



"THE SPIRE"

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

165 E. Square Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Web site — spumc.net **E-mail address:** stpaulumcbh@gmail.com

"The Pastor's Pen"



Pastor Maurice Horne

"A Look Forward"

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

As we look forward into the remainder of 2020, we have a few meetings scheduled and the entire congregation is invited to attend. During the Covid-19 pandemic, all meetings will be held by Zoom. There will be no in person meetings.

- A Finance Meeting will be held on October 13 at 1:30 pm.
- Sunday, October 18, is Laity Sunday. This is a day when the laity share their God given gifts and lead the congregation in worship. I will be in worship on that day, but as one of our own. Leslie Faraci will bring the message.
- On October 22 at 6:00 pm, there will be a Ministry Meeting for the entire congregation to begin the conversation about our ministry here at St. Paul. We will discuss the life cycle of the church and the urgent need to do something about it. I will be referencing the book, *"Small Church Checkup"* by Kay Kotan and Phil Schroeder. This meeting will help us begin to assess the health of St. Paul UMC. After these first steps, we can begin looking at the process of creating a treatment plan to help move us forward. During the Lenten Season, I will teach a 4-week class on *"Small Church Checkup"*. This will not be a quick fix plan and there are many changing factors involved. So, we must be prayerful, patience, and persistent.
- November 3 is election day. Please, remember to vote for the candidate of your choice.
- Our next Leadership meeting will be held on November 10 at 7 pm.
- On Sunday, November 15, we will celebrate Stewardship Sunday. On this day we will collect all the pledges that each member promises to give to support the ministry in 2021. I will send out a letter soon explaining the details of this special day.
- Our Charge Conference will be held by Zoom and is scheduled for December 3 at 7:00 pm. The Staff/Parish Relation Committee will meet at 6:15 pm. Charge Conference consist of filling out a lot of paperwork! We will have to begin filling these out early to make sure we can meet our deadlines.
- Our Bible Study class is held by Zoom every Monday at 6:00 pm. We are studying the 3 Missionary Journeys of Paul. We average about 20 people in each class. We have attendees from Pennsylvania, Washington, and Florida. If you are interested in joining the class, email me and I will send you a zoom invitation plus the material that we are studying.
- Marjorie Kumar hosts a coffee hour every Thursday morning at 10:00 am. If you are interested in joining, email the office and Irene will send you an invitation.

Until next month, may God richly bless you.

Rev. Maurice Horne

October 2020

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Is there something
you'd like to see
in *"The Spire"*?

Call or email the office
by the 15th of each Month
(248) 338-8233
stpaulumcbh@gmail.com

From our Finance Committee Chair. . . .Doug Sweeder

2021 Stewardship Campaign

2020 has been the most unusual year in the life of St. Paul.

January started with Rev. Frederick going on permanent disability due to his health.

COVID struck and we shut St. Paul's doors, a first in my church lifetime.

Your incredibly nervous Finance Committee suspended pay for most of the staff until we understood the impact COVID-19 on St. Paul. (We had two new employees that started in March. What a welcome!)

Our interim pastor, Rev. Joe, started the week we closed the church. His first sermon was delivered on our website. We were fortunate that he had 30+ years of experience.

Congress passed the CARE Act. We successfully applied for and received \$10,400 from the Payroll Protection Program. Our employees were back on the payroll. We think this will be forgiven.

We hastily implemented an On-Line Giving option on our website.

The Leadership Team voted to re-open St. Paul with the Governor's OK and stringent safety procedures in place.

St. Paul welcomed our new Pastor, Rev. Maurice Horne. The parsonage was partially renovated.

Our standard renters slowly returned, but they are still meeting in the parking lots and most are paying a reduced amount. Earlier this week, I noticed them in their coats. Wait till it starts snowing! They should be inside pretty soon. Parties rentals will not resume until 2021.

The Finance Team thanks our St. Paul family for continuing to support the church during all the events mentioned above. Without your unwavering support, 2020 could have been a difficult, if not impossible, year.

Still coming in 2020 is our 2021 Stewardship Campaign. Our Campaign will kick off on October 18, 2020 and conclude with Celebration Sunday November 15. Sorry, no food allowed in this environment. I know that most of you have been thru many Stewardship Campaigns. A typical reaction is "Sign me up for last year's pledge." After this year, that's sounding pretty good, but we hope to do better. St. Paul needs your increased support so we can return to our mission and outreach programs and run the operations of the church.

You will be receiving a Stewardship letter after October 18 with a pledge card inside. Consider your pledge prayerfully. Please, return the pledge card by November 18 in person, by mail or use our new on-line option. If you prefer to give, but not pledge, that is OK. But it is helpful for your Finance Team if you give us an estimate of your 2021 giving.



