

# St. Paul's United Methodist Church

## June 2019 Newsletter

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.

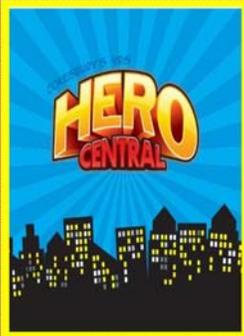


**Fathers Day**  
**Sunday, June 16th**  
**Loudest/Ugly Dads Shirt Contest**  
**2 chances to win:**  
**9:30am & 10:30am**  
**Sponsored by St. Paul's Youth**



*In honor of Father's Day: We are collecting brand new socks and underwear for men and children sizes medium and small to be donated to El Calvario UMC and Camp Hope. Phyllis Dillard is the contact person at the church. Due date is Sunday, June 16th. Find the large box in the Commons.*

**VBS Sunday will be Sunday, June 30.**  
**Please note that there will be one service only at 11:00pm.**  
**EVERYONE is encouraged and invited to come back at noon for a potluck dinner.**

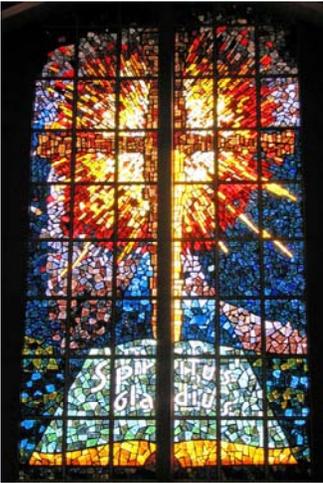


**St. Paul's Super VBS Weekend**

|          |            |
|----------|------------|
| June 28  | June 29-30 |
| 5-8:30pm | 9am-1pm    |

Classes Available For Parents  
Meals Provided

Contact Person is Sheryl @ 575-541-3182  
Register on line at:  
<http://www.stpaulslascruces.com/>



*Sermons in the Window*  
*Life of St. Paul*  
*begins*  
*June 16th*



## *Darren's Thoughts*

### July/August Listening Sessions

Three years ago, I was your new pastor. As a way to get to know as many people as possible, the SPRC created listening sessions hosted by individuals in their homes. During those meetings, I got the chance to meet over 100 people and get to know them. I asked three questions:

1. Share your spiritual journey.
2. What is the best thing about St. Paul's?
3. If you could change one thing immediately, what would you change?

Out of those conversations, I heard a couple of things that became goals of the church. Many wanted to celebrate and increase the positive aspect of making the church "feel like home." So we made one of our goals to "make it feel like home." The majority of people also wanted to see children and youth in the church. We made the goal to value children, youth and their parents. A third goal was to increase small group participation.

It is time for a check in. I would like to invite you to host or participate in Listening Sessions during July and August. These will be similar to our previous meetings. There will be a time to gather and fellowship. Then I will ask just three questions, possibly like these:

- Have you grown spiritually in the past three years?
- What has changed in the past three years?
- What would you like to see change in the next three years?

In addition to these questions and you sharing, I will share with you information about the United Methodist General Conference actions this year and prospects for the next General conference in May of 2020.

If you are interested in hosting one of these groups in July or August, please let me know. I would encourage you to invite friends and members to participate. The groups should be no larger than 12 individuals, which will give everyone the chance to share and listen. The larger the group the less time people will have to share. The groups will start on July 15<sup>th</sup> through August 28<sup>th</sup>. To host a group and set a day and time, please email me at [darren@stpaulslascruces.com](mailto:darren@stpaulslascruces.com) or leave a message at 575-541-3178.

I look forward to hearing from you and checking in with where we are going as a church.

Blessings, Darren

### ***Lay Servant Academy at First United Methodist Church in Albuquerque.***

**The Academy will be held July 19th and 20th at FUMC.**



We encourage all who wish to begin their journey in Lay Servant Ministry, all who wish to receive recertification and/or qualify for Certified Lay Minister training to consider signing up for this Academy. For further information, contact John Milholland, email [milholland93@q.com](mailto:milholland93@q.com) or (505) 980-7494. Registration forms are also on the Welcome Table.

**June**

2nd: Evening Youth is at the Chihuahuas Baseball Game in El Paso-Leave as a group 4:45pm. Game starts at 6pm. Students and College students are free. \$15 per person. Let me know ASAP..I will need to order more..

