# INSIDE WORSHIP!

# In-Person Worship Cancelled Through Jan. 17

8:30AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



St. Paul's United Methodist Church 205 Maryland Ave. Cambridge, Maryland

Invite a friend – Let's come together!

# St. Paul's Newsletter Sunday, January 10, 2021

Guided by God's love, our purpose is to make disciples of Jesus Christ through the Nurture, Outreach and Witness ministries, and to obey the commands of God.

If you have an e-mail address and would like to receive our newsletter electronically, please let us know at info@stpaulscambridge.com

#### 2020 COMMITTEE & CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Rev. Chris Pettit (<u>pastor@stpaulscambridge.com</u>)

Administrative Council Chairperson: Anne Murphy (awmurphy78@yahoo.com)
Board of Trustees Chairperson: Michelle Gregori (trustee@stpaulscambridge.com)
Finance Committee Chairperson: Fred Redmer (treasurer@stpaulscambridge.com)

Communications Team: communications@stpaulscambridge.com Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Chairperson: Betsy Malkus

(betsy\_malkus@yahoo.com)

Outreach Ministries: info@stpaulscambridge.com
Memorial Fund Chairperson - Scott Daniels (443-521-4577)
Membership Chairpersons: Toni Insley (info@stpaulscambridge.com)
Health Ministries Chairperson: Dot Bradshaw (443-225-5394)
United Methodist Men President: Don Kinnamon (410-463-1193)

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 10 am – 2 pm Pastor's Office Hours: Monday & Thursday – Other times by appointment

\*There is no house phone at the parsonage. To contact Pastor Chris, call 410-739-4364\*

8:30 am Adult Sunday School Teachers

No Classes through January 17

9:15am Worship Service Scripture Readers

Terri Hughes (Jan. 10) June McKelvey (Jan. 17)



## **Prayer List**

Barbara Jean Denny Wagner Billy Wright Unsaved loved ones Hochreiner Robert Hodge Charlotte Willey Our Service Workers

Darlene Iones Pat Aaron Our Schools Family of Peggy Bramble Anne Murphy Jesse Hurley Those needy Aubree Burton **Phillip Rogers** Our pastors Linda Andrews Frank Brooks Our church Ron Potter Becky Tall

David Hughes Cliff Pritchett David Thomas, Sr.

Nancy Hebdon Bob & Betty Lloyd Verla Bowser

David Pope Lucy Willey Nancy Kreek

Tom Anschutz Rita & Joe Harkins Families

If anyone would like a visit from clergy, please contact the church office.

#### **Troubling Times**

I try to be an optimist and an encourager. Mainly because I am filled with hope. I have hope because I know light always overcomes darkness and even though we live in the middle of a spiritual battlefield, the war has already been won. When Jesus breathed his last words on the cross, "It is finished!" – he declared that his work was complete, that he had taken on the sins of the world and paid for them with his very life. His resurrection three days later proved that death – the enemy of every human - had been defeated and New Creation had begun. His ascension to heaven, where he now sits in the place of power at the right hand of his Father, means that Jesus is Lord of all. The promise he made to his disciples before He ascended that "...surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" reminds us that we are never alone and that he is right here with each person that calls upon his name.

I'm finding it harder and harder to remain optimistic and encouraging when I see us growing further and further apart. My faith is not shaken, it is stronger than ever – because what I witness has nothing to do with the Kingdom of God – and everything to with the kingdom of man (and I use that term in the universal sense). In John's gospel, Jesus said "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world" (John 18:36). When we declare allegiance to Jesus, in our baptismal vows, our citizenship moves to God's Kingdom. And listen to what Jesus said about us as he prayed to his Father, "I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world" (John 17:14-18).

Be careful, my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ! In this dark time, the enemy is waging war on truth. Again, Jesus speaks to this in John's gospel when he addressed those who thought they were on God's side but whose behavior revealed otherwise: "You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44).

What happens when we expend our energies propping up the kingdoms of men higher that the Kingdom of God? What happens when truth is abandoned for passions? What happens when fear is used to call into doubt all that we see and know? Conspiracy theories thrive - family and friends become enemies – sound reason is thrown out the door – and the country burns.

