

# THE TOWER



The Faith Quilters display some of the beautiful quilts they will be sending to Project Linus.

The quilts will be on display in the Sanctuary and Gym during the Quilt Blessing in worship on March 10.  
Learn more on page 5.

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## THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Allison Maria Vise - January 10, 2024  
Joseph Burt, Sr. - January 10, 2024  
Charles Rainwater - January 24, 2024

## IN MEMORY & HONOR

In memory of Allison Vise,  
from Carl & Peggy Lutes

Our next Finance and Board meetings  
are on Tuesday, May 14. Finance is at  
6pm and the Board meeting is 7pm,  
both in the Youth Center.

## NEXT TOWER DEADLINE! Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 5:00pm

Submit articles and/or pictures to  
Sara Ferebee at [sara@stpaulchurchky.org](mailto: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](http://StPaulChurchKY.org). Bookmark it!



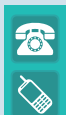
Connect with St. Paul Church on  
[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#).

**Prayer Requests:** Send prayer requests or sign up to receive the Prayer Chain by emailing [prayer@stpaulchurchky.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://StPaulChurchKY.org/sermons), or follow the link under **Recorded Worship Services!**

# THE LION AND THE LAMB

Rev. Dustin Woods, Associate Pastor

Easter comes early this year. On March 31st, we will gather to end the Lenten season and celebrate Christ's resurrection! This means that the month of March contains the bulk of the Lenten season and ends on its very last day with the good news of new life. Growing up, I often heard that March might come in like a lion and go out like a lamb or vice versa. It is a saying that has to do with the belief that a beginning of one sort of weather will result in an ending of its opposite. It also occurs to me now that the Lion and the Lamb are both symbols that the Scriptures use to depict Christ.

Indeed, it might take a Lion to face down the brokenness and challenges of our world and our lives. Scriptures we read during Lent depict Jesus facing down Satan in the wilderness, cleansing the Temple of wickedness, and confronting His own destiny to die on a Cross. Jesus as the Lion of Judah grapples with temptation, sin, suffering, and even death, and He perseveres. For much of this month, you and I will be looking at our world and within ourselves. We will confront darkness as we experience it. We will ask questions: What needs to change? What needs to be let go of? What do I need freedom from? We will call on the Lion of Judah to help us address the answers as they come and to help us persevere through our own brokenness. And the Lion will answer.

If the old saying is true and the liturgical calendar is correct, we will end the month with the Lamb. It strikes me that a lamb is not only a creature representing peace, sacrifice, and gentleness, but also that, fundamentally, a lamb is a young sheep. By its very nature, it is the embodiment of new life. So many people, in encountering the Lamb of God, were brought from the darkness into the light of new life. On my trip to the Holy Land, I saw the tree that tradition says Zacchaeus climbed in order to see Jesus. I love the way his story ends. He goes from a life of swindling others to one of repaying his debts many times over and to one of which Jesus can say that salvation has come to His house. Peter, Mary Magdalene, and so many others encountered the Easter Lamb and were forever changed. When we reach the end of March and we celebrate Christ's triumph over darkness and death, we also celebrate the triumph of the new and eternal life He, as the Lamb of God, brings.

Once Jesus as the Lion has helped you confront failures and evils, Christ as the Lamb invites you into something beautiful beyond all of them. As we enter into Easter we can ask ourselves: What does God hold in store for me? What seeds of new life is God planting in my life, in my church's, in my community's? God has a place for each of us, individually and in community, in God's redemption. At March's end, let us celebrate the Lamb's new dawn and the light it holds for all of us.



## *Easter Sunday Services*

### **Sunrise Service**

**7:30am on the front lawn**

Celebrate the Risen Savior with our joyful Sunrise Service on the front lawn of St. Paul. This service will feature scripture, pastoral message, as well as traditional hymns and music led by vocal quartet.

### **Koinonia Service**

**9:00am in the Gym**

Rejoice with the Koinonia Worship Team as we celebrate that Christ is Risen! Led by the full Koinonia Worship Team and includes Holy Communion and a pastoral message.

