

Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast Returns!

We are so happy to bring back another event that we haven't been able to do since the pandemic.

Start Holy Week off right with a Pancake Breakfast after church on Palm Sunday, April 2nd. The deliciousness will begin at 10:45 a.m., right after church. The Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt will be taking place immediately following breakfast.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for kids under 12, but the Sunday School will pay for all students. Invite your friends to church and then to breakfast afterward.

Tickets are available in church now! See Mary Ann Jones or Denise Hosier.

Menu: Pancakes, Breakfast Meats, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit Cup, Juice, Coffee, Tea, etc. Sponsored by the Community Relations Team (CRT). See you there!



Featured photo shows a couple of our pancake makers from a past breakfast.

*Community Relations
Team (CRT)*

Lenten Lunch Series



The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like...

Wenonah-Mantua-West Deptford Ministerium presents

A Lenten Study of the Parables

Wednesdays in March at 11:30AM. Please join us at any or all of the following weekly Lenten Lunch and Learn events. Lunch will be provided.

- March 1 – 11:30 AM – Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (Wenonah)
The Parable of the Sower
- March 8 – 11:30 AM
Holy Nativity Lutheran Church (Wenonah)
The Parable of the Lost Sheep & Coin
- March 15 – 11:30 AM – Mantua United Methodist Church (Mantua)

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

- March 22 – 11:30 AM – St. Paul's United Methodist Church (West Deptford)
The Parable of the Good Samaritan
- March 29 – 11:30 AM – Memorial Presbyterian Church (Wenonah)
The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

- Community Good Friday – 11 AM – Mt. Zion-Wesley United Methodist Church (Wenonah)

All are welcome to join and we look forward to see you there.



**St Paul's will be hosting the Red Cross Blood Drive on:
April 27th**

Our nation blood supply is fragile - there is a significant need for blood donors! All blood types are in high demand. Please consider donating at this or any local drive.

Please contact the Red Cross at 800-RED-CROSS or at www.redcross.org to schedule your appointment today!



problems
 Donna S & family health
 Denise M chemo & mom Jean
 Hope T health & Greg
 Victims of Turkey/Syria
 earthquake
 Rev. John S & family lost
 granddaughter
 A family mom near death
 Carol D recovering from knee
 surgery
 Jennie T recovering from hip
 surgery
 Gary R sick
 Family & friends of Rick M
 Herb radiation treatments &
 wife Myra
 Rev. Bill D doing okay after
 treatments
 Family & friends of Barbara J
 Dave Ha home from hosp
 Glenda infusion
 Doris breathing issues after
 Covid
 Jenny S & parents mom on
 hospice
 Family & friends of Jack O
 Ida O in hosp lost husband
 Sue T praise doing a bit better
 Lynn K ongoing health
 concerns
 Kenny sick

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., Ruth S.

Serving in the Military:
 Caitlyn Um, Daniel Domeraski,
 Kailey Roller, Dan Solano,
 Chris Yard, Rachel Rachuba,
 Donna Rachuba, Ed Schwebel,
 Brandon Howell, Shaina
 Serrano

**Shut-Ins & Nursing Home
 Residents:**
 Lil Q., Janet B., Edie M.,
 Ron C., Rosie P., Mary B.,
 Gloria L.

ALL Prayers:
 For our country
 For the Ukrainian people
 For peace
 Logan S tough time facing his
 situation
 Cameron always needs prayer
 & family
 Sharon R last chemo & Gary
 Terry D cancer spreading
 Charlie T neck surgery
 Emily high risk pregnancy &
 Covid
 Merrilee & Mary Ann caring
 for Terry
 Ruth Schultz
 Jeff & Nicky F
 Pat D praises
 Co-worker pancreatic cancer
 Son with Downs syndrome
 Len H cancer treatments
 Family of James E passed age
 28
 Rob & Dottie T Covid
 Boy age 6 in CHOP with
 lesions
 Patrick
 Elaine & Will W very bad car
 accident
 Susan V cancer
 Nancy P MS & brain
 infection
 Collin cystic fibrosis in hosp
 Pres Jimmy Carter hospice
 David T starting new job
 Rosie P praise 95th birthday
 Kim surgery for liver disease
 "didn't take"
 Bob T fighting brain cancer
 Evelyn D bad toe
 H family unexpected passing
 of niece
 Pat P several health problems
 Phil & family
 Mac L car accident fractured
 skull
 Tyler S food poisoning
 Donna C hosp breathing
 problems
 Jim L blood pressure

