



## Pastor's Message

*Every time you cross my mind, I break out in exclamations of thanks to God. Each exclamation is a trigger to prayer. I find myself praying for you with a glad heart. I am so pleased that you have continued on in this with us, believing and proclaiming God's Message, from the day you heard it right up to the present. There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.*

— Philippians 1:3-6 (The Message)

What an amazing season this has been! Whenever I think about all that we as a family and a church have been through, like Paul to the Philippians, *I find myself praying with a glad heart.* We have pivoted so much in the way



we worship, do outreach, care for others, and you continue to be the church. I am grateful to Tim and his A/V team for countless hours in editing worship

services together and to Ben for the virtual choirs. I am grateful to all of you who have made our first year St. Paul's such a good experience.

I am also grateful for the ministry of this church. The scripture goes on to say how we trust in the God who has started a great work in you. That means were not finished, you don't have to look far to see the work ahead of us. We still have work to do in our church, our community and in the world — keep up the good work!

Peace,

Jeff

Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald, Senior Pastor

## Worship at St. Paul's Amid COVID-19 Concerns

Thanks to the many members who responded to a survey conducted in late April about St. Paul's online worship. To the extent possible, these results have guided several changes to the way worship is presented and made accessible online. These responses also helped guide the Re-Gathering Task Force determine priorities as did guidance from the local medical community.

### Easier Access to Online Worship

An overlay to the website has made it easier to get to the online streaming page. From the homepage, simply click on "Worship Online," which is one of the only four choices, and takes you to [www.stpaulshouston.org/live-stream](http://www.stpaulshouston.org/live-stream).

Near the top of that page are the choices of watching the service on live-stream or YouTube. The same service is relayed at the same time through both means. Both options are provided to accommodate those for whom the YouTube service is more stable. (You also can subscribe to St. Paul's YouTube channel and go direct to it at any time.)

Also near the top of that page are buttons to access the worship bulletin and children's activity bulletins, make prayer requests, register attendance, and give online.

### Also on the Online Worship Page

Below those buttons are suggested ways to engage in worship while practicing social distancing; the service and sermon archive, including Wednesday messages; information about the upcoming Sunday services, including the Lectionary readings illuminated by art; "Words from our Pastors," which are the weekly messages emailed on Fridays and as needed, and COVID-19 updates. The page concludes with information about music at St. Paul's and the Wesleyan Love Feast.

Small changes may be made to the content and organization of this page, as circumstances change.

### Presentation Changes

Since the church has transitioned to worship online only, the methods of presentation have continued to change, though the liturgy remains a constant.

Responding to those who miss the beloved sanctuary yet do not like to see it empty, services are moving from home recordings to one-person-at-a-time recordings within the sanctuary, though not from traditional locations.

Thanks to much additional behind-the-scenes work by Audio/Visual Specialist and Digital Archivist Tim Leatherwood and Organ Scholar Ben Kerswell, music will continue to be presented in a variety of ways — recordings from previous services, virtual choirs compiled digitally, soloists and small ensembles.

### Future?

While plans are being made to gradually re-open all activities at or related to St. Paul's, the Re-Gathering Task Force has determined that to have "worship as St. Paul's worships," open Sunday morning services will be in the last phase. That will allow full participation by all, complete with congregational singing.

Other opportunities for online worship and prayer are expanding to include Evening Prayer, Compline, and spiritual practice. Plans to conduct the sacraments of baptism and holy communion are being formulated and may begin soon.

And it is anticipated that after in-person worship is again possible, many of the approaches that have made online worship a robust experience will continue.

# Saluting Our Graduates

Although the COVID-19 pandemic took many of the joys from the usual celebrators of the high school graduation milestone, St. Paul's salutes their growth to this milestone and looks toward the future of this year's graduates.

This year's usual senior recognition Sunday morphed into a reading of each senior's names along with their picture on the May 17 live-streamed worship service. The e-mailed Pastor's Message on May 29 included a video salute from Tiffin Wilsford, Director of Youth Ministries, followed by videos of four of the seniors, who eloquently spoke of what their years at St. Paul's, especially their youth years, have meant to them.

