

# PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



# THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

## 2020 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

**President:**  
Dr. Burton Streicher  
**Vice President:**  
Kathleen Ball  
**Secretary:**  
Debbie Szymanski  
**Treasurer:**  
Stephanie Wade

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August 2020

## Pastor's Ponderings

## 2020 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Education (Faith Formation):**  
Debbie Metheny  
**Evangelism:**  
Cecil Bell  
**Finance:**  
Suzanne Umstott  
**Ministry in Daily Life:**  
Nancy Lohr  
**Property:**  
Edward Ayers  
**Social Ministry (Fellowship):**  
Cindy Read  
**Stewardship:**  
Burton Streicher  
**Worship and Music:**  
Kathleen Ball  
**Youth:**  
Gary Miller

## Psalm 58

### Prayer for Vengeance

**To the leader: Do Not Destroy. A miktam of David.**

- <sup>1</sup> Do you indeed decree what is right, you gods?  
Do you judge people fairly?
- <sup>2</sup> No, in your hearts you devise wrongs;  
your hands deal out violence on earth.
- <sup>3</sup> The wicked go astray from the womb;  
they err from their birth, speaking lies.
- <sup>4</sup> They have venom like the venom of a serpent,  
like the deaf adder that stops its ear,
- <sup>5</sup> so that it does not hear the voice of charmers  
or of the cunning enchanter.
- <sup>6</sup> O God, break the teeth in their mouths;  
tear out the fangs of the young lions, O LORD!
- <sup>7</sup> Let them vanish like water that runs away;  
like grass let them be trodden down and wither.
- <sup>8</sup> Let them be like the snail that dissolves into slime;  
like the untimely birth that never sees the sun.
- <sup>9</sup> Sooner than your pots can feel the heat of thorns,  
whether green or ablaze, may he sweep them away!
- <sup>10</sup> The righteous will rejoice when they see vengeance done;  
they will bathe their feet in the blood of the wicked.
- <sup>11</sup> People will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous;  
surely there is a God who judges on earth."

*continued on page 2*

THE REVEREND  
RYAN K. VIANDS  
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN  
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI  
Parish Assistant

STEPHANIE WADE  
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA  
Sexton

## THE LESSON AND FR. LUTHER'S COMMENTARY

<sup>29</sup> ***The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! St. John 1: 29.***

*From this passage, we learn that all people have been plunged into sin by the devil and that only the Lamb can lead us out. Our unbelief isn't Jesus' fault. The guilt is ours. If we don't believe, then we're stuck in our own sins. In short, the Lamb of has carried the sins of the world.*

*You should believe and confess this all of your life. You may think, "Yes, I know that Jesus carried the sins of Sts. Peter and Paul, and all the other saints. But they were holy people. But who knows if Christ will carry my sins, too? If only I were as good as St. Peter or St. Paul." Can't you hear what St. John is saying? "THIS is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the WHOLE world." You must admit that you too are a part of this world. You were born of a human mother and father—you aren't a cow or a pig! It follows, then, that your sins are paid for, just as the sins of St. Peter and St. Paul are paid for. You are unable to pay for your own sins. They couldn't pay for their own sins either. There are no exceptions.*

*Therefore, don't listen to your own thoughts. Listen to God's Word. It promises forgiveness of sins to anyone who believes that this Lamb carried the sins of the whole world. Did you hear that? The Lamb didn't miss any of it. He carried all the sins of the world from the beginning of time. Therefore, he carried your sin too, and He offers his grace to you". — The Rev. Dr. Fr. Martin Luther. 1530 A.D.*

## THE PRAYER

Most Gracious God, you have enriched and enlightened us by the revelation of your eternal Christ. Comfort us in our mortality and strengthen us to walk the path of your desire, so that by word and deed we may manifest the gracious news of your faithfulness and love.

