

St. Paul's News April 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Happy Spring! What a joy it is to be able to see the sun, have the windows open and to smell the spring breeze. I welcome the change in seasons, especially the change from winter into spring. I value all of the seasons, but I always welcome longer days and warmer weather. I am grateful that God's word reminds us of the perfect timing the seasons.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

- 3** For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
- 2** a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
 - 3** a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
 - 4** a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
 - 5** a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
 - 6** a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
 - 7** a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
 - 8** a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

In times of joy, I rely on this scripture to remind me to embrace each and every moment of that joy. In times of struggle, I cling to these words to remind me that these circumstances will not last forever, that there is a time for everything and that times of frustration will come to an end.

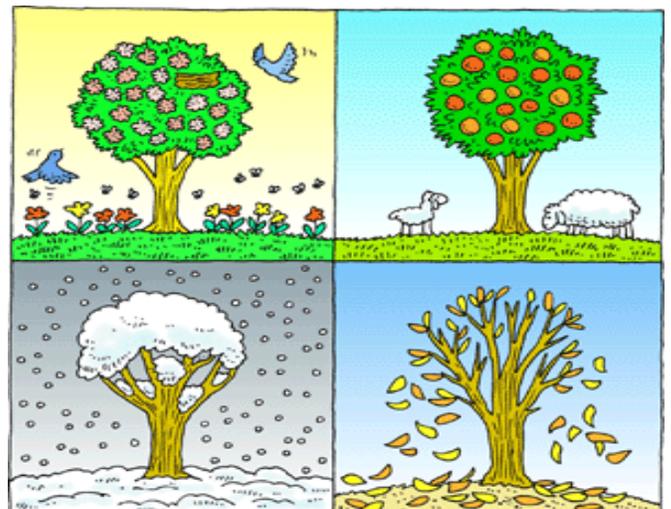
Most of all, this scripture reminds me that God's world is not static; God's world is ever-changing. We may appreciate some of the changes that we

see, and other changes may not bring us joy. But, if we lean forward in faith that God can make good come of all things for those who believe, we can embrace all of the times of our lives (even the most difficult ones).

I am grateful for each season that I have experienced since I came to St. Paul's in July of 2018. We have had seasons of great joy and seasons of frustration. But through it all, we have remained true to the missional call that Jesus placed on all of us. We have kept the main thing the main thing! Through the season of COVID-19, we have been invited by God to re-imagine what church can look like. I praise God each and every Sunday when I looked out at your (masked) faces and I still see your smiles and I hear your words of encouragement to me and to one another. I am so grateful when I see you being "the church" and not just attending church. You have rolled with the punches and I could not be prouder of this congregation! You have taken on the challenge of re-imagining church and I believe that St. Paul's is stronger for it.

God bless you and keep you in all of your seasons,

~ Pastor Charlene



MISSIONS

Greetings from the Missions Committee,

The Third Sunday Ingathering for March collected \$75 to be sent to First Call for Help. They have sent us two "Thank You" notes in the past two months, so I am sure any assistance we give is much appreciated.

We have been notified of our allotment for the 2021 year of the LeeAnne Wolff Mission Funds. Our committee will meet after church on April 11 to vote on which local charities to support with these funds for the first half of 2021. A tentative agenda will be sent to all of our members ahead of time in order to get feedback from members who are unable to attend in person. We miss them and value their opinions.

The Special Easter Offering Envelopes will collect money to be sent to Flat Rock Homes. Flat Rock provides care for intellectually/developmentally disabled individuals. They have an Intermediate Care Facility, ten Group Homes, and Adult Day Support Services. This is a local mission in which our church participates.

On the last Sunday in April there will be an envelope for Native American Sunday offering. This is a mission of the United Methodist Church.

Thank you, Church, for your support of our missions. We have received thank you's from several of the groups receiving our support. We have limited space to post these so I will post them in a picture frame located on the table with the masks by the sanctuary steps. Again, thank you from the Missions committee.

~ *Denise Lawson, Chairperson Missions Committee*



January birthday celebrations:

Barb Stallings 4-16

If you are over 80 years old and would like your birthday listed so we can celebrate you, please let the church secretary know. Thank you!



April 2nd – Good Friday

We will be hosting a combined Tenebrae Service (Service of Darkness). We will join with the congregations from Republic Trinity UMC and Melmore UMC. Join us as we remember the sacrifice that Christ made for us. All are welcome to attend this touching service at 7:00 p.m.

April 4th – Easter Sunday

10:15 a.m. – Easter Service





Saturday, April 3 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Thank You

Thank you to all who donated candy and money to buy candy for the Easter Egg Hunt! Your support of this event is greatly appreciated! The Youth Fellowship were able to stuff **525 eggs** for the egg hunt and make up small goody bags. It is going to be a fun, busy morning! Thanks to all for helping make this event possible for the kids!

~ *Melody Woessner, Children's Church Coordinator*



The Youth Fellowship will be going on a road trip April 4th to Berlin Resorts in Millersburg, Ohio. There are 11 youth that will be attending, with Heidi, Pastor Charlene and myself accompanying them. We will send pictures after we go.

The Youth Fellowship will be helping to get the Easter eggs ready and hiding eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 3rd.

On February 21st, the youth learned First Aid, CPR and AED at youth group. In attendance were Sophia, Emma, Dominic, Braden, Enola, Bailey, Gavin, Hezekiah, and Elijah. Here a few pictures.

~ *Tevin Drosky, Youth Fellowship leader*