These still may be viewed on St. Paul's YouTube channel

Following is a list of this year's seniors along with the name of the school from which they have graduated:

Daniela Arena - Lamar Consolidated High School  
Will Austin - Lamar High School  
Maddie Bender - Friendswood High School  
Ella Reagan Blewer - Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts  
Ariana Bonilla - Cypress Lakes High School  
Matana Boyle - Bellaire High School  
Whitney Clark - Lamar High School  
Melony Davis - Bellaire High School  
Ethan Duong - Cypress Falls High School  
Lindsey Ford - Cypress Falls High School  
Taylor Frick - Magnolia High School  
Elizabeth Gutierrez - Cypress Falls High School  
Megan Hoffman - North Shore Senior High School  
Morgan Hoffman - North Shore Senior High School  
Brooke Humlicek - Friendswood High School  
Sam Irvin - St. Pius X High School  
Blake LeBlanc - Cypress Falls High School  
Ariadne Lopez - Galena Park High School  
Elaina Manalac - Episcopal High School  
Christian Martin - Cypress Lakes High School  
Kaylee Mathews - Friendswood High School  
McKenna Miller - Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts  
Julie Moreno - Galena Park High School  
Ivan Moreno - North Shore Senior High School

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## Confirmation Rings

Youth leaders are visiting each of this year's confirmands — from Katy to League City and most points between — to deliver the confirmation rings normally presented after the in-person confirmation service. A live service is still being planned.

Nicholas Moreno - North Shore Senior High School  
Alexandra (Alex) Mosby - Dushesne High School  
Niels (Chris) Nielsen - Penn Foster High School  
Claire Orr - Montgomery High School  
William Perdue - St. John's High School  
Mignon Perque - St. Agnes Academy  
Mindy Phan - Cypress Falls High School  
Juliet Philpott - Alta Independent High School  
Julianna Reeves - Bellaire High School  
Elijah Rivera - Galena Park High School  
Tom Roff - The Kinkaid School  
Ana-Sofia Ruiz - Memorial High School  
Alexandra Saldana - Galena Park High School  
Avery Sanderlin - Dawson High School  
Dez'mon Scott - Cypress Falls High School  
Andrew Smith - St. John's High School



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## Clean House, Garage = Support Youth Missions

St. Paul's Youth can help you divest of items in your home — big or small — that you no longer want or need.

They will sell them for you online. That includes all the steps leading up to the sale, such as taking photographs.

They will remove the sold items from your property and package and ship or deliver them, as needed. Proceeds from your sales then become a tax-free donation for St. Paul's Youth activities and service projects.

For details, please contact Tiffin via [tiffin@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:tiffin@stpaulshouston.org) or 713- 858-9113.

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## Youth Venturing Outside Together

Youth groups will transition to small, in-person, outdoor gatherings in mid-June, consistent with CDC guidelines.

The schedule and locations will vary but may still include mid-week gatherings on Wednesdays, Tuesday Girls Bible Study, and Thursday Guys Bible Study.

To ensure receiving the latest information, e-mail Tiffin Wilsford via [tiffin@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:tiffin@stpaulshouston.org), Oksana Schwak via [oksana@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:oksana@stpaulshouston.org), or Kat Denton via [kat@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:kat@stpaulshouston.org).

## Meet Matt Perez, New Choral Scholars Director

Succeeding Choral Scholars Director Eddie Quaid, whose retirement was announced last month, is Matthew (Matt) Perez.



Perez also is a choral director at Cypress-Falls High School from where six of the 2010-20 Choral Scholars were drawn and where he directs five ensembles.

A 2012 graduate of Lamar University with a Bachelor of Music Degree, emphasis on choral music, he will graduate this summer with a Master's degree in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University.

Growing up in a Lutheran church, he worked with several church and other choirs during his time in college, including the Southeast Texas Children's Chorus and the Beaumont Interfaith Choral Society.

He also has conducted choirs at the Texas Music Educators Association and American Choral Directors Association conferences, and is traveling to North Carolina in 2021 to conduct an All State Choir there.

Matt worked with Eddie to recruit another excellent Choral Scholars group for our next season - no small feat when it isn't possible to meet with the singers in person.

"We look forward to the Choral Scholars going from strength to strength under Matt's leadership," said Christopher Betts, St. Paul's Director of Music, "and we will bid farewell to Eddie and welcome to Matt just as soon as we are able."

