

**e-mail** churchsecretary@stpumc.org

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

**The Epistle**

News For The Weeks Of  
April 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2025

www.stpumc.org **web**

(864) 583-0850 **fax**

*Return Services Requested*



**Journey with Jesus:  
A Lenten Pilgrimage of Grace**  
Spartanburg Area UMC Lenten Lunch Services  
Wednesdays during Lent

Worship begins at Noon  
followed by a free meal provided by the host church

An offering will be collected each week for Maggie Valley UMC for their  
Hurricane Helene efforts

Date	Host	Preacher
3/12	Central UMC	Rev. Megan Gray
3/19	St. James UMC	Rev. Cam Treece
3/26	Trinity UMC	Rev. Brad Gray
4/2	St. Paul UMC	Rev. Morris Waymer Jr.
4/9	Silver Hill UMC	Rev. Andrew Wolfe
4/16	Bethel UMC	Rev. Ricky Howell

**Volunteers for  
April 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2025**

Communion Assistants	04/06	Carol Mabry, Darrell Querin Kay Cox, Lee Owens
Worship Greeters	04/06	Darrell & Judy Querin, Sam & Jane Foster
	04/13	Kay McBee, Bob McFarland, Lee & Larry Owens
	04/20	Lois Reinhardt, Kay Cox, Linda Hodge, Suzanne Seager
	04/27	Darrell & Judy Querin, Nancy Curry, Jim Harrison
Worship Ushers	04/06	Jay Hampton, Sam Foster
	04/13	Fern Powell, Kay McBee
	04/20	Rick Harward, Henry Calhoun
	04/27	Bob McFarland, Ray Parker
Liturgist	04/06	Bob McFarland
	04/13	Susan Wingo
	04/20	Lee Owens
	04/27	Jean Ogden
Offering Depositor	04/06	Shany Ezell
	04/13	Hamp Lindsey
	04/20	Sam Foster
	04/27	Kay McBee

Altar Guild - April:

Kay McBee, Susan Owens, Pat Campbell, Judy Womble,  
Kathy Rogers

Caring Casserole Volunteers - April:

Mary Page Yarborough, Deb Schumann

**The Pastor's Pen**

**Plucking Thistles, Planting Flowers**

As spring begins and the world around us blooms, I have been thinking about this Abraham Lincoln quote, "Die when I may, I want it said of me by those who knew me best, that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow." In fact, by the time you read this you may have already heard it in a sermon. April brings with it the beauty of spring, the renewal of Easter, and a reminder that new life is always possible through Christ. What a profound statement about living a life that seeks to bring goodness and beauty into the world, rather than allowing negativity and hardship to take root.

Lincoln's words challenge us as individuals and as a church community. Are we plucking thistles, or are we allowing them to spread? Are we planting flowers where they have the best chance to thrive? As followers of Christ, we are called to be people who cultivate love, grace, and kindness in a world that can often feel overgrown with division, despair, and hardship.

One of the greatest examples of plucking thistles and planting flowers comes from Jesus Himself. Throughout His ministry, Jesus uprooted hatred and fear, replacing them with love and faith. When He encountered the sick, He offered healing. When He met the lonely, He gave them a place of belonging. When He found sinners, He forgave and restored them. Jesus calls us to do the same in our daily lives.

During this Lenten season and as we move ever closer to Easter, let's examine our own lives. What are the "thistles" that need to be removed from our hearts? Maybe it's a grudge we've been holding onto for too long. Maybe it's a habit of criticism rather than encouragement. Maybe it's the tendency to focus on what's wrong in the world rather than what is beautiful and full of hope. Whatever those thistles may be, let's commit to pulling them up by the roots and replacing them with acts of love, kindness, and faith.

As a church, we also have an opportunity to plant flowers in our community. Every time we welcome a new visitor, support a struggling family, or offer a word of hope to someone in need, we are planting seeds of Christ's love. Every time we serve in missions, uplift the brokenhearted, or teach our children the love of God, we are cultivating a garden that reflects the beauty of God's kingdom.

This month, I encourage you to think about one specific way you can pluck a thistle and plant a flower. Maybe it's reaching out to a neighbor who needs a friend. Maybe it's volunteering in a ministry you've been feeling called to join. Maybe it's simply choosing to speak words of encouragement rather than criticism. Small acts of faith and love have a way of growing into something much greater than we could ever imagine.

