

Welcome! Whether you are worshipping with us in-person or virtually, we pray that you and your family are safe and healthy.



The “Shut-In” Card is Back! The deacons and elders will provide the name of someone deserving of a special card each week. The card will be on the table near the greeters for you to sign on your way in or out. This week the card is for Joanie Moyer.

Serving Today

Scripture Reader: Emily Zimmerman

Greeter: Linda Okuniewski

Acolyte: Alexander Boyer

Tech: Shannon Simpson

Last Sunday

Attendance: 137

Virtual worship viewings: 53 (as of 3/16)

Giving: \$5903

BIRTHDAYS ~ this week

March 19: Robert Kellar, Jr.

March 20: Andrew Heimel

March 21: Ken Biles, Kurt Stork

March 23: Villa Lazzaretto

March 24: Barry Kulakowsky

March 25: Susan Ceklosky

ANNIVERSARIES ~ this week

March 20: Julio & Sara Trejo

Next Sunday:

Message:

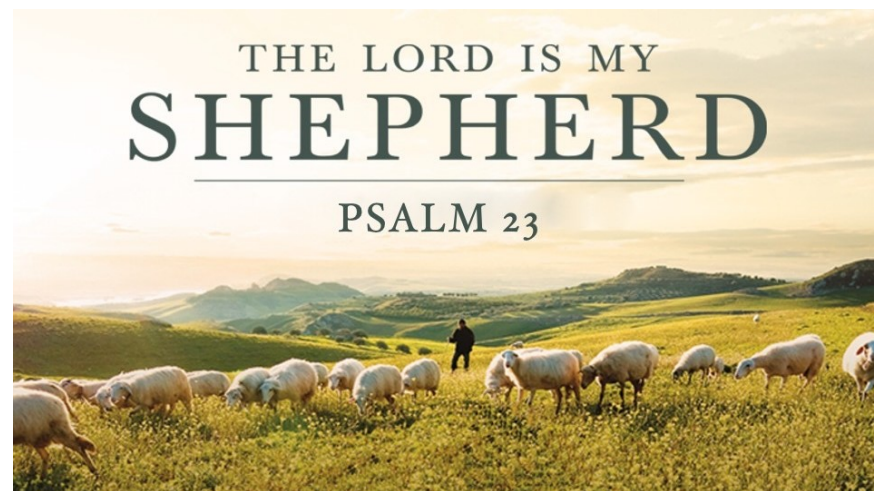
Texts:

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Lazarus - Come Out!

*Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, John 11:1-45**

**next Sunday's sermon text*



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Amityville, Pennsylvania

March 19, 2023

Ministers: The People of St. Paul's UCC

The Rev. Dr. Steven Simpson, Pastor

Martha Sitler, Minister of Music

Joe Ceklosky: Leader of Technology/Video Team

Marlene Dadey, Director of Christian Education/Office Manager

Emily Zimmerman, Director of Youth Ministry

Church Office 610-689-9364

Pastor Steven's cell - 610-858-0921

Pastor's e-mail - pastor@stpaulsuccamity.org

Church e-mail - office@stpaulsuccamity.org

Website: www.stpaulsuccamity.org

St. Paul's United Church of Christ Mission Statement

In its life and mission, St. Paul's UCC seeks to worship the triune God; proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ; practice loving service toward the needy; embody God's reign of peace and justice; establish a Christian community of faith; and be a faithful member of the church universal.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Amityville, Pennsylvania

March 19, 2023

9:45 A.M.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

* = Those who are able may stand

Prelude *Ave Verum* -Mozart / Paxton
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need -Dale Wood

Choral Prompt *Be Still and Know*

* Processional Hymn *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* Hymnal #682

* Greeting The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
Let us share signs of Christ's peace with one another.

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Lead Me, Lord* Hymnal #695

* The Solemn Declaration (from Ephesians 5:8) sung response: **Amen!**

* Call to Worship —from Psalm 23:1, 3, 5-6

The Lord is my shepherd.
There is nothing I lack.
**God guides me in proper paths
for the sake of God's good name.**
God bathes my head in oil;
my cup is so full it spills over!
**Yes, God's goodness and faithful love
will pursue me
all the days of my life.**

* Call to Confession —based on Ephesians 5:8-10

* Silent Prayer

* Corporate Prayer of Confession (in unison) —from the UCC Book of Worship

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot
save ourselves. We have sinned against you in
thought, word, and deed, by what we have done
and by what we have left undone. We have not loved
you with our whole heart. We have not loved our
neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and follow in your
ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon —based on Psalm 23:6

The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy
will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

* Affirmation *The Apostle's Creed* (inside hymnal cover)