Attracting some of the very best high school choral students from the Greater Houston area, this last season, 18 of St. Paul's 34 Choral Scholars were All State Choir singers.

Bringing these talented young musicians into St. Paul's introduces them to singing the finest sacred music in a liturgical setting and equips them to be a part of church choirs for the rest of their lives. Currently, four of the St. Paul's Choir members, including three staff singers, are former Choral Scholars.

## How-to Videos

Do you know how to do something that you'd like to share?

Do you have knowledge to share?

Or is there something you would like to learn how to do or know?

If you answer yes to one or more of those questions, e-mail Associate Youth Director Oksana Schwak via [oksana@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:oksana@stpaulshouston.org).

She is compiling a list of three-minute videos to be made by the Youth to be shared with the Youth, and the invitation is extended to anyone else who would like to share their knowledge or expertise.

## Who to Contact to...

**let the Church know** of births, hospitalizations, illnesses, deaths in the family or other concerns, contact 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, please contact Rachel Wiggs via [rachel@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:rachel@stpaulshouston.org) or 713-528-0527x123.

**schedule** a baptism, funeral, memorial service, or worship flow-ers, please contact Rachel Wiggs via [rachel@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:rachel@stpaulshouston.org) or 713-528-0527x123. Plans are being made to hold baptism services outside. A scallop shell, long a symbol of baptism, would be used to pour the water over the person being baptized.

**schedule a wedding**, please contact Betty Rennell, wedding coordinator, via [bettyrennell@gmail.com](mailto:bettyrennell@gmail.com).



**JUNE 28**  
4 pm

**RSCM GULF COAST Highlights**

[WWW.STPAULSHOUSTON.ORG/LIVE-STREAM](http://WWW.STPAULSHOUSTON.ORG/LIVE-STREAM)  
Featuring music from previous years' courses & wisdom from former clinicians

[WWW.RSCMGULFCOAST.ORG](http://WWW.RSCMGULFCOAST.ORG)

# Thanks for Caring!

As St. Paul's Family has joined others in quarantine, you also have helped others through this difficult time. Below are examples of that help and opportunities that continue.



Through your generous financial support we provided 25 Congolese-Houstonian families (more than 125 adults, youth, and children) with eight weeks of fresh produce from Plant it Forward Farms, fresh homemade baked breads, books and supplemental school supplies, and food staples, including rice, beans, oil, tea, sugar, and bread, plus cleaning supplies and acetaminophen. Thank you so much. It couldn't have happened without you.

**WONDERING HOW YOU CAN HELP?  
EAC DONATION NEEDS**

**LATEST URGENT NEEDS**  
T-shirts, new - sizes L, XL, 2XL  
Boxer shorts, new - sizes M, L, XL  
Fresh Fruit (bananas, apples, large oranges)  
Paper grocery bags with handles

Drop off at the EAC (5401 Fannin St) 9am-1pm, Mon-Fri

Or order from Amazon wishlist: <https://a.co.3b79tEQ>

The Emergency Aid Coalition (EAC) continues to serve 400-500 sack lunches Monday-Friday, and volunteers are always needed for food distribution at the EAC and to pick up purchased food and deliver it to the EAC. The specific urgent needs change a bit each week and is usually updated on Fridays. To check the latest urgent needs list, please go to [www.stpaulshouston.org/covid-serve-give](http://www.stpaulshouston.org/covid-serve-give). For Amazon wishlist delivery logistics, call or text Marian Bryant at 832-859-1065.

**Thanks to the recent Ordinary Life online auction, \$3,000 was raised to help the Black Lives Matter, Fe y Esperanza, and ProjectCurate communities with housing costs.**

## Prayer Quilts to Protective Cloth Masks



St. Paul's Prayer and Square prayer quilt ministry is partnering with congregations around the region to make protective cloth masks. To join the sewing team, e-mail Sari Frey via [sari.r.frey@gmail.com](mailto:sari.r.frey@gmail.com).

If you would prefer to donate supplies, please bring any of these items to the church reception area Monday-Thursday between 10 am and 4 pm:

- fabric (tightly woven, quilting cotton fabric, minimum 36" wide)
- elastic (1/2" or 1/4")
- Ziploc sandwich-size bags for packaging



Completed protective masks may be picked up in the church reception area. Two styles are being made: elastic (picture at left) and one-size-fits-all (pictures at center and right), which includes a small wire in the nose piece for shaping to your nose and face.

