

St. Paul United Methodist Church

THE REMINDER

Pastor's Page

Rev. Roger Mentzer



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Dear Friends in Christ,

Thom Ranier, a keen observer of Church Culture was asked for his opinion about the characteristics of healthy churches today. He began to review in his head those churches that he felt were having a great community impact, whose members regularly had gospel conversations, and whose leaders faithfully preached the Word with power every week.

He settled in on several characteristics of the thirty plus churches that he would unequivocally designate as healthy. When it was all said and done, he said, "I had nearly fifty different traits. But I was able to put most of these traits into one of seven categories."

1. **They truly believe in the power of the gospel.** Sure, most church members and leaders would affirm their own belief in the power of the gospel. But few would actually act on that belief. Few actually move into areas and directions that can only be accomplished in God's power. For most churches, it's lip service. But not so for these healthy churches.
2. **They have courageous leaders, not just pastors, but lay leaders, too.** I call them "Joshua leaders." They are ready to lead the people into the community and storm the gates of hell. They remind the members to be courageous, even as they are courageous. One pastor put it this way: "I don't want to live a life without making a difference in God's power. I will accept the challenges, the risks, and the criticisms to be able to make a difference."
3. **They embrace change.** Many church members, and some church leaders, fiercely resist change. They idolize the past, the way we've always done it. Or they fear the future and God's provisions for the future. But the healthy churches on my watch list embrace change as long as it does not go counter to biblical truth. These churches don't spend their energies and resources trying to convince people to move forward. They are ready to go!
4. **They are not nostalgic.** Sure, these church members honor and respect the past. But they don't live there. They are constantly anticipating what God will do in the present and the future. They don't have time to be nostalgic, because they are too busy moving forward, ready to take the next faithful step.

**St. Paul U.M. Church
Mission Statement:**

*To share Christ's love through
Worship, Ministry, Mission and
Fellowship*

Pastor's Page, Cont'd

5. **They see reality.** They don't just see reality; they make highly intentional efforts to see reality more clearly. They often have secret guests evaluate their churches. They use tools to help them improve. They don't fear finding something negative with their churches, because those findings become areas for improvement.
6. **They intentionally intersect their lives with non-Christians.** They see their weekday vocation as a mission field. They see their neighborhoods as their Jerusalem in Acts 1:8. They intentionally work and do business with non-Christians. They are highly intentional about inviting people to church.
7. **They accept responsibility.** Too many church members and leaders blame the changes in culture. Healthy churches see those changes as opportunities. Too many church members and leaders blame their denominations for not providing for them. Healthy churches accept their own responsibility for impacting the community. Too many church members and leaders blame other churches for taking their members and guests. Healthy churches realize the fields are truly white unto harvest. They believe other churches are partners in mission, not competitors.

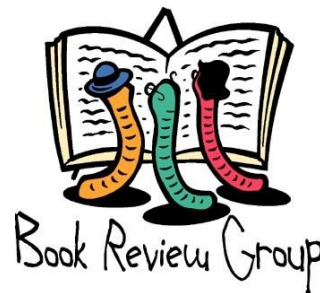
Obviously, his list is not exhaustive. But these are the seven main buckets of traits he saw as he surveyed the landscape of healthy churches. What things would you add to this list?

Your vision team is grappling with issues and questions like these. Pray for them as they provide guidance and leadership as we forge the future that God has in mind for us.

Better Disciples, More Disciples.

Roger

Announcements



Manchester/Mount Wolf Book Club

This book club meets the first Thursday of each month, from 7:00-9:00 PM, here in the church Library. If you are interested in joining this club, reading and discussing books together, please contact the church office or Bonnie Seidel. On March 6, the book that will be discussed is called, "Bright Young Women." *Don't miss this "breakneck thriller" examining "our culture's obsession with serial killers and true crime" (Harper's Bazaar) following two women on the pursuit of justice against all odds. "A fascinating look at true crime and tabloid culture that's as thoughtful as it is gripping" (People).*



United
Women in Faith **CALL TO PRAYER
AND SELF-DENIAL**

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

On Monday, March 10 at 6:30 PM, the UWF will hold their Call to Prayer and Self-Denial meeting. No refreshments will be served. Please remember to bring your special Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering envelopes that were provided for you.

