



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

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 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

GREETING

GATHERING WORDS:

Liturgist – Ellie Leuliette

One: We come to worship, remembering God's goodness that has carried us and sustained us to this present moment.

**Many: We remember the days when God covered us in love and filled us with joy.**

One: We come to worship, weary from stress, heavy with grief, and wondering when relief will come.

**Many: We long for the days God covered us in love and filled us with joy.**

One: We come to worship to remember and remind one another that God's love has never left us, and God's joy cannot be extinguished.

**Many: God, restore us that we know your love and your joy once again.**

One: We come to worship to remember and become the Body of Christ, a community called to restore the world around us.

**Many: God, empower us to be your restoration people who fill the world with love, laughter, and abundant life. Amen.**

\*PRAISE AND WORSHIP:

*More Love to Thee, O Christ*

Red Hymnal 453

\*OPENING PRAYER: (all praying): **Come to this sanctuary, this house, this home, Holy Christ, and let us receive you with lavish welcome. You are the Restorer of our fortunes, the Promise of new life, we pour out our praise to you. Fill this room with your Spirit; the sound of wind, the warmth of flame, the scent of perfume, and fill our hearts with your compassion, not just in this time and place, but in all times and in all places, So that as we celebrate the great things you have done for us, we may also embody the love you give to all. Amen.**

WORDS FOR YOUNG BELIEVERS:

*How Great Is Our God* (Chorus Only 2x)

Green Hymnal 3003

Ellie Leuliette 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: *Isaiah 43:16-21* (CEB)

<sup>16</sup> The Lord says—who makes a way in the sea  
and a path in the mighty waters,

<sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and battalion;

they will lie down together and will not rise;

they will be extinguished, extinguished like a wick.

- 18 Don't remember the prior things;  
 don't ponder ancient history.
- 19 Look! I'm doing a new thing;  
 now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?  
 I'm making a way in the desert,  
 paths in the wilderness.
- 20 The beasts of the field,  
 the jackals and ostriches, will honor me,  
 because I have put water in the desert  
 and streams in the wilderness  
 to give water to my people,  
 my chosen ones,
- 21 this people whom I formed for myself,  
 who will recount my praise.

\*GOSPEL LESSON: *John 12:1-8* (CEB)

12 Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, home of Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Lazarus and his sisters hosted a dinner for him. Martha served and Lazarus was among those who joined him at the table. 3 Then Mary took an extraordinary amount, almost three-quarters of a pound,<sup>1</sup> of very expensive perfume made of pure nard. She anointed Jesus' feet with it, then wiped his feet dry with her hair. The house was filled with the aroma of the perfume. 4 Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), complained, 5 "This perfume was worth a year's wages! Why wasn't it sold and the money given to the poor?" (6 He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief. He carried the money bag and would take what was in it.)

7 Then Jesus said, "Leave her alone. This perfume was to be used in preparation for my burial, and this is how she has used it. 8 You will always have the poor among you, but you won't always have me."

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

HYMN OF PREPARATION: *Fairest Lord Jesus* Red Hymnal 189

THE MESSAGE: "Savior, Servant, Friend: Comforter" 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 **4/06/25 Youth Group of St Paul's - Charlotte Miller and Janet Miller.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all praying): **Like Judas, God of new things, we like to complain about your generous ways, rather than living in your grace. The poor are always with us, we believe, which justifies our ignoring them. In our memories, we focus on a perceived golden past, and so we ignore the new things you do in our midst. We are so enamored with our achievements that we are not willing to throw them away in order to follow Jesus. Forgive us, Restoring God, and help us to notice the kingdom springing forth in our midst. By your grace, may our fears turn to faith, our seeds of grief produce a bumper crop of joy, and our tears turn into torrents of tenderness as we journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to Jerusalem. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: Pastor Linda Ray  
 Officiant Server – Ellie Leuliette

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

**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.

*Communion Setting 2257-a*

**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 thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and made covenant with every living creature on earth. When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights, you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people. When your people forsook your covenant, your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights; and on your holy mountain heard your still small voice. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name 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! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

**Reader 2:** Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. When you gave him to save us from our sin, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry. When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

(Lifting the bread) Before Jesus was betrayed, he gathered with his friends for a meal. Taking the bread, Jesus gave thanks to you and broke it. He gave it to his friends, saying, “Take and eat. I am with you now and forever. Let this meal feed you. Remember me as you eat.”

