Welcome Back to Children's Sunday School!

Happy Spring! St. Paul’s Children's Sunday School has resumed in-person classes (of sorts). We meet outside each Sunday morning at 10:45 a.m. as long as it is not raining; be sure to dress appropriately for cool morning temperatures. The Sunday School classes will be about 45-60 minutes. Extra time spent on the playground is at the discretion of each family.

There will be two classes. Karen Pollack will lead the young class of Age 3 to 3rd graders. Nicole Macturk and Susie Lengel will lead the 4th to 6th graders. Parents of the Age 3 to 3rd grade class are asked to stay on-site at church (bring a lawn chair and visit with other parents or wait in your car). We will do our best to maintain social distancing outdoors (face masks are encouraged); assistance from the kids is greatly appreciated to ensure everyone is safe. A reminder that Pastor Dave is leading our 7th and 8th graders through Confirmation; at this time, there is no change to the class schedule (11:00 a.m. each Sunday via Zoom).

If rainy weather, we will meet inside church; face masks will be required. Your patience is appreciated as the classroom locations will be determined that morning, dependent upon the number of kids in attendance. Again, parents of younger kids are asked to remain on-site at church.

Come back to church! The morning worship services are at 9:30 a.m. Our aim for resuming Sunday School (albeit, outdoors) is to encourage everyone to reconnect. We will hold Sunday School classes through May 23 (Pentecost Sunday) with a possible special activity on May 30. Any questions? Please contact Karen Pollack or Nicole Macturk. We are excited to see you all again!
When the muse
is weary
let it rest
even sleep
as time digests
the images
by which
is fed
the dreams
that nourish
endless quests
for beauty
in life's
wilderness
of
sweeping sands
and
tired unrest.
It soon will
waken
e're the morn
summons powers
newly born
with
re-imagined
energy
and stubborn
curiosity
the mind
and
heart's
poetic key
sliver of
modernity
and
handle to serenity.

- David Finch
April 21, 2021

Weary Years, Silent Tears
By Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

When the guilty verdict at the Derek Chauvin trial was announced, I immediately contacted one of our pastors, the Rev. Dr. Ron Bell, Jr. He is an Elder in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference who serves the Camphor UMC in St. Paul, Minnesota. Since last year, he has been hard at work ministering to a congregation and community that has been traumatized by the murder of George Floyd. I asked him, what are you feeling right now? He said, “I have been holding this cry in since May of last year. Today, in this moment, these tears represent a deep sense of relief. I feel seen, I feel valued. I feel like finally, my black life matters to others.”

Family of God, this has been a very difficult journey for our country in the past year but there have been “weary years and silent tears” for centuries. Many people have not received justice in the past; and racial inequity and violence against people of color has been a painful reality. May we shed some silent tears along with our many brothers and sisters who have been traumatized by racism, unjust systems and brutality.

As a church, may we pray for our country, that it continues the redemptive journey of racial reckoning. Please hold the family of George Floyd in your prayers for the loss of their loved one.

Pray for peace and justice for all people. Provide patient, supportive, loving community for those who have been wounded and traumatized by hate. This is not fully a moment of jubilation for all, but more a sigh of relief and deep exhaustion. Take responsibility to do the things that you can personally do that will help make positive changes in our world. Restorative Justice is a practice, a way of living, and not a verdict in one particular trial. The church can teach this and model this.

The Psalmist reminds us that “weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” (Psalm 30:5) May we live and work to see the dawning of joy and of equity for everyone born.
Dear Saint Paul’s Family,

First, the above flyer describes a unique opportunity this coming Sunday. This will be a climate conversation between 3 area churches: First Unitarian, Good Shepherd Lutheran, and St. Paul’s.

Here is the link for registration.
https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwlcu2hrTkpH9T-OgE1feZ9WBYUs_HMIWeu

These climate conversations started about 4 years ago at the Osher Life Learning Institute when Delaware Interfaith Power and Light facilitated a discussion with 80 students, OLLI members, and community leaders about climate change attitudes, beliefs, and actions. It was extremely successful. Since then, DEIPL has hosted these around the state in a variety of venues.

We may venture into Sacred Grounds, which is a National Wildlife Federation program dealing with the use of exterior space for the benefit of people and animals. This may be the start of further collaboration among these churches. Pastor Dave and I will be attending. Hope you can join us.
Second: in light of our celebration of Earth Day tomorrow, I promised a short blurb this week on the potential impact on our lives from climate change. Here it goes: Here is a partial list of how climate change (“climate chaos” is a better description) may impact you and your family:

1. Property and Income taxes
2. Carbon Pricing
3. Hotter weather – much hotter weather
4. More intense rainfall events – are your yard and house ready?
5. New insect issues
6. Shore issues for those with shore property (over-washing of roads, unusable septic systems, wastewater treatment plants, ….)

