

# the EPISTLE



Welcome to our Lenten/Easter issue of the Epistle! In here you find out about events happening at Saint Paul's during March and April!

A purple-themed graphic for Holy Week events. It features a central wooden cross on a light purple background. The text is written in a dark purple, cursive font. The events listed are: Palm Sunday (Mar 29 - Cantata - 11am), Maundy Thursday (April 2 - 6pm), Easter Jubilee (April 4 - Egg Hunt & more - 10am), and Easter Sunday (April 5 - 7am, 8:30am, 11am). The graphic is decorated with purple and white roses and green leaves in the corners.

*Holy Week*

*Palm Sunday*  
Mar 29 - Cantata - 11am

*Maundy Thursday*  
April 2 - 6pm

*Easter Jubilee*  
April 4 - Egg Hunt & more - 10am

*Easter Sunday*  
April 5 - 7am, 8:30am, 11am

# CREATION *care*

## **SUSTAINABILITY & SUPPORT: LESSONS FOR LENT**

Lent is a season of fasting, prayer, and repentance, that we know. But our Creation Care team also looks at this special time to be a lifeline. Thankfully, even though the task can be daunting, Jesus shows us we can be a cosmic line of hope for our friends, family and community each day.

**Devotional Focus:** Talk about perfect timing: the 2026 Lenten study, "Creation's Call", encourages believers to reconnect with God through nature. Here in Tallahassee, our city has 700+ miles of hiking, biking, equestrian, paddling and bird-watching trails.

**Daily Actions & Habits:** United Women in Faith suggests daily actions for Lent, such as switching to reusable towels, reducing meat consumption, and limiting single-use plastics. Check out [epa.gov](http://epa.gov) for awesome ideas like DIY Composting and more!

**Spiritual Practices:** Engaging in "fasting" from consumerism, such as reducing screen time and mindful consumption, aligns with the Lenten spirit of self-examination. Our local libraries are better than ever - did you know you can rent a book to your iPad? Even better: a library card is free!

**Community Engagement:** Churches are encouraged to host composting, promote recycling, and organize clothing donations to reduce waste. You can easily donate your gently-used clothing at St. Paul's and Soul Food who help dress and feed the unhoused every month.

**Advocacy:** UMC Creation Justice advocates for environmental justice, emphasizing the connection between caring for the earth and protecting vulnerable communities. Join our ministry and local faith members at the capital every Sunday to join them as they pray for our immigrant brothers and sisters safety during this difficult time in history.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Join the Creation Care team as we show love to our earth.

- Lake Ella Cleanup March 7th. 9:00-11:00am
- Manna on Meridian Harvest March 20th. 4:30-6:30pm
- Ladybug Jubilee & Easter Egg Hunt. April 4th.
- Creation Care Sunday: April 12th. All services.

Stay in touch and up to date with Creation Care via our [Facebook page!](#)

**Shout Out:** Love must be shown to Teresa and Jim Morris who took time from their schedule to take care of the roses in the upper garden. With their help, we are officially ready for spring!

# MAR-APR events

## **SUNDAY NIGHT WORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

Join us every Sunday evening for our Contemporary Worship Service in Sanders Hall. This service begins at **6:00pm**. All are welcome to come.

## **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

“Driven by God’s love and united in sisterhood, we work to improve the lives of women, children and youth. We believe love in action can change the world.” These words come from the national United Women in Faith website, and they accurately describe the mission of the Saint Paul’s unit of United Women in Faith.

All ladies of the church are invited and encouraged to come and enjoy faith, fellowship, fun...oh, and food! United Women in Faith meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month, beginning at 10:00, in Sanders Hall. In March and April we’ll learn about Ronald McDonald House and Making Miracles Haven. Our popular end-of-year luncheon will take place in May. We’ll also continue planning and preparing for our annual spaghetti dinner and auction to be held in July.

We hope the ladies in our church are eager to be a part of this amazing group. Please contact Erma Sever, [ermasever@comcast.net](mailto:ermasever@comcast.net), or 850-510-5807, with any questions, or to be added to our email group to receive information on upcoming meetings and events.

### **Upcoming meetings:**

Tuesday, March 10th– 10:00am

Tuesday, April 14th– 10:00am

## **MEN’S READING GROUP**

All men are invited to join us in the Men's Reading Community which meets Tuesdays, 8:30-9:30am to discuss a book together at Ology Brewing Northside, 2910 Kerry Forest Pkwy, Unit 8.

They are currently reading, “RIGHT THING, RIGHT NOW: Good Values, Good Character, Good Deeds, by Ryan Holiday.”

For more information contact David Gill, [davidmurraygill@gmail.com](mailto:davidmurraygill@gmail.com)

## **SILVER LINERS**

Silver Liners kicked off the new year with a Bingo event in January, followed by lunch at the Olive Garden in February.

They are currently making plans for spring events...keep an eye out for details.

## **BIRTHDAYS AT SAINT PAUL’S**

Since our Epistle issues are now covering multiple months, we have not been able to fit in our birthday list. However, we know some of you love to keep up with these special days...if you wish to receive a list of birthdays each month, please contact the office and we will mail you a birthday section.

