



**ST. PAUL'S**  
United Methodist Church of Odessa  
*Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out*

**Pastor Linda Ray, 406 Main Street, Odessa, DE 302-378-2420**  
[www.stpaulsodessa.org](http://www.stpaulsodessa.org), CCLI 11305346 and Streaming Lic. 2118448

## **Second Sunday of Easter** **Creation Care Sunday**

**April 27, 2025, 8:30 AM Service ASL & Livestreaming**

**WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE**

**WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES**

GATHERING MUSIC AND PHOTOS: Duane Dillard/Music, Mark Holden/Photographer/Curator, Gail Garner/ASL Interpreter

GATHERING WORDS:

Liturgist – Brian McNelis

One: In the rising of the morning sun, the Holy speaks:

**Many: You are my children. Shine!**

One: In the greening of the Earth and blooming of creation, the Holy speaks:

**Many: You are my children. Grow!**

One: In the mountains reaching toward the sky, the Holy speaks:

**Many: You are my children. Stand with strength!**

One: In the darkness of the winter days, the Holy speaks:

**Many: You are my children. Trust!**

One: In the presence of the skies that float above us and the assurance of the Earth beneath us

And with the calm of the Spirit within us, the Holy speaks:

**Many: You are my children. Live!**

\*PRAISE AND WORSHIP:

*Since Jesus Came Into My Heart*

Black Hymnal 2140

\*OPENING PRAYER: (all praying): **Maker, Healer, Gatherer God, You formed our bodies from the dust and called them good. You made all creation to be in fellowship with one another. Just as the fungi and the trees have connections so deep that we cannot see them on the surface, so, too, do we have connections to you and one another. Remind us of our calling to maintain this world. Guide us in our pursuit of justice for every body that calls this place home. Enliven us and energize us with the glow of your love. May we show that love to every being that comes near to us. God, gather us together in your love; strengthen our resolve to collaborate; open our hearts to your possibilities. May it be so. Amen**

WORDS FOR YOUNG BELIEVERS:

*Oh How I Love Jesus* (Chorus Only 2x)

Red Hymnal 170

*Oh, how I love Jesus. Oh, how I love Jesus. Oh, how I love Jesus, because he first loved me.*

Brian McNelis shares a blessing with our children!

PASS THE PEACE: (safely share words and signs of blessing)

*I Love You With The Love Of The Lord*

Words and Music by Jim Golbert. CCLI Song #10130

*I love you with the love of the Lord, yes, I love you with the love of the Lord. I can see in you the glory of my King, and I love you with the love of the Lord.*

FIRST LESSON: *Acts 5:27-32* (CEB)

The apostles were brought before the council where the high priest confronted them: <sup>28</sup> “In no uncertain terms, we demanded that you not teach in this name. And look at you! You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching. And you are determined to hold us responsible for this man’s death.”

<sup>29</sup> Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than humans! <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God has exalted Jesus to his right side as leader and savior so that he could enable Israel to change its heart and life and to find forgiveness for sins. <sup>32</sup> We are witnesses of such things, as is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

\*GOSPEL LESSON: *John 20:19-31* (CEB)

<sup>19</sup> It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.”

<sup>24</sup> Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn’t with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> The other disciples told him, “We’ve seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won’t believe.”

<sup>26</sup> After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!”

<sup>28</sup> Thomas responded to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, “Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don’t see and yet believe.”

<sup>30</sup> Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples’ presence, signs that aren’t recorded in this scroll. <sup>31</sup> But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God’s Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

One: May this story inspire us all. **ALL: To walk in the way that leads to life.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION: *I Love to Tell the Story* Red Hymnal 156

THE MESSAGE: “Every Night The Same” Pastor Linda Ray

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*You may speak aloud your joys and concerns.*)

#### WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY REMINDERS: Today’s **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports the **4/27/25 Camp Pecometh**.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all praying): Merciful God, we do not always listen when you speak your law in our thoughts. We do not always live the love you have written on our hearts. We fear that your mercy has limits and doubt the assurance of your forgiveness. Forgive our timid minds, our hardened hearts, and our unfounded fears. Fill us with your mercy; that we might love you and others with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: Pastor Linda Ray  
Officiant Server – Brian McNelis

