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713-528-0527 | [www.stpaulshouston.org](http://www.stpaulshouston.org)



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## Pastor's Message

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayers.*

Acts 2:42

This is the strangest summer of our lives. Normally we would be hearing stories about camp, U.M. ARMY, RSCM, vacations. Instead I just read that Galveston beaches would be closed for the 4th of July weekend due to the continued rise of COVID-19 cases in Texas. And yet we are talking about a *Summer of Gratitude*. Over the coming weeks we will be treated to a series of stories from our St. Paul's families and friends about gratitude in all times. (See below, right.)

Lenee and I are grateful to be a part of the St. Paul's Family. Part of our United Methodist polity is a system of itineracy. UM pastors are called by God but sent by the Bishop in a system that goes all the way back to the spread of Methodism on the frontier of our young country. There were more churches than pastors, so we had itinerant Circuit Riders.

This system provides for recruiting, training, credentialing and sending of pastors. We are appointed to our charges annually at Annual Conference. I am grateful that I have been reappointed by Bishop Jones to serve with you. I also am grateful that Kate, Bill, Nataly, Karyn, Paul, and Andrew have also been reappointed for another year.

We have not given up our devotion to the teaching of the scriptures, fellowship,

*Continued on Page 3*

Share your thoughts  
for the roadmap  
ahead

## Congregational Survey emailed June 29

Questions? email  
[mlportner@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:mlportner@stpaulshouston.org).



As we emerge from the disruption in the life of St. Paul's United Methodist Church caused by COVID-19, the Regathering Task Force has presented a roadmap for a return to normalcy. The Task Force has also suggested a lens through which we should evaluate the work of the church: determine what to stop, what to continue, and how to grow for the future.

On June 29 a survey was emailed the St. Paul's Family to provide an opportunity for you to reflect on who we are as a church and what is most important to our congregation. Learning your thoughts on the questions posed in the survey is the first step in developing a vision for the future of St. Paul's.

Our next step will include small group gatherings later this year; your responses will inform those conversations.

Please respond by July 9 to all questions you are comfortable answering.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete survey. Your thoughts will help to shape our considerations as we plan for the future of St. Paul's.

To read the roadmap or respond to the survey, please see [www.stpaulshouston.org/stayconnected](http://www.stpaulshouston.org/stayconnected)

## Summer of Gratitude

Is there something for which you are particularly grateful? Your good health and that of your family and friends? Quiet walks with your dog on summer nights? A solid roof and full pantry? Working in sweats and no make-up? The faithful presence of the St. Paul's community? Whatever it is, we would like to hear from you!

Over the next two months, St. Paul's will celebrate a Summer of Gratitude by sharing the many ways that our church community is grateful for its blessings in this extraordinary season. For details about participating with a video or a written message, please contact Mary Linda Portner via [mlportner@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:mlportner@stpaulshouston.org),



# JULY HEALING CIRCLES

## all via Zoom

Single Moms Circle

Tuesdays @ 8:30 pm

Pandemic Life (formerly Social Distance) Support

Wednesday, July 8 @ 10 am

Healing of Racism Art Circle in conjunction

with the Center for the Healing of Racism

Thursdays, July 2 and 16, from 10 to 11:30am

To connect: email Helen Spaw via

[hspaw@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:hspaw@stpaulshouston.org)

The concept of Healing Circles is based on the Campfire. Humans have gathered and shared stories in this way for thousands of years. A Circle is a social structure that helps people come together in collaborative dialogue and action.

Healing Circles help us step out of ordinary time into a safe and accepting environment in which to explore our healing and feel our wholeness. Circles are designed to honor each person's healing choices and to empower this process.

The Healing Circles offered this month create a space for support to process current challenges. The Pandemic Life Support is for those interested in a supportive community to process life events during these uncertain times.

These are all conducted free of charge as a ministry of St. Paul's.