* Prayer of the Day —based on Isaiah 6:9, Matt. 13:13, Eph. 5:8-9, 13, John 9:6, 25, 38

Choir Anthem *Gentle Shepherd* -IJames and Pope

Prayer for Illumination —based on Ephesians 5:9-10

Scripture Readings *John 9:1-41, Psalm 23*

Sermon *The Lord is My Shepherd*

* Responsive Hymn *The Lord's My Shepherd* Hymnal #694

Prayers of the People response: *O God our Shepherd, hear our prayer.*

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Invitation to the Offering —based on Psalm 23:5

* Doxology Hymnal #815

* Prayer of Dedication

* Recessional Hymn *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* Hymnal #688

* Benediction —based on Psalm 23:1

Threefold Amen

Postlude *O Jesus, King Most Wonderful* -Leavitt / Broughton

He restores my soul.

Psalm 23:3



YOUR OFFERING

We no longer pass the offering plate during the service for safety precautions. Please place your offering in the plate when you pick up your bulletin. If you forget you may place your offering in the basket by the chancel rail when you leave the service. If you are not worshipping in person you may make your offering by doing one of the following. Anyone is welcome to make their offering in any one of the following ways as well. Your offerings help us to pay the monthly bills and pay our staff as well as provide mission outreach.

- You may mail your contribution to the church office weekly, monthly or as you see fit.
- You may enroll in Automatic Giving. There is a form on the church website at the bottom of the page that you can print, complete and return to the financial secretary. Automatic Giving is deducted from the account of your choice once a month around the middle of the month.
- You can make a contribution by credit card by going to the church website stpaulsuccamity.org or scan the QR code.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

The Annual Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, April 8 starting at 11AM. This even is for ALL children of the community ages 0-10. Please refer to the flyers posted around the church or the newsletters for specific age groups and times. Monetary donations will be gratefully accepted. Please place sealed envelope marked "Egg Hunt" in collection plate or send to the church office. The Fundraising Committee will be sponsoring a Bake Sale during the egg hunt to benefit the general fund. Donations of baked items will be accepted in the FLMC kitchen by 9 AM on April 8. Please mark your donation "egg hunt". For questions contact any member of the Evangelism Committee.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

In addition to our basic support of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), our first special offering, One Great Hour of Sharing will be received on Sunday, March 26. One Great Hour of Sharing is a special mission offering which involves you in disaster, refugees, and immigration and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced you are part of that immediate response for help. When God's love abides in us, we are moved to respond to the needs of other members of God's family. Thank you for your support. Remember, every gift matters.

ST. PAUL'S ACTIVITIES—this week

Sunday 3/19	Adult Sunday School	8:30 AM
	Worship & Sunday School	9:45 AM
	Coffee & Conversation	11:00 AM
	Girl Scouts 11165	4:00 PM
	Cub Scouts	4:00 PM
	Girl Scouts 1709	6:00 PM
Monday 3/20	Boy Scouts	7:00 PM
	Tech Committee	7:30 PM
Tuesday 3/21	Eastern Star	9:00 AM
	Magic Speech Bus	5:00 PM
	Steph Grace Bootcamp	6:15 PM
	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM
	Women's Bible Study	7:00 PM
	Youth Group 9-12	7:00 PM
Wednesday 3/22	Assemble Egg Hunt Prize Baskets	1:00 PM
	Lenten Meal/Study	6:00 PM
	Choir Rehearsal	7:45 PM
Thursday 3/23	Ron Ivison Memorial Service	11:00 AM
	Magic Speech Bus	5:00 PM
Friday 3/24	Spaghetti Supper Set-Up	
	Amity Chess Club	7:00 PM
Saturday 3/25	Scout Spaghetti Supper	4:00 PM

COFFEE and CONVERSATION

Members are invited to stay after worship TODAY and gather in Fellowship Hall for a time of Coffee and Conversation. It's like a town hall meeting of the church allowing members to share in an on-going conversation about our church and its ministries. Any topic for the good of the congregation can be discussed. Leaders are hoping to hear what is working well and what can be improved, including worship services and times.

PAGETURNERS

Pageturners will meet tomorrow, March 20 at 11:30 AM at the home of Shelby Laney. She already has a "cool door prize" and is working on a menu appropriate for the book! Now who would want to miss that? We will discuss *The Last Suppers* by Mandy Mikulencal. Come even if you haven't read it. Light lunch served.

GOSPEL TEXT

John 9:1-41

¹ As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. ⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”

But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

¹⁰ “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

¹¹ He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

¹² “Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said.

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents.

¹⁹ “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?”

²⁰ “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. ²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”

²⁵ He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

²⁶ Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?”

²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.”

³⁰ The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” ³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” ⁴¹ Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.”

SERMON TEXT

Psalms 23, KJV

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

