

INSIDE WORSHIP!

8:30AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:15AM WORSHIP SERVICE IN SANCTUARY

ATTENDEES MUST BRING AND WEAR YOUR OWN MASKS



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

Invite a friend – Let's come together!

St. Paul's Newsletter

Sunday, December 6, 2020

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 (pastor@stpaulscambridge.com)

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****



Prayer List

David Hughes

Family of Charlie
Harp

Family of James
Harvey

Nancy Hebdon

David Pope

Tom Anschutz

Denny Wagner

Robert Hodge

Darlene Jones

Peggy Bramble

Anne Murphy

Linda Andrews

Becky Tall

Cliff Pritchett

Bob & Betty Lloyd

Lucy Willey

Rita & Joe Harkins

Billy Wright

Charlotte Willey

Pat Aaron

Jesse Hurley

Phillip Rogers

Ron Potter

David Thomas, Sr.

Verla Bowser

Nancy Kreek

Families

Unsaved loved ones

Our Service Workers

Our Schools

Those needy

Our pastors

Our church

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

Update for St. Paul's UMC

November 2020

Dear Church family,

Peace be with you. I want to take a moment and communicate a few things to the church to keep everyone up to date. There are a couple of items that are well known by certain groups in the church working on them (church leaders, committees, ministry teams) that I want to communicate to all. They are as follows:

Outside Kitchen Wall

Upon noticing a separation near the roofline of the outside wall of the church kitchen and second floor (facing the parking lot), the trustees hired a structural engineering firm to come and give an assessment. It was determined that the stone façade, which is anchored to a cinderblock wall, was bowing out away from the building. The cinderblock wall near the roof had shifted outward as well, likely due to water intrusion. A masonry company has been hired to remove the stone façade and repair the cinderblock wall, then replace the façade with a manufactured stone wall. We are hoping this project can begin in the next few weeks. The good Lord has already provided the means to cover the costs of this project through a large bequeath from the estate of Judge Jones this past summer.

Second Floor Renovation

The second floor of the church has not been updated in long time, so a sub-committee of the trustees was pulled together to obtain estimates and oversee the project. The trustees voted to approve \$15,000 for this project. Several church volunteers have spent a good deal of time conducting prep work (patching holes, replacing door frames, sorting and cleaning out rooms). Special thanks to Carl Hughes, Rick Marshall, Nick Gregori, Scott and Rebecca Redmer for their efforts. Working within the budgeted amount, we hope to be able to replace ceiling tiles, paint the rooms and put down new flooring by mid-December.

Food Pantry

Last week, we held a committee meeting to discuss the future of the Food Pantry. Currently, on the second Saturday of the month, we host a drive-thru Food Pantry with food purchased from the Maryland Food Bank. The Maryland Food Bank partners with churches and community organizations throughout the state to provide food to areas where there is food insecurity. There are policies we must follow to make sure that the food is getting into the hands of the intended target groups. There is great need for this ministry in Cambridge and we have dedicated volunteers who assist with these food drops every month. Due to Covid, we follow an outside drive-thru format. Those in need of food line up their cars at Governor's Hall and a volunteer checks them in. When the church is ready, a volunteer driver leads a group of 10 cars/trucks at a time from Governor's Hall to the church. Each car is then directed to "drive-thru" our parking lot and volunteers load their cars with fresh vegetables, frozen meats, canned goods and breads. We are facing several challenges. First, we do not currently have a central person willing to lead this operation – which includes communicating with Maryland Food Bank, getting the word out, organizing and training volunteers, overseeing setup and cleanup. Second, winter months are upon us and holding outside food distribution with a volunteer force will be difficult. Third, we are not

