 Family & friends of Marge P  
 Someone needing a lift chair  
 Mark Mc going home to Lord & wife Lynn  
 Kerrica W going home to Lord & family  
 Elissa D health in hospital  
 Jim now intubated & wife Fatima both with covid  
 David in hosp lung infection &

pneumonia  
 April & her mother  
 Jason as he begins a new job  
 Carla B hip replacement recovery  
 S family, friends, & co-workers  
 Mr.S died at work  
 Woman with personal issues & stepdaughter with mental problems  
 Marcy W serious health issues  
 Jesse age 13 reconstructive foot surgery  
 Edie Mc health issues  
 Joann P chemo taken to hospital  
 Terry D pain in side  
 Sandy D health issues  
 Genieva B lost sight in one eye  
 Rosemary A lost son to covid  
 Deb P cataract surgery did well  
 Lori & Joe caring for mom on hospice  
 Brandon & Collette returning to school no masks  
 Lawrence C melanoma  
 Michael C surgery for infection  
 Florence H spine surgery  
 Joe D fighting cancer  
 Lorrie breast cancer surgery now radiation  
 Dakota M has covid family in quarantine  
 Tim L medical issues  
 Kathleen fell hurt wrist  
 Tommy A ICU covid  
 Julian P legal problems  
 Megan personal problems  
 Nancy H health issues

**Every week:** All those in need, unspoken requests, all servicemen/ women, our nation and leaders.

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:**  
 Joyce N., Samm S., Hope T., Gerry M., Chris S., Janet B., Terry D., Helen R., Corey T.

**Serving in the Military:**  
 Daniel Domeraski, Rachel Rachuba, Gabby Townsley, Ed Schwebel, Joseph Bangle, Kailey Roller, Jaime Dan Solano, Brandon Howell, Chris Yard, Shaina Serrano, James T. Adams, Jr.; Donna Rachuba

**Shut-Ins & Nursing Home Residents:**  
 Bertie C., Edie M., Rosie P., Ron & Eve C., Betty C.

**September Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 1- Jacqueline Clement
- 2- Colin Grassia
- 7- Kelly Kinley
- 7- Dawn Moore
- 9- Heather Cooper Hudgins
- 9- Doris DuBois
- 9- Margaret Gogolin
- 10- Angel Cosme
- 10- Sean Favretto
- 10- Gregory Hamilton
- 11- Alice Kern
- 11- Ellie Luoma
- 12- Mario DiVento
- 12- Samm Smith
- 13- Bill Blair
- 13- Kyle DuBois
- 13- Jeff Jones
- 13- Ryan Moore
- 13- Pat Strockbine
- 13- Christian White
- 14- Rebecca Gibson Eller
- 14- Danielle Ferrara
- 14- Tommy Gittinger
- 14- Rachel & Douglas Merckx
- 18- Ginny & Rich Gibson
- 19- Sandy Daws
- 19- Kathie & Mike Spellman
- 19- Matthew Weber
- 19- Tom White
- 20- Dana & Steve Kovack
- 21- Casey Kovack
- 21- Amanda Strock Kaiser
- 22- Jason Gittinger
- 22- Mary Ann & Larry Jones
- 24- Diane Favretto
- 26- Gwen Jones
- 27- Michelle Black
- 28- Don Black
- 28- Brian Cooper
- 28- Olivia Ferrara
- 28- Sandy & Jack Spellman
- 28- Jaclyn Weber
- 30- Cailyn Houghton

**October Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 1- Ron Cervantes
- 1- Michelle & Kevin Wright
- 1- Kim & Ed Gibson
- 2- Brooke Zirbser