Monetary donations to the Prayer Quilt Ministry also would be appreciated. The estimated retail value of each mask is approximately \$10.

To donate, please go to [www.pushpay.com/g/stpaulshouston](http://www.pushpay.com/g/stpaulshouston). Select "give one time," then for "Fund," select "Other/Events," and in the Comments space, write "Prayer Quilt Ministry."

## The Communion of Saints

Each week as we recite the Apostles' Creed together during worship, we say that we believe in the communion of saints. But do we ever wonder how we live into this ancient belief at St. Paul's?

The communion of saints reflects a belief in the cycle of birth, death, and life eternal. In our church it begins with infant baptism and ends with a celebration of life on this earth and

the beginning of an eternal life. Tangible signs of these milestones are the baptismal fount and the Columbarium.

Interment in Christian churches dates back to the early days of our faith — from the martyrs in the catacombs, to the faithful in church crypts, and to the creation of cemeteries attached to houses of worship.

Two decades ago, church leadership at St. Paul's offered an alternative to in-ground interment with the construction of the Columbarium where loved ones can be inurned. Located beneath the Narthex of the

church, the Columbarium is a place of reverence and retreat. Behind the ornate gate at the entrance lies a tranquil space featuring custom stained glass to complement the windows in our Sanctuary, a small chapel, and niches to house the remains of one thousand of the communion of saints — members of St. Paul's and their families, as well as friends of the church.

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**Inurn:** To place the cremated remains of a deceased human being or animal into an urn. Today, the English word "inurnment" generally refers to placing cremated remains or "ashes" into an urn.

**Inter:** To place the remains of a deceased human being or animal into the ground, e.g., earth burial. Part of this word owes its genesis to the Latin word "terra," or "earth."

— Source: [Verywellhealth.com](http://Verywellhealth.com)

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The Columbarium is a sacred space that allows family members to rest and reflect in the presence of the saints of St. Paul's. Inurned here are beloved former pastors and their spouses, leaders in our church community, and devoted members of our congregation.

The Columbarium is maintained through an endowed fund within the St. Paul's Methodist Foundation. For more information on the Columbarium, please see [www.stpaulshouston.org/columbarium](http://www.stpaulshouston.org/columbarium) or contact Mary Linda Portner at [mlportner@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:mlportner@stpaulshouston.org) or 713-818-3101.

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## St. Paul's Family

**Member Weddings.** Congratulations to Lauren Fuller and Paul Bishop, both St. Paul's members, on their wedding of May 30, 2020.

**Birth.** Congratulations to Hilary and James Newman on the birth of their son, Theodore, who was born May 15, 2020.

**Deaths.** Deepest sympathy to Courtney Pope and Tom Thrash, Collin and Camille Thrash on the death of Courtney's father, Mike Pope, who died on May 17, 2020.

Deepest sympathy to Nora and Rev. Dr. Wilson Boots on the death of Nora's brother, Mario Quiroga, who died recently in Bolivia. He was the uncle of Marc Boots and great uncle of Jake and Lauren Boots.

Deepest sympathy to the family of Jack Savage, who died May 25, 2020. He is survived by his mother and stepfather Jenny Lane Savage and Dr. Majed Ibrahim; his father and stepmother Jeff Savage and Melissa Scheier; his grandparents, Lois and Jack Lane; sister and brother-in-law Dr. Ashley Becker and Fred Becker; sister Annabelle Savage; niece Naomi Becker; and stepsiblings Maria, Mohamed, Sara, and Mohannad Ibrahim;

## Renewing Commitment to St. Paul's Ministries

When the Generosity Team launched the Renew recurring giving campaign in early March, it was with the intention of providing St. Paul's with a steady, stable income stream during the summer months when many of our families are traveling. It was providential that the campaign coincided with the suspension of worship services in our Sanctuary and the move to live-stream attendance. Thanks to the generosity of over 120 families, our church has benefitted from a consistent stream gifts during this very uncertain period.

