

St. Paul's Vacation Bible School July 23-27th



**SonWest Roundup
Vacation Bible School
Sun. thru Thurs., July 23-27
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Registration is open now. Please visit our website - stpaulsalive.org today.

Your buckaroos will love this colorful Old West town and the heart racing activities like games, crafts, music, skits, Bible stories, and mighty tasty snacks! There will be classes for Nursery through Preteen and all kinds of cool things that will make this a super way to reach children with God's plan of salvation through Jesus.

VBS is for age 3 through 6th grade. The children will spend five evenings at our SonWest Roundup, hearing Bible stories, playing games, singing songs, and making crafts. Even our snacks will be Wild West themed.

Put Thursday, July 27 on your calendar and plan on being at St. Paul's with the whole family for our Closing Program. The children will sing for us and show us what they've learned. Refreshments will follow.

We'll need lots of help, so parents and teens, see Elaine Luoma or Mary Ann Jones and let them know you can help. Volunteers may also register on the VBS website. Please pre-register the children online so we can be prepared for everyone!

Elaine Luoma

Celebrating a Beautiful Life

Dear church friends,

We are all greatly grieving the loss of dear sweet Megan. It is time to celebrate her life and faith through an AWESOME time together.

Our family decided that Megan deserves a party to recognize what an amazing life she lived and what a truly Christ-focused example she provided to all of us. We had our first celebration in Smithville but we also want to give all of you the opportunity to celebrate Megan's life. We are therefore having a party at St. Paul's and you are invited.

Join us SUNDAY JULY 16th following worship at St. Paul's in HICKMAN HALL. This will be a double celebration because we will celebrate our RED BIRD MISSION for



this year, and we will celebrate Megan. We are asking those who attend to purchase a Heritage Hoagie using the coupons that were for sale at church to raise money for Red Bird as the main course. We will provide the chips, drinks, and in honor of Megan, cheesecake!

There will be time to stand up and share memories of Megan but

again it will be a celebration of her life!

We would love to see all of you at our celebration of Megan's life!

We love you!

PD and Donna



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

Friday, July 28

Our nation's 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!

Prayer REQUESTS

ALL Prayers:

For our country
 For the Ukrainian people
 For peace
 Kathie S restarting chemo
 Logan S hurt elbow
 Cameron always needs prayer & family
 Pastor Dave, Donna, & family
 Family & friends of Megan D
 Bernice N moved to Pitman Manor, Patty & Dave F
 Ray on vent time running out
 Marion & Sue brother very ill
 Bob N lung cancer
 Gloria L birthday coming
 Kristy surgery feeding tube
 Rosemary hosp liver probs
 Jackie G broke collarbone
 June L age 102 on hospice
 Rev. Bill D & wife Gloria chemo treatments
 Denise R praise in partial remission
 Brian J surgery
 Randy H hosp kidney problems
 Dixielee health issues & macular degen
 Ski family Logan Wayne Mary
 Gina H knee surgery
 All this years graduates!
 Mike B tumor and fiancée
 Gale
 Mort G hosp
 Jim L leg surgery
 Dottie Davenport vertigo
 Victor F mass in chest
 Charles R leg amputated
 Frank S brain tumor surgery
 Debra tumor in uterus
 EL's friend in ICU
 Francis & Shaniqua praise marriage
 Those affected by air quality
 Schools and students
 Train wreck victims in India
 S family members urgent request
 S girls and all kids final exams

Wendy stage IV colon cancer & dtr Shawna Evelyn's family
 Unspoken request
 Greg J biopsy results

Bob N lung cancer
 Justine G stage IV breast cancer
 Jen & children healing from trauma
 Shirley W hosp covid
 Terri D hosp covid
 Our police & fire depts
 Tony brain cancer
 Lori, Ellie & Debbie friend battling cancer
 Pat P & friends travel mercies
 Gina H knee problems
 Michael O stroke lost use of one side
 Rosie pet
 Emma Grace dog bite
 Hope thumb replaced arthritis
 Dave knee replacement
 Jess young mother foot amputated
 Logan & Mary Scout beach jam
 Co-worker auto accident
 Charles R very ill hosp

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., Ruth S., Kathie S., Sharon R.