Holy Abba, Father of Christ who asked the disciples, "What are you looking for," and who offered the invitation to "Come and See," open our hearts to what you reveal and give us the courage to follow. By Your Spirit aid us in our journey, so that like, St. John, our words and deeds point to the Lamb of God. For those who are suffering, let us point to Christ through comfort. For those who are hungry, let us point to Christ through bread. For those in the grip of despair, let us point to Christ through hope.

For those with whom we share our lives and love and needs your healing presence, strength and hope we pray, (especially).....and all those fighting the ravishes and losses of Covid-19, we lift to you for hope and healing the friends and family of all who must place their loved ones into your eternal care, we lifter to you our nation and leaders and all those seeking your mercy for justice and peace. Give them guidance and commitment to your call and desire so that all nations may truly become righteous, inclusive and caring communities, and we offer to your care all those whom we name in our hearts, (especially).....

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that He may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.  
Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God! The Lord bless us and direct our days and our deeds in His peace. Amen.

Pax, Pr. Ryan +

## A Word from the President

The church council met in fellowship hall as a group on 14 Jul 2020. Although we had masks on and sat apart from each other, it was good to get back together. The DE-MD Synod has scheduled Pastor Ryan's installation for 4:00pm on Sunday 13 September. This will be a welcome final step in our pastoral transition. The council also approved purchasing a Tabernacle box to hold our communion elements next to the high altar and replacement of 2 sets of our old paraments. The total cost for these purchases was \$5,591 and was funded from various memorial accounts. We were also able to take advantage of a 25% one-time discount from our custom parament supplier. We will continue with the current worship service format with restrictions through August. Council will continue to review the pandemic situation and government guidelines as it changes. A donation request from the Family Crisis Resource Center in Cumberland was discussed and the council decided to send \$250 to the center. St. Paul's also received a donation request from the Lutheran Disaster Response of the ELCA and the council decided to provide \$500 in support of ELCA Disaster Response relief efforts.

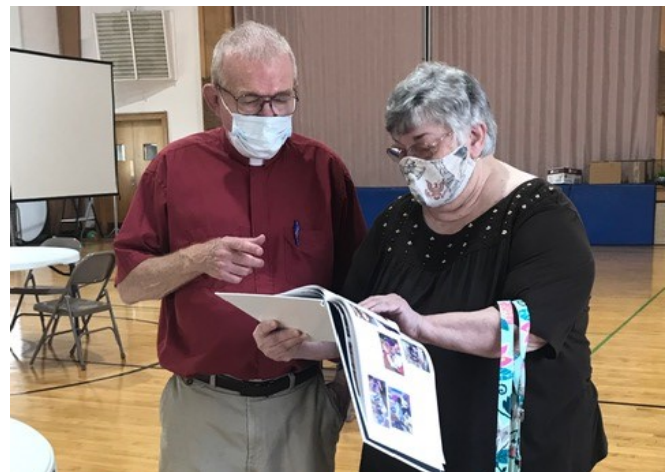
Our joint community Vacation Bible School (VBS) began on Monday, 13 July. The Rocky Railway at-home program has 43 children registered from 10 different congregations. Two Facebook live presentations are presented on Monday and Wednesday of each of the five weeks to share with the children, parents, and grandparents. The program will conclude on Friday, 14 August with puppets and helpers distributing candy to drive-by parents and children. This innovative and well-structured VBS presentation is being received very well by the participants. Our appreciation to Debbie Streicher and others for pushing forward and working with the other congregations to make VBS happen this year despite the social distancing restrictions.

It was also a great pleasure for us to be able to properly farewell Pastor Steve and Tommie at our worship service on Sunday, 26 July. Many thanks to Cindy Read and the fellowship committee for setting up a COVID-19 appropriate reception in Fellowship Hall. Kathleen Ball presented a photo album with highlight pictures and farewell notes from congregational members to the Haptonstahl's as a memory of their time with us.

Please be advised that we are planning to reseal and restripe our parking lot the third week in August. We are doing this to protect and extend the life of our parking lot surface. Therefore, entry to the back of the church may be limited during the week. We were going to do this earlier in the year, but the pandemic restrictions required rescheduling. I hope everyone is able to enjoy all this warmer weather and sunshine, as we continue to deal with this unusual pandemic situation. Be safe and healthy.

