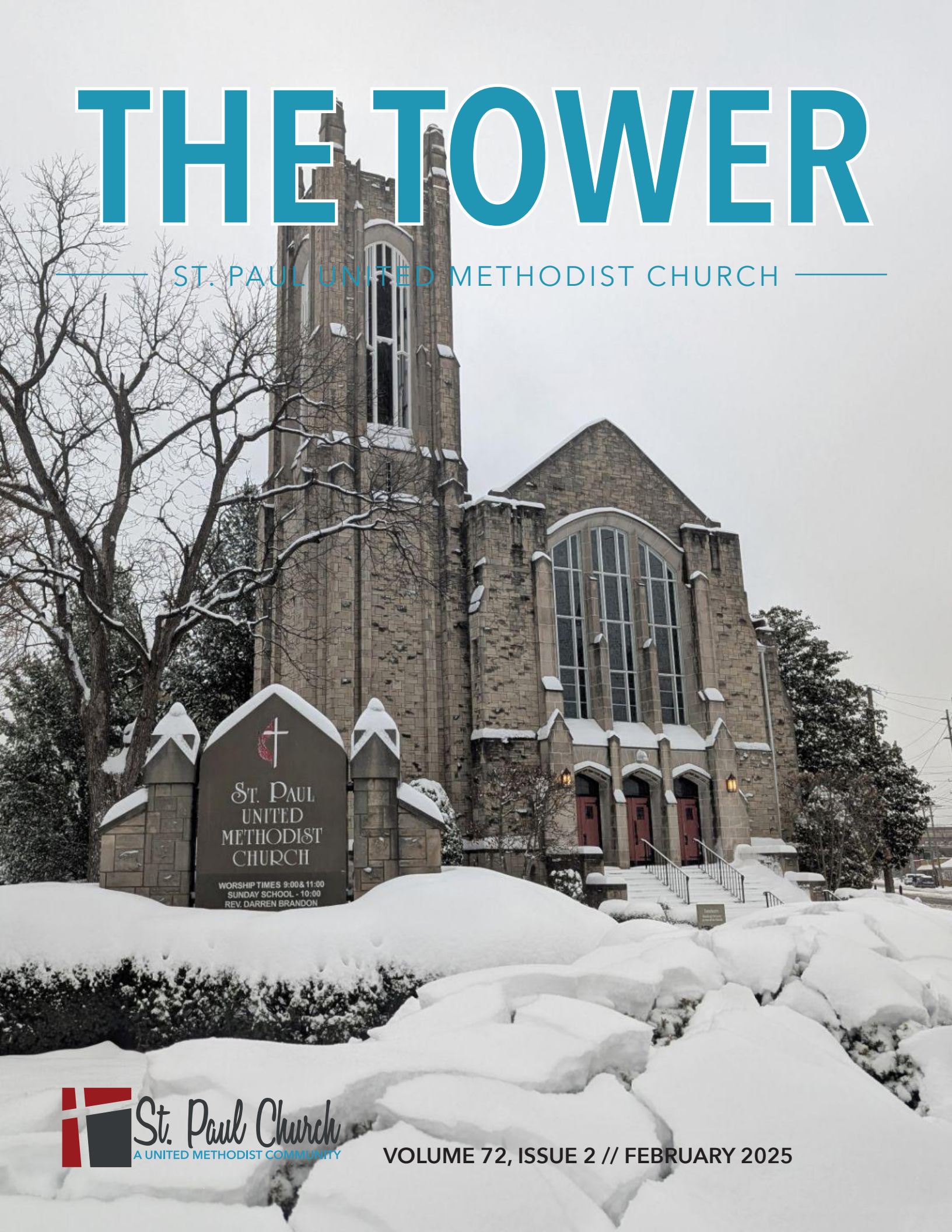


THE TOWER

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS

In honor of Carl & Peggy Lutes,
from Kristen Lutes.

In memory of Martha Abbott,
from Alice Abbott-Moore & Jim Moore.

To Boar's Head in memory of Mike Kasbaum,
from Paul & Nancy Klapheke.

In memory of Inez Polsgrove,
from Claudia Houston.

To Boar's Head in honor of the Buchanan family,
from Martha Neal Cooke.