attracting younger volunteers who could help with some of the heavy lifting (tables, pallets, etc) and I'm noticing some volunteer fatigue from those who we depend to be there each month. Big challenges – but not too big to overcome. **I have decided to go ahead and hold the December Food distribution unchanged on December 12th at 7am.** The need around the holidays outweighs the hardship of making it happen. I encourage anyone who is able to help to please do so. The group that met last week was in agreement that we need to rethink how this ministry will operate. I invited my wife, Krista, to share with the group how her organization shifted from once-a-month food drops to a storefront model in Queen Anne's county. In doing so, Haven Ministries is now serving as a model for the rest of the state since this is the direction Maryland Food Bank is encouraging organizations to go. Haven Ministries (HM) opened a space in a retail building that includes shelving and freezers (similar to a small market) and clients call and make an appointment to come and shop during the week. Since it is only one family at a time, more time can be spent ministering and helping folks with what they need and only 1-2 volunteers are needed per shift. Families can shop for what they want and will eat, so there is less waste. There are rules in place that clients must follow. There is also a space set aside for teaching budgeting class, connecting people with other area resources, and to pray with folks. The whole process is designed to bring dignity to the person receiving help and spend direct time getting to know people and building relationships. For such an endeavor to work here, I believe we need to partner with other local churches who can help share the load. If this is of interest to you, please contact me so that you can be part of the planning process. We need some dedicated and organized individuals willing to move this idea forward.

Christmas Eve Service

A month ago, I was hoping by Christmas that we would be able to pull off some kind of Christmas celebration. And then the Covid-19 cases began to skyrocket. While the news regarding vaccinations looks very promising, this is not the time to be planning for services that may attract large numbers of people. I'm greatly disappointed, as I'm sure you are, one of my favorite times of year is leading the Christmas Candlelight Service. Barring any change in restrictions from the state, we will hold our regular Sunday worship service on December 20th and celebrate the birth of Christ and in all likelihood, there will be a virtual Christmas Eve service offered.

There are many wonderful things happening, but those are the main items I wanted to share.

I would also covet your prayers. Over the next few weeks, I will be working on my ordination paperwork which basically amounts to an 80-page document. I've set aside December 2-9 to try and finish the bulk of it. I will be available for pastoral situations and emergencies, but will mainly be working in my study at home. Prayers are needed – *especially for the discipline to focus on the task at hand!*

God Bless and keep sharing the hope that is Jesus Christ.

Pastor Chris

Pastoral Response to Governor's Announcement

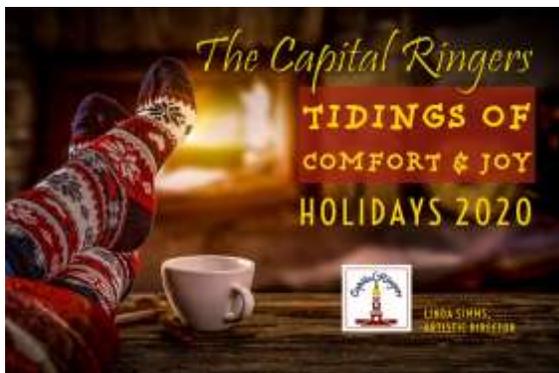
As many of you know, Governor Hogan recently announced a public health advisory that limits indoor gathers to 25 or fewer people. When asked specifically about congregations, he said that the limit does not apply to churches at this time since we already have safety protocols in place (mask wearing, social distancing, sign in sheets for contact tracing, hand sanitizer). However, as other churches in the area have recently experienced, all the precautions in the world do not guarantee protection against this virus. Many experts believe it is going to get worse before it gets better. While we are thrilled to hear the promising results of a new vaccine currently in the final stages of testing, it is highly unlikely that this vaccine will be available before April.

We need to practice an abundance of caution. I am exploring ways of improving our online worship experience so that if you choose to stay home, you can enter into a time of worship with the church and not have to worry about lost signals and hard to hear audio. We are also looking into equipment that will allow us to broadcast a parking lot worship service in the case that indoor worship has to be put on hold for a period of time.