## My Feelings in Art

a Healing Art Workshop  
for Children K-3rdgrade

July 16, from 2 to 3 pm

In this online healing circle workshop, children will have the opportunity to process their feelings through art and discussion with the support of their peers.

Facilitated by Helen Spaw, MPS

### Drawing Supplies & Collage Materials

glue, scissors, scrap papers, recycled materials, magazines to cut, paper or cardboard, such as cereal boxes

### Suggested Optional Supplies

watercolors, colored pencils, markers, clay, almost anything

\$10 registration fee per student

Register: Email [hspaw@](mailto:hspaw@stpaulshouston.org)

[stpaulshouston.org](mailto:hspaw@stpaulshouston.org)



St. Paul's Girls Group, above, gather on the Labyrinth on June 15 for their first time together in person since March. The Guys Group also gathered on the Labyrinth on late June Thursday evenings. The MidWeek group of all Youth walked together from the church to Hermann Park for outdoor fun, too.

In July, following Harris County Stay Safe Guidelines, the Youth will be gathering via Zoom again on Sundays at 2 pm and Wednesdays at 7 pm.

To remain current on the Youth schedule, email [tiffin@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:tiffin@stpaulshouston.org) or [oksana@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:oksana@stpaulshouston.org).



**PASTOR'S MESSAGE** *continued from page 1*  
communion, and prayer, as the scriptures remind us.

What are you grateful for these days?

There is a great old hymn called *Count Your Blessings*, and the first verse goes like this:

*When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

Can you see what the Lord has done in your life and have a heart of gratitude? I know you can!

Peace,  
Jeff

Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald, Senior Pastor





# PRIMETIMERS

Thursday, July 23rd  
11:00 AM to Noon with Zoom

## La Belle - The Ship That Changed Texas History

Who was the 17th Century French explorer La Salle? How did the sinking of his ship, La Belle, change the history of Texas? Discover the answers to these questions by examining the artifacts found on the ship with an educator from the Bullock Texas State History Museum. Cost: free

Register for program via [stpaulshouston.org/events/la-belle](http://stpaulshouston.org/events/la-belle)

## St. Paul's Family

**Birth.** Congratulations to Kate and Jimmy Principe on the recent birth of their daughter, Margaret Stella Principe.

Congratulations to Tara and Kurt Arnold on the birth of their daughter, Isla Elizabeth Arnold, born June 25, 2020.

**Deaths.** Deepest sympathy to Linda and Brad Harmes on the death of Linda's mother, Myra Branyon, who

died June 2, 2020, in Richmond, VA.

Deepest sympathy to Michelle and Mark Sanford and their family on the death of Mark's father, Levis Raymond (Racy) Sanford, who died on June 6, 2020, in Round Rock.

Deepest sympathy to Carol and Jimmy Tindall and their family on the death of Carol's father, Robert (Bob) Stecker, also was a St. Paul's member, who died June 26, 2020, in Houston.

## Different Sounds from St. Paul's Organs

St. Paul's Music Director Christopher Betts and Organ Scholars Ben Kreswell and Joel Trezell — "The Three Organists" — will present pops concert on Sunday, July 26, at 4 pm via [www.stpaulshouston.org/live-stream](http://www.stpaulshouston.org/live-stream).

In addition listening to the type of music normally not heard from St. Paul's Great Organ, the audience will be treated to a tour of the inside the organ.

The Great Organ was purchased during the 1980 Golden Jubilee renovations made to the Sanctuary building. It was built and installed in 1981 by the Schantz Organ Company of Orville, Ohio, and has been adapted and enlarged in 1997 and 2004.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS  
**THE THREE ORGANISTS**  
**ORGAN POPS CONCERT**  
 SUNDAY, JULY 26, AT 4PM  
[WWW.STPAULSHOUSTON.ORG/LIVE-STREAM](http://WWW.STPAULSHOUSTON.ORG/LIVE-STREAM)

*Includes virtual tour inside the organ*

The Schantz organ has been played by celebrity organists from around the world and for American Guild of Organists national events. It also has been featured several times on Ameri-

## Who to Contact to...

Tell the Church of births, hospitalizations, illnesses, deaths in the family, or other concerns: Nina Hall via [nina@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:nina@stpaulshouston.org) or 713-528-0527x113.