**Reader 2 (singing):** The Lord be with you.

*Communion Setting 2257-a*

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Reader 2:** Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Reader 2:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Reader 1: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God! You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season. You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life, a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love. You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life. You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that did not always want to hear the truth. You sent Jesus, your Son to walk in the way of Life, that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life. And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise you and join their unending hymn:

*Communion Setting 2257-b*

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Reader 2: You are holy, O God of Life and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One. You sent your only begotten, in whom your fullness dwells, to be for us the way, the truth, and the life. Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him, healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him. Jesus enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate. Jesus offered Divine Life to all people. We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh. Through his resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

(Lifting the bread) Jesus sat with his friends at the table, sharing a meal. Jesus took the bread, lifted it to you, and blessed it. Jesus broke the bread and gave it to his friends, saying: "This bread is my life, a gift for you and for many. Eat this bread and remember me."

Reader 1: (Lifting the cup) When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and shared it with his friends, saying, "Drink from this cup. This cup represents my love, a sign of the new covenant. It brings forgiveness from sin as it quenches your thirst. Drink from this cup and remember me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Communion Setting 2257-c*

**ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!**

Reader 2: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon your gifts of bread and cup. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way., that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place. As we share this holy meal, we invite your life to fill us; we invite your Spirit to lead us more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world. All glory and honor is yours, Holy God, now and forever.

*Communion Setting 2257-d*

**ALL: AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.**

**Reader 2:** Let us join our hearts and voices in the prayer that God continues to teach us:

**Our Father, which 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory Forever. AMEN.**

COMMUNION SONG:

*Change My Heart, O God*

Black Hymnal 2152

*(The congregation will come forward to partake of the bread and cup.)*

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND SERVICE

CLOSING MUSIC:

*Tis' So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

Red Hymnal 462

**SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

Liturgist: Brian McNelis

Audio/Video: Charlii Miller & John Littell & John Cate & Carlotta Cline, Garrett Ray

Communion Officiant: Brain McNelis

Duane Dillard, Music Ministry

**Altar flowers today are donated by Kris & Phil Elliott in memory of Kris' mother, Joyce Knarr, who always enjoyed the spring flowers!**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Rev. Linda Driver Ray, Pastor  
Bonnie Valeski, Admin. Asst.  
Alice Mullins, Financial/Treasurer  
Duane Dillard, Minister of Music  
Jin Kyung Seo, Organist/Accompanist

[lindaray@vaumc.org](mailto:lindaray@vaumc.org)  
[bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org](mailto:bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org)  
[stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org](mailto:stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org)  
[duanedillard@gmail.com](mailto:duanedillard@gmail.com)  
[jinksblue@gmail.com](mailto:jinksblue@gmail.com)

(540) 207-1787  
(302) 378-2420  
(302) 293-9956  
(443) 593-2470

**ANNOUNCEMENTS - THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S:**

**Sunday 04/27 Worship Services 8:30AM ASL & Livestreaming and 11AM Traditional, Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:45AM**

**Monday 04/28**

**Tuesday 04/29 On Par With God 9AM, Cub Scouts 6PM**

**Wednesday 04/30 TOPS meeting 5:45PM, Handbells Rehearsal 6PM, Choir Rehearsal 7PM**

**Thursday 05/01 10AM Prayer and Praise Group**

**Friday 05/02**

**Saturday 05/03 AA Mtg 7PM**

**EASTER FLOWERS THANKS:** Sue Holden and Ellie Leuliette wish to thank all who purchased flowers that filled our sanctuary on Easter morning. We thank John and Patti Harmer for their support by picking up the tulips and getting all the flowers from cars to the sanctuary. We appreciate Willey Farms for their help in choosing tulips and flowers.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITED ROAD TO HOPE BICYCLE RIDE TO WASHINGTON, D.C. :**

Law Enforcement United – New Jersey Chapter is a 15-year law enforcement bicycle ride from Atlantic City, NJ to Washington, DC. They are raising money for several great causes, Road to Hope Bicycle Ride, Project Active Armor, Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.), The Officer Down Memorial Page (O.D.M.P.), and Spirit of Blue Foundation.

On May 9, 2025, the Fairfield Inn, 19113 Coastal Hwy, Rehoboth, will host the 150 riders and support staff for a picnic dinner starting at about 5:30 p.m. Food and beverages are being donated for the picnic, and we just need cookies for dessert.