**March Birthdays &
 Anniversaries**

- 2 – Darrin Brown
- 2– Don & Kate Black
- 3– Angela Houghton
- 3– Jim Clement
- 6– Terry Davis
- 8 – Daniel Panetta
- 11– Barbara Klinger
- 11– Lilly Melson
- 11– Ruth Schultz
- 12– Adalynn Vatsev
- 14 –Harley Sierocinski
- 15– Molly Hosier
- 16– Madalyn Beidle
- 17 - Glenda Steffee
- 18– Annessia Morrissey
- 19– Kevin Wonsetler
- 25– Carla & Norm
 Branyan
- 26- Grant Dechen
- 27– Lindsey Huesser
- 28– Bev & Ken Betz
- 28– Michael Huebshman
- 30– Louise Heritage
- 30– Debbie Szovati
- 31– David Keegan

**April Birthdays &
 Anniversaries**

- 2 – Declan Hartnett
- 3– Jennifer Bailey
- 7– Zachary Beidle
- 7– Joe & Lynne Hoffman
- 8– Michael DiLeo
- 8– Nancy Palmer
- 11– Derek Toppin
- 13– Joe Wonsetler
- 14– Trevor Toppin
- 18– Ray Palmer
- 19– Joshua Panetta
- 21– Jeff Hartnett
- 22– Jacob Eichel
- 23– Janice & Ken Grassia
- 24– Rose Morgan
- 24– Marion Robbins
- 25– Mike Spellman
- 26– Cassandra Morgan
- 30–Ed Schwebel





Free Concert!
Gloucester County
Flute Ensemble
Sunday, April 16,
4:00 p.m.
at St. Paul's

THE LAMPLIGHTER

Bimonthly Newsletter of
 St. Paul's United Methodist
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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

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

What Are YOU Giving Up?

‘Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is.’ Romans 12:2

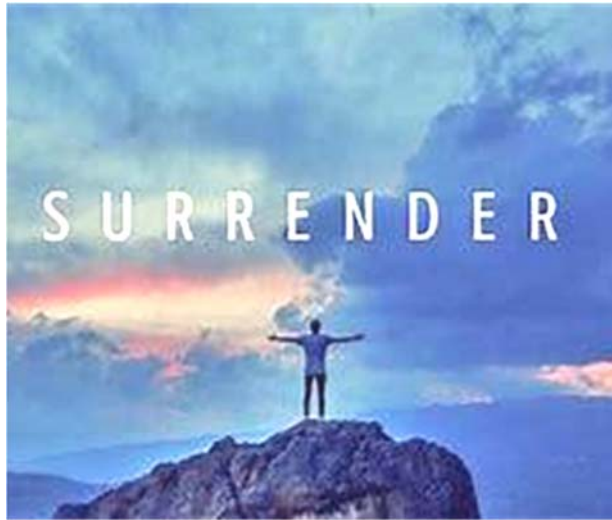
Friends, we have arrived ... yes, it is “THAT SEASON” again. The season where we focus on what we can give up. Chocolate ... Netflix programming ... football (oh, ok that season really did end) ... junk food (of course you get to define junk food, which means I give up cauliflower and eggplant plus calamari because they are junk food to me) ... or heaven help us, some even give up desserts and/or sweets!

Yes, we get engaged in conversations with friends about all that we are giving up “for Lent.” I know I should give up some food items so that I can get back to my pre-COVID weight, but that’s just not my focus for the season. And then many people will anxiously await the freedom from the self-imposed limitations that comes on Easter morning Ahh, chocolate bunnies.