Update your membership records, including email address(es) and telephone numbers: Rachel Wiggs via [rachel@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:rachel@stpaulshouston.org) or 713-528-0527x123.

Schedule a baptism, funeral, memorial service, or worship flowers: Rachel Wiggs via [rachel@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:rachel@stpaulshouston.org) or 713-528-0527x123. Plans are being made to hold baptism services using a scallop shell, long a symbol of baptism, to pour the water over the person being baptized.

Schedule a wedding: Betty Rennell, wedding coordinator, via [bettyrennell@gmail.com](mailto:bettyrennell@gmail.com).

Subscribe to the Chimes weekly eletter: Donna Adair via [dadair@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:dadair@stpaulshouston.org).

# Financial Updates: Looking Back, Looking Forward

by Mary Linda Portner, Director of Stewardship

Looking back from this midpoint in 2020 to the beginning of the year, I am reminded of a line from a Grateful Dead tune: “what a long strange trip it’s been.” In so many ways, this phrase encapsulates our congregational experiences this year.

## REVIVE

It was only six months ago that the people of St. Paul’s re-dedicated our Sanctuary building and celebrated the achievements of the Revive campaign.

Remember?

While conscious of our long-term debt obligations, a sense of optimism pervaded the day. And, despite the economic turmoil of the ensuing months, there is reason to remain optimistic.

This is the current status of the Revive campaign:

Long-term loan from Texas Methodist Foundation (TMF).....	\$4.8M
Tax credits for preservation of historic structure.....	(2.3M)
Outstanding pledges from congregation.....	(1.0M)
Remaining to be paid on loan.....	\$1.5M

There are two items of note here:

St. Paul’s owes a debt of gratitude to Preservation Houston and our own Dave Morris and Hannah Curry for suggesting and facilitating the tax credits, which were received on June 26. When the proceeds are applied to our loan at TMF, our monthly debt service will be reduced by half, from \$18,000/month to \$9,000/month.

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## St. Paul’s Methodist Foundation Awards Grants to 21 Ministries

St. Paul’s Methodist Foundation has awarded \$80,655 to 17 Houston agencies to fund a variety of social service programs in 2020.

In addition, the Foundation has granted \$2,545 to Woodville United Methodist Church for the purchase of computer equipment to facilitate live-streaming their worship services and \$3,400 from the Puckett Fund to the Choral Scholars.

The Foundation has also awarded \$12,975 to Emanuel Luz de Vida, our Bolivian mission, from the Wilson and Nora Boots Mission Fund and \$600 for the Encounter with Christ in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Many of the recipients are familiar names to the St. Paul’s community:

- Emergency Aid Coalition (\$10,000) for funding for the sack lunch program food
- St. Paul’s After-school program (\$10,000) to provide enhanced learning environments
- Iconoclast Artists (\$7,000) to support Academic/Social Emotional Learning program and the development of an on-line digital platform
- Amazing Place (\$5,000) for general operations
- Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston (IMGH) Meals on Wheels

(\$5,000) for general operations

- SEARCH Homeless Services (\$5,000) for general operations
- Wesley Community Center (\$5,000) to support the youth program for summer and fall programming
- Justice for Our Neighbors (\$3,000) for general operations
- Holly Hall (\$2,500) to cover the cost of care for residents who are no longer able to do so

Others, less familiar to our community, are supporting the marginalized and the vulnerable:

