

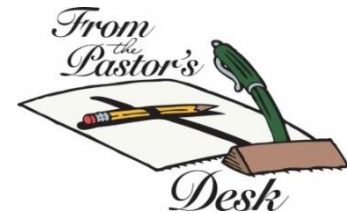


St. Paul's-The Springs United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation having
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Our Church News

Recently I heard this joke: "Luke comes home from his first day of school, and his mother asks, "What did you learn today?" "Not enough," Luke replies. "They said I have to go back tomorrow." It's that time of year again when kids and young adults go back to school and college as summer ends. However, all of us are on a journey where we are always learning and growing in our faith life. So, here are some back to school tips for all of us in the school of life.



Get Enough Sleep. (*Rest in the Lord*)

We have all heard about the benefits of getting enough rest. A good night's sleep is essential for our physical health as well as working wonders on our attitude that can help our whole outlook on our day. Resting in the Lord means we make time in our busy days to stop, rest, and recharge as we open our hearts to the peace of God.

Get a Healthy Breakfast. (*Have Prayer and Worship*)

The experts all agree that eating breakfast before school helps in knowledge retention, test scores, and overall learning. We too need a healthy breakfast of prayer. Having some type of daily personal devotions, like the Upper Room, will fuel you for the day. In addition, we need the fuel that comes from the Spirit when we regularly join together in worship to sing our praises, lift up our prayers, hear the scriptures related to life and grow in our faith.

Develop Good Work and Study Habits. (*Develop Good Bible Study Habits*)

Developing good study habits is essential for success in school. We need to develop good study habits too when it comes knowing and living out the Bible in our lives. The hope and wisdom found in searching our scriptures are a guide pointing us down the path to forgiveness, grace, and hope. Use these resources: bible.com or ourbibleapp.com to find a Bible study plan that works for you.

Do your homework. (*Living Your Faith*)

In school we all got homework that helped us better understand what we were learning. On our journey, the homework given to us is to: "Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself." As we practice and live out this love through regular service and mission, we too better understand and integrate our faith into our daily lives.

Check on Your Classmates. (*Practice Loving Service*)

When children are taught to look out for other kids who are struggling and need help it leads to a healthy atmosphere for learning and growing. We too are called through our faith to check on one another as we practice loving service. There are many people

around us who are struggling in one way or another and we need to ask the question as we check on them, "How am I being called this day to serve? To be a blessing to someone else? To make God's love real?"

So, as we continue on our journey ahead, my hope and prayer is for all of us to keep learning, growing, and living our faith every day. Because the school of life truly is the journey of a lifetime.

In God's Love
Pastor Tim



WORSHIP TIME

We are currently holding in-person worship on Sundays at 8:30 am and 10:30 am.

Due to Portage County's mask advisory: we recommend you wear a mask, whether you are vaccinated or not, to protect those who cannot be vaccinated due to age or other reasons while you are in our church building.

We will continue to live-stream our worship services on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/StPaulsUMC.Point or through our website stevenspointumc.org on Sundays at 10:30 am, except on **September 26**, when we are holding an outdoor worship service. On that Sunday, the live-stream worship service will be at 8:30 am. Scroll down until you see the current live stream.

If you are not able to watch the service live on Sunday morning, there are several ways you can watch it later:

- All of our worship services are saved and posted on our Facebook page - **www.facebook.com/StPaulsUMC.Point**.
- Our worship services are also on Youtube. Just go to our church website – www.stevenspointumc.org and click on "Worship" from the drop-down menu of the "About" tab on the top of the home page. It will take you to our YouTube channel that has a collection of our worship services.



OUTDOOR WORSHIP-- SEPTEMBER 26 at 10:30AM

We are excited about an opportunity to gather outdoors for worship this fall! Mark your calendars and join us for an intergenerational service on our grounds near the gazebo. Please bring your own lawn chairs, blankets and/or umbrellas.

We will be live-streaming our 8:30am service on Facebook on this Sunday.



CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

As Fall weather approaches, we look to offer Children's Faith Formation activities indoors. Children's Faith Formation for children in 4K through 5th grade will be offered on Sunday mornings following the Young Disciples' Time at our 10:30 am Worship Service. Masks are required for teachers and children. If you have any questions about our Children's Faith Formation, contact Laura Courtright lauracourtright@gmail.com or 715/340-4523.



