

Love Your Neighbor As Yourself: Wear a Mask

“I am the Lord your God; you must love your neighbor as yourself. You must keep my rules.”

Leviticus 19:18 & 19

We frequently associate the concept of loving our neighbors as something Jesus said when asked what the most important commandments were. Well, the expectation of God, which is actually called a rule of God, that people of faith must love all our neighbors goes back to the beginning of our Bible. So if we wear the facemask that the United Methodist Church recently supplied St. Paul's with, we are showing that love by wearing the mask.

As 2021 ended, one of my dearest friends up in the Buffalo area was talking to me about church. I was shocked when I was told that their pastor was being buried ... but then saddened to hear that their pastor had died of COVID, was unvaccinated and had been encouraging the people of the church not to vaccinate. My friends have not attended church since COVID because they are fully vaccinated and immune compromised.

As 2022 began, I had to reinstate a mask requirement for everyone who comes into St. Paul's to worship. No longer was wearing a mask a voluntary action, but once again the increasing numbers of cases of COVID in Gloucester County required us to take our small step by mandating masks. I was in full consultation with our COVID leadership team in making that decision.



We are hoping that our actions will help keep each person who chooses to worship at St. Paul's safe, at least from the possibility that you or I might spread COVID to them. Masking is an act of love for our elderly friends, our friends with health concerns, and our friends who are completely healthy but at risk, just like my two friends in their mid-50s who are today in Atlantic City Medical Center's ICU with COVID. Neither of them was vaccinated, but you couldn't tell that by looking at them. In fact, you or I may be asymptomatic but still be capable of spreading COVID through our breath.

Believe me, I pray each night for those with COVID, for the health care workers, for those who have not been vaccinated, in hopes that they will get the easily obtainable shots. I also pray for our world, that scientists will find answers beyond the vaccines that will help us reduce the impact of this vile pandemic. I grieve for the many who have died, including my friend's pastor.

We do not want to return to assigned seating and we definitely do not want to return to not being able to worship God inside our beautiful sanctuary.

I so appreciate the positive response from all of you during the worst parts of the pandemic when we weren't meeting or only meeting outside. I appreciate your cooperation now. I am so thankful for the Worship Team's leadership and for our staff, who are such amazingly dedicated people.

If you have any questions, please call. And if you have any family members who become ill, please let Patty or myself know so that our awesome prayer team can lift their names up.

All of you know how close this hits to my home, knowing that if Megan got COVID she would have a difficult time fighting it, even though she has both shots plus her booster.

Thanks!

Pastor Dave

Super
BOWL

STROMBOLI

PLACE YOUR ORDERS

St. Paul's UMC has teamed up to bring back our Stromboli Fundraiser. Pre-order today - \$12 each

Varieties include:

- Pepperoni & Cheese
- Broccoli & Cheese
- Steak & Cheese
- Veggie
- Ham & Cheese

PICK UP @ ST. PAUL' UMC
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022 @ 11AM

PRAYER Requests

ALL Prayers:

For our country
 For everyone to get vaccinated
 To end hate crimes
 Logan S in hospital needs transfusion
 Cameron praise got brace off starting PT
 Kathie S & family to start chemo
 Family & friends of Helen Rulli
 Family & friends of Betty Cosey
 Jeff & Sharon W both hosp covid unvaccinated
 Cindy F health problems
 Rev. Leslie L covid
 A person with major mental health issues & their family
 A person fearful of covid
 Cathy & Len H
 Katie 8 mo pregnant & her dad both covid
 Glenda, son Joe & family
 Pastor Josh covid
 Lisa hosp on vent critical cond
 Family friends & congregation of Pastor Aldora B died from covid unvaccinated
 Jack H praise home from hosp
 Family & friends of Ruth R
 Zach M family lost mother to covid and unvaccinated father-in-law critical condition
 Robin medical tests
 Caren U fell hit head
 Mike F serious health issues
 Jay P
 Tony inoperable brain tumor
 All who are traveling
 Pastor Leslie L
 Mac & Hank, both covid
 G family all have covid
 Cousin Dave H recovering from surgery
 Lewis L critical condition hosp covid pneumonia
 Friend's husband hosp critical condition
 Donna's brother's family lost mother-in-law
 Agnes M personal issues
 Pat P endoscopy
 Quinn G pancreatic issues
 Karen H covid
 Christine M covid
 Sharon E health concerns
 Sharon & Jake travel mercies

