



THE ST. PAUL SPIRE



St. Paul United Methodist Church • 165 E. Square Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
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April 2018

Pastor's Pen

Greetings Church,

As we reach the culmination of this Easter season, I am reminded how we allow little things in life to challenge and change how we focus on and follow Christ.

Why is it that if someone tells us there are one billion stars in the universe, we believe them, but if they tell us a wall has wet paint, something in us makes us question and drives us to touch it to be sure?"

It seems that the further removed we are from a truth, the more readily we tend to be to accept it. But when it's close enough to be within reach, we feel the need to "touch it to be sure." This describes the faith of Thomas. Thomas, who was one of the disciples of Jesus, had heard the reports of the risen Christ. Nevertheless, he insisted on his own personal encounter. While others saw Christ and believed He was the risen Lord, Thomas felt the need to touch the Lord's wounds himself.

What's interesting about Jesus' encounter with Thomas is that He didn't rebuke him for demanding empirical proof of His resurrection. Instead, Jesus said, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" (John 20:27, NLT) Jesus grants Thomas the right to be skeptical but He doesn't grant him the right to remain that way.

In other words, it's okay if we question the truth, as long as we don't stop there. We are to continue our quest until we find the truth. There are many things that happen in our lives that may challenge our faith. God understands that and grants us the privilege to seek whatever answers we need. In James 1:5 we are told, "5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking."

In John 1:14, Jesus is referred to as the Word of God, and that, "14 ... the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness."

When doubting moments in your life cause you to question your faith, instead of allowing them to pull you away from Christ, like Thomas, choose to get closer to God's Word by examining, studying, and accepting Him as your Lord and Savior.

God Bless Your Hearts,
Pastor Sampson

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Points of Interest

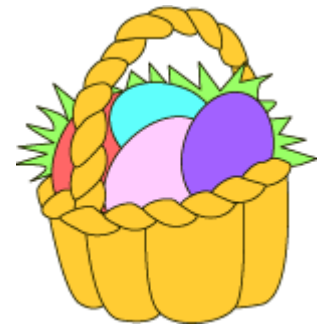
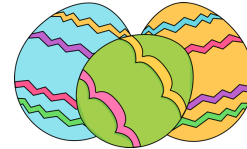
- Small Group meets every other Wednesday, 6³⁰ P.M., in the Pastor's office.
- Pastor's Tuesday Bible study meets at 10 A.M. in the parlor. Join us!





March

	<u>Worship</u>	
	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
March 4	38	\$2,440
11	33	906
18	41	1,546
25	30	2,083



Designated Gifts/Giving

Sunday School:
(YTD Total: \$0)

"Second Mile" Giving

Coins for Mission (YTD Total \$15)
F.I.S.H. Collection (YTD Total \$58)

Fundraisers

Kroger Community Rewards
(YTD Total: \$0)



Mission Opportunities — As of February 28, 2018

	<u>Conf. Request</u>	<u>Paid in 2018</u>
Ministerial Pension	\$2,200	\$440
Common Budget**	16,510	0
World Service		0
Ministerial Ed.		0
Black College Fund		0
Africa Univ.		0
Meth. Union for		
District Missions	782	156
Detroit Ren. District	328	0
Total:	\$19,820	\$596

** (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.)

2018 St. Paul Budget Report through February 2018

Ministry, Programs, and Outreach

Budget Each Week	\$2,579
Budget Year-to-Date	\$30,948
Offering Year-to-Date	\$26,975
Year-to-Date Difference	-\$3,973





St. Paul Worship Assistants

Counters

- 1 Sue Sweeder, Virginia Tuttle
- 8 Joyce McClelland, Sherry Pickett
- 15 Fay Alston, Lisa Sweeder
- 22 Bill Lee, Doug Sweeder
- 29 Barb Casper, Virginia Tuttle

- 15 Kim Hinkle
- 22 Helen Vaillencourt
- 29 Scott Sweeder

Lay Readers

- 1 Doug Sweeder
- 8 Marcus Kelley
- 15 Scott Sweeder
- 22 Bill Lee
- 29 Carol Kelley

Ushers

- 1 B. Johns, B. Robinson
- 8 B. & D. Casper, M. Kelley
- 15 B. Johns, J. Leitch
- 22 B. Johns, H. Vaillencourt
- 29 B. Johns, ***

Nursery

- 1 Scott Sweeder
- 8 Kecia Brown

Trustee on Duty
Marcus Kelley

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

E-Mail Address: stpaulumcbh@gmail.com

Ads/Announcements

- **Easter, April 1st — UM Men's Breakfast, 8³⁰ A.M.**
Egg Hunt, 9¹⁵ A.M.
Worship, 9⁴⁵ A.M.



- **Pop-Can Tabs** — Hazel Park First has been collecting aluminum can pull tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. Let's contribute to HP's cause! Collection containers are located in the narthex and fellowship hall.

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





April Anniversaries - None



April Birthdays

- 20 Marjorie Kumar
- 21 Brian Johns
- 21 Joyce McClelland
- 22 Jim Kelchner
- 28 Kecia Brown
- 29 Pastor Sampson



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 8³⁰ A.M. — UM Men's Breakfast 9¹⁵ A.M. Egg Hunt 9⁴⁵ A.M. Worship GTAC — 12 P.M.</p> 	<p>2 Tai Chi — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>3 UMW — 11³⁰ A.M. Shotokan — 6 P.M.</p>	<p>4 Small Group — 6³⁰ P.M. GTAC 6³⁰ P.M. (Parlor) Tai Chi — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>5 NO Choir</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 AOL — 8³⁰ A.M. UMM — 9 A.M. (Dixie Diner) Shotokan — 10 A.M.</p>
<p>8 Sunday School — 9 A.M. Worship — 9⁴⁵ A.M. GTAC — 12 P.M.</p>	<p>9 Tai Chi — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>10 Study — 10 A.M. Shotokan — 6 P.M.</p>	<p>11 GTAC — 6³⁰ P.M. (Parlor) Tai Chi — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>12 Choir — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 AOL — 8³⁰ A.M. (FH) Shotokan — 10 A.M.</p>
<p>15 Sunday School — 9 A.M. Worship — 9⁴⁵ A.M. GTAC — 12 P.M. J & J — 3 to 6 (FH)</p>	<p>16 Tai Chi — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>17 Study — 10 A.M. Shotokan — 6 P.M.</p>	<p>18 Small Group — 6³⁰ P.M. GTAC — 6³⁰ P.M. (Parlor) Tai Chi — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>19 Choir — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 AOL — 8³⁰ A.M. (FH) Shotokan — 10 A.M. VSNA — (FH)</p>
<p>22 Sunday School — 9 A.M. Worship — 9⁴⁵ A.M. GTAC — 12 P.M.</p>	<p>23 Tai Chi — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>24 Study — 10 A.M. Shotokan — 6 P.M. Leadership — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>25  GTAC — 6³⁰ P.M. (Parlor) Tai Chi — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>26 Choir — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 UMW — 8³⁰ A.M. (Leo's) AOL — 8³⁰ A.M. (FH) Shotokan — 10 A.M.</p>
<p>29 Sunday School — 9 A.M. Worship — 9⁴⁵ A.M. GTAC — 12 P.M.</p>	<p>30 Tai Chi — 7 P.M.</p>	