

# St. Paul's Newsletter *May 2020*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Happy Spring! We have had glimpses of warmer weather during the month of April, and I know that we will welcome spring as we enter May.

As many of you know, we continue to worship online, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to do so. I cannot help but wonder what this time would have looked like if we did not have the technology that we have today. But then I assume that we would find another way to support one another and continue to worship as a faith community. This has certainly stretched us in terms of finding new ways to do things. The church has never had the greatest reputation for embracing change, but we have certainly risen to this occasion. People have shown flexibility and understanding during this time and I am so incredibly grateful. God is still moving in our congregation. We are continuing to check in on one another, we are praying for each other and "gathering" online for worship when we can. For those who cannot gather with us virtually, I have made copies of my sermons available and we also send a copy of our virtual church bulletin. That has been very well received and I believe that we will continue this practice into the future.

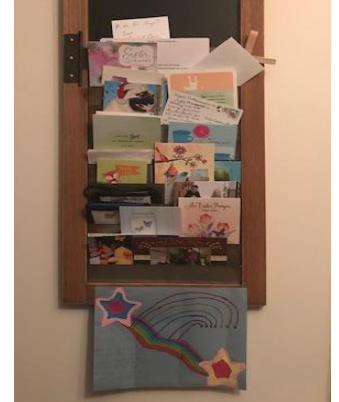
Our church business has continued during this pandemic. We have had committee discussions via e-mail. We have also had several meetings via Zoom, which is an online gathering/meeting application. We have had people participate in zoom meetings, bible studies and discussion groups. Ministry is still happening at St. Paul's and we are so grateful for the many imaginative ways that we have found to remain connected to one another.

I would like to thank those of you who have sent me cards and notes throughout this time.

These notes have helped to keep my spirits raised!

I have appreciated each sentiment that I have received. I think I have gotten more cards in the past six weeks than I have gotten in my entire ministry.

Each one has brought me joy and I keep them near me in my office so that I can re-read them often.



Please continue to send notes to each other to stay connected. Connection is vital during this time. If you need a revised copy of the directory in order to reach out to people, please reach out to the church office either by phone or e-mail and let them know. We can send a new directory out to you.

Prayer Focus: Please continue to pray for all who have been affected by the COVID-19 virus. Pray for our governmental leaders as they continue to lead during this difficult time. Please pray for Bishop Tracy Smith-Malone who is our spiritual leader and who is leading East Ohio churches during this pandemic. Finally, pray for our church, that we can sustain ministries and stay connected to God's people during this time of separation.

Seeking His wisdom,  
Pastor Charlene





# Mission Report

*“Count your blessings, name them one by one...”*

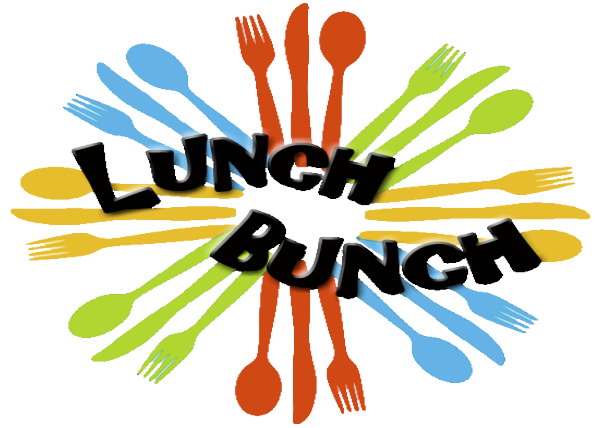
is a song that keeps playing in my head! It is a reminder to me to not dwell on the negative but focus on the positive!

As we are social distancing let us remember those who are less fortunate. Many of our organizations need funds to help others in our community. Even though we are not meeting at St. Paul’s, you can still donate to **First Call for Help** (our 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday “yellow bucket” offering) by mailing your donations directly to them at 201 S. Washington St., Tiffin, Ohio.

We received \$85 in the Special Easter Offering Envelopes for **Flat Rock Home**. If you missed doing this, you can still mail a check to St. Paul’s marked for Flat Rock and it will be forwarded to them.

Your support for St. Paul’s mission work is greatly appreciated!

- *Kathy Daniel for Missions Committee*



PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH BUNCH  
Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 12:00  
at Fort Ball Pizza, Tiffin

Please RSVP to Kathy Daniel  
if you plan to attend 419-448-8418  
(this is subject to change)

## REMINDER ABOUT VIRTUAL WORSHIP

Because we have been unable to gather in person for worship, we have been “gathering” online.

Pastor Charlene has been streaming our worship services on Facebook and has also been e-mailing links to the worship service to everyone on our e-mail list.

If you have not been receiving our worship e-mail (which includes a virtual worship bulletin and a link to our worship service) please contact the church office at 419-447-1743 or contact Pastor Charlene directly at 567-207-0553.