Dixielee health
 Gina & Don H both covid
 Gail H fell injured hand
 Family & friends of Fred W
 Debbie W lost husband
 Military serving over holidays
 Healthcare workers
 Our church, pastor, worship team
 Len H radiation for oral cancer
 Tyrese drug relapse
 Family & friends of Pastor Harvey V
 Family & friends of Ricky M
 Clare age 4 hosp with lung infection
 Michelle B hosp seriously ill with covid
 Praise hostages in Haiti are free
 Lynn K home from hosp
 Eleanor hosp broken hip & covid
 Family of Dr. Ellis L
 Donna's friends whose parents both died of covid
 Wes lingering effects of covid & Belinda
 All dealing with cancer
 John P work injury needs healing
 Ruth & all family of Bob S
 Bella I age 10 brain tumor
 Lindsay T sadness
 Don T doc appt for health issues
 Jennie's niece sinus surgery
 Kathi M hospitalized
 Carlton on hospice & family
 Gail H serious back pain
 Pastor Dave traveling

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

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Mary B., Joyce N., Hope T., Gerry M., Chris S., Janet B., Terry D., Corey T.

Serving in the Military:

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., Ron & Eve C., Rosie P., Mary B.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 – Aleyna Rutter
 4– David Bailey
 4– Norm Branyan
 4– Michelle Wright
 7– Jessica Loveland
 7– Trista Jones
 10– Carly Dyal
 10– Jacob Spellman
 10– Kurt Toppin
 11– Lillie Marie Gogolin
 12– Kenny Domeraski
 12– Madison Whipp
 13– Dorothy & Roger Stockman
 13– Joyce Nuneviller
 14– Daniel Domeraski
 15– Tara Kyser
 16– Laurie Schwebel
 17– Kim Gibson
 17– Brandon Rutter
 17– Diane & Joe Wonsetler
 18– Elise Narcisi
 19– Meghan Beidle
 20– Matt Dechen
 20– Nina Englett
 21– Carl Whipp
 24– Roger Stockman
 24– Ashley Cuthbert
 25– Dottie Davenport
 25– Patty Fish
 25– Jackson Merckx
 26– Nadia Domeraski
 27– Sean Thomas
 30– Kathleen Spellman
 31– Logan Dugan
 31– Judy Hulmes-Cochran
 31– Brett Matlack

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

3– Edward Ruple
 3– Michelle Souder
 3– Melissa Strock
 3– Diane Weems
 5– Charlotte Galka
 8– Bridgette Archut
 9– Nicole Daws
 10– Joanne Keegan
 10– Don & Carol Strock
 11– Ginny Gibson
 11– Ronnie Mancuso
 13– Courtney Knudsen
 16– Vince Lee
 16– Selene Jones
 17– Shane Moore
 17– Kim Sturgis
 19– Emily Bailey
 19– John Spellman Jr.
 20– Donna Sierocinski
 21– Rosalyn Platt
 22– Shannon McLaughlin
 22– Kenneth Norris III
 23– Evelyn Dallas
 23– Joe Hoffman
 24– Bert Turner
 24– Matt White
 25– PyperLin Gittinger
 26– Jennifer Spinella
 27– Wendy Gittinger
 27– Lynne Hoffman
 28– Mark Heffernan



THE LAMPLIGHTER

Bimonthly Newsletter of
 St. Paul's United Methodist
 Church, PO Box 125, West
 Deptford, NJ 08086
 Pastor: Rev. Dave Delaney
 Phone (856) 845-6638
 E-mail
 pastor@stpaulsthorofare.com

Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.

Staff

Editor: Trista C Jones
 Assistant Editor: Denise Hosier
 Regular Contributors:
 Pastor Dave, Mary Ann Jones,
 Elaine Luoma, Ruth Schultz,
 Carol Strock

Production: Trista C Jones

The *LampLighter* is published bi-monthly, in Jan., March, May, July, Sept. & Nov. Deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication. For more info contact Trista C

Revival – And So It Begins

And so it begins ... another new year in our life's journey. And for the church called St. Paul's of West Deptford our 164th year has started. Together, friends, we have an incredible opportunity to once again verify that God's church on Church Street has a vital role both in our community and in the world.

It was during the winter of 1857-1858 that Rev. Aaron Ballard held a series of revival meetings on our church site. He somehow knew that this would be a special Holy Ground, and it is estimated that up to 500 individuals came to know Jesus Christ during those cold winter months. It was shortly after those revival meetings that the first church was built on our property. Our current building was built in 1908.