### **Traditional Service**

**11:00am in the Sanctuary**

Our Traditional Service in the Sanctuary features special music by a Brass Quintet and the Chancel Choir, as well as pastoral message and scripture, ending with the joyful singing of the Hallelujah Chorus.

*Photo by zenad nabil on Unsplash*



# *Holy Week Services*

Join us as we journey from Ashes to Glory. To understand the true glory of Easter, we must walk through the valley of Holy Week.

## **Palm-Passion Sunday - March 24**

Koinonia Worship - 9:00am, Gym

Traditional Worship - 11:00am, Sanctuary

Join our children waving palms and celebrating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as we begin our journey toward the cross.

## **Maundy Thursday Service - March 28**

7:30pm in the Gym

This service will lead us through the events of the Thursday of Holy Week and the Last Supper in the Upper Room. As we read scripture, hear from some of the participants from that night, sing songs of worship, share in Holy Communion, and participate in prayer stations, we will enter into those events as we see the love of Christ in action.

## **Noon Good Friday Service - March 29**

Noon in the Sanctuary

At noon on Good Friday, we will offer a brief meditative service with music, pastoral meditation, and Holy Communion.

## **Good Friday Tenebrae Service - March 29**

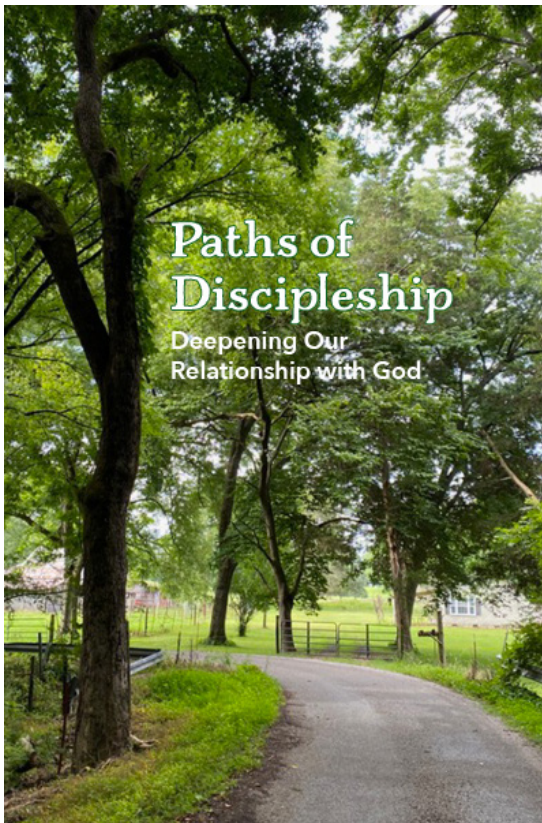
7:30pm in the Sanctuary

This ancient, traditional service of darkness features powerful scripture readings that depict the last day of Jesus' life on earth. Reflective music is led by the Chancel Choir as we relive the world's darkest hours that brought our brightest hope. Holy Communion will be served.

## **Holy Saturday Labyrinth Walk - March 30**

10:00am-2:00pm in the Gym

Holy Saturday is an often-overlooked day during Holy Week. The labyrinth walk will allow time to experience this liminal space between the sorrow of Good Friday and the joy of Easter. Hosts will be present to offer support and guidance, as needed.



What is the next step in your discipleship? What path could you walk this Lenten season that would deepen your relationship with God?

The worship series, beginning February 4, explores some of the paths of discipleship that help us grow in God's love to become the best version of ourselves.

Each week, watch for a different picture of a path. Do you have a favorite path you walk? Share your pictures on the Facebook post.

### Sermon Series Schedule

February 4	Opening Our Hearts to God
February 11	Embracing Change
February 18	Not By Bread Alone
February 25	Practicing Gratitude in Hard Times
March 3	Being In Community
March 10	Ways of Praying
March 17	Purpose and Calling
March 24	Highs and Lows (Palm/Passion Sunday)
March 31	All Things New (Easter)

## Faith Quilters

Displacement and loneliness are said to be features of many folks' lives these days. Participation in a group that offers belonging and active purpose may be an answer.

