

The *Epistle* of St. Paul

April 2026

St. Paul

United Methodist
Church
244 Kurtz Road
Marietta, Georgia
30066
770-422-1089

www.stpaulumc.com
churchoffice@stpaulumc.com
<https://onrealm.org/stpaulumc>

Rev. Shelia Preacher
sheliapreacher@comcast.net
678-925-0103

Children's Ministry
Victoria Godfrey

Music Director
Hope Field

Accompanist
Dorothy McCracken

Administrative
Assistant
Louise Byrd

Financial Secretary
Ed Jackson

Lead Nursery
Morgan Field

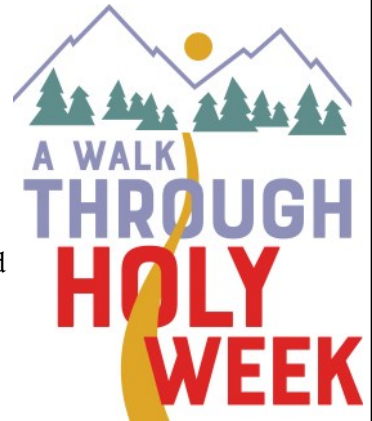
Nursery Assistant
Zahra Taylor

Sunday Schedule
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship

Holy Week: Walk the Whole Journey

Rev. Shelia Preacher

Holy Week brings us to the end of our Lenten journey—and, strangely, we discover that our transformations are far from complete. Holy Week is not simply a series of extra services on a church calendar. It is a continuation of a holy journey—Christ's journey and our own. And if we have been paying attention during Lent, we know this journey has already begun to shape us...and this week will carry us even deeper.



On Palm Sunday, we entered our sanctuary with joy. With palms in hand and voices lifted in “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” and “All Glory, Laud, and Honor,” we joined the crowds in Matthew 21, welcoming Jesus with celebration and expectation.

But if you listened closely, the tension was already there. People were asking, “Who is this man?” Not everyone was ready for the kind of change Jesus brings. And if we are honest, we are not always ready either. Through their moving cantata, “Glorious Cross: Salvation’s Story, Easter’s Song,” our fabulous St. Paul choir helped us glimpse what lies ahead...the turning of the story, the deepening tension, the steady movement toward the cross.

This Thursday, we continue the journey as we gather in our sanctuary with our neighbors from St. Andrew UMC for a Tenebrae service, “When the Lights Go Out.” Through Scripture, song, and the slow extinguishing of light, we will walk through the

(Continued on page 2)

Holy Week: Walk the Whole Journey *(Continued from page 1)*

final hours of Jesus' life—when it seems the light he brought into the world is fading...in the upper room, as betrayal enters; in the garden, as anguish deepens; and as fear rises, friends scatter, and courage fails.

This is not an easy part of the story. But it is a necessary one. Because the truth is...lights still go out. They go out in our world, in our relationships, and in our courage and hope. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday do not simply tell us what happened long ago—they reveal the truth about the world we still live in. And yet...they also reveal the truth about God. This is why Holy Week is such an important part of our journey.

Even as the shadows deepen, love does not leave. Even when the lights go out...his love remains. That is the promise we carry into Easter. Because when we gather on Easter morning and hear the witness of the empty tomb again, we are not simply remembering an event from long ago—we are proclaiming a current reality.

Darkness does not win...even death does not have the final word...new life has already begun in us. So, walk with us this whole week. Come Maundy Thursday. Come Easter Sunday. Walk the whole journey. Do not skip the dark, because the light of Easter shines brightest for those who have sat in the shadows.

For when the lights go out...his love remains.



April Mission Focus: KSU Wesley Foundation

Susan Short

April is a season of renewal, hope, and resurrection. As we celebrate Easter, we remember that new life in Christ is not just a past event—it's something still unfolding today, often in everyday places like a college campus.



We're especially grateful for the ministry of the **Kennesaw State University - Wesley Foundation**, led by Rev. Brian Hammond, serving students at KSU. Each week, this group gathers on Sunday and Wednesday nights, right here at our church, transforming our space into a place of worship, connection, and spiritual growth.

College is a time of big questions and new beginnings. The Wesley Foundation provides a welcoming, Christ-centered community where students can explore faith, build friendships, serve others, and encounter God in real ways. It's a reminder that resurrection power is still changing lives today.