- Main Street Ministries (\$10,000) to support relief work for St. Paul’s referrals during the COVID19 crisis
- The BEACON (\$5,000) to support their work with homes individuals through their core programs — the Day Center; Beacon Law; Brigid’s Hope; and COMPASS.
- House of Peace (\$3,250) to support orphans who have survived terrorist attacks in churches.
- FAM (\$2500) to support for program development for the Epworth League.
- Child Advocates (\$2,500) to support the Court Services Program, which recruits, trains and supervises volunteers who serve as Guardians ad litem for children who have been

removed from homes due to abuse and neglect

- Neighbors in Action (\$2,500) for their after-school program, La Conexion Junior, a mix of Bible studies, crafts, special guest speakers, and service projects for children in the Port Houston community
- Small Steps Nurturing Center (\$1,500) for expenses related to early intervention to children in poverty through a comprehensive early childhood education program
- Bo’s Place (\$1,000) to support community education and training programs to assist children and families in their time of grief

While a number of grant funds within the endowment have been established with designated purposes by their donors — and are so awarded by the Grant Committee — a special consideration during the turbulence of this funding cycle was to meet the most pressing needs of the Houston community and to benefit those agencies that are serving the most vulnerable among us.

The St. Paul’s Foundation is grateful to all those benefactors whose generosity and foresight have allowed us to bless our community and our global partners again this year.

## Financial Updates: Looking Back, Looking Forward

*continued from previous page*

An important key to the continued success of this project is that all remaining pledges be paid. We are grateful to all those members of our community who have faithfully honored their pledges and continue to do so. One hundred percent pledge fulfillment will strengthen the financial position of our church and our mutual support of one another.

Back on this long strange trip, it was only four months ago when all worship services were moved to online only. The loss of community in corporate worship profoundly impacts a congregation, and the loss of Sunday collections profoundly impacts the operating budget of a church.

While Sunday worship attendance is burgeoning, St. Paul's continues to feel the impact of the loss of pledged contributions and loose plate collections (please see the year-to-date financials below). Fortunately, the Renew campaign has been a reminder of God's providence in these difficult days.

### RENEW

The Renew campaign began serendipitously about two weeks before we ceased in-person worship. To date, one-third of our pledged contributors now make their offering gifts either on-line or through automated payments (ACH). This steady, reliable income stream has helped St. Paul's continue to be the church in these uncertain times.

## St. Paul's Budget Year-to-Date at Mid-Year

Revenues	Budget	Actual	Difference
Paycheck Protection Program grant (PPP)		723,500	723,500
Contributions <sup>1</sup>	1,130,303	1,054,64	-75,654
Additional Gifts <sup>2</sup>	127,500	99,833	-27,667
St. Paul's Foundation Support	342,500	342,500	
St. Paul's School Support	48,000	48,000	
Emergency Aid Coalition	6,000	6,000	
Building and Parking lot usage	34,660	33,110	-1,550
Other Income <sup>3</sup>	45,450	60,592	15,142
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,734,413</b>	<b>\$2,368,184</b>	<b>\$633,771</b>
Expenses			
Worship and Music	27,015	22,934	-4,081
Program support <sup>4</sup>	63,745	26,822	-36,923
Apportionments	0	0	
Communications and Publications	18,845	17,664	-1,181
Admin. and Building Expense	298,279	286,371	11,908
Salaries and Benefits <sup>5</sup>	1,245,838	1,211,234	34,604
St. Paul's School Expense paid by PPP		181,460	181,460
Continuing Education	1,500	230	-1,270
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,655,222</b>	<b>\$1,746,715</b>	<b>\$91,493</b>
<b>Net income (loss)</b>	<b>\$79,191</b>	<b>\$621,469</b>	<b>\$542,278</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes pledged, non-pledged, and loose plate contributions

<sup>2</sup>Includes Additional gifts, special offerings, honor/memorial gifts and altar flower contributions.

<sup>3</sup>Includes Kids Night Out Income, salary support, and other income

<sup>4</sup>Includes expenses for Children's, Youth, and Adult Ministries; Congregational Care; Hospitality and Community Life; Fe y Esperanza; and Outreach and Missions

<sup>5</sup>Includes both laity and clergy salaries and benefits

For those who have intended to enroll, it is not too late. You can do so either through the St. Paul's app or the website at [www.stpaulshouston.org/give](http://www.stpaulshouston.org/give).