NEXT TOWER DEADLINE!
Thursday, February 20 at 5:00pm

Church office closed for President's Day,
Monday, February 17.



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!



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.



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 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, or follow the link under **Recorded Worship Services!**

Be Not Afraid!

by Karla Temple, Associate Director of Music Ministries



One of our scripture passages for worship in January was from Isaiah 43. This scripture is close to my heart for many reasons. I love how it speaks of God's calling on our lives and how we are chosen and redeemed. We're also assured that when we walk through trials, we will not be fully overcome by them!

Vs 1b-2a: *"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you."*

God is speaking to his people, the Israelites, through the prophet Isaiah—but thankfully, through the sacrifice of Jesus and our acceptance of him, we are included as God's people also! Sometimes I have to remind myself of this when doubts creep in.

This scripture passage came to mean so much to me during a particularly difficult time. I had been ill for over a year because of a hereditary disease and kidney failure. Even the smallest daily tasks required extra effort. I wasn't able to be the mother I wanted to be to the two active little boys running around my house! I found myself facing a kidney transplant, which was both exciting and terrifying. The outcome of this surgery meant either a functional kidney—and thus a vibrant and normal life—OR having to be on dialysis with very poor quality of life.

As I prayed and read scripture during that time, Isaiah 43 seemed to jump out at me in neon lights (ok, maybe it wasn't that dramatic)! I felt like the Lord brought it to my attention to be my comfort and strength during that season.

As my surgery date neared, I remember having a feeling of peace that I had never felt before. Although I had endured plenty of struggles and had been overcome with fear at other times in my life, this kind of peace had always eluded me. Maybe it was a sign of growth, or maybe after witnessing God's faithfulness over the years, I was finally able to trust. Some of us are slow learners!

I'm so grateful for the calm assurance I experienced. I finally realized that no matter what the outcome, the Lord had paved the way. I knew that when I "passed through the rivers, they would not sweep over me." I knew then what I still know now: my future (and yours!) rests in the hands of the One who made us and has brought us this far.

God is faithful, my friends! Trust His faithfulness in the path He has set out for you, and know that He has your eternal best interest in mind. He's doing new things for us and making a way, even when we don't see it. Lean on Him and be not afraid.

Vs 19: *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."*

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Lent is the 40 days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter, beginning with Ash Wednesday. Lent is an opportunity to examine our lives. Lent is a time of letting go of what is behind and holding fast to what God promises to do in our lives. The scriptures invite us to *"Draw near to God and God will draw near to you."* (James 4:8)

Ash Wednesday Schedule

12:00-12:30pm - Noon Service with Ashes (Sanctuary)

6:00pm - Dinner (Reservations required)

7:00pm - Evening Service with Ashes and Fire Ring (Sanctuary)

There are no regular Wesley Night activities on Ash Wednesday.

Wesley NIGHT



Dinner Reservations

It is important that we have reservations for all those wanting to eat dinner. This ensures we have enough food for everyone. If you have not made a reservation, we will ask you to wait until all those with reservations have been served.



Make your dinner reservation here:
www.stpaulchurchky.org/ministries/wesley-night/
Or scan the code above for access.

Dinner

6:00-7:00pm | McAdams Hall
Register online (see link below) or call the church office at 459-1595.

Children's Music Groups

Music Milestones (Ages 3-Kindergarten)

6:00-6:30pm | Room 306

Joyful Song Choir (1st-3rd Grade)

7:00-8:00pm | Room 306

Wesleyan Choir (4th-6th Grade)

7:00-8:00pm | Room 302

Children & Youth Activities

Open Gym for grades 1-6, 6:00-6:30pm

Open Gym for ages 3-K | 6:30-8:00pm

Youth Jam & Hangout for grades 7-12

6:30-8:00pm | Youth Center

Adult Offerings

See below for details.

Bells of St. Paul Handbell Ensemble

8:00-9:00pm | Room 303

WESLEY NIGHT ADULT OFFERINGS

Navigating the Anxious Generation

January 15-February 19 • 7:00-8:00pm • Room 113

For All Concerned About Media and the Epidemic of Anxiety and Mental Illness
Led by Gail Henson, Bellarmine Professor Emerita

Women's Prayer Group

7:00-8:00pm • Parlor (219)

We will gather in the Parlor from 7-8pm. The hour will begin with scripture and be devoted to praying for and with each other. All women are welcome.

