

THE TOWER

— ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH —



VOLUME 67, ISSUE 8 // AUGUST 2020

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STAY CONNECTED!

JOIN THE WEEKLY EMAIL LIST: To receive Pastor Darren’s weekly email with an update on what’s happening in the life of the church, you can email janet@stpaulchurchky.org, call the church office at 502-459-1595, or subscribe at stpaulchurchky.org.

JOIN THE PRAYER CHAIN: Each week, and as needs arise, we share prayer requests from our congregation and the community. If you would like to receive this email and join this ministry of prayer, email janet@stpaulchurchky.org, call the church office at 502-459-1595, or subscribe at stpaulchurchky.org/prayer-requests/.



Connect with St. Paul Church on **Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.**



Find updates on upcoming events, and share your pictures and thoughts from your favorite St. Paul Church activities.



MARRIAGES

Austin Morris and Makenzie Kahl were married at St Paul on July 18, 2020.

DEATHS

Pamela Walton - July 5, 2020

MEMORIALS

In memory of Ray Stoess

from
 Douglas and Jaculin Iler
 Robert and Charlise Showalter
 Carl and Glenna Heimerdinger
 Ruth and Les Black
 Margaret Anderson
 John Hubbuch
 Robert Montgomery

In memory of Kathleen Whittenberg

from Virginia and Barbara Hancock

In memory of Kacy Reed

from Carl and Glenna Heimerdinger

In memory of Betty Doering

from Carl and Glenna Heimerdinger

In memory of Mary Witten

from
 Ruth and Les Black
 Ray and BJ Fore

In memory of Shirley Hickerson

from
 Harvey and Lynn Hite
 George Hauck
 Dennis and Carolyn Owens
 Wilma Couch

In memory of Bob Couch

from Kentucky Hospital Association

In memory of Stephen C. Reynolds

from Carter and Marilyn Reynolds

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT TOWER ISSUE

Monday, August 17 at 5:00pm

Submit articles and/or pictures to Sara Ferebee at sara@stpaulchurchky.org.

FALL BEGINNINGS

MARY PAIGE TAYLOR, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY



As the youngest of three siblings, I always spent each August watching my brother and sister get their first-day-of-school pictures taken and head to school in their new uniforms with their new backpacks full of new supplies, and I was always so jealous. So jealous in fact, that my mom's favorite story of me to tell to anyone who will listen is about this exact situation. She always told me that I couldn't go to school until I turned 5, so on my 5th birthday (in February of 2002), I woke up, put on my sister's school uniform, grabbed my baby backpack stuffed with coloring books, crayons, and stuffed animals, and tried to walk out the door with my sister. When my mom told me I couldn't go, I was absolutely inconsolable. I had waited five whole years to go to school and firmly believed it was my time to go, but I didn't understand that school doesn't start in February, so I had to wait. To make up for my tears, my mom took me back-to-school shopping that moment. I had been so hopeful of getting to be like my big brother and big sister, but I had to deal with the reality of not being able to go for another six months.

I'm reminded of that story now because of how hopes have been adjusted and re-adjusted over the last few months. It began back in March when my team was hoping for Youth Futures, and it's been re-adjusted now to just hoping to gather in-person again.

The staff here at St. Paul has been working hard to figure out how we can try to host some of the church activities that kick off the school year, and due to

the state of our community, our hopes have had to be adjusted.

Pastor Dustin recently preached on a passage from Romans that discussed hope that comes to mind now. Here, Paul says, "For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."

We hope for what we do not yet have. We wait for it patiently. Take a second and think of the things you've been hoping for since March when the world seemed to pause. For me, it includes getting to see my youth kiddos again. I have had hope that things will change enough so that we can gather together and worship like we have done so many times before, but things seem to continually change.

This month, we hope to have the Back to School Bash, we'll have a virtual Music Camp celebration, Youth Group will hopefully begin again on Sunday evenings, our graduating seniors will finally be recognized at Senior Banquet, and many other events will begin again. Even though all of these things will look different this year than they have in the past, it still gives me hope that we will gather together again soon. Who hopes for what they already have? We hope for what we do not have yet, and we wait for it patiently. Thank you for continuing to hope in St. Paul. Now we just have to wait patiently.

