



Saint Paul United Methodist Church
1320 Fernwood-Glendale Road
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Spartanburg, SC
Permit No. 33

e-mail churchsecretary@stpumc.org

voice (864) 582-4040
Sunday Service at 10:00 A.M.

The Epistle

News For The Weeks Of
April 3, 10, 17, & 24, 2023

www.stpumc.org web

(864) 583-0850 fax

Return Services Requested

The Pastor's Pen:

SPRING IS HERE! I think so, at least. I hope so. It has been a frustrating few weeks, hasn't it? Pack up those sweaters. Pull them out again. Take the plants outside. Bring them back in. Turn on the AC. Turn on the heat. Get ready to plant flowers this week. No, better wait. Put on a short-sleeved shirt. Go out in the morning. Turn around and go back in for a long-sleeved shirt and sweater. Maybe, just maybe, spring is finally here.

What I find interesting every year is how our bodies adapt. In January, 68°F in the house felt cozy and 70°F felt rather warm. But as the temperature outside got warmer and I adjusted to it, suddenly 68°F felt a bit cool. That, I think, is why the up and down nature of our recent weather has been so annoying. We were used to cold, then we adapted to warm, and then it was cold again.

Which puts me in mind of change. It seems to me that almost everyone tells me that they dislike change. In general, I think it is that we don't like the changes we don't control. Changes in our lives are often like our recent weather. In the first place, if it is a change we like, as is the case in going from cold to warmer, we welcome it and adapt to it without even realizing that we have done so. We adjust.

Then there are those changes we don't like in our lives, similar to when we had frost again. We've already adapted to one change. We've moved on. We've settled into a new pattern of behavior, a new way of thinking, a new way of living. And then another change comes, sometimes pushing us back, sometimes in a new direction. We don't like it. We want things to remain the same.

Our minds, however, as with our bodies, have an amazing ability to adapt. Folks, changes happen every day. As with the weather, when we learn to accept that we can't control change, but rather, that we can only control our response to it, the happier we will be.

Thoughts about seasonal changes, weather, and changes in our lives bring to mind my favorite hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness." The second verse begins: "Summer and winter and springtime and harvest." The first verse says: "Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be." Yes, changes come. Yes, some are difficult. But God is unchanging. God's love for us is a constant. This first verse to me is similar to those familiar lines from the Communion ritual: "When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast." God is always there. No matter what we have done. No matter how far we have strayed. No matter how great the calamity that has befallen us. No matter our level of doubt or even frustration with God, God is still there offering us forgiveness, mercy, grace, and love.

So, no matter what changes come, remember: "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

God's blessings be upon you,



Jeremy



He Is Risen!

April 9, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Palm Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United 6:00 UMM Meet	3 Lois Reinhardt Paula Fernandez Lisa Vandys	4 6:30 6-week Lenten Study	5 6:30 Choir Rehearsal Jane Foster	6 Maundy Thursday 6:00 Maundy Thursday Service Judy Krueger	7 Good Friday 10:00 Threads of Agape Chris Boyett	8 Terry Mitchell Michael Harpe
9 Easter Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service ~1:15 Blood Pressure checks 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United Bill Myers Al Fernandez	10 Easter Monday - Office Closed 12:00 Elsie Greer Circle	11 11:30 49ers Hannah Newman Joe Sessoms	12 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	13 Dan Cooke	14 Dianne Bagnol	15 Judy Querin Linda Cooke Delton Vereen
16 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United	17 10:00 Blanche Greer Circle Alex Smith	18 Newsletter Deadline Desiree Scales	19 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	20 Helen Martenson	21 10:00 Threads of Agape Bob McFarland	22
23 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United	24 Rick Boss	25	26 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	27	28	29 Isabella Antonio-Librado Michelle Purdy
30 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United						

Maundy Thursday Service, April 6th at 6:00 PM:

Holy Thursday is also known as Maundy Thursday. The word **Maundy** shares the same root as **commandment** and refers to Jesus giving the “new commandment” to his disciples to love one another as He first loved them. Continuing our Journey to Life, we walk with Jesus to the upper room where he takes the towel and basin and washes his disciples’ feet. As we look on the scene and listen to the words of Jesus, we learn of the primary calling we have as followers of the one who died on the cross.

We leave the Maundy Thursday Service in silence to ponder the pain and power of the cross with the expectation of resurrection and the Easter message on Sunday! We hope you’ll join us at 6:00 PM on April 6th in our Sanctuary.

*If you would like to put church-related information in the Newsletter, please send an email with your “blurb” to churchsecretary@stpumc.org before the Newsletter deadline date, April 18th. Thank you!

Financials & Attendance

	Feb. 19	Feb. 26	Mar. 5	Mar. 12	Mar. 19
Received	\$8,145	\$3,203	\$12,777	\$12,883	\$4,688
Non-Contributed	\$130	\$3.75	\$264	\$27,619	\$60
Restricted	\$122	\$111	\$134	\$361	\$1,436
Total	\$8,397	\$3,317.75	\$13,175	\$40,863	\$6,184
Sunday School	46	43	50	33	40
Worship Service	105	134	105	98	114

Altar & Narthex Flowers



Altar & Narthex

Arrangements are given on April 2nd and April 9th for the Glory of God by our wonderful Altar Guild!

Altar Flowers are given on April 16th for the Glory of God by Cathy Mulkey in memory of her mother, Virginia Campbell.

Narthex Flowers are given on April 16th for the Glory of God by Darrell Querin in honor of Judy Querin’s birthday on April 15th.

Altar Flowers are given on April 23rd for the Glory of God by Don and Carol Sanders in honor of their 58th Wedding Anniversary.

Altar Flowers are given on April 30th for the Glory of God by Zach and Vanesa Davis in memory of Victoria Masters.



Easter Flowers:

As is customary, we would like to ask our church members to please bring flowers from your yards to put on our Easter cross on Easter morning. Thank you!

Easter Sunrise Service:

There will be **NO** 7:00am Easter Sunrise Service this year.

Altar Flowers: If you would like to Honor or Remember someone special by arranging for flowers to be placed on the Altar, the following dates are still available:

May 21 & 28, July 30, September 3, October 1, 15 & 22, November 19

Please email or call Lisa Müller or Wanda Steele with both your request and the dedication to put in the bulletin.