

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

March 2018 Newsletter

All articles for the monthly newsletter must be submitted to Barbara@stpaulslascruces.com by the 15th of the month.

Our purpose is to lead people to become disciples of Christ, who know and love God and transform our world from the heart of Las Cruces.



Easter Sunday is April Fool's Day, April 1st. This year has been interesting because the Lenten season began on Ash Wednesday which was February 14th, Valentine's Day. The occurrence of both hasn't happened since 1945. It has the making of a unique season. During Ash Wednesday services, we not only put ashes on your forehead but also stamped your hand with a red heart. What will we do for Easter Sunday, since it is April Fool's day?

What if we called each other "Fools for Christ" on that day? Or we could explain how foolish those guarding the tomb were because of the resurrection. I will tell you that there will be foolishness preached because the resurrection of Jesus made no sense to the people at the time. Even today, resurrection doesn't make sense to our world. So I want to encourage you to invite your friends, family and others to the Easter experience and the foolishness of Jesus' resurrection on April 1st.

Holy Week Dinner & Devotionals

Meals provided by Cooking for Christ every night at 6 pm following with devotionals:

Monday: Morning Star UMC (Ross Whiteaker)

Tuesday: University UMC (Pam Rowley, Brian Townsend)

Wednesday: El Calvario UMC (Nema LeCuyer)

Maundy Thursday: Sanctuary (Communion)

Good Friday: Sanctuary (Musical Service)

Easter Sunday Worship Experiences:

6:30 a.m. – Sunrise Service at Plaza de Las Cruces with local Methodist churches involved.

8:00 a.m.; 9:30 a.m.; 11:00 a.m. – Worship experiences in St. Paul's Sanctuary



Coming Sermon Series: "God Never Said that!"

This series is about the sayings we hear and sometimes believe that God never said. Come and hear those sayings and what God really said.

April 8th – "God Wants You Happy"

April 15th – "God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle"

April 24th – "It Doesn't Matter What You Do"

April 29th – "It Doesn't Matter What You Believe"



MARVELOUS MARCH

Thank you so much for your generous support of the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope. Your donation for 2017 totaled \$1,500. We can do our work only because of the ongoing support we receive from people like you.

Nicole Martinez
MVCH Executive Director



Thank you for your gift. Your blessing our ministry in this way helps us transform broken lives. Because we use no tax dollars, we rely entirely on faithful donors like you.

Henry Young
Executive Director/Chaplain
Las Cruces Gospel Rescue Mission

We thank you sincerely for your donation of \$1,876.00. It is through the generous support of individuals like you that makes it possible for us to continue our mission and combat hunger in our community.

Lorenzo Alba, Jr.
Executive Director
Casa de Peregrinos



We extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Beth Dage in her passing on January 22, to the family of Larry Brown in the passing of Charlotte on February 25, 2018 and to the family of Alice Helfrich as she went to be with our Lord Wednesday morning, February 28.



April Fools Day is for the entire month of April this year!

Celebrate April Fools for the entire month of April by sending flamingos to your favorite person (s) in the church. Let them know just how much you care about them! Maybe send a flamingo with your favorite athletic or collage team on the card. It will add the right touch to their yard. We start selling tags in March. All proceeds go toward Youth 2019.

Muchas Gracias!

Thank you all who worked, donated, helped, publicized and ate at our recent enchilada dinner. The food and fellowship were great. We made over \$2,000 to help special music needs. Thank you all again!



Collette Walz



Mary Odenbach & Gene Christensen



Julie Kornhoff

Our newest members

Certificate of Recognition

The Las Cruces Board of Education and Superintendent hereby recognize

St. Paul's Methodist Church

For supporting our elementary school students in a time of need.

Given this 20th day of February 2018.



Maria A. Flores

Maria A. Flores, President
Board of Education

Gregory Ewing

Gregory Ewing Ed.D.
Superintendent

St. Paul's United Methodist Church was recognized for supporting Central Elementary School in a time of need before the regular meeting of the Las Cruces Public School Agenda Meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2018. This Certificate of Recognition was presented to Pastor Darren Skinner and Mark Ewing.

HONORING OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

It is part of the Wesleyan tradition to acknowledge the importance of education in developing our talents to best serve God. St. Paul's would like to offer some financial support to our high school graduates who will be pursuing higher education. Scholarship funds are available through endowed scholarship funds and personal church member donations.



SCHOLARSHIPS will be awarded for the academic year 2018-19 and the number of scholarships awarded will be dependent upon funds available. Decisions of the scholarship committee will be based on need and church participation as reported on the application. Sheila Skinner will have Scholarship Packets available after March 11. Deadline for turning in your packet is April 22.



First Friday Fun Night will be held March 2nd from 5:00-8:30 pm. Join us for a Game Night, where we will play games and create our own! \$10 per child, \$30 max per family.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Do you have a heart for little ones and an hour a week to devote to them? We are looking for a Sunday School teacher for our littlest disciples, 2-5 years old! This would be a small class and would focus on playing games, singing and learning about God together. Sundays from 9:30-10:30 am. Please let Sheryl know if you feel the call!

Family Bowling

A trip to Ten Pin Alley is in the works for Saturday, March 10th, if enough families are interested! Time to be determined. Let me know if you are interested!



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You're invited to!!

ST. PAUL'S EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, MARCH 31ST

AT 10 A.M.