Because I am one of the organizers for this picnic, I am asking my friends for help with cookie donations. Homemade and store bought and gluten free are all great, just no nuts please. Please label those cookies that are gluten free. I will collect any cookies on May 7<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's UMC at 12 noon. If you are willing to contribute cookies for the cause, please contact me. Thank you ! Rick Pulling, 302-632-8438, [rpulling191@aol.com](mailto:rpulling191@aol.com)

**GRADUATE SUNDAY:** Good morning, if you have a soon-to-be graduate from HS, college, tech school, near or far in your family, and would like to feature them in our Graduation Sunday booklet, please let me know. We will celebrate all grads, present or not, on **June 8<sup>th</sup>**, at that Sunday's services. A photo and short bio will be printed in the booklet with the bulletin and sent out via email that week also. Just send those electronically to me and I will put it all together. Thanks, Bonnie/Church Office, [bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org](mailto:bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org).

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES:** are forming. Please let Pastor Linda know what dates and times would work best for you so that a class can form. Confirmation Class is for any person 12 years old and older who has not

made a profession of faith and is interested in/curious about church membership. Looking forward to your input.

**MIDDLETOWN YMCA GOLF OUTING 'SWING FOR A CAUSE':** at Back Creek Golf Club, 101 Back Creek Dr., Middletown DE **Monday, May 12, 2025 8AM.** This year's golf event will benefit the Middletown Family YMCA and ensure that no one is turned away for the inability to pay! Your donation ensures that everyone has access to the life-changing programs at the YMCA. Donors support a wide range of programs including but not limited to: Summer Camp for low-income children, at-risk teen programming, drowning prevention, before and after school enrichment, chronic disease prevention and so much more. Prizes, contests and a special Mother's Day reception will be held! Contact Rick Pulling with questions, or Rich Berry at [RBERRY@YMCAD.ORG](mailto:RBERRY@YMCAD.ORG), 302-616-9622, ext. 1200.

**UMM FUNDRAISER:** Blue Rocks Game, **Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:05.** Tickets are \$30.00, see Mark Holden for tickets. [Mark@maholden.com](mailto:Mark@maholden.com) or 802-279-8100. **End date to get your tickets is May 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP:** If you are interested in honoring a loved one with flowers at the altar on a particular Sunday, please use the **Flowers sign-up chart and form with instructions on the Narthex bulletin board.**

You can also still call Bonnie or email the church office at [bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org](mailto:bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org) so we make sure the information is added in the bulletin and reserved for you. You can have a florist create a bouquet or you can create your own , (or a plant) and then bring it to the church on Saturday or before the 8:30 am service on Sunday morning.

**Our designated florist is Elana's in Middletown, 302-285-0800, please call them early in the week to set up your flower delivery for Saturday to St. Paul's. There will be NO delivery charge.**

**JOY EVENT UPDATE: "Noah" at Sight and Sound on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:00. We have sold all 50 tix, and if anyone is still interested, we will put their name on a waiting list.** The cost per ticket is \$84.55, and checks are payable to Karen Ellis.

**Attention all "Noah" attendees:** We plan to eat lunch at the Hershey Farm Restaurant before the 3:00 (May 1<sup>st</sup>) show at Sight & Sound. Our reservation is set for **12:00- 2:00**, and the meal will be served family style, in the Gardenview 2 banquet room. The charge for the lunch is \$28.25, and payment is due as soon as possible. Please make checks payable to Karen Ellis. If you do not plan to join us for lunch, we will meet you at the theater probably between 2:15 & 2:30.

In addition, we will be carpooling to Lancaster, so if you are willing to drive others, please let us know. We will leave St. Pauls' at 10:00AM. On the other hand, if you need a ride, we will need to know that as well so we can pair up drivers and passengers. Please contact Karen Ellis or Nadine Johnson with this information and/or if you have any questions. Karen Ellis at [iluvbrmuda@gmail.com](mailto:iluvbrmuda@gmail.com) and Nadine Johnson at [Nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:Nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com).