FREEDOM on Easter ... chocolate, sweets, NETFLIX ... oh yes, and Jesus alive and well with 40 additional days of teaching before He ascends into heaven.

So as you read this a few days after the start of the Lenten season’s 2023, have you made an active decision to surrender yourself to God’s call? To God’s love? Are you locked in on using each of the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind,” into your faith-connection with God?

Lent’s scheduling on our yearly calendar provides us with an



opportunity to realize that God’s love is not about a Christmas tree adorned with awesome and artistic ornaments nor about a baby born in poverty and homelessness in Bethlehem’s manger.

I know that many people have access to St. Paul’s newsletter. In fact, every single one of my friends and your friends can read it if we send a “link” via e-mail or we link the newsletter to our social media. I have to admit, I wonder how many people reading these words have chosen to “skip” church throughout the year because they are focused on “conforming to the world” as Paul warns early Christians not to do in his letter to the church in Rome. I wonder how many readers have also read a verse or group of verses from Scripture today or yesterday. I wonder how many are excitedly awaiting worshiping on Sunday either in person or online.

If you check your calendars, you will notice that between now and April 9th there are several Wednesdays. You have the opportunity on every Wednesday to join us in Holy Communion at St. Paul’s at 7am (either online or in person) and you can participate in a Lenten luncheon

service at 11:30 at a local church. April 2nd is Palm Sunday, which features a pancake breakfast ... well, actually the primary feature is the opportunity to worship God and Jesus Christ with friends. April 6th is “Maundy Thursday,” and St. Paul’s will be holding our annual Maundy Thursday service that evening at 7pm; it’s a family-friendly service reminding us of the events leading up to Good Friday. And yes, Friday April 7th is “GOOD FRIDAY” and

we have a service at 7pm plus there is a lunch time service at Mt. Zion Wesley Church in Wenonah at 1100.

And finally, Easter arrives ... you can eat chocolate and sweets again and binge those Netflix shows and do all the things you have given up for LENT. And ... by the way APRIL 9th IS EASTER!

EASTER ... the holiest of days on the calendar. The day when Jesus left the tomb behind. A day when you can shout “HE IS RISEN INDEED” after I declare that Jesus Christ, my Savior, is “RISEN!” As the day gets closer will you be planning on joining us at sunrise at Red Bank Battlefield and then again at either 9:30 or 11 for our services? Will you excitedly be inviting friends, family members, co-workers, and neighbors to come to worship God with you because you have used this season of Lent to be transformed by the renewing of your mind through your faith connection with God and Christ? I hope so.

Blessings,

Pastor Dave

Outreach

Happy Spring!

Upcoming Mission Projects & Offerings

- **March**
 - ◇ Our first Sunday offering (Mar. 5) will benefit UMCOR Sunday, formerly One Great House of Sharing
 - ◇ On the third Sunday (Mar. 19) the offering is for Red Bird Mission

Red Bird Mission is an outreach to one of the poorest, if not THE poorest, counties in the country. Our missionaries travel to Kentucky one week each year to help the community by doing projects for the people.

- **April**
 - ◇ Our first Sunday offering (Apr. 2) will go toward our Easter Offering.
 - ◇ Our third Sunday (Apr. 16) will be supporting our Shared Ministries.

Shared Ministries are sent through our Conference to support global missions of the United Methodist church such as the World Service Fund, Black College Fund, Ministerial Education Fund, and Africa University.

Many thanks to all our church family for your continued dedication to our Outreach Projects.

Cheri Clement



It Takes A Village



Have you noticed that like-new gleam from the baptismal font?

On a cold January day, the elementary Sunday School children were studying about Jesus' baptism, so we ventured into the sanctuary to view our baptismal font to compare the differences and similarities about the time when Jesus was baptized.

They immediately noticed how dirty, discolored, and old the brass insert in the baptismal font was. Several children wanted to raise money to replace it.

We are always saying that the children are the future, and it took the children to get this project going. Instead of buying new, Steve Miller took the brass bowl home where he spent many hours polishing it. Now it looks beautiful again!

