

THE EPISTLE

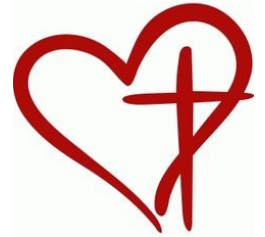
Love the Lord, Serve All



PREOCCUPIED BY LOVE

John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."



Our sermon series for August and September is "Preoccupied by Love". We have looked at Jesus' preoccupation, which was compassion for the troubled and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:35-38). We were challenged to pray with our eyes open so that we SEE the troubled and helpless around us and can offer a prayer, a word of hope, or a tangible offering to them to help meet their need. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Stephen Love, shared the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) and reminded us of God's call to be compassionate, to draw near to the hurting, and to show mercy.

So, I ask you today, with what are you preoccupied? Is LOVE the driving force for your words and actions? Is your day centered around seeking ways to show LOVE? When people are in your presence, what do they feel radiating from you? When people are not in your presence, are you lifting them up in loving and affirming ways?

Or...do you find yourself offering words of criticism and judgment about others. Do you choose to talk more about people rather than talking to people? Are you more concerned with changing someone else's behavior than in becoming more loving in your own behavior? (Luke 6:42)

To be preoccupied by love is a discipline. It a choice to practice certain loving behaviors and to cease from practicing other unloving behaviors.

How loving will you choose to be today? Tomorrow? Will you choose to let love become your preoccupation?

For your sake and for the sake of those you are called to love, I pray that you will choose to be preoccupied by LOVE every day.

Pastor Susan

G.I.G. Kids Kickoff

GiG Kids welcomes all Kindergarten through 6th grade children to join in working on service projects and learning more about God's Word.

We will meet in the Family Life Center every other Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Our first meeting will be September 11th!

Mark your calendars ! We will meet on the following dates: September 11th and 25th, October 9th and 23rd, and November 6th and 20th.

Epworth Offering

Sunday, September 8, we will have an opportunity to invest in the lives of children, and I ask you to join me by making a generous financial gift to the ministry of Epworth Children's Home. We participate in the Annual Work Day offering because Epworth does not receive funding/apportionment through the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Instead, the conference sets aside the second Sunday in September as a day to collect an offering for Epworth.

Epworth is breaking the cycle of abuse, neglect, and shame and replacing it with lives of self-respect, responsibility and productivity. This is the kind of ministry we are providing by giving to Epworth. I ask you to prayerfully consider what God is calling you to share with the children of Epworth on Sunday, September 8.

Gun Buy Back Program

Rev. Hillary Taylor, Pastor of Bethany UMC, has planned a Gun Buy-Back event for **1-5 p.m.**

Saturday, Sept. 7, where gun owners will receive Walmart gift cards worth \$50-\$150, depending on the model and make of the gun. This event will be held at **100 S. Jefferson St.** Look for us at the picnic shelter. It is supported by the Saluda County Sheriff's Department and the Office of our Mayor.

Rev. Taylor wants to disable the guns and repurpose them in the Saluda community as gardening tools or artwork – almost literally playing out Isaiah 2:4: "...they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Adult Ministries

Let's go to Regal Aiken Mall Cinema to see the Downton Abbey movie on **Friday, September 20**, at 1:30 P.M. Tickets cost approximately \$10 - \$16. We will be departing the church parking lot by **12:15 P.M.** The bus may not be available and car pooling may be necessary. Sign-up is sheet available in the vestibule.

Knitwits Moving to the Church

We are starting a new group in September. Any one interested in Fiber Art is invited. If you knit, crochet, cross stitch or whatever your interest might be - you are invited for a devotion and some quality craft time. Our first meeting will be Thursday, September 5 at 6:30 pm. We will meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month in the Social Hall. Questions - see Janice McDaniel or Maryann Bayer.

Guest Preacher

Rev. Ken Nelson, Conference Secretary and Director of Clergy Services, will be preaching on Sunday morning, September 8. Make plans now to be present!

Bible Study Begins

A NEW 7-WEEK STUDY is being offered during the Sunday School time slot. This is a great opportunity to join in a small group Bible study without making a long-term commitment to a regular class.

