

THE TOWER

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The Music Camp performance of "Oh, Jonah" was a blessing to all!



Photos courtesy of Jonathan Roberts



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THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Barbara Byers - January 3, 2025
 Tom Temple, Sr. - January 25, 2025
 Ann Jereau - April 1, 2025
 Leo Wright - April 22, 2025
 Pam Record - June 12, 2025
 Nancy Krause - July 15, 2025

NEXT TOWER DEADLINE!

Thursday, August 21 at 5:00pm

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](#) and [Instagram](#).

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!**

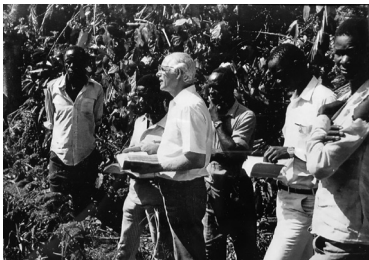
Go into all the World

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



Growing up, I was fascinated by missionaries who traveled across the world to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Among my heroes were Lottie Moon, who spent almost forty years living and working in China; Anne Bagby, who moved from Texas to teach in Brazil; Jim Elliot, who was martyred by an unreached people group in Ecuador in the 1950s; Betsey Stockton, who was born into slavery in New Jersey but after emancipation chose to serve the Hawaiian people; and Mary Slessor, who worked in Nigeria and helped end the common practice of infanticide for twins. I wanted to “be [God’s] witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

My fascination with international mission work can be traced back to my Southern Baptist grandfather who passed away recently. He spent his life instilling in others a sense of urgency regarding evangelism and mission work. He took me on my first international mission trip (before I decided to follow Jesus) and was a driving force behind my mission work in China which, in turn, led me here to Louisville.



Did you know that, out of the 8 billion people alive right now, over 3 billion are considered “unreached”? That means their community has no established indigenous community of believers. There are over 7,000 unreached people groups today, and you and I have been commanded to share the Gospel with them:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
–Matthew 28:19

What are you doing today to spread the Gospel? Although “making disciples” can look different for everyone, all Christians are called to participate in

the Great Commission, to share the good news of Jesus with people everywhere. Lately I’ve wondered what international mission work looks like for Methodists, so I did some research. Did you know the United Methodist Church sends out Global Missionaries (adults who commit to 3-year terms, which can be renewed) and Global Mission Fellows (young adults who commit to a single 2-year term)? The UMC currently supports approximately 200 missionaries spread across 60 countries. These missionaries serve as teachers, doctors, nurses, preachers, farmers, church planters, and in many other career fields.

Since not all of us are called to serve directly, it is important to find other ways to carry out the Great Commission in our daily lives. First, we should be in constant prayer for our missionaries. We should keep their needs and their stories on our lips, sharing about them when we have opportunities. We should look for evangelism opportunities wherever we are, always being prepared to share the Gospel and our personal testimonies. We should support missionaries financially. On the UMC website (<http://umcmmission.org>), you can find information about current missionaries. I enjoyed reading about Guillermo Berman, who coordinates Bible distribution, sewing classes, and medical clinics in Reynosa, Mexico. I also learned about Alma Navarro, who ministers to Filipino migrant workers in Taipei, Taiwan, and Natallia Manyeza, who teaches in Sierra Leone. Each missionary has an “Advance number” (Mr. Berman’s is #3019612), which can be used to designate a donation to that specific person.

Here at St. Paul, we have many opportunities for evangelism and volunteer service—including the Mobile Resource Center, Youth Fusion Trip, Project Serve, Faith Quilters, Scouts, Habitat for Humanity, and more—and while we work to love our neighbors in Louisville I pray we never forget to live with a global mindset, striving toward the goal that “this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations” (Matthew 24:14).

AT THE TABLE

SERMON SERIES



SUMMER SERMON SERIES: "AT THE TABLE"

In the Bible, the table is a place of connection, hospitality, and grace. Beginning July 20th, this series invites us to reflect on how God nourishes our bodies and souls, welcomes the outsider, calls us to deeper community, and sends us out in mission. Each week, we'll sit at a different table in Scripture—and discover the spiritual power of shared space.

- Pastor Darren

August 3 "The Table of Teaching"
Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

August 24 "The Table of Remembrance"
Scripture: Luke 22:14-20

August 10 "The Table of Enough"
Scripture: 1 Kings 17:8-16

August 31 "Breakfast on the Beach"
Scripture: John 21:1-14

August 17 "The Table of Welcome"
Scripture: Luke 5:27-32

YOUTH CHOIR

Youth Choir resumes Sunday, August 17, at 5:00 pm in room 302. The St. Paul Youth Choir is made up of students in grades 7-12, who are committed to great singing and worshiping God. This continually expanding choir is for both beginning and advanced singers, so give us a try! Contact Karla@stpaulchurchky.org for more information.