I’ll focus on the first 2 today. Concerning Property and Income Taxes, the State of Delaware commissioned a Sea Level Rise Commission about 10 years ago to study the potential damages from projected sea level rise (item 6 above). If our trajectory on Green House Gases continues, we can anticipate that LOTS of downstate homes will be abandoned. (Plus other impacts). There will be appeals for financial help to relocate and rebuild. We’ve already seen this in a few neighborhoods around Wilmington. It has already happened along the Gulf Coast and in Alaska.

There is, of course, no money at any level to do this. The money will come from???? I expect a major fight over the funding. Of course, if your tax bill increases because of this, you may be able to move somewhere without this problem. But, again, many cannot flee for one reason or another. “Flight Inequality”?

As to Carbon Pricing? There are at least 6 carbon pricing bills being worked on in Congress. One was introduced in the House last week. Senator Coons is the sponsor of one in the Senate. I have information on all of them. Our Eco Team at Osher has been briefed on them.

The rationale behind carbon pricing is that the best way to rapidly reduce our consumption of fossil fuels is to increase the price for carbon-containing products. Economists on both sides of the aisle agree on this. It certainly works with regards to truck sales. Even weekly upticks in gas prices dampen truck sales. And vice-versa.

How would it work? Fossil fuels would be taxed (assessed a fee) at the extraction site (well head, mine, etc.). (Note: This has been happening in Alaska for several years. The revenue becomes the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend, which is distributed annually to every eligible Alaskan. Of course, the APFD was designed solely to ensure that Alaskans share in the wealth derived from oil. There was no intent to dampen the market for the oil). The fee would be passed on to consumers via price increases in carbon-based products. (oil, gas, coal, etc). The tax (Fee) would gradually increase over a period of time – perhaps 10 years.

Here’s the kicker, though. The revenue is given back to the citizens. In the purest form of “A Carbon Fee with Dividend and Border Adjustment” plan, all the revenue is distributed to the citizens. The result would be that the vast majority of citizens come out ahead.
What’s this “border adjustment”? If a product comes into the US from a country without a sufficient carbon fee plan, then the US assesses a carbon fee of its own. This keeps the playing field level. It also encourages such countries to impose their own carbon price. Why give that money to the US – or any country with a carbon pricing plan?

What would be the impact on you? You would think long and hard about any purchase of a product or service with a significant carbon footprint. The most obvious are vehicles, HVAC systems, travel via air or car, foods, merchandise, electricity, home fuel, etc. That gas-guzzling truck might suddenly lose its appeal. Maybe you would tolerate a one-time hit, but the hits will keep on coming.

I talked above about the purest form of a carbon bill. Most of the bills differ in these ways:

1. They start at different times
2. They start with different initial fees/ton of carbon
3. They ramp up at different rates
4. They continue for different lengths of time
5. They distribute the revenue in different ways

This last point is very interesting. One can imagine that folks have very different views on how to distribute all that money. Infrastructure, poor people, pay down the national debt, etc. The list is endless. My perspective is that a fight over that will derail the whole thing. So, keep it pure.

At the very least, I hope the above will give you pause on some of your upcoming purchase decisions. What should I discuss next? Let me know.

Regards
Mike Rominger

HELP IS NEEDED

Our Greeting Card Ministry is in need of new volunteers. Our goal is to have 12 volunteers, one per month. Cards are sent monthly to our Shut-ins, and to our active members on different occasions. This ministry is done entirely IN YOUR HOME. Everything you need is in our box, which travels monthly, from one member to the next.

Please, prayerfully, consider joining this caring and supportive ministry. Call Karen Muller at 302-475-0595, leave a message if there is no answer. Text - 302-540-7639
Email - karenmuller1127@gmail.com
Part-time Director of Children and Youth Ministries

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is currently searching for a new staff position, a part-time Director of Children and Youth Ministries. Please keep our search in your prayers…

St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, 1314 Foulk Road, Wilmington, is looking for a part-time (20 hours/week) Director of Children and Youth responsible for designing and facilitating a children and youth ministry program focused on building young disciples for Christ. A bachelor’s degree is required with demonstrated knowledge and experience in children and/or youth ministry. If interested in the full job description, please contact the church by emailing stpaulsumcde@comcast.net, Attention: Pastor David McMillan.

Freeborn Garrettson Adult Sunday School

The Garrettson Adult Sunday School continues our Social Justice Bible Challenge. These are the challenges and Bible readings for the next month. We are working through various New Testament books in our readings.

04/25/2021 Day 38 Hebrews 13:1-25 – What are the ways we can love one another and offer brotherly and sisterly charity, particularly to the incarcerated and their families?

05/02/2021 Day 39 James 1: 19-2:17 – How do we see our work day-to-day reflected in our faith?

