

Doxology

Great Thanksgiving

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Communion

pages 496 and 497

This Sunday we again offer healing prayer, anointing, and laying on of hands for healing. You may also ask to be anointed on behalf of another who needs healing or is troubled.

Prayer After Communion

God of mercy, God of grace, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you give yourself to us. By your Spirit may the mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus, that we may go into the world in your strength, giving ourselves for others, in his name. Amen.

Community Sharing

Offering

Baptism

Hymn Of Response We Give Thee But Thine Own 360

Hymn Of Dismissal The Summons URW 60

Dismissal With Blessing

May the Triune God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, restore you and favorably hear you; may God accomplish in you the work of salvation, that you may show forth God's glory in the world, loving and serving both God and your neighbor. Amen.

Our service is ended—go in Christ's peace!

Next Week's Readings: Mark 1:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47

Preaching This Week: Pastor Mwamba of Open Door FMC

Next Week: Palm/Passion Sunday Scriptures read in community

Celebrant: Brian Hartley

Acolytes: Emma Nord, Caitie McPeak

St. Paul's Free Methodist Church Fifth Sunday In Lent

Call To Worship

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service (*ps. 1, 3*) URW 204

Greeting

Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also.

Hymn Of Praise For The Beauty Of The Earth (*ps. 1, 5-6*) 43

Prayer

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 51:1-12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Hymn O Jesus, I Have Promised (*vss. 1-3*) 302

Second Lesson *Hebrews 5:5-10*

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation O Christe Domine Jesu URW 389

Gospel

John 12:20-33

R: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say— ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

R: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Apostles’ Creed

Prayers Of The People

The Peace

By dying, Christ destroyed our death; in rising, he restores our life; in giving us his Spirit, he grants us peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us take a few moments to greet one another with signs of peace and reconciliation.

CELEBRATING THE EASTER SEASON '4 X 4'

Love that “**table fellowship**”? Email stpaulsmc@gmail.com to opt in for **4 X 4**, to feast with a smaller group (4 individuals, couples and/or families) several times across the Season of Easter. Groups will form based on **preferred day(s) of the week; your group decides** which 4 (or fewer) days/times **April 2 – May 19** you'll meet, for mini-potluck, picnic, dinner or breakfast out, whatever!

MOVING HELP WANTED MARCH 24

Zach and Hannah Marshall (and Ramona!) will be moving from North 4th Street to North Locust soon. THIS Saturday they plan to **move the large items and boxes** to their new home, and would much appreciate any willing hands to help make it light work!

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL(S) NEXT SUN., MARCH 25

Cecelia Ulmer will meet at **10:00a** in the sanctuary with the **seven participating in special roles** for the Gospel reading during the 11:00 worship service; **other preteens and teens** will meet in the **mural room and the Teen SS room** with Nate Wieland and Kat Westbrook, respectively.

GODLY PLAY TRAINING OPTIONS

Might you enjoy spending an hour Sunday mornings **sharing the stories of God and the Church's traditions with our children**? You might belong on our Godly Play team! **Godly Play Training (required)** will be offered **this spring/summer** in **Danville, KY (Apr. 19-21)**, **Nashville, TN (Apr. 27-29)**, **Chicago (May 4-6)**, **Dayton, OH (Aug 2-4)**, and (closest of all) **Bloomington, IN (Aug. 24-26)**. **St. Paul's pays all your costs**—training, lodging, meals and transportation. Please contact Pastor Ben (ben.wayman@greenville.edu) or Georgann Kurtz-Shaw (georgann.kurtz-shaw@greenville.edu) for more information.

GSGA DODGEBALL FUNDRAISER FOR EDEN'S GLORY

Come out to HJ Long on **Tuesday, March 27**, to prove your dodging skills! Five people per team; individuals can sign up, as well as entire teams, but individuals will be placed on teams together. Please register at: <https://form.jotform.com/80504799065161>
Cost is **\$2 per person** and all proceeds go to **Eden's Glory**. You may **pay electronically** on the form or **in cash at 6:45p** before the **tournament starts at 7p**.

WELCOMING PASTOR MWAMBA & FAMILY!

St. Paul's welcomes to the pulpit today Pastor Mwamba of Open Door Free Methodist Church of Florissant, MO. With him are his wife, Rebecca, his daughters Sarah, Anna and Favor, and his granddaughter Yasmin. (Sarah serves as his interpreter today.) Pastor Mwamba and his family came to this country in 2014 as refugees from violence in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, where he had served as a pastor. Last year, through a friend in ministry in Columbia, MO, he first heard of our denomination. Following further investigation, including a class in Free Methodist History and Polity, he accepted the invitation of Gateway Conference to **transfer his ministerial credentials to the Free Methodist Church** in August. Under his sacrificial leadership Gateway's **Open Door FMC has transitioned to serving Central African refugees** (as well as others).