- 3- Jeff & Danielle Matlack
- 3- Nathaniel Weisser
- 4- Merrilee Chappell
- 4- Ashley Dugan
- 5- Sandi DiLeo
- 5- Nancy Huebshman
- 5- Gina Leonardo
- 5- Jill Galka
- 7- Angela & Jason Houghton
- 7- Don Davis Jr.
- 7- Rich & Gerrie Lynn Dyal
- 8- Victor Ferrara
- 9- Doug & Denise Brown
- 9- Sally Jordan
- 9- Jessica Keegan
- 9- Heather Strockbine
- 11- Aubrey McLaughlin
- 11- Bob Rowand
- 11- Scott Weems
- 12- Leisa Keegan
- 12- LeighAnne Richman
- 13- Brooklyn Gittinger
- 13- Carl "CJ" Kinley
- 13- Anthony Panetta
- 14- Chris McGee
- 14- Lillian Quillin
- 15- Janet Brown
- 16- Heather Jones
- 17- Jacqueline Gullifer
- 17- Ann & Jay Hamel
- 17- Elliemae Rutter
- 17- William Rutter
- 18- Jennifer Barger
- 18- Christina & Ed Yurick
- 20- Rich & Carol Grossman
- 20- Mark & Evett Heffernan
- 20- Mary Sierocinski
- 21- Cindy Fifis
- 21- Delaney Yurick
- 22- Donald Gortowski
- 22- Dana Kovack
- 24- Donna & Wayne Sierocinski
- 25- Rori Beidle
- 25- Danielle Brown
- 27- Rich & Diane Favretto
- 28- Bertie Cast
- 28- Debbie Richman
- 28- Cheri Clement
- 29- Sharon & Gary Rutter
- 29- Hillary Toppin
- 30- Joe Bryan Jr.
- 30- Kathy Schanne
- 31- Jack Heritage

**THE LAMPLIGHTER**  
 Bimonthly Newsletter of  
 St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
 PO Box 125, West Deptford, NJ 08086  
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Sunday Morning Worship.....9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School.....10:45 a.m.

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# God does NOT have a Favorite!

Do you have a favorite?

Pizza? I think everyone does and this is a photo of a pizza from my absolutely favorite pizzeria in the world, Santora's. They have been making pizza in Buffalo since the late 1920s and their "pies" taste as good as they did when I first bit into one as a child. I love them so much that I still can recall instantaneously the number we used to dial to order a pick-up or a delivery, 633-7676. When asked if I could choose my last meal on earth, I always say it must include Santora's pizza. Oh, and it just needs some pepperoni to be complete although I will take it with some "wings."

As a Christian, I have come to realize the good news about God is that God does not have a favorite ... God does not love any human being more than any other human being. In fact, God each day is hoping that every single human being on earth comes to believe and then to live as God expects humanity to live. Jesus taught, "**There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.**"

So if there is joy for one sinner repenting can you imagine the party that goes on every time a church goes on a successful mission trip to help hurting people like we do each year? (Red Bird 2022 starts on July 10.) Can you imagine the joy that the angels of God shared as they looked down at St. Paul's Vacation Bible School a few weeks ago and saw so many children discovering God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit? They were probably singing with the kids as they sang G-L-O-R-Y with smiles on their young faces!

And can you just imagine what impact half-empty churches have on those same angels? Churches with no Bible studies? Churches with rapidly aging and decreasing memberships? Or the ever-decreasing number of individuals who choose to not even pause for an hour on Sunday mornings to worship God? Or parents who intentionally disconnect their children from church and faith?



Friends, as we came out of the summer I preached a sermon series about FRESHNESS in FAITH. Frankly, my intent was to impact all of us with the need to get reacquainted with God and renewed in our faith to ensure that St. Paul's does not join those churches that are shrinking and not shining the light of Christ brightly in the world. We need to again strive to fill the pews and chairs to worship God! We all know friends, family members, former regulars at St. Paul's, neighbors, and co-workers who do not go to church anymore. As Christians we need to be doing all we can to reconnect people with God and Christ. We need to be intentional about inviting people to worship God with others, to pray together, and to sing the hymns of the church together.

Cymbala's book is available in paperback and on kindle if you are interested in reading it. Here are the "homework" suggestions I made if you are interested in having a fresh faith along with me:

**FRESH WIND:** RENEWAL in the SPIRIT was the first week and my recommendation to each of us is to find a quiet place to go to alone without a cell phone for at least 30 minutes to focus on God, to discover visions in the clouds or trees or nature, and to focus on breathing. I recommended reading PSALM 130 in those moments.

**FRESH FIRE:** IGNITING the SPIRIT reminded us to pray deliberately and to pray more. That through our prayers we need to share with God our desire to experience God's works, God's love, God's power, and God's righteousness. We need to pray for God's Holy

to strengthen our inner faith into a fresh effective faith on fire for Christ.

**FRESH PATHS:** A DISCOVERY JOURNEY taught that worship should be an essential element of our lives and that along with making worship essential we truly need to make Jesus the One our lives are about. I recommended listening to the song The Heart of Worship frequently. Molly led the church in singing it on Sunday August 29.