For ALL YOUTH in JR and SR HIGH:

Wednesday Nights at 6:00pm--Faith Talks to explore Scripture
Youth Group at 6:30-8:00pm



Contact Laura Courtright at 715/340-4523 or lauracourtright@gmail.com for how you can connect on social media for the latest updates on Youth Ministry.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Sunday School

See Laura Courtright for details today!
lauracourtright@gmail.com - 715.340.4523



FINANCE CORNER

Greetings!

I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready... (1 Corinthians 3:1-2)

The goal of discipleship is spiritual maturity. As Scripture tells us in Hebrews 6:1, "Therefore let us go on toward perfection, leaving behind the basic teaching about Christ, and not laying again the foundation". The aim of mature spirituality is to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus, but usually comes in stages of commitment whether it be prayer, presence, service, witness, or giving.

There are four stages of giving.

In **Stage 1**, people spend on themselves and give to God from what is left over. They usually give little or nothing. They are not ready to commit.

In **Stage 2**, people take responsibility and wonder what equal shares of the goal (e.g., church budget) are. Of course, this fails to recognize that households have different levels of resources. People at this stage are ready to give regularly and many commit to pledging.

In **Stage 3**, people want to put God first in their lives, even if they must change spending habits and attitudes toward having things. They understand that an offering to God is intended to be a sacrifice. They look to move toward tithing, giving ten percent of their income to God, by increasing the percentage of income they give each year.

In **Stage 4**, people want to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. They see even what they spend on their own needs to be support for their discipleship. Often, their giving to church substantially exceeds the 10 percent tithing mark.

Where are you in your discipleship journey? Is this the year, you make a change? Let's pray for one another as we grow together.

(The above is from the Conference)

May God Bless your day~
Joy Pennell
Dir of Finance

If you have any questions, please either give me a call 715/344-3557 or send me an email at jpennell@stevenspointumc.org.

	Aug 2021	Year-to-Date	To-Date	Avail To Us **
General Fund -	\$ 31,553.86	\$ 292,387.69		
Building Fund -	\$ 186.00	\$ 1,642.00		
Capital Campaign/Debt	\$ 5,878.25	\$ 84,550.00	\$ 170,372.67	\$ 96,572.67
Loose Coin -	\$ 229.86	\$ 1,045.01		
Expenses -	\$ 32,218.68	\$ 253,946.11		
Net =	\$ (478.82)	\$ 40,083.58		
**This means that this difference of \$73,800 is locked down by the bank until the last 18 months of the loan; to be used at that time for the loan payments for the last 18 months.				
August's Loose Coin was for Family Assistance - if you'd like to still contribute, mark your envelope accordingly				
September's Loose Coin is for Umcors				



DON'T FORGET TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES

You can give by one of the following:

1. You can mail your check to the church office at 600 Wilshire Blvd., Stevens Point, WI 54481
2. You can use ACH. If you don't have that set up & would like to, please contact Joy Pennell and she will help you with that.
3. You can use Bill Pay through your bank. This is a free service through your bank. They draw the money from your bank account and send the church a check as you direct them to, whether that be weekly or monthly. This way would save you on postage.
4. You can go to our website www.stevenspointumc.org and there is a button that says "Donate". That will take you through the steps to use your credit or debit card. If you continue down on that page, you can also text on your phone to give.
5. Giving App - It's very easy! Using your phone, download GivePlus+. It's free. Then look up the church by entering our zip code & follow the instructions from there. If you have any questions or problems, please let Joy Pennell know. jpennell@stevenspointumc.org or 715/340-5991.

COINS OF COMPASSION



The Coins of Compassion for September will be in support of *UMCOR*. The money collected will provide funds to help those who have been affected by natural disasters. Be sure to label your envelope so your coins/currency will be deposited into the correct account. If you are submitting a check, please write "UMCOR" in the memo portion of the check. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.

AFGHAN REFUGEES RESPONSE



Here are some ways you can support the Afghan refugees at this time.

We would invite you to:

- Pray for the Afghans arriving here and those left behind.
- Consider a response that might be financial or even involve partnering with people on the ground locally to help resettle Afghans.
- Consider an immediate financial gift. You can make your checks payable to "The United Methodist Church" and in the memo portion put "Afghan Response" and we will make sure it goes to this fund.

- **Attached is a list of items we are collecting at our church.**
New clothing items preferred, but gently used and laundered items are acceptable.