For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.
- Romans 8:24-25

Restarting Our Visioning Process - We Need You!

Listening Sessions with Ministry Architects

We value the future of our church, and we are committed to building a sustainable and strategic ministry that is going to have a deep impact. That's why we are developing a game plan together. St. Paul's Personnel Team and Administrative Board chose Ministry Architects to lead us in a 12-month process of creating a cohesive vision.

This process was to begin in March, but it was delayed because of the pandemic. We are ready to restart the visioning work with virtual, on-line listening sessions beginning on Monday July 27.

Ministry Architects consultants Sara Bailey and Monica Lewis will lead this effort. Sara and Monica will spend the majority of their time listening to a variety of groups within the church through these sessions. We hope to see participation in those groups from a broad spectrum of members of all ages, regular attenders, and volunteers. We want your insights, your joys and frustrations, and your dreams to be heard.

After spending time in these listening sessions (and taking copious notes), the Ministry Architects team will write a report, sharing with us what they've heard about the church's ministry - including assets, challenges, and how we compare to other churches around the country - and where it seems that God might be taking us next.

On August 4 at 6 p.m., the report will be presented to the congregation in a Webinar, laying out specific recommendations and a blueprint for how to move forward. We will provide the report in regular church communications, as well.

Your chance to be heard

We will have "open" listening sessions for church members, as well as a few targeted sessions for specific ministry areas. Ideally, each session would have a maximum of 30 people. If you would like to be part of this process and have your voice heard, please sign up by going to this link and register for one of the sessions.

If you are a member of the Administrative Board,

Finance Committee, Personnel Committee or Children or Youth teams, you have separate meetings listed at the Genius link. Please sign up for your group's session if you want to participate.

SIGN UP FOR LISTENING SESSION.

You can sign up to participate by going to this link: shorturl.at/beDJ1

Note: Staff members will not attend any of the church member sessions to ensure church members and attendees are comfortable speaking freely. Members of the St. Paul staff will have an opportunity to share their input with Ministry Architects on Wednesday, July 29.

If you can't attend a session but would like to participate, you may answer the questionnaire by requesting a copy from the church office by calling 459-1595 or you may fill it out online at: shorturl.at/gBE49

These links can also be found at the St. Paul website (stpaulchurchky.org) under the 'About' tab.

Ministry Architect's goals:

Listening: People who care about the church's ministry will have a chance to celebrate, share concerns, dream, identify pressure points, and talk about what they really want.

A Clear Plan: Ministry Architects will provide an overview picture of where the church is now relative to where it would like to go, and then give a detailed proposal and timeline for how to move forward in building a sustainable and strategic ministry.

Focus: This process is designed to build unity around the desire for change and the belief that you can change and create the openness to embrace an intentional, deliberate game plan for making those changes.

Hope: Ministry Architects is saying, "You CAN have the kind of ministry God wants to lavish on your church. It's going to take some work, but you CAN do it."

Why Ministry Architects?

At Ministry Architects, we believe there is a better way, a better way than one-size-fits-all training events and quick-fix searches for superstar staffers. It all starts with building intentionally. So like Architects, we don't tell churches what they want to build. We start by listening and then show them a blueprint of exactly how they can move from where they are to where they want to be. And then we walk alongside them to make sure that they build the kind of infrastructure they will need to create the ministries they dream of having. We have made it our mission to help churches build **Healthy Systems. Innovative Change. Church Future.**

Why should I attend?

You play an important role in the church. Whether you lead regularly, volunteer often or simply attend... your voice matters! The leaders of St. Paul are committed to building a strategic vision for the future WITH you and the entire faith community and this is your opportunity to join your voice with others in the church to share God's vision through your perspective.

What will the report look like?

The Assessment Report will start by reflecting back to the congregation what the consultant team heard

people saying about the church's ministry. Ministry Architects compares our church to ministry norms across the country. They will point out the assets of St. Paul - the things to protect and keep. They will also share the challenges that we see - the things that are roadblocks to the ministry moving forward. They will then lay out a blueprint for how to strategically move the church from where it is now to where we want it to be. These recommendations include a detailed timeline laying out the process month by month.

