



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

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

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

The Epistle

News For The Weeks Of
April 1, 8, 15, & 22, 2024

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Return Services Requested

The Pastor's Pen

The other day I was riding along and found myself humming, which is not something I do often. Then I noticed I was smiling for no apparent reason. What was going on? A moment's thought produced the answer. As I had been driving along I had been noticing the daffodils and dogwoods blooming, the trees budding out, the grass turning green. Spring was in the air!! Once again the days are getting longer, the weather warmer.

The song that I had been humming was one of my favorites—"Great Is Thy Faithfulness." The second verse begins "Summer and winter and springtime and harvest..." I began to sing instead of hum. When I finished, I realized that song would make a good topic for this month's newsletter.

Spring brings with it all sorts of changes, most of which we look forward to. The cold and bleakness of winter give way to the colors and joy of spring. However, the yellowish cast that my truck now has reminds us that spring is not without its problems. Allergy sufferers beware!

So, too, in our lives, changes are rarely "all good" or "all bad." My thinking is that the reason so many of us fear or resist change is our apprehension that the "bad" will outweigh or overshadow the "good." We like for things to stay as they are, with known "goods" and "bads."

The beauty of "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" is that it is a reminder to us that no matter how bad the change taking place is, we are not alone.

1. 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.

As I read this verse, my mind was drawn to the similarity 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.

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Ahhh, the verse that began this train of thought. Here the songwriter, Thomas Chisolm, reminds us that the changing of the seasons and the breadth and wonder of creation are bearing testimony to the goodness of God. Yes, the world around us, the universe above us are constantly changing but God is faithful and more powerful than all of these.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

It is interesting to note here that Chisolm shifts here from the things around us and brings the focus on us. God offers us forgiveness, then notice what comes when we accept that gift of grace: peace, God's presence, strength, hope, and countless blessings.

To me, the verses should be sung with a kind of awed reverence, as if the very thought of these things is too wondrous. But the chorus should be sung triumphantly as a declaration of thanksgiving and praise.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

So, with each new daily reminder of spring, pause for a moment to thank God for the "new mercies" you receive each day. Pay attention and join with all nature in bearing witness to the goodness and faithfulness of God in your life. And you just might find yourself smiling and humming....

Peace,



Jeremy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Chris Boyett	8 Terry Mitchell	2 12:00 Elsie Greer Circle (outside venue)	3 6:30 Choir Rehearsal Lois Reinhardt Paula Fernandez	4 Joe Sessoms Hannah Newman	5 10:00 Threads of Agape Jane Foster	6 Judy Ann Krueger
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 6:00 UMM	15 9:30 Blanche Greer Circle Judy Querin Linda Cooke Delton Vereen	9 11:30 49ers 7:00 Alice Walker Circle (outside venue) Bill Myers Al Fernandez	10 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	11 5:45 PS Board Meeting	12	13 Dan Cooke
14 Native Amer. Ministries Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members Dianne Bagnal	22 9:30 Blanche Greer Circle Newsletter Deadline	16	17 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	18	19 10:00 Threads of Agape	20 Helen Martenson Betsy Alston
21 Preschool Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members Bob McFarland	29 Michelle Purdy Isabela Antonio-Librado	23	24 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	25 5:30 Fellowship Meal Rick Boss	26	27
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members	30	30				

Altar & Narthex Flowers

Altar Flowers are given on April 7th for the glory of God by Barbara Barnes in honor of Terry Mitchell's birthday.



Altar Flowers are given on April 14th for the glory of God by Steve and Lisa Stamm in memory of Paul Richter and in honor of Candy Robinson.

Narthex Flowers are given on April 14th for the glory of God by Darrell Querin in honor of Judy's birthday.

Altar Flowers are given on April 21st for the glory of God by Don and Carol Sanders in honor of their 59th Wedding Anniversary.

Altar Flowers are given on April 28th for the glory of God by Zach and Vanesa Davis in honor of bone marrow donors.

The Church Office will be CLOSED on Easter Monday, April 1st. We wish everyone a very blessed Easter Sunday!

Financials & Attendance

	Feb. 25	March 3	Mar. 10	Mar. 17	Mar. 24
Received	\$1,947	\$6,210	\$10,830	\$5,957	\$3,128
Non-Restricted	\$30	\$155	\$118	\$63	\$160
Restricted	\$387	\$1,226	\$442	\$2,820	\$50
Total	\$2,364	\$7,591	\$11,390	\$8,840	\$3,338
Sunday School	33	29	26	34	30
Worship	98	84	85	87	99

Native American Ministries Sunday - April 14th

Native American Ministries Sunday recognizes and supports the contributions of Native Americans to the church and society. Part of the funds collected allow us to collaborate with existing native ministries, create programs and support seminary scholarships for United Methodist Native Americans. Fifty percent of the offering remains in your annual conference to develop local ministries.

The conference committee on Native American ministry (CONAM) administers these funds. Please give generously on Sunday, April 14th.

The Elsie Greer Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 2nd, at The Tea Star restaurant, 12:00PM. Text or call Eileen at 590-1891 to RSVP.

RSVP - Please let Page Candler know if you are coming to the shower for Alexis Broome on Saturday, April 6th at 1:00pm. Email: pagescandler@gmail.com, text (preferred) or call: 864-477-0075

The 49ers will be meeting on Tuesday, April 9th at 11:30AM in Poston Hall.

I will need a few volunteers to help set up and clean up. Please call me at 864-706-7936 if you can help. Susan Owens

Our April Fellowship Meal will be on April 25th at 5:30PM in Poston Hall. We hope you'll join us for this meaningful time together.

High School And College Graduates - Attention Parents of Seniors! Graduation is nearing for the class of 2024! We'd like to recognize all our Graduates, from high school through all stages of college. If you have a graduate for recognition, please call or email the church office with their information (Graduate's FULL name, school of graduation, major, future plans, parent's names). Thanks!

*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 23rd. Thank you!