Scripture reminds us, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"* (1 Peter 1:3, ESV)

How you can support this mission:

Awareness: Learn more about the Wesley Foundation and the impact it's making. Celebrate the presence of students in our church each Sunday at 5:30 and 6:30, and Wednesday night at 8:00 pm. Find out more about Wesley Foundation by visiting the NGUMC website or at KSU.Wesley.org. Better yet, stop by one evening and say hello.

Prayer: Pray for Rev. Hammond and for every student who walks through our doors—that they would experience belonging, growth, and the love of Christ.

Giving: Your financial support helps provide meals, resources, and outreach opportunities that make this ministry possible.

This Easter season let's join in what God is doing—bringing new life to students and shaping the future through faith.

Grace and Peace

Pursuing God's Mission with God's Methods

Mike McMillin

As I walk through *ChristWalk* Season 5 study and prepare for our Easter Cantata, the images of Barabbas and Judas keep pressing into my mind. Two very different men—both connected to the story of Jesus—both pursuing what they believed was right but doing so in ways that betrayed the heart of the gospel. Barabbas fought with violence and rebellion; Judas exchanged intimacy for a bargain. Both remind us how easily the mission and the methods can become separated from God's way.

Barabbas's cause—liberation from Roman oppression—was sincere, but his methods were flawed. Judas served close to Jesus, even handling the money. Yet his agenda shifted toward his own vision of God's Kingdom rather than Jesus'. We are unlikely to stage an insurrection or betray Jesus with a kiss; however, we are tempted in subtler ways: to seek results by compromising principles, to prioritize outcomes over righteousness, to let convenience replace prayer, humility, and love.

Our Methodist faith calls us to holiness that shapes not just what we do but how we do it. The Kingdom Jesus proclaimed is revealed in acts of mercy, truth, and sacrificial love. Pursuing God's mission with God's methods means allowing the means to reflect Christ's character: patient, just, merciful, and obedient to the Father.

So, what steps can we take to ensure we are following God's methods?

- Re-center on relationship: Before pursuing goals, abide in Christ (John 15). Let prayer and Scripture shape our motives and methods.
- Test our means by gospel virtues: Are our tactics loving, honest, and life-giving? Do they honor the poorest, the weakest, the enemy?
- Practice small, holy habits: Give fairly, speak truthfully, and choose peacemaking over power plays—even when it's costly.

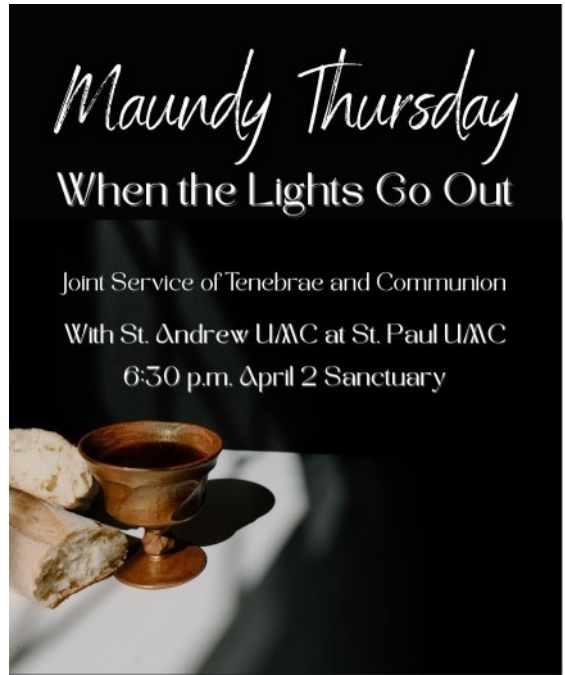


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Lent the Wesleyan Way *(Continued from page 4)*

- Submit plans to the community: Invite accountability from brothers and sisters in Christ so our methods are shaped by love, not pride.
- Repent quickly and return to Christ's way when we realize we've strayed.

As we remember Holy Week, may we ask God to reveal where our zeal has surpassed our obedience. Let us commit—like the early Methodist movement—to pursue God's mission in God's way: faithful, humble, and grounded in Christ's sacrificial love. Only then will our work genuinely reflect the Kingdom we long for. Amen.



