

# THE TOWER



***Easter  
2024***



# IN THIS ISSUE

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED .....	2
IN MEMORY .....	2
CURIOSITY .....	3
CELEBRATING REV. DUSTIN WOODS & FAMILY .....	4
WESLEY NIGHT .....	4
RESOURCE CENTER .....	4
ST. PAUL WORK DAY .....	4
HCM SPRING TOILETRIES DRIVE .....	4
HYMN OF THE MONTH .....	5
UMC GENERAL CONFERENCE .....	5
LAY READERS NEEDED .....	5
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES .....	6-7
YOUTH NEWS .....	8
STAFF SPOTLIGHT: BROOKE HEITZ .....	9
SENIOR ADULT ACTIVITIES .....	10
SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES .....	11
INTRODUCING ... RESILIENCE CORNER .....	11

## NEXT TOWER DEADLINE!

**Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 5:00pm**

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

### Finance and Board meetings

Our next meetings are on Tuesday, May 14th. Finance begins at 6pm followed by the Board meeting at 7pm.

## THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

- Allison Maria Vise - January 10, 2024
- Joseph Burt, Sr. - January 10, 2024
- Charles Rainwater - January 24, 2024
- Martha Abbott - February 29, 2024
- Mary Nell Brumfield - March 18, 2024
- Lena Sleamaker - April 10, 2024
- Elizabeth "Betty" Minter - April 11, 2024

## IN MEMORY

In memory of Allison Vise, from James Vise

In memory of Martha Abbott, from: St. Paul UMC Chancel Choir

In memory of Mary Nell Brumfield, from:  
 Sarah Zellers  
 Carolyn Butler  
 Joyce Alexander  
 Milly & Thomas Claypool  
 Elaine & Louis Hinton  
 Stinnettsville Community Church  
 Karla & Patrick Gaines  
 Gayle & William Sherman

# 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!



### 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.



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.*

**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!**

### Tracy Martin, Director of Family and Children's Ministries



You may already know this—but here’s something I have learned over the years: maintaining a curious, open mind is absolutely necessary when working with children. In the past, I have accidentally killed many conversations by having specific expectations, deciding a kid’s answer was wrong, or being unwilling to think creatively. Little kids thrive when they are encouraged to think for themselves, and this creative freedom will rarely lead them to the answers we adults would expect. Their curiosity is a sweet gift and a reminder that we should be open to the unexpected.

But maintaining openness and curiosity isn’t just important for people who spend time with children—it is essential for us as humans, and specifically as Christians! “How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver!” (Proverbs 16:16). “Open my eyes, so that I may contemplate wondrous things from your instruction!” (Psalm 119:18). “The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out” (Proverbs 18:15). In fact, curiosity seems like a requirement for all believers simply because God is intangible; we are called to believe wholeheartedly in someone we can’t even see! A certain degree of openness is required.

But how can we remain curious, open, and more childlike in our willingness to accept new ideas? How often do you seek out new information? Do you consider yourself a “lifelong learner”? Where do you go to learn new things? Who do you ask when you want answers? Over the past year, I’ve been blessed with many opportunities to learn new things. I want to share some of them with you, with the humble hope that you might continue to thirst for knowledge and share it with others.

First of all, I knew nothing about Methodism as a denomination, but I find its history and organizational structure fascinating. I had never heard of prevenient grace, social holiness, or practical divinity. I was unfamiliar with John Wesley. Did you know he wrote a medical textbook that encouraged people to live healthy lifestyles, even though he wasn’t a doctor? Did you know the term “Methodist” was originally an insult? Did you know there are over 12 million Methodists around the world? Do you notice when our tablecloths, robes, and choir stoles (“paraments and vestments”) switch colors according to the liturgical calendar? Did you know that women have served as bishops in the United Methodist Church since 1980? One thing that I appreciate is this denomination’s recognition that surface-level differences in belief do not prevent us from worshipping, fellowshiping, or serving together as a church body.

I’ve also learned about St. Paul’s history and architecture! Did you know the wooden doors of our church are painted red because just as we must pass through the doors to enter the Lord’s house, the only way to salvation is through the sacrificial blood of Christ? Did you know the acorns carved into our sanctuary pews represent the small beginnings of Christianity, just as an oak tree begins its life as a tiny acorn? And the candelabras lit by the acolytes each week hold seven candles, which represent the seven gifts mentioned in Revelation 5:12: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise.” Also, there are twelve shields of the Apostles at the ends of the ceiling beams—each one featuring images which represent a different Apostle. I love how much care and intentionality went into the design of our church building, and I love how each symbol points us to the reason we are here: Jesus Christ!