REVIVAL ... don't you think we all could use a revival of our faith after these long months where we have allowed fear to take the place of hope? REVIVAL ... don't you think it is time that the truth about God's love becomes an essential element in our ongoing conversations rather than hidden away? REVIVAL ... don't you agree with me that each of us can benefit by investing more of our time in God's Word, in prayer, in pausing from the world rather than rushing to see who has posted what on Twitter and Facebook?

I hope that each of you felt lifted up in spirit and filled with the joy of celebration on Christmas Eve as much as my family did. Did you share your selfies with your friends, letting them know that being in church can definitely be a joy-filled experience celebrating God's love for all of humanity? Did your time in worship on Christmas Eve and on December 26th renew your desire to get closer



to God? If you somehow did not worship on Christmas Eve or December 26th, our services are always available on FACEBOOK to watch.

You and I and all our friends at St. Paul's are facing a challenge in the coming year. We have lost some really good people over the last 12 months, and these were people we depended on for their giving and their other contributions to the church.

Young and old, we need to work together to energize St. Paul's in a spirit of REVIVAL in a way that sounds the clarion call out into our community! There are men, women, and children being swallowed up by the world, and they should instead be experiencing God's love like we do. The lonely deserve to discover a loving church family like ours! The lost need to find the light of Christ to change their lives. But it will take you and me to make a difference.

The month of February will focus in on REVIVAL at St. Paul's. A month where we each should be sharing love with all our neighbors while also considering who we each can invite to worship with us at St. Paul's.

July is around the corner, and I would love to see more of you joining the team to the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. It would be great to have families deciding that a mission trip can create an amazing family memory while also helping those who are hurting in the world.

Yes, we had a little snow while the rest of South Jersey was overwhelmed with the white stuff (of course, you all know I wanted more snow) but we continued to function. We have made it through two long years, friends, and we have managed to make it through by being the church God calls us to be. We are a church that worships God, welcomes all our neighbors, feeds the hungry, and cares for the broken in the world.

You and our other friends have an amazing track record, but there is so much more to do! We need to experience revival ... we need to grow ... we need to do all we can to ensure that in 2035 our community will continue to look to St. Paul's as the vital church in this community!

Wishing all of us happiness, joy, peace, and good health in 2022!

Blessings,

Pastor Dave

**Worship Service of
Ashes & Reflection**

**ASH
Wednesday**

**Wednesday, March 2
12:00 noon
Online & In-Person**

Outreach

Welcome 2022!!

Upcoming Mission Projects & Offerings

- **January**
 - ◇ Our first Sunday offering (Jan. 3) will benefit Human Relations Sunday.
 - ◇ On the third Sunday (Jan. 17) the offering is for CWS Blanket Sunday.

Church World Service was born in 1946 when 17 denominations came together to form an agency "to do in partnership what none of us could hope to do as well alone." The mission: Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, comfort the aged, shelter the homeless. Blanket Sunday is a CWS outreach.

- **February**
 - ◇ Our first Sunday offering (Feb. 7) is for our St. Paul's Food Pantry.
 - ◇ Our third Sunday (Feb. 21) we will be supporting Family Promise.

Our food pantry and Family Promise are both important mission projects of our church and we hope you will give generously.

Many thanks to all of the St. Paul's family for your generous outpouring of support to our Mission Projects even during these unprecedented times. We remain a community of love for all.

Ruth Schultz



Sunday School

Not too late to help the Sunday School

You can still donate your used clothes and household items to the Sunday school through January 15! Collections will be every Sunday, drop off before 12 p.m. We are working with Bargain Thrift Center in Philadelphia and Got Sneakers.

Bargain Thrift Center will be giving us .20 per lb of the list of materials.

When donating the materials below please make sure they are in closed trash bags and closed boxes. Please leave your items on the back ramp.

Got Sneakers will be giving us compensation for Athletic sneakers and cleats.

Elaine Luoma

We DO ACCEPT the following items:

- **CLOTHING AND SHOES** - All sizes (men's, women's, children's and babies') styles, and seasons of clothing and shoes (sandals, boots, sneakers and dress shoes).
- **ACCESSORIES** - including pocketbooks, purses, totes, school bags, backpacks, wallets, belts, ties, scarves, hats gloves.
- **HOUSEHOLD LINENS** - blankets, bedspreads, comforters, quilts, bed sheets, towels, shower curtains, window curtains and draperies, tablecloths, pillows.
- **SOFT TOYS** - stuffed animals and dolls.
- **HARD TOYS** (smaller than 24"x24"x24") and **GAMES**
- **HOUSEWARES** kitchen, office, garage, decorative & holiday items 24" or smaller.