Faith Quilters has flourished at St Paul for 21 years, attempting to help traumatized children by sewing homemade comfort blankets for them. The quilters at the same time may meet their own needs to be creative, part of a team, a lifelong learner, and a contributor to the nationally acclaimed Project Linus organization.



*Members of the Faith Quilters enjoy Show n' Tell time, when they share the quilts they've been working on between meetings.*

On Sunday, March 10, at both services, the quilts produced since last March will be blessed. They will then be ready for loving distribution to local children in hospital, those served by the child advocacy center, build-a-bed recipients, houseless children, and Center for Women and Families resident children, among others.

St Paul community action steps:

- Relish the color, design, uniqueness of the quilts being blessed on March 10.
- Chat with the quilters as they fold and collect blankets after each service.
- Keep the child recipients and the sewists in prayer.
- Consider visiting Faith Quilters on their 3rd Tuesday workdays.
- Ask how involvement begins.

Since 2003 Faith Quilters have made 1732 blankets with 70 of them sewn over the past year. The group is humbled by the powerful examples set by the St Paul founders and is joyful in "keepin' on!"

## February 2024 Hymn of the Month: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

by Dr. Lori Elbert, Director of Koinonia Worship

The month of March will contain the bulk of Lent and the celebration of Easter. It seems appropriate that we pick a hymn that focuses on the cross and what it accomplished for us. *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* was published in 1872 after the death of author Elizabeth Clephane in 1869. Our hymnal contains three stanzas of this hymn. The first stanza draws our attention to the cross as a place of refuge from the trials of this life. In the second stanza, the author turns our eyes directly to the form of Christ on the cross. Seeing the crucified Christ, we are led to consider the amazing, redeeming love of God despite our unworthiness. Having seen this truth, the third stanza leads us to claim the cross as our “abiding place.” There are two scriptural allusions:

Philippians 2:7-8: But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.

Galatians 6:14: As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world’s interest in me has also died.

The author encourages us to find our identity not in the world, but in the cross—to count all that the world values as loss and all that the cross offers as gain.

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand, the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land; a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.
2. Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see the very dying form of One who suffered there for me; and from my stricken heart with tears, two wonders I confess: the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.
3. I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss, my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

There are two other stanzas to this hymn that are not generally found in most hymnals. Originally these were the second and third stanzas of the hymn. The first of these shows the cross as the place where God’s love and justice meet (What an amazing image!), and then likens the cross to Jacob’s ladder from the Bible—but instead of angels climbing up and down, now sinners are able to ascend to heaven.

O safe and happy shelter! O refuge tried and sweet!  
O trysting place where heaven's love  
and heaven's justice meet!  
As to the holy patriarch  
that wondrous dream was given,  
so seems my Saviour's cross to me  
a ladder up to heav'n.

The next stanza lays out the salvation that is available to us through the cross. Now the Cross stands between us and the grave – not of physical death but the eternal death of hell. The cross stands as a watchman to prevent us from entering “that eternal grave.”

There lies, beneath its shadow but on the farther side,  
the darkness of an awful grave  
that gapes both deep and wide;  
and there between us stands the cross,  
two arms outstretched to save;  
a watchman set to guard the way  
from that eternal grave.

As we continue our Lenten journey to the celebration of Easter, may this hymn help us reflect on the grace that is ours in Christ Jesus and the cost of that grace.

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*. Chris Fenner for Hymnology Archive. 20 February 2020

rev. 15 Nov. 2021. <https://www.hymnologyarchive.com/beneath-the-cross-of-jesus>

### For Listening

*Solo with Guitar*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L\\_3yc0wWe7Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_3yc0wWe7Y)

*Choir*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qr7\\_i8HJ-Jo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qr7_i8HJ-Jo)