Beginning Sunday, September 15, "The Grave Robber" by Mark Batterson will be offered **in the Family Life Center from 9:00-9:45 A.M.** In this study, Mark shares true stories of modern-day miracles and brings to light the countless everyday miracles we take for granted—miracles that point us toward the One who healed the sick, calmed the storm, and even raised the dead. If you long to see God work in miraculous ways in your life and in your church, come participate in this study.

A bonus: the videos for this study are filmed on location in the Holy Land in the places where Jesus performed his miracles. The setting brings the Scripture to life.

Operation Christmas Child

**Sunday, September 8
3:00 P.M.**

In the Family Life Center

You do not want to miss this event. We are privileged to have with us for an Operation Christmas Child Tour, Jaki Steward, a shoebox recipient and one of our National Speakers on Sunday, September 8 at 3:00 at the St. Paul United Methodist Church Family Life Center.

Jaki received a shoebox as a little girl in Guatemala and will share her testimony of how a simple shoebox impacted her life.

Join us to hear Jaki's story, enjoy ice cream and share your Operation Christmas Child experiences. We will also have a table of Operation Christmas Child brochures, and other materials that you can take with you and use personally or share with your church or organization.

If you have any questions, please contact Karaleigh Holmes (803)480-0274.

Loved Ones Gone Support Group

You are invited to join our group on Tuesday, September 10, at 7. P.M. in the Social Hall. Anyone who has lost a loved one whether the loss has been weeks, months, or years is encouraged to attend. The advice and inspiration and knowing YOU are not alone is very comforting. This is not a church function but is a function being held at the church.

Meetings

Ministry Team meets **Tuesday, September 17, at 6:30 P.M.** in the **Social Hall.**

Administrative Team meets **Wednesday, September 18, at 7:30 P.M.** in the **Social Hall.**

Both teams will be discussing needs for the 2020 church budget.

LIFT—Ladies in Fellowship Together

St. Paul United Methodist Church
Tuesday, October 22, 2019

*Dinner 6:00 pm –Family Life Center
Doors open at 5:30

Tickets Required for Dinner
-Tickets \$10-purchased in advance
available at State Farm-Kelly White Agency
and AllSouth FCU Jill Able

*Service 7:00 pm-Sanctuary
No tickets necessary

The evening will consist of ladies sharing food, fellowship, laughter and tears through God's faithfulness in the storms of life.

For more information please visit our Facebook page
St. Paul UMC of Saluda, SC

ATTENTION LADIES!!!

Women of the church are invited to help assemble gift packages for LIFT on Wednesday, September 11, at 11 A.M. in the Family Life Center.

These gift packages will be given to all who attend

5th Sunday

Please note: We will **not** have a 5th Sunday Breakfast, instead join us at 9am for "Grave Robber" in the Family Life Center.

Halloween Fest

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Thursday, October 31
5:30 —7:00

We are asking for donations of candy and small prizes. Please leave your donations in the bins located throughout the church.

Prayer List

Nursing Home: Ann Thompson, Kathleen Padgett, Irene Riddle, Eileen Quattlebaum, Lewis Bobb, Peg Bolton

Shut Ins: Linda Beber, Grace Givens, Helen Humphries

Military: Chuck Bearon, Ryan Caulder, Robbie Grafton, Parker Hite, Patrick Wilson, Matthew Rollins, Ben Walker, Ryan Matthews, Susannah Nunamaker, Recruit James Therell, Saluda National Guard

Friends and Family: James Grasso, George Grasso Amy Rankin, Maryann Bayer, Joyce Crockett, Mitzi Durst, family of Charles V. Taylor, II, Charles Rollins, Henry Wilson

(Friends and Family will be listed for three weeks. To add or delete a name from the prayer list, please call the church office or use the prayer cards located in the pews.)

