



ST. PAUL'S
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
714 Herbertsville Road
Brick, NJ 08724
www.StPaulsBrick.org

MAY 2026



Dear St Paul's:

I want to use the pastor piece for this month to highlight the National Day of Prayer. This observation occurs each year on the first Thursday of May. The National Day of Prayer organization set a theme for prayer focus, and this year it is "Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations."

From the National Day of Prayer website: "our theme is inspired by a passionate prayer of Thanksgiving, prayed by King David in 1 Chronicles 16 after bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. This chapter records Israel celebrating the return of the Ark after being separated for 70 years earlier. While God was always watching over Israel and just a prayer away from them and King David, the Ark of the Covenant represented the presence of God having been constructed at the command of God and carried by the Levites with Moses as they wandered and waited to enter the Promised Land and eventually stolen from the tabernacle in Shiloh at their defeat in the battle in Ebenezer. I'll pause here in its history for now. Thankfully, we have an entire year to unpack 365 days or more of all the prayers and prompts we can glean from this theme.

We are excited and delighted to share the 2026 National Day of Prayer theme with you, and ask that you commit to pray with us each week as God blesses us as we seek Him in Scripture and fervent prayer and glorifying Him through the 2026 National Day of Prayer theme that prompts us to, "Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations."

This year, we will have our National Day of Prayer service at Living Faith Bible Church on Thursday, May 7th at 7pm. Come pray and worship.

Pastor Evan

**May's
Communion
Offering
Will
Benefit
UMC
United
Methodist
Communities**



This cup
is the new
covenant
in my blood.
Which is
poured
out for
you.
Luke 22:20



UMC

Abundant Life for Seniors

United Methodist Communities is driven by principles of faith and charitable mission to serve seniors of all faiths, backgrounds and needs.

Throughout our 112-year history, UMC has continued to grow and innovate to meet the needs of older adults. The nonprofit, faith-based organization began in response to the post-Civil War need for retirement housing for Methodist missionaries, deaconesses, pastors, and laity.

First15's Daily Devotional, a great online resource offers:

Past failures do not have to dictate the outcome of future battles. In fact, if we will allow the Holy Spirit to use past failures to reveal to us ways in which he longed to lead us away from temptation, past sins become stepping stones on which we achieve future victories. Titus 2:11-14 says, *"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."*

Please consider picking up just one of the following items for our pantry shelves – all of which are available at the Dollar Tree. Thank you!

- ✓ Toilet Paper
- ✓ Mayonnaise
- ✓ Tomato Sauce
- ✓ Juice
- ✓ Laundry Detergent



United Methodist Communities
FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CHRIST

OUR MISSION

Compassionately serving in community so that all are free to choose abundant life

OUR VISION

Growing through creativity, innovation and gracious hospitality

OUR VALUES

Compassion

Demonstrating love in our daily interactions

Respect

Seeing and valuing sacred worth

Stewardship

Faithfully managing the resources entrusted to us

Service

Finding joy in caring



Bible Studies Available

Please check out the new bulletin board in the hall outside of Joy's office. On it, you will see a current list of all Bible Studies at St. Paul's.

Also, if you have a study that you would like added to the board, please let Bev Miller know.



**JOIN US ON SUNDAY, JUNE 7th
2pm – 4pm**

At RAH, "It Starts With a Meal" and it leads to resilience, self-sufficiency, education, empowerment and bright futures in communities worldwide. Every day RAH's meals are served around the globe in medical clinics, vocational training programs, elder care facilities and schools. Each meal is a moment to celebrate. Targeting remote, last-mile communities within hunger pockets worldwide, RAH is instrumental in helping entire families get nourishment.



ALBANIA BOUND!

St. Paul's Missions Team will be working in Albania this month. Planned projects will support some of the many operations under Hands of Providence International in Maliq, Albania. H.O.P. currently runs a residential home for boys, a women's ministry, a daycare center, a food distribution facility and a center for Gypsy and ethnic communities. The municipality of Maliq has ninety-eight villages with no other Evangelical churches. The vision of Hands of Providence is to plant a church in each village that is located within the municipality. They currently have nine church plants. Their evangelical teams preach in the villages every day via door to door! Your prayers and support are very much appreciated. Thank you.