# Wesley NIGHT



## Schedule:

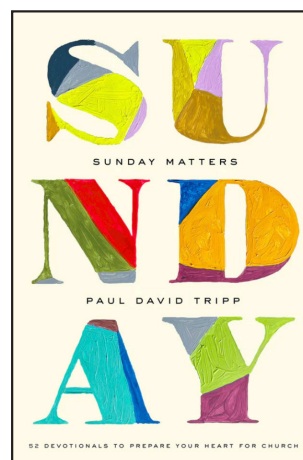
- 6:00-7:00pm - Dinner in McAdams Hall
- 6:00-6:30pm - Music Milestones (PreK & K) - Room 302
- 6:00-6:30pm - Gym time and homework help for 1st-6th graders
- 6:30-8:00pm - Youth Jam and Hangout - Youth Center
- 6:30-7:00pm - Gym time for PreK-K (bring a trusted adult with you!)
- 7:00-8:00pm - Joyful Song (1st-3rd grade) - Room 306
- 7:00-8:00pm - Wesleyan Choir (4th-6th) - Room 302
- 7:00-8:00pm - Adult Book Study - **Sermon on the Mount**, followed by **Sunday Matters** (see below)
- 8:00-9:00pm - Bells of St. Paul Handbell Ensemble - Room 303

Please make your Wesley Night dinner reservations no later than Tuesdays at 2:00pm by scanning the QR code or visiting [stpaulchurchky.org/ministries/wesley-night/](http://stpaulchurchky.org/ministries/wesley-night/).



## LENTEN DISCIPLINES

We are encouraging people to choose weekly worship attendance as one of their Lenten disciplines this year. To help our hearts prepare for worship we are using the devotional book **Sunday Matters** by Paul David Tripp. If you pre-ordered a book, they are in the office. Cost is \$15.00. We do have a few extra copies. If you prefer an ebook you can find those here: <http://tinyurl.com/yr33y489>



United  
Women  
in Faith

United Women in Faith will meet Tuesday, March 12 at 10:00am in room 113. Our topic is sharing/giving/missions. We will review our Daily Prayer

Guide as part of the opening ritual. The scripture is Matthew 5:13. In reflections, we will consider the ways we impact our family, friends, and community around us followed by a discussion. If time allows, we will review *Making a Statement about Missions*. Our closing prayer is from the *United Methodist Book of Worship*.



## Prayer Beading Group

Sunday, March 17  
1:00pm, Common Cup

Prayer beads are given to those who are in the hospital or grieving. They are also given to those who have joined St. Paul.



You can also donate any beads or crosses you may have; just drop them off at the church office. Learn more about St. Paul's Prayer Bead Ministry and find a link to the Amazon wish list here: <https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/prayer-beads/>.

# ST. PAUL Easter EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

saturday, march 23  
10am to noon  
family life center

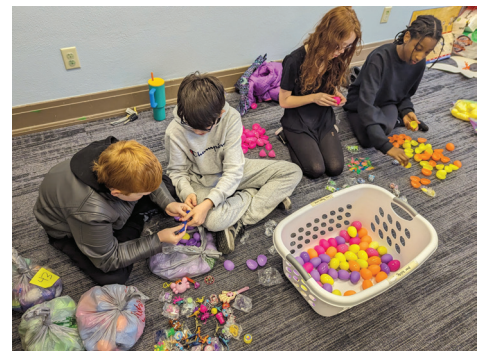
cookie decorating  
egg hunts: PreK-12  
door prizes  
bounce house  
prize wheel  
crafts  
games  
spin art  
Easter bunny!

You won't want  
to miss it!

St. Paul Church  
**Kids &  
Tweens**

In January, our tweens sorted and labeled donated food in the St. Paul Resource Center. Our February project was packing toys into 750 eggs in preparation for our Easter Eggstravaganza. These 4th-6th graders are always willing to help, and we are so proud of them for using their gifts to serve others. Tweens meet on the first and third Sundays from 5-7pm - please join us!

In February, we held our first Kids Worship Night, and 23 kids attended! We spent the evening singing, dancing, praying, and learning about how our worship services are structured and what everything means. We also had a Parents Night Out, where we ate dinner, played in the gym, made a craft, and watched "Encanto."





# Youth News!

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](#).

