

# *St. Paul's News* February 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As I write these words, we have just begun a new sermon series, entitled "The Discipleship Five". We are renewing our commitment to live as disciples of Christ, to live out our lives reflecting the life of Jesus. That is a tall order! That is why we re-visit the topic of discipleship regularly, as Jesus set a high bar for us to strive toward.

The Discipleship Five addresses ways in which we worship, grow through study, serve, give, and share. We are called to worship God, to study God's word, to serve God's people, to give to God's missions and to share how God has changed our lives.

We have asked ourselves how we would evaluate our Christian Discipleship through the lens of Luke 9:23 where Jesus tells us that His followers must deny themselves, take up their cross daily and follow Him.

Lent is the perfect time for us to re-center ourselves on Christ and His earthly life and death and His glorious resurrection. Lent gives us an opportunity to turn back toward the story of the cross and the sacrifice that was made for our lives.

I encourage you to be intentional about your practice of our Discipleship Five this lent.

**Worship:** Be more intentional about attending or watching the online offerings of our worship service. Be mindful when you are in worship. Focus on responding to God.

**Grow:** Study God's word during lent. There is an emphasis on five in our study of the Discipleship Five. Choose a book of the bible and begin reading five verses per day or listen to five minutes of bible reading through an app. There are many options for accessing God's word.

**Serve:** Look for ways that you can serve God's people during lent. Opportunities are everywhere, you just need to be looking.

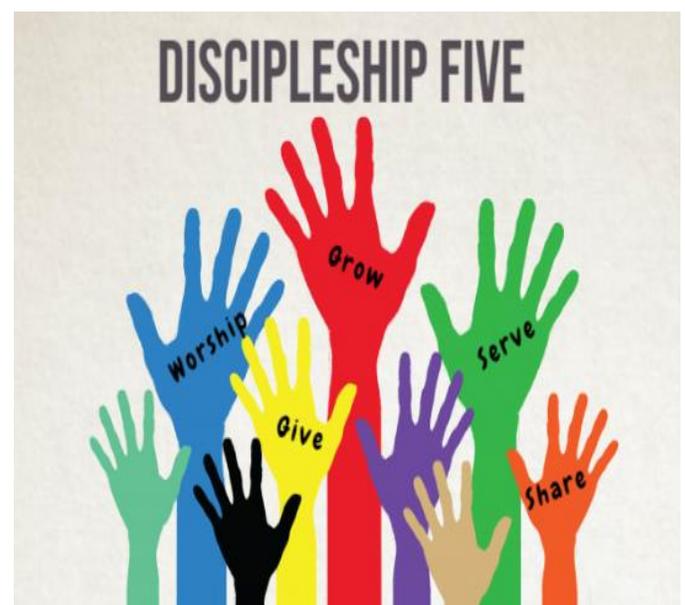
**Give:** Be intentional about giving. Give to your local church. Live out that membership vow. Give to local charity. Support a cause.

**Share:** Talk to someone about how God has impacted your life. These conversations do not have to be difficult. Make a brief mention of how you turned to God on a bad day. Share how God has spoken to you this year. Share your star word! (Mine is anchor, by the way).

Remember, discipleship is a marathon and not a sprint. This journey that we are on is shown through us faithfully taking one step after another.

In all things we seek His holy wisdom.

~ *Pastor Charlene*





Greetings from the Missions Team.

Mission work at St. Paul's continue into 2021. The Third Sunday Ingathering (yellow buckets) for January collect was \$35. This money is sent to First Call For Help (FCFH) and is used to assist Seneca County residents in times of need. Some of the types of assistance given are help with medical equipment or medical bills, emergency housing, rental assistance, and utility assistance. This program is meant to bridge a gap to other programs. FCH refers to other agencies according to the need, such as Salvation Army, Job and Family Services/PRC, National Machinery Foundation, HEAP/PIPP (Heat Energy Assistance Program/Percentage of Income Payment Plan), and Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (formerly WSOS). The FCFH also provides school supplies for needy children and has a Christmas for Teens program (we contribute to this in a separate mission endeavor). The Third Sunday Ingathering for February will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday due to conflict with another mission.

In February St. Paul's participates in the Church World Service (CWS) Blankets and Kits program. This money is collected on the Third Sunday of February. An Impact Report for 2019 showed that this money supported the provision of 59,173 blankets, 19,923 hygiene kits, 9,143 emergency clean-up buckets, and 7,800 school kits. These were distributed internationally in Syria, Greece, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic.

St. Paul's is a small cog in a very big wheel. We are proud to be doing our part, thank you Church.

*~ Denise Lawson for the Missions Committee*



**February 7<sup>th</sup>: Enola & Ariana Ramirez**  
**February 14<sup>th</sup>: Hezekiah & Elijah Ramirez**  
**February 21<sup>st</sup>: Courtney McGinnis & Braden Drosky**  
**February 28<sup>th</sup>: Enola & Ariana Ramirez**

**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.**



Until pandemic conditions are safer for everyone to enjoy indoor dining, Lunch Bunch will be put on hold. This will be reviewed in May or June.



If you would like to help with Children's Church on a rotation basis, please contact Melody Woessner. Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who sold and purchased wreaths for the Youth Fellowship Fundraiser during the Christmas season. The profit from the wreath sale was \$1,000. YAY!!!! This is wonderful display of supporting/encouraging our youth. At this point, we are looking at starting Youth Fellowship back up at the end of February, with meeting at the church. Thank you again to everyone who has and is supporting our youth.

*~ Tevin Drosky, Youth Fellowship leader*

## Confirmation 2021

I am excited to announce that we will begin a confirmation class in February. Confirmation is the time when a baptized Christian publicly confirms their intention to live out the vows of the baptismal and membership covenant of the United Methodist Church. Confirmation also enables individuals to become a professing member of the local congregation of the United Methodist Church.

We currently have seven young people who have expressed an interest in participating in our confirmation class. Because of current coronavirus restrictions, our instruction will look a little different. Classes will be a combination of online and in person gatherings. While we are in person, we will adhere to all safety guidelines (masking, social distance, and sanitization).

Confirmation classes will begin on February 21<sup>st</sup> (time to be determined). If you are interested in having your young person (sixth grade and older) participate in our confirmation class, please contact Pastor Charlene.



## ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP



Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Our Ash Wednesday worship will look a little different this year, as we continue to work within the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

Our sanctuary will be open from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. I will be present during these hours. We will have prayer stations available for self-paced use and, at the final station, you will be encouraged to self-impose ashes as we remember that we came from dust and to dust we shall return. I encourage you to stop by the church during the hours of 5 and 7 and participate in this holy day, the beginning of our Lenten season.

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”**

**~ John 3:16**