Like our families, our church works hard to be a good and responsible steward of our resources. During this time of COVID-19, we have committed to maintaining all our staff and meeting our payroll and benefits obligations. And we have continued our ministries in creative ways, as evidenced elsewhere in this newsletter. This is possible thanks to the generosity of our congregation. As we transition to the summer months, however, the need for congregational support persists. The current commitments to Renew support only a portion of the 2020 ministry budget.

If you have not yet enrolled in our Renew recurring gift program, it's not too late. Among the advantages are:

- It's convenient
- No worries about forgetting donation or falling behind when out of town
- It is the most cost-effective way to give to the church

Several easy ways to enroll:

1. Text 77977 with the phrase [stpaulshouston.org/renew](http://stpaulshouston.org/renew) to get link to setup your recurring gift
2. Go to [www.stpaulshouston.org/renew](http://www.stpaulshouston.org/renew) to learn how to give online or manually setup a recurring gift
3. Contact Veronica Pearce in the Business Office for assistance ([vpearce@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:vpearce@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 e-mail [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, e-mail Enod Gray via [enodhgray@gmail.com](mailto:enodhgray@gmail.com).

**Candlelighters** at 9:45 am. To connect, e-mail Beverly McMahan via [bjmc-mah@swbell.net](mailto:bjmc-mah@swbell.net).

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

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

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

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

**Epworth Young Adult League** at 10 am. To connect, e-mail Rev. Dr. Jim Bankston via [jimbankston@yahoo.com](mailto:jimbankston@yahoo.com). Topic: The Gospel of Matthew.

**Living Faith** at 10 am. To connect, e-mail Leah Barton via [leahrachel@gmail.com](mailto:leahrachel@gmail.com).

**Living Room** at 10 am. To connect, e-mail [juliannetkasper@gmail.com](mailto:juliannetkasper@gmail.com).

**Anxiety Groups**. Separate groups for Youth and Adults. Alternate Sundays from 5 to 6 pm. To connect, e-mail Oksana via [oksana@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:oksana@stpaulshouston.org) or Kat via [kat@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:kat@stpaulshouston.org)

**Fe y Esperanza**, a las 5 pm. Compartimos 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, e-mail Chris Newlin via [chrismnewlin@gmail.com](mailto:chrismnewlin@gmail.com).

## TUESDAYS

**Tuesday Lectionary Bible Study**. Tuesdays at noon via Zoom. To connect, e-mail 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 after the study.

**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, e-mail 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, e-mail Beverly McMahan via [bjmc-mah@swbell.net](mailto:bjmc-mah@swbell.net)

**Sugar Land Sisters**. First and third Thursdays at 10 am via Zoom. To connect, e-mail Pat Pearson via [h1pearson@aol.com](mailto:h1pearson@aol.com).

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

**Her | meneutics**. First and third Thursdays at 6:30 pm via Zoom. To connect, e-mail [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

## GATHERINGS FOR 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, e-mail Jennifer West via [jcjwest@gmail.com](mailto:jcjwest@gmail.com).

### MONDAYS

**St. Paul's Moms Hang Out.** Second and Fourth Mondays at 8 pm. To connect, e-mail 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, e-mail Helen Spaw via [hspaw@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:hspaw@stpaulshouston.org).

## YOUTH (6th-12th graders)

Youth groups will transition to small, in-person, outdoor gatherings in mid-June, consistent with CDC guidelines.

The schedule and locations will vary but may still include mid-week gatherings on Wednesdays, Tuesday Girls Bible Study, and Thursday Guys Bible Study.

To ensure receiving the latest information, e-mail Tiffin Wilsford via [tiffin@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:tiffin@stpaulshouston.org), Oksana Schwak via [oksana@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:oksana@stpaulshouston.org), or Kat Denton via [kat@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:kat@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.councilon-recovery.org/covid19](http://www.councilon-recovery.org/covid19) includes links to help lines, online Chat Support Groups, Remote 12-Step Programs, and Stress Management Resources.

## GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN (infants-5th graders)

To access at-home materials and join Zoom meetings, e-mail 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.

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

## CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

**Joyful Noise**, the music and worship assembly for three-year-olds through 1st graders, resumes June 14 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).

A Celebration of the RSCM Gulf Coast Course. Sunday, June 28, 4 pm St. Paul's YouTube Channel

**Wesley Singers** (1st-2nd-graders), **Choristers** (3rd-8th-graders), and **Treble Choir** (older treble voices). These choirs will resume via Zoom in mid-June.