Email Janet and Billy Sewell at [youth@stpaulchurchky.org](mailto:youth@stpaulchurchky.org) for more information.

## Spring Semester Schedule

### March

3/1 - 3/2 - Lock In  
3/3 - No Youth (Recover from Lock In)  
3/10 - Regular Youth  
3/17 - Regular Youth  
3/24 - Regular Youth  
3/31 - No Youth - Easter

### April

4/7 - Youth Activity  
4/14 - Regular Youth  
4/21 - Regular Youth  
4/28 - Regular Youth

### May

5/5 - Regular Youth  
5/12 - No Youth / Mother's Day  
5/19 - Senior Banquet

### Summer Schedule coming mid-March!

\*Calendar subject to change - changes will be sent out in the weekly email

## Confirmation 2024 is underway!

Please pray for our confirmands:  
Annabelle Banic, Helen Higdon,  
Alannah Lutes, Phoebe Millard,  
Max Miller, and Story Stevens.



Classes take place in the Youth Center.  
Schedule is below:

2/14/24: Ash Wednesday-Orientation  
2/18/24: No Meeting: Presidents Day Break  
2/25/24: Lesson #1: Faith in Action  
3/3/24: Lesson #2: Jesus  
3/9/24: Service Project-Mobile Resource Center  
3/10/24: Lesson #3: Worship  
3/17/24: Lesson #4: Scripture  
3/24/24: Lesson #5 Baptism

3/31/24: No Meeting (Easter)  
4/7/24: No Meeting (Spring Break)  
4/14/24: Lesson #6 Communion  
4/21/24: Lesson #7 Spiritual Practices  
4/27/24: Day retreat-Cherokee Park  
4/28/24: No lesson due to retreat the day before  
5/5/24: Lesson #8 Following Jesus/Church Membership  
5/12/24: No Meeting Mother's Day  
5/19/24: Confirmation Breakfast and Confirmation Sunday

## ST. PAUL RESOURCE CENTER NEEDS

As we move toward spring, we will have a need for items to protect people from rainy weather. Please donate:

- new or gently-used umbrellas
- raincoats/lightweight jackets/ponchos
- rain boots
- men's jeans and shoes, especially larger sizes
- We are still in need of men's coats.



### Mobile Resource Center

at Fourth Ave UMC's  
Open Door Community Ministry

**Sat., March 9 • 11:15am-1:00pm**

You can sign up to volunteer here:  
[stpaulchurchky.org/mobile-resource-center/](http://stpaulchurchky.org/mobile-resource-center/)



### United Methodist Mountain Mission Next Pickup: Tuesday, March 19

Please drop off donations no later than  
2:00pm on Monday, March 18

Their current urgent needs list can be  
found to the right.

### URGENT NEEDS!

Due to low donations, which has caused inventory to dwindle, the Mission is desperately low on these items:

- Bed Sheets
- Comforters
- Blankets
- Pillows
- Towels
- Wash Clothes
- Bed Spreads
- Quilts
- Whatnots (bric-a-brac, knick-knacks, collectibles, things that make a home a 'home')
- Socks and Underwear (Children's, Men's and Women's)
- Purses
- Prom Dresses (proms take place in April/May)

## DIAPER DRIVE RESULTS

On Friday, February 16, Ray and B J Fore and Janet Fore delivered 2,845 diapers to Henderson Settlement, UMC mission in Frakes, Kentucky. The diaper collection was the January project of SPAMS to benefit the MIHOW program at the Settlement.

The Mothers Infants Health Outreach Workers program, managed by Lorinda Jackson, assists 50 families in the area. In addition to the diapers, 18 fleece blankets were delivered and checks for \$854.

Thanks to all who participated in this wonderful outreach program.





# SPAMS Brings Back BINGO!

Thursday, March 14 • 12:00–3:00pm  
McAdams Hall

Join the **SPAMS (St. Paul Adult Ministry for Seniors)** for an afternoon of **BINGO, Pit, and Irish Trivia** as we celebrate **St. Patrick's Day!**

Lunch will include **green food** - Benedictine sandwiches, broccoli salad, shamrock cookies, and more.

