

THE TOWER

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Ash Wednesday

Burning the barriers that keep
us from growing in faith

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DEATHS SINCE ALL SAINTS DAY 2021

Carter Reynolds - November 18, 2021
 Tom Follacchio - November 18, 2021
 David Doyle - November 24, 2021
 John Robert "Bob" Lewis - November 30, 2021
 J.T. Johnston - December 10, 2021
 Glenn A. McCoy - December 12, 2021
 Dorothy "Dot" Kitchen - January 16, 2022
 Harold Fischer - January 19, 2022
 Debi Huff - January 19, 2022
 Ben Wadler - February 18, 2022

MEMORIALS

In memory of Harold Fisher
 by Betty Matthews

In memory of J. T. Johnston
 by Betty Matthews

In memory of Chantal Disney
 by Harvey and Lynn Hite

In memory of Linda Goulder
 by Donna Glenn and Karen Rodriguez

NEXT TOWER DEADLINE!

April 21, 2022: March 17 at 5:00pm

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

STAY CONNECTED!



WEBSITE: The St. Paul website is our communications hub! To keep up with all the St. Paul news and activities, visit StPaulChurchKY.org. Bookmark it!



Connect with St. Paul Church on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulchurchky), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/stpaulchurchky), and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/stpaulchurchky).

Prayer Requests: Send prayer requests or sign up to receive the Prayer Chain by emailing prayer@stpaulchurchky.org or by filling out the form at the **St. Paul website**. *The Prayer Chain is emailed throughout the week as prayer requests are received.*



St. Paul Weekly Email - Stay informed!

Stay informed about the news and happenings at St. Paul. Subscribe at our website or email info@stpaulchurchky.org.



Pastor Darren's Weekly Phone Message

Each Wednesday, Pastor Darren sends an uplifting phone message. To receive these calls, email info@stpaulchurchky.org or leave a message at 502-459-1595.

Worship Recordings: Our Sunday morning worship service is video-recorded. Find the recordings at StPaulChurchKY.org/sermons, or follow the link under **Recorded Worship Services!**

NEW LIFE AND EASTER PEOPLE

DUSTIN WOODS, ASSOCIATE PASTOR



I love spring. As the season unfolds, colors gradually appear, temperatures warm, animals begin to stir, and the world around us awakens from its winter slumber. Spring is also the season of Easter, in which we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and His victory of life over death once and for all. I've always loved the timing of these two experiences. To me, it is as if nature itself is testifying to the truth of Easter in its beautiful expressions of new life coming into being after the cold of winter.

Much about our world today is cold and hostile toward life. We continue to live in a time where "normal" is elusive and things may never be as they once were before the pandemic. A war rages in Ukraine with great tragedy and loss of life. We are beset with economic concerns. All of us could add personal issues to this list. Yet, in the face of all these things, the Easter truth is that they do not have the final say. On Good Friday, we witness the brokenness, of which all these things are a part, being confronted by Christ as He is nailed to the Cross.

And then, despite that brokenness, new life shines through. Christ rises in victory on the third day! Even though the darkness persists, it does not win. We, as people living into this Easter truth, can trust that life wins, that hope endures, and that Christ is victorious. Even as we see and experience bouts of cold and death, the color, warmth, and vitality of Christ's new life breaks into our world making things new, even now, and giving us hope for tomorrow.

We don't have to look far to find expressions of that new life. At church things are revitalizing. Worship attendance is strong and the percentage of people worshiping in-person is trending upwards. Attendance to Wesley Night activities is rising. The Marks of Discipleship class on Sunday morning has had great participation. Many of our groups are beginning to meet again (some for the first time in two years!). We are making connections with new visitors, returning

guests, and new members. Five young people are in the Confirmation process and are preparing to transition to another level of their faith journey. God is at work in our church. New life is present.

We will celebrate in three Easter services this year. See the list below for our April 17th Easter Services:

Easter Sunrise Service: 7:30am; Outside in Front of the Sanctuary

Easter Koinonia Service: 9:00am; Gymnasium

Easter Traditional Service: 11:00am; Sanctuary

In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul says "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (NRSV).

