

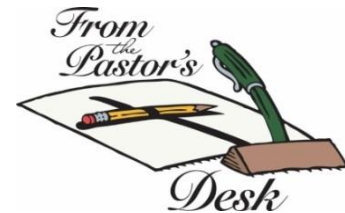


St. Paul's-The Springs United Methodist Church

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

Our Church News

As we move through the month of October we remember a difficult anniversary. On October 2, 2006, Charles Roberts, a 32-year old milk truck driver from a nearby town, entered a one-room Amish school house in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania. He forced 15 boys and several women with infants to leave and then he lined up the 11 remaining girls against the blackboard.



Roberts called his wife for a few minutes by cell phone. He told her he never got over the death of their baby daughter in 1997. He had three children and had no criminal history or mental illness.

At 11:00 a.m. the police arrived and Roberts demanded that they leave. Seconds later he shot five of the students. When the police stormed the school, he shot himself. Two of the survivors told their parents how 13-year old Marian Fisher, one of the slain girls, asked to be shot first. She had hoped that by killing her, Roberts would change his mind and let the younger girls go.

This was a tragic and devastating situation and unfortunately one that has been repeated all too often in other schools, movie theaters, night clubs and many other places in our country and around the world. Violence is not new, but what made this situation different was the reaction of the Amish people. They visited and comforted Robert's widow, parents, and their in-laws. Some even attended his funeral. It was reported that an Amish man held Robert's sobbing father in his arms for as long as an hour, trying to comfort him. The Amish community set up a charitable fund for the family of Charles Roberts. And a grandfather of one of the murdered girls told his younger relatives not to hate the killer saying, "We must not think evil of this man."

The actions of the Amish were baffling to many people outside their community that couldn't understand how this group of people could show such a united front of love in the face of such tragedy. How could this group extend such radical kindness? How could they remain so hopeful in the face of such pain and loss? For many people, the actions of the Amish may not make sense until we understand they were focused on something completely different. They were focused on living out the words of Jesus when he said, "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." (Matthew 5:44)

For the Amish and for us as people of the Good News of Jesus these are not just words on a page but words that need to soak into our hearts to influence how we see and act and love each other in our world. Not as people who are defeated or divided but as a people and a community of faith who are lifted up and will never abandon hope, give up on peace, and will strive each day to show and be the love of Christ to the world.

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. 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.



SENIOR TIME BY SENIORS

Many seniors have expressed an interest in meeting socially at the church. St. Paul's seniors programming stopped with Covid and there are few opportunities for interaction within the church or community. Our church is a relatively safe environment with most vaccinated and masks required.

The overall vision is to have activities every Thursday. Initially we will start with two weeks of socials beginning October 14 from 11:00 to 12:00. Then a bag lunch opportunity at noon. As part of Senior Time we are looking to bring back the once a month luncheons by our wonderful church chefs. Next we will talk about interests people have. Opportunities are endless - Making cards ministry, walking, board and card games, ping pong, book discussions, bible study, caring groups. Think of something you would like to do and the facilitators will help you make that happen.

If you would like to be part of the planning process or interested in participating contact:

Barb Munson 715-340-2368 barbm72446@gmail.com

Janet Carter 715-252-6875 wisconsinjanet@yahoo.com



ALL-SAINTS SUNDAY

We will be celebrating All-Saints Sunday on October 31. Please submit any names of loved ones who have died since November 1, 2020 to the church office by October 27 so we can celebrate their lives along with members who have died this past year.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

November 7, 2021



YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Youth Group at St. Paul's-The Springs UMC resumed regular, in-person gatherings this summer with outdoor activities that included devotions and campfires, team games, tie-dying, service projects for the Growing Kindness Garden and Schmeckle Reserve. We had a scavenger hunt at the Stevens

Point Sculpture Park and treats at Carl D's Soft Serve.

We continue this fall with Bible Talks on the Book of James, service projects for the Portage County Humane Society and Project Linus, more team games and we made our fun (and yummy) 6-foot "Gutter Sundae" to share with the Chancel Choir! A Halloween Party will be held on Wednesday, October 27, with games and activities--always a great time!

Youth Group is for all students in Jr. and Sr. High--it's open to ALL students regardless of connection to St. Paul's-The Springs UMC, the United Methodist Church, or any religious affiliation--ALL students are welcome! We meet most Wednesday nights from 6 to 8pm. For more information on the Youth Group at St. Paul's-The Springs UMC contact Laura Courtright at lauracourtright@gmail.com or call/text at 715/340-4523.



CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Children's Faith Formation for children in 4K through 5th grade is offered on Sunday mornings during 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 at lauracourtright@gmail.com or 715/340-4523.

FINANCE CORNER

Greetings!

First, I would like to let you all know that our apportionments are paid in full through Sept. I want to thank those that contribute extra toward that fund. It is extremely appreciated!

Next, we are going to change how we do envelopes. We will no longer be offering boxed envelopes. They will all be loose envelopes. If you would like envelopes, please let me know whether it would be weekly or monthly. If you would like them date stamped, we can do that for you as well, you just need to let me know. We are changing to this for a way to save some costs. Please be sure to email me & let me know if you would like envelopes at jpennell@stevenspointumc.org.

We are coming into the season of Stewardship. Please begin to think about this & pray about it. This is your church family & if we want to succeed as a church, we count on each and every one of you. Please really pray about what you can do for this coming year.

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.