Your input is important for the health and vitality of St. Paul. We hope you will be able to attend one of these sessions to offer your thoughts and opinions and share in the development of our church plan for the future.

Learn more about our consultants by clicking the tab below this article. www.ministryarchitects.com.

Sincerely,
Brad Matthews, Chair, Administrative Board
Debbie Wesslund, Lay Leader

In-Person Vespers Service

Wednesdays at 6:30pm, Youth Center



Registration required.

Seating limited to 10 people.

In keeping with recommendations for small, intimate gatherings, we are limiting the Vespers service to 10 people, plus staff.

Our plans remain fluid and are subject to change.

Email janet@stpaulchurchky.org or call the church office at 459-1595 to register.

Every Month a Mission

August Focus: Women of the Well - Esther's House

Women of the Well is a survivor-led ministry that provides support and a safe place (Esther's House) for women to recover from the trauma of domestic violence and human trafficking. Over the last few years, St. Paul has developed a relationship with Women of the Well, highlighting their work at our now-annual Stop Human Trafficking conference and supporting them with hands-on engagement through monthly outings and resume-writing classes. Learn more about Women of the Well here: www.wowky.org.

During the month of August, St. Paul will be collecting the following items to support Esther's House:

Cleaning supplies:

Sponges, magic erasers, Bleach and Lysol
Dish soap, antibacterial soap and spray, laundry soap

Paper goods:

Paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, and plates

Office supplies:

Paper and ink

Household items:

Washable pillows, twin sheets, and full sheets

Gift cards to any of the following:

Walmart, Target, Kroger, Home Depot, Ace, Lowe's, Dollar General, Family Dollar, Redbox, Krispy Kreme, and restaurants that offer carry out.

Donations can be dropped off at the church during our current office hours, which are Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00am-1:00pm. Gift cards can also be mailed to the church.



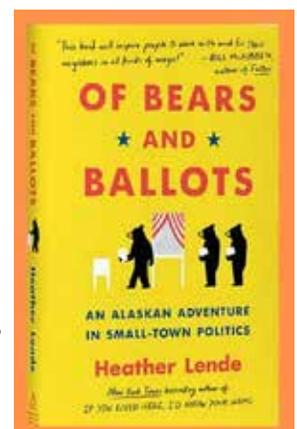
READING GROUP

Wednesdays at noon (during lunch), beginning August 5, 2020

Hosted by Pastor Darren

Contact Darren@stpaulchurchky.org for Zoom instructions

"All politics is local so it's said. All local politics is hard, but as Heather Lende shows us in *Of Bears and Ballots*, nothing worth doing is supposed to be easy. Her fights and conflagrations as a member of the Haines, Alaska Borough Assembly are a perfect reflection of our national politics, and give us a good reason for hope ... If you have served and lived through it, Heather Lende feels your pain, and will have you laughing at hers. Sometimes a first rate writer also happens to be a first rate human being. I love when that happens." - Tom Bodett, Humorist, Author





United Methodist Mountain Mission Pick-up - August 4

Since 1943, the United Methodist Mountain Mission has served eastern Kentucky through eight opportunity stores, located in Barbourville, Burkesville, Irvine, Harlan, Hazard, Jackson, Pineville, and West Liberty.

UMMM supports these communities by providing used clothing and household items at reasonable prices, local employment, and spiritual encouragement. For more information, visit www.methodistmountainmission.org/

The Mountain Mission truck will pick up items from St. Paul on Tuesday, August 4. **If you have clothing or household items you would like to donate, you may drop them off at St. Paul on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 10:00am-1:00pm.** Come to the glass doors near the elevator, ring the buzzer, and someone in the office will assist you.

Blood Drive Results

It literally takes all types - of blood that is!

Thank you to all who gave blood on July 12 and especially those who were first-time donors. We were able to collect 26 units of blood. In addition, donors were tested for COVID-19 antibodies and have received that information. Our next blood drive will be October 25, but those who gave on July 12 are eligible to give again September 6.

Thanks for giving the gift of life!

Be Positive-
Ruth Ann Whitehouse



Huge "Thank You" to everyone who helped stock our pantry with much needed food and supplies during our first ever, Curbside Food Drive!