Recently I’ve also been able to nurture an interest in music, and I’m lucky to have landed at a church where music is highly valued (and where patient, accomplished musicians are available to answer my questions!). I have learned about scales, key signatures, intervals, and how to read music! I took an online course and an in-person course, both of which challenged me in new ways. Did you know that an 11th-century monk named Guido invented the modern way we learn notes (“do-re-mi”), and that he used different parts of his hand to tell his choir which notes to sing? Did you know the black keys on a piano make up a pentatonic scale? Did you know that human brains naturally try to “fill in the blanks” when they hear a scale? Did you know that your voice can sound completely different depending on how you position your jaw and lips? One of my favorite realizations during one of my classes was this: our voices are merely instruments, and—like any other instrument—we can learn how to “play” them better! I love being able to make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Earlier I posed some rhetorical questions about how much time you spend learning new things. My prayer is that regardless of what season we’re passing through, we remember to seek knowledge and grow in wisdom. Did you know God never tires of our questions? Our Father LOVES when we come to him with curiosity and a desire to know Him better. How much of your time is spent studying the Lord’s attributes, actions, and commands? How much time do you spend learning about the wonderful things He has created? For me, the answer is “not enough!” But I hope we can all challenge ourselves and spur each other on in this direction.

## Celebrating Rev. Dustin and Emily Woods' Ministry

On June 23, we'll have one worship service at 10:00am in the sanctuary followed by a church picnic. Dustin will preach. More information is coming soon from Personnel and the team planning the day.

# Wesley NIGHT

## Wesley Night wraps up on May 15 with the Children's Choir Spring Program

Details on page 6.

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/).



### ST. PAUL RESOURCE CENTER NEEDS

While the Resource Center serves anyone in need, most of the assistance we provide goes to men. Therefore, we always need a steady supply of men's clothing and shoes. Currently, we need:

- men's short-sleeve t-shirts (gently used - please nothing torn, dirty, or paint-covered)
- men's jeans, all sizes
- men's shorts, all sizes
- men's shoes, all sizes
- men's belts, all sizes



### Mobile Resource Center

at Fourth Ave UMC's  
Open Door Community Ministry

Sat., May 11 • 11:15am-1:00pm

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

### ST. PAUL SPRING WORK DAY - SATURDAY, MAY 18

SPRING HAS ARRIVED AND ST. PAUL IS HAVING A SPRING WORK DAY ON SATURDAY, MAY 18 FROM 9:00AM-2:00PM. WORK WILL FOCUS PRIMARILY ON UPDATING ROOM 100 WITH NEW BLINDS, PAINT, AND DECOR. IF WE HAVE ENOUGH PARTICIPANTS, WE WILL ALSO HAVE A TEAM WORKING ON THE EXTERIOR OF McADAMS HALL FILLING HOLES AND SEALING CRACKS IN THE FOUNDATION. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US OUT WITH THESE PROJECTS! YOU CAN COME FOR AN HOUR OR TWO, OR STAY ALL DAY, WHATEVER WORKS FOR YOUR SCHEDULE. WE WILL PROVIDE LUNCH FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS AT 12:00PM. IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE INFORMATION CENTER OR BY CONTACTING PASTOR DUSTIN AT [DUSTIN@STPAULCHURCHKY.ORG](mailto:DUSTIN@STPAULCHURCHKY.ORG) WITH YOUR INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE. THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SERVICE IN KEEPING OUR BEAUTIFUL CHURCH FACILITIES IN TIP-TOP SHAPE FOR ALL TO ENJOY!



### HCM Spring Toiletries Drive - Deodorant

St. Paul has been asked to collect deodorant for HCM's spring drive. Please drop off your donations in the designated bins in either St. Paul lobby by Monday, May 27. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

## May 2024 Hymn of the Month: *You Alone Are Holy*

by Dr. Lori Elbert, Director of Koinonia Worship

I have said it before and I will say it again: we are a singing faith. Sometimes we sing hymns that have been handed down from third-century Christians. Sometimes we sing hymns that were written less than a year ago. Most of the hymns we use were written by lyricists and composers who share our culture, or at least our historical culture. But it would be a mistake to think that all Christians share our ethnic culture. One way we can connect with our brothers and sisters from other cultures is to sing their songs. These songs help us understand their experiences with God as well as how God's story has connected and impacted their culture.