# MISSION ministries

## MANNA ON MERIDIAN

Manna on Meridian has our big monthly distributions the third Saturday of every month from 8-9:30 at the Manna building behind Faith Presbyterian's main building. These are our largest distributions and during them we typically serve around 300 families!

The upcoming dates for the Saturday distributions are:

- March 21st
- April 18th

If you are interesting in helping us serve our neighbors you can:

- reach out to Kevin Scott ([kevingscott@yahoo.com](mailto:kevingscott@yahoo.com)) to learn more about volunteer opportunities
- leave donations of canned soup, boxes of cereal or other shelf-stable food items either in the marked bins outside Sanders Hall (towards the bathrooms) or at the church office

Thank you for all the donations and all the folks who volunteer to help keep this ministry running!

## CAPITAL AREA JUSTICE MINISTRY

The Capital Area Justice Ministry has two important upcoming events:

**March 24 Pep Rally** @ Old West Florida Enrichment Center (2344 Lake Bradford Rd)

Get inspired and prepared to take action at the nehemiah action. Leave empowered to organize and invite others to the nehemiah action and to make a difference.

**Nehemiah Action April 21** @ Old West Florida Enrichment Center (2344 Lake Bradford Rd)

The Nehemiah Action is your chance to make an impact on affordable housing, food security, mental health, immigration, and gun violence in Tallahassee. Hear powerful stories, get inspired, and mobilize your community. The time to act is now! Together, we can demand change!

View additional details and RSVP at <https://www.capitalareajustice.org/events/>.

## RESIDING HOPE

Congratulations Saint Paul's for exceeding your 2025 Goal (12.00/member) for Residing Hope. Our goal was \$7,704.00. We contributed \$13,275.59 thru Fifth Sunday offerings, Honorariums and Memorial gifts, Private Donations and Christmas Gift Cards. Thank you so much for your generous support! Residing Hope's partnership as a Connectional Ministry with the Florida Annual Conference has enabled us to serve children in need for 118 years. We all share in this accomplishment. Most of these children come from situations of abuse, abandonment or neglect. Since churches remain the primary means of our financial support, we ask that you honor the next **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offering March 29th**. I am so very proud of our children for collecting the "noisy change" and our ministers and congregation for their participation. What a joyful time. Children love helping other children. Thank you, Saint Paul's and friends, for your continual support of Residing Hope.  
Janet Clark, Local Church Representative

# MUSIC at Saint Paul's

## MUSIC MINISTRY AT SAINT PAUL'S

The **Covenant Chancel Choir and Guest Musicians** will be presenting their Cantata, "**Calvary's Lamb: A Song, A Sacrifice, A Savior,**" for the 11:00am service on Palm Sunday, March 29th.

**You are invited to join us!** Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings from 6:45-7:15 in the choir room. Dress Rehearsal will be on Saturday, March 28th from 10:00am to 12 noon. Nursery is provided. Contact Cynthia Prescott: prescottc1360@gmail.com

The **Kids@Art program** is presently working on our spring musical, "Down By the Creek Band" by Dottie Rambo. Children, Grades K-5, are invited to join us as we prepare to present this musical on May 13th, at 6:45pm in the sanctuary. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00pm in the Children's music room, #200. Contact Stephany Nystrand for more info. (stephanymusictherapy@yahoo.com.)

Our **Youth Choir (Grades 6-12)** meets on Wednesdays from 7:00-7:45 in Room 200. We're looking forward to attending Music Camp in June, and we are grateful for the support of our church family in helping us raise funds to go. We could still use some help. Contact Gaye (gaye@saintfpaulsumc.org)

**Se'lah** is an ensemble of adults who love to praise God through song but can't commit to sing in worship every Sunday. This group rehearses Tuesday evenings at 7:30 in the choir room. They perform a variety of music and sing in a variety of places. This group sings once a month in worship and occasionally with Covenant Chancel Choir for special occasions. A nursery/childcare is provided. We will be presenting a Concert of inspiring choral works to the glory of God on May 3rd at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Contact Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs Director (prescottc1360@gmail.com)

### Holy Week Schedule

March 29: Palm Sunday Worship with our Children's Palm Processional at both services  
8:30am- Regular Worship  
11:00am- The Covenant Chancel Choir and guest musicians present "Calvary's Lamb"

April 2: 6:00pm- Maundy Thursday Dinner Worship  
Soup dinner and Sacrament of Holy Communion

April 3: 12 noon, Good Friday Service at Trinity UMC

April 4: Easter Jubilee

April 5: Easter

7:00am- Sunrise Service (with Faith Presbyterian)- down at Lake Ella  
8:30am and 11:00am- Identical services with musical offerings by the Handbell Choir, Se'lah, and Covenant Chancel Choir

# WEDNESDAY

## nights

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES

We have just begun our Wednesday Night Lenten study group...and it's not too late to join us! This group will meet in room 301 at 6:00pm each Wednesday until April 1. Please use the link to learn more about these classes.