Hearts and Hugs to Our Highlands Community!

Campfire Stories

Who? Rising 1st-7th graders

When? August 3-7

Where? Wherever you are comfortable*



Join us for Campfire Stories August 3rd - 7th!

Each day we will learn about a parable that Jesus told. There will be a video posted/emailed every day where we read the parable and talk a bit about how it applies to us. Parents with rising 1st - 7th graders can sign up using the Google Form here: <https://forms.gle/C9ScRLN3RtUwCx3YA>

We will provide each "camper" with a Campfire Stories activity bag! Each bag will include a craft and/or activity for each day that relates to the parable. For Tweens (rising 6th/7th graders), we will take time to meet via Zoom for group discussions about how these relate to our lives today.

More information will be provided on these activities as we get closer to the date. **Please have sign-ups completed by Monday, July 27 so we can arrange pick up and drop off of activity bags.** Have kids younger than 1st grade? All the videos will be posted so you can watch the videos and discuss with your younger children! We will post a few activity suggestions for younger kids throughout the week as well. Questions? Email Mary Paige Taylor, Director of Youth Ministry, at marypaige@stpaulchurchky.org for more information.

** Depending on local/state and church regulations, there will be an option for socially-distanced small group activities.*

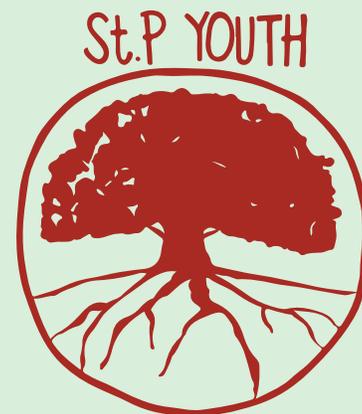
Do you have a kid or tween at St. Paul? If so, then you should be subscribed to the "St. Paul Kids" email list! In this socially-distant, transitional time, we want to make sure we are keeping everyone in the loop. If you are not receiving emails from "St. Paul Kids" and you have a child/children that are rising 6th graders or younger, please email marypaige@stpaulchurchky.org and we will add you to the list. We promise not to spam your inbox. Also, make sure you are following the St. Paul Kids page on Facebook (facebook.com/stpaulchurchkids/)!

YOUTH UPDATE!

The annual senior banquet will be held August 9 at 6:00pm in the gym. Here, we will honor our nine graduating seniors and send them off into their next adventure. Attendance will be limited to 75 participants, but the event will be live streamed on Facebook for others to view. Like most events right now, this is subject to change based on recommendations from the CDC and UMC Bishop's office.

Youth Group will tentatively begin on September 13. More information will be provided after decisions are made by the staff and youth team.

If you have any scheduling questions concerning future Youth and Children's activities, please contact Mary Paige Taylor, Director of Youth Ministry, at marypaige@stpaulchurchky.org.



BACK TO SCHOOL

BASH!

FREE EVENT!
RSVP required!

August 16
Noon - 4:00pm

Join us for St. Paul's Back to School Bash on Sunday, August 16*

- Kindergarten-4th grade 12pm-1pm (parent meeting - 12:15-12:45pm)
- 5th and 6th grade 1pm-2pm (parent meeting - 1:15-1:45pm)
- 7th-9th grade 2pm-3pm (parent meeting - 2:15-2:45pm)
- 10th-12th grade 3pm-4pm (parent meeting - 3:15-3:45pm)

*Games will be held for
children and youth!*

Catering by Mark's Feed Store!

We will have registration and media release forms available. Bring your own pen!

Masks are required; temps will be taken; hand sanitizer will be available; and social distancing will be observed!

RSVP to Mary Paige Taylor at marypaige@stpaulchurchky.org. (RSVPs are required by August 9)
- There is an option for an informational packet to be mailed or dropped off to you if you prefer that over in-person meetings.

* These plans are subject to change based on recommendations from the CDC and UMC Bishop's office. If we have to cancel this event, meetings will be held via Zoom. Please follow St. Paul Kids and St. Paul UMC Youth on Facebook for the most updated information.

