

The Mountain Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL - JUNE 2025



From the Pastor's Desk
Pastor Jim Martin



Jesus in preparing his disciples for his departure and his subsequent death on the cross, offered words of comfort and reassurance framed in promise and hope.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going . . . I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live . . . I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my

peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid” (John 14:1-4, 18-19, 25-27).

Yet, there appears to be so little peace in our world today. No matter where we look, we stumble over conflict: among nations, among our leaders, among our neighbors, even within the church. It is unsettling to exist in such atmosphere that is not peace – filled. More than unsettling, it is downright unhealthy: physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Howard Thurman in his book “Mediations of the Heart” offers the following reflection and prayer.

I Seek Room for Peace.

I SEEK the enlargement of my heart that there may be room for Peace.

Already there is room enough for chaos. There is in every day’s experience much that makes for confusion and bewilderment. Often I do not understand quite how my relations with others become frayed and chaotic. Sometimes this chaos is a positive thing; it means that something new, creative and whole is beginning to pull together the tattered fragments of my relationship with a person and to fashion it into that which delights the spirit and makes glad the heart. Sometimes the chaos is negative, a sign of degeneration in a relationship once meaningful and good. There is room enough for chaos.

But the need of my heart is for room for Peace: Peace of mind that inspires singleness of purpose; Peace of heart that quiets all fears and uproots all panic; Peace of spirit that filters through all confusions and robs them of their power. These I see NOW. I know that here in this quietness my life can be infused with Peace.

Therefore, before God, I seek the enlargement of my heart at this moment, that there may be room for Peace.

Jesus offers us his Peace just as he offered it to his disciples. Even so, I confess that I struggle with holding Peace in my heart. As I prepare to observe a “good” Lent in preparation for Easter (preparing to prepare), I am determined to make Thurman’s prayer mine and seek the enlargement of my heart: *God of mercy and grace, enlarge my heart that there may be room for Peace.* How about you?

In Christ,

Pastor Jim

PENNIES FOR MISSION

April: CELEBRATION OF MISSION EVENT

Pennies for Mission for the month of April is designated for the Celebration of Mission Event. The annual Celebration of Mission Event supports our Conference Mission Ministries, which include our seven Conference mission's projects, the Church and Community Ministries, the New Vision Depot, and Volunteers in Mission. Through our gifts we celebrate the ONE who calls us to mission. Our Conference Mission Ministries are dependent upon the cash funds from the Celebration of Mission Event and readily express their gratitude for the support given them. On behalf of the Conference Mission Ministries, thank you for your continued prayers, gifts, and involvement in these vital ministries.



MAY: Camp Agape



The Pennies for Mission for the month of May is for Camp Agape. Camp Agape is a day camp where you will have the opportunity to discover the world that God created. You can find God's AGAPE love in nature, crafts, singing, worship, Bible study, making new friends, and sharing with new and old friends. They are celebrating its 46th year during 2025. The camp is traditionally held during the last week of July. Camp Agape is for campers 4-18 years of age. (Pre-K through 12th grade). Children under 4 are welcome if accompanied

by an adult. This camp is free of charge because it is sponsored by local churches. A free-will offering is taken each day. A charity project is also selected each year for the campers/staff to participate in. During the past several years, the camp has also acted as a temporary feeding site for the Garrett County Public Schools summer nutrition program. All campers 18 and under are provided a free meal at lunch time each day. Volunteers are always welcome to help in any capacity from teaching, assisting, special lessons, or just to be an extra pair of hands to help.

JUNE: SOUL FOOD

Soul Food is an outreach ministry that provides a meal to members and friends of St. Paul's who are shut-in. Most recipients are senior citizens who are part of the Community Action Senior Nutrition Program. Soul Food is usually held the third Tuesday of each month. Members of the church prepare the meal at St. Paul's during the day and volunteers deliver the dinners to the shut-ins. Your gift will help us to purchase the supplies for the meals. It costs approximately \$200 per month to sustain this ministry.





United
Women
in Faith

The United Women in Faith would like to thank everyone that has volunteered their time, food, and help to make the 2025 Lenten Lunches a success.

UWiF 2025 - Meetings are usually the second Wednesday of the month at 11am in the church library. **April 9th, May 14th, and June 11th** will be the meeting dates for the 2nd quarter..

