



**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**  
*A welcoming Christ-centered community...*

Second Sunday of Easter  
9:30 am Worship

April 7, 2024

## **We're Glad You're Here!**

**Welcome:** *St. Paul's creates experiences of joyful fellowship where children, youth, adults, and the elderly build open and honest relationships of mutual support. In welcoming the ongoing transformative power of the Holy Spirit, we find freedom from social stigmas and shame. This in turn empowers us to address isolation and marginalization in ourselves and in our wider community.*

## **Today's Scripture Readings**

Acts 5:27-32, John 20:19-31

## **Worship Leaders**

Ministers of the Gospel – All Who Gather for God's Worship

Pastor Margaret Ernst

Reader – Pat Babel

Ushers – Barb Kerper & Nancy Hughes

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Diane Johnson

## **Flower Dedication**

To the Glory of God in memory of Mary Jane Doaty by Ruth Grant

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## **Join us for Sunday Morning Music & Worship**

**9:30 – 10:30am Sunday In-Person / Zoom Worship**

Connect online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86359317508>

Or by phone to listen to the service:

Call 1-646-876-9923 and when prompted, enter the meeting ID: 863 5931 7508

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610-582-8461 + [office@stpaulsbirdsboro.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbirdsboro.org) + [www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org](http://www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org)

Pastor: Rev. Margaret Ernst + [pastore Ernst@stpaulsbirdsboro.org](mailto:pastore Ernst@stpaulsbirdsboro.org)

Church wifi: StPauls / havefaith

## Prelude

## Welcome

### Call to Worship

Leader (L): As we join in worship this day,  
we might feel like the disciples, overwhelmed.  
After all, the state of the world is so uncertain now.

**People (P): But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying,  
“Peace be with you.”**

L: We might feel like Thomas, looking for physical signs  
that the unbelievable could be true.

After all, nothing like this has ever happened before.

**P: But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying,  
“Here are the marks on my body.”**

L: Can we really believe that Jesus is here again?

**P: Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on us.**

**Christ’s peace is with us.**

**We don’t need to be afraid.**

L: Our resurrected Christ calls us to worship,  
and we receive the peace of Christ.

**All: Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!**

**Opening Hymn    “Seek Ye First”    WHM #544**

### Announcements

#### Invitation to Confession

L: God, we confess that we too might be like Thomas.

**P: We can be eclipsed by our cynicism and overwhelmed by the world’s grief.**

L: It’s hard to believe that hope is possible when hope is hard to find.

**P: But when we stop believing in hope,  
we also stop believing liberation can be possible.**

L: When we stop working to tear down injustice and discrimination,  
we stop others from experiencing the peace we have found in you.

**P: Forgive our unbelief. Calm our fears,  
and help us be instruments of your peace.**

**All: Amen.**

*(A moment of quiet reflection)*

### **Words of Assurance**

**L:** Beloved, Jesus comes to us with grace, telling us we can believe. Because we believe, we can also be empowered to do the work of justice. Yes, the world is heavy. No, the work will never be done. But because we know Christ's peace, we can share it with others.

**P:** We believe in the grace and peace of Christ. We are forgiven.

**All:** Alleluia!

### **Passing the Peace**

**Hymn**            **"Come, O Font of Every Blessing"**        **NCH #459**

### **We Listen For God's Word**

**Scripture**        Acts 5:27-32, John 20:19-31

**Sermon**         Eclipse Season

**Hymn**            **"Bind Us Together"**            **WHM #343**

### **Offering**

### **Gathering the Prayers of the People**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**P:** Our Creator, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

**Sending Hymn**        **"Guide My Feet"**        **NCH #497**

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**

## Announcements

**April 14<sup>th</sup> Pastor Margaret's Farewell** - Do you have a special memory or moment you would like to share about how Pastor Margaret's care and work inspired, support or helped you? To create a meaningful service for Pastor Margaret on her last day, there will be a time of sharing special memories during worship. If you would like to share or have any questions, please contact Lenette Wells at 610-698-5166 or email at [lwellscoaching@gmail.com](mailto:lwellscoaching@gmail.com). If you can't be there in person but would like to share a memory (or if you will be there but would prefer not to speak), please just send in your thoughts. We'll be glad to arrange for someone to read them aloud.

**Bible Study** is held in the upper room in the church each Sunday beginning at 8:30am. Join us for good conversation and discussion about the books of the bible. The group is currently discussing the Book of Mark.