**FRESH IDEAS:** SHAKEN up in FAITH emphasized our need to read God's Word. If we love God and if we hold Jesus as our Savior, then the reading of Scripture should no longer be an occasional or an optional element of our lives. We should be digging into God's Word daily or at least the Gospels.

**FRESH FAITH:** COME to the TABLE of the LORD concluded the series with thoughts on the value of our relationship with God and that Communion offers us the opportunity to meet up with Jesus through the sacrament of Communion. Our need to heed the call in Jeremiah, "You will seek me and find me WHEN you seek me with ALL of your HEART." It is through Communion that we confess to God and ask for God's immediate intervention, and that opens to the door to a fresh faith.

I will be in Buffalo on September 12 and I can guarantee that my brother and I will be eating a pizza at Santora's. Our parents took us to Santora's. Our parents took us to church. And now Mark and I are in church each week and we still enjoy Santora's ... I think our parents taught us well.

Blessings,

*Pastor Dave*

## Outreach

### Happy Fall, Y'all!

Looking forward to cooler weather and more mission work!

#### Upcoming Mission Projects & Offerings

- **September**
  - ◇ Our first Sunday offering (Sept 5) will benefit Shared Ministries, for the outreach of the United Methodist Church.
  - ◇ On the third Sunday (Sept 19) the offering is for Seeds of Hope.

Seed of Hope is the Camden-based charity that we have collected undies for. They minister to the people of Camden, especially children with a parent in prison and the ladies of the street. They do much good work among some of the poorest in New Jersey.

- **October**
  - ◇ Our first Sunday offering (Oct 3) is World Communion Sunday Offering.
  - ◇ On the third Sunday (Oct. 17) the offering is for Ranch Hope.

Ranch Hope for Boys and its sister Victory House for girls care for at-risk teens who need the structure and faith-based ministry to get their lives back on track.

We are a community of love for all.

*Ruth Schultz*



## We're the Undie Church!

**NOTE: We are now collecting women's size SMALL underwear (bikini or boy cut) for the Ladies of Camden. Please bring your donations to church by September 21st. THANKS!**



Seeds of Hope Ministries in Camden is an organization that helps the homeless, men and women reentering life from prison (and their children), and women who have drug issues or are on the street.

Just in time for back to school, St. Paul's collected new underwear for children who have a mom or dad in prison or who are otherwise in need.

We collected a whole table full of undies! Thanks to everyone that donated! To read more about Seeds of Hope Ministries, visit their website at <https://www.seedsofhopeministries.org/> Thank you so much for your generosity!

*Chris Taylor*



**Beginning in September, St. Paul's Food Pantry will be open for distribution on both the 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 9 am - 12 noon**

## CRT Updates

The Community Relations Team has resumed Pretzel Sunday. The 3rd Sunday of every month you can buy Philly Soft Pretzels after worship. 2 for \$1. Another great reason to come back to church!

The first Sunday in October the Piston Dinner will prepare another delicious soup for St. Paul's. Order form will be up on the web site soon.

Another great way to support your church is with Shop with Scrip. You purchase a gift card at face value and the merchant pays St. Paul's. For more information

email Mary Ann at [majones0703@gmail.com](mailto:majones0703@gmail.com) for all the details.

Our Chicken Barbeque returns on October 10th. I will have tickets at church on Sundays or contact Sharon Rutter at 856-981-1102 or [shrutter2@gmail.com](mailto:shrutter2@gmail.com)

Don't forget our ShopRite cards. Available in \$100, \$50 & \$25 denominations. St Paul's earns 5%. See Mary Ann after worship or send an email. She will deliver the cards to you.

Blessings,  
*CRT*

# My Challenge to You ... Help get us to 130!

That magic mark of 130 represents what our attendance can be on Sunday mornings if we ask friends and family to worship God with us. However, if we aren't asking friends and family to worship with us, they will never know about our amazing and loving church where God is always worshiped.

I know that almost every one of us has a presence on social media. It might be on Facebook or Instagram or perhaps Twitter or Snapchat. Many of you are my friends on my accounts online so I see what you post with regularity.

Now that summer is gone, I want to challenge each of you. My challenge is a simple one ... I want you to post on your social media each week an invitation to your friends online to come to church with you. I will be posting this on the church's Facebook page, on the church's Instagram page, and on the church's Twitter account so you can just copy and paste this "meme" onto your own.

If you aren't attending church in person but are worshiping online there will be a similar "meme" inviting your friends to worship with you at your church through our live stream.