Look at all the opportunities!

ALBANIA –St. Paul's Mission team will be heading to Albania May 1st – May 10th. We currently have a team that will travel over to lend support to Hands of Providence International, headed by Plator and Nicole Colloku. The team will be busy assisting in the building projects in the Boy's Home and also focusing on improving children's programs throughout the community. As the departure dates draws nearer, a more detailed "to-do" list as well as what is hoped to be accomplished will be shared with the congregation.

LOCAL MISSIONS – Every first and third Saturday morning, from 9 to noon, St. Paul's volunteers operate the "Clothing Closet" in Asbury Park. Donations are sorted and shoppers are assisted in selecting their FREE clothing items. The "Clothing Closet" ministry is a friendly, upbeat atmosphere with a great opportunity of serving that requires minimal time and effort.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming RISE Against Hunger event on June 7th. This year, St. Paul's will be the host. This is always a fun way to help others.

While partnering with Cypress Missions, there are ongoing volunteer opportunities galore to consider, including Sisters Academy in Asbury Park, Dina's Dwelling in New Brunswick and Delanco Camp in Tabernacle. If you would like to sign up to help with restoring and painting cabins at Delanco Camp, our next scheduled work day is May 8th.

In our continuing effort to show our appreciation to Veterans and their families, we will once again be teaming up with Cypress Missions during Memorial Day Weekend. We will come together on Saturday, May 23rd to complete minor home repairs at three different locations.

SUMMER YOUTH MISSION TRIP - Plans are underway for St. Paul's Summer Youth and Family Mission Trip to Delanco Camp in Tabernacle, NJ. Fellowship, games and cabin repairs will fill the days of June 23rd through June 26th.

Mission updates are also posted in "News From The Pews" emails.
Doug Buechler, Missions Team Leader at 973.495.4377

If anyone sees a fellow believer in need and has the means to help him, yet shows no pity and closes his heart against him, how is it even possible that God's love lives in him? 1 John 3:17 (Passion Translation)



Thursday, May 7th

The mission of the National Day of Prayer Task Force is: "Centered on the Lord Jesus Christ, the National Day of Prayer Task Force exists to mobilize unified public and personal prayer for America."

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. The National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans. It is a day that transcends differences, bringing together citizens from all backgrounds. Mrs. Shirley Dobson, NDP chairman, reminds us: "We have lost many of our freedoms in America because we have been asleep. I feel if we do not become involved and support the annual National Day of Prayer, we could end up forfeiting this freedom, too."



GREAT JOB!

Pictured are just a few of the many talented Picassos that pitched in to help with the recent paint project.

(l-r) Bill Bush, Cathy Porzio, Sharon Buechler and Don Blair.

Looks great!

**Come out and enjoy the warm weather
and help with a few chores!**



Saturday, May 16th

Stay and pitch in for just an hour or two... totally your schedule. Come and help around the building and the church grounds. Call with any questions.

St. Paul's Mission Team and Cypress Missions continue their work on veteran's home.

Although Vietnam veteran and friend, John Bentham recently went home to be with the Lord, we honor his service *and* our obligation to continue our clean-up efforts at his residence. The mission team recently filled a number of truckloads of cut-up tree limbs and brush from around the property, allowing his widow, Sharon and their cherished dog, Penelope, to safely enjoy walking around their property.

John's wife, Sharon thanks everyone at St. Paul's for their support and prayers on her behalf. Many thanks to Billy Shaffer and Ryan Scott for moving John's boat. In addition to volunteers of Cypress Missions, gratitude goes out to Doug and Sharon Buechler, Bill Bush and Don Blair for leading the work effort. Even St. Paul's "Pickleballer", Jim Dempsey joined in, as is his nature. Jim frequently "pauses play" to also help Debbi and her pantry clients with their bags of food.

Cypress Missions has also chosen John and Sharon's house to be one of those included in their annual Memorial Weekend improvement day to show appreciation to local veterans. Please contact Doug for information on joining any projects.



Pictured above:

John and Sharon Bentham checking out their new porch from Cypress Missions

STRONGER HEARTS FOR CHRIST

Come on out and see what fun this is! Stronger Hearts For Christ is led by Don Blair. It is a fun; hour long work-out of cross training exercises for every skill level. Classes are held every Monday and Thursday beginning at 6pm



What a beautiful way to honor someone or to mark a special occasion!