Serving in the Military:
 Caitlyn Um, Erinne Plasket, Dan Solano, Chris Yard, Rachel Rachuba, Donna Rachuba, Ed Schwebel, Brandon Howell, Shaina Serrano

Shut-Ins & Nursing Home Residents:
 Lil Q., Janet B., Rosie P., Mary B., Gloria L., Ruth S., Sue T.

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

1- Dave Fish
 1- Charlie Kyser
 1- Don Strock
 2 - Susan Speakman
 2- Peg Purnell
 2- Carter Weber
 3- Pat Haase
 3- Mary Ann Jones
 3- Chris & Charlie Taylor
 6- Avaleigh Vtseva
 9- Gloria Lee
 10- Sharon & Jacob Eichel
 11- Bob & Marge Rowand
 12- Elaine Luoma
 14- Hope Hooley
 15- Hermine Morgan
 15- Peggy Pagano
 20- Sharon Rutter
 20- Wayne Sierocinski
 21- Vikki Gibson
 22- Erin Vtseva
 23- Jaye Hamel
 23- Grant Dechen
 23- David & Leisa Keegan
 24- Chris Bailey
 25- Kate Black
 25- Janice Grassia
 25- Nicole Martz
 26- Matt & Kim Dechen
 26- Rich Gibson
 28- John Pagano
 28- Logan Sierocinski
 31- Bev Betz

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

1- Ken Betz
 1- Cami Kovack
 2- Dave Hosier
 2- Everett Vtseva
 3- Kaiden Grassia
 3- Charlie Taylor
 4- Bill & Elaine Blair
 5- Jane Felder
 7- Cameron Houghton
 8- Jeannette Branson
 8- Bernice Nolte
 9 - Jim & Cheri Clement
 10- Barbara Hoffman
 13- Leia Eller
 15- Mary Ellen Felder
 16- Gerrie Lynn Dyal
 16- DixieLee Leonardo
 19- Melissa Thomas
 24- Merrilee & William Chapell
 24- Austin Gittinger
 26- DixieLee & Jim Leonardo
 29- Jack Keegan



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. (Sept-May)
 Bible Study: Wednesdays on Zoom

Staff

Editor: Trista C Jones
 Assistant Editor: Denise Hosier
 Regular Contributors:
 Pastor Dave, Carla Branyan,
 Mary Ann Jones, Elaine Luoma,
 Patty Fish, Carol Strock
 Production: Trista C Jones
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 For more info contact Trista C Jones or email
 admin@stpaulsthorofare.com.

Do You Value the Next Generation's Faith Journey?

I Remember ...

I remember ... Greg Lewis and Leslie Heckel. In fact, I can almost see their faces and hear their voices as we rushed out for recreation time at Vacation Bible School back in the day. I think all those 4th and 5th grade girls had a crush on Greg because the boys all seemed to think Leslie was beautiful. They were high school age volunteers who gave up their time to make Vacation Bible School so incredibly special. If I remember right, Greg and Leslie ended up getting married to each other.

Our Vacation Bible School day began when the big yellow school bus pulled up in front of our home. Smiling and laughing kids were already onboard. We joined in their laughter and sometimes the entire bus would break out singing one of the popular songs from the radio as our church VOLUNTEER drove us towards a morning of good times and faith foundation.

No, we don't have a big yellow school bus to bring kids to our Vacation Bible School from July 23 to July 27, but I know that many of the kids attending our incredibly special week will be carpooling because of some extraordinary people of faith, like you, who value kids experiencing God, Jesus Christ and the basics of faith! Those kids will be gaining lifelong memories just like the memories that Mark and I have



from our annual Vacation Bible School weeks at the church the Delaneys attended.