Boar's Head Stage Update

We are happy to announce that we are replacing 75% of our current Boar's Head stage with a new portable staging system. Through the generous support of our people here at St. Paul and the community involved in our annual Louisville Yule Log and Boar's Head Festival, we have raised 95% of the money needed to purchase this system. The new stage has been designed by Wenger systems and approved by the Boar's Head team. The new stage should be easier and faster to put up and take down, and many pieces will be used in other ways around the building. We are hoping for delivery in late November.

If you would like to see a schematic of the new stage, check out Lori Elbert's office door, room 210.

2025-2026

- YOUTH GROUP
- TWEENS • KIDS
- CHOIRS • AGES 3+



AUGUST 10



Scan QR Code for details
about groups at St. Paul!



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

- Bouncy House
- Inflatables
- Outdoor Games
- Parent Meetings
- Burgers Provided
- Bring a side to share

5-8PM

Questions?

tracy@stpaulchurchky.org
or
youth@stpaulchurchky.org

REPORT ON THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH KENTUCKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE JUNE 9-11, 2025

By Graeme Donovan, Lay Delegate

The Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church met June 9-11 in Owensboro, at Kentucky Wesleyan College, organized by a team led by our own Pastor, Darren Brandon, who is the Secretary of the Annual Conference, and presided over by Bishop David Graves.



An official summary of the Conference is here: <https://www.kyumc.org/newsdetail/19120682> (also linked at the St. Paul website). One of the most important jobs the Annual Conference had to do was vote whether to ratify four amendments to the Constitution of the worldwide United Methodist Church. The third amendment – to revise Article Five to strengthen the Church’s longtime stance for racial justice – stood out for me, and I reported on it during the St. Paul services on July 6 (available on the St. Paul website).

United Methodists are people of God who have a strong connection among their churches, sharing a common mission and values. The Annual Conference is not just a once-a-year gathering that displays and celebrates those connections, but a work of mission throughout each year made strong by its connectional nature. I’ve elaborated on this below, because I think it’s worth emphasizing:

Disaster response: Over the past three years Kentucky received three grants totaling \$610,000 from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and the Conference disaster response team coordinated 37 volunteer teams (1,876 volunteers) who rebuilt 132 homes and assisted 125 survivor households; as well as training 231 Early Response volunteers from 3 states.

University chaplaincies: The United Methodist Church has chaplaincies at ten universities in Kentucky, with a combined enrollment of more than 123,000 students; Wesley Foundations at seven public universities, and individual chaplains at the three Methodist colleges – Lindsay Wilson, Kentucky Wesleyan, and Union Commonwealth. This year’s Annual Conference celebrated Lindsay Wilson College becoming a university on July 1st. The Conference is experimenting with a new model at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, where an ordained Elder serves jointly as university chaplain, and associate pastor at First UMC.

Good Samaritan Ministries: Based on an endowment fund of \$20.75 million, during the past year, the ministry team, headed by Rev. Tom Grieb, awarded 35 Pool A Grants (averaging \$17,860 each) and 17 Pool B grants (averaging \$24,260 each), in total just over \$1 million. These small grants met needs for food in food pantries, medical and pharmaceutical equipment and supplies, and equipment for emergency responses in underserved areas all over the state; supplies for camps; training courses for pastors in specific topics; and training for development of leaders in university ministries, and throughout the conference.

Camps: The Conference staffs and maintains the Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center at Ravenna in Estill County not far from the Red River Gorge (which hosted 375 campers in the past year), and – not far from Mammoth Cave National Park – the Loucon Training and Retreat Center at Leitchfield in Grayson County (which hosted 5,000 campers in the past year).



United Women in Faith: Since 2022, United Methodist Women has been working under its new, more expansive name. It’s active in all districts of the Kentucky Conference, collecting supplies, equipment, and donations for UMCOR’s flood relief

in Eastern KY and Aldersgate Camp; donating to the United Methodist Children's Homes, the Argilite Community Service Center, the Mountain Mission, homeless shelters, prison ministry, food pantries, refugee ministries, and to missionaries in California and Thailand with connections to Kentucky; as well as caring for spiritual growth activities.