I want to encourage you to write something along with the meme. Perhaps say that you look forward to talking about the church service with them. Or you can't wait to hear how St. Paul's family welcomed them with love or how their children enjoyed Sunday School.

We have lost some good people who have gone home to the Lord since Springtime. They will never be replaced for all that they gave to St. Paul's. But unless we ask people to come to church we will never replace them and we will shrink in numbers. We will continue to shrink unless people like you and me invite others to come to church with us.

St. Paul's is not located on a well-travelled highway. We have not purchased billboards and we don't have a huge brand new "cathedral" that tourists are booking bus trips to visit. In fact, I asked around town when I first arrived if people knew where Church Street was in "Thorofare," or if they knew where St. Paul's United Methodist Church was in Thorofare or for that matter if they knew where DeHart's was located in Thorofare and the resounding answer I received was, nope.

We all love this church! We love being together! We worship with enthusiasm! I love hearing HE IS RISEN INDEED when I give the cue, and last month we sang the TREES of the FIELD with joy. But if we don't start inviting people soon we will be like Colonial Manor or Westville, neither of which ever have 20 people in church on a Sunday and usually they have less than 10.

We can do it! You can do it! It's out of our love of God that we can grow this church because Jesus deserves new disciples. This church has proven time and time again how strong we are when we work together!

## Share Your Voice ~ Join the Choir!

We'd like to invite anyone who likes to sing, no experience required, to join our choir at St. Paul's.

Rehearsal is every Thursday at 7 p.m. beginning on Thursday, Sept. 16. Come any Thursday. We always look forward to an exciting, music-filled year!

Music is a powerful ministry, and we work hard to make the music in our church lift, enrich, and inspire. We believe in Christ-centered music, fellowship, friendship and most importantly,

the sharing of the gospel of Christ through music in worship. Music speaks a universal language and facilitates Christian celebration.

We hope that our music provides a way for people to connect with Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord. Everyone who participates in our music ministry is challenged to grow in Christ and to experience



God's unconditional love through the love of music that we all share.

No matter what your age or ability, we have opportunities for you to be involved in our music ministry! So join in and celebrate!

# Red Bird Mission Soars to its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*"Hope is the thing with feathers  
that perches in the soul—and  
sings the tunes without the words  
—and never stops at all."*

—EMILY DICKINSON

By Heather Mistretta  
hmistretta@gnjumc.org

The red cardinal, the state bird of seven states including Kentucky, holds a special spiritual meaning for Christians as it symbolizes everlasting vitality (the faith in the blood of Christ as the birds are red in color), Christmas (the birth of Christ) and are also considered a creative force (the red color equals vitality and creativity).

In the remote Clay County of eastern Kentucky, where also Chief Red Bird of the Cherokees once lived, sits a place of dichotomy—where shuttered coal mines, shells of cars, decayed houses and generations of poverty are entrenched in the Cumberland Mountains but where lives are also transformed sometimes with just a hammer and a prayer much like Jesus did.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Red Bird Mission, a faith-based nonprofit that has directly responded to the growing needs of a community where more than 40 percent of the population lives below the poverty line.



LEFT: Rev. Dave Delaney (right), who has been going to Red Bird for over a decade, embraces a collaborative spirit with his team from St. Paul's

Soon after teachers came, nurses and doctors arrived. Red Bird medical work began in 1922 with Lydia Rice, RN as the first medical worker. Dr. Harlan Heim joined the staff in 1926. The first hospital was built in 1928, but for many years, calls to mountain homes were made by medical staff on horseback.

Under the leadership of Rev. DeWalt, a pattern was set that continues today. He and his wife, Nettie demonstrated the purpose of Red Bird – to bring Jesus Christ into every heart and to bring life abundant to all.

ple's lives in the place where they are and not only helping people whose identity matches my own. It's about being open to changing where they're at based on what their needs are."

Despite the widespread hardship inordinate need she sees, Marto marked how resilient and resource people of Clay County are.

"They are amazing people, super. I've learned more down the many other places," said Martor added that their strong survival sk



To read the entire article go to the Relay online:

<https://www.gnjumc.org/content/uploads/2021/08/0821-GNJ-The-Relay-August-WEB.pdf>

Or see the copy posted at St. Paul's

**WE'RE FAMOUS!** Our Red Bird Missionaries were featured prominently in the United Methodist Relay for this month. We had six members and friends on our mission team and did some great work helping those who live in poverty in Kentucky. We're looking to add team members next year, so think about it. We need you!