Birthdays and Anniversaries

September

- 1-Luke Holmes
- 2-Kaylee Hudson Shealy
- 4-M/M James Wills
- 6-Peg Bolton
- 8-Dan Guy
- 9-Helen Humphries, David Miller
- 10-Gina Fingerlin, Katie Altman
- 11-Lisa McDaniel
- 12-Caroline Keith Herlong
- 13-Trey Fingerlin
- 14-Charles Long
- 17-Eileen Quattlebaum
- 18-M/M Dan Guy, M/M Tom Cox
- 19-Thomas Sample, Dot Bradshaw, Haleigh Herlong, Maurica Easler
- 22-Debbie Crapps, Taylor Martin
- 23-Delaney Bedenbaugh

Nurture a College Student

If you or your family would like to support a college student during the 2019/2020 school year, contact Cecelia Yonce. This involves encouraging them by sending notes throughout the year so that they know their home church cares and is praying for them on occasions such as their birthdays and during exams.

Prayer Walk Groups

On **Tuesdays at 7 P.M.**, a Prayer Walk Group will meet at St. Paul in front of the Education Building. We hope you can join us! If you have any questions, please contact Jill Able or Melinda Taylor.

On **Wednesdays, beginning September 4, at 5:15 P.M.**, a Prayer Walk Group will meet at St. Paul in front of the Family Life Center. Come join us! If you have any questions please contact Cece Yonce, Connie Sample, or Myrle Holmes.

For the “early risers”, a Prayer Walk Group is offered on **Mondays and Thursdays at 7 A.M. beginning September 9.** Meet in front of the Family Life Center. If you have any questions contact Sheree Riley or Kelly White. Join us!

For those unable to walk around the town, we offer you an alternative way to be involved in praying for our community through a new group in starting in September. Any one interested in Fiber Art is invited. If you knit, crochet, cross stitch or whatever your interest might be - you are invited for a devotion and some quality craft time. Our first meeting will be **Thursday, September 5 at 6:30 pm.** We will meet the **1st and 3rd Thursday** of each month. Questions - see Janice McDaniel or Maryann Bayer.

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion	2 Labor Day	3 Prayer Walk 7pm	4 Prayer Walk 5:15pm	5 Knitwits 5-6:30pm in SH	6	7 Gun Buy Back Program 1-5pm at 100 S. Jefferson St.
8 Epworth Offering Rev. Ken Nelson, guest preacher Young Adults Bible Study begins 1pm in SH Operation Christmas Child Event 3-5pm in FLC	9 “Early Risers” Prayer Walk 7am	10 Loved Ones Gone Support Group 7pm in SH Prayer Walk 7pm	11 Ladies assem- ble gift pack- ages in FLC 11am GIG Kids 5-6pm in FLC Prayer Walk 5:15pm	12 “Early Risers” Prayer Walk 7am	13	14
15 “Grave Robber” Bible Study begins 9am in FLC	16 “Early Risers” Prayer Walk 7am	17 Ministry Team 6:30pm in SH Prayer Walk 7pm	18 Administrative Team 7:30pm in SH Prayer Walk 5:15pm	19 “Early Risers” Prayer Walk 7am Knitwits 5-6:30pm in SH	20 Adult Minis- tries to Aiken to see “Downton Ab- bey” Depart 12:15pm	21
22	23 “Early Risers” Prayer Walk 7am	24 Prayer Walk 7pm	25 GIG Kids 5-6pm in FLC Prayer Walk 5:15pm	26 “Early Risers” Prayer Walk 7am	27	28
29 NO 5th Sunday Breakfast, instead join us at 9am for “Grave Robber” in FLC	30 “Early Risers” Prayer Walk 7am				Please note: FLC =Family Life Center SH=Social Hall	

St. Paul United Methodist Church

*102 E. Butler Ave
Saluda, SC 29138*

Phone: 864-445-2232

E-mail: stpaulsaluda@gmail.com

www.stpaulsaluda.com

On Facebook---St. Paul UMC of Saluda, SC

Save the Dates

October 19

Asbury Hills Fall Festival from 10-5

October 22

LIFT

Get your tickets now!

October 27

All Saints Sunday

October 31

Halloween Fest from 5:30—7:00

November 3-4

Revival Services with
Rev. Dr. Winston Worrell

November 3

Daylight Saving Time Ends

November 24

Community Thanksgiving Service

November 28

Thanksgiving Day

December 1

1st Sunday of Advent

December 24

Christmas Eve Service

December 25

Christmas Day

December 29

Service of Lessons and Carols