Sessions will be combinations of individual lessons, group meetings, and working on the Royal School of Church Music's (RSCM) Voice for Life curriculum.

Dates and times will be announced via the children's Facebook page, e-letter, and other means.

For more information about these choirs, e-mail Children's Music Director Anna Teagarden via [ateagarden@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:ateagarden@stpaulshouston.org).

## WELLNESS AND SUPPORT GROUPS

All of these groups meet via Zoom.

### MONDAYS

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

### WEDNESDAYS

**Healing Circle for Social Distancing Support.** On select Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 am. Upcoming dates: June 10 & 24, July 8 & 29, and August 12 & 26. To connect or inquire about additional possibilities, e-mail 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, e-mail 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.** Third Thursday of month from 10 to 11 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.

**NEW! Healthcare Workers Support Circle.** Thursday, June 11, from 7 to 8 pm, and Thursday, June 25, from 11 am to noon. To connect or inquire about additional possibilities, e-mail [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.

## Looking Ahead

### Church Council Approves Re-Gathering Plan

Dear St. Paul's Family,

On June 2, our St. Paul's Church Council approved a plan for Re-Gathering in our buildings. We are taking a cautious approach, moving forward slowly based on the data from the Texas Medical Center and public health officials. (You can see the data yourself at [www.tmc.edu](http://www.tmc.edu).)

We will start with small groups and move forward in stages as we see the virus under control. We have not put dates on the different stages because as we watch the data, moving from stage to stage may be different, and different ministries will move at

different paces. It is currently our hope to move to small groups in mid-to-late June.

One of the interesting parts of the document is the idea that we need to evaluate all of our ministries and determine if some that may need to stop, continue, or grow. And it also gives us the opportunity to envision new ministries for St. Paul's future.

Please note that it will be a while before we gather for worship again, this is because we want to worship in a way that allows everyone to gather safely.

We don't call this a re-opening plan because St. Paul's United Methodist

Church has not ever been closed. The building may have been but as we have said, we are the church. Great worship has continued online, children, youth, and adults have continued to meet in a variety of ways online, you continue to be incredibly generous in your financial gifts, you keep giving to causes in our community, and we remain strong.

Please continue to keep our church and staff in your prayers as we begin gathering together in person again, always keeping our focus on loving God and loving our neighbor.

Peace,  
Jeff

Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald, Senior Pastor

### Some Re-Gathering Plan Highlights

#### Facilities

The underlying concerns are cleaning and sanitation, signage for social distancing and health guidelines, establishing protocols to ensure social distancing for meetings and gatherings.

#### Adult Groups

These will gradually move through the states of the current virtual groups to small groups at the church or outside and hybrid virtual/in-person gatherings. Food and snacks discouraged at those stages. When adult programming resumes at historical norms, virtual groups that are working well should be retained and new hybrid virtual/in-person options should be offered.

#### Children (nursery through 5th grade)

Most activities remain online throughout most stages, though St. Paul's School has resumed in a limited way. Limited childcare and children's classes for certain situations may begin in the next to last of the six re-gathering stages.

#### Youth (5th-12th grades)

In mid-June Youth will begin holding small group outdoor gatherings with social distancing. They may

gradually add hybrid virtual/in-person programming.

#### Justice and Compassion Ministries

Throughout the stages, provide food and masks to EAC and grants for housing, host blood drives, and advocate for justice for the most vulnerable. At full re-opening the new Justice and Compassion Ministry Council will co-create with congregation new missional opportunities.

#### Congregational Care and Hospitality

Graveside and inurnment services are being conducted with limited participants, and Hospitality will hold the first "Zoomed" Coffee with the

Pastors for new members in late June. The next stage could include Fellowship Friday.

The fourth stage could include socially distanced gatherings such as prayer team meetings and healing circles plus limited health team initiatives and preparation for telemedicine project.

Prior to full re-gathering, the hospitality team may be trained on new protocols, lay visitation training may resume, clergy may resume hospital visits, and the telemedicine project will be initiated.

#### Read Complete Plan:

[www.stpaulshouston.org/stayconnected](http://www.stpaulshouston.org/stayconnected)

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*