



St. Paul's-The Springs United Methodist Church

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

Our Church News

As you sit down to read this article, Easter is right around the corner. This joyful day where we come together to celebrate and journey once again to the empty tomb and beyond. This time we take to remember and reflect on this moment that stirs our faith and gives us hope.

When we think about our life, very often it is divided up into moments. The moment when we find out about a death of a loved one, the moment we are accepted into a college of our dreams, or the moment we are married just to name a few.

These moments changed us because what came before was completely different than what happened next. As an Easter people, the empty tomb is our moment that continues to change hearts and lives because of what happens next. Where there was sorrow, now there is joy. Where there was fear, now there is courage and peace. Where there was despair, now there is hope.

One of my favorite hymns that we sing during Easter is "Because He Lives" written by Bill and Gloria Gaither. They wrote this hymn during a very difficult time in their lives. Bill had been struggling with a severe illness, they had lost many dear loved ones to sudden death, and Gloria's pregnancy was not going well. It was an uncertain and scary time for them. And then Gloria gave birth to a beautiful healthy baby boy. In that moment of holding their newborn son, they began to write this hymn: "How sweet to hold a new born baby, and feel the pride and joy he gives; but greater still the calm assurance, this child can face uncertain days because he lives." For the Gaither's, this was their resurrection moment where everything was changed and put into perspective as they held their little boy and realized the significance of that empty tomb.

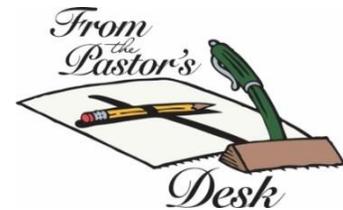
So, what are your resurrection moments? Because they are still happening all around us, every day, if we are we open to them. If we recognize what can happen in our lives and through us to change our world because he lives.

The Gaither's ended their hymn with this stirring refrain that I have adapted:

Because he lives, we can face tomorrow
Because he lives, our faith has meaning and our service power
Because he lives, we are forgiven and freed
Because he lives, all fear is gone
Because he lives, the worst thing is never the last thing
Because he lives, we have endless hope
Because he lives, we know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just
because he lives

In God's love,

Pastor Tim





WORSHIP TIME

We are holding in-person worship on Sundays at 10:00 am and are looking forward to resuming 2 in-person worship services **beginning on Easter Sunday** at 8:30 am and 10:30 am.

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 10:00 am. Scroll down until you see the current live stream. **Beginning Easter Sunday**, we will once again live-stream our worship service at 10:30 am.

- 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.



Holy Week

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

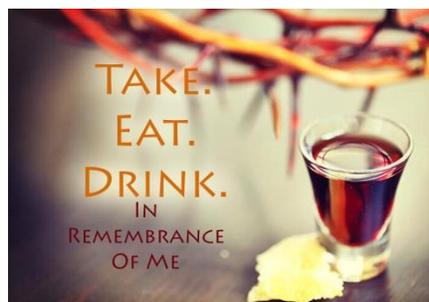
Palm Sunday Worship – April 10 @ 10:00 am

**Maundy Thursday Worship – April 14 @ 7:00 pm
(In Fellowship Hall)**

Good Friday Worship – April 15 @ 12:00 noon

**Easter Sunday Worship – April 17 @ 8:30 am
Easter Sunday Brunch – April 17 @ 9:15 am**

**Easter Sunday Worship – April 17 @ 10:30 am
Easter Sunday Brunch – April 17 @ 11:30 am**



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

April 14th – 7:00 PM

Maundy Thursday is the name given to the day on which Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples. Two important events are the focus of this day.

First, Jesus celebrated and instituted the Lord's Supper, also called Communion. Second, Jesus washed the disciples' feet as an act of humility and service, thereby setting an example

that we should love and serve one another in humility.

The word "Maundy" is derived from the Latin word *mandatum* for "command." On this night we remember the command Jesus gave to his disciples that they should be known by their love and service to one another and the world.

You are invited to come for this special worship service in Fellowship Hall as we gather around candle-lit tables to remember another night long ago where Jesus gathered with his disciples to show them just how much God loves us all.