We also are grateful to members who faithfully send their offerings through the mail.

All these gifts enable St. Paul's to continue to be the church.

### Paycheck Protection Program

At the outset of the stay safe at home order, St. Paul's made the determination to maintain all staff, despite the closure and the subsequent financial impact. This decision has given the church flexibility to enhance our on-line worship, to continue to re-vamp our communications to meet the evolving needs of the crisis, and to offer ministry opportunities as they present themselves.

This decision also was a leap of faith. Thanks to the diligence and tenacity of Veronica Pearce, Director of Finance and Operations, St. Paul's received Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding through the CARES Act. This loan (the \$723,500 revenue line item in the budget) allows the church to meet payroll and pay utilities for a 24-week period and is forgivable, provided the church fulfills certain requirements.

### Budget

A quick perusal of the budget at left shows the importance of this loan. While the bottom-line revenue figure of \$621,469 over budget is reassuring, that is strictly due to the PPP loan. A review of expenses reveals the efforts of the church to be good stewards of our resources, as the majority of expenses are significantly below budget.

It is the intention of St. Paul's to stay this course — to maintain our commitment to all our staff, to be good stewards of our resources, and to be transparent with our congregation regarding the financial position of the church.

To do these things, we rely on the faithfulness and generosity of our community. Working together, St. Paul's will continue to be the church in this time of crisis.

With thanks to the St. Paul's community for your generous hearts and spirits.

Questions? Please contact Veronica Pearce via [vpearce@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:vpearce@stpaulshouston.org) or Mary Linda Portner via [mlportner@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:mlportner@stpaulshouston.org).



# Ways to Stay Connected

You are not in this alone. The people of St. Paul's are finding creative ways to connect even while practicing physical distancing. On this page and the next are listings of the latest information on when most St. Paul's groups are meeting (or not) and how to connect with them virtually. For future updates, please go to [www.stpaulshouston.org/stayconnected](http://www.stpaulshouston.org/stayconnected). To update, correct, or add to this information, please email [dadair@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:dadair@stpaulshouston.org).

## GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS, MOSTLY

To connect with a group, learn how to use a video chat platform such as Zoom, or if your group would like help setting up a remote meeting, contact Rev. Karyn Richards-Kuan via [krichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:krichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org).

### SUNDAYS

**Ordinary Life** is live-streamed at 9:45 am. To connect, please go to [www.ordinarylife.org/live-stream-broadcast](http://www.ordinarylife.org/live-stream-broadcast) around 9:30 Sunday mornings.

Classes and groups meeting Sundays via Zoom, listed in time, then alphabetical, order:

**Centering Prayer** from 8:15 to 9:35 am. To connect, email Enod Gray via [enodhgray@gmail.com](mailto:enodhgray@gmail.com).

**Candlelighters** at 9:45 am. To connect, email Beverly McMahan via [bjmcmah@swbell.net](mailto:bjmcmah@swbell.net).

**Journeys** at 9:45 am. To connect, email Gary Payne via [gary.payne001@gmail.com](mailto:gary.payne001@gmail.com).

**Roundtable** at 9:45 am. To connect, email Tom Cole via [tscole6234@yahoo.com](mailto:tscole6234@yahoo.com). Topic: The Book of Mark.

**Short-Term Studies** at 9:45 am. To connect, email Mary Linda Portner via [mlportner@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:mlportner@stpaulshouston.org). New six-week study began June 14, may be entered at any time: Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's *Short Stories by Jesus*.

**Special Studies** at 9:45 am. To connect, email Sol Bobst via [smbobst@yahoo.com](mailto:smbobst@yahoo.com). Topic: Karen Armstrong's *The Lost Art of Scripture*.

**Epworth Young Adult League**. On vacation. To reconnect, e-mail Rev. Dr. Jim Bankston via [jimbankston@yahoo.com](mailto:jimbankston@yahoo.com).