Advocacy Team: This team connects people across the Conference who are engaged in the work of advocacy and justice, providing training and resources for advocacy and justice ministries in local churches. It participates in the Kentucky Council of Churches and chairs their Justice and Advocacy Commission; speaks with Kentucky State senators and representatives on justice issues; and has been preparing education for local congregations and the Conference in the event of an ICE raid or attempt of law enforcement to infringe upon the rights of those worshiping and/or seeking sanctuary within buildings where ministries of the Conference are housed. One of the powerful moments



at the Conference was when Mizari Suarez of Neighbors Immigration Clinic in Lexington shared her story and challenged us to support immigrant families with both courage and

compassion. She stunned the gathering by saying she had been scared to drive to Owensboro from Lexington because she had to pass through a county whose police have agreed to work with ICE, and she was afraid she might have been stopped and arrested as many migrants have been, solely on the basis of their appearance as Hispanic people.



Annual Conference attendees from Pastor Darren's seat in his role as Conference secretary.

Children's Homes: Painfully, Kentucky has one of the highest rates of child abuse and neglect in the nation. During the past year, the children's homes (one in Owensboro, the other in Nicholasville near Lexington) made critical improvements in the lives of 1,974 children, youth, and their families, among them 375 in family preservation and prevention; 1,152 youth from 109 counties in the Home Monitoring Program; 24 families adopting children; and 295 youth in Independent Living, Caminos Shelter, and Caminos Home Study and Post Release services.

New Church starts: In 2025, the Conference celebrated the planting of three new congregations in the Conference's vibrant Hispanic connection, bringing the total to 11 Hispanic churches, with 27 new professions of faith and 75 baptisms. The New Church Development/Church Revitalization Team continues to support these, alongside seven other recent new starts and special focus church communities. The team is also making preparations to plant a new Korean church to greet the large contingent of South Korean workers anticipated to take up work at the massive BlueOval SK electric vehicle battery plant in Glendale, just a few miles south of Elizabethtown, when it starts production in 2025. This joint venture between the Ford Motor Company and SK On is the biggest economic development project in Kentucky's history, set to eventually employ 5,000 people.

Seminaries: The United Methodist Church supports eleven seminaries across the nation, with more than 4,000 students in theological training, many of whom will become pastors.

Budget and Apportionment formula: the above connectional ministries, and others not highlighted here, are supported by the United Methodist Churches in Kentucky, all of whom aspire to contribute a tithe of ten percent of their budgets to these ministries. The Conference adopted a budget for 2026 of \$4.48 million, up 4% from 2025.

St. Paul Day at Camp Loucon Saturday, October 18

Join your St. Paul family for a day of fun
and fellowship at Camp Loucon!

- Team building
- Folk dancing
- Supper
- S'mores around the campfire
- Whispering Falls hike
- Lake meditation
- Scavenger hunts for all ages
- Art, haiku, crafts
- Board games
- and more!

Registration fees:
\$20 per person or \$50 per family.

Scholarships available.

Contact Amy Johnson at spsgamy@gmail.com

Register at our website
or scan the code.



Vision Team Update

Recruiting College Students and Mentors for Barnabas Ministry

By Ann Jirkovsky

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11

The focus of College Student Ministry is to support our graduates and help them stay connected to St. Paul. One way that we can do this is through outreach, sending them encouraging notes and care packages. The Youth with Janet and Billy Sewell have been doing a great job with this.

St. Paul's Barnabas Ministry also provided this outreach in the past. When the Vision Team sought feedback on our goals, several people suggested that this program be re-started. We are seeking adult mentors and college students

who would like to participate beginning this fall. Barnabas mentors will be matched with college students who sign-up for the program. Mentors may support and encourage their students with prayers, notes, and care packages.

Barnabas Ministry forms will be available at the Information Center or on the St. Paul website if you are interested in participating as a mentor. Completed forms may be left at the Information Center or emailed to me at Ajirkovsky@bellarmine.edu. Please contact me if you have any questions.

College students, fill out this form to participate in the Barnabas Ministry!
<https://forms.gle/L1S1iNAKyhoSC3mW9>

Mobile Resource Center

at Fourth Ave UMC's
Open Door Community Ministry

Saturday, August 9

10:45am-12:45pm

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/

Good News! In July, we had a **record 30 volunteers**, including 10 new volunteers, who served over 70 guests. Everyone was blessed by the experience. With so many volunteers, we were able to bring back Prayer Support in the Chapel!



We hope you'll join us in the future for this very special opportunity for service and fellowship.

RESOURCE CENTER NEEDS

What do you need to get through the summer heat?

Our unsheltered neighbors need those things as well!