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

April 15th - Noon

Join us for our Good Friday service as we hear the message of the cross and connect to God in prayer. Our service will be in person at Noon and live-streamed on our public Facebook page - www.facebook.com/StPaulsUMC.Point.



EASTER MORNING CONTINENTAL BRUNCH

April 17 after both Worship Services

You are invited to join us for this special meal. This meal is open to everyone. If you'd like to bring something please contact Audra at 262/388-0366 or audraobrien931@gmail.com.



THE SPRINGS BELL TOWER

The Bell Tower from The Springs will be relocated to our current location at 600 Wilshire Blvd. on Monday, April 11. We will be holding a short dedication service on Easter Sunday (April 17) at 10:00 am.



THE PRAYER PLACE

The Prayer Place is open and ready to engage the senses in meditation, reflection, and prayer. It is open weekdays during church office/ building hours, on Sunday mornings, and on Open Door Bistro

nights until 6:30pm. The Prayer Place is located at the entrance to the Discovery Zone at the north wing of the church building. Here you will find self-guided prayer stations for all ages.



WELCOME IN WORSHIP EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP BAGS FOR CHILDREN

Children are welcome in worship this Easter Sunday with a special "Welcome In Worship" Children's Bulletin and table activities.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Youth Group will meet during Holy Week to help with the preparations for the Easter Sunday breakfast and will have a special game night!

ALL Youth, grades 7-12, are welcome--we meet from 6-8pm. For more information on Youth Ministry contact Laura Courtright at lauracourtright@gmail.com or call/ text at 715/340-4523.

The Youth have been busy filling Easter eggs and baskets and are grateful for the generous donations that have been given in support of the Family Crisis Center--please check May's newsletter for an update on this service-mission project.



LEARN ABOUT UKRAINE April 18 @ 7:00 pm St. Paul's-The Springs United Methodist Church

Mariya Koval, a foreign exchange student at SPASH is from the Ukraine and is willing to share about her country, her culture, and the war with Russia. She is separated from her family as her mother fled to Portugal and her father remained in the Ukraine to fight. She will provide ways that people can help her country. A free-will offering will be received to be given to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) who are currently assisting the people of Ukraine. 100% of your donation to UMCOR will go to this cause.

This could be a once in a lifetime opportunity to hear from someone from the Ukraine. Please join us in person or online at www.facebook.com/StPaulsUMC.Point.



OUTDOOR WORSHIP SCHEDULE at 10:30AM

We are excited about warmer weather and opportunities to gather outdoors for worship once again this summer! Mark your calendars for the following dates and join us for an intergenerational service our grounds near the gazebo.

May 22
June 26
July 10 & 24
August 14 & 28
September 11 & 25

Please bring your own lawn chairs and blankets.

We will be live-streaming our 8:30am service on Facebook on those Sundays.



MEET OUR INTERIM DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Due to the recent passing of our Director of Finance Joy Pennell, our interim Director of Finance is Ardis Burke.

Ardis loves the world of numbers and has worked in an accounting/bookkeeping capacity for over 50 years. She also loves books and the magic of words on a page and is a recent author. But most of all, she loves the Lord, her family and the church and considers it a privilege to help out at St. Paul's-The Springs UMC at this time. She will be in the office Monday through Thursday during the afternoon.

If you have any financial questions or concerns, please contact the church office (715/344-3557) or finance@stevenspointumc.org.



PLEASE REMEMBER 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 the church office (715/344-3557) and we will help you with that or email us at **finance@stevenspointumc.org**.

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.

If you have any questions or problems, please let us know at **finance@stevenspointumc.org** or 715/344-3557.



COINS OF COMPASSION

The Coins of Compassion for April will be in support of *UMCOR- U.S. Disasters* which is United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) humanitarian response to natural disasters within the United States. Remember 100% of your donation will be given for this cause. 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-US Disasters" in the memo portion of the check. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.



ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP BOARD

Two years ago we began a process to rethink our leadership structure so that it was more efficient and effective in focusing on our mission and vision as a church. Our process led us to forming an Accountable Leadership Board which is our Trustees, Finance, and Staff Parish Teams. It is our hope that by combining our administrative teams together as well as giving greater focus to our mission and vision, we will be able to launch and be engaged in more ministries to our community and beyond. Please pray for the members of this new Accountable Leadership Board as they begin their faithful work.