On Ash Wednesday, many people wrote struggles and obstacles on pieces of purple paper. We then burned these as a means of offering them to God (See cover photo). Now, as Easter approaches, we celebrate the fact that God received those, and that He frees us to lead new lives empowered by His grace. Even if the struggles continue, they do not win. God calls us to see the opportunities He places in our experiences to come alongside Christ and participate in new life in the world and in ourselves.

As Spring continues and we enter the Easter season, let's ask God to open our eyes to the expressions of new life around us. Let's open ourselves to the guiding of the Holy Spirit. Let's lean into the opportunities to be part of the healing and grace God works in the world. We, as Christians, are an Easter people. We serve a risen Lord. As the world around us wakes up from winter sleep, let us also awake to the renewal God invites us into, in ourselves and in our world. The Lord brings hope, life, and love. Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed! Amen.

Did You Know?

(Each week, we'll share some good news about St. Paul in the weekly email. Not receiving the weekly email? Subscribe at our website or email info@stpaulchurchky.org.)

St. Paul is part of the United Methodist Church. We are a member of the Heartland District and the Kentucky Annual Conference. Our District Superintendent is Rev. Dr. John Hatton and Bishop Leonard Fairly leads our conference. Learn more about United Methodism at www.umc.org.

Holy Week Services



Palm Sunday

April 10 - 9:00am and 11:00am, Sanctuary

Special music and children's procession with palms.

Maundy Thursday

April 14 - 7:30pm, Family Life Center

Maundy Thursday refers to the "new command" or mandate that Jesus gave his disciples on this night. This service, led by the Koinonia worship team, will lead us through the events of the Upper Room as Jesus spends this last evening with his disciples, establishing Holy Communion and setting the example of what love truly means. We will worship through music, spoken word, Holy Communion, and art.

Questions? Contact Lori Elbert at lori@stpaulchurchky.org

Good Friday Services

April 15 - Noon and 7:30pm, Sanctuary

Noon Service

Join us for our Noon Good Friday Service in the sanctuary. This 30-minute service is designed for everyone, but especially those who want to observe Good Friday on their lunch hour. The contemplative service includes prayers, hymns and a mediation.

Tenebrae Service - 7:30pm

Join us for this traditional service of darkness as we journey with Jesus to the cross. We will be led in worship by the Chancel Choir, as well as various scripture readers, as they depict the final hours of Jesus' life.

Questions? Contact Jim McFarland at jim@stpaulchurchky.org or Karla Temple at karla@stpaulchurchky.org

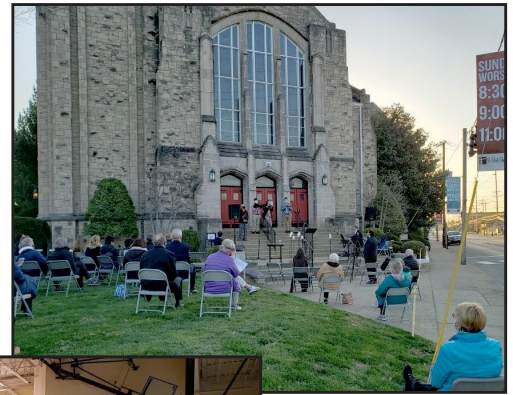
Easter Sunday Services

7:30am - Sunrise Service on the lawn

9:00am - Koinonia Service in the Family Life Center

10:10am - Children's Easter Service
in the Family Life Center

11:00am - Traditional Service in the Sanctuary



Easter Lilies

Order by Monday, April 11



Each year our worship spaces are adorned with beautiful lilies for Easter Sunday. If you would like to order a lily in honor or in memory of a loved one, you may fill out an order form online or pick up a paper form at the Information Center and return to Karla Temple's box in the church office.

Lilies are \$15 each and may be taken home after services on Easter Sunday. Checks may be made payable to St Paul UMC and mailed to the church, or brought by the office after Sunday services, or on Mondays-Wednesdays from 10:00am-1:00pm.

Deadline for ordering is Monday, April 11.

Wesley Night - Wednesday evenings!

MEAL - Wesley night meals are back!
Please register by Tuesday at 1:00pm at
www.stpaulchurchky.org/ministries/wesley-night/
or by calling the church office at 459-1595.

