

# THE ST. PAUL SPIRE

St. Paul United Methodist Church • 165 E. Square Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

**Web site** — <http://spumc.net> **E-mail address:** [stpaulumcbh@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulumcbh@gmail.com)

February  
2018



## Prayer Chain



The Prayer Chain is a symbol of “connection”, linking every member of the St. Paul family. As with any chain, it shows strength connecting all of us to a common purpose. The Prayer Chain will include all members, friends, and relatives of our St. Paul family.

If anyone has a need, concern, or joy it will be communicated through the Prayer Chain to everyone in the St. Paul family. This is not to be taken as an invasion of privacy, but as an act of compassion from your loving, caring family members.

Prayer is our way of speaking to God and having Him hear our thoughts as they relate to each of us and our feelings for others.

How will the Prayer Chain work — you ask? It will start with the introduction of a topic. This topic will be communicated to either Marjorie Kumar, Dorothy Kelchner, or the church office. Having received a request, it will then be passed on to everyone by using the phone number or e-mail. Having received a Prayer Request, you will not be required to pass it along to anyone other than God.

The Prayer Chain is an example of our loving concern for everyone in our St. Paul family. Please use this method of communication for all of your needs, concerns, and joys.

Submitted by: Ron White 2016

Reminder of the importance of the prayer chain.

### In this issue:

Points of Interest	1
Finances — December 2017 & January 2018	2
Worship Assistants	3
Anniversaries and Birthdays	3
Calendar	5

*The  
Season  
of  
Lent*



### Points of Interest

- Small Group meets every other Wednesday, 6<sup>30</sup> P.M., at the Pastor's office..
- Pastor's Tuesday Bible study meets at 10 A.M. in the parlor. Join us!

*St.  
Valentine's  
Day* February 14



## December, 2017

	<u>Worship</u>	
	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
December 3	46	\$2,503
10	37	2,511
17	41	763
24	42	6,587
31	38	1,079

### Designated Gifts/Giving

Sunday School:  
(YTD Total: \$5)

### "Second Mile" Giving

Coins for Mission (YTD Total: \$228)  
F.I.S.H. Collection (YTD Total: \$224)  
UMCOR-Hurricane Relief (YTD Total: \$295)  
Christmas Offering (YTD Total: \$690)

### Fundraisers

Roof Repair (YTD Total \$663 from UMW)  
Olga's Fundraiser (YTD Total: \$16)  
Kroger Community Rewards (YTD Total: \$72)

### Mission Opportunities — As of December 31, 2017

	<u>Conf. Request</u>	<u>Paid in 2017</u>
Ministerial Pension	\$2,180	\$2,180
Common Budget**	15,979	1,890
World Service		918
Ministerial Ed.		76
Black College Fund		76
Africa Univ.		76
Meth. Union for		
District Missions	776	776
Detroit Ren. District	325	325
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$19,260</b>	<b>\$6,317</b>

\*\* (This amount is proportionally applied to Connectional Ministries, World Service & Conference Benevolences, Ministerial Education Fund, the Black College Fund, Africa University, and the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund.)

## January, 2018

	<u>Worship</u>	
	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
January 7	39	\$3,049
14	37	2,799
21	34	1,312
28	37	1,950

### 2017 St. Paul Budget Report through end of the year

#### Ministry, Programs, & Outreach

Budget Each Week	\$2,611
Budget Year-to-Date	\$135,772
Offering Year-to-Date	\$113,514
Year-to-Date Difference	-\$22,258

### 2018 St. Paul Budget Report through Jan, 2018

#### Ministry, Programs, & Outreach

Budget Each Week	\$2,611
Budget Year-to-Date	\$10,444
Offering Year-to-Date	\$9,110
Year-to-Date Difference	-\$1,334



## St. Paul Worship Assistants, February 2018

### Counters

4 Joyce McClelland, Sherry Pickett  
11 Fay Alston, Lisa Sweeder  
18 Bill Lee, Doug Sweeder  
25 Barb Casper, Sue Sweeder

### Lay Readers

4 Scott Sweeder  
11 Bill Lee  
18 Carol Kelley  
25 Doug Sweeder

### Nursery

4 TBD  
11 Kecia Brown  
18 Kim Hinkle  
25 Helen Vaillencourt

### Ushers

4 B. Johns, B. Robinson  
11 B. & D. Casper, M. Kelley  
18 B. Johns, J. Leitch  
25 B. Johns, H. Vaillencourt

### Trustee on Duty

Marcus Kelley

- Is there anything you'd like in the Spire? Call the office - (248) 338-8233 by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the Month.