**Yard Sale Tentatively Being Planned for April 27** – A yard sale is tentatively being planned for Saturday, April 27 in order to finish cleaning out some items in the community area of the church. There is a need for a few volunteers to help set up and organize the items that will be sold. If you are able to help in early April, please see Doug Johnson.

**Fuel Offering** – To help offset the church's increasing energy & fuel costs, we are asking if you would consider giving a donation. An envelope has been provided in this bulletin. You can also use a special offering envelope (found in the pews), or make a digital donation through our 'Give' page on our church website. Thank you!

**Caring Closet** - Ashley Griffith, the coordinator for the Daniel Boone School District's "Caring Closet" sent a note to the church, expressing their gratefulness for the church's generosity. She was asked if there were any special needs at this time and she responded:

- We are always in need of boys underwear for our elementary schools, S-XL
- We are always in need of girls underwear for our middle school and high school, S-XL
- We would like to start stocking detergent and dryer sheets at all 4 of our schools (just a few of each)
- We are currently in need of applesauce squeeze pouches and individual goldfish snacks
- Sweatpants of all sizes are always needed

Again, thank you for the outpouring of support. We are grateful to have such a supportive group of community members eager to serve our Boone families. Be Well, Ashley

**Community Shredding Events** – Sponsored by Amity Township Crime Watch and Thrivent Five Pillars Financial Group, Saturday April 20, 2024 (Rain or Shine), 9:00 A.M. to Noon, Redner's Parking Lot, Douglassville, PA - Open to residents in Douglassville and surrounding areas. Only local businesses please! Shredding is done by ProShred Security of Paoli. Donations accepted to help defray the cost of the shredding truck.

**Mission Trip Birdsboro and Beyond – MTBB is in its 11<sup>th</sup> year of living the love of Christ within our greater Community. MTBB Week will be July 17-20, 2024.**

**Assistance Applications** - If you or someone you know needs help with something around their home, they may be able to help. You may complete your application online <https://www.missiontripbirdsboro.org/assistance> or you may download your application and send via email or mail (hard copies are on the table at the side door entrance). **NOTE: A site selection team member will follow up with you to schedule an appointment to visit the residence and discuss the request once it has been submitted. Applicants will be informed of their selection status (and scope of assistance provided) by the first full week in July. Currently assistance is limited to homeowners living within a 15 minute drive of St. Mark's, Birdsboro.**

**MTBB Volunteer Registration is now Open** –As you know, participants form an interfaith, inter-denominational team but, common to all, is the desire to live Christ's teaching to love and serve one another. Anyone who participated 2021-2023 has an account set up. You will need to register by using the returning volunteer link to confirm or update your information. For any **NEW** volunteers, there is a separate link available in order for you to create your account. Both new and previous volunteers can find their respective link at <https://www.missiontripbirdsboro.org/volunteer>

**Boyer's 1% Caring & Sharing** – When shopping at Boyer's don't forget to have the cashier scan your 1% Caring & Sharing card (this card has St. Paul's name printed on the back of it). Every time you use the card Boyer's will give St. Paul's a rebate check totaling 1% of the total purchases made by those who used the card. This is a simple and easy way to help St. Paul's. If you don't have a card but would like one, please contact the church office.

**Redner's Save-A-Tape** – We are still collecting Redner's tapes for which St. Paul's can receive 1% of the total bill (Excluding items controlled by the government such as tax, milk and tobacco products). Redner's accepts receipts for redemption up to three years from their printed date and there is no dollar limit. Start saving tapes today! You can drop your receipts in the weekly offering plate or mailed to the church office.

*Electronic Giving is available with the GivePlus+ App or through our website "Give" page.*

## We Offer Prayers for...

The Family of Barry Buchanan  
Linda Badman

### Joys & Blessings

#### St Paul's Weekly Calendar

Sunday, April 7	Hearts Ablaze Fellowship (CE) Worship (C) New Millennium (CE)	9am- 1pm 9:30am 7pm-8pm
Tuesday, April 9	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
Wednesday, April 10	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thursday, April 11	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) Sober @ 6:30 (CE)	5:30pm – 7pm 6:30pm–7:30pm
Friday, April 12	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm-8pm
Saturday, April 13	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
Sunday, April 14	<b>Pastor Margaret's Farewell</b> Ablaze Fellowship (CE) Worship (C) Meet & Greet (C) New Millennium (CE)	9am- 1pm 9:30am following worship 7pm-8pm

#### This Week: Church Office Hours

Tues – Thurs 8:30am – 2:00pm

#### This Week: Pastor Margaret's Office Hours

Thursday – Friday 11:00am – 3:00pm