05/09/2021 Day 40 1 John 4:1-21 – God is love. Behavior matters. God is calling us to serve.

It is never too late to join us. See you Sunday mornings at 11:00 via ZOOM. Please join us by requesting an invitation to ZOOM by emailing Agnes Barkley@ shewho46@gmail.com
CONNECTIONS’ NEW OFFERING FOR SPRING

Connections is offering a new study for Spring 2021! There are two sessions being offered over a period of 4 weeks, beginning Monday and Tuesday, April 19 and 20.

One group will meet on Monday mornings at 10:00 and a second group will meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:00. Both groups will be using Zoom to gather and discuss William Willimon’s work entitled Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love. Our conversation each week will follow a DVD presentation. A companion book (optional) is available on-line at Cokesbury, Amazon, and Christian Books.

The following description is from the Amazon website:

Rooted in the faith of Israel and the Christian story and vision, Willimon—in an onscreen conversation with Delia Catalina Ramirez, brings a non-technical, Wesleyan perspective to bear on what may be the hardest thing for people of faith to do: keeping and loving the Other as Other.

Emphasizing the biblical mandate to receive Others in their particularity and difference as gifts and mysteries bearing the grace of God, this study also offers a strong critique of the privileged who all too often rush to a language of reconciliation and evade the huge inequalities surrounding conversations and practices dealing with xenophobia and injustice.

Rooted in the New Testament understanding of Gentile outsiders grafted into the covenant community, this study invites readers to an on-the-ground faith that hearkens to a soliciting and revealing God who comes to us again and again through so-called outsiders, strangers, immigrants, and those without status.

Please prayerfully consider participating in this study. It should provide an opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation about matters that challenge us every day, matters that challenge our church, our communities, our country and our world.

To register your interest, sign-up on the church website with the link below or contact Chet Thayer (3889290) or Fran Smart (290-2054). https://signup.com/go/HqNmsSE
Pastors Chat

Everyone is invited to meet with our pastors, Pastor Dave and David, every Thursday afternoon, at 1 pm, for a brief devotional followed by an opportunity to discuss current events, church life, and to ask questions. This Thursday, we’ll consider Jesus as our Good Shepherd.

To join this Zoom Meeting, click or copy and paste the following address on your website browser: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86024126920?pwd=WElKcU5KZnA4b2NaWWF3bUtQbmJZUT09

If you are joining by phone only, dial the following number 646-876-9923 or 301-715-8592. You will then be prompted to give the Meeting ID: 860 2412 6920 and Password: 709660.

Preaching Schedule for Eastertide

Eastertide is a festal season in the liturgical year of Christianity that focuses on celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a period of 50 days, spanning from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. Come and worship on Sunday mornings and witness the various ways in which the risen Christ continues to make himself known in the midst of our daily living.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Pastor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; I John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17</td>
<td>Pastor Schuler</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>Acts 1:1-26; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53</td>
<td>Pastor Finch</td>
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This coming Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Easter is always “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Every year we read from Chapter 10 of John’s Gospel about shepherds and sheep.

Several years ago now, I was out trout fishing in a stream that ran through a fenced in pasture. As I ducked under a bridge and came out the other side, I was immediately confronted by a ram prepared to protect his harem. His head lowered, as if ready to charge, more out of fear of returning under the bridge and exposing my derriere, I stood my ground. In a moment or two, having called his bluff, he let out a loud snort, and returned to his lady friends.

So much for my image of the timid sheep surrounding Jesus’ feet in the picture which hangs on the wall, of the primary Sunday school class, in the church where I was raised. Still, I have had a fondness for the image of Jesus and of humankind as “Good Shepherd and sheep.” There are no more comforting words for me in the Bible than the 23rd Psalm, a psalm I committed to memory many years ago, and often call upon in my personal life and ministry.

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me, your rod and your staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.”

- Psalm 23
More Church News

The Messenger
I am always Looking for contributions to our weekly *Messenger*. Please consider sending in prayer requests, poem, jokes, baby pictures, reflections, etc. to DaveMcMillan@Comcast.net.

Pastoral Care & Emergencies
Pastor Dave (484-883-1050) and Pastor David (the older one - 302-545-3232) are available for pastoral care. If you have any concerns, or would like to talk, please give them a call.

Prayer Requests
Please pray for:

Carol Apanowicz who is undergoing chemotherapy

Frederick Smith (healing)

Carole Burdge (healing)

Shirley Erickson who is awaiting heart surgery
Jim Jenkins, son-in-law of Dolores Garritano, who is still recovering from back surgery

Dot Wood (healing)

Tom Sobocinski (strength)

Elaine Linton (heart)

Florence Seney and Joan McGhie (back)

David Finch (healing)

Rick Stout (healing)

Rick Gamble (healing)

Our church, including caregivers

Our nation and its leaders

Our citizenry and our responsibilities to one another