We noticed that the wood top of the baptismal font was rotted and splintering off, so David Fish made a new beautiful Corian top that will never tarnish or need to be replaced - it will last us many decades.

A big thank you to everyone who participated, and let's keep including our children in all the projects.

Carla Branyan



FELLOWSHIP HAS RETURNED! Molly Hosier Coralluzzo (right) & Peggy Pagano are our new coordinators for our After-Church Socials. Please come downstairs after church for coffee and refreshments and an opportunity to socialize with other members of our church family. There is an online signup sheet to bring refreshments and help with setup and cleanup. Just look at the website "NEWS" page, or see Molly and Peggy after church.

Women's Bible Study



Hello dear friends,

We resumed our Women's Bible Study on Wed., Feb. 15, 10:00-11:30 am. Our meetings will all be held in the Sanctuary this session.

All women are invited to join us for any or all sessions. We are reading and studying Sheila Walsh's book "It's Okay Not to Be Okay." The book has 8 chapters, and we will do a chapter a week, so that should take us to April 5th. Easter is April 9th this year and then everyone's calendar starts getting busy in the spring.

Please let your family and friends know about our study. They are welcome to come and if you'd like to purchase one of the books, please let me know. I always look forward to our time together.

I also want to mention our dear friends, Pat Drosnes and Barbara Jones, whom we will miss. Both were enthusiastic about the Bible study from the beginning and were faithful in reading and attendance each week.

Many prayers and blessings to you all!

Patty Fish

Easter Flowers



Celebrate Jesus' resurrection with beautiful flowers! Each year the Guiding Lights Class sponsors Easter flowers that you can purchase. This year we will have a pickup date or you can leave them to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday and pick them up afterward.

Lilies, tulips, daffodils, and azaleas are available in the usual colors. Order forms are available on the church website or for pickup at the church. All orders are due **March 26**. Money is due by **Palm Sunday, April 2**.



HOLY WEEK

Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday

Worship with Palms, 9:30 a.m.
Pancake Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday, April 5

Holy Communion, 7 a.m.

Thursday, April 6

Holy Thursday

Communion Service, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 7

Good Friday

Leading Up to the Cross
Worship 11 a.m. Mount Zion-
Wesley UMC

Seven Last Words Service at
Jericho Baptist Church TBD
Tenebrae Service of Darkness
St. Paul's, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 9

Easter

Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m.
Red Bank Battlefield
Easter Worship 9:30 & 11 a.m.

We Thank Thee

For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank thee!
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Celebrate — Rejoice in the Lord!

Our church quite frequently hears me declare the Scripture lesson that Paul wrote in two of his letters, “REJOICE in the LORD! Again, I say rejoice!”

When I talk with our church members about St. Paul’s, all I ever hear are rave reviews! Our pews are fuller now than they were six months ago! People love coming to worship! It’s great seeing all the kids in church! The music is so good!! We love each other and welcome everyone!

Yes, St. Paul’s is an amazing church! We are continuing to counter the trend of churches in our area by actually having new people coming to church rather than no one attending. This morning I was with a pastor who said that on the previous Sunday the only people in the Gloucester County church he pastors were his wife, another couple, a single individual, and himself. FIVE people in a church that has been part of the community for more than a half of a century.

We have an awesome website, www.stpaulsalive.org, and a daily FACEBOOK presence featuring live messages. Almost all of our worship services are streamed online and one of



our Bible studies is exclusively online.

This is all great news, but I am still concerned about our future and where this awesome church will be in ten years. We need to do everything we can to let people know what they will find IF (that’s an important word) IF they can find us.

Church Street in West Deptford is not a busy highway. St. Paul’s does not have flashing lights nor a beacon directing people to our doors. People have to deliberately seek us out or be invited to come to church by someone “in the know.”

One easy way that we can all help let the world know about St. Paul’s is by

reviewing our churchgoing experience on social media review sites like YELP, GOOGLE, FACEBOOK, and TRIPADVISOR. A five star review on YELP along with a positive review stating how unique our church is and how welcoming to ALL people just might lead a new family to check us out.