Maundy Thursday
When the Lights Go Out

Joint Service of Tenebrae and Communion
 With St. Andrew U/MC at St. Paul U/MC
 6:30 p.m. April 2 Sanctuary

Forever Young
 Presents

BRITISH ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS
KICKERS

April 9 @ 11:30 • Fellowship Hall
 RSVP to Susan McMillin
 770/310-4506

GriefShare®

13-WEEK SUPPORT GROUP
 Wednesdays, April 8 - July 8
 6:00-7:30 PM (In person)
 Cost: \$20.00

LOSS OF SPOUSE
 Thursday, May 28
 7:00-8:30 PM (Online)

Saturday, May 30
 10:00-11:30 AM (In person)

Contact Kathy LimSang for info

Lenten Journey

Bob Trengove

Easter: what a wonderful time it is as we focus on what Jesus went through for us. The term Easter People emphasizes that the resurrection of Jesus is central to our Christian identity. Easter highlights the ultimate manifestation of His divine through the resurrection, conquering sin and death, and offering eternal life to all who follow him and believe. Yes, we did not personally experience what Jesus went through, but our believing in him and what he did during his life, through his death and resurrection, is really all we need.

I have been reading the book of Jeremiah, where God spoke to Jeremiah and gave him messages to pass on to his people.

The people said they wanted Jeremiah to pray to the Lord for them, and they would honor his message. God's message was to stay in Babylon, and he would protect them, bless them, and no one would harm them. God said, if you insist on going to live in Egypt, you will die from sword, famine, or disease.

When Jeremiah delivered this message, the people already had their minds made up and felt that by staying in Babylon, they would die, so they decided not to believe God's message and went on to Egypt. They did not believe that Jeremiah was being truthful.

As Easter people, we need to recognize that God is the answer. Whatever message God gives us—through Scripture, through prayer, or through the experiences of our lives—is the truth and the way for us to truly experience eternal life.

As we go forward and experience Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, let us pray for all the blessings Jesus gave us throughout our lives and know that he is our Savior and Friend.

Dear Heavenly Father, here we are once again always thankful for the blessings you give us all the time. We pray everyone will be given the opportunity to experience your teachings, your messages and your resurrection story that we live by. Thank you for being our Savior and Friend. In Jesus' Name, AMEN.



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Many activities are still being performed at St Paul by the Building and Grounds Team. The following are a few of the tasks completed or in progress.

- Speed humps were painted bright yellow during the March 14th workday.
- Remove AC window units in the annex building since they are not in use and have not been used for over 10 years.
- Atlanta Gas Light to install a new gas line to the sanctuary at a cost to us of \$6,361.00. We will also need to hire a plumber to make the final connection.
- We need to look at painting doors and trim around the church building entrances after workday.
- Deck near the playground probably needs another cleaning and staining. Will be looked at after workday.
- Workday at the parsonage is being considered to keep up with under growth and new growth on shrubs.





The Lion King
BFES Little Theater

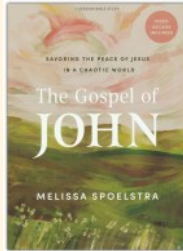


Discipleship Opportunities

Open Door Class

*The Gospel of John:
Savoring the Peace of
Jesus in a Chaotic World*

**A seven-Session Bible
Study
by Melissa Spoelstra**



Slow down and savor the peace of Jesus in a chaotic world. This seven-session study in the Gospel of John invites you to linger with the Living Word and cultivate a still, grounded soul. Grow in intimacy with Christ and embrace His peace amid a hectic life.

Join us each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in Room 206 for lively discussion and fellowship.

ChristWalk

The Chosen Season 5

Our *ChristWalk* small groups continue to explore Season 5 of *The Chosen*, entering the final days of Jesus' ministry—marked by tension, courage, and deep love. As the disciples face the cost of following Him, we're invited to reflect on our own faith and transformation.

ChristWalk meets Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in person and at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

All are welcome. See Shelia for details.



CHAIR YOGA

EVERY MONDAY

11:30-12:30

Fellowship Hall

New Time!

From Death to Life: A Continuing Story

Chris Heldreth

Resurrection is often thought of as a singular, miraculous event, something that happened once, long ago. Yet Scripture reveals that resurrection is not confined to one moment; it is an ongoing reality in the lives of believers and in the world around us.