**Living Faith** at 10 am. To connect, e-mail Leah Barton via [\[gmail.com\]\(mailto:gmail.com\). July schedule: 3 - vacation, 12 - Anti-Racism Book Club, 19 - tbd, and 26 - Lessons from History: The Camp Logan Riots.](mailto:leahrachel@</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

**Living Room** at 10 am. To connect, email [juliannetkasper@gmail.com](mailto:juliannetkasper@gmail.com). Current study: *Me and White Supremacy*, based on the book by Layla F. Saad.

**Fe y Esperanza**, a las 5 pm. Compar-timos una lectura de las Escrituras y una breve reflexión. En tiempos como este, estamos conectandonos por teléfono o Whatsapp. Si le gustaria que lo o la conectemos porfavor envie aun correo a la Rev. Nataly Negrete al e-mail: [nataly@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:nataly@stpaulshouston.org) In such a time as this, we are connecting by phone and through Whatsapp. If you like us to connect, please email Rev. Nataly Negrete via [nataly@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:nataly@stpaulshouston.org). On Sundays at 5 pm, we share a scripture reading and a brief reflection.

**POV Forum Sunday School** class occasionally meets via Zoom on Saturday or Sunday at 7 pm. To connect, email Chris Newlin via [chrismnewlin@gmail.com](mailto:chrismnewlin@gmail.com).

### TUESDAYS

**Tuesday Lectionary Bible Study**. Tuesdays at noon via via Zoom. To connect, email Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan via [prichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:prichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org). For those unable to attend the Zoom meeting, a short lecture is posted to YouTube afterwards.

**Young Adult (Epworth) League City-wide Night**. This city-wide ministry for 18-35 year olds is on summer break, but usually meets Tuesdays at 7 pm. Contact points: [info@epworthleaguehtx.org](mailto:info@epworthleaguehtx.org) to get on the newsletter or follow [@epworthleaguehtx](https://www.instagram.com/epworthleaguehtx) on Instagram.

### WEDNESDAYS

**Men's Lectionary Bible Study**. Wednesdays at 7:30 am via Zoom. To connect, email Brad Harmes via [bharmes@gmail.com](mailto:bharmes@gmail.com).

**Mid-Week Message**. Wednesdays at 12:15 pm. In the Lectionary-based Mid-week Message, one of our pastors looks ahead to the scripture for the following Sunday.

To view, from [www.stpaulshouston.org](http://www.stpaulshouston.org), click on Worship online, then Worship on YouTube. The previous video remains on the screen until the current week's message begins.

### THURSDAYS

**Women's Lectionary Bible Study** with Rev. Barbara Robberson. Thursdays at 8:30 am via Zoom. To connect, email Beverly McMahan via [bjmcmah@swbell.net](mailto:bjmcmah@swbell.net)

**Sugar Land Sisters**. First and third Thursdays at 10 am via Zoom. To connect, email Pat Pearson via [hpearson@aol.com](mailto:hpearson@aol.com).

**Ordinary Life Women**. On summer break. Usually meets the first Thursday of the month at noon. To re-connect, email Lynn Schroth via [lynnmschroth@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnmschroth@yahoo.com)

**Her | meneutics**. First and third Thursdays at 6:30 pm via Zoom. To connect, email [hermeneuticsSPUMC@gmail.com](mailto:hermeneuticsSPUMC@gmail.com) or Rev. Karyn Richard-Kuan via [krichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:krichards-kuan@stpaulshouston.org). Her | meneutics is a community of women committed to maturing spiritually and cultivating a network of support and belonging.

### FRIDAYS

**Weekly Video Pastor's Message**. Check your inbox each Friday for special messages from clergy and others.

# Ways to Stay Connected

## PARENTS

All of these groups meet via Zoom.

### SUNDAYS

**Amazing Parents, Amazing Kids (APAK).** For families with children with special needs. Meets first Sundays @ 1 pm. To connect, email Jennifer West via [jcwest@gmail.com](mailto:jcwest@gmail.com).

