The Trumpet

St. Paul United Methodist Church

618-372-3255
Office Hours
Tues, Wed. Thur 8:30-12:30

April and May 2021

From Pastor Dala

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a mess we have made of our world! God is most likely hanging his head in disappointment at all the problems we have created. I hear talk of how much everyone wants to go back to the way things were but unfortunately, I don't believe that is even possible.

I think of how we often look back on our lives and wish we could turn back the hands of time. Maybe to a day when things were brighter. Maybe a year when we were younger. Maybe to a time when life was simpler. But we are not the same people we were then – we are not the same people we were last year when all this pandemic mess began. We are not even the same people as we were when we woke up this morning. The simple truth is this: "Every second brings with it changes."

So, what do we do about it???? How about we try to make the best of what it is we have right here and right now. How do we move forward? To begin with we must take hold of the past and claim it. I know we all don't want to, but it can't be changed.

Recently there has been much talk about the evolution of our past – the history – the statues – and so on. So many people want to erase the things that they believe have produced bruises and heart ache for people. So many want to not accept what was their reality. You can't do that. It is what it is – period.

There are times from my life that I wish things would have or could have been different but when I am totally honest with myself, I must admit that all those things have made me into the person I am today. And I'm okay with that. Was everything fun? Was it all productive? Was it all encouraging and enriching? No – No – No and No! But it is my past. It shaped me and formed me.

The Bible teaches us that we are like clay in a potter's hands and God is the potter. We are being molded and shaped by every second of every day – some things are good and some things not so good. Some things are healthy, and somethings are detrimental to our health. Some things produce character. Somethings produce the fruits of the Spirit.

How would we even know what a blessing is if we hadn't had walked through a storm. We would know no difference in the light of the sun from the light of the moon. We wouldn't know the beauty of the colors of the world if we didn't know the lack of color. Spring wouldn't bring to us new life if winter hadn't brought the end of life. The heat of the summer wouldn't feel so good on our skin if we hadn't lived through the bitterness of the cold.

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Easter Services

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 28—10:00 AM

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 2nd—6 PM

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 4TH—10AM

We will be observing all the mandated guidelines and social distancing. practices.

Community Events

Brighton Consolidated Election April 6, 2021

Brighton Village Wide Yard Sale- May 15, 2021

Brighton Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 3,at Schneider Park at 11 am.

Thank you

Thank you for remembering me with your prayers, notes, cards and phone calls during my times of regaining my body strength and dealing with a pulled hamstring. Amy Tuey

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We as people have changed. We as a church have changed. We are see-sawing back and forth between virtual and in-person worship. We have suspended hand shaking and neck hugging and now we fist and elbow bump. VBS became a drive-thru event. Valentine Bags and Easter Bags were hand delivered to the children. What do these next few months hold in store for us???? Only time will tell.

But I will ask of you this one thing…. be in prayer for our church. Hold fast with me to the promises He gives us in his word. Stand firm in your faith that God is in control. Don't spend your energy on something that hasn't happened. And give God thanks for all circumstances.

St Paul UMC is alive and well. Praise God!!!!
Blessings, Pastor Dala

Sunday Morning Worship

We have resumed our in-person worship hour on Sunday mornings. Masks must be worn when you enter the building. We have also been able to incorporate communal singing as well as responsive readings and prayers. Communion is offered every 1st Sunday with the use of pre-packaged elements for safety.

If you are unable to attend on Sunday mornings, our service is broadcasted live on Facebook. You can find the link to watch on our webpage: stpaulbrighton.org. We also broadcast during worship on 89.5FM which you can listen to from any of our parking lots.

Twigs

We continue to take donations for breakfast items. You can drop off your items in the can in back of the Sanctuary.

Food Pantry

January, we served 58 people which includes 21 families & 11 children.
February, we served 46 people, 18 families & 9 children.