Prayers and blessings to all,

(Burt Streicher, Council President)





## **Return to Worship Guidelines for the month of August**

**Please do not attend if you are  
experiencing any symptoms of  
illness.**

**Please do not talk or socialize in  
the church building.**

**Masks are mandatory in order to  
comply with state guidelines.  
Please make sure your mask  
covers both your nose and mouth.**

**Hand sanitizer and gloves are  
available.**

**Pews are marked for seating in  
order to maintain physical  
distancing.**

**There will be no Eucharist or  
sharing of the peace. We will not  
sing hymns; please do not sing  
even though we are wearing  
masks.**

**Offering plates are available  
at both entrances.**

## **Puppet Ministry Team News**

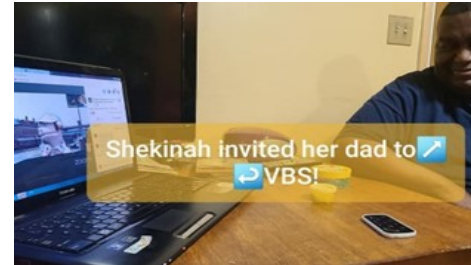
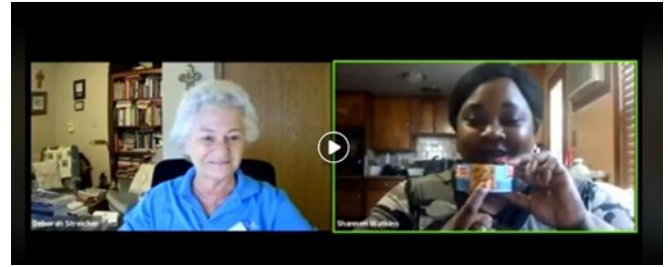


The puppet ministry team has been busy since beginning on Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, when the first week of Vacation Bible School launched online. Every Monday and Wednesday evening through August 12<sup>th</sup>, puppets are part of Facebook Live posts as they tell about God Sightings and show where they have taken their “Flat Jesus”.

Recordings to tell about the theme each week are shown featuring Emily and Erica Metheny in the roles of Cam Track and Loralie. Many thanks to our puppeteers, Emily and Erica Metheny, Burt Streicher, Katie and Tamela Rankin, and Quinn, Taylor, and Payton Mandell for making the presentations fun for all ages.

Debbie Streicher has been working behind the scenes with the team and also attended the Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers National Conference held online for three days in July. Stay tuned for more venues involving the team both online and off in the near future.

# Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School 2020



Vacation Bible School has been a success this year even though we were unable to meet face to face. It began on July 13<sup>th</sup> and ends on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Presentations and Storytelling have been taking place every Monday and Wednesday evening on Facebook Live at 7:00 pm. 43 children and their families (plus a few adults who have asked to join us) are involved in the activities received in packets before VBS began and are invited to post on the Facebook page as well.

Many thanks to our storyteller, Rick Metheny, for using his creativity to tell Bible stories. Thanks as well to the puppet team (see Puppet Ministry News article) and co-hosts: Debbie Streicher, Shannon Watkins, Stacey Sanker, Julie Courtney, and Pastor Ryan Viands for making the presentations fun and interesting.

As much as we wanted to gather face to face for our final presentation, the wiser choice at this time is to remain online for our closing. On Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, we will have our story telling time and close with a few songs, recordings from some of the participants, and a special visitor.

**Following the final online closing session for Vacation Bible School, families will be invited to drive to St. Paul's and get their M&Ms that the engineer, Cam Track, finally brought down the mountain on the train to share with everyone. The families will meet Cam Track and Loralie as they drive through to pick up their treats on Friday, August 14th between 5:00 and 6:00 pm.**





August - 5 – Terry Hostetler  
8 – Joy Zembower  
11 – John Beegle  
30 – Harriet Douglas



**The Union Rescue Mission has the following immediate needs:**

Diapers: Sizes 4, 5 and 6  
Baby wipes  
Pillows  
Towels and washcloths  
Blankets  
Shampoo  
Men's Deodorant  
Feminine hygiene items  
Canned meats  
Peanut butter

**Items can be brought to St. Paul's; we will take donated supplies to the mission when they can be safely delivered. Monetary donations are always welcome:**

16 Queen City Pavement,  
Cumberland, MD 21502



**Roxanne Peck**

1954 – 2020

APPS lost one of its best, most-dedicated and favorites.