### MONDAYS

**St. Paul's Moms Hang Out.** Second and Fourth Mondays at 8 pm. To connect, email Rev. Kate Flint via [kflint@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:kflint@stpaulshouston.org). New study begins July 13 focusing on identifying implicit bias in our parenting as we strive to raise children with better awareness of social justice.

### TUESDAYS

**St. Paul's Single Moms Circle.** 8:30 pm. To connect, email Helen Spaw via [hspaw@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:hspaw@stpaulshouston.org).

## YOUTH (6th-12th graders)

Until further notice, Youth will meet via Zoom on Sundays at 2 pm and Wednesdays at 7 pm. To ensure remaining current with the Youth schedule, email [tiffin@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:tiffin@stpaulshouston.org) or [oksana@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:oksana@stpaulshouston.org) or [kat@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:kat@stpaulshouston.org).

## FINE ARTS ACADEMY LESSONS

**Piano.** Ages 6 years to adults. Ginger Anderson, instructor.

**Voice.** Ages 8 years to adults. Alicia Gianni, instructor.

For more information or to register, email Helen Spaw via [hspaw@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:hspaw@stpaulshouston.org).

In lieu of physically hosting AA, Al-Anon, and other outside support groups, St. Paul's provides a resource compiled by The Council on Recovery. This comprehensive list, accessed via [www.councilonrecovery.org/covid19](http://www.councilonrecovery.org/covid19) includes links to help lines, online Chat Support Groups, Remote 12-Step Programs, and Stress Management Resources.

## CHILDREN

### (infants-5th graders)

To access at-home materials and join Zoom meetings, email Rev. Kate Flint via [kflint@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:kflint@stpaulshouston.org).

Children and their Families are encouraged to hold their own Sunday school classes at home with resources in the Kids SS Lessons Dropbox Folder, which includes lessons with learner leaflet, lesson plan, and staff-produced videos.

GROW (2nd-5th-grades) meets via Zoom on Sundays from 10:45 to 11:05 am when leaders introduce the lessons to continue at home.

Look in our Facebook Page for activity ideas and Children's Ministry news.



Watch St. Paul's previous worship services, RSCM Documentary, Hymn Festival, and more via [www.stpaulshouston.org/live-stream](http://www.stpaulshouston.org/live-stream) or on St. Paul's YouTube channel.

## CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

**Joyful Noise**, the music and worship assembly for three-year-olds through 1st graders, has resumed at its regular time of Sundays at 9:45 am. To connect via e-mail Rev. Kate Flint via [kflint@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:kflint@stpaulshouston.org).

**Wesley Singers, Choristers, and Treble Choir** rehearsals are not meeting to allow for private Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Voice for Life lessons with Anna Teagarden via Zoom.

For more information about these choirs or private lessons, email Children's Music Director Anna Teagarden via [ateagarden@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:ateagarden@stpaulshouston.org).

## WELLNESS AND SUPPORT

All of these groups meet via Zoom.

### MONDAYS

**Tai Chi.** 9 am. To connect, email Byron York via [byronyork@me.com](mailto:byronyork@me.com).

### WEDNESDAYS

**Pandemic Life Healing Circle (formerly Social Distancing Support Healing Circle).** On select Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 am. Upcoming dates: July 8 and August 12 & 26. To connect or inquire about additional possibilities, email Helen via [hspaw@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:hspaw@stpaulshouston.org).

**Heart Health Support Group** conducted by Houston Methodist Hospital. Second Wednesday of the month at 6 pm. To connect, email facilitator Wayne Brewer via [wbrewer878@aol.com](mailto:wbrewer878@aol.com). Occasionally the day or time changes; to ensure receiving notifications, e-mail Wayne to join his mailing list.

### THURSDAYS

**Healing of Racism Art Circle.** First and third Thursday of month from 10 to 11:30 am. To connect, email Helen via [hspaw@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:hspaw@stpaulshouston.org). This is conducted in conjunction with the Center for the Healing of Racism.

