

THE TOWER

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Youth Futures!



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DEATHS SINCE LAST ALL SAINTS DAY

Terry Byers - December 15, 2022
 Joyce Lynn - December 24, 2022
 Jan Wade - January 4, 2023
 Mary Vise - January 17, 2023
 Mae Claxon - January 20, 2023
 Virginia Dick - February 3, 2023
 Kel Thrush - February 13, 2023
 Carol Gray - February 24, 2023
 Glenna Heinz - March 17, 2023



*Easter Sunrise
Service*

*Easter Koinonia
Service*



NEXT TOWER DEADLINE!

May 18, 2023 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!**

Youth Futures

Billy Sewell, Co-Director of Youth Ministry

Over the last couple of years, the month of May has become my favorite time on the calendar here at St. Paul. After our Lenten journey brings us to the joy and hope of the Easter season, it can be easy for us as Christians to decide to scale back as we head towards the summer months. But not at St. Paul. The month of May has become a month of celebration! We will kick May off by recognizing the 8 students in our Confirmation Class. The next week, on Mother's Day, we will celebrate our mothers and motherly figures. On the third Sunday of May, the Youth Group will be honoring our graduating high school seniors at our Senior Banquet.

May 21st will also serve as our annual Youth Futures Sunday. You will see our youth sing, greet, serve, pray, and even preach at both services that morning. Youth Futures Sunday also acts as our program's primary fundraiser for the year. The Youth Futures Fund is the source of funding for all Youth Group activities throughout the year. This fund covers



supplies for service projects and Sunday nights, events such as lock-in and Senior Banquet, part of our FUSION Trip each June, annual Fall Retreat at Loucon, half of the tuition for every St Paul

student who attends Loucon in the Summer, and many other things that come up throughout the school year.

This season of celebration and growth also serves as a time for planning for the future and new beginnings. Our seniors will be stepping into adulthood. Our 8th graders will be transitioning to high school. Our confirmands will be moving forward in their faith journeys as confirmed members of the church. While times of change can be exciting,

and often scary, we remember that no matter what plans we make for our lives, God is still there to guide us. Jeremiah

29:11 reminds us, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

In a recent lesson with the youth, we recalled the message from Pentecost last year during our FUSION trip. We sang and worshiped with our hosts at Perry UMC, in Perry, GA. Reverend Tom Carruth focused his message on Peter delivering the first Christian sermon on the day of Pentecost from Acts 2:14-41. Reverend Tom shared in his sermon, "If you are breathing right now, and I hope that you are, if you are breathing right now, God is not done with you. God's got something he wants to do in you. God's got new things. He wants us to dream dreams." Peter was a broken man. Just a few weeks before Pentecost, Peter had denied ever knowing Jesus. But God called on Peter to deliver that first sermon. God was not "done" with Peter. We see numerous examples in the Bible of God choosing to work through people who seemed broken. The Samaritan woman at the well had five husbands. David had Uriah killed. Jeremiah was young. Rahab was a prostitute. Moses had a speech impediment. Paul was a persecutor of Christians. God was not "done" with any of them, regardless of what they, or others, thought of themselves. Reverend Tom went on to inquire, "Are you open that God might have an idea for your life that you haven't thought of yet?" I am reminded that we pray, "thy will be done" and not "my will be done."

God is not "done" with me. God is not "done" with you. God is not "done" with St. Paul or our Youth. May God grant us the eyes to see and ears to hear his movements as we continue our walk together in faith.



Donate to Youth Futures!

Youth Futures is our annual campaign to support the St. Paul Youth program! If you would like to donate you can scan the QR code or go to stpaulchurchky.org/giving and select Youth Futures. Or you can write a check to St. Paul with "Youth Futures" in the memo line.





Youth News!

Confirmation Sunday is May 7th!

Our St. Paul confirmands have almost completed a process of classes, service projects, and a mini-retreat. Please be in prayer for them and come on May 7th to witness this milestone in their Christian faith. This year's confirmands are:

Carter Bernard
Sofia Elbert
Quenton Horton
Caroline Keith

Eleanor Keith
Samuel Meadows
Cash Northington
Abe Peña

Tentative Summer Schedule:

June

6/4 - Senior Sunday & Fusion kickoff (choir sings)
6/7 - Putt Putt (family event)
6/10 - 6/15 - Fusion Trip
6/19-6/23 - Vacation Bible School & Project Serve

July

7/9 - Holiday World
7/10 - 7/14 - Music Camp
7/19 - Portland Promise Center Service Day
7/23 - Bats Game @ 6pm (family event)

August

8/13 - Back to School Bash Sunday

***All dates are subject to change. Updates will be in the St. Paul Youth weekly email!**

To stay up to date on Youth events:

- Sign up for the Youth email list [here](#)
- Check the Youth Instagram account @stp.youth

General Youth info can be found on the St. Paul [Youth Webpage](#).