### **February Anniversaries**

4 Gil & Barb Bluhm



### **February Birthdays**

5 Jane Lowell  
12 Brenda Nichols  
14 Michele Lowell  
16 Peg Lowell  
23 Doris Henry  
28 William Nichols  
28 William Nichols

Web Site: <http://spumc.net>

E-Mail Address: [st.paul.bh@spcglobal.net](mailto:st.paul.bh@spcglobal.net)








### Ads/Announcements

- **FISH Collection Reminder — First Sunday of each month**  
The FISH pantry is in need of Hamburger Helper, tuna, crackers, spaghetti pasta and sauce, large peanut butter, jelly, boxed potatoes, baked beans, cereal, canned corn, and green beans. Your donations do make a difference. Thank you for supporting this cause.
- **Ash Wednesday Service** — Here at St. Paul, 7 P.M. The rest of the schedule for Lent and the Lenten Study to be announced.
- **Thank you to Virginia Tuttle** — Virginia has helped me a great deal with the Year-end report and I am blessed to have her help. She has been there from the beginning of my employment here at St. Paul.

Sincerely, Laura Ferguson



# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>Lent</h1> 				1	2	3 UMM — 8 <sup>30</sup> A.M. (Dixie Diner) EIP — 8 <sup>30</sup> A.M. AOL — 8 <sup>30</sup> A.M. (FH) Shotokan — 10 <sup>30</sup> A.M.
4 Sunday School — 9 A.M. Worship — 9 <sup>45</sup> A.M. GTAC — 12 P.M.	5  Tai Chi — 7 P.M.	6 Bible Study — 10 A.M. UMW — 11 <sup>30</sup> A.M.  Shotokan — 6 P.M.	7 Prayer — 10 A.M.  Sm. Group — 6 <sup>30</sup> P.M. (Office) GTAC — 6 <sup>30</sup> P.M. (Parlor) Tai Chi — 7 P.M.	8  AOL — 6 to 9 (FH) Choir — 7 P.M. (Upstairs)	9  AOL — 6 to 9 (FH)	10 AOL — 8 <sup>30</sup> A.M. (FH) Shotokan — 10 <sup>30</sup> A.M.  AOL — 3 TO 6 (FH)
11 Sunday School — 9 A.M. Worship — 9 <sup>45</sup> A.M. GTAC — 12 P.M. (Sanctuary)  AOL — 3 TO 6 (FH)	12  Tai Chi 7 P.M.	13 Bible Study — 10 A.M.  Shotokan — 6 P.M.	14 Prayer — 10 A.M.   ASH WEDNESDAY  Service - St. Paul 7 P.M. Tai Chi — 7 P.M.	15  Choir — 7 P.M.	16	17 AOL — 8 <sup>30</sup> A.M. (FH) Shotokan — 10 <sup>30</sup> A.M.  VSNA— 3-11 P.M. (F.H.)
18 Sunday School — 9 A.M. Worship — 9 <sup>45</sup> A.M. GTAC — 12 P.M.  First Sunday of Lent J & J — 3 <sup>30</sup> to 6 (FH)	19  Tai Chi 7 P.M.	20 Study — 10 A.M.   Shotokan — 6 P.M.	21 Prayer — 10 A.M.  Sm. Group — 6 <sup>30</sup> P.M. (Office) GTAC — 6 <sup>30</sup> P.M. (Parlor) Tai Chi — 7 P.M.	22  Choir — 7 P.M.	23	24 UMW — 8 <sup>30</sup> A.M. Leo's Coney AOL — 8 <sup>30</sup> A.M. (FH) Shotokan — 10 <sup>30</sup> A.M.
25 Sunday School — 9 A.M. Worship — 9 <sup>45</sup> A.M. GTAC — 12 P.M.	26  Tai Chi 7 P.M.	27 Study — 10 A.M.   Shotokan — 6 P.M.	28 Prayer — 10 A.M.  GTAC — 6 <sup>30</sup> P.M. (Parlor) Tai Chi — 7 P.M.	 		