Cost: Bring any item, new or used, to be used for BINGO prizes!

*The Amazing Jon Fleshman will lead BINGO.*

*The Superb Switzers will lead Pit.*

*And the Magnificent Mary Ann Buckner will lead Irish Trivia.*

## ANNOUNCING SPRING 2024 DATES



### Wellness for Active Aging Adults 65+

- Class is participatory
- For independent living seniors
- Modifications for mobility devices



MONDAY/WEDNESDAY  
APRIL 1–MAY 1  
TIME AND LOCATION  
OPEN



TUESDAY/THURSDAY  
APRIL 2–MAY 2  
10 AM  
ST. PAUL UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
2000 Douglas Blvd. Louisville, Ky  
40205



CONTACT  
**ANGIE@LEARNTOAGE.ORG**  
TO REGISTER AND  
CHECK AVAILABILITY



**MINIMUM OF 6  
MAXIMUM OF 10  
PARTICIPANTS PER  
CLASS**

**KBSW  
CERTIFIED  
CEU'S  
AVAILABLE FOR  
FACILITATOR  
TRAINING**

KBSW20238  
201 KAR  
233075

REGISTRATION DEADLINE **MARCH 25, 2024**

## Tentative 2024 SPAMS schedule:

April 25 - Derby Party  
May 23 - Schimpff's Confectionary and lunch  
June ? - Mary Miller Riverboat Ride  
July 11 - Red, White, and Blue Party  
August 22 - Bingo and Soup  
September 26 - Castle and Key + The Stave  
October 24 - Mike Linning's  
November 21 - Talbott Tavern  
December ? - Derby Dinner



**Optimal Aging  
Conference**  
**2024** inspire. innovate. impact. investigate. integrate.

The 2024 Optimal Aging Conference, taking place April 20-23 at the Brown Hotel, will focus on Aging and Health Equity.

More information can be found here:  
<https://www.tragerinstitute.org/optimal-aging-conference>

# REAL Good News

## Local Action for Climate Care

*A Virtual Conversation*

**Wednesday, March 27 • 7:00-8:30pm**

### Natural Gas and Hydropower

Join the members of REAL, the Renewable Energy Alliance of Louisville, to learn about Natural Gas and Hydropower in Kentucky.

Learn more and register for this free Zoom event here:

<https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/real-good-news/>

*Kentuckians For the Commonwealth, the Renewable Energy Alliance of Louisville, Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light, and the Christian Action group of St. Paul United Methodist Church.*

#### SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE SUMMER YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S EVENTS!

**Youth Fusion Mission Trip** to Washington DC: June 8-13

**Vacation Bible School:** June 17-21, 9am-12pm

**Project Serve for Tweens:** June 17-21, 1-4pm (for rising 5th-7th graders)

**Senior High Summit** (Youth at Camp Loucon): June 23-28

**Music Camp** for rising 2nd-7th graders: July 8-12, 9am-12pm

**Music Camp Performances:** Sunday, July 14, 9 AM and 11 AM

**Children at Camp Loucon:** July 14-19

*Thank you!*

Just another thanks to the St Paul family for the prayers, cards, calls, meals, and flowers sent during this convalescence from surgery. Truly each act of kindness was an embrace of this body of Christ. In faith and friendship, Gail Henson

## Key messages from speakers at the 4th Annual Stop Human Trafficking Conference at St. Paul

Compiled by Jon Fleshman

*Get survivors involved. Give them a voice to tell their stories and provide solutions. If you don't you're not serving the victims. Survivors can establish rapport with kids suffering the same kinds of heinous abuse they themselves have suffered. They can show them their own mental and physical scars. Regardless of your background, however, you can help. Don't think the issue is too big to do anything about. Find something you're good at and volunteer, simple things such as making meals or blankets for kids, donating bed sheets and old books; connect with the experts at survivor-led organizations.*

**Dr. Azurdee Garland**, co-founder and executive director of programming for Phoenix Rising, Inc., a nonprofit foundation serving youth impacted by commercial exploitation and domestic sex trafficking. Dr. Garland was bought and sold by family members starting at age 4, and her son was born when she was 11.