## Church Conference Oct 7th

Our Church Conference will be held on Thursday, October 7, 6 p.m. at St. Paul's, either live or by zoom. Watch the bulletin or website for exact details.



Why Should You Come? Besides being a celebration of our ministry, the annual church conference is when we

The purpose of our annual Church Conference is to review the previous year of ministry, complete essential church business and affirm goals for the coming year.

The due date for Conference forms and reports will be Sunday, Sept. 19 to Denise. They must be sent to the Conference on Sept. 20th.

accomplish the business of the church. We will elect officers and chairpersons, approve the pastor's salary, and conduct the business of the church.

We're hoping for a large turnout this year, so please try to make it. This is YOUR church—come celebrate our ministry!

## SOUP SUNDAY

1st Sunday of the month



Next Soup Sunday: Oct. 3

Order online or by calling or seeing Mary Ann Jones.

Thanks to the PISTON Diner for the delicious soup!



**TAKING OVER FOR POP:** Zack Beidle is taking over for his grandfather, the late Bob Platt, in leading us in the offertory prayer.

It's so wonderful to see the kids of the church stepping up to lead!

# Here's What's Happening!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY LOGAN!

Thanks to everyone that sent cards and gifts to Logan for his birthday in July. We held a prayer vigil for him in August and prayers were answered. He underwent surgery for a knee replacement to remove the cancer and put in an artificial joint.



**SPECIAL GUESTS** joined us for church in July. We were so happy to see Tiffany and Mike Daly, our former choir director and nursery attendant. Tiff and Mike are expecting their first child this fall. Many choir members got together after church for brunch and catching up. We are truly a family!

Logan also enjoyed "Fishing at the Fishes" this summer during one of the times he was home from the hospital. Keep praying for Logan. His recovery will be long and difficult.



**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Our men enjoy getting together twice a month to eat and talk over the business of the church. All men are welcome! If you're available on the 1st Saturday of the month or the 3rd Wednesday, come on out to the Piston at 8 a.m. Check with Pastor Dave, Gary Rutter, or Dave Fish to confirm dates and times.



# Children's Ministry



## Vacation Bible School - Mission to MARS

We had a great turnout for Vacation Bible School, in spite of an uptick in the pandemic.

The kids had a super time as they traveled To Mars and Beyond!

They learned to give glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ever ask or imagine.

# Have you caught an episode of Chef PD@930?

Monday through Saturday at 930 our FACEBOOK stream offers you PD@930, which is hard to define, but hopefully Pastor Dave gets you smiling every day while also reading from God's Word and praying.

Since PD@930 started Pastor Dave has covered an amazing array of topics, but what many people have discovered is how much he loves to cook. A gentleman from Malaysia wrote "Chef, can you share a recipe?" Every Friday at 9:30 Pastor Dave goes into the kitchen and within about 20 minutes he shares

# 930

one of his favorite recipes. This summer he focused on recipes using Jersey Fresh tomatoes and corn. His creamy corn bisque with crab was his most expensive recipe and his "Heirloom Tomato Tart" and "Blistered Tomato Dressing"

were just as delicious. You can scroll backwards on our Facebook page to find him in the kitchen.

And don't forget the Saturday morning funnies on Saturday when he shares jokes that he has received.

If you and your friends haven't watched PD@930 perhaps now is the time. You can watch them any time of day and night.

*Pastor Dave*

## Join the Ladies in God's Word



### NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY!

Please join us on Wednesday, September 22nd at 10:00 am for our first session.

We will be meeting in the Jay Jordan Room. The book we will be reading and studying is: "The Women of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream, Fox News correspondent. It is her brand-new book.

Please contact Patty Fish @ 609-209-5391 or pattyfish@hotmail.com to order your book.

It's exciting to see what these women of the Bible have to say and teach us about our own lives

today. We look forward to you coming and digging a little deeper into God's Word with friends.

All women are encouraged to attend. See you on September 22!

Thank You,  
*Patty Fish*

## Thank You

Carla Branyan wishes to express her thanks to everyone for all the prayers and cards and flowers after her recent hip replacement



**WINNER WINNER  
CHICKEN DINNER!**

**Chicken BBQ Dinner**  
Sunday, Oct. 10  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Advance tickets \$12

See Sharon Rutter or Mary Ann Jones for tickets.