Tithes & Offerings

Offerings & Tithes for JANUARY, 2025

SERVICE DATE	S.S.	GIVING	SERVICE DATE	S.S.	GIVING	Attendance for JANUARY, 2025
Jan. 5— 9:30 AM	\$126.00	\$1,998.00	Jan. 19 — 9:30 AM	\$0.00	\$1,796.00	
Missions		60.00	Building Fund		10.00	
Flowers		47.00	Missions		40.00	
Initial Offering		90.00	Parsonage Utilities		1,097.96	
Food Pantry		20.00	Christmas Eve		20.00	
Endowment Fund		13,399.70	Advent Offering		20.00	
E-Giving		\$1,055.00	Initial Offering		15.00	
Building Fund		110.00	E-Giving		\$753.00	
Missions		10.00	Offset Fee		4.00	
Offset Fee		14.00	Jan. 26 — 9:30 AM	\$80.00	\$4,328.00	
SPY		10.00	Building Fund		10.00	
SPARK		10.00	Missions		30.00	
Music		10.00	Human Relations		11.00	
Endwmt/Scholarships		10.00	Initial Offering		5.00	
Human Relations		10.00	E-Giving		\$803.50	
Food Pantry		10.00	Offset Fee		4.00	
Outreach/Missions		10.00	SPY		35.35	
Jan. 12 — 9:30 AM	\$63.00	\$2,289.00	Endwmt/Scholarships		50.50	
Building Fund		56.00				
Missions		10.00				
Human Relations		25.00				
Sunbeam Station		1,200.00				
Initial Offering		20.00				
Farm Land Rental		750.00				
E-Giving		\$903.00				
Building Fund		20.20				
Missions		10.00				
Offset Fee		4.00				
Initial Offering		204.00				

8:45 AM Worship

1/05 — 68 (+ 40 online)
 1/12 — 80 (+ 31 online)
 1/19 — 59 (+ 33 online)
 1/26 — 82 (+ 20 online)

Sunday School

1/05 — 22
 1/12 — 19
 1/19 — 0 (bad weather)
 1/26 — 23

All services are recorded and can be viewed online.



Announcements



UPCOMING EVENTS

Watch for details about upcoming events in future e-mails and bulletins.



Off Timers Lunch & Planning Meeting

OffTimers has rescheduled their snowed-out February meeting to Sunday, March 2, 2025 at 11:30am. We invite anyone over 55 to attend a time of fellowship, fun, and food. This month's program will be a covered dish meal and the planning of this year's activities. Thank you all who gave so generously to the Life Path Ministries' Food Pantry in February. They greatly appreciated our donations. There will be a Sign up sheet for the meal in the narthex. Paper products will be provided. Any questions call Carol Witmer, 717-384-6261.

EASTER FLOWERS

Easter is just around the corner and you may purchase lilies, tulips and/or hyacinths to decorate our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. The deadline to order Easter flowers is Sunday, March 30, 2025.

Easter Lilies	6" Pot	\$9.00
Tulips	4.5" Pot 3 Bulb , Assorted colors	\$4.50
Hyacinths	4" Pot 1 bulb, Assorted Colors	\$4.50

QUANTITY:

Hyacinth _____
 Lily _____
 Tulip _____

Your Name: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Paid by: Cash ____ Check ____



Announcements

Daily Devotional UPPER ROOM

March / April Upper Rooms

If you wish to sign up to have the Upper Room issues placed in your mailbox, please contact the church office. Upper Rooms are also available on the table next to the mailboxes, at church entrances and in the holder on the sign up table for your use. Please also let the office know if you no longer wish to receive them in your mailbox



Outreach Committee and Sunbeam Station Food Pantry Collections

Our collection item for **MARCH** will be **CEREAL**. The monetary donation box is still available in the Narthex for your monetary donations to the pantry. Thank you for your continued support of the Northeastern Food Pantry!

DIVORCE CARE ONLINE

If you are interested in joining the online Divorce Care Support Group, please visit www.DivorceCare.org.

Easter Egg Hunt

"The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 12th @ 10am. Children ages 12 and under are welcome to come and join in the fun! We will be collecting individually wrapped Easter candy donations until Sunday, April 6th. Please put candy donations in the bin located in the Narthex. We are also looking for volunteers to help on the morning of the egg hunt. Please see Dianne Worden or Becky Mulfinger for more details. Thank you!"

Northeastern Food Pantry

4832 N. Sherman St. Ext.
Mt. Wolf, Pennsylvania 17347
717-266-6785

FEBRUARY 2025 e-Newsletter

Pantry Hours

Mondays: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. **Tuesdays:** 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays: 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Thursdays: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. **Fridays:** 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The Pantry Hours are based on volunteer availability. Please call to make sure we are open.

We always need volunteers. Please consider volunteering at the Food Pantry. Please contact Belle Craul at 717-870-4128 or belle18@verizon.net for more information.

NEW WINTER WEATHER POLICY FOR NEFP

If the weather forecast is for inclement weather, and a volunteer does not feel comfortable traveling to the Pantry on their scheduled day, contact Dennis Crawl at 717-870-0359, AT LEAST 2 hours prior to the scheduled shift time. Dennis will try to reschedule or service the neighbor. (per email dated 01-06-2025)

***DONATION ITEMS NEEDED ***

The following items are needed: Jello & Pudding (Reg and sugar free), Hamburger Helper, Ramen Noodles and Paper Towels. Items can be placed in the donation box located near the entrance of the Food Pantry behind Starview UCC. Please call ahead if you want to drop off the items during Pantry Hours.

January 2025 food distribution statistics

We were open ??? days in January. We provided supplemental groceries and personal care items to 373 people in 136 households. We assisted 182 adults, 85 seniors and 106 youth. New households = 13; 9 youth, 21 adults, and 4 seniors. AMAZING WORK AND COMMITMENT, THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GIANT FOOD PICK-UP

Male volunteers (preferred due to weight of food items) needed to do food pick-up at Giant on FRIDAY mornings; every other month. Call Sue Kennedy at 717-266-6785 if interested or need more information. Leave a message; Sue will call back.

The Mission of NEFP

The Mission of Northeastern Food Pantry is to provide supplemental groceries to those in need in York County. This means the groceries we provide are to help supplement what our clients are able to purchase.

Barbara Krier, Newsletter Editor 717-332-3618
barblkesq@icloud.com

Announcements



Notes of **THANKS**

Hi St. Paul Congregation:

The United Women in Faith would like to thank you again for helping with the Love Boxes for our college students. We packed nine boxes. Thanks for the goodies and money to help send the boxes. Thank you to: Kim Perone, Lori Bradley, Cindy Hilbert, Kay Matthews, Deb Jacobs, Judy Hilliard and Keith Zeigler for helping to pack the boxes. We again appreciate your help.

Love,
Carolyn Zeigler

Dear St. Paul Church Family,

I want to say thank you so very much for your prayers, cards, calls, visits with food, and Pastor Roger's visits, during my hospital stay and surgery. Also for prayers for my family. It is very comforting to know we have such loving and caring people here at St. Paul.

Thank you again. God Bless you all.

Caroline Long

St. Paul U.M. Church Women,

Thank you so much for your generosity in 2024. Your giving of \$50 helped us share the love of Christ and provide care and treatment for children with clubfoot across 14 countries. Because of you, these children will be walking, running and playing like other children their age, free from disability. Thank you for making 2024 our largest year yet, with more than 8,400 children enrolling in clubfoot treatment. We could not have done this without you. Thank you for your generosity and for providing hope and healing.

Hope Walks

To St. Paul Friends,
Thank you so kindly for the beautiful flowers and birthday wishes. Thank you for letting me be a member of the family!

Love,
Dianne Worden

I would like to just say thank you to St. Paul for the love basket that I received while at school this week. I appreciate everything the congregation does for students in college. I shared lots of the snacks with my friends and they appreciated them as well! Thank you!