A foundation in faith ... kids coming with excitement to church, discovering truths about God and Jesus Christ... is an interesting concept but it takes VOLUNTEERS ... it takes PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS & UNCLES, and others who make sure kids they know from pre-K to sixth grade get to VBS each night with excitement and smiles!

My question as July begins is, "How much do you value the next generation's faith development?" Do you have the courage to ask your children if their children can come to VBS? Do you even talk to your neighbors? If you do, can you ask if their kids would like to come to our 'western themed' VBS? What about those other kids in your lives?

Now, if you are reading this after July 27th you can always bring those kids to church on Sundays. In September our CHILDREN'S MOMENT and SUNDAY SCHOOL return!

Sadly, the numbers of children ... the next generation of faith leaders ... is diminishing in almost every church in America. Many churches have no children in worship EVER! No kids on Christmas Eve ... no kids on Easter ... and no kids for a now nonexistent VBS. But we have kids every week! So I am challenging all of you and our team ... if we get 70 or more kids this summer I will get covered in a multi-colored array of colors from paint balls on the closing night!

We need TEACHERS ... WE NEED VOLUNTEERS ... WE NEED KIDS ... and therefore we NEED YOU to make this year's VBS an incredible success story!!!

Blessings,

Pastor Dave

SOUP SUNDAY



1st Sunday of the month

Next Soup Sunday: Aug. 6
Flavor: Cream of Barley
with Mushrooms

Order online or by calling or seeing Mary Ann Jones.

Thanks to Ish & the PISTON Diner for the delicious soup!

Outreach

Thanks for the support!

Thanks to your donations of money and metal for recycling, we have a Mission Team of 8 going to Red Bird in July. This is a major outreach mission and your donations have been greatly appreciated. Red Bird Missionary Conference in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky is one of the poorest areas in the country. Our members will be helping out the residents there from July 10th to 16th.

Upcoming Mission Projects & Offerings

- **July**
 - ◇ Our first Sunday offering (July 2) will benefit Native American Awareness Sunday, one of the UMC's Six Special Sundays.
 - ◇ On the third Sunday (July 16) offering is for Sierra Leone Clinics, Pastor Dave's special mission project to provide solar storage batteries for three clinics to maintain electricity.
- **August**
 - ◇ Our first Sunday offering (August 6) is Shared Ministries, for the outreach of the United Methodist Church.
 - ◇ Our third Sunday (August 20) we will be supporting St. John of God School for Special Children.

Thank you all for your faithful support of our mission projects. We remain a community of love for all.

Cheri Clement



ON CHILDREN'S DAY we recognized our Sunday School teachers. Special recognition was given to Olivia Ferrara, who has been part of our Sunday School for her whole life, first as a student, then as a helper. Olivia is graduating from high school this year.

End of Summer Party!

Time to mark your calendars for the SUPER DUPER END of the SEASON CELEBRATION, PICNIC, BBQ, and WORSHIP SERVICE that is all rolled into one fantastic opportunity to showcase who we are at St. Paul's!

On Sunday afternoon August 27th from 4pm until 6pm we will be holding our "annual" CHURCH PICNIC at the Red Bank Battlefield Park in National Park!! Now, if you want to help with the set up you can arrive as early as 3pm because yes, we will need helpers!!

This is your opportunity to showcase your best salad or side dish or desert for the church family to enjoy!! We will provide the burgers and hot dogs, but all of us who are planning on eating need to remember to bring something to pass along!!

We will hold a worship service after we eat, which is an opportunity for those visiting the park to sense what a joy-filled group we are.

I was asked about bringing back the weekly Sunday evening services at



the park but deferred. The parking situation, the limited attendance, the need to "haul" a sound system, chairs, and more, and the friendly droppings of Canadian Geese all

led to this decision. I will be happy to consider bringing back the Sunday Evening at the River services next summer, but this year we are going to only offer Sunday morning worship.