St. Paul Youth Choir Coffeehouse Concert May 31 at 7:00pm - Gym

Join our St Paul Youth Choir for coffee and desserts as they present a variety of music for your enjoyment!



Personnel Committee Update

The Personnel Committee is pleased to share that **Tracy Martin** will be moving into the role of **Family and Children's Ministries Director** beginning May 1.

Tracy has served as the part-time Administrative Assistant at St. Paul since January 2023, and in that time has proven to be a valuable team member. Most notable is her love for the Lord and her eagerness to share that with others, especially children. She has worked directly with St. Paul's children on many occasions and has quickly nurtured relationships with the kids as well as adults. Tracy has experience leading children and working with families in a variety of other roles, including

summer camp programs and youth ministry activities.

Please join us in congratulating Tracy, who will continue to work in her current position until May 1. The Administrative Assistant position job description can be found below, and a plan is in place for covering those duties until the position is filled. Thank you to the staff, children's ministry volunteers, and personnel committee members who helped with vetting candidates as we worked to fill this important role.



St. Paul Vacation Bible School & Project Serve

Save the date!

Vacation Bible School:

Monday-Friday, June 19-23, 9am to noon for ages 3- rising 4th graders (those who will enter 4th grade in Fall 2023)

"Project Serve" for Tweens:

Monday-Thursday, June 19-22, 1:00-3:30pm, for rising 5-7th graders

*Project Serve participants will join VBS kids on Friday for a presentation of their activities throughout the week. Parents are invited for the Friday presentation!



Children's Choir Spring Program

Wednesday, May 10
Dinner at 6:00pm, Gym
Concert at 7:00pm, Gym

Don't forget to RSVP for dinner!
Menu: Chick-fil-A
Fill out the form at our website
or scan the code and follow the Wesley Night link.



Our final Wesley Night features our children's choir concert and awards presentation!

Join our three children's choirs as they present music and activities they've learned throughout the year.



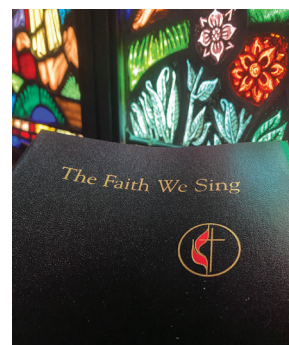
The Faith We Sing

by Dr. Jim McFarland, Director of Music Ministries, and Dr. Lori Elbert, Director of Koinonia Worship

We are exhorted in scripture to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" (Psalm 100); and to "speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" (Eph. 5:19). In order to do that, we have a wonderful collection of these in our United Methodist Hymnal, which we use each week in worship, but one resource cannot contain all of the songs we want to sing in praise of our Lord. Fortunately, the United Methodist Church has produced a resource entitled **The Faith We Sing**, which we have recently purchased for use in worship. We could not have done so without the generosity of those who have donated to the Memorials Fund in memory of their loved ones. We have purchased a total of 100 copies of the pew edition of **The Faith We Sing**, which you will soon find in the pew racks. We have used hymns from this resource on occasion, so now we will have access to all of the hymns in this resource. You will find some new hymns, as well as some familiar hymns that were not included in the United Methodist Hymnal. We hope that this resource will become a treasured part of our worship in the years

to come, and we are so thankful for the memorials given which have made this possible. Our worship on May 28th will include a hymn sing utilizing hymns found in **The Faith We Sing** as an introduction to this supplement and as a celebration of the rich history of hymns that have been handed down to us through time.

At St Paul, we worship in many ways. Hymnals are a vital part of our tradition, but we also use technology to join our voices in praise. Last summer, one of the projectors used in Koinonia died unexpectedly. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor and the matching funds of our Memorials Fund, we were able to purchase two new projectors for our Koinonia service. These new, brighter projectors will enable us to continue to lift our voices together in praise.



Project Linus at Build-a-Bed Event

As you probably know, the quilts made by the St. Paul Faith Quilters go to Project Linus for distribution to children in need of their warmth and comfort. Marg Suffill of the Faith Quilters received the following information and the note in the image from Marsha Drescher, Project Linus Area coordinator:

"150 beds and quilts will be distributed through the family resource administrators through individual schools. Children who are sleeping on floors, sofas etc are identified through a process in the schools. This build was the city wide build but we also support many local churches who have build a bed events individually. The same man (Ben Langley) helps facilitate all of them. Please feel free to get the word out about it."

