



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 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, 2024

www.stpumc.org **web**

(864) 583-0850 **fax**

Return Services Requested

The Pastor's Pen

Dear Saint Paul Disciples,

I'm writing this to you from my desk at Bethel UMC, preparing to say goodbye while eagerly awaiting saying hello. I feel like a trapeze artist. I've jumped off the platform and I'm swinging through the air, waiting to transition from where I came to where I am going. And it has me reflecting on how much of our life is spent in the in-between times or liminal spaces.

In the United Methodist Church it feels like we have been existing in a liminal space for far too long. There was a sense at Annual Conference that we would all just like to be on the other platform already. Maybe you have been feeling this at Saint Paul as well. We all just want to get to where we are going already!

The reality, however, is that we are people of the way. Throughout the first five centuries people understood Christianity primarily as a way of life in the present, not as a doctrinal system, esoteric belief, or promise of eternal salvation. By followers enacting Jesus's teachings, Christianity changed and improved the lives of its adherents and served as a practical spiritual pathway. This is how the earliest Christians were called "the people of the Way".

As people of the way, we are people called to be on the move. Moving towards sanctification. Growing as disciples. Reaching beyond what is comfortable. In other words, reaching the other platform of the trapeze isn't the end. It is just the start of the next act. And I can't wait to jump off the next platform with you! I look forward to spending the summer (and beyond) getting to know many of you. My hope is that I will be able to engage you in conversations so that I can learn about your love of Jesus, your walk of discipleship, and your hopes and dreams for Saint Paul. And on June 30th, I will be sharing some of these things about myself with you.

May we soar to new heights together through the power of Jesus!

Peace,

Pastor Megan



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Cynthia Godfrey Jeff Ethington	2	3 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	4 Independence Day - Office CLOSED Norma Jean Mitchell	5 10:00 Threads of Agape	6
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members Reece Dawson Morgan Traxler Ford Traxler	8	9 Frances Maness Riann Whitt	10 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	11 5:45 PS Board Meeting Rebecca Parrish	12	13
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members Kathy Rogers	15 Marsha Milford	16	17 6:30 Choir Rehearsal A.D. Page, Jr. Sydney Metts	18	19 10:00 Threads of Agape Veneal Williams	20 Larry Owens
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members Jon Godfrey	22 Newsletter Deadline Johnette Smith Remsen Parrish	23	24 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	25 5:30 Fellowship Meal Homer Gary	26	27 Rhonda Hatchette
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members	29	30 Ballenger Cooksey	31 6:30 Choir Rehearsal			

Altar & Narthex Flowers

Altar Flowers are given on July 7th for the glory of God by Lillian Hudson in loving memory of her husband, Bill Hudson's, birthday.



Narthex Flowers are given on July 7th for the glory of God by Chip Steele in honor of his wife, Wanda, for their Wedding Anniversary.

Altar Flowers are given on July 14th for the glory of God by Candice Thomason in loving memory of Bill Cook.

Narthex Flowers are given on July 14th for the glory of God by Marion and Jane Pittman in honor of their Anniversary.

Altar Flowers are given on July 21st for the glory of God by Page Candler in memory of Peter Ransom Candler.

Financials & Attendance

	May 19	May 26	June 2	June 9	June 16
Received	\$5,780	\$6,676	\$18,685	\$5,920	\$3,597
Non-Restricted	\$572	\$0	\$156	\$6.00	\$1
Restricted	\$495	\$248	\$111	\$666	\$275
Total	\$6,847	\$6,924	\$18,952	\$6,592	\$3,873
Sunday School	30	26	29	22	33
Worship	75	70	82	92	95

*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, July 23rd. Thank you!

Plan To Join Us and the community to Welcome Pastor Megan Gray to Saint Paul UMC on Thursday, July 11th, 5:30PM. We're hosting not only our congregation but our Children's Learning Center families and opening up the event to our neighbors in the community as well. We're planning a summer cookout with burgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks, cookies and cake.

The children will be able to enjoy a bouncy house, obstacle course and the return of the infamous Balloon Guy. Another special event will be the ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly turfed playground by our Children's Learning Center.

We will be asking for volunteers to help set up tables and chairs, along with making cookies and cakes and bringing drinks.

For those who wish to help in another way, we ask that you make a donation and mark it to the Welcome Pastor Megan Cookout to help us defray cost for the event.

We look forward to this wonderful day of celebration and joy.

Dear Saint Paul Family,

The church's Helping Hands Committee is actively planning for our homeless meal ministry, in partnership with First Presbyterian Church, on Thursday, August 1.

We are grateful that our church has this very special opportunity to serve God through serving our neighbors who are in the greatest need.

We are now seeking volunteers to prepare or bring a needed menu item for August 1. Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex after worship service on Sunday, June 30. Committee members will be there to answer any questions you may have. If you would like to sign-up by phone or email, or need more information, please contact Carol Mabry at (864)-345-3428 or email: cjmbjm@gmail.com

Our deepest gratitude is extended to all church members who helped with our 'practice run' at the Fellowship Meal on May 30. Through your collective kindness, we learned a lot and are very confident Saint Paul will amply and joyfully provide on August 1!

Thank you!
Carol Mabry and Helping Hands Committee