



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  
August 6, 13, 20, & 27, 2023

www.stpumc.org web

(864) 583-0850 fax

***Return Services Requested***



**Preschool Readers Needed!** One of the most fun ministries of this church involves our youngest “saints”. For many years now, our congregation has supported the Preschool by providing readers to the 3 and 4 year old children there. Readers will read to their assigned class every other week, Tuesdays, at either 11:15 or 11:30, for no more than 10 minutes. The children love their readers and our readers get so much joy interacting with these precious little ones.

We are in need of FOUR Regular readers and a few who would be willing to substitute. IF a regular reader has a conflict, there is a pool of substitute readers who you can contact to sub for you. Books from which you read may be obtained from the public library, your own children’s book library, or from what the preschool has available.

The reading program follows the District 7 academic calendar. We hope to support the Fall term by starting on Tuesday, August 15, and will continue until ~December 19.

Will you help? Please contact Barbara Barnes at [barbara.barnes@charter.net](mailto:barbara.barnes@charter.net) or 864-583-4192 to volunteer or get more information.

## The Pastor’s Pen

Lisa has once again reminded me (though I think it is a polite demand) that it is time for my newsletter article. As I was struggling with what to share with you this month, the thought came that we might do a little time traveling. No, I have not lost my mind nor am I about to engage in some science fiction writing. You see, back during 2020 when Covid had everything shut down, I sent out devotional emails to my congregation once or twice a week. I want to share one with you:

*Dear Church Family,*

*As I sit here this morning thinking about what to share with you, I am struggling to be patient. Leland wanted to accompany me to the office, which was fine as he has schoolwork to do on his Chromebook. However, he keeps interrupting me asking for help. He wants me to “help” him with his work [by which he means do it for him]. Finally, after resisting his appeals for several minutes, I am able to get some work done. He is working, though with periodic questions about how to spell something.*

*Why am I sharing this? Am I confessing my lack of patience? No, but I probably should! I’m sharing because in the midst of telling him to do it on his own, I felt one of those mental nudges. “Is this how God feels? Does God sometimes ‘resist’ our prayers?”*

*You know, of course, that the reason I was reluctant to help Leland was not because I didn’t love him, but because he needs to learn for himself. Doing it for him would not really be helping him. He is capable of doing the work for the most part, and once he was working I was more than willing to give him a hand over some difficult spots.*

*I wonder, if in the same way God sometimes doesn’t answer our prayers? Knowing that we are capable, that we don’t need as much help as we think we do, God waits for us to show some initiative and then along the way gives us assistance. Now, I am not saying this explains all unanswered prayer, but perhaps some.*

*A few moments ago Leland interrupted again, but this time it was not to ask for help. “Look, Dad, see how fast I am typing.” A moment of accomplishment that resulted from my not helping.*

*The next time you are waiting for God to answer a prayer ask yourself this: “What is God waiting for me to do? Am I asking for help when God is saying ‘Start by helping yourself’?”*

**May God answer/not answer your prayers!**

Peace,



*Jeremy*

# August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Preschool CLOSED for Deep Cleaning this week 6:30 Board of Stewards Planning Meeting JoAnn Seastrunk Jane Fore	2 8:00 Preschool Teacher Training-Poston Hall 6:30 Choir Rehearsal Susan Owens	3 8:00 Preschool Teacher Training-Poston Hall 6:00 Pickleball Peter Hamel	4 8:00 Preschool Teacher Training-Poston Hall 9:00 Church Workday for Preschool 10:00 Threads of Agape Mark Edward Gentry	5 Shirley Lee JoAnn Brown
6 7:45 UMM Breakfast Meeting 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service - Back-to-School Backpack blessings 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United-St. James UMC	7	8 Cyndi Hutchens	9 6:30 Choir Rehearsal Vernon Brown	10 5:45 Preschool Board Meeting 6:00 Pickleball	11 11:00 Women of Faith (UMW) Gathering-Poston	12
13 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service ~11:15 Blood Pressure Checks 1:00 Pickleball for Members	14 12:00 Elsie Greer Circle Judy Lamb	15 6:00 Nominations Committee Meeting Gregory Koller	16 4:00 Preschool Parent Meeting & Open House 6:30 Choir Rehearsal Nell Davis Chris Fenner	17 6:00 Pickleball Don Wasness Allen Lassiter	18 10:00 Threads of Agape Jason Traxler	19
20 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United-St. James UMC Mike Byers Brenda Ethington	21 Newsletter Deadline Liam Cooke	22 Sam Foster	23 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	24 6:00 Pickleball	25	26
27 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United-St. James UMC Suzanne Metts	28	29 Jean Ogden	30 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	31 6:00 Pickleball David Lee Gentry		

## Altar & Narthex Flowers

**Altar Flowers** are given on August 6<sup>th</sup> for the Glory of God by Kaylene Wilber in honor of the birthday of her son, John Kennon Wilber.



**Altar Flowers** are given on August 13<sup>th</sup> for the Glory of God by Rick Boss in honor of his 44-year sobriety anniversary.

**Altar Flowers** are given on August 20<sup>th</sup> for the Glory of God by Jane May in loving memory of daughter, Melanie May Hoffer.

**Narthex Flowers** are given on August 20<sup>th</sup> for the Glory of God by Mike and Eileen Byers in honor of their Anniversary.

**Altar Flowers** are given on August 27<sup>th</sup> for the Glory of God by Sam and Jane Foster in honor of their children and grandchildren.

## Financials & Attendance

	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23
Received	\$8,600	\$8,114	\$15,608	\$5,341
Non-Restricted	\$0	\$3.75	\$0	\$0
Restricted	\$480	\$411	\$622	\$261
Total	\$9,080	\$8,528.75	\$16,230	\$5,602
Sunday School	30	36	34	31
Worship	79	81	107	94

\*If you would like to put church-related information in the Newsletter, please send an email with your "blur" to churchsecretary@stpumc.org before the Newsletter deadline date, August 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you!

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 started 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. We support mission projects for the community but we must also take care of our own members' needs.

Our first Casserole Drive was on July 9<sup>th</sup> and was very successful. Our freezer is 80% full and we have taken several meals to our sick members already. Thank you for the generous donations of food and money.

The first organization's meeting was held last week and we had 11 people in attendance and 6 additional volunteers who expressed their desire to help. At this meeting, we decided to have a Casserole Drive on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every 2<sup>nd</sup> month. The next Casserole Drive will be on September 24, 2023.

If you would like to help out with this Ministry, our needs are as follows:

- 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
- Other tried & true food items which you've had success with.

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