**Reader 1:** (Lifting the cup) When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and shared it with his followers, saying, “This is the cup of the new covenant, given for the forgiveness of sins. It is a gift for you and for all people. It is my love offered for you. Drink of this 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! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

**Reader 2:** Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the living presence of Jesus Christ, that we might carry that presence into the world. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

*Communion Setting 2257-d*

**ALL: Amen. Amen. Amen. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

**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, Oh God*

Black Hymnal 2152

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND SERVICE

CLOSING MUSIC:

*Just a Closer Walk With Thee*

Black Hymnal 2158

**SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

Liturgist: Ellie Leuliette

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

Communion Officiant: Ellie Leuliette

Duane Dillard, Music Ministry

**Altar flowers today are donated by John & Patti Harmer 'to the Glory of God'!**

**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

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

<b>Sunday 04/06 Pak-A-Sak Sunday, Worship Services 8:30AM ASL &amp; Livestreaming and 11AM Traditional, Adult &amp; Children's Bible Study 9:45AM, 'Children of Eden' @the Everett Theatre 2PM.</b>
<b>Monday 04/07 Trustees Mtg. 6:30PM</b>
<b>Tuesday 04/08 ODB, Scouts 6PM</b>
<b>Wednesday 04/09 TOPS Mtg 5:45PM, Handbells Rehearsal 6PM, Choir Rehearsal 7PM.</b>
<b>Thursday 04/10 10AM Prayer and Praise Group, Last MOT Ministerial Alliance Soup &amp; Study- 12 Noon @St. Paul's, Zoar Mtg.6PM Hybrid</b>
<b>Friday 04/11</b>
<b>Saturday 04/12 AA Mtg 7PM</b>

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** I regret I will not be able to facilitate the Bible Study in April due to personal situation. I will miss meeting with you gentlemen. Hope to resume in October. Hap

**A SEDER MEAL:** will be held on **Wednesday of Holy Week, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 5-6PM** in St. Paul's UMC Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to take part in this light meal, and presentation by Gail Garner. The Seder meal is a symbolic Jewish ritual meal celebrated during Passover, commemorating the Israelites' exodus from slavery in ancient Egypt, and involves a specific order of events and foods, including the Seder plate with symbolic items. A Seder is a teaching event, a period of remembrance, and a celebration of God's intervention on behalf of His chosen people. You will have an opportunity to see the symbols and learn their importance, hear about some of the annual traditions and sample the different items on the Seder plate.

**Sign-up sheet for soup to be shared is available in Fellowship Hall.**

**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.

**THURSDAYS IN LENT-SOUP & STUDY:** Beginning **March 13<sup>th</sup>**, there will be luncheons at noon every Thursday during Lent at St. Paul's led by the MOT Ministerial Alliance. **Last lunch is April 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY'S MONTHS:** In **March and November**, there will be a potluck fellowship after the 11AM service. *There will still be the regular 8:30AM service.* In **June and August**, there will be the one summer 9AM service, with a potluck fellowship to follow.

**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).

**JOY EVENT UPDATE: April 6<sup>th</sup> Children of Eden @ the Everett Theatre** This is a reminder that we will be attending the GP & L performance of "Children of Eden" on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. If you would like to join us, please reach out to Charlotte Miller for tickets (\$16 for adults, \$13 for students). After the show, we plan to have dinner at The Greene Turtle Sports Bar and Grille. If you are able to join us there, PLEASE let either Karen Ellis or Nadine Johnson know so that we can include you in the reservation. You contact Karen Ellis at [iluvbrmuda@gmail.com](mailto:iluvbrmuda@gmail.com) or Nadine Johnson at [nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com). If you have any questions.

**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: February 2025**

Income \$ 59,996 Expenses \$ 48,237

**BIRTHDAYS:** April 6 – Drew Chas; April 7 – Janet Miller; April 8 – Pastor Linda Ray; April 9 – Sailor Blum, Gabriella Calbazana, Keith Sparks, Joe Stemmler; April 10 – Jacob Guise, Liam O'Hop; April 12 – Charlotte Smith, Levi Schrum

**ANNIVERSARIES:** April 10 – Frank & Karen Fitzwater; April 12 – Christopher & Deann Widener

**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 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.

**Bible Study** for all will again be held on Mondays, at 9AM. The Gospel of Luke is the focus beginning in January.

### **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.