Wouldn't it be great if Saint Paul was known for the flowers we plant? Let's be a church that sows seeds of hope, faith, and love wherever we go. May it be said of us that we left the world a little more beautiful, a little more kind, and a little more full of Christ's love.

Peace,

*Pastor Megan*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>6</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:00 Survey of the Old Testament 6:00 UMM	<b>7</b> Chris Boyett	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 12:00 Lenten Lunch-Silver Hill UMC 6:00 Choir Rehearsal Bill Myers Al Fernandez	<b>10</b> 10:30 Pastoral Bible Study Taylor Cash	<b>11</b> Joe Sessoms Hannah Grace Newman	<b>12</b> Jane Foster
<b>13 Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:00 Survey of the Old Testament Dan Cooke	<b>14</b> Dianne Bagnol	<b>15</b> Judy Querin Linda Cooke Delton Vereen	<b>16</b> 10:00 Anne Ratliff Circle 12:00 Lenten Lunch-Bethel UMC 6:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>17 Maundy Thursday</b> 6:30 Maundy Thursday Joint Service with Bethel UMC at STPUMC	<b>18 Good Friday</b> 10:00 Threads of Agape 6:30 Good Friday Joint Service with Bethel UMC at Bethel	<b>19</b> 10:30 Easter Egg Hunt
<b>20 Easter Sunday</b> 7:00 Easter Sunrise Service 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members Betsy Alston	<b>21</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 10:00 Blanche Greer Circle 6:00 Finance Comm. Mtg. Bob McFarland	<b>22</b> 1:00 Computer Class	<b>23</b> 6:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 10:30 Pastoral Bible Study 5:30 Fellowship Meal	<b>25</b> 1:00 Computer Class Rick Boss	<b>26</b>
<b>27 CLC Sunday</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members	<b>28</b> 6:30 Worship Committee Meeting	<b>29</b> Michelle Purdy Isabela Antonio	<b>30</b> 6:00 Choir Rehearsal			

## Altar & Narthex Flowers

**Altar Flowers** are given on April 6<sup>th</sup> for the glory of God by Don and Carol Sanders in honor of their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on April 24<sup>th</sup>.



**Altar Flowers** are given on April 27<sup>th</sup> for the glory of God by Zach and Vanesa Davis in memory of Victoria Masters and in honor of bone marrow donors.

**UMCOR Sunday, March 30:** Gifts to UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for all United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the costs of doing business. This means all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100 percent to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered. Please give generously on UMCOR Sunday!

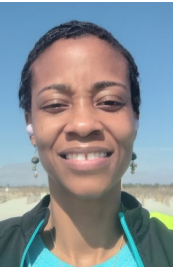
**Graduates!** High School And College Graduates - Attention Parents of Seniors! Graduation is nearing for the class of 2025! We'd like to recognize all our Graduates, from high school through all stages of college. If you have a graduate for recognition, please call or email the church office with their information (Graduate's FULL name, school of graduation, major, future plans, parent's names). Thanks!

	Feb. 23	Mar. 2	Mar. 9	Mar. 16	Mar. 23
Received	\$6,976	\$9,305	\$4,379	\$6,101	\$5,558
Non-Restricted	\$35	\$283	\$0	\$86	\$1,474
Restricted	\$463	\$591	\$61	\$400	\$175
Total	\$7,474	\$10,179	\$4,440	\$6,587	\$7,207
Sunday School	31	27	21	21	23
Worship	83	79	87	84	81

\*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 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you!

**Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, 7:00am at Greenlawn Memorial Gardens!** Please join us on Easter Sunday, April 20, for a Sunrise Service at 7:00am at Greenlawn Memorial Gardens. We hope to see you there!

**We Are Excited to Welcome DiAndra Jefferies** to Saint Paul as our clergy intern for her Spring semester. DiAndra is a native of the Spartanburg community, a former Air Force Captain, a pharmacist, and the mother of 5 teenage boys. She has worked in churches before in more specialized ministries and is a faithful member of Silver Hill United Methodist Church. She is almost finished with her Masters of Divinity at Union Theological Seminary. While at Saint Paul she will work in a variety of areas throughout the church as we help her discern her call to pastoral ministry. You will hear more about DiAndra in the coming weeks and the various ways we as a church can be a part of this important step in her seminary education.



**NO 49ers** in the month of April. We'll resume in May. Thank you.

## Saint Paul UMC Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>  
10:30am

Please join us for our  
Annual Easter Egg Hunt !



Bring your basket and  
join your friends!