One such song is "You Alone Are Holy" from *The Faith We Sing* #2077. This chorus comes from our Spanish speaking brothers and sisters and is based on Revelation 4:11. It was translated by Raquel Mora Martinez. Mrs. Martinez has been a huge force in Spanish hymnody serving as the editor for the official United Methodist Spanish-language hymnal, *Mil Voces Para Celebrar* (Nashville, 1996). She has also composed or arranged over 33 hymn tunes which can be found in various Spanish language hymnals. She and her husband, Bishop Joel Martinez, have served United Methodists throughout Texas and Nebraska.

Sometimes the hymns we sing are long and full of deep theological teaching. Sometimes the songs we sing are short and help us voice the deep feelings and adoration in our hearts. "You Alone Are Holy"

is one of those shorter songs. As we sing, we are giving voice to the cry of the 24 elders that worship around the throne of God in the Book of Revelation. "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." (Rev. 4:11, NRSV)

So we join our voices with the heavenly worship of God:

Verse 1  
You alone are holy  
You alone are worthy  
You are filled with splendor  
And with awesome wonder  
For our sins You suffered  
Died and resurrected  
Granting us salvation  
Giving us eternal life

Verse 2  
You alone are holy  
You alone are worthy  
You are filled with splendor  
And with awesome wonder  
Send Your Holy Spirit  
May it shine upon us  
Let Your wondrous glory  
With its radiance fill this place

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## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GENERAL CONFERENCE

General Conference is meeting April 23 - May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Some have asked how they can follow along. The official website is: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>.

On the website, you'll find a livestream and lots of information about General Conference. Pastor Darren is attending the last week in his capacity as the Secretary of the Annual Conference. Rev. Tom Grieb, who has his charge conference at St. Paul, is part of the Kentucky delegation. You can also go to [www.kyumc.org](http://www.kyumc.org) for information from our delegation.



### Lay Readers Needed

It is time to create a new Lay Reader Schedule. If you are interested in reading scripture for either of our worship services, please contact Pastor Darren at [darren@stpaulchurchky.org](mailto:darren@stpaulchurchky.org) to learn more. We would love to include you in the new schedule of lay readers for summer and early fall.

**SUNDAY**  
**MAY 5**  
**5-7 PM**

**GRADES K-6**

**KIDS**  
**WORSHIP**  
**NIGHT**

Please pack a dinner for your child. We will eat in Room 100, then we will worship through art, prayer, music, small groups, and a lesson. Pick-up will be in the Chapel.

Childcare available for younger siblings in Room 200.

Questions? Please contact Tracy Martin, Director of Family and Children's Ministries, at [tracy@stpaulchurchky.org](mailto:tracy@stpaulchurchky.org).

# Children's Choir Spring Program

**Wednesday, May 15**

**Dinner at 6:00pm, Gym**

**Concert at 7:00pm, Gym**

RSVP for dinner using the Wesley Night form at our website.



## Come celebrate our St. Paul children!

Each of our children's music groups will present music activities and songs they have learned throughout the year and be presented with their yearly choir awards. This will be an exciting evening for our kids, as well as our church family as we celebrate their musical gifts!

## Tweens Campout at O'Bannon Woods State Park

Friday May 17-Saturday May 18

4th-6th graders, come celebrate the end of a great year of service and fun! Drop-off and pick-up in the church parking lot. Dinner, snacks, and breakfast are provided. We will enjoy time in God's creation and fellowship with each other! \$20 per child.

Email [tracy@stpaulchurchky.org](mailto:tracy@stpaulchurchky.org) for more info, packing list, detailed schedule, and to register!

## PARENTS NIGHT OUT FRIDAY, MAY 31 5:30-8:30PM

**Parents!**  
**Enjoy a night out while your kids have a fun evening of food and fellowship!**

**\$25/first child**  
**\$5/each additional child**

Cash or check only, please.  
Pay in advance at the church office or when you drop off your kids at the event.

Questions: [tracy@stpaulchurchky.org](mailto:tracy@stpaulchurchky.org).