And yes ... it is summer, but God is still worthy of our worship and praise!! We are not going anywhere and if you or your friends or family are around on Sunday mornings, we'd love to see you at worship at 9:30am. Our weekly Wednesday service of Holy Communion is happening most Wednesdays and the Order of Worship is posted on FACEBOOK Tuesday evenings. Church doors open at 6:45am.

So start checking your recipes and make plans to create a delish dish for all of us to enjoy!! Bring family members and call church members you haven't seen in a while to invite them to come on August 27th at 4pm at THE RIVER!

Let's Go Out to the Ball Game August 5

It's time to step up to the plate with St. Paul's!!

The Philadelphia Phillies play the Kansas City Royals on Saturday August 5th, and we'll be there!

The game starts at 6:05 but we will be enjoying a tail gate party in the lot right across the street from Citizen's Bank Park. Hot dogs are on us ... that's a lot better than paying \$6 inside the stadium! Please feel free to bring a food item to share.

We have tickets for \$35 each, which includes a small donation to



the church, and we need your reservation now! Please see Kathy Reitz in church or call her.

This is a perfect game ... mid-summer and a Phillies team that needs our support! The main thing is having fun!

Sponsored by the CRT, the Community Relations Team. Thank you all for being part of the essential ministry of our church!!!

Thank You ALL!
*Pastor Dave
& the CRT*



MOTHER'S DAY was a lovely time of worship with great songs from our children's choir and our senior choir.

We heard a wonderful message from Sunday School Superintendent Elaine Luoma and scripture read by one of our oldest mothers, Janet Brown.



Did You Know?



Sandi Dileo has family history with our Church! Sandi's grandmother Grace Armbruster and all of her siblings were in cradle roll at St Paul's and raised in this church.

Great Uncle Bill lived just two doors down from the church. He was very involved in the Thorofare Fire Company and helped with many an oyster supper. Another great aunt supplied the recipe for the pepper hash used at all the oyster suppers ever held by our church. Yet another great aunt left the property that is now part of our parking lot. Second cousin Florence left her estate also to the church. Sandi is even LUCKY enough to be related to "THE WHOLLY MACKEREL" DAVE FISH!!

Although raised in Kemble UMC and transferred to St Paul's Paulsboro as an adult, Sandi came back to her roots and her St. Paul's family!



Sandi & Mike Dileo



THANK YOU to all the great lay members (and our DS!) for stepping up to fill in during our times without a pastor and a music director. Preaching while Pastor Dave was on vacation or taking personal time: District Superintendent Rev. Glenn Conaway, and our two lay speakers, Dave Fish and Don Strock. Filling in to provide music while we seek a new music director: Organist Patty Fish, Keyboardist Denise Hosier, Guitarist Charlie Taylor, and Pianist Debbie Richman. Helping organize, pick music, and lead singing: Worship Chair Carla Branyan and Choir Members Molly Coralluzzo and Rich Favretto. Thank you all for your willingness to share your gifts when we need help!



Keep our team in prayer!

As this newsletter is being sent out, our Red Bird Mission Team is on its way to Kentucky for a week of mission work. Please keep Pastor Dave and our seven other team members in your prayers from July 9th through 15th. Thank you!





LEAN ON ME: Men's choir sang for Father's Day. Thanks to Rich Favretto for organizing this and to Charlie Taylor for leading the group with his guitar.



GUIDING LIGHTS CLASS of ladies enjoyed an end-of-year dinner at the Piston in May.

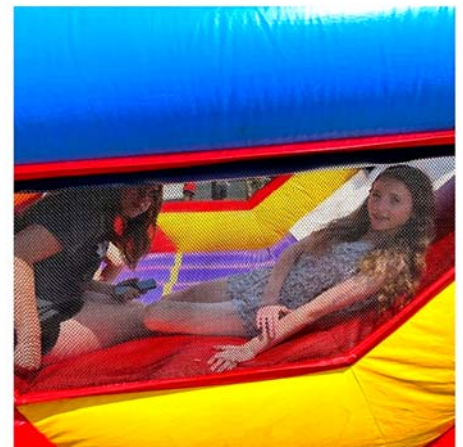


MEN'S BREAKFAST has gained some new members, including nine-year-old Declan Hartnett and his dad, Jeff. The men meet twice a month for food and conversation.