RUMMAGE SALE

Mark your calendars for the FALL RUMMAGE SALE.
Set up: October 18 9:00 am - 6:00 pm.
Sale: October 19 8:00 am - 6:00 pm and
October 20 8:00 am - 11:00 am. Help is needed for all
hours. Trucks and men needed to help with take down and
clean up on the 20th after 11:00 am. MASKED ARE
REQUIRED at all times.

No electronics, curtain rods, bed rails, TVs. If in question, call and ask. We appreciate any time you can give.

If you are able to help volunteer for any of this time (setup or sale), please contact Bonnie Lund (715/345-0247) or bonnielund@charter.net



Know that you are
in our thoughts and
prayers during this
difficult time.

WITH OUR SYMPATHY

There will be a memorial service for Diane Ogdon on Saturday, October 23 at 1:00 pm at our church. Diane passed away on Easter, April 12, 2020. Plan to come and celebrate the life of this faithful prayer warrior.

Please keep Diane's family in your prayers as they plan her celebration of life service.



GROWTH GROUP STUDIES

Tuesdays

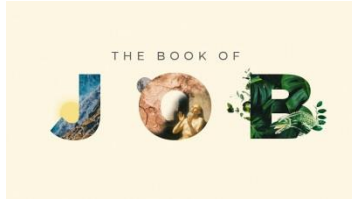
7:00 pm - Women's Bible Study - Job (via ZOOM & In-Person) (Contact Audra audraobrien931@gmail.com if you would like to join)

Wednesdays

6:00 pm - Fall Study - "Understanding the Bible-The New Testament" (via ZOOM & In-Person) beginning October 13 (contact Pastor Tim tobrien@stevenspointumc.org if you would like to join us)

Fridays

12:00 pm - Fly High - *"Messy People"* by Jennifer Cowart (via ZOOM & In-Person)
Beginning October 1 *"Revelation: Extravagant Hope"* by Margaret Feinberg
(Contact Yvonne ychojnacki@stevenspointumc.org if you would like to join)



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study returned to meeting on Tuesday, September 14, at 7:00 pm. We plan to meet in a hybrid manner each week by using Zoom (room information is below) and in-person at the church to give as many as possible the opportunity to join our class. We will not meet on the first Tuesday of the month.

We continue studying the book of Job. As always, girls and women of all ages are welcome - as with experiences brings perspectives. See you all on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm at the church or on Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9273218018?pwd=NHh3Uzc0RHBRWmk2NG9qWGZlZFJkdz09>

Meeting ID: 927 321 8018
Passcode: 5986234



FALL STUDY

**“Understanding the Bible –
The New Testament”**

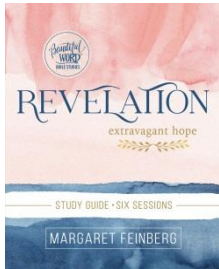
**Wednesday's – Starting on October 13 at
6:00 p.m. in person and on Zoom**

The Bible is our guidebook in leading us deeper into our faith. However, it can be challenging at times to understand and apply. In the Spring we took time to explore and journey through the Old Testament. Now we will take some time to look at the New Testament. Through this study, which is intended for those who know the Bible well and those who don't, we will use a variety of sources along with scripture to look at the overall arc and meaning of scripture so that the details become clearer. This study will be on Wednesday's at 6:00 p.m. starting on October 13 both in person and online using Zoom. Please use the link below to connect with this class. Everyone is welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84324881725>

Meeting ID: 843 2488 1725



FLY HIGH BIBLE STUDY

Beginning October 1, Fly High will begin the study of "Revelation: Extravagant Hope" by Margaret Feinberg. During this 6-week study, we will dig into Revelation, which reminds us of God's power and promises during times of suffering and persecution. In this final book of the Bible, God indeed saved the best for last, and in its pages, he gives us the one thing we all long for--hope, extravagant hope.

Fly High meets on Fridays at 12:00 noon. The cost for this study is \$11.50 and you can pick up a book in the church office.

If you have any questions, contact Yvonne Chojnacki (715/344-3557) or ychojnacki@stevenspointumc.org.



TOUCH OF BRASS

Are you looking for a meaningful and enjoyable way to serve our church? Consider joining the handbell choir! We'd love to have a few more ringers. If you would like more information or have questions, call or email Caryn Hurst at 715/592-4478 or oakhurst.quiltergirl@gmail.com.