Faithful and Inclusive - The Bible, Sexuality, and the United Methodist Church

January 29-February 26 • 7:00-8:00pm • McAdams Hall

Can a Christian be completely faithful to the authority of scripture and fully inclusive of LGBTQ people in the church? Participants in this study will have the opportunity to develop their own perspectives on the Bible's passages related to homosexuality.

Led by Rev. George Strunk

Leadership Orientation

Sunday, February 2, 6-8pm

The church calendar is full on most Saturdays in January and February so we are trying something new - a Sunday evening. Our Leadership Orientation will begin with a meal in room 100 and end with a worship service in the sanctuary. The Leadership Orientation is for anyone who is on one of the administrative or ministry teams. If you have an interest in serving or questions about this gathering, please contact me at darren@stpaulchurchky.org or call my cell 270-570-2004.



Save the Date!

Churchwide Retreat at Camp Loucon

Saturday, October 18
Details to come.



The Labyrinth Walk

Wednesday, February 26, 5:30-8:00pm, Gym

The Labyrinth will be available in the Gymnasium for all who wish to walk it. Others may prefer to sit, watch, and listen to the music, which will remind us of the coming Lenten season, inspiring us to continue and renew our daily walk of prayer and action. There will be seating and tables with coloring materials and devotional reading. To preserve the mat, and as an act of humility, we walk shoeless.

This ancient devotional practice is usually sponsored at least once a year at St. Paul church. It is a physical reminder that we do not know where Jesus will lead us in the days to come. But if we will take up the challenge and follow in his pathways by faith and grace, in spite of setbacks, life can become for us a great and purposeful adventure. We will walk beside others who have committed their lives to him. By our faith and Jesus' faithfulness, we are assured that in the end he will lead us home to God.



SMALL GROUP NEWS

United Women in Faith

Tuesday, February 11, 10:00am, Room 113



United Women in Faith

Our February 11 meeting will be devoted to preparing for the fifth annual Stop Human Trafficking Conference at St. Paul. We are proud to be co-sponsors of the conference. It will take place Saturday morning, February 15 from 9:00am to 12:30pm in McAdams Hall. Our topic this year is Labor Trafficking. We have two knowledgeable and dynamic speakers scheduled, plus a video. Light refreshments will be provided. Feel free to join us-the more the merrier. See you on the 15th! The conference is free and no registration is required.



Women of the Word Winter Bible Study

Barb Roose's *Surrendered*

Wednesdays, 10:00am, Room 113

The Women of the Word winter study will be *Surrendered*, a six-week DVD study by Barb Roose. She is such an engaging and dynamic speaker! We hope you will consider joining this study.

We meet weekly to study the Word, pray and care for each other, and have a good time.

Here is a sample: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2O1BsCvMolQ>

Books are \$12 (payable to St. Paul UMC). For more information, contact Gail Henson 648-2201 or grhenson@gmail.com

Faith Quilters

Tuesday, February 25

10:00am-2:00pm | Room 100

Note change in usual day of the month (quilting from home is also welcome)

Faith Quilters gather for fellowship and work in Room 100 every third Tuesday of each month except December. From 10:00am to 2:00pm, we iron, cut, audition, and stitch cotton fabric for quilts. We welcome new participants, experienced at quilting or not. All piecing and quilting is machine sewn.

All of our quilts stay in the local area and are distributed here through Project Linus, a national non-profit organization with chapters in all 50 states. Over 7 million quilts, afghans, and fleece blankets have been donated since 1995 to children, newborn to age 18, who have experienced trauma.

Men's Group

Every Other Monday, 7:00pm,
February 3 and 17, Common Cup

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



Prayer Beading Group

Sunday, February 9, 12pm,
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!



February Hymn of the Month: *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*

Metaphor (noun):

a figure of speech in which a word or phrase literally denoting one kind of object or idea is used in place of another to suggest a likeness or analogy between them.

Any time we try to express who God is and how God relates to us, we almost have to use a metaphor.