The concept of Healing Circles is based on the Campfire. Humans have gathered and shared stories in this way for thousands of years. A Circle is a social structure that helps people come together in collaborative dialogue and action. Healing Circles help us step out of ordinary time into a safe and accepting environment in which to explore our healing.

The types of Healing Circles and the schedule change to meet the the community's needs. For more about Healing Circles and Healing Art Circles, please contact Helen Spaw via [hspaw@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:hspaw@stpaulshouston.org).

## Going Forward

### Online Compline Services Begin August 3

On Monday, August 3, St. Paul's will begin another weekly online worship opportunity: services of Compline

An ancient and beautiful service of evening prayer, Compline has been the last service of the day in the monastic tradition for more than 1500 years.



Conducted via Zoom, the service will include responses, psalms, scripture, a hymn, and an opportunity to pray for personal concerns.

As the last service of the day, it will begin at 8:30pm every Monday from August through October. Zoom details will be available by the end of July.

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray,  
that you, with steadfast love,  
would keep your watch around us  
as we sleep

*Hymn for Compline* – attributed to  
St. Ambrose (340-397)

### Wednesday Morning Prayer at 8:46am

Though we cannot gather in person while we are in the Stay Home stage of our St. Paul's Re-Gathering Plan, we encourage all to partake in our Wednesday Morning Prayer at 8:46am via YouTube.

*The link can be found on the St. Paul's live-stream page.*

Prayer moves us toward the heart of God.  
God moves us to action.  
[www.stpaulshouston.org/anti-racism](http://www.stpaulshouston.org/anti-racism)

**40 Days of Prayer and Listening**  
— an intentional season of prayer and listening toward anti-bias and anti-racism action — concludes July 24.

During this time, some groups have undertaken anti-racism studies. Among them are the Moms group and the Living Room and Living Faith Sunday School classes. (See pages 6-7)

Larger group actions and their timing will be dictated by the post-COVID-19 pandemic re-opening plans. They will be announced as they are determined.

In the meantime, continue praying and listening to your own heart. Participate in the morning prayer on Wednesdays at 8:46 am, just moved to YouTube, as noted above, and access some of the resources cited at [www.stpaulshouston.org/anti-racism](http://www.stpaulshouston.org/anti-racism), including daily **40 Days** emails.

### TeleHealth Project Moves Forward

Medical equipment to run a telehealth clinic at the Emergency Aid Coalition (EAC) has been provided through a grant from Humana Health Care.

This project is a collaboration between the University of Houston College of Nursing and St. Paul's Health+Care Team. The nurse-managed telehealth clinic in Abraham Station will focus on providing healthcare to the under/uninsured working families in Houston, especially those who receive assistance through the EAC.

The clinic will be overseen by Dr. Shainy Varghese, Associate Professor of Nursing at the UH College of Nursing, and managed by Dr. David Buck, Associate Dean of Community Health and Clinical Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Houston College of Medicine.

In addition to providing space, St. Paul's will help with intake, hospitality, and prayer with the clients.

The goal is to open the clinic by next spring, and funding is still being sought to cover the daily operating costs.

To learn more about this project, including how to help with the funding or services, please contact Rev. Andrew Wolfe, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, via [awolfe@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:awolfe@stpaulshouston.org).

### TAC to Be All-Virtual

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the business session of the 2020 Texas Annual Conference will be all-virtual on Friday, August 14. For delegates to receive the secure link to the Zoom session, registration will be necessary and will be available from July 13 to August 7. Others may watch.

The August 15 Ordination Service, when Rev. Karyn Richards-Kuan will be ordained, will be on YouTube.

For more information: [www.txcumc.org/tac2020](http://www.txcumc.org/tac2020).

## Online Communion

Sunday, July 5 at 4pm via Zoom

To participate, gather: a candle, simple bread or cracker, and a beverage.  
Go to [stpaulshouston.org/live-stream](http://stpaulshouston.org/live-stream) and click the "Online Communion" button for the Zoom link.