SCRIP FUNDRAISER

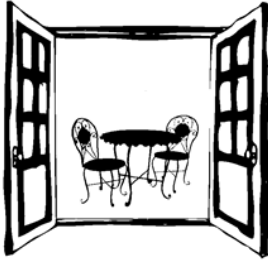
Hey everybody – we have a great new program that we started on August 1 & it's called Scrip. Right now, you can buy Kwik Trip gift cards in the office at church & with this new program you have the opportunity to buy gift cards from 750+ brands! It's a great way for us to fund raise.

You will be able to do this 2 different ways; you can use an order form & turn that in bi-weekly to the office or you can use your smart phone or tablet & go to the app store & download the RaiseRight app. The order forms can be found in the office for the time being & will follow this as well. Orders will be placed on Mondays & the cards should be here on Thursdays.

This is a great way that we can raise some funds! The funds that we raise with this will be split between the debt & loose coin. One other thing, for those that order with their phones, you will see Kwik Trip on the list, please DO NOT order Kwik Trip that way, only purchase your Kwik Trip cards in the office. We want to be sure that Mary Martha gets the proceeds from those.

If you have any other questions about this program, please let me know. You can contact me by email at jpennell@stevenspointumc.org or at 715/344-3557.

Thank you!



OPEN DOOR BISTRO RESUMES SERVICE SEPTEMBER 8 WITH A NEW FORMAT

The Open Door Bistro ministry launched a new season on September 8 with some changes. The meal service period was extended by 15 minutes and the schedule is changing from a weekly service to twice a month on Wednesdays throughout the school year. The Bistro ministry will serve a meal in Fellowship Hall from **5:15 – 6:00 pm** on the first and third Wednesdays of each month except in September which will be the second and fourth Wednesdays.

Mark your calendars and come with your family or friends to enjoy the fellowship and simple meals together. Masks recommendations will be in accordance with church guidelines but wearing of masks is highly recommended for unvaccinated individuals except while eating. Hand sanitizer will be available for all diners to use as they approach the self-service food line.

Next Open Door Bistro: September 22 Meal: Taco Bar/Chips & Salsa

Although we have an initial service team roster, additional volunteers are always welcome and needed to help fill vacancies that may occur, provide relief coverage as a substitute worker or to lighten the workload as an extra volunteer. Please consider if you could help with dish washing, storing clean dishware, general clean-up, offering the blessing, providing a casserole, or helping with food prep. If you would like to serve in any of these ways or need further information, please contact one of the Bistro team leaders listed below.

We look forward to seeing you at the Open Door Bistro.

Sandy Shave (715) 592-4346; sandra.shave@gmail.com
Barb Munson (715) 341-1208; barbm72446@gmail.com
Judy Hill (715) 341-2323; len.hill@uwsp.edu
Stephanie White (715) 347-0367; stephsdesknop@gmail.com
Wendy Miller (715) 239-5088; millers3110@gmail.com
Anette Bernsteen (715) 343-1462; lbernsteen@charter.net



LAY SERVANTS NEEDED

Do you want to grow as a follower of Jesus and better understand how to use your gifts in ministry. We're all called to proclaim God's wonder and works. Answering the spiritual nudges to put faith in action and represent Christ in our daily lives present unique opportunities to serve God and neighbor. As unique as you and your spiritual gifts. The Basic Course for Lay Servant Ministries guides you to discover your gifts of caring, leading and communicating and put them to use. "We can all find a calling in one or more of these areas of ministry," write the authors. "The church depends upon its laity to carry out its mission and purpose. ...Many journeys of deepening faith and service in ministry have begun with this [book and] class."

Sessions take you through thoughtful reflection on what it takes to make a congregation an outpost for mission and transformation and the role you can play - even if public speaking isn't your gift.

Please prayerfully consider being part of this ministry. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Pastor Tim at 715/344-3557 or tobrien@stevenspointumc.org.



PRAYER CHAINS

We are in need of people who would like to join us. We will be redoing our prayer chains this fall. After receiving requests for prayers, our chains are activated. You only need to call the next person on your list and then say a prayer for those persons in need. If you wish to be added (or removed) from this ministry or to request a prayer, please call Lois Sadogierski (715/344-0615, Judy Hill (715/341-2323) or the church office (715/344-3557).

CARE CALLS



carecalls

We are in need of Care callers. Care calls is a ministry that keeps in touch with our congregation. We call everyone twice a year – spring and fall. You receive a list of people to call or contact to let them know that their church cares. We use the church directory for contact information. **Please check to make sure your phone numbers, addresses and e-mail are up to date.** You can call the church office (715/344-3557) or Lois Sadogierski (715/344-0615) to update your information and to join our team.