Dates may be reserved on the Flower Chart posted in the Narthex. Cost is only \$30 and arrangement is yours to take after service.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
Zephaniah 3:17



Senior Joy is BACK!!

The next Senior JOY luncheon program will be on

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Our time together will begin at 11:30 with lunch and fellowship, followed by our devotion time.

Join us in the Youth Room. Please bring your own sandwich, but beverages AND desserts will be provided. Extra desserts are always appreciated.

All are welcome!

*Our definition of "Senior" is
"Anyone available in the daytime"!*

"Today is mine. Tomorrow is none of my business. If I peer anxiously into the fog of the future, I will strain my spiritual eyes so that I will not see clearly what is required of me now."

❖ Elisabeth Elliot

Only a Few Spots Left!

"Adopt-A-Spot" Program is a huge success! There are only a few spots left if you are interested. This is a great volunteer opportunity to keep our church grounds looking good. Spaces are small and are maintained on your schedule, your way. Check out the bulletin board outside Trustees' office.

WORSHIP WEDNESDAY



Join us for a casual "coffeehouse" style service. Looking for a spiritual boost in the midst of a hectic week? Every Wednesday at 7"ish", we gather together in the youth room to pray, worship and meditate on God's word over coffee, tea and sweet treats. *Everyone is welcome!*

Check Out the New Bible Study "A Jesus-Shaped Life"

New bible study starts April 30th. "A Jesus-Shaped Life", by Lisa Harper - *How Biblically Sound Theology Deepens Our Relationship with God and Each Other.*

Theology is the study of God, His love for us, His plan for us, and all kinds of beauty. Theology teaches us the awesomeness of God and the richness of life with Him and others! This is a 7-week bible study with video. Books are available, but not necessary. Weekly classes will be held on Thursdays at 7pm in the library. Reserve your spot with Bill Beaver or Renee Schiess.



Want to include a bible study in your life?

Do you feel you are unable to lose weight?

Are you finding it hard to exercise?

Do you find it hard to stay connected to God through your busy day?

Do you want to be free from making unhealthy life choices?

Would you like to meet new Christian friends?

If any of these apply to you, join our support group.



Faith



Food



FOCUS



Fitness



Friends



Supportive Community of Other Christians who have discovered just what it means to submit their health to God



St. Paul's UMC Church
714 Herbertsville Rd
Brick, N.J 08724

Most Wednesdays
at 6:30 p.m. the
church library
See Lisee DeBona or
Ann Blais
Call Church Office
732-458-2080

What to Expect:

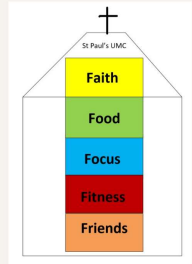
Bible studies
Video presentations
Discussions
Guest Speakers
Dining Out Nights
Chair Yoga
Lasting Friendships

Samples of Studies we are working on or have completed



Sample Topics

Healthy Eating
Weight Loss Techniques
Recipes
Mindfulness
Positive Thinking
Health Concerns
Managing our Emotions
Having a relationship with God
Faithfully Fit
Curb your Cravings
Focus your mind
Creating healthy relationships
Affirmations
Creating New Habits
Stress Relief
Prayer & Meditation
Nutrition Wisdom



Building Your Temple One Small Step at a Time



Please support our objective to keep our sanctuary clean. Only water will be allowed. Thank you

You're Invited to a



May 9, 2026

Come out (while staying indoors!) and join the rest of us "que" lovers for some good fun and great food!

Ribs and Chicken! Yummy! Reservation deadline is Tuesday, May 5th. For more information, please call the church office.

Reserve early!

Free-will donation box at entrance.