If you do not have the technology which allows you view our online worship, we have been sending out worship packets by mail. These packets include a paper copy of Pastor Charlene’s weekly sermon and a copy of our virtual worship bulletin, which includes the order of service and our prayer concerns and praises. If you would like a paper copy of our worship items, please contact the numbers above.



Women's Bible Study is going well! If you would like to join us, please let myself or Pastor Charlene know. Even if you do not have the book, we could get the scripture lesson to you so you can keep current with the weekly "Bad Girl".

Pastor Charlene sends out a Zoom link to join us in study and fellowship.

- *Molly Lofton*



### E-GIVING IN 3 EASY STEPS

1. Download the Give Plus app on the app store (available for Apple and Android)
2. Search for "Tiffin St. Paul's United Methodist Church" and select our church.
3. Tap "Give Now" and enter your information.

You can also give online by going to our website ([www.tiffinstpauls.org](http://www.tiffinstpauls.org)) and clicking on the "E-Giving" link.



**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. Please consider helping us!!**

**Morrison House is currently seeking assistance from the community to gather household supplies & items that their clients need to succeed.**

**Here is a list of needs they have.**

- Bath Towels
- Wash Cloths
- Dish soap
- Floor cleaner
- Lysol
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- All-purpose cleaners
- Bleach
- Scouring sponges
- Dish sponges
- Laundry detergent
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Wood polish
- Hand soap
- Vinegar
- Baking soda/powder
- Light bulbs
- Meats
- Pasta
- Seasoning
- Bread
- Milk
- Eggs
- 30 gallon trash bags
- Baby wipes
- Diapers – Sizes 5, 6 only
- Baby wash
- Body wash
- Razors
- Feminine hygiene products
- Pillows
- Blankets
- Twin size sheet sets
- Storage totes – all sizes

**Donations can be dropped off at 107 W. Perry St., Tiffin and monetary donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 25, Tiffin, OH 44883.**

**If you have any questions regarding Morrison House, please contact Challie Briehl, Site Director @ (567) 201-8019**

**<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you –**

**1 Peter 1:3-4**

### *Moments of JOY*

**“God is reminding us that we are called to be people of joy even in the most overwhelming of circumstances. God is calling us to rise up and be His people, His Easter people, His people of joy, indescribable, glorious, absurd joy!”**

**“Our faith calls us to indescribable and glorious joy. I call it absurd joy! The Word calls us to rejoice despite our sufferings. The kind of absurd joy that celebrates that we are ALIVE! Not just living, but ALIVE as Jesus is ALIVE.” –**

*Pastor Charlene Thomas, sermon dated April 19, 2020*

- **“My joys have been cooking more variety of meals, reading, jigsaw puzzles, and taking long walks in nature. Steve and I share an interest in all of these things.” –**

*Denise Lawson*

- **“I have trouble remembering my phone number, but I made a promise to myself to try to memorize some Bible verses. So, I picked one out that wasn’t too long but spoke to me during this difficult time. Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”. Not only did I memorize it...(I won’t tell you how many days it took me), but it has become my prayer for myself and for other’s. I just replace the word “you” with I or me, or with someone’s name who has asked for prayer. Sending love and blessings to all of my St. Paul’s family” –**

*Nancy Rollins*

- **“April 23 (or whatever month it is), after I took food over to my daughter’s house, I arrived home to get my mail and in the mailbox was a card and it was addressed to Donna McConahay and the return address was Consolo. I thought ‘I will open this in a minute’ and I laid it on the table. In a few minutes, I opened it and when I pulled it out it said “Hi” on the front. I opened it up and it said, “I love and miss you so much Anna”, and it had a heart and was signed Dominic. I cried for an hour after that! I cried because my heart felt so good. I text Dominic and told him how much I love the card and how much I loved him. When I asked Charlene about it, she told me that he was doing a scavenger hunt with the kids from St. Paul’s and one of the things was to write a note to someone and I was the lucky one who got a note from him. So, whoever came up with this scavenger hunt, I want to say thank you! You helped to make a very special moment in my life during this hard time.” –**

*Donna McConahay*

## *Moments of JOY*

- "Because HE lives, I can face tomorrow. Because HE lives, all fear is gone! I know HE holds the future, and life is worth the living, just because HE lives! I can face uncertain days because HE lives!"