Jesus still reigns. Let us be about sharing the message of the Kingdom of God – a message of love, reconciliation and truth. God has sent us into this world to do just that. And pray that the Lord will heal our nation.



### **Worship Services Cancelled**

Taking into consideration the quick rise in positive COVID cases, discussions with those serving locally in healthcare, recommendations from our Bishop, and data from the State of Maryland, in-person worship and Sunday School will be cancelled for now. **There will be on in-person worship for the next two weeks (1/11 & 1/17).** 

Worship will be pre-recorded and posted on Youtube with a link on Facebook - just as we did for Christmas Eve and on Dec. 27th. Videos will be posted here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCK1H89qCXwOjdfeUWKhkmFA

In addition, the Trustees have decided to temporarily halt church activities on all Church properties until further notice. **The church office will still be open, but by appointment only.** We want to limit gatherings of people in enclosed areas until the positivity rate drops. Right now in Dorchester, the positivity rate is over 8% and climbing, with more expected in weeks to come due to Christmas gatherings. Hope is on the horizon, but we all need to be extra cautious in this particular time.



## **BASEMENT NEWS**



The "Basement Ladies" at St. Paul's UMC would like to everyone to know that their shops will be closed through January 17, 2021. 'Tis The Season at 200 Hayward Street, Cambridge, and the basement shops are currently closed to shoppers, however, if you have items you would like to donate, please contact the church office to schedule an appointment.



#### **Cold Weather Shelter Meals**

It's that time of year again!! Our local Cold Weather Shelter is now open, and in need of volunteers to bring dinners to the people needing a warm place to sleep. St. Paul's UMC has once again signed-up to provide these meals on the first Thursday of the month, December 2020 through March 2021. If you could help with preparing and/or delivering these meals, or if you'd like more information, please contact Kathy Morris (443-521-5647) or the church office (410-228-1424 or info@stpaulscambridge.com





#### **HEALTH TIPS ON the Germiest Places Outside Your Home**

The need to protect ourselves will continue long after the coronavirus vaccine has been distributed. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

- 1. Hand dryers in public restrooms--get germs from toilet spray. Use paper towels or carry hand sanitizer.
- 2. Swimming pools. Kids carry up to 10 grams feces on their bottoms. Avoid public pools or shower carefully after using.
- 3. Gyms. Bacteria collects on skin from everything you touch, transfers to equipment. Species found in restrooms are found on gym equipment.
- 4. Restaurant menus. Some have 100 times more bacteria than a toilet seat. Clean hands after ordering.
- 5. Lemon wedges on water glasses. Nearly 70% found with disease-causing bacteria, including E coli.
- 6. Water fountains very germy. Carry own water bottle.
- 7. Soap dispensers loaded. Scrub 20 seconds or carry hand sanitizer. Restroom door handles very germy. Use paper towels to turn knob or use hand sanitizer.
- 8. Shopping carts. Use wipes.
- 9. Elevator buttons. Push with elbow or a pen, use stairs or use hand sanitizer.
- 10. Hotel rooms. TV remote dirtiest after bedside lamp switch, telephone, hair dryer, bedspread.
- 11. Playground. Slides, swings, sandbox dirtiest. Use hand sanitizer or wipes.
- 12. ATMs. Flu virus can live several hours on a dollar bill. Press buttons with a pen.



# **Upcoming Calendar**

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
SERVICES CANCELLED				<b>6:45pm</b> Prayer Tsunami		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
SERVICES CANCELLED	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day			<b>4:30pm</b> SPRC Meeting		
	<b>6:15pm</b> Finance Team Meeting in Fellowship Hall			<b>6:45pm</b> Prayer Tsunami		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>8:30am</b> Adult Sunday School				<b>6:45pm</b> Prayer Tsunami		
<b>8:45am</b> Fellowship						
<b>9:15am</b> Worship Service w/Holy Communion in Sanctuary						
31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5	6
Sunday School	<b>6pm</b> Trustees Meeting in Fellowship Hall			<b>6:45pm</b> Prayer Tsunami		
<b>8:45am</b> Fellowship	e chowship trail					
<b>9:15am</b> Worship Service w/Holy Communion in Sanctuary						

## Have a safe and blessed week!



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