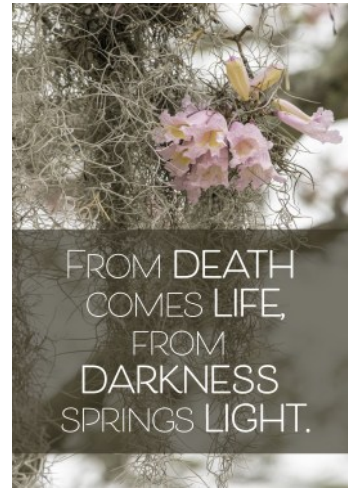
The foundation of this truth is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As it says in John 11:25, *“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.”* This statement points not only to future hope but to a present, active life that begins now. Resurrection is both a promise and a current experience.

The apostle Paul expands on this idea in Romans 6:4: *“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too may live a new life.”* Here, resurrection is described as something believers participate in daily. It is a continual rising—turning away from old ways and stepping into new life.

This ongoing transformation is also reflected in 2 Corinthians 5:17: *“If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”* Resurrection is not only about life after death; it is about becoming new in the present.

Even in suffering, resurrection is at work. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:10-11 that believers *“always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.”* Life continually emerges from hardship, revealing God’s power in human weakness.

In this way, resurrection is not just a past event or future hope, it is an ongoing process. It is seen in renewed hearts, restored relationships, and transformed lives. Through Christ, resurrection continues to unfold every day, reminding us that God is always bringing life out of death.



Member Spotlight: Meet Jeannine Hartman

Kathy Lim Sang

This month, we are delighted to shine our spotlight on a face that has been a steady part of the St. Paul family for over five decades: Jeannine Hartman.

A Journey Led by Grace

Jeannine's path to St. Paul is a testament to perfect timing. Although she was baptized Roman Catholic, she began exploring the Methodist faith as a young adult. In 1968, when she and her husband, Terrell, were planning their wedding, their previous church didn't have their preferred date available. St. Paul "came to the rescue" with an opening, and the couple has called this congregation home for the 56 years of their marriage ever since.

Talents Sewn with Love

From an early age, Jeannine recognized her God-given calling as a seamstress. One of her most memorable early projects involved partnering with a friend to create 20 white satin gowns for the Rainbow Girls' initiation. Her passion for "anything to do with fabric and thread" continues today through her beautiful quilting and crocheting. Even her hobbies reflect this dedication; she loves "thrifting" for men's long-sleeve shirts to help her sister create unique zig-zag quilts.



St. Paul
Member Spotlight



Jeannine Hartman

A Life of Service and Hospitality

Jeannine's professional life has been diverse, from working at a bait and tackle shop to her six years at her parents' dry-cleaning business, and managing the books for Terrell's boat repair business, "Travelling Tool Box." However, her true passion lies in radical hospitality. Whether she is at church or visiting Carol's Diner, Jeannine makes every effort to ensure that the people around her feel truly seen and loved.

Fast Facts about Jeannine:

- **Favorite Saying:** "By the Grace of God, so I go".
- **Church Involvement:** You can find her attending Adult Sunday School and looking for new ways to get involved with quilting projects.
- **Fun Fact:** She and Terrell first met on a blind double date at a dance arranged by his work colleague and his wife.

Next time you see Jeannine in the pews or at Sunday School, please stop by to say hello and celebrate her 56 years of membership with us!

Being Easter People

Hope Field

To be “Easter people” means living with the kind of hope that comes from Easter. It’s the idea that no matter how dark or difficult things get, there is always the possibility of new life, renewal, and a fresh start.

The phrase is rooted in the story of Jesus Christ rising from the dead. Because of that, “Easter people” see life differently. They don’t pretend suffering or hardship isn’t real, but they believe it doesn’t get the final word. There is always something beyond it: healing, growth, or restoration.

In everyday terms, being an Easter person means choosing hope over despair and believing that broken things can be made whole again. It’s about carrying a quiet confidence that even when life feels like it’s falling apart, something good can still come out of it.



Forever Young Presents: Fall Prevention. LR: Marcia Sneed, Marj Rhodes, Mike McMillin, Dr. Josh Davis of First Step PT, Susan McMillin, Mary Lou Flenner, Betty Gwynn

Noticing Resurrection

Victoria Godfrey

April arrives with color, movement, and a sense of celebration. After the quiet reflection of Lent, we step into the joy of Easter and the reminder that new life is all around us. This month, I keep coming back to what we have been practicing together since the start of the year: to notice more.



In Children's Ministry, noticing is often where faith begins. Kids are naturally attentive to the small and meaningful details we sometimes overlook. They notice the excitement of an Easter egg hunt (especially our golden eggs), the sound of joyful music, the bright colors in the sanctuary, and the simple yet powerful words, "He is risen." They ask questions. They wonder. They pay attention. And in doing so, they often help us see more clearly, too.