## Why Ashes?

In "[A Service for Worship for Ash Wednesday](#)" in the *United Methodist Book of Worship*, two suggestions of what worship leaders may say as they make the sign of the cross on another's forehead are offered: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," and "Repent, and believe the gospel." Each points to an aspect of what the ashes represent.

### **Remember that you are dust...**

Ashes were an ancient symbol of our humanity. In Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). The Hebrew word translated *dust*, is occasionally translated *ashes* elsewhere.

When Abraham felt the need to acknowledge the difference between him, a human being, and the infinite God, he referred to himself as dust and ashes. "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord," he said, "I who am but dust and ashes" (Genesis 18:27).

### **...and to dust you shall return**

Our humanity also calls to mind our mortality.

After expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the first human beings are told by God, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19 NRSV). We know the day is coming for each of us when we will return to dust.

We wear black as a sign of mourning. Ancient people wore ashes. For example, Mordecai puts on sackcloth and ashes to grieve the many deaths he sees coming from an order King Ahasuerus gives to kill all Jewish people (Esther 4:1-3). The prophet Jeremiah later calls the people of God to "roll in ashes" as a way of mourning the coming devastation from an opposing army (Jeremiah 6:26).

Receiving the imposition of ashes is a powerful way to confront our humanity and mortality. They remind us that we are not God, but God's good creation. In them we recognize that our bodies will not last forever, and come face-to-face with the reality of our eventual death.

### **Repent...**

Ashes also signify our sorrow for the mistakes we have made. People in ancient times wore sackcloth and ashes as a way of expressing their repentance of their sins.

When Jonah reluctantly preached to the people of Nineveh after the giant fish spit him up on the beach, the King and his people put on sackcloth and sat in ashes. God saw this act of repentance and spared the people (Jonah 3:1-10).

In the New Testament Jesus mentions this practice. Warning the cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida Jesus said, "if the miracles done among you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have changed their hearts and lives and put on funeral clothes and ashes a long time ago." (Matthew 11:21 CEB).

*The dried palms from the previous Palm Sunday are burned to make the ashes used for Ash Wednesday. Photo by Kathryn Price, United Methodist Communications.*

When we participate in the service of ashes, we confront our sin. We recognize our inability to live up to all God has created us to be, and our need to be forgiven. No matter how often we go to church, how far we have come in our spiritual journeys, how accomplished we may feel, each of us has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

The palms waved the previous Palm Sunday to welcome Jesus as our King, have been burned to form the ashes. In some sense, they serve as a reminder of how far we fall short of living up to the glory of Christ. On the first day of Lent, we come before God recognizing our humanity and repenting of our sin.

### **...and believe the gospel**

While this may sound fatalistic, it is not the end of the story. Lent leads to Easter, the day we celebrate that though our bodies are temporary and our lives are flawed, a day of resurrection will come when we will live in the presence of God forever.

One Wednesday every year we go to church remembering who we are, and hopeful of who we can be.



*The dried palms from the previous Palm Sunday are burned to make the ashes used for Ash Wednesday. Photo by Kathryn Price, United Methodist Communications.*

When we participate in the service of ashes, we confront our sin. We recognize our inability to live up to all God has created us to be, and our need to be forgiven. No matter how often we go to church, how far we have come in our spiritual journeys, how accomplished we may feel, each of us has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

The palms waved the previous Palm Sunday to welcome Jesus as our King, have been burned to form the ashes. In some sense, they serve as a reminder of how far we fall short of living up to the glory of Christ.

On the first day of Lent, we come before God recognizing our humanity and repenting of our sin.

**...and believe the gospel**

While this may sound fatalistic, it is not the end of the story. Lent leads to Easter, the day we celebrate that though our bodies are temporary and our lives are flawed, a day of resurrection will come when we will live in the presence of God forever.

One Wednesday every year we go to church remembering who we are, and hopeful of who we can be.