



ST. PAUL'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HOUSTON



Lent & Easter

February - April 2023

Welcome



Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday. It is a time of self-examination and preparation for the upcoming celebration of Easter. Historically, Lent is a time when many Christians prepare by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, and spiritual discipline.

Through the service of ashes on Ash Wednesday, we come before God recognizing our humanity, repenting of our sin, and remembering who we are and who we can be. The day emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality.

The imposition of ashes on the heads of Christians to mark the beginning of Lent can be traced to before the 10th century. Now, as the ashes are placed on the forehead, words such as these are spoken: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," recalling God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19, or "Repent, and believe the gospel" recalling the message of both John the Baptist and Jesus in Mark 1:15.

We hope that you will join us for the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, on February 22. The sanctuary will be open all day for those who would like to receive ashes or for those looking for a time of prayer. Worship services will take place in the Sanctuary at Noon, at 5 pm (a dual-language service), and at 7 pm (with the St. Paul's Choir) and will include the imposition of ashes and sharing in Holy Communion.

The season of Lent ends with Holy Week which begins with Palm Sunday (April 2) and includes Maundy Thursday – a remembrance of the Last Supper and the Stripping of the Altar, Good Friday – a retelling of Christ's Passion, and Holy Saturday when we celebrate Easter Vigil, the first service of Easter.

Weekly Schedule

Church Offices

Monday - Thursday: 8 am - 5 pm

Friday: 8 am - Noon

Sunday

Worship at 8:30 & 11 am

Sunday School at 9:45 am

Phone: (713) 528-0527

Cover Art

Palm Sunday Procession 2022

On Palm Sunday, April 2, join with others in our church family, our choirs of all ages, and our clergy outside the sanctuary prior to the 8:30 and 11 am services as we raise our palms, shout our Hosannas, and celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with the glorious music and procession that marks Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week!

Adults

30s & 40s Sunday School Class | 9:45 – 10:45 am Sanctuary Building, S-102

We meet each week for fellowship and learning – sometimes we do book studies, sometimes we do a series of Bible lessons, sometimes we just talk about what’s going on in our lives and in the world. Our class is led by our Pastor for Discipleship, Trey Burns. We hope you’ll join us!

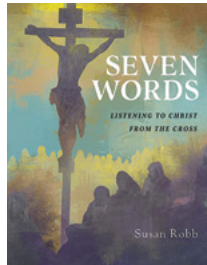
Contact Rev. Trey Burns at tburns@stpaulshouston.org for more information.

Living Faith (40s & 50s) Sunday School Class 10 - 10:45 am | Jones Building, J-220

We meet weekly on Sunday mornings for fellowship, thoughtful study, and sometimes snacks. Enjoy studying faith-based topics, engaging in open, lively discussions, and supporting each other along life’s journeys. Family-oriented and adult social events help us connect outside of class.

Join us for a Lenten study, with Jenna Lloyd leading us in discussion of *Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross* from February 19- March 26. Author Rev. Susan Robb recently retired as Senior Associate Pastor of Highland Park Church in Dallas, and more importantly joins Yvette Willis in being a former Kilgore Rangerette.

Contact Leah Barton at leahrachel@gmail.com for more information.



Art Tent Art Walk April 23 | Noon | Plaza

All are invited to this 2nd annual art show celebrating artists from The Art Tent. The Art Tent creates a space for people experiencing homelessness to express themselves through visual art. 300 works of art by artists from our Fall 2022- Spring 2023 season will be displayed for the public to see.

For more information, see our website at www.stpaulshouston.org/arttent.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed at 9 am to hang 300 art pieces for the Art Walk on April 23 before the show begins.

To participate in The Art Tent, email Helen Spaw, MPS at hspaw@stpaulshouston.org.

St. Paul’s Foundation



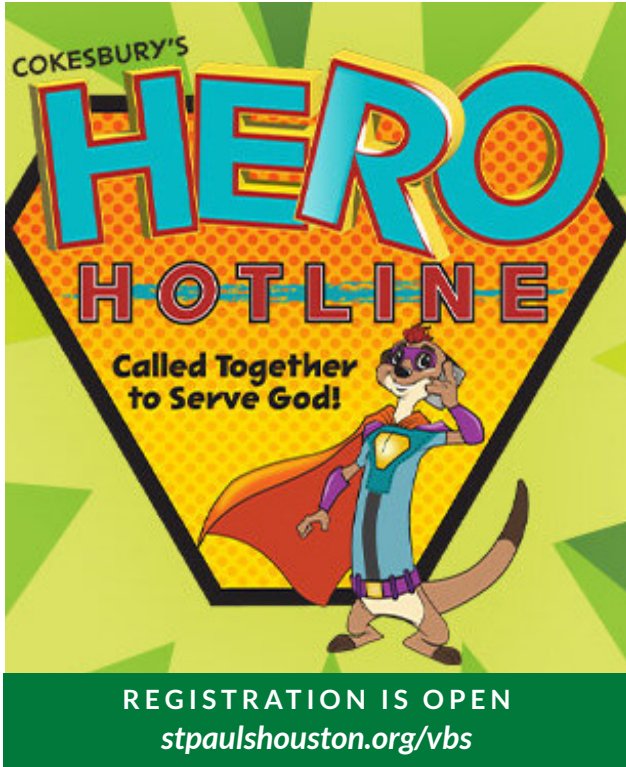
Third Annual Cornerstone Society Campaign a Success...