Easter is not just a single Sunday. It is a whole season of noticing resurrection in our everyday lives. It shows up in unexpected kindness, in a special donated stuffed animal, in moments of laughter, in fresh starts, and in the quiet assurance that hope is not lost. When we slow down enough to notice, we begin to recognize the ways God is still at work, bringing life out of what once felt still or uncertain.

This April, in our homes and throughout our church, let's practice noticing together. Notice where you see joy. Notice where you see growth. Notice where you see love showing up in ordinary moments. These are all glimpses of Easter unfolding right in front of us.



Ways to give:

- ◀ Scan the QR Code
- Place offering in basket
- www.stpaulumc.com/donate;
- Text SPUMC244 + amount to 73256
- Download the App on our website.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8p KSU Worship	2 6:30p Joint Maundy Thursday w/St. Andrew	3	4
5 EASTER SUNDAY 9:45a SS 11a Worship	6 10:30a Monday Servants 11:30a Chair Yoga	7 7a Coffee & Blessing 10a <i>ChristWalk</i> (FH) 7p <i>ChristWalk</i> (Zoom)	8 6p GriefShare 8p KSU Worship	9 11:30a Forever Young "Kickers"	10	11 9a Leadership Vision Mtg
12 9:45a SS 11a Worship 2p UPfield 5:30p KSU Wesley	13 10:30a Monday Servants 11:30a Chair Yoga	14 7a Coffee & Blessing 10a <i>ChristWalk</i> (FH) 7p <i>ChristWalk</i> (Zoom)	15 6p GriefShare 8p KSU Worship	16 6:30p Stephen Ministry	17	18
19 9:45a SS 11a Worship 2p UPfield 3p Leadership 5:30p KSU Wesley	20 10:30a Monday Servants 11:30a Chair Yoga	21 7a Coffee & Blessing 10a <i>ChristWalk</i> (FH) 7p <i>ChristWalk</i> (Zoom)	22 6p GriefShare 8p KSU Worship	23	24 5p Messy Church setup	25 4p Messy Church
26 9:45a SS 11a Worship 2p UPfield 3p Staff 5:30p KSU Wesley	27 10:30a Monday Servants 11:30a Chair Yoga	28 7a Coffee & Blessing 10a <i>ChristWalk</i> (FH) 4p Hope House 7p <i>ChristWalk</i> (Zoom)	29 6p GriefShare 8p KSU Worship	30		

Serving This Month

April Servants

Worship Leader—Bob Trengove

Open/Close Facilities—Bob Trengove

Monday Servants:

- 04/06 Darrell Morgan & Marj Rhodes
- 04/13 Tom Short & Ruth Castellaw
- 04/20 Darrell Morgan & Ruth Castellaw
- 04/27 Tom Short & Ruth Castellaw

Media Team—Mike McMillin

Easy Worship—Terry Palmer, Tom Preacher

Audio/Video—Robbie Littlefield, Jyo Vanapalli

Could it be YOU? Join Us!

Our Faithfulness

"I will be loyal to St. Paul United Methodist Church and support her with my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service and my witness."

FEBRUARY 2026

Our Presence

- Average weekly Sunday School attendance 20
- Average weekly 11:00 worship attendance 38
- Average weekly online attendance 74

Our Gifts—General Fund

FEBRUARY 2026 INCOME

Contributions	\$ 12,831.00
Processing Gifts.....	\$ 67.00
Total Contributions.....	\$ 12,898.00
Rental Property.....	\$ 1,695.00
Soccer Rental	N/A
Total Revenue	\$ 14,593.00
YTD Income	\$ 27,362.10
Total Expenses for February	\$ 17,061.21
Net Total	(\$ 2,468.21)
YTD Expenses	\$ 36,523.67



2 Judy Campbell	1 Darrell Morgan
9 Betty Meeks	5 Peggy Pool
9 Susan Short	8 Louise Byrd
12 Susan McMillin	9 Janice Salter
16 Ayon Lim Sang	18 Kimberly Cochran
28 Shelia Preacher	



Altar Flowers

Cost: \$55.00

- 04/05 Available
- 04/12 Available
- 04/19 Available
- 04/26 Available

Sign up on Bulletin Board



April 20

Suggested word count: 350-400