*Fight the minimization of our language so that words like "rape," "torture," "exploitation," "incest," and "prostitution," especially of kids, are not watered down and made to sound less horrendous than they are. Silence is our enemy. Keep talking about the violence and dehumanization of sex trafficking. Criminal, not civil, prosecution is the only thing that stops perpetrators. A lot of exploitation is now online and most child porn is made at home. The real horror of child porn is that you can't get rid of it. Once loaded to the internet it outlasts the life of the victim. Society is getting more and more dysfunctional and the only way to stop the consumers of human trafficking is to arrest, adjudicate and incarcerate; which is hard to do because a lot of the perpetrators and their protectors are in important and influential positions. We have the tools, we just don't enforce the law. Ramp up your advocacy for holding perpetrators accountable. We have to arrest the baby rapers.*

**Survivor leader Jeanette Westbrook** is a social worker and human rights defender. Ms. Westbrook has used her experience as a survivor of non-state torture and trafficking to advocate for international treaties and policies that empower exploited women and girls. As an 8-year-old, Ms. Westbrook was



exploited in pornographic films by family members. In 1992 she was able to prosecute one of her perpetrators for rape and incest since Kentucky has no statute of limitations on felony crimes.

*When it comes to helping victims become survivors, we need to change the very language we use. Stop asking "What is wrong with you?" and start asking "What happened to you?" This is a war, it's a spiritual war. We need to help people understand they have a stake in the fight and tell them the many ways they can help: through legislation, becoming a mentor, supporting existing agencies, educating the public on building community advocates, helping survivors get healthy, increase the penalties for traffickers and users, rework the foster system to ensure high standards of care, provide tools to counselors to be able to act quickly when children are in danger. If you have a little time, or a skill or a trade or can help financially it can all make a difference. Find out where your place is in the fight. We need more men in this fight.*

**Cindy Crawford** started Sycamore Farm, a nonprofit ministry in Louisville to provide sexually exploited women an opportunity to heal through holistic, trauma-informed residential care and lifelong discipleship. In 2023 Sycamore Farm opened the first and only emergency home dedicated to women wanting to escape their trafficking situation. Sycamore Farm is for women who need to get off the street right away, and it provides an immediate safe and stable environment to prepare them for the next step. Ms. Crawford is a survivor of sexual exploitation.

# Agape Valentine's Day Party Message

The Resilience team expresses gratitude to the St. Paul congregation and staff for attending the Agape Valentine's Day party on February 10! The event was a beautiful, fun gathering, and we are grateful for your participation.

Julia Mitchell shared the following reflection that evening:

Good evening. Thank you for the gift of your presence here tonight. I want to extend special gratitude to our friends from Coke Memorial who have joined us; you are always welcome here. Thank you also to the wonderful Resilience team members who have worked so hard to bring this event together---shout out to Joanne Milo, Peggy Lutes, Debbie Chambers, and Beth Nichols! Thank you to the staff as well who have been so supportive. Thank you all for being a part of communal resilience by choosing to celebrate in the midst of challenges.

We may envision resilience as dogged determination to strive strenuously and overcome a struggle or setback.

We may applaud one's resilience for enduring suffering or trauma.

We may encourage children and youth to be resilient in the face of an obstacle or defeat.

We may think of resilience as an individual trait or skills that one person has achieved.

But what if the wilderness lingers...past Lent...past the pandemic...past the timeline we would prefer?

What if discouragement and disillusionment become too familiar and the buzzwords and trite expressions no longer match the weight of the world's brokenness?

What then...propels the grit...beckons the perseverance...ensures the tenacity?

The Anchor of our souls remains steadfast, pouring forth grace and peace, embracing us with agape love.

Christ embodied in children, youth, and adults in diversity of race and creed demonstrates the power of connection and communion.

A word of encouragement,

A cheer of support,

The gift of being present---

all serve as reminders of Eternal Truths: we are not alone; God is with us. God is for us.