CHILDREN

- Children's choirs include:
 - Music Milestones for ages 3-5 at 6:00pm
 - Joyful Song for grades 1-3 at 7:00pm
 - Wesleyan Choir for grades 4-6 at 7:00pm.
- Children's Wesley Night Programs (through the school year):
 - Kids Club & KICS & Tweens 6:25-7:00pm (309)

YOUTH

- Youth Jam and Hangout from 6:30pm-8:00pm in the Youth Center.

ADULTS

Our Wesley Night Lenten study continues.

We hope to see you at Wesley Night in 2022!

On-Campus Staff Hours

Darren Brandon: Mon-Thurs: 8a-3p,
Sunday: Worship.

Dustin Woods: Mon-Thurs: 8a-3p,
Sunday: Worship.

Jim McFarland: Mon & Tues: 9:30a-5:30p,
Wed & Thurs: 10:30a-5:30p. Sun: Worship & Choir

Karla Temple: Mon: 10a-3p, Tues: 9:30a-3p,
Wed: Wesley Night, Thurs: 6-9p.
Sun: Worship & Choir

Lori Elbert: Tues: 9:30a-3:30p, Wed: 9:30a-2p,
Fri: 9:30a-noon. Sun: Worship and Youth.

Sara Ferebee: Mon - Fri: 9:30a-5:30p

Tori Brown: Mon: 11a-4p, Tues: 10a-3p,
Wed: 2-8p, Thurs: 11a-3p. Sunday: 8:30a-3:30p.

Jim Murphy: Mon-Tues: 9:30a-4:30p,
Wed: 9:30a-6p, Sun: 9:30a-12:30p

Bob Helvey: Mon-Wed: 10a-1p

Main Office: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 10a-1p



Altar Flowers

We are currently accepting sponsors for altar flowers for the 11am service. Please contact B.J. Fore (Betty.jo.fore@gmail.com or 502 458-2702) if you would like to sponsor the arrangements in honor of or in memory of someone. Cost is generally \$90 plus, depending upon the type of flowers ordered.

Retiring and Retired Acolyte Recognition

Although acolyte service has been disrupted in the last couple of years, we want to acknowledge the loyal service of those who are aging out or have already aged out of the program. Join us at 11 am on Sunday, April 24 in the sanctuary to honor these outstanding young people.



April Mission Focus: Portland Promise Center



Portland Promise Center



St. Paul UMC has supported Portland Promise Center for many years, offering volunteer and financial assistance to support the important work they do. Currently, PPC is preparing to launch its Early Education Program for children ages 2-5.

Our mission at the Portland Promise Center is to enrich the lives of our children and youth physically, educationally, and spiritually. Our vision is for Portland to be a productive community with a generation that is equipped to face life's challenges with a deep rooted understanding of who Christ is and what He has done for them. With both the vision and mission in mind we believe that early education is a significant component in serving the community.

We also realize that early education is the foundation for learning and know that having that stepping stone will set children up for success through their lives, starting at a young age. St. Paul's gifts will ensure that each child in our classrooms has access to hands on and engaging tools and toys to ensure that learning is accessible to them in fun and exciting ways. Your donations will help make our classroom places where students are excited to come, explore new things, and feel safe all while learning and growing. - Wanda Jagers, Early Education Director

During the month of April, St. Paul is collecting the following items to support this new program.

- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfectant wipes
- Baby wipes
- Washable or finger paint
- Water color paint
- Extra Paintbrushes
- Child paint aprons
- Playdoh
- Playdoh tools/sets
- Puzzles with less than 24 pieces
- Large Legos
- Props for make-believe play (such as toy telephone, plastic food, dress up items in various sizes, plastic imaginative play items like salon, doctor, etc)
- Child size or mini Musical instruments
- Various size zip lock bags (gallon, quart, sandwich)

Donation bins will be available in the lobbies of both buildings on the St. Paul campus. Drop off your donations on Sunday mornings or during office hours, Monday-Wednesday from 10:00am-1:00pm.



HABITAT HOUSE ALMOST COMPLETE!

Members of three Methodist churches have joined the Dream Team to bring Ardo's house at 3817 1/2 Oboe Drive from the Raise-the-Roof in October to a near completion with a tentative dedication scheduled for April 30. It has been gratifying to work with the partner family and to contribute to building a home for Ardo and her family.