The Cornerstone Society’s annual campaign raised over \$46,000 from 250 members and friends of St. Paul’s UMC. Members of the Society include families, couples, and individuals who contribute both large and small gifts to support the mission of the St. Paul’s Foundation.

Funds raised will be evenly divided between the Building and Facilities Fund of the Foundation and grants to non-profit organizations chosen by Cornerstone Society members during Summer 2023.

Support for the Cornerstone Society continues to grow with a 50% increase in funds and members in 2022. We are grateful for each of you who made the 2022 campaign an extraordinary success.

More information about the Cornerstone Society is available at www.stpaulshouston.org/cornerstone.



Vacation Bible School

July 10-14 | 9 am to 12:15 pm

For ages 4 years through 5th grade (completed), St. Paul's UMC invites you to VBS 2023 for an adventure at the "Hero Hotline" Headquarters! Each day at the Hero Hotline Headquarters, superheroes of all ages and abilities answer the call to provide expert assistance and solutions to Hero Teams everywhere.

Our team of Heroes will spring into action and explore the ultimate Hero Handbook -the Bible- to discover how all Heroes can work together to bring peace, build each other up, and share the great story of God's love for us. Kids will learn that Heroes are called to Follow Jesus, Help Others, Work Together, Listen to God, and Show Grace!

Contact Kat Denton at kat@stpaulshouston.org for more details or questions. Registration is open through June 1, as space allows.

Volunteer with VBS!

Adult & Youth volunteers are welcome!

Adult volunteers may bring their 4-year-old (or younger) children along; please register them for VBS Jr.

Youth who have completed grades 6-12 can serve as assistants in every area of VBS.

Donate!

This year we have an Amazon Wishlist to help with VBS supplies. Scan the QR code to see the list of items needed.



After VBS

Mon.-Fri. | 12:15 - 4 pm

Camp is available for kids to attend after VBS everyday. Kids will need to bring a sack lunch and will spend the afternoon playing games. Cost is \$115 (if registered prior to June 1.) Scholarships are available based on need. Contact Kat Denton at kat@stpaulshouston.org for more details or questions.

Register online at:
armoredsports.com/camps/stpaulsumc

Youth & Missions

Service Day with The Restoration Team

March 4 | 9 am - 3 pm (or any part in between that you can volunteer) | Cost: \$10

We will meet in the Youth Center at 8:30 am for breakfast, team assignments. Then, we will depart for various locations.

The Youth will work with The Restoration Team to help restore homes of neighbors in the Houston community. Projects may include siding, sheetrock, window installation, steps/porch repairs, and painting.

Dress appropriately, including closed toed shoes. Please bring your own PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) including masks and gloves.

About The Restoration Team (TRT):

Formed in 2017 after Houston was devastated by Hurricane Harvey, St. Paul's was one of four congregations taking the lead with its formation and contribution to the long-term recovery strategy after natural disasters.

The need is still critical, with some home restorations still not completed from Harvey and other natural disasters. Most of the people we serve are elderly or disabled and live without adequate insurance or financial resources.



Walk Through Holy Week

April 2 - 9 | Jones Building

Experience events from Palm Sunday to Christ's Resurrection, through a self-guided exhibit in the Jones Building's basement whenever you are here at church. Visitors step into the story through Scripture and dramatic scenery. Each scene tells a part of the story in a child-appropriate way, and accompanying literature helps families follow along.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8 | 10 am - Noon
Jones Plaza & Building

Join us for the St. Paul's Easter Egg Hunt and crafts on Holy Saturday to bring some springtime family fun into the mix!

Volunteers welcome — contact Pastor Kate at kflint@stpaulshouston.org if you would like to help.



Flowering of the Cross

Sunday, April 9 | Front Lawn

On Easter Sunday, don't forget to help us decorate the Flower Cross as we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection!

Worship & Music

A hymn for Easter

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today":
United Methodist Hymnal #302

It is a popular misconception that the words and music of hymns emerged fully formed from their authors and have been passed down to us. Rather, they coalesce over many years into the versions we know. "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" is one that has been through several versions before reaching the version we know and love so much.

Originally written by Charles Wesley in 1739 and titled "Hymn for Easter Day", it appeared in collection of Hymns and Sacred Poems by John and Charles Wesley, the founders of the Methodist movement. The hymn began life with eleven verses, some of which are based on "Jesus Christ is Risen Today", an anonymous translation of a Latin hymn published in *Lyra Davidica* in 1708. It was typical of Wesley to take a hymn and improve and enlarge on it, and his original text even included quotation marks where they were appropriate.