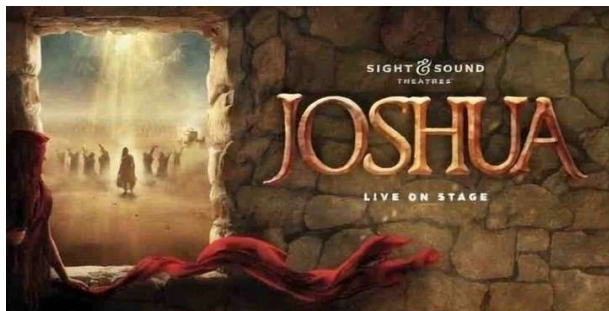
Join us for coffee, tea, juice and a snack during Fellowship time every week after 1st service. Just follow everyone else down the hallway into Norcross Hall. It is an enjoyable, casual time to chat with friends and welcome new visitors.

And remember, if you or a group would like to sign up to host a fellowship hour, call the church office for more details or find the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Donations of baked goods are always needed and very much appreciated.



Easter Cantata was a HUGE Success AGAIN! Thank you, Amanda and Music Ministry!



TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026

From the banks of the Jordan River to the majestic walls of Jericho, JOSHUA presents a miraculous adventure for the entire family. Accompany the people of Israel as they navigate their newly found freedom in a harsh wilderness. As Joshua steps in to succeed Moses as their devoted leader, tensions rise up amid dwindling resources and impending armies. With only one fortified city left between the Israelites and the Promised Land, unexpected aid appears behind enemy lines testing Joshua's faith in God's plan.



Stewardship Spotlight

Periodically we would like to honor members of St. Paul's using their God-given gifts, time and talents in remarkable ways. If you would like to nominate someone for this segment please email "media@stpaulsbrick.org" with your reasons for why this individual or group deserves recognition.

CIRCUIT RIDER

Francis Asbury (1745-1816), the founding bishop of American Methodism, established the precedent for circuit riding. Together with his driver and partner "Black Harry" Hosier, he traveled 270,000 miles and preached 16,000 sermons as he made his way up and down early America supervising clergy. He was quoted as saying, "We must reach every section of America, especially the raw frontiers.



We must not be afraid of men, devils, wild animals, or disease. Our motto must always be FORWARD!" It's difficult to comprehend the hardships faced by Methodist "circuit riders" in early America. Methodist Church records from 1844 show a church membership of over 1 million, with 4,000 ministers riding circuits in the U.S.

To God Be The Glory!

The Women of St. Paul's wish to thank everyone who supported the events which we sponsored in 2025. The success of those events enabled us to contribute to the following missions. We look forward to a successful 2026!

Listed below is a breakdown of \$15,286.00 that the WOSP distributed last year.

ALL TO GOD'S GLORY!

Mission	Amount
Central Appalachian Missionary Conf.	225
Compassion International	506
Contact Ocean County	225
CRU (Matt and Erin)	225
Cypress Missions	225
Dennis & Michele Craker	225
Dottie's House	225
Haiti Mission	225
Hands of Providence (Albania)	825
Henderson Home	225
Lizette & Andy Bowen - Paraguay	225
Medical Center Chaplain	225
Methodist Home	225
Ocean's Harbor House	225
Open Door Pregnancy Center	225
Ranch Hope	225
Step of Faith/Maple Leaf Community	225
Step of Faith Ministries	225
UMCOR	225
ZOE Empowers	225
Church Janitor Supplies	50
Church Office Supplies	50
Food Pantry	350
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	700
St. Paul's Apportionments	600
St. Paul's Mortgage	600
Tender Hearts Christmas	120
Youth Group	800
Church Lights	500
Church Utilities	1896
Deacon Scholarship	1800
Music Dept. Keyboard	949
Mustard Seed Scholarship Fund	500
Sanctuary Christmas Tree & Décor	285
Unified Reserve	705



Who is this guy helping at Delanco Camp?
Good job, Michael!



Wow! This guy, Doug pops up everywhere to help and we couldn't be more grateful.