	<i>Sept 2021</i>	Year-to-Date	To-Date	Avail To Us **
General Fund -	\$ 32,057.49	\$ 324,445.18		
Building Fund -	\$ 184.00	\$ 1,826.00		
Capital				
Campaign/Debt -	\$ 2,276.75	\$ 86,826.75	\$ 169,374.06	\$ 95,574.06
Loose Coin -	\$ 124.63	\$ 1,169.64		
Expenses -	\$ 32,735.92	\$ 286,712.11		
				**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 18 months.
Net =	\$ (494.43)	\$ 39,559.07		

September's Loose Coin was for UMCOR - if you'd like to still contribute, mark your envelope accordingly

October's Loose Coin is for Ghana



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

this important ministry.

The Coins of Compassion for October will be in support of *Ghana*. The money collected will provide funds to help build an orphanage. 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 "Ghana" in the memo portion of the check. Thank you for supporting



AFGHAN REFUGEES RESPONSE

Here are some ways you can support the Afghan guests 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.

- ***Please use this link for the most up-to-date list of items needed:***
<https://sites.google.com/view/winding-rivers-umc/afghan-guest-immediate-needs>
New clothing items preferred, but gently used and laundered items are acceptable.
- **At this time they are in need of toddler items (2T-5T).**
- **We are collecting items at our church and have taken two loads to the Winding Rivers UMC in New Lisbon to be distributed to the Afghan guests at Fort McCoy. If you need a list of items needed printed, please contact the church office (715/344-3557).**



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. MASKS 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.



HOLIDAY FEST CANCELLATION FOR 2021

Our committee has made the decision to not host Holiday Fest this year due to the continued rise of COVID cases and the easily-spread variant.

We care very much about the health safety of our community visitors, our artists and our volunteer workers. During this continued spread of the virus, we were very concerned about purposely holding an indoor event with 1,000 people.

October 2021

The artists have been very supportive and understanding. They have overwhelmingly asked us to hold on to their registration fee for the next show, with only a handful wanting theirs refunded now...but still want to be on the "call back" list for the next show.

We are very committed and enthusiastic about a future safe time to bring back this beloved event in full force! We know this is a great event for our church and broader community! Hang in there everybody!

Jean Hayden and the Holiday Fest Committee



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) (contact Pastor Tim tobrien@stevenspointumc.org if you would like to join)

Fridays

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



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study is meeting on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. We plan to meet in a hybrid manner each week by using Zoom (room information is below) and in-person (Thomas Coke Room) 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 bring perspectives. See you all on Tuesday 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 at 6:00 p.m. in person (Thomas Coke
Room) and on Zoom

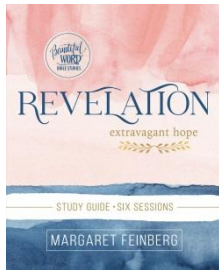
The Bible is our guidebook in leading us deeper into our faith. However, it can be challenging at times to understand and apply. In the Spring we took time to explore and journey through the Old Testament. Now we will take some time to look at the New Testament. Through this study, which is intended 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. 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



Fly High is studying "Revelation: Extravagant Hope" by Margaret Feinberg. During this 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.



December 6 at 6:30 pm via Zoom



ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP

During our Annual Church Conference on December 6, we will be voting on a new leadership model.

Please call the church office (715/344-3557) if you would like information sent to you regarding this new leadership model.



Growing
KINDNESS
gardens project
a place for Community & Kindness

GROWING KINDNESS GARDENS

We are excited to announce that the Growing Kindness Gardens continue to meet. Feel free to join us on Mondays at 6:00 pm as we cover floral preservation techniques, make wreaths, work towards planning next year's programming and so much more. We are excited to announce that we will be starting to build our new raised beds for additional grow space next season.

To help with our goal, this Sunday we will be launching a wreath fundraiser. You will find all of our wreaths on display within the gathering area of church as well as pre-order forms. The proceeds of the fundraiser will go towards building a "growing kindness gardens" kid zone!

Would you like to be a part of the Growing Kindness Gardens? Please review our sign-up sheet in the gathering area of church.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Shannon Eckels at 715/340-6012



SCRIP FUNDRAISER

Hey everybody – we have a great program called Scrip. Right now, you can buy Kwik Trip gift cards in the office at church and with this 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 or in the Gathering Area before you enter the Sanctuary. 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 & coins of compassion. 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

The Open Door Bistro ministry is up and running 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. A brochure listing service dates and other program details is available at the connection center.

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: October 20 Meal: Casserole Night

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; stephsdesknp@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.



MEET & GREET

We have begun meeting after our worship services for a time of fellowship. We are opening the opportunity to bring treats to the congregation. There are 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

Last month, One Big Tent opened with a "soft launch" on September 7th. We opened "softly" because we knew there would be adjustments and changes we need to make---and that has held true. We are located at the IDEA Center (1039B Ellis St). You can reach our office -through the back entrance off of Water Street across from Edgewater Manor.

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 three ways our neighbors can reach us:

1. By Phone: 715-496-9309 or 715-496-9312
2. By Email: **onebigtentportage@gmail.com**
3. Website: **www.onebigtentpc.org**
4. We have limited hours for in-person contact. Our goal is to have one companion and one pastor during our office hours. Our website will always have updated hours. Currently they are:

Monday 1-3 pm
Tuesday Noon-4 pm
Wednesday Noon-4 pm
Thursday 8 am-4 pm
We are hoping to add some evening hours.

Please continue to pray for this new ministry of compassion and justice in our community. If you would like to support One Big Tent by being a companion or supporting us financially, please contact Pastor Tim.

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
715/344-3557

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