Trying to understand the infinite, omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent God with our finite, limited human knowledge and imagination is like trying to explain a beautiful sunset to someone born blind. This is demonstrated in John's description of heaven with streets of gold and gates of pearl—or in Ezekiel's vision of God as a chariot with four living beings with wings, human hands, and four different faces. In these cases, the writers are trying to describe the indescribable.

When we try to describe God and our relationship with God, we must draw on our human experiences; we have nothing else. Most of us are comfortable calling God our "father." Jesus told us to do this in Luke 11:2 and other places. And while God is the absolute best and most wonderful father that could ever exist, God is also much more than a father.

Our hymn of the month, *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*, invites us outside of our comfort zones to consider a different metaphor for our relationship with God. This hymn was written by poet Jean Janzen, who was commissioned by the Mennonite church to write hymns based on the writings of the Christian mystics of the Middle Ages. Janzen was deeply inspired by the writings of Julian of Norwich.

Julian was the first woman to write in English. She recorded the visions she was given while she was deathly ill as well as her reflections on the meanings of those visions. Her writings are still studied today by Christians around the world. Most strikingly, she described God and Jesus as a "mother" because it is Jesus who gives us life through his death, nurtures us in grace and mercy, and shows us the tenderness that is embodied in the best earthly mothers.

The Bible also contains many "mothering" images of God. Isaiah 66:13 says, "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you." Hosea 11:3-4 describes how God taught "Ephraim to walk," cared for and fed them, and led them with bands of kindness—exactly the actions of a mother. Jesus even states that he longs to take Jerusalem under his wings like a mother hen (Matthew 23:37).

Janzen conveys these ideas in modern language. Take time to examine these lyrics, even if they are new or uncomfortable. As we expand our view of who God truly is, we are drawn closer to God's presence.

If you are interested in Julian of Norwich's writings, I suggest an updated version, such as *All Shall Be Well: A Modern-Language Version of the Revelation of Julian of Norwich*, by Anamchara Press.

Verse 1

Mothering God, You gave me birth
In the bright morning of this world.

Creator, source of every breath,
You are my rain, my wind, my sun.

Verse 2

Mothering Christ, You took my form,
Offering me Your food of light.

Grain of life and grape of love,
Your very body for my peace.

Verse 3

Mothering Spirit, nurt'ring one,
In arms of patience hold me close,

So that in faith I root and grow
Until I flow'r, until I know.

CCLI Song # 3411430 | Henry Percy Smith | Jean Janzen | © Words: 1991
Abingdon Press; Music: Public Domain | CCLI License # 828092

Hymn Tune:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKF4K0xVFOU>

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS!



Kids in grades K-6 are invited to join us for an art project, music time, a lesson, small group time, and dinner!

Meet in room 100.
Dinner is free!

Questions? Please contact Tracy Martin, Director of Family and Children's Ministries, at tracy@stpaulchurchky.org.

4TH-6TH GRADERS

2ND & 4TH SUNDAYS
5-7PM
SEPTEMBER-MAY

T W E E N S

ENJOY HANGOUT TIME AND A SERVICE PROJECT!

DINNER PROVIDED!

Save the Date:

St. Paul Easter Eggstravaganza

Palm Sunday, April 13
Noon-2pm

- Bounce houses!
- Spin art!
- Easter Bunny!
- Cookie decorating!
- Egg Hunts for all ages!
- Door prizes!
- Crafts!



Valen-Kind Party

February 1 • 5:00-7:30pm • St. Paul Gym



The St. Paul Resilience Team is hosting another fun-filled church party! Let's come together to celebrate our St. Paul community!

Pizza • Music • Line Dancing
Games • Popcorn
Best-Decorated Dessert Contest

All are invited! Fun for all ages!



Stop Human Trafficking Fifth Annual Conference

Labor Trafficking

Saturday, February 15 • 9:00am-12:30pm • McAdams Hall

Be Informed.  Take Action.

The 5th annual Stop Human Trafficking conference will focus on labor trafficking and feature experts on the topic.

Registration begins at 9:00am and conference starts at 9:30am. This is a free event, but books will be available for purchase.

Speakers:

Ms. Samantha "Sami" Hughes of Catholic Charities

Officer Dan Marsden, 6th Div Resource Officer with LMPD

Officer Marsden will convey his personal story and have books available for purchase/signing.

Additional subject matter experts from Safe Place and Sycamore Farms will be on site.



