Celebrate St. Paul's !

138 years of service

133 Church St. P.O. Box 177 Bowmansville, Pa. 17507 717-445-6256
www.stpaulsuccchurch.org Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Volume 20, Number 4
April 2024

What's Inside?

Pancakes @ Paul's

The Joy of Jesus

Project Update

Ways to Serve

Food Pantry Needs

"LIGHT OF THE SON"

On April 8th of this year, in the state of Pennsylvania (and elsewhere), "Darkness will come over the whole land at about three in the afternoon" (paraphrasing Mark 15:33).

On that date and time, the Northwest corner of our state will be in the direct line of a total eclipse of the sun….for the first time (in PA) since 1806! And it won't happen again in our state until 2079…..mark your calendars.

(incidentally, for those of us in Bowmansville, we'll experience about a 90% eclipse).

For this particular solar eclipse, at the right location, the moon will completely cover the sun for almost 4 minutes (the full process will begin at about 2PM and end at about 4:30).

A total eclipse of the sun is considered by many to be one of the most awesome displays in all of nature.

And for us, it can also be a reminder of God's power, and his particular attention given to his creation that is life on earth. The very first words that we hear God saying in the bible are "let there be light!". And then he created the two great lights, the sun and the moon, to "govern the day and the night".

And the story of the bible, the story of Easter, and the message from God himself to all of us-----is that light has come in to this world….for us!!.....and that darkness can not overcome it.

Have a wonderful, warm, sunny Spring!

Phil

"I have come in to the world as a light so that no one who believes in me should stay in the darkness". John 12:46

Mission Statement

We, the congregation of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, who have accepted the gift of love and salvation through Jesus Christ, strive to take this message into the world through our prayers, words and deeds. We invite all people to accept these gifts with us.

TELL A FRIEND ABOUT ST PAUL'S!

"Pancakes at Paul's"

FREE Community Breakfast at St. Paul's UCC Church

April 1st

1st Monday of every month 6-9am

Pancakes Sausage Coffee Juice
(featuring the world's best sausage)

St. Paul's UCC Fellowship Hall
133 Church Street
Bowmansville, Pa. 17507
For more info call 717-445-6256

The Joy of Jesus

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

-Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*

Looking Ahead

April 1	Pancakes @ Paul's
April 14	Consistory Meeting
April 18	Fill Food Bank Orders
May 6	Pancakes @ Paul's
May 9	Ascension Day
May 12	Mother's Day
May 19	Pentecost Sunday
	Communion
	Strengthen the Church offering
May 26	Trinity Sunday
May 27	Memorial Day

Consistory News

The next **"Pancakes at Paul's"** will be on Monday, April 1st between 6 and 9am. Stop in for some great pancakes and the worlds best sausage.

Our breakfast in February was well attended and we collected $271.00 in donations.

Our next consistory meeting is scheduled for April 14th, immediately following worship.

Our new **mini split** has been installed in the café area of the church. This unit will keep the offices downstairs and the café area warm in the winter and provide air conditioning in the summer months. We were able to pay for the unit using our bingo funds, proceeds from the Christmas craft show, and donations from the congregation. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this happen.

The **lights in the nursery** needed to be replaced. Thank you to Steve Renninger for taking care of this for us. If you haven't had a chance to take a look, please stop by and pop your head in, they look great!

If anyone would like to volunteer to be a part of one of our service groups, please see Gerri Shober or Dee Sprecher. We have a variety to choose from as listed below:

Lay Leader	Altar Guild
Choir	Religious Ed teacher
Meal prep	Meal coordinator
Food bank	Quilt ministry
Visitations	

If you see something of interest, please ask. We would love to have you.

Prayer Concerns: We will be updating our prayer list monthly by starting a new list at the beginning of every month. Please continue to review the list and if there are any updates during the month please contact Phil Shober or Dee Sprecher. We also have prayer request cards located in the parlor room and in the pews upstairs for your convenience. You can fill out the request and turn it in to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

As you continue your own prayers and concerns outside of the sanctuary this week, please remember the concerns we have raised as a community.

Our list of prayer concerns from February

Alexandra, Ann, Jackson, Jean, Julie, Kate, Laura-Jeanne, Michele, Mary, Penny, Pete, Sarah, Sue, Tony, the Hoffert family, the people affected by the fires in Texas and Oklahoma, the people in Gaza and the airmen dropping supplies there, the people in Moscow, and for everyone affected by the incident in Lancaster.

Suggested Prayer… "Most gracious and loving God, we lift up our list of prayer concerns this day and every day that all who are listed might know and feel your presence with them in their time of need. God, continue in your support for all of our friends and family listed and those who are forever in our hearts so that they might feel you with them each day, Amen."

If you would like to ask for prayers for someone please contact Kieran Connelly. Below is a list of the individuals on our Prayer Team that will pray for you throughout the week.

Kieran Connelly	717-471-5018
Lynda Cooper	
Gretchen Martin	Jane Hoshour
Gerri Shober	Nancy Caffrey-Schafer
Steve Renninger	Chris Storms
Phil Shober	Donna Ozga

Caring for Our Members

Please remember our members and friends in your prayers. Many in retirement villages and their homes are unable to attend church due to the pandemic and other health concerns.

Mary Tamerius
Faithful Living
2015 N. Reading
Road Room 156
Denver, Pa. 17517

Alta Hoshour
Ephrata Manor
99 Bethany Rd
Room# 123A
Ephrata, Pa 17522
717-209-0509

Betty Musser
566 Springville Rd
Apt 106
New Holland, Pa. 17557

Pastoral Visits or Emergencies

If anyone is in need of pastoral assistance please contact Phil Shober anytime via text or call at 610-780-3915 or email philipshober@gmail.com. You can also call the church office at 717-445-6256 or email the church secretary at dee@stpaulsuccchurch.org.