Obviously, you need to go online to make a review, but it is not that hard. If you have young folks in your family, I know that they can help you post a review. I believe our church family has the capacity to post 100 reviews on each of these sites before summer arrives. It takes maybe up to 10 minutes to do it, but what a WOW factor it would be to someone who searches for churches in the Gloucester County community to see 100 or more reviews from different folks all showing their love for St. Paul’s. Can you do it? I hope so!

Pastor Dave



SUPER BOWL STROMBOLI SALE sponsored by our Community Relations Team (CRT) was a great success.

Many thanks to Mary Ann Jones for chairing this committee and setting up the sale.

The Eagles may not have won the Super Bowl, but at least our members enjoyed some delicious stromboli!

Did You Know?



Each week for Sunday Service our Sanctuary Bible is opened to the scripture lesson of the day.

Our own Jim Clement goes the extra mile to make sure that the little (and not-so-little) details are always attended to.

WELCOME SPRING

What's Happening

EAGLES FANS: On Super Bowl Sunday, Pastor Dave came to church in a shirt featuring the wrong team. Reader of the day Don Strock remedied that with an Eagles jersey. Our members were overwhelmingly Eagles fans and we ended the service with a musical postlude of "Fly, Eagles, Fly."



Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt



Palm Sun. Apr. 2
after Pancake Breakfast
Bring an Easter basket or
bag for your treasures!
Lots of Fun!

THANKS MORE THAN A TON!
Thank you for cleaning out your closets! We filled the truck up with your used clothing and household goods, and the Sunday School will get a nice check. Your 2,634 pounds will bring the Sunday School \$580! Thank you all again for your support!



Children's Ministry



HOW CAN YOU MEASURE THE LOVE OF GOD? You can't! It's bigger than the biggest measuring device in the world! Dave Fish's children's messages are always relevant and fun for the kids. We are lucky to have him!

Jesus Is Knocking - Will You Answer the Door?

“To this you were called, you should follow in Jesus’ steps.”
1 Peter 2:21

If you look towards the stained-glass image of Jesus “Knocking at the Door,” you will see our two new banners that refer to our “walking with Jesus.” It is my theme for 2023 and one that I will continue to put in front of each of you. We are at a moment in history where we each have to make a choice as to what our behavior is going to be when we aren’t in church.

Are we walking with Jesus or aligning with a world that badly needs to experience the message of Easter? We need to decide whether we are truly “Easter people” or whether we are not going to answer the door when Jesus knocks ... when God waits ... when the Holy Spirit is trying to be with us.

The Scripture that was used by the artist who created our stained-glass window at the front of the Sanctuary reads, “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.”

I have been considering how many different ways we can both



welcome Jesus and walk with Jesus this year. As most of you know by now, I do think out of the box at times.

We had a great turn out for our first DAYTONA 500 WATCH PARTY!! Not only did we raise some money for the church, but we also had a good time. We definitely are going to do it again next year with a stronger effort to bring in friends!

We are sending information packages out to people who are buying homes in our community.

But the challenge really is for each of us to just go up to our neighbors (like people did in the past) and introduce ourselves. Maybe even hand out information about a church we all love!

We have been providing meals for Will and Elaine after their accident. That’s something to celebrate!! Christians feed and care for other people when they are hurting. That’s WALKING with JESUS!

I really hope a few more of you will consider coming to RED BIRD this summer! It’s not only a walk in the mountains with Jesus, but also the mission trip showcases that we are willing to leave our comfort zone to help others. Frankly, that is what walking with Jesus is all about.

So I am asking you for ideas! Creative ways to grow our church! Awesome new ideas to help those who are struggling. I just love that in August we are the UNDIES CHURCH!! So give me a call or e-mail me or grab me after church ... tell me your ideas so that St. Paul’s continues our journey of faith that since 1858 has had this special church WALKING with JESUS!

Pastor Dave



THE GUIDING LIGHTS celebrated winter with a brunch after church in January. These ladies are warm and welcoming to all ladies of a certain age (*which is almost any age*) who want to join them. They meet monthly to help organize church events and for social time.

