



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
July 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30, 2023

www.stpumc.org web

(864) 583-0850 fax

Return Services Requested

The Pastor's Pen

"24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Saturday, June 24th, was a bittersweet day for me. Leland and I drove over to Greenville to my oldest daughter Chelsea's house so that we could join in the festivities as we celebrated her youngest daughter Carson's second birthday. My other daughter, Katie, was there with her husband TJ, still basking in their recent nuptials. Craig, my oldest son, couldn't be there, of course, as he is starting his final year of surgical residency in Portland, Oregon. There were in-laws, family friends, and kids running from one water activity to another. And, of course, Brenda was there. That caused a bit of sadness.

Now, we get along. In fact, we argue less now than when we were together. (Living under different roofs helps a great deal with that.) We've reached our agreements about custody and finances, and really didn't dispute those. Our lawyers don't understand us. But we've simply agreed not to fight about anything. We are committed to ending our marriage peaceably. How? Because we have committed to not hurting the other. Why? In part, for Leland's sake. But more importantly, despite the fact that we can no longer be married, we still care about each other and their well-being.

As I look out from the pulpit on Sunday mornings, I see some big gaps. I am hoping that it is just because it is summer and folks are off on vacation. But some have suggested to me that there are those who are not attending as a protest over the "discernment/disaffiliation" issue. That in addition to not attending, some are withholding their contributions.

Years ago one of my churches, that regularly paid 100% of their conference apportionments, wanted to withhold \$86 as a protest about something that concerned them about one particular line item. I pointed out that neither the bishop, nor the administrators of that line item would receive nor understand their message. Instead, I suggested they write several letters and communicate more directly their thoughts, which they did.

On another occasion, I read to the congregation a letter concerning gambling/video poker sent by the bishop to each church. Angry at me for doing so, one of the members decided to quit giving to the church. When the finance secretary brought this to my attention, I could only shake my head. Who was he hurting? Not me because the church continued to pay my salary. However, he was depriving other ministries of the church much needed funding.

The writer of Hebrews says we should meet together so that we might encourage each other, that we might "spur one another toward love and good deeds." I hope you are not absenting yourself from worship because of anger or as a protest. Write me a letter or email instead so that communication might be clear. If you don't want your donation to support the United Methodist Church in general, specify that it can only be used for the local ministries of Saint Paul, not apportionments. Don't punish Saint Paul for the sins of the denomination, please.

We are Saint Paul. A family. Families have squabbles. Families don't always agree. But we stick together because we care. Because we have been through hard times together. Because relationships are more important than issues. Let us commit to working through this difficult time together. For the sake of our children. For the sake of each other.

Peace,



Jeremy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members	3 Office CLOSED	4 4 th of July Office CLOSED Norma Jean Mitchell	5 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	6 6:00 Pickleball	7 10:00 Threads of Agape Morgan Traxler Ford Traxler	8 Cynthia Godfrey Jeff thington
9 8:30 Caring Casserole Drive 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 11:15 Blood Pressure Checks 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United-Central UMC Frances Maness Riann Whitt	10	11 6:30 Board of Stewards' Meeting Rebecca Parrish	12 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	13 6:00 Pickleball	14	15 Marsha Milford
16 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members	17 A.D. Page, Jr. Sydney Metts	18 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 Choir Rehearsal Veneal Williams	19 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	20 6:00 Pickleball Larry Owens	21 10:00 Threads of Agape Jon Godfrey Amy Birch	22 Allen Long Mike Harpe
23 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United-Central UMC Marion Pittman Tiffany Hampton	24	25 6:30 Choir Rehearsal Presh Gentry	26 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	27 6:00 Pickleball Rhonda Hatchette	28	29 Johnette Smith Remsen Parrish
30 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members Ballenger Cooksey	31					

Altar & Narthex Flowers

Altar Flowers are given on July 2nd for the Glory of God by Candice Thomason in memory of Bill Cook.



Altar Flowers are given on July 9th for the Glory of God by Lillian Hudson in loving memory of her husband, Bill Hudson's, birthday.

Altar Flowers are given on July 16th for the Glory of God by Marion and Jane Pittman in honor of their 57th Wedding Anniversary.

Altar Flowers are given on July 23rd for the Glory of God by Page Candler in loving memory of Peter Ransom Candler.

Financials & Attendance

	May 28	June 4	June 11
Received	\$7,633	\$12,218	\$8,071
Non-Restricted	\$0	\$0	\$0
Restricted	\$1,910	\$1,366	\$50
Total	\$9,543	\$13,584	\$8,121
Sunday School	36	32	44
Worship	77	85	109
	June 18	June 25	
Received	\$5,275	\$6,935.75	
Non-Restricted	\$8.65	\$63	
Restricted	\$200	\$1,488	
Total	\$5,483.65	\$8,486.75	
Sunday School	40	30	
Worship	101	87	

*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, July 19th. Thank you!

Thank You! Dan and I want to express our thanks to our Saint Paul family for your prayers, phone calls, visits, food and cards. Your care and concern enabled us to get through our difficult times. Dan and Linda Cooke

Our Pre-School would appreciate your support as they get ready for school in the Fall. There is a Wish List of items needed and barrels for donations in Poston foyer. Thank you for your support.
Wanda Steele, Chair, Pre-School Board

Caring Casseroles Ministry

Saint Paul is rebooting a meal-providing mission project for the members of our church and staff. There's a need for food to be available for members in times of sickness and bereavement. A similar project was in place several years ago, but due to COVID and other reasons, the project fizzled out. We support many mission projects for the community but we must also take care of our own members' needs. This has primarily been the responsibility of our four Women's Circles. However, our Circle members are aging, affecting much of what we do.

We will all now have the opportunity to participate in keeping our church freezer, which is in the Music Director's office, well stocked with a variety of foods, providing a meal to those in need of one for whatever reason.

Several of our ladies are interested in jump-starting this mission, however, the project is in need of donations from all of our members, men and women chefs alike!

Our first church-wide **Caring Casseroles Drive** will be July 9. Ladies will be in Poston Hall to receive, label, date and store your contributions (please bring a note with a list of ingredients used in your dish).

Types of Items needed:

- 8" X 8" tin pans of cornbread, cakes, muffins, vegetable or meat casseroles, etc.
- 9" X 13" tin pans of vegetable casseroles, mac & cheese, green bean casserole, rice consomme, etc.
- Quart or pint containers of soup, chili, etc.
- Quiche, breads, pies, cakes.

For funerals, we will provide chicken or other meats as requested. We are also happy to accept monetary donations in lieu of food. Please note "Caring Casseroles" on the Memo line of your check and turn it in to our financial secretary. Thank you for your help with this important ministry!

Susan Owens and Michele Bishop