We DO NOT accept the following items:

- **FURNITURE OR MATTRESSES**
- **ELECTRONICS OR APPLIANCES**
- **WET, SMOKE DAMAGED OR MILDEWED ITEMS**
- **BOOKS**
- **RECORDS**



THANKSGIVING SERVICE was at First UMC National Park. Our choir sang and we heard a message from Rev. Walt Mander on "Thanks-Living."

Buy Your Gift Cards Through Us!

CRT Update

A message from Mary Ann Jones
& St. Paul's Community Relations
Team:

Hi friends! We have a new program where you can earn money for St. Paul's simply by buying gift cards! It's easy and doesn't cost you anything. Sign up today!

Start earning on your daily purchases with gift cards purchased through St. Paul's.

Join with our enrollment code:
F447BD4282579



RaiseRight™

Shop gift cards from 750+ top brands to earn on things you buy. It's the best way to create opportunities for what's most important to you. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted.

3 simple steps to get started

1. Download the RaiseRight app on your smartphone.
2. Join your organization's program by entering the enrollment code **F447BD4282579**

3. Follow the instructions in the app and start earning.

On your computer? Get started on the website instead. Just enter your info and the enrollment code **F447BD4282579**.

You can pay with your bank account or credit card, or write a check to the church and have Mary Ann get your cards for you.

Mary Ann Jones

Food Pantry Helps Our Community



Our food Pantry has been busy serving our community this year, and we couldn't have done so without your support and those in our community.

We've seen donations of food being dropped off, monetary donations, plus new volunteers offering their services. This summer we had a farmer partner with us, offering fresh eggs and produce to our pantry. In the last two months Kevin surprised us with large donations of



ShopRite gift cards to pass out to those in need.

Due to COVID-19, the way we handle our distribution had to change in

order to protect both the volunteers and clients. Temperatures are taken, masks are worn, and social distancing is practiced. We are now doing drive-thru pickup of the food and delivery is available to those who need it. The boxes of food are prepackaged in advance of distribution.

The hours of our distribution have changed to 9 a.m. to noon on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays. If you need food or know someone who does, call the church or email us at StPaulsWDFoodPantry@gmail.com

Have a blessed New Year!

Carol Strock



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! In spite of the pandemic we received 7 new members this year. Shown with Lay Leader Dave Fish are: Carol May, Betty Chipman, Darrin Brown, Cathy Hurff, Pat Drosnes, and John & Peggy Pagano. We're so happy to have you as part of our St. Paul's family!

Thank You for Your Attention!!!

We got your attention ... well there are a couple of items you should be aware of so PAY ATTENTION ...



SUPERBOWL SUNDAY (There is a chance the Buffalo Bills might be playing the Philadelphia Eagles) we will have DELICIOUS STROMBOLLS for you once again. \$12.00 each with a choice of pepperoni and cheese, broccoli and cheese, ham and cheese, spinach, and cheesesteak. Get your friends to buy some while you also get to enjoy them. This helps raise money for St. Paul's while also bringing a smile to your faces!



RED BIRD MISSION TRIP ... Sunday July 10-Saturday July 16. A mission trip for God to help some of the poorest people in America! A mission trip any person can go on. Families are welcome to come as a group. Teens/children must be accompanied by a parent.



Your metal and your cans ... and your neighbors' metal and your neighbors' cans ... help us raise money for the Red Bird Mission Trip. Donate your soda cans and heavy metal to the church. Call Jim Clement or the church office for details.

CONFIRMATION
CONFIRMATION Do you have a child who is at least in 7th grade and has not been confirmed? Pastor Dave is trying to put together a Confirmation Class this year. We will partner with one of our neighboring churches to create a solid class of kids wanting to learn more about faith and their church. See Pastor Dave ASAP.



PHILLIES ... ok, so we don't know what Phillies game we are going to, but we will be going to one. Plus a lot more fun stuff for the benefit of the church will be showing up soon, so check the website and follow the FACEBOOK page!



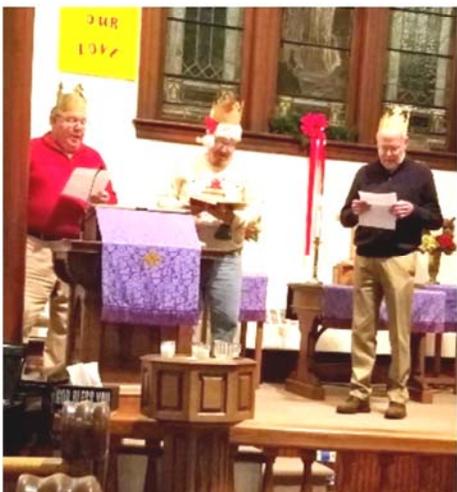
Finally, share information about your church and our church on your **SOCIAL MEDIA!!** Share what we post on FACEBOOK, TWITTER and INSTAGRAM!!! We are looking for someone to be in charge of our TWITTER and INSTAGRAM accounts ... is that you?