The Alleluias which are such a prominent feature to us now were not in Wesley's original text; they were added a few years later, in 1742, in John Wesley's *First Tune Book*, where the suggested melody is called *Salisbury*.

Musicians can spot that the *Salisbury* melody is clearly the melody on which our hymn is based, but it has a number of significant differences. John Wesley's *Second Tune Book* of 1761 brings the *Salisbury* melody closer to the one we know, but it wasn't until the 19th century that we arrive at exactly the melody we use, which is now called *Easter Hymn*. By then the verses had been reduced in most hymnals to six, or even four, that best encapsulate Wesley's exuberance for Easter Sunday. The United Methodist Hymnal of 1989 includes six verses, and at St. Paul's, we typically sing four.

One final change was made for the United Methodist Hymnal: the second line "Sons of Men and Angels say" is changed to "Earth and Heaven in chorus say", which may well express even more clearly that the whole cosmos joins in celebration of the Resurrection.

Such is the strength of Charles Wesley's hymn writing that it would be hard to find a church that does not begin its Easter services with this great hymn. It is no wonder that he ranks as one of the greatest hymn writers of all time.

Care & Hospitality

Discover & Connect

3 week sessions, Sundays, May 14, May 21, May 28
9:45 am | Parlor (2nd floor Sanctuary Building)

If you are considering membership at St. Paul's, you are invited to Discover & Connect. This three-session class will be held on Sundays, May 14, May 21, and May 28. This class is an opportunity to get to know St. Paul's and for us to get to know you.

We believe St. Paul's can be a place that helps you deepen your faith, discover your spiritual gifts, and grow in Christian life alongside a great community. Join us at 9:45 am in the Parlor and begin your journey!

RSVP by Wednesday, May 10, to Sarah Patlan at spatlan@stpaulshouston.org.



Celebrating Connection

In our Community - From December 2022 to Present

Births:

Parker Livingston Lukingbeal Dedrick was born to parents Jason Dedrick and Patrick Lukingbeal and older brother JJ on December 7, 2022.

Baptisms:

Silas Reed Parker, son of Jill and Nick Parker, was baptized on January 8.

Blake Elizabeth Brimmage, daughter of Kirsten and Jacob Brimmage, was baptized on January 15.

Addison Kay Golemon, daughter of Kayla and James Golemon, was baptized on January 22.

Ashton Lee Skidmore, son of Kelsea and Benjamin Skidmore, was baptized on January 29.

Weddings:

Rachel Beeton and Matthew Hudson were married at St. Paul's on January 14.

Deaths:

Jim Lamb passed away on December 12, 2022.
Avis Neal passed away on December 20, 2022.

New Members - January 2023



Jacob and Kirsten Brimmage



Eric and Noel Perkins

Upcoming



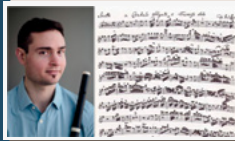
Lenten Recitals

Generously underwritten by
St. Paul's Chamber Music Society

Admission is free to Lenten Recitals at
St. Paul's through the support of the
St. Paul's Chamber Music Society.
www.stpaulsmusic.org/chambermusicsociety

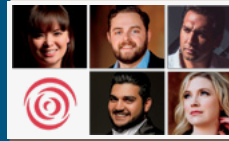
Every Thursday during Lent
12:15 pm | Sanctuary

Thursday, Feb. 23



Baroque flutist
David Ross
with Mercury
Chamber Orchestra

Thursday, Mar. 2



Artists from
Houston
Grand Opera

Thursday, Mar. 9



Two Organs,
Two Organists

Thursday, Mar. 16



Jeremy Garcia,
classical guitar

Thursday, Mar. 23



Romantic music
for Piano Trio

Thursday, Mar. 30



Katie Angielczyk,
French Horn

www.stpaulshouston.org/concerts

Lent & Holy Week

Lent

FEB. 21 | Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner | 5 PM

FEB. 22 | Ash Wednesday
BREAKFAST 7:30 AM | SERVICES NOON, 5 PM, & 7 PM

Holy Week & Easter

APRIL 2 | Palm Sunday Worship | 8:30 & 11 AM

APRIL 2-6 | Walk Through Holy Week

APRIL 6 | Maundy Thursday Worship | NOON & 7 PM

APRIL 7 | Good Friday
GUIDED INDOOR LABYRINTH WALK 10 AM - 6:45 PM
CHILDREN'S TENEBRAE | 11 AM
WORSHIP | NOON & 7 PM

APRIL 8 | Easter Vigil | 7 PM

APRIL 9 | Easter Sunday Worship | 8, 9:30 & 11 AM

Guided Labyrinth Walks available throughout Holy Week.
Noon Services of Communion | Monday April 3- Wednesday, April 5.