What can you do? If you are able to worship at home without difficulty, I ask that you consider doing so. This will allow those who do not have access online and who choose to attend Sunday worship to spread out more. If you do attend in-house worship – please sign in when you enter, keep your mask on, and maintain social distancing among those who are not your immediate family. And of course, if you have a fever or even think you have been exposed, stay home.

We will adjust and adapt to the reality of what is going on in our county – so please keep the church in your prayers and if and when we have to add restrictions, please comply knowing that we are doing so for the safety of others.

Blessings,
Pastor Chris



The Capital Ringers, Delmarva's community handbell ensemble, truly regret they cannot perform live this holiday season. But we can still perform virtually, and we wish to share that message with all our past and future concert attendees!

Since July, the Capital Ringers have been rehearsing safely to produce a holiday concert of 10 songs – some old favorites such as “Winter Wonderland” and “Wizards of Winter” and so many beautiful new arrangements. Our concert is a mix of sacred and secular tunes and includes music notes and interviews with some of the musical arrangers.

If you believe that handbells sound like Christmas, there are several ways to access the Capital Ringers' virtual concert. Please visit our link: <https://www.capitalringers.org/tidings-of-comfort-and-joy/>

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 Ministry News

HEALTH TIPS--NUTRITIONAL STARS

Barley--rich in fiber, supports colon health, lowers cholesterol, supports good bacteria in the gut, may lower risk of heart disease.

White potatoes--Ditch the oil and butter; spuds are excellent source of fiber, filling, contain high-quality carbohydrates to fuel brain and muscles with energy, along with vitamins, minerals and phytochemicals.

Cauliflower--packed with phytonutrients that help fight inflammation and promote detoxification, full of vitamin C, other antioxidants.,

Unsweetened cocoa powder--Two Tbsp provide 4 g fiber, 16% daily value of magnesium, a heart-healthy mineral, flavonoids that help relax blood vessels, keep blood pressure at healthy levels.



Cocoa



SHADOW OF THE STEEPLE

St. Paul's Shadow of the Steeple program is again providing gift cards in the amount of \$30 for Dorchester County residents who need them. To submit a name, write the name and address on the envelope for a Christmas card, or a piece of paper if you don't have a card, add a sticky note with the number of people in the family, and drop it in the collection box in the room adjoining the sanctuary. Or leave it with Toni in the office, or put it in the Health Ministries mail slot in the outer office. Contributions to the program are welcome.

ADVENT



WORDSEARCH



- MARY
- ANGEL
- JESUS
- ADVENT
- CANDLE
- JOSEPH
- PURPLE
- WREATH
- BELIEVE
- REJOICE
- SAVIOUR
- EMMANUEL
- GOODNEWS
- ISRAEL

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A Prayer for Putting on a Face Mask

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing of this cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds, be filled with Your love. In Your name and in that love, I pray. Amen.

Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator
Presbyterian Church of Canada



Please wear a mask.

Stay Safe. Stay Healthy.

Upcoming Calendar

6 8:30am Adult Sunday School 8:45am Fellowship 9:15am Worship Service w/Holy Communion in Sanctuary	7 6pm Trustees Meeting	8	9	10 6:45pm Prayer Tsunami	11	12 8am Food Pantry Registration in Sailwinds Parking Lot 9-11am Drive Thru Food Pantry in St. Paul's Parking Lot
13 8:30am Adult Sunday School 8:45am Fellowship 9:15am Worship Service w/Holy Communion in Sanctuary	14	15	16	17 4:30pm SPRC Meeting 6:45pm Prayer Tsunami	18	19
20 8:30am Adult Sunday School 8:45am Fellowship 9:15am Worship Service w/Holy Communion in Sanctuary	21 First Day of Winter 6:15pm Finance Team Meeting in Fellowship Hall	22	23	24 7:30pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day 	26
27 8:30am Adult Sunday School 8:45am Fellowship 9:15am Worship Service w/Holy Communion in Sanctuary	28	29	30	31	January 1 New Year's Day 	2

Have a safe and blessed week



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