THAT's all ... thank you for your attention!

Here's What's Happening!



GUIDING LIGHTS are wearing teal bracelets in prayer for a member who has cancer. This group of ladies is active in all aspects of the church.



CHRISTMAS CAROL SING was in person this year and it was awesome! We had some great special music and enjoyed all our favorite Christmas songs.

Children's Ministry



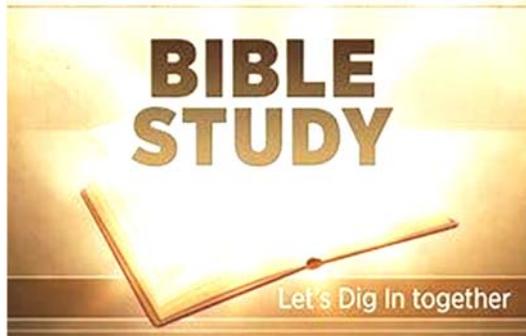
SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT was incredible! The kids had a great time, and then enjoyed time with a very special visitor.

Let's Dig Into the Bible Together

The twenty-first century has created a reality that is overwhelmingly evident at St. Paul's and other churches. The reality is ... people are choosing not to join Bible studies. The decrease in Bible study attendance parallels the decrease in church attendance and participation across the nation.

I realize how busy we all are. I understand that we each have an ever-increasing list of priorities and that joining a Bible study would require changing the schedules of life we follow so closely.

Patty Fish started an awesome new Bible study this fall for the women of the church. I have heard nothing but rave reviews! Our Wednesday night ZOOM Bible study group includes our friend Gail in North Carolina and our new friends Bonnie along with her husband Jon in northern New Jersey. All of them participate thanks to the study being live online. Our Anchor Class on Sundays has been the bedrock of Bible study groups for years at our church.



I have spoken with Ish who owns the Piston Diner, and he is willing for us to start a Bible Study at the diner on a weekday afternoon. I absolutely want to start a study there because others will discover our church. But I first need to know if anyone from St. Paul's is interested.

Are there any of you who would like us to have another evening Bible study group, either at church or online? The term "Bible Study" covers a wide range of topics from actually studying a book of the Bible to studying life realities using Scripture as the key reference.

Are you interested in learning more about God's Word? About faith? About prayer? About

getting through life with God at your side?

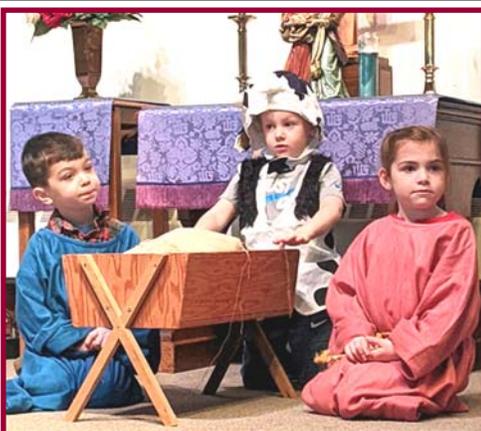
Here is the difficult part of this, and I know 90% of you hate to do it. But I need a response! I need to hear from you and every other church member. You can email me if you want me to know who you are by sending your e-mail to me at pdatstpauls@gmail.com. Or if you want to be anonymous just mail a letter to the church, St. Paul's UMC, PO Box 125, West Deptford, NJ 08086.

If you would like to lead a study, that would be fantastic!! I am willing to lead a study weekday mornings, afternoons, or evenings or on Sunday morning.

So take on this challenge, first by perhaps having a conversation with God, and then deciding whether you want to get closer to God in 2022 by investing your time in order to grow in connection.

I hope to hear from you soon!

Pastor Dave



PAGEANT PLAYERS: Pastor Dave captured these littles on-stage during their performance at the Sunday School Pageant in December.

MISSION PROJECT: Pastor Dave presented a check for \$3,000 to Habitat for Humanity.

We paid to build a handicapped ramp and help make a house wheelchair accessible for a local man. Thanks to everyone for your generous donations.

For calendar visit
<https://stpaulsalive.org/calendar/>