A special joy has been a closer relationship with my oldest granddaughter. Nine years ago, when she was a Third grader, I was reading her AR books so we could discuss them and improve her test scores. As a Six grader she was not happy, when as a short term caregiver, Grandma insisted she do the 20 minute a night reading homework! As a senior she recommended three books she'd read and was anxious to discuss a certain one with me! I finished my first ebook, and we had our discussion! 😊 She was also recently named an honor student with at least a 3.8 GPA and loves the Lord!" –

*Karen Kinstler*

- "When I was getting my loop recorder in my heart the other week, I know my son and God was with me. When I went into surgery, I was very nervous. One of the nurses held my hand and to find out it was my oldest son's cousin, Amanda Lutz. Then during the surgery my oldest son that passed three years ago June, song come over the speaker in the surgery room. Then they check my vitals and my heartbeat was 72. The weird thing is - that was my son's football jersey number. I know he was looking over his mama and I know God was there with him. Everything went well, it was nice to have guardian angels and God watching over us." –

*Tevin Drosky*

- "Hi Charlene,  
I want to let you know that your challenge to find joy last Sunday has been the center of my week and joy is abounding! After a bit of thought I decided to take the discretionary money I would have spent on eating out, pedicures, hair, etc. during the quarantine and spend time each day finding local non-profits with fund drives for support of people with COVID 19. I divided the sum by 10 and each day I choose a different charity. Today is day 7. Some recipients have been feeding local healthcare workers, emergency food fund at Ronald McDonald house and Girls Inc. It has been such an eye opener to see all the different ways people are affected by this virus.  
I am not wanting to boast, just know that your sermon was very inspiring. I know you were curious about peoples joy, so there it is!"

Blessings and Love,

*Anne – a friend of Pastor Charlene's who lives in Florida*

- "Every morning when I first wake up, I recite the chorus from the song "Waymaker". 'Waymaker, Miracle worker, promise keeper, light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are'. It helps to keep my focus on Him as I get ready to face the uncertainty of the day. On nights when I wake up full of worry, I will also say it and follow with the Lord's Prayer." –

*Cheryl Armstrong*



## East Ohio Conference UMC



The East Ohio Camps leadership team has been praying and seeking counsel on what decisions to make about Summer Camp 2020. After much prayer and consultation, the leadership of East Ohio Camps is suspending the 2020 Summer Camp Programs at Aldersgate, Asbury and Wanake, as well as CYF, ReachOut and Institute.

Read the full notice on the East Ohio Conference website ([www.ecumc.com](http://www.ecumc.com))



# POSTPONED

## YOUTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020

Youth Annual Conference was scheduled for Friday, June 12 – Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, but it has been postponed.

### Important 2020 Dates in the United Methodist Church (East Ohio, Jurisdiction & General Conference)

- May 4-15: Quadrennial General Conference --- **POSTPONED UNTIL 2021**
- June 12-14: East Ohio Youth Annual Conference – **POSTPONED – MORE INFO IS COMING**
- June 15-19: East Ohio Annual Conference – Lakeside --- **POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER**
- July 15-18: North Central Jurisdictional Conference - Fort Wayne --- **STILL SCHEDULED**

## Church Mice

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## ST. PAUL'S UMC MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

**St. Paul's Youth Fellowship:** A Facebook Group has been set up for our St. Paul's Youth Ministry. If you haven't joined this group yet, please do so (all you have to do is search for "Tiffin St. Paul's Youth Ministry" on Facebook and ask to join the group. You need to be approved to join the group so that we can control who is in the group. Once you are approved, you can post in the group and interact with friends!) Watch this facebook group for things that you can do at home during this time of distancing and for youth ministry happenings in the future.

Tevin and Matt Drosky delivered bags to our Youth Fellowship kiddos. The bags included materials to make a small gift for Moms for Mother's Day. The bags also contained some lessons that Youth Fellowship will be reviewing in their zoom meetings. If you didn't receive a bag, please let Pastor Charlene or Tevin Drosky know. We are so grateful for Tevin and Matt's leadership for Youth Fellowship!

**Facebook Devotions:** Make sure you like our Facebook page (Tiffin St. Paul's United Methodist Church). We post a lot of information on our Facebook page, including devotions several times a week. You don't want to miss out!

**Small Groups:** We hosted a zoom small group during the month of April. We watched the film "The Longshots" and had a discussion time on zoom. It was so much fun! We had 13 people participate. We will do this again in May. If you have any movie recommendations (for movies on Netflix), please e-mail Pastor Charlene and let her know. Look for more information soon!

**GIVING DURING CHALLENGING TIMES:** Thank you to those who have continued to give during this time of distancing. We are unsure how long this time of separation will last but we do know that we are still the church! We are St. Paul's. As you can see from the rest of our newsletter, ministry is still continuing at St. Paul's. Your support helps those ministries happen. Please give as you are able. God is moving in our communities in new and exciting ways and the church will be ready to meet those needs. But we cannot do that without your support. Thank you so much for supporting your church!

Tithes and offerings can be mailed in to the church at 46 Madison Street, Tiffin, OH, 44883 or you can give electronically by clicking on the E-Giving link on our website ([www.tiffinstpauls.org](http://www.tiffinstpauls.org)). There is also the Give Plus app available for smart phones or tablets.

better



The Better Together Collaborative Ministry Team sent cookies to the staff at Elmwood at the Shawhan.