**WOMEN'S RETREAT:** Mark your calendars for the return of the Women's Retreat - **Beach Bible Belonging.** It will be held at St. Paul's on **May 17, 2025** from 10AM to 3PM. There will be Devotions, Music, Crafts, and Meditation. Come join us with time to enjoy each other and FUN. *Snacks and beverages will be provided, but please bring your own lunch.* There will be a suggested donation of \$10 to cover expenses. Please RSVP by April 20<sup>th</sup> to Sue Holden [susieq2951@aol.com](mailto:susieq2951@aol.com).

**FINANCE NEWS FROM MELISSA BROOKS/CHAIR:** Year To Date  
Income YTD: \$106,257 Expenses YTD: \$72,729

**THANK YOU TO THE ST. PAUL'S COUNTERS: Sandy Urstadt, Carolyn Stanley, Helen George, Faye Taylor, Nancy Weldin, Chris Chappelle, Linda Botsford**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, we would personally like to thank you all for effortlessly volunteering on Sundays to count the funds received for our Church. We are incredibly grateful to all who give so freely of their time and talents. Your willingness and passion to serve inspire us all. Your commitment to volunteering is a testament to your faith and dedication to our church community. And a huge thank you to Sandy Urstadt, who

coordinates the monthly schedule for the Counters, which results in a smooth transition from week to week. Thank you all for your valuable contributions. Sincerely, the Finance Committee

**BIRTHDAYS:** April 29 – Reed Ashley; April 30 – Paul Loder; May 2 – Morgan Rowley, Alice Atkinson Smith.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** April 27 – Rob & Ann Baker; May 1 – Mike & Cindra Holland; May 3 – Bill & Margie Apps

**PRAYER REQUEST BOX** is available in the Narthex along with the prayer request cards. Just complete the form, fold, and drop in the box on the corner shelf located at the second set of doors into Fellowship Hall. You can also email Bonnie Valeski in the Church Office with your request at [bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org](mailto:bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org).

**Please be sure to let Bonnie know you want to remove your request. Thank you**

**PRAYERS FOR:** David & Dorothy Dudgeon, Carolyn Akin, Jonathan Brooks, John Guy, Levi Schrum and family, Marilyn Hendershot, Dennis Downes, Jeffrey & Cheryl Martin, Nancy- sister of Alice Rizzo, Ethan Porter, George, Dylan Green, Kevin Quiveors – Al Calbazana’s brother-in-law, and Brenda Shaffer’s nephew, Scott, Mindie, and Bo Pleasanton, Norman Parks, David Sheats, Amanda Branlund who is going through cancer treatment, Terry Sweeney, Michael Whitehead who is doing better but still grateful for prayers, Angela Christian’s mother, Kathy Golden, Sue Austin, Georgiana Fennemore, Phil Elliott, Phil’s parents, Faye Taylor’s nephew Matthew Smith, Bob, Ken, Wells, nephew of Steve Johnson - Matthew, Henry Spencer, Blain Shoun, Justin Marusa – cousin to Cindra Holland, having surgery for lung cancer in January, Skip Bason, Kenzel Messick’s brother Lem – on his recovery to go well, family of a teaching colleague of Pastor Patti’s, Ellie Leuliette & Dick Leuliette, Karen Kolf – sister to Alice Mullins. Jay and Laura, Rebecca Roberts - sister-in-law to Gail Garner going through chemotherapy and other therapies for leukemia, Joe Stemmler, Karen Ellis’ friend Julie who had a stroke recently, Nora Reeves who was in a car accident, Marilyn Dernberger – cousin to Kenzel Messick who had a stroke and surgery and Kenzel’s niece – Heather Dill who is having cancer surgery, Jay & Laura Wedel and family as they battle Laura’s cancer, Hap Bonham as he recovers from recent surgery, Jeff & Cheryl Buckworth on the passing of her mother. Kathleen Golden, Cindra Holland’s mother, who is currently hospitalized and seriously ill. The great-grandson baby of Carole & John Harmon who needs continued prayers, Carl & Patti Ravilious on the passing of Carl’s stepmother, Kris Elliott’s mother-in-law on her recent fall, for Jessica Schrum and family, as her father, John Carmichael, begins his cancer treatment journey and her mom, Sandra, his caretaker.