GET A SNACK AND SOME REST BY DILLON BURNS IN MICHIGAN CONFERENCE MAGAZINE

Oh, hello! I almost didn't see you there. My name is Dillon; I'm the pastor at Manchester United Methodist Church, and I've always kind of wanted to start one of these videos just like that. It's a little bit like how they may have started a mid-90s children's TV program, and that's a little bit what I'm going for here today, I guess. A little bit of a gimmick — I've got a blanket around my shoulders here — and a little bit childlike, because what I'd like to talk about is the spiritual power of napping.



Yes, you heard me right: the spiritual practice of spending some time in the middle of your day not doing any work and sleeping instead. And I promise you it is, in fact, a scriptural notion. Let me tell you where I'm pulling it from: it's this fantastic, maybe tongue-in-cheek interpretation of a story of [Elijah in 1 Kings, chapter 19](#). Now, Elijah has just had a run-in with some false prophets, he may or may not have killed all of them, and he may or may not be in deep trouble as a result. So he's freaking out a little bit, running away and fearing for his life.

Here's 1 Kings 19, starting in verse 3. “Elijah was terrified. He got up and ran for his life. The prophet arrived at Beer-sheba in Judah and left his assistant there. He went farther on into the desert a day's journey. He finally sat down under a solitary broom bush. He longed for his own death: ‘It's more than enough, Lord! Take my life because I'm no better than my ancestors.’ He lay down and slept under the solitary broom bush.

“Then suddenly a messenger tapped him and said to him, ‘Get up! Eat something!’ Elijah opened his eyes and saw flatbread baked on glowing coals and a jar of water right by his head. He ate and drank, and then went back to sleep. The Lord's messenger returned a second time and tapped him. ‘Get up!’ the messenger said. ‘Eat something because you have a difficult road ahead of you.’ Elijah got up, ate and drank, and went refreshed by that food for forty days and nights until he arrived at Horeb, God's mountain.”

And that is a quick transition from fearing for his life, wishing he was dead, to arriving at God's mountain. He goes from here to have a pretty intense encounter with God, and what was it that turned it all around? A snack and a nap.

Again, it's a slightly tongue-in-cheek interpretation, but the practice of napping isn't all that outside of the scriptural tradition. In the very beginning, God institutes a practice for us all, which is to say that we work for six days, and then we rest for a day. There is something fundamental about taking time off, where we are not working and trusting that life goes on just the same, trusting that God is, in fact, in charge enough that we can rest every once in a while. And so we have six days on and one day off, but also perhaps a few hours on and an hour of napping.

The challenge, often — at least I have found this to be the case — is that we so frequently tie our worth and value to our productivity. We have this ingrained work ethic, which says that we have to do a lot to justify our place, to justify having the things that we have. We believe that we should work hard to get anything, that we should pull ourselves up by our bootstraps, that it is our blood, sweat, and tears that allow us to eke out a living in this life.

The only trouble with this very simple formula — that you get what you work for — is how it stands against the premise of scripture that God gives more than we could ever earn. It doesn't seem quite right to build a whole life based around a different formula than the pattern that God works from. In fact, there's a parable you might remember, talking about how people who worked for different amounts of time throughout a day all got the same paycheck at the end. Our value and the things that we should have in life are not intended to be based around what we have earned but based on the intrinsic value that we have to God.

So, it is good to work, it is very good to work, but it's also good to rest. We have the freedom to do both. And so, I invite you today — if you think you might need a nap, even if you think you might not — consider taking one and letting things run without you for a moment. Get some rest and know that God is in charge and doles out with abundance and generosity that isn't based on what we have earned. Have a blessed and restful day, friends.

Taste of Home

Mexican Chicken Corn Chowder



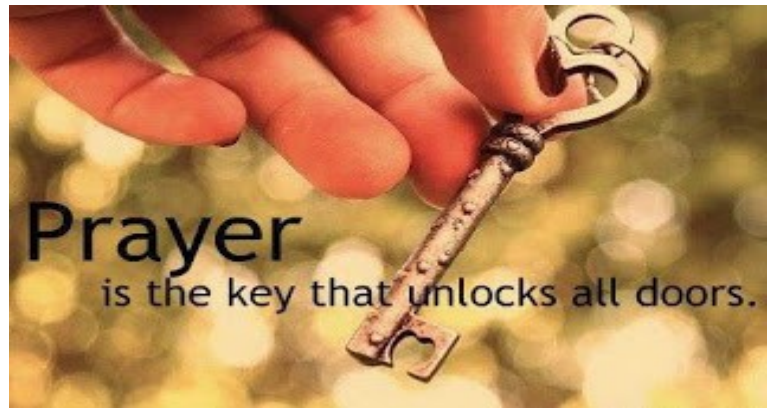
If you're like me, you love a hot bowl of soup, especially on blustery Fall day. Here's a quick 30 minute recipe sure to satisfy your amigos.