The food pantry continues to feed those in need. The pantry feed 53 families in December. The number has been less in January and February due in part to the weather. We were closed one week in February as we couldn't get in due to the snow and extremely cold temperatures. Jenna Garner and I wish to thank all our volunteers who have worked so faithfully during the pandemic. They have had very few beaks during the last year. Volunteers were Dorothy Schroeder, Barbara Brenner, Ginnie Baker, Teresa Thurm, Don Werts, Teresa Shank and Carolyn Kelly. We picked up more volunteers this past year which allows us to be able to give breaks to our staff from 2020. We now have a total of eleven volunteers. Pastor Dala has also helped a few times when a need for an extra occurred. Dorothy Schroeder fell and broke some ribs last year. Wendy Krause stepped in for Dorothy and worked for the six weeks Dorothy was not available. Wendy is now a part of us. Judy Burk volunteered in the fall. Bob and Elaine Weaver came aboard at Christmas time. We have a high school student, Nina Phillips, who needs volunteer service for school, join us in March. Nina will be working at various jobs under my direction. Jobs will include stocking shelves, organizing the storage room, helping on delivery day and other odd jobs. I wish to thank you for your prayers and continued support of the pantry.
Sylvia Skinner, Assistant Director

Collections

We continue to take donations of plastic bags, clean egg cartons, and monetary gifts for the food pantry. You may drop off all donations at the church any Sunday or during the week when the office is open.
Thank You.

Children's Ministries-Outreach

Forty Christmas treat bags were delivered to the community Pioneer Club children, and 11 were delivered to Jacksonville, FL. Amy Tuey's backyard neighbors, Ken and Linda Allen, drive to Jacksonville, FL. each Christmas to be with their only child, Christine, her family of Paul, her husband, three young adult daughters and 11 adopted children ages 2-8 yrs. Paul and Christine have been foster parents for about 15 years and had decided to never break up a family of brothers and sisters. Consequently, they are now a family of 16, and we received word that the treat bags were truly blessings as they were delivered by Ken and Linda. The 40 Easter treat bags will be delivered to the front door of each community Pioneer Clubber on Palm Sunday. Two bags will be packed and mailed to Norfolk NE. to be given to a 6 year old boy and his 2 year old sister who was diagnosed with childhood brain cancer around Thanksgiving of 2020. How do I know about these children? I met their dad when he was a college student in 1993 while standing in line to see the Dave Letterman Show in New York City. He was in town with his college choir for a performance, and he wanted to be in the audience for the taping of the television show. None of the choir members would join him so he came solo and ask me if he could join me. We spent the day together along with a friend who was with me. After that meeting, we have never seen each other in person again. However throughout these years we have kept in touch through cards, letters, text etc. He married, and he and his wife adopted the little boy and his sister around 2 years ago. After learning of the childhood cancer, I decided to send the treat bags so as to remind them of Jesus love and to let them know we care.

Phyllis Graham

Prayers of the People

Amy Tuey, Dorothy Schroeder, Betty Fedrick, Freda Bauer, Bob & Julia Watson, Shirley Gwillim, Donna Lewis, Dorothy McCauley, Saundra Mosley, Jeanne Kohler, Esther Hale, Fern Blumstein, Pat Laubscher, Lexi Garner, Julie Wallace, Joe Was, Ron Parres, Annette Pentecost, Cindy Tucker, First Responders, Healthcare Workers, Robings Manor Residents and Employees, Government Officials, The United States of America

Weekly Sermon

If you are unable to attend our in-person worship services or if you do not have internet or Facebook capabilities and would like to receive a written copy of the message given by Pastor Dala on Sundays, please contact the church office and we will gladly mail one to you. Thank you.

Being Good Stewards

I have to thank you for being so loyal in your giving through all that we have endured this past year. You have proven yourselves faithful. Although we are not currently passing the offering plates on Sunday mornings, we have placed them at the entrance so you can safely drop off your gifts. If you have not resumed in person worship with us, please continue to send your gifts to the church: PO Box 457, Brighton, IL 62012.

Bible Study

Jon Garner is leading a Weekly Bible Study on Thursday evenings, 6:30-7:30pm at the Church. Must wear a ask and be socially distant.

St. Paul United Methodist Church
401 N. Main St
PO Box 457

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Website:

Stpaulbrighton.org

Office Hours

Tues, Wed, & Thurs 8:30 to 12:30.
The office will continue to be closed on Friday.
Pastor Dala works from home on Mondays.