Couldn't resilience also be a showing up almost against our will, a crawl forward toward our calling, a trust fall on a firm foundation, encircled by the witnesses who point us to the Redeemer?

Whether we find ourselves this evening at the pinnacle of wellbeing, in the throes of desperation, or in the midst of the tension between gratitude for goodness and lament over loss, let us pause to remember the gift of Christian community--a Body of believers united in faith, an interdependence of strength and vulnerability, and by so doing, let us grow together in resilience as we reflect on the Hope of Jesus Christ who overcame evil and death and lives to set us free. Amen.



*St. Paul family and guests from Coke Memorial UMC dance together, building community!*



*Dessert competition winners (l to r): Darlene Schulz, D'Anna Switzer, and Pam Wright.*

# MARCH 2024

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

### Guided Meditation

Wednesdays, 10:30am, Zoom

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### AA Groups

Times here: [stpaulchurchky.org/support-groups/](http://stpaulchurchky.org/support-groups/)

GLI AA Meeting, March 14,  
6:00pm, McAdams

### Depression Bipolar Support Alliance

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

## FELLOWSHIP & CLASSES

### Kaleidoscope Group

Tuesday, March 5,  
7:00pm, Youth Center

### United Women in Faith

Tuesday, March 12,  
10:00am, Room 113

### Men's Group

Mondays, March 11 and 25,  
7:00pm, Common Cup

### SPAMS

Thursday, March 14, 12:00-  
3:00pm, McAdams Hall

### Prayer Beading

Sunday, March 17,  
1:00pm, Common Cup

### Faith Quilters

Tuesday, March 19,  
10:00am-2:00pm, Room 100

### Adult Sunday Classes

Sundays at 10:00am

### Women of the Word Bible Study

Wednesdays, 10:00am, Room 113

### Women's Discernment Group

Thursdays, 10:00am, Zoom

### Chancel Choir

Thursdays, 7:15pm,  
Choir Room (302)

## OUTREACH

### Mobile Resource Center

Saturday, March 9,  
11:15am-1:00pm,  
Fourth Avenue UMC

## WESLEY NIGHT

Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00pm  
(details on page 7)

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### Children's Sunday School

Sundays, 10:00-10:45am

### Children's Choirs

Wednesday evenings  
Pre-K and K: 6-6:30pm, Room 306  
Grades 1-3: 7-8pm, Room 306  
Grades 4-6: 7-8pm, Room 302

### Tweens

Sundays, March 3 & 17,  
5:00-7:00pm, Room 308

### Easter Eggstravaganza

Saturday, March 23, 10:00am-  
12:00pm, FLC

### Confirmation Class

Sundays, 10:00am, Youth Center

### Scouts

Tuesdays, 7:00pm, Gym

### Cub Scouts

1st & 3rd Thursdays, 6:00pm, FLC

### Youth Choir

Sundays, 5:00pm,  
Choir Room (302)

### Youth Group

Sundays, 6:00-8:00pm,  
McAdams Hall/Youth Center

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND MINISTRY TEAMS

### Worship Staff Meeting

Tuesdays at 10:00am,  
Youth Center

### Full Staff Meeting

Tuesdays at 11:00am,  
Youth Center

### Resilience Team meeting

Wednesday, March 13,  
5:00pm, Parlor

### Communications Team meeting

Tuesday, March 19,  
7:00pm, Room 319

### Beyond the Walls Team meeting

Thursday, March 19,  
7:00pm, Parlor

## SPECIAL SERVICES

### Holy Week Services

(details on page 4)

### Palm Sunday

March 24, 9:00am and 11:00am

### Maundy Thursday

March 28, 7:30pm, Gym

### Good Friday

March 29, noon and 7:30pm,  
Sanctuary

### Holy Saturday Labyrinth Walk

March 30, 10:00am-2:00pm, Gym

### Easter Services

(details on page 3)

### Sunrise Service

7:30am, front lawn

### Koinonia Service

9:00am, Gym

### Traditional Service

11:00am, Sanctuary

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# THE TOWER

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Wesleyan  
Choir leads the Ash  
Wednesday service.

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St. Paul Church  
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