MEET & GREET BEGINS 9/19/21



We are redoing the format of Meet & Greet this year. Instead of the committees & ministries providing all the treats, we are opening it up to the congregation. There will be sign-up sheets on the bulletin board outside Hazel Calkins Hall for anyone who wishes to provide a simple treat after either the 8:30 am or the 10:30 am Sunday service. You would also be responsible for set up (snacks & drinks) and clean up as needed. Dave makes the coffee, but you would need to wash up and put away the coffee pots, clean up the snacks and drinks area and wipe down areas and tables as needed. We are cutting down on the amount of food that is being served as this is intended to be a light snack.



HELP WANTED

We are looking for a few people who might be interested in helping on occasion to do a couple of tasks when Dave, our custodian, is away. Some of these tasks can be done during the day, while others can be done during the evening. We would like to put a list together of those interested and then when the need arises contact you to see if you are available to help.

If you are interested in helping with this opportunity, please contact the church office (715/344-3557) and your name will be put on the list.



ONE BIG TENT

Two years ago a group of clergy from Stevens Point and Plover gathered to talk about the needs of our community and how might we address them together as people of faith. Out of those discussions we formed an organization called One Big Tent.

Our Mission

We are a partnership of diverse, faith-based organizations working within our community, alongside community agencies, to promote human dignity by alleviating poverty and isolation and providing ready access to resources that can increase the long-term stability of individuals and families, and therefore, our community.

Our Vision

We envision a Portage County where all are equipped and empowered to lead dignified lives of wholeness and wellness with:

- food security
- adequate mental health resources
- housing security
- economic and vocational stability
- a correctional system based on restorative justice
- a community engaged in justice and peace
- faith communities growing in relationship and serving together

Our current ministry is to provide companions who will walk with people who are in need of food, work, housing, mental or physical health resources. The goal of our companions is to be a compassionate neighbor helping them access community resources, the resources of the faith communities who are part of One Big Tent, and to navigate "the system."

Our companions will remain a helpful presence to assure that---with the individual's active participation---we work together to find answers to meet their needs as much as possible. There are no restrictions or requirements to seek our help, but obviously, our ministry is focused on those who live in Portage County as the resources we help to access are found in Portage County. One's faith background or status does not matter.

We launched our companion ministry on September 8 from the offices of Create Portage County, 1039 Ellis Street, Stevens Point. Watch the next newsletter for exciting news on this growing ministry connecting us to our community.

Who We Are

Church Partners: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (LCMS), Beloved Community of Intercession Episcopal and Redeemer Luther Churches, St Paul's-The Springs United Methodist Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ELCA), Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church, Point Fellowship-Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Tapestry Church, Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Community Partners: CAP Services, Emergency Services, Evergreen Community Initiatives, Hunger and Poverty Prevention of Portage County, Operation Bootstrap, Salvation Army, United Way



BROWN PAPER BAGS

Operation Bootstrap is in need of brown paper bags. If you have any you would like to donate, please bring them to the church and place in the south coatroom. If you have any questions, please call the church office (715/344-3557).



FAIR TRADE COFFEE SALE

The following Fair Trade product is on sale:

French Vanilla - 12 oz. ground - \$3.00 ea.

All other Fair Trade products will be at regular price.

You can find these items in the church office. Call the church office (715/344-3557) if you would like any of these items pulled for you and placed in the church exchange box outside of the church building for you to pick up.

WAYS TO HELP

We are all looking for ways to share God's love in this anxious time. Here are some samples of things you can do during this time:

Interfaith Food Pantry – We have the grocery cart in between the entrance doors on the south side (school side), Tuesday through Thursday, 9am-3pm. Here is a list of their urgent needs: Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Cereal, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Peanut Butter and Jelly. You can also send a check to the office with "Interfaith Food Pantry" in the memo portion and we will make sure the funds go for this cause.

Call church people or neighbors – Just a friendly phone call can make someone's day.



TAKE NOTE

If you or a loved one are in the hospital and would like a visit from Pastor Tim or a lay person, please contact the church office at 715/344-3557. If this happens on a weekend, please contact Pastor Tim (262/388-4635).

OUR TWO CAMPUSES

St. Paul's-The Springs UMC
600 Wilshire Blvd
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Campus Ministry - UWSP
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715/340-4523