16th: Father's Day- Loudest Shirt Contest, I need students judges after 1st service and 2nd service. . . . No evening Youth

17th-20th: Youth Camp- at Sacramento Camp NM Be at camp between 2-4 on Monday and ending on Friday at 11am.

21st-23rd: Sheila out for Philip and Chelsea's wedding.

23rd: No Youth-Camp the week before.

28th-30: VBS weekend

30th: 4pm- Mandatory Youth 2019 Meeting, one week out from the trip. No youth-VBS weekend.



**Youth  
having  
fun at  
Bob'Os**



**Decorating  
for  
VBS**



We're getting together to say

**THANK YOU**

for all of your help, support and prayers

you're invited to attend a

*thank you lunch*

Hosted by: St. Paul's Youth 2019 Team  
Sunday - July 28, 2019 - 10:45am-12:30

Please RSVP by July 21st with Sheila- text to 575-263-9071 or email: [sheilacashskinner@gmail.com](mailto:sheilacashskinner@gmail.com)

[sheilacashskinner@gmail.com](mailto:sheilacashskinner@gmail.com)

There will be no Friday Fun Night in June. The next one will be a "Splash Party" (water fun night) on Friday, July 5th from 5:30-8:30 pm.



## Safe Sanctuaries

Protecting our children youth and vulnerable adults

Safe Sanctuary Training will be held twice at the end of June! All those who work with our children and youth need to have this training every two years. If you are helping with kids during VBS, it is mandatory and will be followed by a short VBS orientation. The dates and time are Sunday, June 23rd at 11:00 am and Wednesday, June 26th at 5:00 pm.

### VBS needs supplies!!!

Super Weekend VBS will be June 28-30th. We need lots of donations of supplies as well as volunteers! Please check the rolling board in the commons to see what is needed. Can you spare a few hours of ONE summer weekend?? Then we need you... there's a job for everyone.



### VBS Stuffed Animal Drive

We will be collecting NEW stuffed animals in memory of Emmie Ash to donate to the local First Responders who give these stuffed animals to kids experiencing trauma. We will be collecting stuffed animals the whole month of June in the Commons as well as during VBS.

## St. Paul's News

We are still collecting used Christmas decorations for our Fall Christmas Bazaar. We want Christmas items only: dishes, trees that can stand, lights must work and be untangled, ornaments, wreaths, yard decorations, etc. and NO CLOTHES PLEASE!!!! Bring to the office any time.

### Scholarships Awarded



Longtime member and friendly face who used to sit at the Welcome Center, Chiane Bond, is currently enrolled in the Universal Technical Institute in Avondale, AZ. She is studying the fine art of auto mechanics. Chiane graduated nine years ago and has ultimately found her course of interest. St. Paul's is proud of Chiane and awarded her a \$500 tuition scholarship.

Also recognized was 2019 Centennial graduate, Chaeley Boykin. This outstanding graduate would like to be a trauma doctor. She will attend Grand Canyon University in Phoenix. Her award was \$2000. We have had the blessing of watching this young adult grow up and are proud of her and her accomplishments.

During any time of the year, donations may be made to Scholarships. The scholarships above were from our general scholarship fund. We also have scholarships for those interested in professional ministry careers and even one for someone studying Worship Arts. Talk to any of the scholarship committee members for information about our scholarship program. Members of the committee are Amil Anderson, Jan Archey, Barbara Hubbard, Linda Smith, Eldon Steelman, Eula Fern Thompson, and Herb Wimberly. May God bless our graduates and others who have graduated this year.

## FOCUS ON PRAYER 6<sup>TH</sup> Series #11

### “Listen, the Lord”

Since this series' theme is on “listening to God”, I feel the need to address the subject of how we can listen to God. I am very sure of the fact that God is continually trying to communicate with each one of his children. How that happens is not always very clear. Most of the time, he comes to us through our thoughts rather than by audible sound, and certainly not by messages in the skies. As he comes, he respects our free will and does not force himself upon us. His Holy Spirit directs us gently as we are open to receive.

The seven “listeners” in the book, Listen, the Lord, before listening would gather together for an extended period of silent prayer. They would then address the Lord with their questions and concerns. We do not know exactly what the questions were, however we have the answers and can guess what the questions were. We do well to follow their pattern of first being silent and intent upon trying to hear.