PENTECOST was a fabulous time of worship, with many of our members wearing red. Thanks to Pastor Dave for getting everyone together at the end of the worship service for this great photo!

Children's Ministry



CHILDREN'S DAY was a great time, with a wonderful worship service led by the Sunday School and a Family Picnic for all with a bouncy house for the kids. As part of the message, the kids gave the congregation a quiz with candy prizes. A wonderful time was had by all!

HELP WANTED ...

Well, we certainly did not plan on putting out the HELP WANTED SIGN here at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, but Glenda Steffee, who led our choir and provided musical accompaniment for our worship services since before COVID, announced her retirement in May and is traveling around America in her RV!

We are so thankful for Glenda's ministry and how she persevered through the months when we closed the church doors during the pandemic. She was ready to bring quality music to our online worship services every single week! The choir under Glenda's direction showcased a number of styles of worship anthems and songs that lifted the spirits of all of us during



worship! We realize there comes a time for most individuals when retirement is the option to be pursued and we wish Glenda all the best!

And that means we are actively seeking a talented person to direct the choir and provide our worship services with quality musical accompaniment! We need your help because finding church

music talent is like searching for a diamond in the rough.

Please place on your social media a message that St. Paul's is looking for a musically talented individual. You can just share our FACEBOOK message or create your own. If you know of someone who has the ability to direct a choir like ours and to play the keyboard, piano, and/or organ please encourage them to send a resume to: SPRC, St. Paul's UMC, PO Box 125, West Deptford, NJ 08086.

We are so blessed to have Patty Fish, Charlie Taylor, Debbie Richman, and Denise Hosier stepping up to play for us this summer while we search for our next staff member.

Be a Part of Our Leadership Team!

"Pay careful attention to yourselves and all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you to care for the church of God."

ACTS 20:28

Look at this gathering of people ... no, this is not about our CHRISTMAS in JULY SERVICE on July 23rd. These folks and more are the leaders and potential leaders of a place of faith and worship that matters dearly to all of us, St. Paul's United Methodist Church of West Deptford.

We are a church family that cares for and loves each other in an amazing way! We are a church family that welcomes anyone and everyone who wants to worship with us or join the church family!! St. Paul's United Methodist Church of West Deptford is truly a remarkable place of worship that truly understands the benefits of being a united church family.

During a difficult time for many churches, when factions within those organizations are dividing and causing sadness, frustration, and anger, the people of St. Paul's truly love each other, worship with joy, pray without ceasing, and are focused on the mission



of God's church, St. Paul's United Methodist Church of West Deptford.

And now that you are smiling and realizing how good we have it I need to ask ... are YOU willing to step up and serve on a leadership team? We do not have age requirements and some of the teams do not require you to even be an official member of the church family. But we cannot go into the future without volunteers serving on teams like the Trustees, Staff Parish Relations, Finance, and others. We absolutely need church members to say, "I am here, how can you use my abilities?" rather than having the pastor beg for someone to say yes to being on a leadership team.

One of the good news realities about our leadership teams is that they don't meet all that often, and because of our leadership and our staff members there are very few problems that need resolution during the year.

So THINK ABOUT IT PRAY ABOUT IT ... and then decide that yes, you will serve God and our special church during the next year in some capacity in addition to worshipping on Sundays. And then see Pastor Dave or Dave Fish. And don't forget about CHRISTMAS in JULY on Sunday morning July 23rd at 9:30am. Time to get your "ugly Christmas sweaters" out! Pastor Dave will be wearing his.