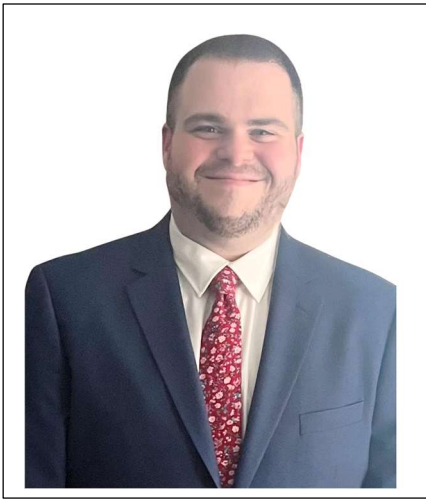
Food Pantry Hour:
4pm – 6pm
2nd & 4th Tuesday
Open to the Public



Pet Food Pantry Hours
4pm – 6pm
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
Open to the Public



The Pet Ministry is always looking for new members. If you would like to join the group or get more information, contact Ivy Kirn about the next Organizational meeting.



A letter from David Geller

Dear St. Paul's Church Family,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ. The author of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a time for everything under heaven, and this is one of those moments.

As many of you know, in addition to being Director of Congregational Care here at St. Paul's, I am also appointed by our Bishop and Cabinet as Pastor of two small congregations in our local area, and that position is subject to change every year based on the needs of churches and the gifts of Pastors. With that said, I want to let you know that I have received a new Full-Time Appointment from our Bishop to serve as Pastor at St. Paul's UMC in Bay Head, effective July 1, 2026. Because of this, I will be resigning as Director of Congregational Care, effective June 30, 2026, with sadness.

Words cannot adequately express my gratitude for the love and support I have received from each of you, first as the seminary Pastoral Intern and now as the Director of Congregational Care. The way you have welcomed me and accepted my leadership means more than you will ever know. From my first day here in September of 2024, I immediately felt a part of the family. I pray you will continue to make all feel welcome to encounter the love and grace of Christ, for that is what the church is all about. So that, in our labor for the Lord, we may truly see God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. To my beloved congregational care team, your faithfulness and dedication are unmatched. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the way you care so well for our church, and I could not be half the leader I have become without you all.

I am also aware that the announcement of my departure from this position may cause some questions about the future leadership of this vital and expanding ministry. I ask that you keep the SPRC committee in your prayers as they discern the best path forward. But, for now, it is still my joy to walk the journey of faith and life with you.

And so, my friends, while starting to say goodbye is never easy, I leave knowing that God will bring the good work that he is and has done among us to completion in Christ Jesus our Lord. Yet, there is more good news. Although I am leaving this staff position, we serve in a connectional church, and I look forward to the ways we can work together.

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

(Jude 1:24-25)

With all my gratitude and love,
David

CAN YOU HELP?



May 16, 2026

Saturday, 10am – 2pm

BARGAINS GALORE!

No price increase.... Still **only \$5** to fill a bag with clothing! Shop early for the best selection. Bring a friend.... Enjoy lunch after you find your bargains. It is a great time for a great cause!

It takes a lot of effort and participation to ensure our rummage sales generate funds to support dozens of worthy causes throughout the year. The WOSP appreciates your help by donating clothing, linen, jewelry and white elephant items on the day BEFORE the sale.

The WOSP also needs some help from fellow church members on either of these days:

- May 15th for room set-up
- May 16th for sales and/or clean-up assistance

In an effort to improve overall rummage sale operations, the committee is seeking a few more church members to join the team.

The church office can provide more information.

Many hands make light work

One person = 20 hours
Twenty people = 1 hour

The math is simple. Whether it is a work day around the church, helping set up the rummage sale or cleaning up after an event, please consider donating 60 minutes to help us to help others

Do you have any of the following to give to ...

Christkindlmarket?

Committee is seeking larger sized Christmas lawn ornaments, Christmas decorations and lights. They are also in need of pop-up canopies. Contact Kim Gavaletz for more information

VBS?

VBS needs any sized cardboard boxes. They may be left at the Youth Director's door.

If anyone is looking to get rid of any of the above items, please let the office know.

"LET US NOT BECOME WEARY IN DOING GOOD, FOR AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP".

GALATIANS 6:9

1on1 PRAYER MINISTRY

ANNE MACALUSO IS GENEROUSLY OFFERING HER ONE-ON-ONE PRAYER MINISTRY AND SPIRITUAL COMPANSHIP FOR ANYONE STRUGGLING WITH A NEED, BE IS SPIRITUAL, PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL.

LET HER BE THE GODLY LISTENING EAR YOU DESIRE.
LET HER PRAY JUST FOR YOU. YOU DESERVE IT.