She never failed to show up on Wednesdays to help prepare meals for the kids & helpers and share her contagious laughter. We'll miss you, Roxanne, and extend our deepest sympathies to husband Bill, grandsons Robert and Marshall (APPS helpers, too) and extended family.

Heaven must have needed you more than we did.  
God bless you.

## PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

*May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.*

*May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.*

*May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.*

*May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.*

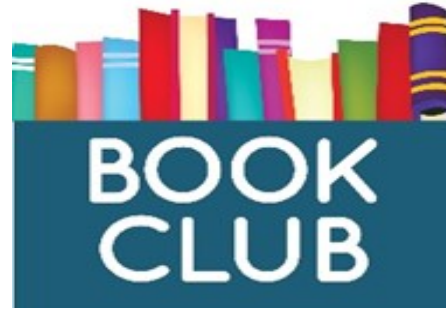
*May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no place to go.*

*May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.*

*May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.*

*During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.*

*Amen.*



The Book Club is reading  
**The Indigo Girl** (historical fiction)  
by Natasha Boyd.

Based on historical documents, including Eliza's letters, the main character, Elizabeth (Eliza) Lucas Pinckney, *The Indigo Girl*, tells the story of a remarkable young woman who changed agriculture in colonial South Carolina where she produced indigo dye. It became one of the largest exports out of South Carolina, an export that laid the foundation for the incredible wealth of several Southern families who still live on today.

Although largely overlooked by historians, the accomplishments of Eliza Lucas influenced the course of US history. When she passed away in 1793, President George Washington served as a pallbearer at her funeral.

We meet via Zoom for lively and thought provoking discussions. Please join us! A time for discussion will be scheduled for late August. Please contact Kathleen Ball if you're interested in joining the group!





## ***Congratulations Dave Christopher!!***

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>August 2</b>
10:00 AM	Worship
<b>Monday</b>	<b>August 3</b>
<b>Beginning Summer Camp Week</b>	
7:00 PM	VBS-Facebook Live
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>August 5</b>
7:00 PM	VBS Storytelling/FB Live
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>August 9</b>
10:00 AM	Worship
<b>Monday</b>	<b>August 10</b>
7:00 PM	VBS-Facebook Live
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>August 11</b>
5:30 PM	Church Council meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>August 12</b>
7:00 PM	VBS Finale-Facebook Live
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>August 13</b>
4:00-6:00	Drive-thru Bountiful Blessings
<b>Friday</b>	<b>August 14</b>
5:00-6:00	VBS-M&M drive thru
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>August 16</b>
10:00 AM	Worship
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>August 23</b>
10:00 AM	Worship
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>August 27</b>
4:00-6:00	Drive-thru Bountiful Blessings
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>August 30</b>
10:00 AM	Worship

The ***We Are Fort Hill*** Committee has selected Dave Christopher and Paul Green as this year's **Deeds, Not Words** award recipients. Dave Christopher is a charter member of the F-Club where he was active and held several offices. He has been a board member of the Fort Hill Scholarship Fund and co-chaired the stadium committee representing the Fort Hill Community. Dave also assists with the car show and dance to raise funds for the Greenway Avenue Stadium Capital Improvement Fund. He has always had a passion for Fort Hill football and holds the record for attending 706 consecutive games over the last 63 years.

## **Save the date**

Pastor Ryan's  
installation

Sunday, September 13th  
4:00 p.m.

**Please wear red!**





# St. Paul's Picnic

## Lakewood Beach Pavillion

### June 28, 2020