PIONEER PARK

Hosted by St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Bring your own basket.

All ages welcome.

Thousands of eggs!

Join us for fun in the park with games, crafts, face painting, balloon animals, **free food**, a photo booth and a visit from the **Easter Bunny** himself!

We would love to have you join us for this wonderful event!

WARNING: The hunt starts at 10:15 a.m.!!

For more information, email barhamsheryl@gmail.com or call 541-3182.

We need donations of large, filled eggs, gift cards for door prizes and volunteers!!

OUR CHURCH PRAYER MINISTRY

Farmers' and Crafts Market Prayer Station

Our St. Paul's Prayer Station started ministering to people at the Farmers' and Crafts Market two years ago on October 3, 2015. Since that time we have probably served about 15 to 20 persons once a month on Saturday mornings in the downtown mall. We are housed under a bright green canopy and have eight to ten volunteers who pray for those who request prayer from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. These persons serve for one-and-a-half hours in three shifts. We are always seeking new people who are willing to take their turn in praying for those who come by our station. Reports have been amazing on how people have responded in deep appreciation for the prayers. If you are interested in volunteering to be part of the "praying team," just call the church office or speak to Pastor Darren.



Friday Morning Prayer Group



Each Friday, the Upper Room Prayer Group meets in the church library from 9:30 to 11:00 AM. This group prays for the requests sent to them from the Upper Room in Nashville, Tennessee, as well as all the requests received at St. Paul's. Weekly there are about 100 names, some continuing from week-to-week, for the congregation. We also pray on a regular basis for the children, youth and their parents who are related to our church. Our young people total about 75. The prayer group is also a spiritual- growth-and-support group. If you feel that God may be calling you to serve in this ministry, you are invited to come and pray with us. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL Ruth Moorer (525-2535).

"He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing." Deuteronomy 10:18

"If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother." Deuteronomy 15:7

"Have I not wept for those in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for the poor?" Job 30:25

Local Missions at Camp Hope

This picture shows Karen Warren and Phyllis Dillard at the book table which Local Missions set up at Camp Hope on February 14. This program offers free books to the local residents, and refreshments such as hot tea and soft drinks. The committee has gathered books and magazines as donations and sets these up at the Camp Hope office area once a month, alternating with University Methodist, who had a similar program.



FOCUS ON PRAYER

From "A Diary of Private Prayer" by John Baillie #6

"A Morning Prayer"

O Lord my God, I would kneel before you in Lowly adoration ere I set out to face the tasks and interests of another day. I thank you for the blessed assurance that I shall not be called upon to face them alone or in my own strength, but shall at all times be accompanied by your presence and fortified by your grace. I thank you that through all our human life there run the footprints of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who for our sakes was made flesh and tasted all the changes of our mortal lot.

I thank you for all the spiritual presences with which I shall be surrounded as I go about my work. For the heavenly host above, for the saints who rest from their labors, for patriarchs, prophets, and apostles, for the noble army of martyrs, for all holy and humble people of heart, for my own dear departed friends, especiallyand , I bless and adore your great name.

I rejoice, O God, that you have called me to be a member of the Church of Christ. Let the consciousness of this holy fellowship follow me whithersoever I go, cheering me in loneliness, protecting me in company, strengthening me against temptation and encouraging me to all just and charitable deeds.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who did bid your disciples to shine as lights in a dark world, in shame and contrition of heart do I acknowledge before you the many faults and weaknesses of which we are guilty who in this generation represent the Church before the world; and especially do I acknowledge my own part in the same. Forgive me, I beseech you, the feebleness of my witness, the smallness of my charity, and the slackness of my zeal. Make me to be a more worthy follower of Him who cared for the poor and oppressed, and who could never see disease without seeking to heal it or any kind of human need without turning aside to help.

Let your power, O Christ, be in us all, to share the world's suffering and redress its wrongs. Amen.

Time to order your Easter Lily

Each year the Worship Committee has Easter Lilies or Mums as part of our Easter decorations. You may purchase a Lily in honor or in memory of each loved one, please fill out the following form and place it in the offering plate with your check for \$12 each.

1. Name of Loved One: _____

Please circle one: In honor or In memory

2. Name of Loved One: _____

Please circle one: In honor or In memory

Name of person(s) giving flowers(s) (as you want printed in the bulletin):



St. Paul's United Methodist Church
225 West Griggs Avenue
Las Cruces, NM 88005
575.526-6689
Change of address requested

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.STPAULSLASCRCUCES.COM

When You Give, You Equip Christ's Body to Serve in His Name

March 11 is UMCOR SUNDAY (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing).

This offering enables UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity, without regard to race, religion or gender, together through UMCOR, we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

For over 75 years, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues to-day:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, UMCOR responded
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, UMCOR responded
- When hurricanes pounded the southern part of the US, UMCOR responded
- And when the next mass crisis occurs, UMCOR will be prepared to respond



The UMCOR Sunday offering provides administrative support to UMCOR. Sometimes the income from this offering may exceed UMCOR's administrative needs. When that happens, the extra support is channeled to under-funded programs and an excess of funds allows UMCOR to respond to disasters immediately after an event...even before funds can be raised. UMCOR keeps operating costs under 10% of their total budget.

Thank you for your generous donations to support UMCOR SUNDAY. Indicate UMCOR on your check, envelope or electronic gift. (For more info on UMCOR, go to UMCOR.org or www.umcgiving.org)