



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. 21184487

## Third Sunday of Easter Native American Ministries Sunday

April 19, 2026, 8:30 AM Service with ASL and Livestreaming  
WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE

WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES

GATHERING MUSIC AND PHOTOS: Mark Holden - Photographer & Curator, Gail Garner – ASL Interpreter

GREETING

*\*(please stand in body or spirit)*

GATHERING WORDS:

Liturgist – Melissa Brooks

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: From one Creator, God formed all peoples and nations, shaping our histories, our cultures, and our lands.

Many: **We come to worship the God who is near to all of us.**

One: God spoke life into every race and culture through ancient lands and new homelands, through ancestors and descendants, through stories carried across oceans and generations, and stories deeply rooted in the soil.

Many: **In God, we live and move and have our being.**

One: We gather today as many people in this land, descendants of the enslaved and the free, each bearing the image of God.

Many: **We are God's offspring, created in love and dignity.**

One: We acknowledge that the lens of our histories does not look the same. Some are marked by privilege, Some are marked by displacement and struggle, Some are marked by resilience, faith, and hope. Yet all are held within God's redeeming grace.

Many: **Teach us to listen, to learn, and to walk humbly with one another.**

One: Today we honor the peoples of this land, We give thanks for the richness of every culture, including Our Indigenous Family and we commit ourselves to justice, reconciliation, and peace.

Many: **Let our worship reflect God's vision of every tongue, tribe, nation, people, and language praising God together, with one accord.**

\*PRAISE AND WORSHIP:

*I Love to Tell the Story*

Red Hymnal 156

OPENING PRAYER: (all praying): **Creator God, we, your people, thank you for our Indigenous siblings and tribal nations, for the beauty of cultures, stories, languages, food; the diversity of lived experiences; and God-sized wisdom. Strengthen our Native American siblings and the ministries they serve in all our annual conferences through the work of CONAM and beyond. Bless our Indigenous siblings discerning calls into ordained and licensed ministry; provide resources, mentors, faith communities, and the general communities that will commit to nurturing and assisting their gifts. Empower programs that develop new ministries through mentoring, economic empowerment, and leadership development. Fan the flame within your Church to look toward the possibilities of a bright future, where all your children will worship with every nation, tribe, people, and language, until "justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" In Jesus' name, Amen.**

*Peace for the children, peace, peace. Peace for the children we pray. Following the path of One of peace, we work for healing, we work for peace; peace for the children today.*

Courtney Martin 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 2:14a, 36-41* CEB

<sup>14</sup> Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words!

<sup>36</sup> “Therefore, let all Israel know beyond question that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

<sup>37</sup> When the crowd heard this, they were deeply troubled. They said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, “Change your hearts and lives. Each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> This promise is for you, your children, and for all who are far away—as many as the Lord our God invites.” <sup>40</sup> With many other words he testified to them and encouraged them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted Peter’s message were baptized. God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day.

\*GOSPEL LESSON: *Luke 24:13-35* CEB

<sup>13</sup> On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. <sup>16</sup> They were prevented from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup> He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” They stopped, their faces downcast.

<sup>18</sup> The one named Cleopas replied, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?”

<sup>19</sup> He said to them, “What things?”

They said to him, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. <sup>20</sup> But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. <sup>21</sup> We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. <sup>22</sup> But there’s more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup> and didn’t find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn’t see him.”

<sup>25</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. <sup>26</sup> Wasn’t it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup> Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

<sup>28</sup> When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him, saying, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening, and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Their eyes were opened and

they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?”

<sup>33</sup> They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying to each other, “The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup> Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.

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: “Meals and Food” 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 **4/19/26 Cystic Fibrosis (Charlotte Miller)**.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all praying): **Heavenly Stranger, our Companion on the Way, we yearn for your love and grace. We seek your wisdom and guidance. We relish the joy which burns within our hearts when you are with us. Yet sometimes we would cling to you, hoard the blessings of relationship with you, and not share your love with others. Forgive us, Dear One. Remind us that your love is to be carried throughout the world. Press us to share the hope and joy of your love, so that someone who hungers for spiritual food may be filled by our witness to your grace. Shine the light of your Spirit through us, so that we may show your Way to those who long for peace and help to revive those in whom hope has died. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: Pastor Linda Ray  
Communion Server – Melissa Brooks

**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! 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:** Reader 2: Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. 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. By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

(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! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

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. 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, 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 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: *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* Red Hymnal 402

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND SERVICE

CLOSING MUSIC: *‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus* Red Hymnal 451

***SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY***

Liturgist: Melissa Brooks

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

Communion Officiant/Server: Melissa Brooks

Duane Dillard, Minister of Music

Rev. Linda Driver Ray, Pastor	<a href="mailto:PastorLinda@stpaulsodessa.org">PastorLinda@stpaulsodessa.org</a>	(540) 207-1787
Bonnie Valeski, Admin. Asst.	<a href="mailto:bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org">bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org</a>	(302) 378-2420
Alice Mullins, Financial/Treasurer	<a href="mailto:stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org">stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org</a>	(302) 293-9956
Duane Dillard, Minister of Music	<a href="mailto:duanedillard@gmail.com">duanedillard@gmail.com</a>	(443) 593-2470
Jin Kyung Seo, Organist/Accompanist	<a href="mailto:jinksblue@gmail.com">jinksblue@gmail.com</a>	
Dr. Kathleen Shannon/Director of Music	<a href="mailto:kathleenmshannon@gmail.com">kathleenmshannon@gmail.com</a>	

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

<b>Sunday 04/19 8:30AM Contemporary Service with ASL &amp; Livestreaming, 11AM Traditional with Livestreaming, Adult Bible Study and Children's Sunday School 9:45 AM, Choir Practice 9:45AM</b>
<b>Monday 04/20</b>
<b>Tuesday 04/21 Confirmation Classes 5PM, Leadership Comm. Mtg. 6:30PM</b>
<b>Wednesday 04/22 TOPS Mtg 4:30 PM, 3<sup>rd</sup> Community Financial Planning Presentation: Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:30PM</b>
<b>Thursday 04/23 10AM Prayer and Praise Group, SPRC Comm Mtg 6:30PM, MCC Choir Practice 7PM</b>
<b>Friday 04/24</b>
<b>Saturday 04/25 AA Mtg 7PM</b>

**3<sup>rd</sup> COMMUNITY FINANCIAL PLANNING PRESENTATION: Rescheduled to Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:30PM**, this will be presented by a speaker through the Mid-Atlantic UM Foundation. Zoom Link is:

**St. Paul's UMC's 3<sup>rd</sup> Community Financial Planning Presentation**

**April 22, 2026 6:30PM Eastern Time**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85168383530?pwd=lc04HDX8Ry4N698bEEILeET5lEa4Zi.1>**

**Meeting ID: 851 6838 3530**

**Passcode: 792181**

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES: will begin on Tuesday, April 14 at 5 p.m.** 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.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE: March 2026 Monthly & YTD Budget Totals/Melissa Brooks/Chair:**

Income	\$ 34,704
Expenses	<u>\$(23,439)</u>
Net Gain	\$ 11,264

2026 YTD:

Income	\$ 95,895
Expenses	<u>\$(83,395)</u>
Net Gain	\$ 12,500

March Yellow Hat:

Society of St. Andrews	\$225.97
Red Bird Mission Trip	\$312.97
Harvest Outreach (HOPP)	\$263.22
Card Ministry	\$396.62
Neighborhood House	\$402.69
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,601.47</b>

**FLAGS FOR HEROES FOR MEMORIAL DAY 2026:** Do you know someone that you would like to honor as a hero by sponsoring an American flag? Flags will be proudly displayed at Middletown High School, along Route 299, the week before and the week after Memorial Day and Veterans' Day 2026. Heroes (past or present)

could be a military member, first responder, teacher, parent or any other individual or organization that you admire. The project is being hosted by the Southern New Castle County Rotary Club, in partnership with the Middletown High School Army Junior ROTC. The cost is \$50 for each hero. Please see Charlotte Miller for an order form.

**HOPE BIKE TOUR COOKIE DRIVE:** On May 9th Law Enforcement United Road to Hope Bike Tour will be rolling into Rehoboth after the first leg of their journey from Atlantic City to Washington DC. These are police officers and retired police officers from the Northeast. There will be Delaware riders in the mix. They will be spending the night at the Fairfield Inn. I have arranged an evening cookout for about 175 folks. I would ask that St. Paul's bake cookies as we did last year for the riders. It was a HUGE hit and folks are still talking about it. **Please let me know what you are baking and how many and I'll keep a list going.** Store bought are fine if you don't feel like baking. Some of you just made cash donations; that works too ! Please have your cookies at St. Paul's **NO LATER THAN May 7th at 5 PM** so I can gather them up.

**My thanks, Rick Pulling**

**JOY GROUP SAVE THE DATE!** Our trip to see the "Joshua" show is getting closer, so here is the latest update: On Thursday, May 21st, we will head to the Hershey Farm Restaurant for lunch that will be served at 12:00. "Joshua" will begin at 3:00, but we will need to arrive at the theater by 2:15. Payment for the show & lunch is due by Thursday, April 30. The cost for lunch is \$29.25, payable to Karen Ellis. The cost for the show is \$94.85, payable to Nadine Johnson. **We have 4 tickets available currently and would love to have you join us. Invite family and friends.** Please contact either Nadine or Karen if you know of someone who would like to join us. If you have any questions, please reach out to Nadine Johnson at nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com or Karen Ellis at iluvbrmuda@gmail.com.