#### **Upcoming Yellow Hat Schedule for April 2025**

**4/06/25 Youth Group of St Paul’s - Charlotte Miller and Janet Miller**

**4/13/25 Love Thy Neighbor**

**4/20/25 Cystic Fibrosis (Charlotte Miller)**

**4/27/25 Camp Pecometh**

**Please make sure ALL checks are made payable to St. Paul’s UMC, including checks for the Yellow Hat missions, writing the organization’s name on the memo line.**

**All donations are collected, recorded, entered in the system, and deposited into the Church’s operating account on a weekly basis. Also, on a weekly basis, a check is mailed to the specified yellow hat organization for the total amount collected.**

**It is very important that donations be placed in the offering plate, yellow hat or mailed to St. Paul’s UMC. You are also welcome to drop off donations in the black box on the wall just inside the side door to the Church, making sure it is secured in an envelope with your name on the front. This is to guarantee acknowledgement of your donations when the yearly contribution statement is sent for tax purposes.**

**Thank you all for your continued support for St. Paul’s as we are growing in our faith through generosity. Alice Mullins, Treasurer**



**ST. PAUL'S**  
United Methodist Church of Odessa  
*Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out*

## **St. Paul's Mission Statement**

### **Reaching Up to praise God in vibrant worship**

God calls us to live out our discipleship grounded in Christ's awakening us to the glory and majesty of God in all creation, and we respond together by worshiping God with our gratitude and praise. Standing or lifting our hands high are both ancient postures of worship, and so our dance of discipleship involves reaching up with our hearts, souls, and bodies, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.  
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.*

*Psalms 100:4-5 (NRSV)*

### **Reaching In to deepen our spiritual walk with Christ**

Christ accepts us as we are, and then calls us to follow him and learn from him, growing in our spiritual walk-through practices the church calls spiritual disciplines: prayer, fasting, meditation, studying God's Word, individually and with others. As we grow in the knowledge of God, we discover more about the extraordinary plans God has for our lives.

*"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."*

*John 8:31-32 (NRSV)*

### **Reaching Out with acts of love and compassion**

Here's where it all comes together! Assured of God's eternal love, strengthened by the grace and knowledge of Christ, we are ready for the Holy Spirit to kindle a fire in our lives, gifting us for the labor of love God has prepared for us to accomplish. Having fallen in love with God, we love and serve our neighbors.

*"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*

*Matthew 25:40 (NRSV)*

## **MISSIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **WEEKLY GATHERINGS – CHURCH BUILDING**

OFFICE HOURS Tuesday -Thursday, 9 AM-2 PM

- Cub Scouts –Tuesdays 6-8 PM
- TOPS Meeting – Wednesdays 5:45 PM.
- St. Paul's Prayer and Praise Group Ministry – Thursdays 10 AM @Carole Harmon's Home
- St. Paul's Handbell Rehearsal – Wednesdays 6 PM
- St. Paul's Choir Rehearsal – Wednesdays 7 PM
- AA Meeting – Saturdays 7 PM

### **MONTHLY GATHERINGS**

- Finance Meeting – 2nd Monday 6:30 PM
- Trustees Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 6:30 PM
- SPRC Meeting – 4th Thursday 6:30 PM
- Leadership Meeting – 3rd Tuesday 6:30PM
- Reconciling Ministries – TBD

**Adult Bible Study** is held Sundays at 9:45AM.

**Children's Sunday School** is held Sundays at 9:45AM.

**Adult Bible Study** for all will begin again on Mondays, at 9AM in May.

### **Flowers for Worship**

If you are interested in honoring a loved one with flowers at the altar on a particular Sunday, please use the **Flowers sign-up chart and form with instructions on the Narthex bulletin board.**

You can also still call Bonnie or email the church office at [bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org](mailto:bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org) so we make sure the information is added in the bulletin and reserved for you. You can have a florist create a bouquet or you can create your own , (or a plant) and then bring it to the church on Saturday or before the 8:30 am service on Sunday morning.

**Our designated florist is Elana's in Middletown, 302-285-0800, please call them early in the week to set up your flower delivery for Saturday to St. Paul's. There will be NO delivery charge.**

### **Compassionate Card Ministry**

The Compassionate Card Ministry is made up of 20 dedicated members of our congregation who create hand-made cards and encouraging messages to those in our directory, within our congregation, those on our prayer lists and others who are brought to our attention. Our purpose is to spread kindness and love to others through uplifting and personalized sentiments on hand-made cards. If you are not in our directory and would like to be added to our list, or if you know someone who would benefit from the blessing of a card, please contact Ellie Leuliette at 484-432-4673.