Please join in continuing our support of children, youth and women in the Potomac Highlands district. May 2025 hold many blessings for each of you

Source Collaborative Team News

St. Paul's UMC's Source Collaborative Team has partnered with the Garrett County Lighthouse Inc., the Garrett County Health Department and Archway Station, Inc. of Allegany County to host the 2nd Annual Color Run/Walk on Saturday, May 17th from 1 – 4 p.m. at the Glades Park Pavilion on 10 Spruce Lane, in Oakland. May is Mental Health Month for Adults and Children. Children and Youth and their families from Garrett and Allegany County will be attending. It will be extraordinary afternoon of Bouncy Houses, Face Painting, great food, raffles and a Color Run/Walk at the Glades Park Loop. St. Paul's has been instrumental in making this event happen with volunteers and Wesleyan/Lily Foundation monetary support. St. Paul's will be hosting its own table and we are looking for 2-3 volunteers to meet and greet families as they walk by us. Volunteers are also needed to support other activities that afternoon. Please stop by the Color Run/Walk Table at the Health Fair on April 5th from 9 a.m. – noon at the Garrett County Community Recreation Center (CARC) that day. You will see your Source Collaborative Team working hard and volunteering at the Color Walk/Run table. NOTE: Green is the color for Mental Health so we hope you will wear green on May 17th. Please contact Melissa Rank at (301) 387-2630 with questions or to volunteer.



Fundraising Meeting with Girl Scouts of America Troop 55004

All parishioners are warmly welcomed to attend a meeting with the Girl Scouts at St. Paul's UMC on Sunday, April 13th at 2 p.m. All Scout Leaders, parents and children will be in attendance. The goals of the meeting are to generate ideas for fundraising opportunities for St. Paul's and help the scouts earn merit badges and community service hours. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall and the discussion will begin at 2 p.m. It is anticipated to last about 20-minutes. Contact Melissa Rank with questions at (301) 387-2630.

EASTER LILIES



At Easter, we decorate the altar with Easter Lilies in celebration of resurrection life! If you would like to place a lily in memory, honor, or celebration of someone or an event, please fill out the form below and return to the office no later than April 7, 2025. Flowers may be ordered through the church office, or if you prefer, you may purchase and place them yourself on Friday, April 11, 2025. The flowers purchased through the church office are \$13.00 each.

_____ In Memory of: _____ In Honor of: _____ In Celebration of:

_____ [person(s) or event(s)]

By: _____

_____ I would like the church office to order my lily and have included payment of \$13.00 per plant.

_____ I will purchase and place my own lily and have it at the church by 12:00 pm on Friday, April 11, 2025.



Our service is broadcast every Sunday at 10:45 AM on WMSG 1050 AM and WKTZ 95.9 FM. Because of your generous giving, we are able to be in the homes of many in the community who are not able to attend a weekly church service. We are currently scheduling sponsorship opportunities for the 2025. If you underwrite a full broadcast for \$110, you may place it in honor or in memory of a special person in your life; however, your gift in any amount is appreciated. If you feel led to support this ministry, please contact the Church office at 301.334.2391 or stpaulsumcoakland@gmail.com.

Bible Study

There will be bible study sessions, via Zoom, scheduled on Thursdays, 11:00-12:00. The class will be held via Zoom. You will be notified when and if the classes are changed to in person studies.

Topic: St. Paul's Bible Study

Time: 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Thu, until Feb 27, 2025, 8 occurrence(s)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84099657807?pwd=2oZDuc7e3Ns8CGleia3PsMaXEks9sE.1>

Meeting ID: 840 9965 7807

Passcode: 858691

All are welcome to join!

Giving to St. Paul's UMC

Ways to give whether you are worshiping with us in person or via streaming on Facebook Live:

By placing your offering in the plate as it is passed during service worship.

By going online to www.stpaulsumcoakland.com, clicking on “donations” which will take you to online giving which allows you to give through pay pal or tithe.ly.

By sending a check or bringing you're offering into the church office during the week.
Address for St. Paul's: 318 East Oak Street, Oakland, MD 21550.

By Scanning this QR code:



Worship Schedule for Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY: Sunday, April 13
8:15 am and 10:45 am – Worship Services with the Waving of the Palms

MAUNDY THURSDAY: Thursday, April 17
7:00 pm –Worship Service with Holy Communion and Washing

GOOD FRIDAY: Friday, April 18
12:00 noon – Worship Service with the Mountaintop Ministerial Association
(Hosted by St. Paul's)

EASTER SUNDAY: Sunday, April 20
9:30 am – Celebration Worship Services with Holy Communion



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Sent with prayer to: