



St. Paul United Methodist Church

*Empowered by the love of Jesus Christ,
St. Paul United Methodist Church opens doors
of service, justice and peace to the world,
and windows to a life in Christ for all people.*

101 Huffman Avenue • Dayton, OH 45403 • 937-252-4467 • FAX: 937-254-5227



Trading in my Independence

Posted on *August 25, 2015* by *Elizabeth Heft*

After more than 24 hours in airports and airplanes, lugging my heavy backpack and dragging my stuffed suitcase, pulling off my sweater because I was burning up and then pulling on my wool socks because I was freezing cold; after going up and down escalators trying to find the right gate, unpacking and repacking my computer to get through security, and readjusting my seat, moving my pillow and turning over what seemed like more than a million times while getting comfortable enough to sleep, I had finally arrived at Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv. I had made it, almost. I headed down the familiar sloping hallway, waiting for my phone to connect to the wifi and walking slowly knowing that the signal was going to fade as soon as I got near the doorway to immigration. I quickly shot off a few facebook messages to let "my people" know that I had arrived safely and then made my way to the only "foreign passports" line, happy to have only two people in front of me.

I waited and waited and waited. As I did, the all-too-familiar feeling started to creep in. I sighed deeply and laughed at myself. This dreaded, yet expected, feeling was that of not knowing, not understanding, and, worse still, not being able to do anything about it. It's the feeling of not being in control, and to a semi-control freak like me, a girl who always wants to be in-the-know and to be in charge, it's both frustrating and exhilarating. Waiting in this long line where there were 6 more stations with no one waiting, was just the first in a long list of things that were out of my control.

When I finished answering the questions at immigration, they stamped my visa for 2 weeks instead of three months and I was given no reason why. When I inserted my Middle Eastern SIM card into my phone, it would not work and I couldn't figure out what the problem was. The next morning, when Rasha's brother came to pick me up, I had no idea how to tell him where I was. Later, on the drive to Tiberius, when he stopped the car and hopped out, I couldn't figure out what he was doing. As his two young daughters squealed and laughed, I had no clue what they were going on about.



Dear Reader,

As you may recall, last month we sent Elizabeth out for a year to serve as a math teacher in Bethlehem.

Upon her arrival, she discovered there would be delays in getting the proper Visa. Other teachers at the school are experiencing this problem as well. We are thankful that an appointment has been set with the immigration authorities in October to, Lord willing, grant the teachers the proper Visa. Please join us in prayer that the proper Visas be granted.

If you wish to follow Elizabeth's journey, click on this link to her blog:

<http://elizabethonmission.com>

It was as if I had been teleported back through time about 30 years and instead of being a 35-year-old, independent woman, I was a 5-year-old overwhelmed with all that I didn't know and all that I wanted to know; with the questions 'why?' and 'what?' and 'how come?' eternally running through my mind and occasionally, almost uncontrollably because I simply couldn't take it anymore, coming out my mouth to no one in particular, aimed at anyone who might offer me an answer. All I wanted was to make sense of things, to know what was going on, to figure them out, to have the answer and to be relieved of my continuous speculation.

The not knowing is extremely frustrating because when I don't know what's happening or what's being said or what I'm supposed to do, I can't be independent; I have to be patient and rely on someone else to tell me, to show me, or to guide me, and that's uncomfortable. (Anyone who has spent the least bit of time around me could probably tell you that relying on others is not something I do well!)

But what I've found hidden under the discomfort of dependence is priceless. It's a gem whose beauty incessantly questioning little ones cannot yet articulate and whose preciousness has been forgotten by us know-it-all adults. You see, I've discovered that when I come face to face with something I'd like to figure out on my own, but instead I have to rely on a four-year-old to pick out my ice cream bar because nothing is written in English, or I have to ask a 7-year-old for directions to



get to where I am, or I have to question the stranger sitting next to me as to why everyone is getting off the bus, my walls of independence begin to crumble. And the beautiful thing about the vulnerability, although dreadful to my pride, is that it creates a space for relationships to grow and friendships to be born. And THAT is exhilarating and worth trading in my independence! (Now, if only I can remember that bit of wisdom the next time I'm looking for an answer and given nothing more than a thumb pressed against the tips of the other four fingers, the Arab hand gesture meaning "wait").

Young Peacemakers' Club: Overcoming the language barrier

For over 45 years, St. Paul United Methodist Church in Dayton has offered some form of their Young Peacemakers' Club (YPC) afterschool program to the community. The current program for local children in grades K-6, has been state-accredited since 1997. St. Paul is in partnership with many other organizations including the University of Dayton, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Sinclair Community College and churches like Normandy United Methodist Church, whose volunteers provide the spiritual aspect of the program. Last year, 36 children enrolled in YPC, one third of whom are Hispanic.



In May, six Young Peacemakers' Club graduates who have completed grade six, all with good school attendance and improved grades, were honored. Several of the graduates have been part of the St. Paul family since preschool! At the celebration, YPC Director, Beth Wiley, presented certificates and gifts to all the students followed by a light supper enjoyed by all the families.

One of the students was Adriana R., an outgoing girl who is bilingual Hispanic and has participated in the program for the past four years. Adriana, who just finished the sixth grade at Eastmont Pre-K to Eight school in Dayton, makes friends easily and is well-liked by her classmates. "YPC was fun. I met a lot of nice people," she said.

Adriana went on to explain how the program coordinator, Beth Wiley, along with others such as University of Dayton students, Occupational Therapy students from Sinclair, and volunteers from the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization in Dayton helped her to improve her grades in school: "Tutors came from UD and Sinclair to help us with our homework. If the students were not there, Miss Bethany or Miss Yesenia would help us. I needed the most help with Math and Social Studies," she

said. The Big Sister assigned to Adriana helped her with homework, too. "She played games with me, and sometimes we worked a puzzle," she continued.

Of all her experiences in YPC, Adriana liked arts and crafts the most. She is excited to have been accepted into Stivers School for the Arts in Dayton, where she will continue her education next year.

YPC is especially important to Hispanic children who may not have a parent at home who knows enough English to help their children with their homework. Adriana's mother, Evangelina R., also commented, "YPC helped my daughter with her school work in ways that I could not have done because of the language barrier. I am very grateful to the program and to St. Paul United Methodist Church for giving my daughter this opportunity. I have recommended and will continue to recommend the program to other friends."



• **St. Paul United Methodist Church – Dayton was designated a Conference Advance Special.**

• **Follow this link to donate to this Conference Advance Special:**

[Donate to St. Paul United Methodist Church Ministries](#)



Grace Space

St. Paul is a grace space. Everyday the doors open to a dynamic exchange of blessings circulating throughout the building, East Dayton, and beyond. The St. Paul experience includes: 140 people showing up for a hot breakfast; scrappers (people who collect scrap metal) stopping by for restrooms, water, and conversation; and a constant stream of people partaking of free bread and bakery goods donated by local stores and delivered to the church several times a week by dedicated volunteers. Our worshipping congregations gather on Tuesday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings creating a flow of diverse people sharing the love of Christ in their own unique way. Those who come to St. Paul bring a variety of needs, talents, and capabilities that are respected and connected to ministries such as our choice food pantry and stuff shop that are open three days a week. Twice a week partnering churches come to prepare and serve hot meals. Fall brings after school and Hispanic ministries including Bible study, ESOL and Zumba. The Huffman Neighborhood Association, now meeting at the church, recently hosted the mayor of Dayton. WEP workers (Work Experience Program), refugees supported by Catholic Social Services, a team of volunteer workers along with our small staff with big hearts all join together to help keep the doors open and the blessings flowing. Each encounter has a uniquely human exchange equal to or surpassing the sharing of goods and meals.

Rarely is money exchanged. One of our primary currencies is our building located in the heart of a 1880-1900 neighborhood where dynamic relationships are encouraged to grow between people of this historic neighborhood, including those in recovery, prostitutes, addicts and their families, and homeowners, so that all are known by name. St. Paul has benefited from the practices being taught around Holy Currencies.

Pantry needs list



Boxed Potatoes
CANNED BEANS
(PINTO, BLACK,
GREAT NORTHERN)

Canned Fruit
CANNED MEAT
Canned Soups
CANNED VEGGIES

Cereal
Dish Soap
Drink Mixes
Hot Chocolate
Jam/Jelly
Lotion
Oatmeal
Pancake Mix
Pasta
Peanut Butter

RICE
Saltine Crackers

Shampoo & Conditioner
Sloppy Joe Sauce
Sugar
Syrup
Sewing supplies
Toothpaste

Church Needs:

Electric roasters
Heavy duty
extension cords
Plastic water pitchers
Plastic & paper
grocery bags

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

HANGERS

Note:

**Items most needed are
printed in bold.**

Visit our website at

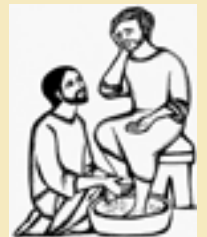
<http://www.stpauldayton.org>

Like us on Facebook at
St. Paul Church
A United Methodist
Community



Servant Opportunities

- **Tutors** to teach English (ESOL) or **childcare workers** Wednesdays 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
- Food Pantry Escorts
- Host/Hostess for the Pantry waiting room




Do you have an email address? Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter!

Please help us be good stewards by signing up to receive our e-newsletter. By doing so, we will be able to save on mailing costs and directly apply the savings to support the missions of St. Paul United Methodist Church.

Signing up is easy! Just send an email to: saintpauldaytonnews@gmail.com with the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject line, then **include** your **first** and **last** name in the **body of the email**, as well as your **mailing address** and **phone number** to help us keep our records up-to-date.

**September
2015**



sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
 <p>Save the Date! Steak Dinner Saturday, October 24</p>		1 WORSHIP 11:20 a.m. LUNCH — 12 noon Served by Hope UMC	2	3 KOFFEE HOUR 11 a.m.	4	5 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 9 a.m. Served by Belmont UMC
		6 WORSHIP SERVICE 11 a.m. UMW Sunday	7 LABOR DAY Church Closed	8 WORSHIP 11:20 a.m. LUNCH — 12 noon Served by Christ UMC Jr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m.	9 ESOL Registration 10 a.m.-12 Noon Sr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m. Las Amigas 6:45-8:15 p.m.	10 KOFFEE HOUR 11 a.m. Jr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m.
13 WORSHIP SERVICE 11 a.m. Holy Currencies Team Meeting Following Worship	14 Sr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m.	15 WORSHIP 11:20 a.m. LUNCH 12 noon Served by Concord UMC Jr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m. Zumba 7-8 p.m.	16 ESOL Classes 10 a.m.-12 Noon Sr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m. Las Amigas 6:45-8:15 p.m.	17 KOFFEE HOUR 11 a.m. Jr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m.	18	19 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 9 a.m. Served by Normandy UMC
20 WORSHIP SERVICE 11 a.m.	21 GOVERNING BOARD CHARGE CONFERENCE 2 p.m. Sr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m.	22 WORSHIP 11:20 a.m. LUNCH 12 noon Served by St. Andrew UMC Jr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m. Zumba 7-8 p.m.	23 ESOL Classes 10 a.m.-12 Noon No YPC Las Amigas 6:45-8:15 p.m.	24 KOFFEE HOUR 11 a.m. Jr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m.	25	26 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 9 a.m. Served by Community UMC GLBT DINNER 5:30 p.m.
27 WORSHIP SERVICE 11 a.m. Holy Currencies Team Meeting Following Worship Choir Practice 6-7:30 p.m.	28 Sr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m.	29 WORSHIP 11:20 a.m. LUNCH 12 noon Served by Aley UMC Jr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m. Zumba 7-8 p.m.	30 ESOL Classes 10 a.m.-12 Noon Sr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m. Las Amigas 6:45-8:15 p.m.	Office Hours: M-F:.....9 a.m.-3 p.m. Food Pantry: M, W, TH:10 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Stuff Shoppe: M, W TH:10 a.m.-2:45 p.m. T:12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.		Sunday Worship Attendance: 8/2/2015 100 8/9/2015 32 8/16/2015 26 8/23/2015 38



volunteer spotlight



On a recent Saturday, St. Paul's large social room was given a new coat of beautiful paint in hues of aqua and teal. The project began in early summer when the stage was painted and a chalkboard added for the children. The project coordinator, Jen Jessup, is a chiropractor by profession and a member of the Ginghamburg congregation. The paint was donated by Lowe's. Eight painters responded to Elizabeth Heft's invitation to help during Saturday breakfast. Rocky Rohr is pictured here with Jen. Rocky is a painter by trade who takes great pride in doing good work. This project is a perfect example of the cycle of blessings we are experiencing here at St. Paul. Thank you, super volunteers!



At a glimpse

During July, with your support, St. Paul UMC

- served **1,428 nutritious hot meals** at **Tuesday lunch** and **Saturday breakfast**;
- provided groceries for **12,945 meals**; **787 lbs. of donated food**; **1,120 lbs. of donated bread and pastries** through the **Emergency Food Pantry**;
- put over **520 pieces** of good used **clothing** and household items into the hands of many grateful people and made \$260.00 for the Outreach Ministry.



The Greater Dayton LGBT Center and partners are pleased to announce their annual Community Pasta Dinner on Saturday, September 26. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. with special entertainment to be held at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 101 Huffman Avenue, Dayton, OH 45403. The event is free to the LGBT community.