- **Men's Shoes** - Our biggest need, **always!** (esp. sizes 11-12)
- *Men's t-shirts, jeans, and shorts*
- *Women's summer clothes and bras*
- *Baseball/summer hats*
- *Sunscreen and insect repellent*
- *Water and Gatorade*
- *Ready-to-eat foods - canned ravioli, Vienna sausage, tuna or chicken salad kits, peanut butter crackers, etc.*

Many of these items can be found at Dollar Tree.

Our Amazon wish list can be found here: <https://a.co/hULmRMs>

We Want to Hear Your Story!

Tell us how you came to St. Paul.
What or who brought you here?

We'll get to know each other better, deepen our friendships, and really connect - AND have FUN doing it.

What was that first experience like? What happened that reached out and touched you and kept you coming back?

Instructions: Submit your story to us (The Resilience Team) and we'll have various

opportunities to share them - during Wesley Night when it kicks off this Fall, on the church website, in the Tower, or on a bulletin board.

To submit your story or for any questions or assistance, please contact:

Peggy Lutes - (502)649-7998,
peggy.lutes@gmail.com

Joanne Milo - (502)552-7291,
jmilo58@yahoo.com



We celebrate with Randy J. Bufford '81 who is being honored as the "Alum of the Year" by the University of Louisville.

The Wilson Wyatt Alumni Awards represent the highest distinction bestowed by Louisville Alumni, honoring outstanding graduates who exemplify the spirit and values of the university and their respective college or school. Recognition will happen during Homecoming Week.

August Hymn of the Month: *How Firm a Foundation*

The text of *How Firm a Foundation* first appeared in John Rippon's hymnal *A Selection of Hymns from the Best Authors* in 1787. The author of the text was only attributed to "K-." To this day the author of this great hymn is a mystery. So too with the tune FOUNDATION an anonymous American folk tune first paired with the text in 1832 in Joseph Funk's *Genuine Church Music* under the tune name PROTECTION. While the authorship of both text and tune of this hymn is a mystery why it has endured in church music is not.

The author of this text was obviously someone who knew their scriptures deeply. The text is full of the promises of God.

The first stanza references Matthew 7:24-25: "Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock." It reminds us that the promises of the Bible give us a firm foundation to build our lives upon.

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

The second stanza is taken directly from Isaiah 41:10 which says: "do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."

*"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

The third stanza again quotes from Isaiah, this time the first half of 43:2: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; ..." The second part of stanza three is based on 2 Cor. 1:3-4: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation,

who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.

*"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.*

Stanza 4 picks up the last part of Isaiah 43:2: "... when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

*"When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.*

Stanza 5 ties all these promises together with the supreme promise from Deuteronomy 31: 6,8 that God will never leave us: "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.... It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

*"The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."*

In these turbulent times, this hymn offers us the firm foundation of the certainty of God's presence in our lives and our world; as well as, the confidence that God's plans will not be thwarted by our circumstances. As we sing this hymn this month, may it bring all of us a new assurance in God and God's plans.

Listen here:

Choir: <https://youtu.be/MQk8Gik2RVw?si=sD8J5o8-98wNUCYZ>
Band: <https://youtu.be/gzXNvflSm6s?si=8ssW8h2RdJBSpGM2>

GET CONNECTED

Kaleidoscope Women's Group

Tuesday, August 5 at 5:00pm, Common Cup

The St. Paul Kaleidoscope group is composed of women with a variety of interests and a desire to serve God and our community. Our meetings have been educational, inspiring and have afforded us opportunities for service.

United Women in Faith

**Tuesday, August 12 (second Tuesdays)
10:00am, Room 113**

We will be discussing what practices grew/grow our faith and how we make meaning. Our activities include drawing a Tabernacle and making a ritual. Hope you will join us.

Women of the Word Bible Study

Wednesdays, 10:00am, Room 113

We are on hiatus in August but will resume in September.

Men's Group

**Every Other Monday, 7:00pm,
August 11 & 25, 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.

Faith Quilters

**Tuesday, August 19 (third Tuesdays)
10:00am-2:00pm | Room 100**
(quilting from home also welcome)

Faith Quilters gather for fellowship and work 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.

Prayer Beading Group

Sunday, August 10, Noon, 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.

Making prayer beads is a fun and prayerful way to join in fellowship with others, while creating a compassionate gift for someone in need of support.

No experience necessary! Join us every second Sunday in the Common Cup.

SPAMS

High Tea Luncheon

August 14 at Noon, McAdams Social Hall

Feel like royalty at our August 14 SPAMS event!

A high tea luncheon of finger sandwiches, treats, and tea will be served.

Cost is \$10.00.

Come one, come all!



ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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THE TOWER

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Back to School Bash
is coming!**

August 10, 5-8pm

Details on page 5.

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