

*Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 22, 2018
Christ Is A Guiding Presence*

Prelude: *Raindrop Prelude* Chapin
St. Paul's Handbell Choir 9:00 a.m.
The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

*Congregation please stand if you are able.

*Call to Worship **Psalm 23: 1-6** UMH 137

*Entrance of the Light of Christ

*Hymn *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* UMH 381

Joy, Prayer Concerns and Announcements:
Please sign and pass the attendance registration pads found at the end of each pew.

Unison Prayer:

Shepherding God, guardian of our souls, you offer us rest in the safety of green pastures, shower us with your love, and offer us fullness of life in your name. When our spirits are parched, you lead us beside still waters and quench our thirst for righteousness; you restore our souls. Touch our hearts and minds, that your goodness and mercy may follow us each and every day of our lives, and that we may abide in your love and your grace forever. Amen.

Silent Prayer – Morning Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

Choral Prayer Response *Lead Me, Lord* UMH 473
Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness: make thy way plain before my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety.

9:00 a.m. Special Music *O Master Let Me Walk With Thee* arr. McChesney
St. Paul's Handbell Choir with special guests, First Presbyterian Sanctus Ringers

Children's Message

The Offering of Our Gifts & Offertory:
Offertory 9:00 a.m.: *For the Beauty of the Earth* arr. McChesney
St. Paul's Handbell Choir

***The Doxology (No. 95) Blessing**
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Hymn *He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought* UMH 128

9:00 a.m. Anthem *More Love to Thee* Timothy Shaw
Chancel Choir

Scripture *John 10:11-18*

Message *The Lord Is My Shepherd* Rev. Evans C. Bentley

11:00 a.m. **Holy Baptism** of Mason Alan Stephan
Please see congregational responses on back of bulletin.

Solo *He's Got the Whole World In His Hands* Moses Hogan
John Tyner

Scripture Reading Psalm 100
Paul Revere (Uncle)

Jesus Loves Me verse: 1

*Hymn *I Am Thine, O Lord* UMH 419

The Light of Christ leads us into the world - Benediction

***Congregational Response**
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

Baptism Service Mason Alan Stephan

Mason is the son of **Michael and Danielle (Revere) Stephan** and was born on March 30, 2017 in Sacramento, CA. His grandparents are **Laurie Revere, Kathy Stephan, Lloyd Wilkinson, and Paul and Cyndi Revere**. Great grandparents are **Jane Revere and Lucia Finck**.

Our Commitment to Christ

Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Mason, now before you, in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Mason with a community of love and forgiveness that he may grow in his service to others. We will pray for him that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to eternal life.

Baptism

Now it is our joy to welcome our new brother in Christ.

Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.

Announcements

The altar flowers this morning are in memory of *Harold and Barbara St. Bernard* from *Karen Zeestraten*. They are also in celebration of *Jim and Robin Morr's 10th anniversary*.

Ileene Smith's Retirement Reception is today between services in Fellowship Hall. Ileene has been a loyal and pleasant presence in our church office for nearly 30 years and will be retiring at the end of this month. Join us as we celebrate her service to St. Paul's UMC.

Greeters are needed! Please see the sign-up sheet in the atrium, if you are interested.

Kitchen Clean Up, Clean Out – Eve Circle will be leading a deep cleaning of the kitchen ***tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.*** Anyone who is available is welcome and invited to join us. Many hands make light work! Due to Health Department regulations, all unlabeled items will be discarded or donated. If you have left any items in the kitchen area please be sure and check that they are clearly marked and dated so that anything that is useful and needed is not thrown away.

National Day of Prayer Service will be held on ***Thursday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m.*** at the Monroe County Community College in the La-Z-Boy Center.

St. Paul's Music Festival – Saturday, May 5 at 3:00 p.m. Come and experience beautiful and uplifting spiritual music presented by the children's, youth and adult choirs and instrumentalists of St. Paul's Church. Invite friends and family to this free concert!

Communion will be offered at both services **next Sunday**.

The John Tyner Chorale will present its annual Spring Concert “Songs of Hope and Joy” a celebration of life, on Friday evening, **May 11, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.** This free concert will be held **in our beautiful sanctuary** and include texts that will brighten the listener’s mood and lift the soul.

The after graduation party for MHS seniors, **Club 2018**, is looking for volunteers to “hall sit” on **Friday, June 1st** at Monroe County College County. The prizes will be set up earlier in the day so senior parents can attend graduation, hence the need for “hall sitters.” You may bring a book to read or a friend to chat with to pass the time. Sign up on the bulletin board downstairs or call Denise Shugarman at (419)340-6398. Also, if you’d like to donate a gift card from an area business to be used as a prize for a prize, please drop it off at the church office or call Denise.

Lay Speaker Classes are available on line for a fee. If you have a hard time getting to a church to take a class in person, it’s no problem! Check out **beadisciple.com**. Under the “Catalog” tab, you can choose between a number of courses, such as Leading Public Prayer, or Leading Bible Study: Bible Interpretation. This is a great way to get some United Methodist Education right at home!

