



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
June 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2023

www.stpumc.org web

(864) 583-0850 fax

Return Services Requested

The Pastor's Pen

Ephesians 4:1-3

"I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace:"

On May 21st I quoted this passage during my sermon. I was emphasizing our being "called." That we are to walk worthy of our calling as Christians. I went on to talk of Richard Niebuhr's four calls – General, Inner, Providential, and Ecclesiastical.

I described the Inner Call this way: "This is the call within each of us to live out our Christianity. The call to search the Scriptures, to pray, to be active in Church. As Methodists we usually refer to this as the increase of sanctifying grace in our lives. This involves the deepening of our faith, growing and maturing in the things of God. Everyday, as you choose the things of God, as you choose to kind and loving, and gentle, you are living out that Inner Call to discipleship." I went on to quote the text above.

As I was preaching, a thought struck me. I resisted the urge to follow that thought in the moment and stuck to the sermon I had prepared. (I'm sure the congregation appreciated that.) But it was a good thought, and I think this is a good venue to pursue it.

While my sermon focused on being called, the thought pursued Paul's description of what living out that call looks like in our lives. He begins by saying we are to "walk" with humility and gentleness. Humility is "a modest view of one's own importance." In Romans 12:3 he says, "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned." Paul encourages us to remember that God has thus far given us each a different measure of faith. We have each had experiences which have nurtured, which have tried, which have challenged, and which have developed our faith. Different experiences, producing different faiths. Thus, in humility we are to treat one another with gentleness, acknowledging that God has led each of us in faith.

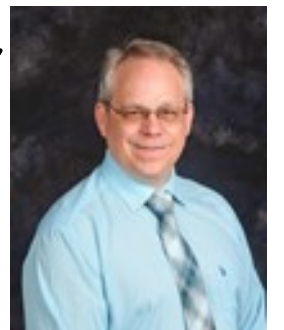
"With patience." Oh, Paul, why did you have to put that in there? He explains in the next phrase. "With patience, bearing with one another in love." Because we love one another, we are to be patient.

To what end? "Making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." To stay united in the Spirit peacefully. And notice that Paul indicates it won't be easy. "Making every effort." It takes work. It takes persistence. "Every effort." Not just try and give up. Every effort.

My guess is that the reason you chose to be a part of Saint Paul was warmth and love of your fellow believers. In none of that time has a social issue – capital punishment, abortion, euthanasia – caused you to dispute with your fellow members. Instead, you have nurtured one another in faith, and supported one another through illness, though hard times, through the loss of a spouse or a child, and many others. People making the effort to be together in the Spirit.

It is a difficult time at Saint Paul. My hope is that we will walk worthy of our calling. That in humility we will be gentle, acknowledging that our faith journeys have been different. That despite our differences, we will make every effort to remain together and do so peacefully. That everything we say or do would reflect our love for God and one another.

Peace,



Jeremy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00 Pickleball	2 10:00 Threads of Agape 12:30 A Matter of Balance	3
4 Trinity Sunday 7:45 UMM Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service Make-up Pics, before SS, after Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United Deb Teagan	5 12:00 Elsie Greer Circle VBS Decorating Chris Bartholomew	6 11:30 49ers VBS Decorating	7 6:30 Choir Rehearsal VBS Decorating 12:30 A Matter of Balance	8 6:00 Pickleball VBS Decorating	9 VBS Decorating 12:30 A Matter of Balance Peggy Grant	10 VBS Decorating
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 11:15 Blood Pressure checks 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United	12 11:00 Elsie Greer Circle VBS Doug Remeta	13 VBS Amy Schanen	14 6:30 Choir Rehearsal VBS 12:30 A Matter of Balance	15 6:00 Pickleball VBS	16 10:00 Threads of Agape 12:30 A Matter of Balance Kaylene Wilber Candice Thomason	17
18 Father's Day 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United Rob Metts Ashley Cooksey	19 Sam Whitt	20 Duncan Smith	21 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 Choir Rehearsal Teri Antonio-Librado	22 6:00 Pickleball 6:30 Board of Stewards Meeting Debbie Whitt	23 Walt Ratliff Dale King	24 Jim Harrison
25 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United	26 Karen Harpe	27	28 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	29 6:00 Pickleball Chip Steele	30 Connie Muzzy	

Goodwill's "Good as Gold" 50th Anniversary Gala was held on May 6, 2023 at the Greenville Convention Center and was a great success! Cecil McFarland, late husband of Mary McFarland, and late father of Bob and Ann McFarland, started the first Goodwill in South Carolina. The McFarland family was recognized during the Gala and when rewards were given, one of them was in Cecil's name. The McFarlands reported that the food was delicious and the program was inspirational. Many awards were given to those who had earned them with their hard work.

Altar & Narthex Flowers

Altar Flowers are given on June 4th for the Glory of God by Kemp Sigmon in memory of Kathy P. Sigmon.



Narthex Flowers are given on June 4th for the Glory of God by Fern Powell in memory of Sandra Powell.

Altar Flowers are given on June 11th for the Glory of God by Kaylene Wilber in honor of the birthday of her daughter-in-law, Katie Wilber.

Altar Flowers are given on June 18th for the Glory of God by Bob and Connie Muzzy in honor of their 57th Anniversary.

Narthex Flowers are given on June 18th for the Glory of God by Barry and Sherrill Bland in honor of their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

Altar Flowers are given on June 25th for the Glory of God by Jack and Karen Moyer in memory of Karen's parents, Earl and Thelma Lewis.

Narthex Flowers are given on June 25th for the Glory of God by Wanda Steele in honor of Chip's 80th birthday.

Financials & Attendance

	April 23	April 30	May 7
Received	\$8,391	\$5,515	\$8,695
Non-	\$2,500	\$0	\$0
Restricted	\$270	\$740	\$35
Total	\$11,161	\$6,255	\$8,730
Sunday	41	30	40
Worship	106	141	104
	May 14	May 21	
Received	\$6,133	\$10,937	
Non-	\$29.76	\$4.90	
Restricted	\$633	\$188	
Total	\$6,795.76	\$11,129.90	
Sunday	32	102	
Worship	105	42	

*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, June 21st. Thank you!

Make-up Pics For New Church Directory - June 4th: Due to a large number of members being unable to attend our Directory Picture taking on May 21st, Danny and Desiree Scales have been kind enough to offer a make-up date for those unable to attend. This make-up date was not initially scheduled, so be sure to mark your calendars accordingly if you were unable to be here on the initial date offered. We hope to see those of you on June 4th! Pictures will be taken before Sunday School and following the Sunday Service. Thanks!