**Kids up to age 12 are invited to eat pizza, make a craft, play in the gym, and watch a movie!**



# Register for these fun summer kids' events!



**Vacation Bible School**  
**June 17-21, 9:00am-Noon**  
Ages 3-rising 5th graders

At Scuba VBS, kids will dive below the surface to build a strong faith! We will go deep into an amazing undersea adventure where we'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. Kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about!

VBS registration is now open! To learn more and register, please visit:  
<https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/vbs/>



## Project Serve - June 17-21

Project Serve is a week of fellowship, community service, and fun for our tweens (kids who have completed 4th-6th grade)! We'll also have a lock-in!



Project Serve registration is open!  
To learn more and register, please visit:  
<https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/project-serve/>



## Music Camp

**July 8-12, 9am-Noon**

St Paul Annual Kids Music Camp, for rising 2nd-7th graders. Join us for:

- Music games and teaching
- Snacks and outdoor playtime
- Dancing
- Crafts

We will learn more about the Bible story of Esther and present the musical "Malice in the Palace, The Story of Esther" to our congregation!

Performances on Sunday, July 14, 9am and 11am.



# 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-Summer Semester Schedule

### May

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

### June

- 6/2 Senior Sunday
- 6/5 Putt Putt
- 6/8-13 Fusion Trip - D.C. Area
- 6/17-21 VBS
- 6/23-28 Sr. High Summit at Loucon  
*Transportation will be provided to Loucon.  
TBD on if it will be provided coming home.*

### July

- 7/3 Movie on the Lawn
- 7/8-12 Music Camp
- 7/17 Service Day at Portland Promise Center / The Table
- 7/21 Bats Game at 6:00pm
- 7/28 Afternoon at a Park

### August

- 8/4 Holiday World
- 8/11 Back to School Bash

\*Calendar subject to change - changes will be sent out in the weekly Youth Ministries 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:

- 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



## Youth Choir Coffeehouse Concert May 29, 7:00pm, Gym

Come enjoy coffee, desserts, and incredible entertainment from our Youth Choir!





# Staff Spotlight: Brooke Heitz, Financial Administrator

I was born and raised here in Louisville. I grew up going to Holy Spirit Catholic Church, where I received all of my sacraments as well as attended the corresponding parochial school. I graduated from Assumption High School and went on to the University of Kentucky, where I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. A few years later, while in the "working world" and being involved in a few different organizations - professional, political, and Catholic - I met my husband, Paul-Victor, and we married in 2012. I became a full-time stay-at-home mom in February 2014 with the birth of our daughter, Ava, and had our identical twin boys, Victor & Oliver, in March 2017, just after being elected Commissioner in the home-rule city in which I live, Strathmoor Manor.



I always knew I wanted to work again - part-time - when my youngest child (Or in this case, children!) was in school full-day, so when I started looking and applying for jobs in summer 2022, a fellow Strathmoor Manor Commissioner who is affiliated with St. Paul and knows my financial background told me about the Financial Administrator position

opening. It sounded like it would be a good fit, so I applied and interviewed and couldn't be happier that I did! There was a mutual connection. I began working here in August 2022, on my kids' first day of school.

Working at St. Paul is great! On Mondays I process contributions; on Tuesdays I run payroll and accounts payable; and Wednesdays and Thursdays I perform other duties, such as reconcile bank statements, post church credit card entries to the General Ledger, file tax returns and pay employee taxes withheld, contribute to the United Methodist

Personal Investment Plan on behalf of St. Paul staff, generate letters to memorials contributors and bereaved families, and solve any puzzles that might come up! I also manage employee files and distribute monthly financial reports to staff, keep track of employee time off, generate and edit the quarterly and year-end contribution statements, prepare financial statements for the Finance Team & Administrative Board meetings, and type up and send the minutes for those meetings after they have occurred.

I have learned so much working at St. Paul, and everyone I work with and meet here is wonderful! Outside of my time at St. Paul, I attend Mass with my family at the Shrine of St. Martin of Tours, of which we are members; serve on the Strathmoor Manor Commission; fundraise for my church and children's school whenever those opportunities arise; and drive my kids to and from their activities, which include dance for Ava (Come see her in The Brown-Forman Nutcracker this winter!) and soccer for Victor & Oliver, as well as their play dates, birthday parties, and whatnot. I enjoy managing my family's calendar and our To Do list and making sauces out of the tomatoes that my hubby so lovingly grows in our backyard garden. I have a keen interest in health and wellness, personal finance, and education and, being process-oriented, am drawn to the systematic approach and problem-solving opportunities that those areas afford.



Please let me know if you have any questions or ideas related to the financial workings here at St. Paul! My email address is [finance@stpaulchurchky.org](mailto:finance@stpaulchurchky.org), or come by my office and say hi! I'm happy to be a part of this community!

# UPCOMING SENIOR ADULT ACTIVITIES

## SPAMS Trip to Schimpff's Confectionery + Lunch!

**Thursday, May 23 • 11:00am-3:00pm**

**Join the SPAMS as we tour Schimpff's Confectionery in Jeffersonville, IN.**

The church bus will leave at 11:00am. We will tour the candy store from 12:00-1:00pm. Then we will have lunch at Upland Brewing Company, which offers a view of the Louisville skyline.

**Please sign up at the Information Center by May 21.**



## SPAMS Cruise on the *Mary Miller Steamboat*

**Thursday, June 20 • 11am-3pm**

Tickets are \$37 with meal,  
or \$25 without meal.

**Please sign up at the Information Center  
or by calling the church office.**

**Deadline is Sunday, May 19.**



### **Tentative 2024 SPAMS schedule:**

June 20 - 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 Linnig's  
November 21 - Talbott Tavern  
December ? - Derby Dinner

# SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

## Women of the Word Bible Study - Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30am, Room 113

Do you ever feel alone or at loose ends? If so, please consider participating in the next Wednesday Women of the Word Bible Study **You Are Never Alone**, a six-week DVD Bible study beginning May 8. In this study, author Max Lucado walks you through John's Gospel and explores Christ's miracles and how He's still at work in our lives today! In this six-session video study, you'll discover you're stronger than you think because

with Jesus in our lives, we are never truly alone. The topics are: God is with you in the ordinary, when you're stuck, when you're in the dark, when you're in the valley, and when you need grace.

This is a welcoming group of women. If you would like more information, please email or call Gail Henson [grhenson@gmail.com](mailto:grhenson@gmail.com) or 648-2201. Hope to see you!



United  
Women  
in Faith

The next meeting of United Women in Faith will be Tuesday, May 14 at 10:00 a.m. in room 113. We will be celebrating World Day of Prayer which

occurred March 1, 2024. The title is "I Beg You... Bear With One Another In Love." It is based on Ephesians 4:1-7 and written by an ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women during the COVID-19 pandemic. A PowerPoint about Palestine will be shown followed by a worship service sharing the stories of three Palestinian Christian women from three different generations. The symbol of an olive tree is used throughout the worship service. Everyone is invited to attend this important event.

## Prayer Beading Group

**Sunday, May 12, 12:00pm, 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. No experience necessary! Learn more about St. Paul's Prayer Bead Ministry and find a link to the Amazon wish list here: [www.stpaulchurchky.org/prayer-beads/](http://www.stpaulchurchky.org/prayer-beads/).

**Men's Group - Every Other Monday | 7:00pm  
Common Cup | May 13 & 27**

The St. Paul Men's group's purpose is to invite participants to walk alongside one another in the Christian faith. The group is open to all men.

## Introducing ... Resilience Corner

This is a newly-reserved space in the Tower that will include encouragement, resources, and support from your resilience team.

Did you know that the St. Paul website has resilience resources for youth and children/families? You may check them out here:

<https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/resilience-resources-for-youth/>

<https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/kidsresilience/>

## Connections of Hope

This section is an opportunity for all ages in the congregation to share written or artistic expressions of God's faithfulness during challenging times as a means to grow communal resilience, inspire hope, and deepen bonds of community.

Part of our commitment to the church is sharing our witness. We recount how God's goodness and faithfulness have brought comfort or encouragement and helped us persevere during challenging seasons. This witness encourages others on their journeys and opens doors for closer connections within the Body of Christ. We may be tempted to hide or isolate when life's challenges are overwhelming, so sharing our witness allows us to be a gift to one another in reminding each other of eternal truths that sustain and strengthen our souls.

Do you have a story to share of how God helped you during a difficult time? You may submit entries in the form of prose, poetry, pictures, or prayers by emailing [julialanemitchell@gmail.com](mailto:julialanemitchell@gmail.com) or leaving at the church office to the attention of the resilience team.

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ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

During our Bread for the World Offering of Letters, members of St. Paul wrote a total of 116 personalized letters, which was an amazing turnout, with additional letters being sent directly to the offices.

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