<https://saintpaulsumc.breezechms.com/form/lentenstudy2026>

Beginning on April 8th, we will have a short, end of year session. Keep an eye out for more details.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Dinner begins at 5:15. Adults eat for \$8 and kids 10 and under are \$4. Reservations are required and need to be in each week by Mondays at noon.

To sign up for dinners– A sign up link can be found in Weekly Notes and you can also use the pew pads on Sunday mornings to rsvp for the current week.

On the 3rd Wednesday of each month, our youth group will be preparing the meal. Proceeds from these dinners will go towards supporting our youth program.

**\*\*\*There will be NO DINNER on March 18th due to spring break**

# YOUTH

## rooted

Spring is already feeling busy (in the best way!) in Youth Ministry. The Youth Choir's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner was so much fun. Huge thanks to everyone who flipped, served, cleaned, and came hungry! Next up, we're looking forward to our March Chili Cook-Off, which is always one of the most fun events of the season. Between the food, the fellowship, and the friendly competition, it's a great way to bring the whole church together and help support Youth Missions

We're also moving full-speed ahead with Confirmation, and it's been really meaningful to see our students showing up with thoughtful questions and open hearts. Alongside that, we're continuing our church service hours focus, with a special emphasis on building intergenerational relationships. Faith grows best when we grow it together. If you're looking for ways to support our youth, praying for them and cheering them on goes a long way (and so does volunteering when you can!).

Blessings,  
Casey



Our youth on their way to Rock the Universe!

### YOUTH OFFERINGS

Sunday School– Sundays at 9:45am  
After School Hang Out– Wednesdays at 3:30pm  
Youth Rooted– Wednesdays at 6:00pm  
Youth Choir– Wednesdays at 7:00pm  
SNY– On pause for Confirmation



# FAMILY events

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### Registration for VBS will open on March 1st

We can't wait to get on the road for VBS, but we need to know who will be joining us. This includes attendees and volunteers. Please sign up all children on the form for children, including any youth volunteers. (There is no fee for youth volunteers) Adult volunteers will sign up on the volunteer form. Registration will close when classes are full or by May 31st.

### Easter Jubilee will be April 4th

Celebrate Easter with SPUMC! We will be holding our annual Easter Jubilee, complete with Egg hunts, crafts, cake walks, and ladybug release, the morning of April 4th. We will need volunteers to hide eggs, monitor craft tables, and bake cakes for our cake walk. Sign-ups will be available soon. Keep your eyes peeled in Weekly Notes.

### Play Day declared FUN!

Our new daytime kids' event has been a blast. Every other month or so, we gather to play games, eat snacks, make crafts, and learn about God's love. So far, we have traveled to Egypt to learn about Moses, been Christmas Elves making gifts for loved ones, and, most recently, practiced kindness to our neighbors by building birthday cake boxes to share with Manna on Meridian. It's a great opportunity for your kids to play with their church friends while you get a few hours to finish any errands. We will be planning more events as the year goes on.

## THINGS FOR KIDS AT SAINT PAUL'S

We have lots for our kids to do at Saint Paul's! If you have any questions about our Children's Ministry, feel free to reach out to Leslie Scott– [leslie@saintpaulsumc.org](mailto:leslie@saintpaulsumc.org)

Preschool Music– Wednesdays at 5:10pm

Kids@Art– Wednesdays at 6:00pm

Children's Sunday School– Sundays at 9:45am

PlayDays– Saturdays throughout the year

Vacation Bible School– June 22-26



1700 North Meridian Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32303  
850-385-5146  
www.saintpaulsumc.org

### SUNDAYS AT SAINT PAUL'S

8:30am Worship  
9:45am Sunday School for all ages  
11:00am Worship  
6:00pm Contemporary Service

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 4:00pm  
Friday - Closed

Find us on  at SaintPaulsUnitedMethodistChurch

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## OUR STAFF AND EMAILS

### Senior Pastor

Rev. Carolyn Williamson  
carolyn@saintpaulsumc.org

### Associate Pastor

Rev. MaryAnn Piccioni  
maryann@saintpaulsumc.org

### Church Administrator

Linda Fletcher  
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### Communications

Amy Leach  
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### Director of Operations & Administration - Joyful Beginnings

Melissa Edelstein

### Church Treasurer

Timothy Scott

### Interim Director of Education and Engagement - Joyful Beginnings

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### Director of Children & Family Ministries

Leslie Scott  
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### Youth Director

Casey Fernandes  
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### Director of Music & Worship Arts

Gaye Herndon  
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### Adult Choirs Director

Cynthia Prescott  
prescottc1360@gmail.com

### Kids@Art Choir Director

Stephany Nystrand  
stephanymusictherapy@yahoo.com

### Sexton

Jonathan Leach  
jonathan@saintpaulsumc.org

### Website Administrator

WPTallahassee

### Video Coordinator

Jay Wirth

### OUR BISHOP

Rev. Tom Berlin

### OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Rev. Catherine Fluck-Price

### OUR MISSIONARIES

Delbert & Sandy Groves,  
Zambia