Gretchen Turner

Dear St. Paul United Methodist Church,
Thank you for your recent gift of \$112.00 in support of Board of Child Care. For more than 150 years, Board of Child Care has provided hope to countless children and families. Like nurturing a wounded child into a thriving, joyful family member, our organization continues to grow, requiring thoughtful and innovative strategies. We are excited to announce that the Board of Child Care is now Everstand. Thank you for helping us to magnify our purpose and drive impact that improves child, family and community well-being.

Caitlin Christ, CFRE,

Sr. Director of Marketing and Development
Everstand

St. Paul Congregation

The 9 windows in the office area are complete and installed. We would like to thank all those who contributed to this project to memorialize or honor loved ones. I would also like to thank those who helped complete these windows especially Carol Witmer and Keith Zeigler for their dedication in completing this project.

Respectfully,
Chairperson
Connie Aldinger



**STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING
AT ST PAUL UMC**

Effective March 1, 2025 the Vanco Electronic giving platform will look different and will match our budget categories for 2025. The following categories will be available to you:

GENERAL FUND

Giving to the General Fund will be used toward the day-to-day operations of the church as well as budgeted ministry expenses. This includes utilities, office expenses, personnel expense, insurance, Conference expenses, St. Paul Ministry expense including Biblical education and discipleship, children and youth, worship and music, and mission and outreach.

BUILDING FUND

The Building Fund is under the authority of the Trustees. Giving toward the Building Fund will help them with special and large projects, such as new HVAC, repairs and maintenance on both the church and the parsonage.

MISSIONS

Giving to Missions will support our global missionaries, as well as any other organizations who spread the Gospel around the world.

OUTREACH

Overseen by the Outreach Committee, giving to this category will support those who have needs which are not being met, such as the Northeastern Food Pantry. Additionally, these funds will support those outreach events which benefit our local community each year: Bazaar, Easter Egg Hunt, School Supply Drive, Trunk or Treat and VBS to name a few.

ST PAUL SCHOLARSHIP

This category is self-explanatory and will support St. Paul's ministry of a scholarship to deserving students for their further education.

UNITED METHODIST OUTREACH

This is a new category which will be sent directly to the Susquehanna Conference for support of their monthly outreach initiatives as follows:

January	Human Relations
February	Youth & Children
March	UMCOR
April	Mission Central
May	Native Americans and Mental Health Awareness
June	Peace with Justice
August	Rural Life Ministry
September	Christian Education
October	World Communion and Mission Volunteers
November	World Hunger, Harvest Home and UM Students

OTHER

This category will be for such things as Memorials, Flowers, and any other such donations as noted. When you give to OTHER, you will have the opportunity to make a notation as to what the gift is for.

In 2026 we will change our giving envelopes to reflect these same giving accounts.

Thank you for faithfully giving to the ministries of St. Paul.



**A PUBLICATION OF
ST. PAUL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

4360 Board Road
Manchester, PA 17345
Phone: (717) 266-2506
(717) 266-0667

We are on the Web:
www.stpaulmanchester.org



**Sunbeam Station
Child Care**
Phone: 717-266-6555

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:
**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**
RE M I N D E R :
**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS
March 12**

**Would you like to receive *The Re-
minder* by e-mail? Contact the
church office.**

If you no longer wish to receive these
publications, please contact the
church office at
717-266-2506 or via e-mail at
karenheath@stpaulmanchester.org



Return Service Request-

LEAD PASTOR Roger Mentzer
Phone: 717-870-8212 E-mail: rmentzer@susumc.org
OFFICE MANAGER Karen Heath
Phone: 717-266-2506 or 717-266-0667 FAX: 717-268-8703
E-mail: karenheath@stpaulmanchester.org
Office Hours: Mon. 8AM-4:30PM, Tues, Wed, Thurs. 8AM-12PM
(Hours may vary when necessary)
CUSTODIAN Dianne Worden Phone: 480-275-1954
TREASURER Nancy Sterner Phone: 717-309-1335

MISSIONARIES

Mr. & Mrs. James Keech
Southern Florida

Pat & Karen Myers
12 Big Horseshoe Drive
Horseshoe Village
Quezon City 1112
Manila, Philippines
E-mail: pkmysrnsz@gmail.com

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