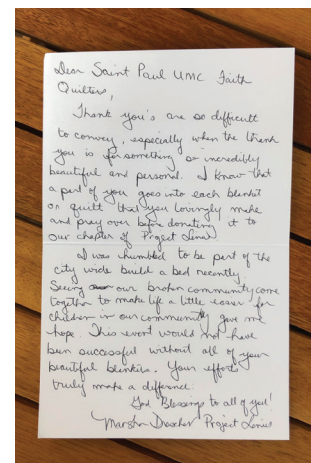


Image by Ylanite Koppens from Pixabay

Coffee and Doughnut Ministry

Do you love doughnuts? Coffee? If you have one Sunday morning a month to spare, we would like to talk with you about serving in the Common Cup. We need extra servers who like to meet new people over coffee. Please email Pastor Darren if you are interested at darren@stpaulchurchky.org.

Resilience Ministry Moment

The Resilience team thanks the congregation and staff for your attendance at the One Team party in March. What a lovely evening it was for fun and fellowship!

Julia Mitchell shared the following thoughts during a ministry moment that evening. May they serve as a relevant reminder in the midst of current challenges in our city of the importance of clinging to Christ's promises, choosing to ground ourselves in the Truth of God's Presence among us, and celebrating God's goodness in the midst of lament and loss.

I want to share with you a quote from Jay Wolf, whose wife Katherine suffered a massive stroke at the age of 26, months after the birth of their first child. She miraculously survived and now lives with significant disabilities. Jay and Katherine have an incredible, inspiring ministry called Hope Heals. They model for us embracing the good with the hard and not waiting to celebrate.

As you listen to Jay's words, reflect on our reasons for gathering this day:

"We must approach celebration as a spiritual discipline, a rebellious act of worship we practice on the good days, the hard days, and the ordinary days."

So here we are in the midst of our Lenten wilderness journey, throwing a party!

We all have challenges in our lives, personally with health, family conflicts, work stress, emotional/spiritual struggles or a combination. Collectively as the St. Paul family in recent years, we have faced challenges with Covid, deaths of loved ones, and staff turnover. At the UMC level, obvious challenges exist as people passionately disagree about interpretation of scripture. This is not to mention the challenges and brokenness in the world outside of the church. Indeed, challenges are sometimes easier to name than celebrations.

But that's why we have one another: to remind us of the reasons to celebrate, to encourage one another with the eternal truths of God's character and the promises of Christ in Scripture. Social connections are important for healing and for resilience. As the body of Christ, we are more than a social connection; we are bonded together more deeply through the love and grace of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

As you fellowship this evening and in the weeks to come, check in with people as you feel led. Ask about challenges, name celebrations that you see that someone else may not have capacity to see. And remind one another of God's love, faithfulness, and goodness.

United Women in Faith

Second Tuesdays at 10:00am, Room 113

United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so we can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00am in room 113. Each meeting lasts until approximately 11:30am, but you are welcome to come and go as needed. Our first meeting will be May 9.

Our focus this month will be Bold Women of Faith. In this program, we will create space to celebrate our unique gifts as women of faith and discuss how we can create space for people with diverse gender identities to feel welcomed and empowered. Looking forward to reconnecting with old friends and making new friends.

Vision Goal 6: Resource Center

The Resource Center is St. Paul's primary outreach to the Louisville community.

St. Paul's Resource Center has a two-fold mission:

- serve those who stop by St. Paul in need of basic essentials
- support the Open Door Community Ministry at Fourth Ave UMC by offering basic essentials to those they serve

The Mobile Resource Center was launched in June 2021. This partnership with Fourth Ave UMC's Open Door Community Ministry has been a blessing and is now an integral part of St. Paul's outreach efforts! Sara Ferebee, Bob Helvey, and a group of dedicated volunteers currently work to gather and organize supplies.



On the second Saturday of every month, volunteers pack up the supplies and head down to Fourth Ave UMC to serve those in need. Each month, they serve anywhere from 50-75 people. This continues

to be a great opportunity to reach 'beyond the walls' of St. Paul and have a positive impact on our community. Fourth Ave UMC has a small but mighty congregation that works hard to sustain their outreach to the downtown/Old Louisville unhoused, transient, and low-income community. St. Paul wants to do all we can to grow this partnership and support this important work.

The Resource Center also continues to serve those who come to the church doors in need of assistance on Mondays and Wednesdays, as well as supporting other local organizations such as Highlands Community Ministries and Portland Food Pantry.