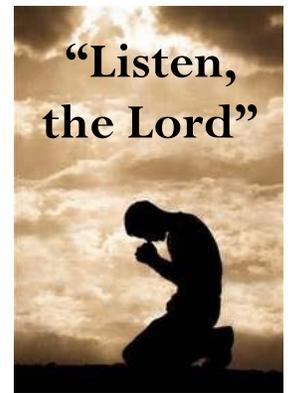
If some new positive thought comes to you which you have not had before or recently, it very likely could have come from the Lord. If it suggests some positive thing to do for someone, or if it reminds you of something that you are doing which may be hurting yourself or others, that is probably from the Lord. Test it out by acting on it. If it is God, he will affirm it in some way.

Throughout the day, whenever a person comes to mind, I feel that it is God's way of asking me to pray for him or her. God needs us to be channels of blessings from him to others and for healing and salvation.

Answers to April 9 .... I will not lead you into temptation too great for your strength. I will give you power to say yes to me and no to Satan. But I would not take from you the very stuff of growth which is temptation. Remove all temptation and you remain an infant in the life of the spirit. I would have you pray, “Lead us not into temptation that is too great for our strength. Deliver us from the evil of saying yes to Satan and no to you.”

Answers to April 17 .... Your tension has been caused by the feeling that you cannot measure up to the standard you have set for yourself. You set this particular standard, not I. Now, give your disappointment, your sense of failure, to me. The giving will transform it. You will be released to let me work with you to meet *my* standard.

Answers to April 18 .... You must discipline yourself to forget about the past and not to be anxious about the future. Think only of now. How you live this moment will determine every future moment. The past is gone. Worrying about it is futile. I have told you that one of Satan's sharpest weapons is regret. When you fail, bring your failure to me, ask my forgiveness and go forward unafraid. Cease grieving over your faults. Walk one step at a time into full adulthood. Praise our Father for the glory of each moment when you live it with me.



### Upcoming Event

#### **You are invited!!**

The Elizabeth Circle of St. Paul's UMC is hosting Rev. George Miller of El Calvario UMC for a program on the refugee situation at his church and in Las Cruces. This promises to be a very informative program, to help us all understand what is really happening here with regards to the refugees, migrants and asylum seekers.

**On Saturday, June 22**, we plan to serve refreshments in the Commons at 9:30am with program to follow in the Chapel at 10am. Everyone is invited to attend. We hope to see you there!

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

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.STPAULSLASCRCUCES.COM

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***St. Paul's Services***

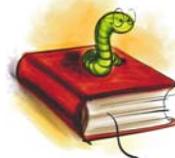
*8:00 am - Traditional*

*9:30 am - Modern*

*11:00 am - Traditional*

## News from Pastor Paul...

You'll be glad to know you and I generated \$74.00 for the church's general budget from the April 28 sale of Indestructo II: Onward and Upward. (And I sold out completely of Volume I that day!) I'm looking forward to Sunday, June 9. I'll be featuring my first ever modern fantasy: I Loved the Cat Woman: A Story of Loss and Recovery. This is about a blue collar father with three grown children. In the aftermath of his wife's death he becomes estranged from his oldest son, but through a variety of events (involving a preacher and a local church), they all become reconciled. I style this book a "modern fantasy." That means things happen in the book that couldn't happen in real life (not even for a Christian). A hopeful donation for this book will be just ten dollars. See you soon in June! Pastor Paul



**OUR THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY BUNCH** successfully completed the seminar course on the Epistle to the Romans on May 16. The class has decided to tackle an Old Testament selection for the late summer/fall session. We will study the Minor Prophets! The session will cover thirteen weeks (an introductory session followed by twelve sessions for the twelve books). You'll get an overview of the book's historical setting each week, and an opportunity to answer questions I ask from each book's specific content. If you think you'll be interested in taking this course, send me your e-mail address. I will put you on the mail group list and send you a list of questions each week in advance. We'll meet each Thursday at 12:00pm for about 45 minutes. The class begins on September 5 and ends on December 5 (with a break for Thanksgiving Day). Send your "I'm interested" to [paul@stpaulslascruces.com](mailto:paul@stpaulslascruces.com) NOW, and I will send you the first preliminary study guide. Pastor Paul