Ingredients

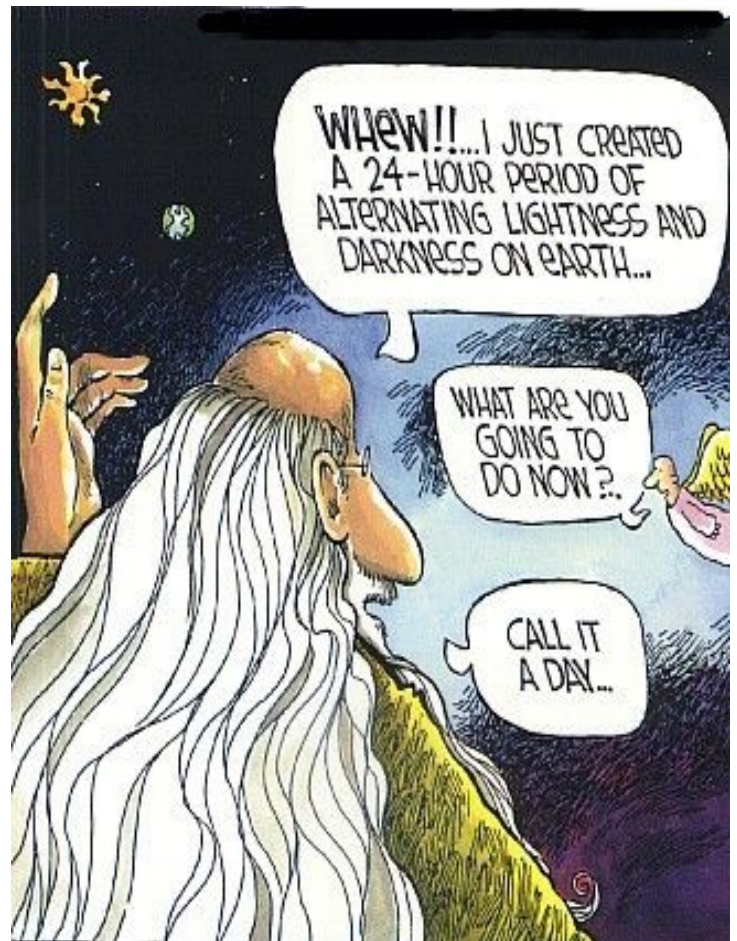
- 1-1/2 pounds boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 to 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 cup hot water
- 2 teaspoons chicken bouillon granules
- 1/2 to 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 2 cups half-and-half cream
- 2 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 can (14-3/4 ounces) cream-style corn
- 1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chiles, undrained
- 1/4 to 1 teaspoon hot pepper sauce
- 1 medium tomato, chopped

Directions

- In a Dutch oven, brown chicken and onion in butter until chicken is no longer pink. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer. Add the water, bouillon and cumin; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 5 minutes.
- Stir in the cream, cheese, corn, chiles and hot pepper sauce. Cook and stir over low heat until cheese is melted; add tomato. If desired, top with cilantro and tortilla strips.



- ♥ For our world's leaders and our country
 - ♥ For our church family and shut-in members
- Special Prayers requests:***
- ♥ The Lowell Family at the passing of Peggy
 - ♥ The Janice Doxtader at the passing of her husband Bill on September 17
 - ♥ The Bluhm Family at the passing of Barbara





Have you ever thought about the following?

- I want to see my grandchildren grow up.
- I want to continue living independently.
- I don't want to be a burden on my family.

Preventive screenings can help and we have partnered with Life Line Screening to provide these valuable screenings.

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at:

St. Paul United Methodist Church on 10/23/2020.

A package of five screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

- Carotid artery ultrasound to identify plaque buildup in the carotid arteries, a major risk factor for stroke
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm ultrasound to identify presence of an enlargement in the largest blood vessel in the body
- An EKG to identify the presence of atrial fibrillation, which increases the risk for stroke
- Ultrasound of the lower legs to look for plaque buildup known as peripheral artery disease
- Ultrasound of the shin bone to identify risk for osteoporosis

These 5 vital screenings are offered for only \$149 and take 60-90 minutes to complete.

If you register today, you will receive a \$10 discount.

Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441 or text the word "circle" to 797979.

Wonderfully Made —

by: Syd Hielema

<https://today.reframemedia.com/devotions/>

Scripture Reading — Psalm 139

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. . . . Search me, God. . . . See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. — [Psalm 139:14, 23-24](#)

These verses from Psalm 139 remind us that while each one of us is a beautiful creation of the Lord, there are also offensive ways inside us that need to be dealt with.