The fall schedule for Tweens and Children will be released next month. We will aim to maintain the same schedule as previous years.
Questions? Email marypaige@stpaulchurchky.org



In remembrance of **Pamela Walton**

Pamela Walton stole the hearts of many St. Paul members. While she spent many nights on the bench outside the Common Cup, she spent most Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings worshipping with her St. Paul friends and Sunday school classmates. Her beautiful smile lit up every room she entered, and her sweet spirit filled others with hope.

The church will be placing a plaque on a bench outside of the Common Cup as a small way to remember Pamela and her legacy.

The following remembrances have been shared by some of Pamela's St. Paul friends:

Pamela endeared herself to the hearts of all who were blessed to know her. Her beautiful smile and positive spirit uplifted and brightened many days. One friend acknowledged, "I can picture that her smile is aglow in Heaven." Another one of her friends noted, "I have heard the phrase 'her smile could light up a room' many times, but Pamela's smile did that better than any other I ever knew."

- Dr Julia Mitchell

"I have had the honor of having Pamela Walton in my life through St. Paul United Methodist Church. She had the ability to quietly welcome friendship and to offer her friendship in return. She was a quiet listener and a thoughtful responder. Conversations about music, restaurants, bus routes, places, and the people she met, were all easy. She knew much and would, as appropriate, sometimes share that

wisdom which was garnered by her life's experiences. She was observant of folks and used her observations to help herself and others be safe. She would tell me to lock my car doors when getting out of my car. She was a private person and trusted that Jesus knew her name. And ... she didn't need or want anything more."
- Audrey Blair

"When I asked her one day at church about a year ago to know what I could do for her, and I asked specifically, "What do you need?" She answered quickly, "I don't need anything. I have Jesus." Most significantly in that conversation with Pam, she asked me sincerely, "What can I do for you?" And because of her availability and her love for people, she became my tangible intervention and provision to help me care for my family. She lived out what Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." In talking with Pam's niece recently, she attested that her aunt would always talk about Jesus. Christ was her inspiration and motivation." - Beth Nichols

Rest in Peace, Pamela



**St Paul's office is currently open on
Mondays and Wednesdays
10:00am-1:00pm**

This is for our front office only. Most staff members will continue working from home, as they are able. All staff members remain accessible by email and phone. Guidelines for entering facilities:

- Please wear a mask at all times
- Maintain social distance
- Stay home if you feel ill

August Star Thoughts

amidst a pandemic

Remember that star word you got way back in January on Epiphany Sunday? A lot has changed in the world since then. A global health crisis has caused us to physically distance ourselves, while social unrest in response to racial injustice has challenged many of us to explore our own hearts and seek out ways to support our neighbors.

*How might you engage with your star word now
- in the midst of this unusual period?*

We'd love to hear what your star word is saying to you right now.
Email Sara Ferebee at sara@stpaulchurchky.org with your thoughts and reflections.

Prayer and Sharing Group for Racial Justice

Mondays at noon, via Zoom

The Spiritual Formation Team is hosting a weekly Zoom sharing group to pray for racial justice in our community and country. Recent events have led many white Americans to reconsider their own unconscious biases and to become aware of the advantages we enjoy simply by virtue of our skin color. If you are seeking a safe place for honest, holy conversation, prayer, and discernment about what actions Christians could be taking to create meaningful change in our community, please consider joining us via Zoom at Noon on Mondays. Contact cullen@stpaulchurchky.org for more information and a link to join the group.



New Learning Opportunity

Exploring the Historical Roots of Racism

Every other Wednesday at 7:00pm, via Zoom, beginning August 5

You are invited to join a group from St. Paul as we seek to discover our path forward in addressing the racial and social injustices of our community and nation. We will gather online, via Zoom every-other Wednesday, beginning August 5.

Initially, discussions will focus on the historical role of slavery in America and the "Jim Crow" society that grew from those times. It is the ultimate goal of this group to develop an action plan for St. Paul members to be more involved in finding solutions to the problem of racial injustice we face today. The group will be led by David Green, who is a St. Paul member and recently retired teacher of US history.

You can find the Zoom information at the St. Paul website under the Connect: Adults navigation tab.

Questions? Contact David at green6kids@bellsouth.net or Cullen Hornaday at cullen@stpaulchurchky.org.

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