“Blessed Through Prayer” The weekly intercessory prayer program will convene here at St. Paul’s UMC every week **at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays**. Please join us as we pray for victory over cultural strongholds we all face such as family, education, economic, media, political and crisis issues. Please come, come just as you are and help us pray. Shalom. Call **Duane Bair** for more information at 517-317-1560.

The Mary Martha Circle has hung another quilt in the smallest section of the Fellowship Hall. This quilt was sewn for **Paula Vergowven** and will carry

our prayers for her as she answers God’s call to the ministry. A few ties and prayers remain to be said and tied on the quilts for **Mike and Dorothy Mortiboy** and **Norma Huntley**. Continue your excellent work! We couldn’t do this without your help!

The UMW is in need of about **two dozen pint size canning jars**. If you have any you would like to donate, please drop them off at the church or see Cindy Miller.

Money Counters are needed! We have some who “retired” last year and we are in immediate need of some new volunteers. You only need to be available one Sunday per quarter and Peggy will be glad to train you. Please call the office if you are interested or talk with Peggy on Sunday morning.

You are invited to join the **Men’s Group** at **Benney’s Restaurant** (15239 S. Monroe Street) on Saturdays at 8:00a.m. to enjoy good fellowship and to praise our Lord.

We Own Nothing

When he was president of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Gordon MacDonald said, ***“One of the greatest teachings missing in the American church today is the reminder to men and women that nothing we have belongs to us.”***

We own nothing. We have been given material means to use, but not to own. All that we have belongs to God. He is our Source according to ***Psalm 62:5***. We are only managers and stewards of what God has entrusted to us.

Because all that we have belongs to God, and because he gives the ability to obtain wealth, every spending decision is in reality a spiritual decision. According to ***1 Corinthians 10:31***, our constant goal must be to glorify God in all of life, including how we use his resources.

Stephen Olford wrote this: ***“. . . man’s chief end is ‘to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.’*** We are to glorify God by our worshipful praise (***Psalm 50:23***). We are to glorify God by our consistent fruitbearing (***John 15:8***). We are to glorify God by our spiritual unity (Rom 15:6). We are to glorify God by our entire dedication (***1 Cor. 6:20***). And we are to glorify God by our good works (***Matt. 5:16***). In this last category is included the matter of giving. Only in this way can we provide for ***‘honest things in the sight of the Lord.’*** ***The glory of God should motivate us to give and to give our best.”***

If our goals and ambitions are truly set on spiritual things, if our emphasis in life is to glorify God, we will use the funds the Lord has ***“loaned”*** to us on a temporary basis to glorify him. We will put the Lord’s money and possessions to good use by giving to his work and by storing up ***“treasures in heaven”*** (***Matt. 6:19 – 21***).

There are two key questions to be asked concerning money and possessions: First, are you glorifying God in how you are using the money and possessions he has entrusted to you? And second, are you viewing these things as yours or as God’s?

This Week at St. Paul’s: **Sunday, April 29**

9:00 a.m. – Worship
10:00 a.m. – Sunday School
11:00 a.m. – Worship and baptism of Henry Robert Paterson
6:00 p.m. – UMYF

Monday, April 30

9:00 a.m. – Kitchen Clean-Up

Tuesday, May 1

6:00 p.m. – God Works Meal

Wednesday, May 2

7:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, May 3

10:00 a.m. – Community Singers

7:00 p.m. – Prayer Gathering ***“Blessed Through Prayer”***

Saturday, May 5

3:00 p.m. – St. Paul’s Music Festival

Sunday, May 6

9:00a.m. – Worship and Communion

10:00 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Worship and Communion

6:00 p.m. – UMYF

New Office Hours

Monday & Friday: 9 AM – 1 PM

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9 AM – 3 PM

Each day the office is open through lunch.

St. Paul’s Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Evans C. Bentley

Director of Music: John C. Tyner

Organist: Inger Oswald

Director of Children's Choirs: John Fedosky
Office Personnel: Ileene Smith, Cathy Butson & Susan Myers
Treasurer: Jeanette Fedosky
Financial Secretary: Peggy Plath
Christian Education Director: Alisha Cooley
Youth Leader: Willie Lass

Ushers: 9:00 a.m. – Brenda Cadle, Mary Kay Hamilton, Fran Rayce
Karen Salisbury, Patty Siekierda
11:00 a.m. – UMYF

Liturgist: 9:00 a.m. – Stephanie Metzger
11:00 a.m. – Jennifer Benavente

Acolytes: 9:00 a.m. – Sophia Nolf
11:00 a.m. – Kathryn & Sophia Short

Last Week's Attendance – 120

Budget Information:

Expenditures:	\$100,072
Income:	\$ 73,666
Endowment Income and 2017 Carryover used:	\$ 26,406