**BIRTHDAYS:** April 15 – Henry Spencer; April 20- Isaac Schrum; April 21 -Logan Packard; April 22 – Susie Cate, Caitlin Jones, Jessica Munar, Ron Sutton; April 23 – John Cate, Ann Raymond; April 24 – Ike Guessford; April 25 – Jerry Blanco, Doris Uhde

**ANNIVERSARYS:** April 22 – Maryann & Randy Kearns

**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 to sign up for the date you want, that is on the Narthex bulletin board. COMPLETE THE CARD, in the envelope next to the chart and put it in the collections basket, or put in the church mail bin outside the office door. You can email Bonnie at any time to see if slots are taken on the chart, [bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org](mailto:bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org).**

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 (9am in summer) 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.**

**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:** Carolyn Akin, Jonathan Brooks, John Guy, Levi Schrum and family, Nancy- sister of Alice Rizzo, George, Dylan Green, Kevin Quiveors – Al Calbazana's brother-in-law, 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, Kathy Golden, Georgiana Fennemore, Blain Shoun, Skip Bason, for Jessica Schrum and family, as her father, John Carmichael, begins his cancer treatment journey and her mom, Sandra, his caretaker, Chris Foote, Danny

Skeans, Dave Koski, Deena Greenwood, Leah Elliott & Phil Elliott in their health struggles, Alice Mullins' sister Sue Austin who has been ill, Jeanne Buckworth, Lauren – granddaughter to a friend of Sue Haberstroh recovering from surgery after a bad car accident, Dave Sydnor, Elayne Guy, for Dave Corby , the family of Linda Sydnor as they deal with health issues, Patricia Bower on her health issues, Sharan Duren on her health issues, Alyssa Chapas, recently diagnosed with breast cancer, who is the daughter to long-time friend of Don Mueller, Alice Mullins' brother recently diagnosed with Parkinson's, Allen Ingram as he continues to heal, Marcia Wheeler, Joe Stemmler and others struggling with health issues and recovery, Ms. Sarah Mullen as she recovers at home, Alice Mullins' niece, Kimberly Kolf, Rick Gerenger, Christopher Moyer for his health and safe deployment, Hap Bonham on his recovery, Kenzel Messick on her recovery, Ellie Leuliette, Angela Christian, Estelle Peters.

**4/05/26 Youth Group of St Pauls Charlotte Miller and Janet Miller**

**4/12/26 Love Thy Neighbor**

**4/19/26 Cystic Fibrosis (Charlotte Miller)**

**4/26/26 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 walkthrough 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

- TOPS Meeting – Wednesdays 4:30 PM.
- St. Paul's Prayer and Praise Group Ministry – Thursdays 10AM @Carole Harmon's Home
- St. Paul's Handbell Rehearsal – Wednesdays 6PM
- St. Paul's Choir Rehearsal –Sundays 9:45AM
- 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 – Quarterly Mtgs, 4th Thursday 6:30 PM – April, July, September
- Leadership Meeting – 3rd Tuesday 6:30PM
- Friends of Zoar Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 6PM
- Pak-A-Sak Sunday – First Sunday of the Month
- St. Paul's @ODB – Second Tuesday of the Month
- St. Paul's Deep Roots Food Collection – Second Wednesday of the Month

**Sunday Adult Bible Study** will resume 9/14/2025, 9:45AM, ends in May 2026.

**Children's Sunday School** will resume 9/14/2025, 9:45AM, ends in May 2026.

**Adult Bible Study** - Monday's 10AM and Tuesday's 6:30PM, (except April and October).

**Men's Adult Bible Study** - April & October, Date & Time TBA

### 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 handmade 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 the second Wednesday of every 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.ourdailybreadmot.com/volunteer>. Contact Sue Holden, Missions Co-Chair, at 802-324-6167, [susieq2951@aol.com](mailto:susieq2951@aol.com).



## *Hot Meal Service*

**Our Daily Bread serves 7 meals a week.**

**Lunch:** Tuesday & Thursday • 12:00pm-1:00pm  
(Dine-In Only)

**Dinner:** Monday-Friday • 5:00pm-6:00pm  
(Dine-In or Take Out)

days/times for meal service remain the same each week  
menus are subject to change

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 our pantry is bare and needs these items:**

- **pasta/pasta sauce**
- **canned items like Chef Boyardee, beef stew, Spam, chicken, tuna**
- **canned fruit**
- **peanut butter and jelly**
- **any boxed items like mac'n cheese, stuffing, mashed potatoes**

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

Chef Boyardee, beef stew, Spam ,pancake mix/syrup, snacks - cookies, crackers etc. Toiletries are stocked for now.

**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.