Aaron Karnatz
Shannon Lewis
Bonnie Lund
John Munson
Mary Schultz
Karl Weyers
John Wiltse
Jim Martin – Co-chair
Tonya Kowalski – Co-chair
Pastor Tim O'Brien



AFGHAN NEIGHBORS UPDATE

As many of you know, some of the refugees from Afghanistan are being settled here in Central Wisconsin. So far, two families are here in our community with more coming. Members of our church, along with Good Shepherd and Trinity Lutheran are in training to be a co-sponsorship team. Once our training is over we will be assigned a family to work with over the next six to nine

months helping them in six areas:

- Housing and welcome
- Transportation
- Health
- Education
- Cultural adjustment
- Jobs and finance

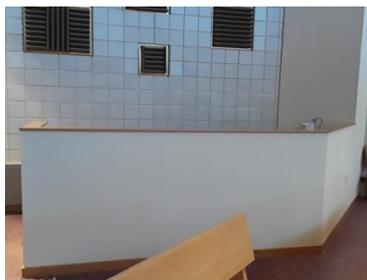
Our goal is to help this family move towards being self-sufficient. Thank you for all the help you have given already with furniture, household goods, food, and financial gifts. **Our team is looking for people who are willing to help clean the housing unit before the family moves in; help move the furniture, etc. into the home; and/or provide daytime transportation once the family is here to appointments they have.** If you can help in any or all of these areas, please call or email the church office (715/344-3557 or stpauls@stevenspointumc.org). Please continue to pray for these families as they are working hard to adjust and make a new life in our community.



SENIOR TIME BY SENIORS

Please consider joining this group. They meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Discussions are wide ranged, and games are fun with lots of laughter. If you have a particular request, we'll do our best to work it into a session.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:
Barb Munson 715-340-2368 barbm72446@gmail.com
Janet Carter 715-252-6875 wisconsinjanet@yahoo.com



Our New Audio/Visual Booth is Ready! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Now that our Audio/Visual booth is done, we could use more volunteers to help run it. You don't need to have a detailed understanding of technology and we will provide all the training you need. The equipment is actually very easy to operate. Also, there will be another person to work with you so you will not be in the booth alone. If you are interested in helping out with our worship services in this way, please talk with Yvonne or Pastor Tim.



GROWTH GROUP STUDIES

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

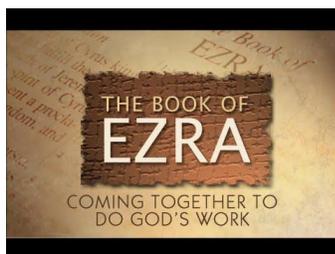
Watch for information on upcoming studies.

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

Fridays

12:00 pm - Fly High - *"Keep It Shut"* by Karen Ehman (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 continue studying the book of Ezra. 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.

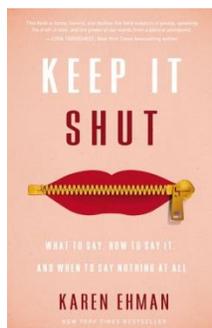
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9273218018?pwd=NHh3Uzc0RHBRWmk2NG9qWGZIZFJkdz09>

Meeting ID: 927 321 8018

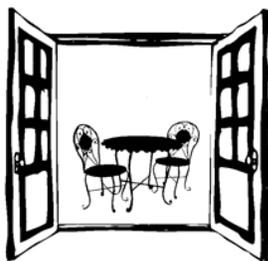
Passcode: 5986234

FLY HIGH BIBLE STUDY



Fly High Book Study meets on Fridays at 12:00 pm in-person in the Thomas Coke Room and on Zoom. We are studying a book called *"Keep It Shut: What to Say, How to Say It, and When to Say Nothing at All"* by Karen Ehman. We will explore what the Bible says about when to speak, when to remain silent, what to say in social media posts, why "just sharing a prayer request" might be gossip, and why self-talk matters too. Using words well leads to healthier relationships and the joy of seeing what God can do when he's the one who speaks. The cost of the book is \$13.50. Contact Yvonne Chojnacki (715/344-3557) or ychojnacki@stevenspointumc.org if you

have any questions.