In March 2023, the Resource Center held a clothing sale fundraiser, which raised \$635. Thank you to all who shopped! Those funds will be used to purchase new socks, underwear, and toiletries. However, that amount only covers about one month of our expenses, so we have an ongoing need for support.

Are you ready to get involved? Here are some options:

Donate

Financial donations are needed and can be made by mailing a check to St. Paul UMC, designating "Resource Center" in the memo line, or by donating online at St. Paul's secure Giving webpage: <https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/giving/>

Physical donations, such as new underwear, socks, toiletries, and more, can be purchased and brought to one of the labeled bins in the Family Life Center or main church building lobbies. With the onset of the warmer months comes an increased need for new or gently-used t-shirts, shorts, baseball caps, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

We also have online wish lists at Amazon and Dollar Days, which can be found here: <https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/the-resource-center/>. The wish list donations will be delivered directly to St. Paul, making it a super simple way to help out!

Volunteer

Volunteers are needed on the second Saturday of every month to help at the Mobile Resource Center. We need a few volunteers to help load the bus at 10:30am, then those volunteers meet up with more volunteers at Fourth Ave UMC, setting up, serving guests, and tearing down from 11:00am-1:00pm. You can sign up here: <https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/mobile-resource-center/>

If you have questions or would like more information about the Resource Center you can contact Sara Ferebee at sara@stpaulchurchky.org or Bob Helvey at bob@stpaulchurchky.org. You can also stop by the bulletin board near room 205 to view photos and a current needs list for the Resource Center.



For questions or comments regarding this goal, please reach out to Anna Twyman at atwyman34@gmail.com.



Mobile Resource Center at Fourth Ave UMC's Open Door Community Ministry Saturday, May 13 11:00am-1:00pm

You can sign up to volunteer here:
stpaulchurchky.org/mobile-resource-center/

Thank You!

The St. Paul Resource Center continues to serve those in need, thanks to the generosity of our congregation!

Our recent Resource Center Clothing Sale Fundraiser generated \$635, which will cover about a month's worth of underwear, socks, and hygiene items for the unhoused and low-income friends we serve.

If you would like to further support the work of the Resource Center, see the article on page 8!



Highlands Community Blood Drive Report

Thanks to all St Paul members and the community at large who supported the Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, April 17. We were bustling from start to finish and thrilled to report 37 units collected! A big thanks to Larry for keeping the air circulating.

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive is Wednesday, July 19, 1-5pm in the Youth Center.

Thanks for being a Lifesaver and B positive!
Ruth Ann Whitehouse

Current Resource Center Needs!

Needs list can also be found on the bulletin board near room 205.

- **MEN'S SHOES** (sturdy shoes and sneakers)
- Large, department store-type shopping bags or reusable totes
- Blue jeans, casual pants, shorts for men
- Women's bras in all sizes
- New underwear and socks always needed
- Gently-used, casual clothing always needed
- Baseball or other summer hats
- Pop-top ravioli or similar
- Peanut butter or cheese crackers
- Other easy-to-eat-on-the-go foods

Wesley NIGHT

Last Regular Wesley Night of the Semester

Wednesday, May 3

Dinner at 6:00pm - Menu: Derby Dinner!
Adult Bible Study at 7:00pm

Join us for dinner and activities during Wesley Night - Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00pm!

On May 10, enjoy the Children's Choir Spring Program, which will wrap up Wesley Night!

Details on page 5.

Learn more about these programs and studies and RSVP for the meal at this page:

stpaulchurchky.org/ministries/wesley-night/

Or scan the Flowcode to the right for quick access -->>>



SPAMS (St. Paul Adult Ministry for Seniors)

TOUR OF FLAME RUN GLASS STUDIO

Thursday, May 25

11:30am-2:30pm

The SPAMS will be visiting Flame Run Glass Blowing on May 25 at the Glassworks Building, 815 West Market St., Bus will leave at 11:30am.

We will tour the studio from 12:00-1:00pm, then we will have lunch at The Cafe afterward.

The tour will cost \$6.37 per person (checks payable to St. Paul UMC), and each person will pay for their own lunch.

Please sign up at the Information Center.



Bikes to help people get to work

Do you have a bike that you no longer need? Goodwill Industries of Kentucky Last Mile to Work program refurbishes bikes to help people get to work. Employees and program participants receive a bike, helmet, safety vest, lock, and a light free of charge.