### **Prayer and Praise Group Ministry**

Carole Harmon hosts a prayer circle, currently Thursday mornings at 10 AM - in person. Please contact Carole if you are interested in joining the group or have a special prayer request. You can also find prayer request cards and box on the corner shelf in the Narthex.

### **VANCO: Manage Your Giving Online**

Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit the church website at [www.stpaulsodessa.org](http://www.stpaulsodessa.org) and click on the VANCO Online Giving button to the left of the screen.
- 3) Click on the Link to Online Giving thru VANCO button, then
- 4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your RECURRING CONTRIBUTIONS.

### **Love Thy Neighbor Fund**

Our "Love Thy Neighbor Fund" was created to help those in need in the MOT community. This fund may support a time in someone's life when he/she may need a little kindness and generosity to help endure and survive a challenging situation. If you can donate, please make checks payable to St. Paul's UMC and then write in the memo area it is for "Love Thy Neighbor Fund." Please note, this fund is SEPARATE from the Yellow Hat. Thank you, Love Thy Neighbor Committee

### **Deep Roots**

Nadine Johnson & Karen Ellis continue to work with the "Deep Roots" mission. This group works with families who are disconnected through homelessness and provides transitional shelter and other services to families in need. They need your help as they continue to contact members of the church to help with making meals once a month feeding approximately 50+ individuals. Here's hoping you will be able to help us with this very important and necessary mission. Thanks so much! Contact Karen Ellis at [iluvbrmuda@gmail.com](mailto:iluvbrmuda@gmail.com) and Nadine Johnson at [nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com)

### **Our Daily Bread Food Donations**

214 N Broad St, Middletown, DE 19709



Volunteers Needed – day and evening hours and different areas of need, filling bags, handing out meals, etc. Volunteer Opportunities can be found at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COE4FAEA82CA3F5CF8-volunteer>. Contact Sue Holden, Missions Co-Chair, at 802-324-6167, [susieq2951@aol.com](mailto:susieq2951@aol.com)., with any questions. Also, find information and volunteer sign-up forms on the website, <https://www.ourdailybreadmot.com>. **On-line Training Coming Soon!**

ODB is most thankful to all who donate either monetarily or in kind. Your generosity helps ODB feed those in our community who are facing food insecurity. Listed below are the items needed to stuff our side bags and other items that are needed on a regular basis. Donations can be dropped off on Tuesday from 9:15 to 11:30AM

- Individual bottles of water
- Individual bags of salty snacks
- Individual packets of sweet snacks
- Individual fruit cups and/or applesauce
- Fresh fruit (apples, bananas, oranges)
- Boxes of breakfast cereal
- Boxes of mashed potatoes
- White bread
- Baked beans (large cans)
- Gallon size zip-loc bags
- Lg black garbage bags
- Cans of soup

Thank you for any and all kindness!

### **Neighborhood House**

Neighborhood House really appreciates St. Paul's ongoing support in so many ways. At this point, we are low on some items in the food pantry. These items are especially needed right now in our food pantry, though all donations are gladly accepted with the inventory being low now.

**Currently we are really low on personal hygiene products as well as some food items:**

- 1. Bottled water**
- 2. Toilet paper, Toothpaste, Soap, Shampoo & conditioner**
- 3. Peanut butter & jelly (medium size)**
- 4. Pasta sauce**
- 5. Tuna/Tuna Helper**
- 6. Hamburger Helper**

**These non-perishables are needed to keep our pantry stocked:**

Chef Boyardee, beef stew, Spam ,pancake mix/syrup, snacks - cookies, crackers etc.

**ADDITIONALLY, THERE IS ALWAYS A NEED FOR ADULT SIZED DISPOSABLE DIAPERS AS WELL AS FOR BABIES/CHILDREN IN SIZES 4, 5, AND 6, AND WIPES. WE HAVE NUMEROUS MOMS WITH BABIES AND TODDLERS WHO TAKE THEIR MONEY FOR FOOD AND BILLS TO BUY THEM.**

Donations can be left inside the Church. We look forward to another great year working together to feed the hungry. Thanks to all, Marilyn Hendershot, Family Services Specialist, Neighborhood House, Inc.