After the fall into sin (described in Genesis 3), we human beings continue to live as precious works of the Creator while also needing to be redeemed from sin and brokenness. So in his great and amazing love for us, God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the price for our sin and to give us new life forever with him. And now the Spirit of God lives in us, guiding us to become like Jesus. He leads us "in the way everlasting."

The apostle Paul describes it this way: "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me" ([Galatians 2:20](#)), giving us one of the clearest statements in the Bible about dying to live.

The fact that we are fearfully and wonderfully made—and remade—leads to some of the most glorious announcements in Scripture, like this one: "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy" ([1 Peter 2:9-10](#)).

Prayer

Thank you, Father, Son, and Spirit, for your gifts of creation and redemption. Continue to search us and to lead us in your way ever-lasting. Amen.



Now Hear This



Book Study

We are planning a 5 week online study of the book "Finding Peace in an Anxious World" . This book, edited by Erin James-Brown, offers some practical insights to help Christians find their way through anxiety, worry, and fear and move towards God's peace that surpasses all understanding. Using "The Serenity Prayer" as a scaffold, Finding Peace in an Anxious World explores ways to discover peace

through scriptural and spiritual disciplines so that we can be rooted in God and energized to live fully as disciples of Christ. This study is tentatively planned for a Tuesday evening starting October 6. Everyone is welcome! If you're interested please, let us know in the office or contact Marjorie Kumar (home: 248-334-4146 or cell: 248-202-2120)

Pastor's bible study

Pastor Horne will be presenting the fascinating journey of Paul. This online study will focus on his travels, the churches he built and the reasons he wrote the letters to the early church. This study will bring to life Paul's struggles and triumphs. Running through November 2, it will be a study you won't want to miss! Contact the office or Pastor Horne at Pastorhorne55@yahoo.com to reserve your space today!

Thursday Go-to-Meetin'

Missing connecting with our St. Paul friends and family? Well, no more! Join us for Thursday Go-to-Meetin' using a remote app. No travel time required. It's a time of fellowship, devotions , and a beverage of your choice. For more information or to join the fun, contact Marjorie Kumar at zorrokumar1@aol.com.



Looking for what's happening during the month at St. Paul UMC?

Look no further than the bulletin board! Each month a calendar will be posted with all the activities, services and special events. You can find it in the hallway across from the church office! The calendar is also available on **Google Calendar**. Request your invitation to view the calendar by contacting Irene in the office with your email address.



October 2

Martin & Brenda Nichols



10/4 — Bud Warner
10/8 — Dave McClelland
10/11 — Judy White
10/15 — Ruth Isca
10/18 — John Murphy
10/22 — Joshua Whitcomb
10/25 — Beverly Lovett

Happy, happy birthday to all of our October birthday folks! May the year ahead bring you blessings, perfect health and all of your birthday wishes come true!!

Sorry, if we missed you! Contact the office so you may be added to the birthday list.

October 2020

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 10am—Thursday Go-to-Meetin' 4pm — PKSA 6pm — Meet and Greet with Pastor Horne	2 5pm — PKSA Event	3 10am — GTAC 10:30am — Shotokan
4 9:45am — Worship Service World Communion Sunday 12pm— GTAC	5 6pm — Zoom Bible study 7pm — Tai Chi	6 4pm — PKSA 6pm — Zoom Meet and Greet with Pastor Horne 6pm — Shotokan	7 6:30pm — GTAC 7pm — Tai Chi	8 10am — Thursday Go-to-Meetin' virtual coffee hour 4pm — PKSA	9	10 10:30am — Shotokan
11 9:45am — Worship Service 12pm — GTAC	12 6pm — Zoom Bible study 7pm — Tai Chi	13 1:30 — Finance Meeting pm — PKSA 6pm — Shotokan	14 6:30pm — GTAC 7pm — Tai Chi	15 10am — Thursday Go-to-Meetin' virtual coffee hour 4pm — PKSA	16	17 10:30am — Shotokan
18 LAITY SUNDAY 9:45am — Worship Service 12pm — GTAC	19 6pm — Zoom Bible study 7pm — Tai Chi	20 4pm — PKSA 6pm — Shotokan	21 6:30pm — GTAC 7pm — Tai Chi	22 10am — Thursday Go-to-Meetin' virtual coffee hour 4pm — PKSA 6pm — All Church Meeting	23 Life Line Screening Day	24 10:30am — Shotokan
25 9:45am — Worship Service 12pm — GTAC	26 6pm — Zoom Bible study 7pm — Tai Chi	27 4pm — PKSA 6pm — Shotokan	28 6:30pm — GTAC 7pm — Tai Chi	29 10am — Thursday Go-to-Meetin' virtual coffee hour 4pm — PKSA	30	31 10:30am — Shotokan 
					You can hear Rev. Horne's message and view the Sunday bulletin by going to. . . spumc.net	