NEXT SEXTON FOR ST. PAUL'S

If you are interested in serving as the St Paul's sexton for the upcoming **summer and/or academic year**, please contact Pastor Ben asap at ben.wayman@greenville.edu

WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICES DURING LENT

1st Church of Christ (405 N. Maple, **Mulberry Grove**) hosts the worship service this **Wednesday noon, March 21**, with a free luncheon to follow immediately (~12:30). A freewill offering supports the **benevolence ministry of the Ministerial Alliance**.

ST. PAUL'S CONTINUES IN PRAYER

Morning Prayer continues **Monday-Friday 7:30-8:00a** in the Sanctuary, with prayer, Scripture and Communion.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us for **Sunday School** at **10a** for great coffee and stimulating discussion, led by **Matt Zahniser**, focusing on the **lectionary psalm of the day**.

WELCOMING OUR CHILDREN TO GODLY PLAY

Our **preschool and elementary-age (3+)** children are warmly invited to gather for Godly Play **Sundays at 9:45a at the Godly Play room door**. Here they will be creatively and imaginatively engaged with the church's stories, rituals and rites, preparing for the worship and life of the church.

**OBSERVING HOLY WEEK TOGETHER,
BEGINNING NEXT SUNDAY**

- **PALM/PASSION SUNDAY**—Meet **outside our front entrance at 10:55a next Sunday, March 25**, as we begin worship with our **palm procession**, and continue in worship with **Scriptures read in community**.
- **MORNING PRAYER CONTINUES**—Join us this Holy Week in prayer, Scripture and Communion from **7:30-8:00a Mon-Fri** in the sanctuary.
- **COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**—The final community Lenten service will be hosted by the **1st Christian Church** (1100 Killarney) on **Friday, March 30**, with worship at **noon**, and a complimentary luncheon immediately following; a **freewill offering** supports the Bond County Ministerial Alliance's **benevolence fund**.
- **JOINT FM GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**—Join in worship together in the sanctuary of the **Greenville Free Methodist Church** at **6:00p on Friday, March 30**, in this service of **mourning, repentance and prayer for mercy**.
- **JOINT FREE METHODIST SUNRISE SERVICE**—Gather to worship the Risen Christ in the **east parking lot of the Greenville FMC at 6:30 Easter morning**. We will recount and rejoice in **Christ's resurrection** through **scripture, prayer and song**. (Alternate location Young Teen Room, should weather require.) Please do dress warmly and **bring your folding chairs!**
- **EASTER GODLY PLAY & BREAKFAST POTLUCK**—Our children invite us to the Godly Play room at **9:45a to hear the Easter story with them**; we'll then, in lieu of Sunday School, adjourn to the Fellowship Hall to share an **Easter Breakfast Feast** together in St. Paul's favorite **potluck** style.
- **EASTER WORSHIP AT 11:00 A.M.**—Celebrate with us the Resurrection of our Lord in worship on this, the highest day of the Christian year!

MEMO

To: St. Paul's
From: Dave Holden, Treasurer
Subject: 2018 Budget Preparation

[**Posted on the St. Paul's bulletin board near the front door you will find a hard copy of this memo, including a multi-page breakdown of our spending from 2016 and 2017**, according to our Aplos accounting system. We are still updating the figures and making sure money is assigned to the correct accounts so there are, no doubt, more adjustments to be made. The two main challenges in getting the numbers accurate are studying spending appearing on our checking statements in January and February and whether they belong to previous or current year spending. Additionally, we now auto or e-pay a number of bills, including payroll, world missions contributions and pastor retirement. These charges appear on our checking statements without a lot of detail as to which exact line item they belong to. Here is some "bullet point" or highlight thinking to consider that we discussed at [our recent] BOA meeting:

- Our **giving in 2017** was approximately **\$103,000**. The past two years have seen giving **drop about \$10,000-\$15,000** from 2014-15 years when we had giving in the \$110,000-\$120,000 range.
- Our **budget is set for about \$115,000**. This includes home and world missions giving of \$10,000 for each area, based on giving of \$100,000 and fulfilling the society policy of donating 20% of giving to missions.
- Our checking as of ... 2/16/2018 is \$20,052.67. Savings is \$401.98. Last year on 1/31/2017, our checking balance was \$36,629. So we need to watch our spending and giving closely as we proceed in 2018.
- If giving trends back towards \$115,000, great. However, if it stays in the \$100,000 range we will need to adjust either salaries or missions giving or another part(s) of the budget.
- If the society wants to do any major improvements to the church or property, we will need to make a special offering or project plan to fund it.
- If you have any questions or suggestions or corrections, let me or Judy or Emily know and we will update the budget.