OPEN DOOR BISTRO

The Open Door Bistro ministry is up and running. 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 welcome center in the Gathering Area.

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: April 20

Meal: Local Foods

Special Music by Northern Gateway Barbershoppers

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; jen.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



FUEL ONLY GAS CARDS

We give \$10 gas cards to people who need help getting to a doctor's appointment, job interview, etc. If you would like to donate toward gas cards that are given to those in need, please write "Gas Cards" in the memo section of your check payable to "UMC."



ONE BIG TENT

**"Connecting the church to the community
through the love of God"**

One Big Tent, our joint ministry of area congregations reaching out to our neighbors in need, continues to grow as we are helping more people out of our offices (1039b B Ellis St.) in downtown Stevens Point, looking forward to welcoming our new case manager from our partner, Catholic Charities,

and continuing to support the resettlement of Afghan refugees into our community.

Our main goal for our ministry remains the same. We are committed to building relationships with those who come for help as we listen to their stories and walk with them in their need. We work hard to connect them with local non-profit agencies and community resources/information that exist to support people when they are struggling. However, when no one can help then we are the safety net to keep people from crisis situations like homelessness.

I would like to ask for your continued support of this important ministry in our community in the following ways.

- 1) Please pray for those in need as we work with them and for the companions and clergy who give their time to help find solutions.
- 2) Prayerfully consider if you would like to be a companion talking with and working with our neighbors who need help. We offer training and only ask people to volunteer for a 3-4 hour shift once a week. Also, we pair you with a clergy person who is there to support you. For example, I (Pastor Tim) volunteer every Wednesday with a member from Beloved Community from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. If you are interested, please talk with Pastor Tim.
- 3) When it is appropriate, we do provide financial support to help with rent assistance, car repair, buying medicines, etc. We work with people to identify what they can contribute and we make up the difference with what they owe. We could use your financial support to help us meet these ongoing needs. If you would like to make a financial contribution, please make the check out to our church and put, "One Big Tent" in the memo line.

Thank you for your prayerful and generous support of this important ministry to make God's love real to all our neighbors.

Pastor Tim



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Spring Rummage Sale

May 17 & 18, 2022

It is time to start cleaning out closets, housewares, books and garages. We need your good used items for this sale. **Please NO electronics, curtain rods, window blinds, bed frames, bed rails or light fixtures** - these items do not sell. (Community Thrift Store (St. Vinnie's) and Goodwill will not accept them.) These items end up in our dumpster and we have to pay to dispose of them. Your treasures may be placed on the stage in Fletcher Hall during office/building hours.

- Set up is Monday, May 16th, 9 am till 6 pm. If we have an abundance of items we will have an extra set-up day on the previous Friday or Saturday.
- The Rummage Sale dates are: Tuesday, May 17th, 8 am-6 pm; and Wednesday, May 18th, 8 am-11 am.

The sale will be held both in Fletcher Hall and Hazel Calkins Fellowship Hall.

- Clean up follows the end of the sale on May 18th. Many hands are needed to make this a success. Whatever time you can donate to this event is much appreciated. Men, their trucks, trailers and muscles are needed on Wednesday, May 18th, after the sale ends, to help pack, move tables and haul leftovers to Community Thrift Store (St. Vinnie's) or Goodwill.

Questions or 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. Thank you!



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.

****NOTE: Dave will be gone the week of April 18-22. If you are able to help at any time during that week, please contact the church office.**

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.



MEET & GREET

We are meeting after our worship service 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 the 10:00 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.



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.

Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course (In-Person)

Friday, May 20 6pm-9pm

Saturday May 21 9am-4pm

Mauston United Methodist Church, 420 Suszycki Dr., Mauston, WI

Cost: \$15 to cover book and food. The book can be ordered from the leader or can be found at The Upper Room website.

Leader: Mike Zahn

Deadline to register: Friday, May 6

Pre-register to Nancy Schmig, LSM co-director at schmigkn@gmail.com with name, church affiliation, email and phone number. If you have any questions about the class or to order a print copy of the book, please contact Mike Zahn at 715/470-1957 or **mmzahn57@hotmail.com**.

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**.



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 this item in the church office. Call the church office (715/344-3557) if you would like this item 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