The People's Pantry

It will be our turn to fill the orders at the food bank in Terre Hill on Thursday, April 18th. If you can help please see Nancy Connelly.

Below is a list of the current needs requested for the food bank in Terre Hill.

Pasta Sauce
Canned Soup

Below is a list of everyday needs the Grace House ladies could use.

Toilet paper
Tissues
Paper towels

Updated Needs

Any donations can be placed on the table in the parlor room.

Thank you for your continued support.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

April

7	Katlyn Minier
10	Karter Richardson
14	Nancy Caffrey-Schafer
	Todd Cooper
18	Jeffrey Renninger
26	Tim Lutz

Anniversaries

Nick & Nancy Schafer - 26 years on April 4

Bible Quiz

What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
B. "Peace be with you."
C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
D. "I am risen!"

Answer: B (See John 20:19-21)

Treasurer's Report

The monthly report for February 2024

Checking & MM Accounts

Beginning Balance	$91,161.04
+ Receipts	14 ,478.97
- Disbursements	10,835.71
Ending Balance	$94,804.30

A copy of this information can also be found at the mailboxes in the slot marked financial reports.

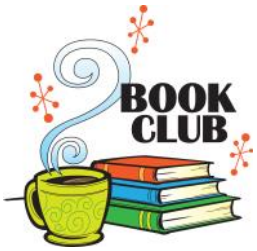
February's offering only total was $7,672.00.

Online Worship: We are holding worship services in person and streaming LIVE on YouTube.

If you would like to watch our service live on YouTube please click on the link below.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMUzTE3jCqaDyG2WlUzaX9w/live

Literary Ladies Bookclub



St. Paul's Ladies Literary Bookclub meets the last Monday of each month.

The meeting is held on zoom and begins at 6:30 PM.

If you're interested in joining contact Gerri at 717-575-1720.

Bible Study Update

The ladies recently began a new study, *The Sermon on The Mount.*

Each session involves watching a video clip , group discussion and studying Bible passages and references. Please make sure to bring your Bible.

The ladies will be meeting in the Cafe area.
The next study is Wednesday, April 10th from 6:30-7:30.

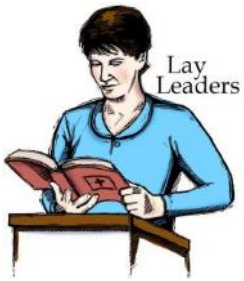
At the same time the men also started their new series titled *"The Twelve Disciples"*. They are meeting in the fellowship hall area.

Anyone is welcome. If interested or you have any questions please see Gerri or Phil Shober.

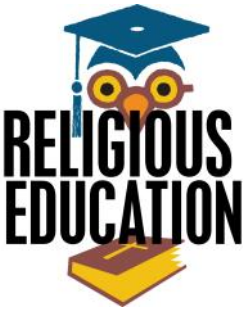
Monthly Volunteers

April 7	Mary Renninger
April 14	Dee Sprecher
April 21	Cheryl Borja
April 28	Sara Renninger
May 5	Gerri Shober
May 12	Judy Enck
May 19	Mary Renninger **
May 26	Dee Sprecher

** Indicates communion



April 7	Grace House Blessings
April 14	Charlie Storms
April 21	Tim Lutz
April 28	Grace Shober
May 5	Grace House Blessings
May 12	Gerri Shober
May 19	Barry Gehman
May 26	Mary Renninger



April 7	GHB Sunday-no class
April 14	Gerri Shober
April 21	Children's Church –Grace
April 28	Jane Hoshour
May 5	GHB Sunday-no class
May 12	Cheryl Borja
May 19	Children's Church –Grace
May 26	Gerri Shober

April 7	TBD
April 14	TBD
April 21	TBD
April 28	TBD
May 5	TBD
May 12	TBD
May 19	TBD
May 26	TBD

Sponsors

April 7	open
April 14	open
April 21	open
April 28	open
May 5	Chris & Charlie Storms
May 12	open
May 19	open
May 26	open

April 7	Tim Lutz
April 14	Chris Storms
April 21	Dee Sprecher
April 28	Judy Enck
May 5	Nancy Connelly
May 12	Lynda Cooper
May 19	Steve Enck
May 26	Sara Renninger

Altar Flowers

A new flower chart for 2024 is posted. If you are interested in sponsoring flowers on a particular Sunday, please sign up.

Forms are available next to the chart to fill out your information. We are no longer ordering real flowers due to the cost. If you prefer real flowers you must order them yourself, otherwise we will use the artificial flowers we have.

Please place the completed form in the church office a week before your selected date. Thank you.

St Paul's UCC *Celebrate*

A publication of St. Paul's UCC
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St Paul's UCC *Celebrate* is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of programs of the church and to report news about the community and its people.

Deadline for article submissions: The third Sunday of each month.

APRIL

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 **Pancakes @ Paul's 6-9am**	2 Piano lessons 5:30-6:30 pm	3 Piano lessons 5:30-6:30 pm	4	5	6
7 **GHB** **Worship 10:30**	8	9 Piano lessons 5:30-6:30 pm	10 Piano lessons 5:30-6:30 pm **Mens/ Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm**	11	12	13
14 **Worship 10:30** **Consistory Mtg**	15	16 Piano lessons 5:30-6:30 pm	17 Piano lessons 5:30-6:30 pm	18 **Fill Food Bank Orders** **Choir Practice 7pm**	19	20
21 **Worship 10:30**	22 **Book Club 6:30**	23 Piano lessons 5:30-6:30 pm	24 Piano lessons 5:30-6:30 pm	25	26	27
28 **Worship 10:30**	29	30				