

St. Paul's Newsletter April 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I am sure that this Lent has seemed different for you this year, it definitely has for me. When we entered into this time of Lent, I challenged our church to pray for radical changes to happen in our church. One of you messaged me and said that we should be careful what we pray for! That made me laugh and I was grateful for the laughter.

There have indeed been radical changes in our church, just not the kind of radical change that we have prayed for. We are in a period of limited contact with each other and limited movement and interaction with our community. For me, this period of limitation has really deepened the meaning of lent for me. It feels like so much has been removed from my life and there are many moments that I feel that I am in the wilderness, but then I recall how truly blessed I am and I take a look around my "wilderness" and I count myself as bountifully blessed (even during this difficult time).

The most difficult part of this period of distance has been my limited ability to gather with my church family. I count it as a joy to gather together each week and to worship our God and to connect with each other. I am waiting with feeling of great expectancy for the day that we will again join together in our beautiful sanctuary and will worship our God and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Prayer Focus: Please continue to pray for God to move within the church. This is a moment in history that is unlike any other that we have ever seen. People are searching for a source of comfort and peace in turbulent times and God is moving in ways that we cannot even understand. I have read of great conversions of non-believers and the heavens rejoice with every sinner who seeks the grace of God! Please pray for anyone in leadership and pray that God will guide them in their leadership and decision making. Please pray for all

front-line responders, those in healthcare and working in essential industry. Please pray for all who have been affected in any way by the COVID-19 virus, whether it be physically, emotionally, financially or mentally. Please pray for the church that we can retain our identity and live out the call that God has placed on our lives and that continue to offer life giving ministry in our communities.

Seeking His wisdom in all things,
Pastor Charlene

A large, elegant, handwritten-style phrase in gold ink that reads "Christ is Risen!". The text is written in a cursive, calligraphic font. The word "Christ" is on the top line, "is" is in the middle, and "Risen!" is on the bottom line. The exclamation point is prominent. The background is a light, textured yellow.



Easter flowers

It is not believed that we will be back in worship together for Easter Sunday. We WILL STILL Celebrate Resurrection Sunday together in worship. We are an Easter people and every day we should celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We can celebrate Resurrection Sunday when we are able to join together in worship. Obviously, we will not order Easter flowers as planned. HOWEVER, we would still love to have fresh, live flowers for our Resurrection Sunday worship. If you would like us to keep your Easter flower money and put that money toward the purchase of fresh flowers, you don't need to do anything. We will just take the funds that we have and purchase fresh, live flowers for the sanctuary. If you would like to donate money towards fresh flowers, please just send a note in with your donation. I would love to see our church altar space covered with flowers for this celebration.

If you ordered Easter Flowers for Easter Sunday this year and you would rather have your money returned to you, please contact the church office and arrangements will be made.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH BUNCH
Tuesday, April 28th 12:00
at Fat Head's in Republic

Please RSVP to Diana Patterson
if you plan to attend 419-992-1028
(this is subject to change due to the current state
of our nation/community)

*Thank
you*

During this very difficult time, thank you to all who have sent in their tithes/offerings in March. As you would expect, the money is slowly coming in. The church received some special year end gifts in January, which will be used to offset the expected \$4,000+ shortfall in the immediate future. We have a new giver using the least costly method of giving – their bank's bill paying feature: no fees, no check cost, no postage, the bank handles sending it to the church. Thank you again for your faithfulness.

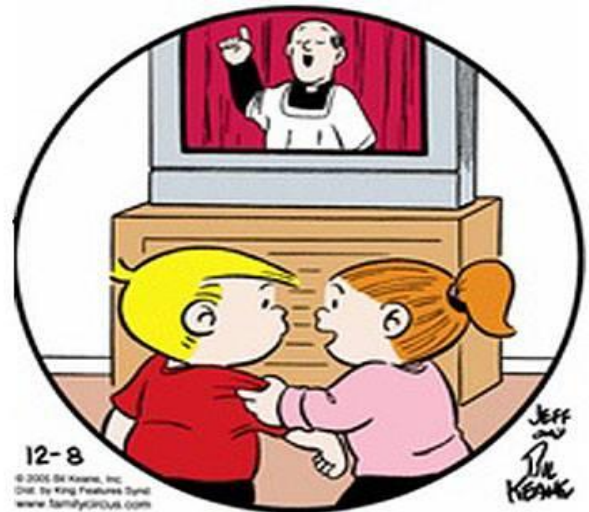
- *Richard Kinstler, Treasurer*



E-GIVING IN 3 EASY STEPS

1. Download the Give Plus app on the app store (available for Apple and Android)
2. Search for “Tiffin St. Paul’s United Methodist Church” and select our church.
3. Tap “Give Now” and enter your information.

You can also give online by going to our website (www.tiffinstpauls.org) and clicking on the “E-Giving” link.



“Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life.”