Youth News!

Sundays:

10am-10:50am Sunday Morning Service Project

(in Youth Center unless otherwise noted)

5pm-6pm Youth Choir

6pm-8pm Youth Group

Wednesdays:

6:30pm-8pm Youth Jam & Hangout

Fall-Spring Semester Schedule

February

2/2 - Regular Youth

2/9 - Youth Super Bowl Party (pick up at halftime)

2/16 - Regular Youth

2/23 - Regular Youth

March

3/2 - Regular Youth

3/9 - Regular Youth

3/14-15 - Lock In

3/16 - No Regular Youth

(Recover from Lock In)

3/23 - Regular Youth

3/29 - No Youth (Spring Break)

April

4/6 - Regular Youth

4/13 - Regular Youth

4/20 - No Youth (Easter Sunday)

4/27 - Regular Youth

May

5/4 - Last Regular Youth

5/11 - No Youth (Mother's Day)

5/18 - Senior Banquet & Youth Futures

June

6/1 - Senior Sunday

6/7-6/12 - Fusion Trip

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 for more information.

Calendar subject to change - changes will be sent out in the weekly Youth Ministry email.

Confirmation 2025

Each year, St. Paul offers Confirmation beginning in February and continuing until May. The process involves diverse leadership from a number of our staff and church members who are leading 7 lessons, a service project, Ash Wednesday, a day for Spiritual Formation, a special breakfast, and, of course, the Confirmation service itself.



Classes will take place on Sunday mornings during the Sunday school hour at 10am. However, a couple of Saturdays are involved (service project and spiritual formation opportunity), The orientation is on Sunday, February 23. A list of topics that will be covered is provided in the next column. Should your youth like to participate, please email Pastor Darren at darren@stpaulchurchky.org

Confirmation Schedule

Confirmation classes are scheduled for Sunday mornings at 10am during the Sunday school hour in the youth center. The exceptions are in bold.

2/16/25 President's Day Weekend

2/23/25 Family Orientation (All Teachers; Families)

3/2/25 Lesson #1- Faith in Action

3/5/25 Ash Wednesday Service

3/8/25 Service Project-Mobile Resource Center

3/9/25 Lesson #2 - Jesus

3/16/25 Lesson #3 - Scripture

3/23/25 Lesson #4 - Worship

3/30/25 No Meeting (Spring Break)

4/6/25 Lesson #5 - Sacraments: Baptism and Communion

4/13/25 No Meeting (One Service Sunday: Palm Sunday and Easter Eggstravaganza).

4/20/25 Easter. Lesson #6 - Spiritual Practices

4/26/25 A Day for Spiritual Formation

4/27/25 Lesson #7 - Following Jesus/Church Membership

5/4/25: Confirmation Breakfast and Confirmation Sunday

Life on the Streets

Building Awareness; Finding Solutions

Sundays, February 2 & 9 • 10:00am in McAdams Hall

How did he end up that way? • Why don't they go to a shelter?
Should I try to help? • Can't someone solve this problem?



Join us for our final two sessions for "Life on the Streets."

We will hear from representatives from the Open Door Community Ministry, the St. Paul Resource Center, and the Coalition for the Homeless.



Mobile Resource Center

at Fourth Ave UMC's
Open Door Community Ministry

Sat., February 8
11:15am-1:00pm

It takes a **minimum of 20 volunteers** to cover our needs. We'd love to have you join us!

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

ST. PAUL RESOURCE CENTER NEEDS

- Long-sleeved t-shirts
- Men's jeans and shoes
- Sweatshirts, sweaters
- Women's bras
- Men's winter coats
- Blankets
- Gloves, scarves, & hats
- Hand warmers

Our Amazon wish list is a simple way to identify items we need and have them shipped directly to the church. The wish list can be found here: <https://a.co/hULmRMs>

Thank You for your generosity!

Thank you to those who have heeded our call for more men's jeans and shoes. Our shelves are looking a lot fuller now, and the men we serve will be extremely grateful! Keep them coming, as we have an ongoing need.



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THE TOWER

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Louisville Boar's
Head and Yule Log
Festival children!

Photo by Jonathan
Roberts

VOLUME 72, ISSUE 2 // FEBRUARY 2025