If you have a bike to donate, you can drop it off at your local Goodwill store or the Career Center and Last Mile to Work bike shop at 909 East Broadway and say it is for the LMTW program. For more information, call 502 585-5221, ext. 2271, or email Bikes@goodwillky.org



Photo by Ruslan Bardash on Unsplash

"The Doodle Art Gallery"

How do we fill up this great big, empty space? That question ran through my mind as I walked around the Owensboro Convention Center. I was with a group planning the Annual Conference for Kentucky United Methodists, who will gather the first week of June. If we are going to fill up the big, empty space, we are going to need help from our friends, neighbors, and especially their children. We need some artwork.

So here's the idea. Let's create something together. We can call it "The Doodle Art Gallery." Take a simple piece of 8 1/2 x 11 piece of paper. Reflect on these words - **Show the Love of God**. When you read those words, put something on the paper. It could be a doodle, a word, a photo, poem, or anything creative. Finally, please share it with me. Mail me the picture, post it on my Facebook post, or email me. I'll make sure it gets in "The Doodle Art Gallery" at Annual Conference.

Here's mine >>>>>>>>>>

I love the idea of us coming together to create something new that shares the love. Coming together is at the heart of Jesus' mission to share the love of God. He didn't try to do it alone when he began his ministry. He called others to join him in showing God's love to those struggling with their own big, empty spaces of the heart.



We want all ages to help us create "The Doodle Art Gallery," and you don't have to be United Methodist. We need anyone who wants us help share the love. Would you pass this idea along to someone else today? Let's fill up the big, empty spaces with more and more expressions of love.

You can send your "Doodles" to me at darrenumc@gmail.com or mail them to me at:

St. Paul UMC
Rev. Darren Brandon
2000 Douglass Blvd.
Louisville, KY 40205

May 2023

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Guided Meditation

Wednesdays, 10:30am, Zoom

SUPPORT GROUPS

AA Groups

Mondays at 6:00pm & 7:30pm, Tuesdays at 7:30pm,
Thursdays at 6:00pm, Saturdays at 10:00am & 8:00pm,
Sundays at 8:00pm

- GLI AA Meeting

May 11, 6:00pm, McAdams Hall

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7:30pm, Rooms 110 & 113

FELLOWSHIP & CLASSES

Kaleidoscope

Tuesday, May 2, 7:00pm, Youth Center

United Women in Faith

Tuesday, May 9, 10:00am, Room 113

Men's Group

2nd & 4th Mondays, 7:00pm, Common Cup

Faith Quilters

Tuesday, May 16, 10:00am, Room 100

Women of the Word Bible Study

Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30am, Room 113

Women's Discernment Group

Thursdays, 10:00am, Zoom

Prayer Beading Group

Sunday, May 21, 1:00pm, Common Cup

Guitar Club

Sunday, May 21, 6:30pm, Room 113

SPAMS Trip to Flame Run Glass Studio

Thursday, May 25, Bus leaves at 11:30am

OUTREACH

Resource Center Assistance

Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:00am-1:00pm

Available to those in need of basic necessities.

Mobile Resource Center

Saturday, May 13, 11:15am-1:00pm,

Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church

MUSIC

Chancel Choir

Thursdays, 7:15pm, Choir Room

Bells of St. Paul

Wednesdays, 8:00pm, Room 303

WESLEY NIGHTS

Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00pm

Classes end May 3; Wesley Night ends with the Children's Choir Program on May 10 (details on page 5)

Dinner: 6:00-7:00pm, McAdams Hall

Children's Choirs: See website for details.

Open Gym:

- 6:00-6:30pm (1-6 grade)

- 6:30-7:00pm (K & under with trusted adult)

Adult Study: 7:00-8:00pm, McAdams Hall

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 7 during worship services

Youth Group

Sunday, May 7, 6:00-8:00pm (*last meeting of semester*)

McAdams Hall and Youth Center

Children's Choir Spring Concert

Wednesday, May 10

Dinner: 6:00pm, Gym

Concert: 7:00pm, Gym

Senior Banquet

Sunday, May 21

Youth Choir

Sundays through May 28, 5:00-6:00pm, Room 302

No Youth Choir May 21.

Youth Choir Coffeehouse Concert

Wednesday, May 31, 7:00pm, Gym

Scouts

Boy Scouts, Tuesdays, 7:00pm, Gym

Cub Scouts, First and Third Thursdays, 6:00pm, FLC

Beginning May 1, the church office hours will be Monday-Thursday, 10:00am-2:00pm. The main office will be closed on Fridays. This schedule will remain in effect until a new Administrative Assistant has been hired.

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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THE TOWER

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Easter Sunday
Traditional Service



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