Thanks to all of you who gave and helped with the house. Contact Ray Fore papa.fore@gmail.com for possible work days and completion information.

Palm Sunday Prayer Parade

April 10 • 12-2pm

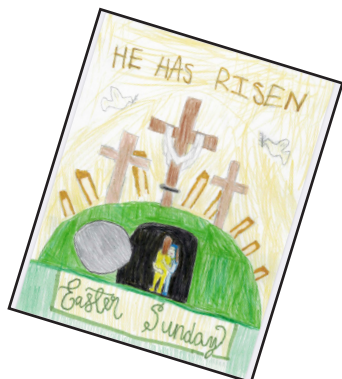
The Donkeys are coming back to St. Paul!

Palm Sunday is the day we remember Jesus' humble entrance into Jerusalem in the final week of his life.

To honor this special day, we would love to invite children and families to participate in a community-wide Palm Sunday Prayer Parade. Two Donkeys will lead our parade as we wave our palms down Bardstown Rd.



St. Paul Church
Kids &
Tweens



Children & Families Easter Service

April 17 at 10:10am
Family Life Center Gym



All children and families are invited to this special Easter Sunday Service.

This service has been planned by kids and will be an active service for children of all ages.

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead.

Questions about our children's ministry events?
Contact Tori Brown, Director of Children's Ministry,
at tori@stpaulchurchky.org.

Vacation Bible School is coming!

June 27-July 1 • 9am-12pm



Step back in time to where Jesus walked to the Cross!

Smell the fresh, warm bread; weave a basket of reeds; make clay pots... Can you hear the music echoing through the Marketplace? Engage all senses as you transport to a different time and a fresh experience—and walk with Jesus today!

T-shirts can be purchased for \$15 each! Register before May 23rd and receive 20% off your T-shirt!



Register by June 1st, 2022 at 12:00 pm!
Scan the QR code with your
smartphone camera or visit this page:
<https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/vbs/>

VBS Volunteer Sign Up:

We are so thankful for the many Ministry Partners (volunteers) who sacrifice their time and energy to lead our kiddos to Jesus. We have opportunities to serve, ranging from leading crafts to building the stage set the week before VBS. We have many spots available for high school students! In fact, serving at VBS is a great way to serve as a whole family! VBS is NOT possible without you! Please come and join our crew as we pour into the lives of children in our community, building a firm foundation of faith!

Free Breakfast & Coffee each morning!

Childcare is available for volunteers' children, ages birth through 3 years old.

Sign up here: <https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/vbs/>

Project Serve

June 20-24 • 6:00-8:00pm

Project Serve is a week-long camp where we do service projects around the church, help with VBS preparations, and enjoy lots of fellowship.

Project Serve is free and it's for rising 5th-9th graders. We will spend the week doing service projects, playing games, and having fun!

A Social-Distanced Dinner will be served each night.

Register Here! www.stpaulchurchky.org/project-serve/



Everyone can help by donating items from our wish list!

We could use a few items for our VBS and Project Serve weeks!

If you'd like to donate some items, our wish list can be found here:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/X2NZOW0ZS5Y9>

Youth News!

Senior Sunday

Class of 2022 and families, it is almost the end of the school year, which means we want to celebrate your students! May 22nd will be Senior Sunday. We will honor our students during the services, then have a banquet in their honor that evening. If you or your student plan to participate, please fill out this form by April 17th:

<https://bit.ly/3KY34aN>

Confirmation Sunday is May 1st!

Confirmation classes have officially begun! Please be in prayer for this year's confirmands.

**Madeleine Alt • Isaiah Chambers
Griffin Kalmbach • Patrick McFarland • Maci Voigt**

Camp Loucon!

St. Paul will again be paying half of campers' regular tuition for Camp Loucon this summer. When you register your student you will pay the deposit then send the confirmation/receipt to youth@stpaulchurchky.org. This will allow us to contact Loucon directly to pay half for those students. You will then be responsible for half the cost of tuition minus the deposit that you already paid.

To stay up-to-date on Youth events, please:

- subscribe to our mailing list - at the bottom of the St. Paul Youth webpage: www.stpaulchurchky.org/youth/
- join the [St. Paul Youth Facebook Group](#)
- follow @stp_youth_group on Instagram
- follow @stpaulumc_youth on Twitter

Winter/Spring Schedule:

April 3 - Youth Hangout after Church; No Youth Group (JCPS Spring Break)
April 10 - Regular Youth
April 17 - No Youth Group (Easter)
April 24 - Regular Youth
May 1 - Regular Youth
May 8 - No Youth Group (Mother's Day)
May 15 - Regular Youth
May 22 - Senior Banquet



Weekly schedule:

Sunday mornings: 10:00-10:45 - Service Projects

Sunday evenings: 6:00-6:30 - Meal;
6:30-7:00 - Group activity; 7:00-8:00pm - Group worship with lesson and small group time. Please remember to bring your refillable water bottle and Bible every week!

Wednesday evenings: 6:30-8:00pm - Youth Jam & Hang-out

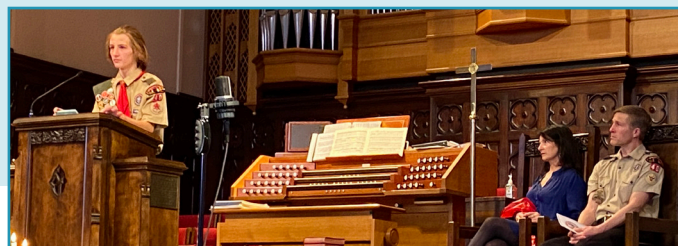
Fusion is on for 2022!

We are so excited to take our group to the Atlanta and Nashville areas! We will be leaving Saturday morning June 4th and returning Wednesday night June 8th. As of now we plan to sing at First UMC, Madison, GA, visit the Center for Civil and Human Rights, and serve with The Bridge Nashville. There is still more in the works! We need to know how many students to plan on so we can give these organizations a better idea of numbers. Please fill out the following form if you plan to attend Fusion 2022. More info to come! Fusion Registration Form: <https://forms.gle/9CyywtQPbG3gq4BC7>

Congratulations to Christopher Timm!

On Saturday, March 12th, Christopher was inducted into the Eagle Scouts. Reaching this milestone is a major achievement and only 4% of Boy Scouts actually reach the rank of Eagle Scout. Christopher achieved this goal after putting in long hours of hard work, service, and even supervising a community service project. His hard work was on display in his scout sash which was full of badges, each representing a different experience and achievement. Christopher's parents, Ellen and John

Timm, were honored for their commitment to and role in Christopher's scouting journey. As part of the ceremony Christopher thanked all those who helped him reach this important moment. We at St. Paul are certainly proud of Christopher and celebrate alongside him!



Can Gardeners Save Native Species In Cities?

Tuesday, April 19 at 7:30pm, McAdams Hall

The members of the Kaleidoscope group invite everyone to attend this informative talk on protecting and cultivating native species in urban settings.

In this talk, Professor Margaret Carreiro will explain how residents in cities and suburbs can protect native species by weaving our local native plants and animals into the very places where they live and work.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Wong at efrouse4948@hotmail.com



Margaret Carreiro, Ph.D.
Professor emerita, University of Louisville

Professor Carreiro is retired from the Department of Biology at the University of Louisville where she was a faculty member for 18 years. Her research focused on understanding how urban environments affect nature in cities and suburbs.

Photo by james jeon on Unsplash

SPAMs invites you to our

Spring Fling Luncheon

Thursday, April 28, Noon-1:30pm

Food · Music · Entertainment

Everyone is invited to our Spring Fling Luncheon, sponsored by the St. Paul Adult Ministry for Seniors (SPAMS).

Join us for delicious food and some light and fun music and entertainment! We want to make you smile!

Please register by April 14, using the sign-up sheet that will be posted at the information center near the sanctuary entrance. The meal costs \$10.00.

Contact Glenda Young for more information at 502-742-1022.

Photo by matt hays on Unsplash

Staff Spotlight:

Jim McFarland, Director of Music/Organist



I joined the St. Paul staff in March of 2013. I am a lifelong United Methodist and have spent most of my life in Kentucky. I have previously served as a musician in Episcopal, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian, and Catholic churches in Kentucky and Texas. I love collaborating with my colleagues as we design and implement worship that is vital, vibrant, and life-affirming.

My duties at St. Paul include planning music for the Traditional worship services and playing the organ for those services as well as weddings and funerals/memorial services that occur. I am tasked with planning music, for, rehearsing, and directing the Chancel Choir and Bells of St. Paul Handbell Ensemble. I am responsible for hiring our soloists/section leaders for the Chancel Choir. I



am also charged with periodically organizing a St. Paul Church Orchestra, and with putting together a concert series when we are no longer in a pandemic.

I have personally played organ recitals as part of our concert series, and I have directed the Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra in performances of large-scale classical and sacred works. Each year I am tasked with producing the Louisville Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival in late December. I convene the Boar's Head Steering Committee to raise the funds to put on the festival each year, and to marshal volunteers to help with all of the tasks necessary to produce a successful festival. I personally hire all of the professional musicians for the festival, and I plan and direct all of the music for the festival with the help of my colleagues.

Additionally, I am tasked with accompanying the Joyful Song, Wesleyan Choir, and Youth Choir in rehearsals and worship, and I thoroughly enjoy

working closely with Karla and the children and Youth. They keep you on your toes, and never cease to amaze me with their curiosity and dedication to God through the use of their musical talents in worship and outreach. Some of most amazing musical adventures are our Music Camp week in July, and our Youth FUSION Tours in June each year.



As Director of Music, I oversee and work closely with Karla Temple, our Associate Director of Music, and with Lori Elbert, our KOINONIA Worship Leader. I am grateful for both of them as they are both dedicated believers, consummate musicians, and just plain wonderful people. Lori, Karla, and I coordinate with the Worship & Music Team to make sure that all aspects of worship run smoothly. This includes recruiting ushers, greeters, people to set-up communion, and people to help serve communion. We also coordinate with our volunteers who help decorate the Sanctuary and KOINONIA spaces for the seasons of the church year. I enjoy collaborating with them as we plan worship, and I enjoy working and being in fellowship with all of the wonderful staff here at St. Paul.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my wife, Becky, our two sons, Andrew, and Patrick, and our two cats & one dog. I enjoy traveling, being outside and walking in the Highlands neighborhood. I also enjoy composing and arranging music. From time to time you will hear some of my music in worship.

It is my highest honor and privilege to help all of you worship through music. Nothing thrills my soul more than to hear a congregation sing with joy in the worship of our Lord!

Empty Bowls Soup Cook-off! Sunday, May 15, 4-7pm

Highlands Community Ministries is having a Soup and Chili Cook-off this year for the 25th anniversary of Empty Bowls on Sunday, May 15th! We are seeking contestants for "Master Soup Chef"!

Do you like to make soup or chili? Perhaps a group in your congregation, neighborhood, or organization would be willing?

Our event attendees will be voting on their favorite tastes and you and your group may end up with the winning title! Some 12 to 15 different soups and chilis would be a great presence at our 25th anniversary of Empty Bowls. If you are interested, please contact Tom Herman at 502/741-5714 or therman76@gmail.com.

We're looking forward to tasting and voting for your creative soup recipes at our first Soup and Chili Cook-off! Thank you!



Every **2 seconds**
someone in the U.S.
needs blood.
Give now.



**American
Red Cross**

Highlands Community Blood Drive

**Hosted by St. Paul
United Methodist
Church**

Youth Center
2000 Douglass Blvd
Louisville, KY 40205

**Sunday, April 10, 2022
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

All blood drives take place in the Youth Center in the St. Paul Family Life Center from 9:00am-1:00pm.

- 1) Make an appointment: www.redcrossblood.org. We would prefer no walk-ins.
- 2) Use Rapid Pass on the day of donation. It will expedite the process once at St. Paul.
- 3) Wear a mask during donation, as required by Red Cross. Masks will be available on site as well.

Temperatures will be taken prior to entering the Youth Center.

Effective March 7, the Red Cross has resumed testing all blood, platelet, and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies for a limited time. Results may indicate an antibody response after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine or possible past exposure to this coronavirus - and may identify donations with antibody levels necessary to potentially help COVID-19 patients with weakened immune systems.

Vision Team Goal: The White Building

One of the 10 goals assigned to the Vision Team involves assisting the church to devise a “go forward” plan for the White Building. The church owns the residential duplex facing Douglass Blvd., adjacent to the parking lot by the Family Life Center. This building has seen multiple uses over the years, but has most recently served as a storage facility and (occasional) meeting place for the Boy Scouts.