Movie “at home” Night

Our church had planned on having a movie night on April 4th Well, we can still do this!!!

Because we can’t gather together at this time let’s gather in spirit and have a collective “at-home” movie night. A suggested movie is “Saving Mr. Banks” which is another great Tom Hanks movie about Walt Disney and the story behind the Mary Poppins movie.

Movie “at home” Night - Saturday, April 4th at 7:00 pm - post pics of your family movie night on our Tiffin St. Paul’s UMC Facebook page!
See you “at the movies”!!!



If your son or daughter is in Third Grade or older and would like to serve as Acolyte, please contact Jill Lindhorst at (419) 443-0273. Please consider helping us!!



Third Sunday Ingathering Offering: Due to the fact that we did not gather for worship on March 15th which would have been the Third Sunday Ingathering, if you have an offering to donate, you are encouraged to send your donations directly to First Call for Help until further notice. The next Third Sunday Ingathering Offering will be Sunday, April 26th.

UMCOR Sunday Offering was on March 22nd, since we did not gather for worship, if you have an offering to provide please do so and it will be forwarded to UMCOR at a later date.

Thank you to St. Paul’s congregation for faithfully supporting our many Missions projects throughout the year and through this time of change in our nation/community!

--- Kathy Daniel for Missions Committee

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who submitted a form with your current contact information for the church directory to be updated. If you have not submitted a form yet but wish to be included in the church directory, you can still do so. Please email your information to secretary@tiffinstpauls.org by Tuesday, April 21st.

- *Joyce Randell, Secretary*



Confirmation Sunday was scheduled to be celebrated following Easter. Because I am not sure when we will return to in-person worship, we will be postponing Confirmation Sunday until we have further guidance. Stay tuned, the Celebration will be coming.

2020 Confirmands:

Ryann Arnold Charlie Garcia
Ryan Brown AJ Lindhorst
Wyatt Crow

VIRTUAL WORSHIP

Because we have been unable to gather in person for worship, we have been “gathering” online.

Pastor Charlene has been streaming our worship services on Facebook and has also been e-mailing links to the worship service to everyone on our e-mail list.

If you have not been receiving our worship e-mail (which includes a virtual worship bulletin and a link to our worship service) please contact the church office at (419) 447-1743 or contact Pastor Charlene directly at 567-207-0553.

If you do not have the technology which allows you view our online worship, we have been sending out worship packets by mail. These packets include a paper copy of Pastor Charlene’s weekly sermon and a copy of our virtual worship bulletin, which includes the order of service and our prayer concerns and praises. If you would like a paper copy of our worship items, please contact the numbers above.



YOUTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020

As of the date of this newsletter, Youth Annual Conference is still scheduled to happen in June. We will keep you informed, as we are informed, if any changes were to be made.

Friday, June 12 – Sunday, June 14th, 2020
Lakeside Ohio

he is
RISEN



matthew 28:6

ST. PAUL'S UMC MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

St. Paul's Youth Fellowship: Youth Fellowship is looking for some fresh ministry opportunities with our youth. Matt and Tevin Drosky have met with Rob Ochier (who has successfully led youth worship for many years and are planning on stepping down after Youth Annual Conference this year) and are planning for opportunities for our youth fellowship group next year.

A Facebook Group has been set up for our St. Paul's Youth Ministry. If you haven't joined this group yet, please do so (all you have to do is search for "Tiffin St. Paul's Youth Ministry" on Facebook and ask to join the group. You need to be approved to join the group so that we can control who is in the group. Once you are approved, you can post in the group and interact with friends!) Watch this Facebook group for things that you can do at home during this time of distancing and for youth ministry happenings in the future.

Worship at Home Boxes: Pastor Charlene delivered worship at home boxes to our families (with kids at home). These boxes included worship plans for the next four weeks (including prayer time activities, hands on activities and scripture and worship activities for the last few weeks of lent), fun bible-based activities, post cards to be mailed to other folks in the church, markers, and other fun treats. There are some pics of some of our worship at home resources below.

Small Groups: We are looking at ways to connect with each other during this period of distance. One way is through Zoom conferencing, which uses your computer camera and microphone and is like a virtual meeting. The other is a Facebook group chat, which is done through Facebook messenger. If you have any ideas on how we could virtually gather, please let Pastor Charlene know.

Important 2020 Dates in the United Methodist Church (East Ohio, Jurisdiction & General Conference)

- May 4-15: Quadrennial General Conference --- **POSTPONED UNTIL 2021**
- June 12-14: East Ohio Youth Annual Conference – Lakeside, Ohio --- **STILL SCHEDULED**
- June 15-19: East Ohio Annual Conference – Lakeside, Ohio --- **STILL SCHEDULED**
- July 15-18: North Central Jurisdictional Conference - Fort Wayne --- **STILL SCHEDULED**

FOR
GOD
so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that
whoever
believeth in
Him should
not perish,
but have
everlasting
life.
JOHN 3:16