Over the next few months, in serving my role with the Vision Team, I will be assisting the Trustees and our staff sponsor, Dustin Woods, to move toward settling on a plan for this building.

As a part of this process, we would like to solicit feedback from the congregation on possible uses for the building. We will review all ideas received and then submit the three most feasible options to the staff and Administrative Board for consideration.

From there, our next steps would be to understand the costs involved to prepare the building for the desired use.

Please know that if we decide to use the building for gatherings/meeting space/service projects, etc., the White Building will require some significant work. Decisions will need to be made at that step in the process as well. However, now is the time to explore any/all ideas, so dream big! We have heard several potential ideas floated for potential use, but we would like to hear from you! Please send your ideas to Jason Ramsey at: jdramsey321@gmail.com.



Third Annual Stop Human Trafficking Conference at St. Paul UMC was a success!

The Third Annual Stop Human Trafficking Conference, held at St. Paul UMC on Saturday, February 12, 2022, was well attended. The conference, which was covered by WDRB TV, featured presentations from local government and law enforcement representatives, as well as those working in our community to stop human trafficking. Here are a few photos from the day, courtesy of Cindy Sheldorf. Our thanks to Debbie Chambers and Joanne Fleshman for their leadership.

Conference videos will be added to the St. Paul website soon.



Vision Goal 3: Volunteers at St. Paul

"Every member has a ministry."

by Gail Henson

"Every member has a ministry." That's the theme of Vision Goal 3. The 2024 GOAL is that 300 people have volunteered annually in one of St. Paul's ministry events or programs, including 100 new people. The 2022 benchmark is to have 200 people volunteering, including 50 new people. Part of that goal is tracking that involvement so we can affirm the engagement of each member of the family of faith here. If you are volunteering in any way, we'd like to know about it.

As we saw a few Sundays ago when Tori led us in the Hokey Pokey, we're all parts of one body and we work together to make this community, sometimes while singing and laughing, other times while working in sober situations. You can see volunteers everywhere at St. Paul, and as you see them, you might want to join them in new or renewed ways.

The theme of the current sermon series is inviting, encouraging, and connecting disciples. In the March 6 service, Rev. Brandon preached on inviting and encouraging, using the story of Zacchaeus. Jesus invited Zacchaeus to join him at the table. He encouraged Zacchaeus to be a part of his community. Because he was invited, Zacchaeus changed his life and his priorities to follow Jesus.

At St. Paul, we have been invited and encouraged to be part of the family of Christ, and we are invited to encourage others and to connect with them in worship and service.

There's a place for each of you to share your gifts of talent and time, in ways great and small. You can help in the church office, be an usher, call shut-ins, teach a class, work on a Habitat House or with a refugee family. You can sing in the choir or help with the Resource Center. We know that you may be volunteering, but right now we may not be aware of it. Part of this goal is noting volunteer efforts and

tracking those efforts. We have a robust software system named Shelby that has the capacity to help us see where we have people involved and where we have needs.

Our goal is to have 300 people involved in some aspect of ministry and volunteering by 2024. We think we have 200 people involved, but we want to document that.

The Christian writer Catherine Marshall wrote the novel **Christy**, a story of a wealthy young woman from Asheville, North Carolina who gave up a privileged life to live and work in mountainous East Tennessee after reading the words of Jesus: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" - Luke 6:38. That's such a beautiful image of giving and being blessed.

Darren used an image of service that has resonated with me, that of giving a bouquet of flowers to someone: the flowers bless the one who receives them, but the giver is, in turn, blessed by the aroma that lingers. Paul says much the same thing in 2 Corinthians 2:15-16. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.

Do you want to be more connected to this community through volunteering? Please look through the volunteer opportunities, talk with one of the pastors, or contact me at grhenson@gmail.com. We have a goal to meet that is attainable. Our volunteering will make a beautiful bouquet of service that is the aroma of Christ, blessing those receiving as well as blessing us, the givers, by the fragrance that lingers.

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Attendees at the Third Annual
Stop Human Trafficking in
February 2022. See page 14
for more photos.

VOLUME 69, ISSUE 4 // APRIL 2022

