

Faith Connection Story – St. Paul's New Oxford

Laurene suggested trying "staircasing" events - when planning one event have another to invite people to. This past spring, we tried "staircasing" and scheduled one event (our traditional Easter Egg Hunt) on the Saturday prior to Palm Sunday. The next event scheduled was St. Paul's first Easter Vigil Service on the Saturday evening before Easter. (This was a replacement for the Easter Sunrise service.)

In 2016, 10 people came to the Sunrise service. This past Easter (2017), 40 attended the first Easter Vigil. The next event we scheduled was a Friday evening in May for children to make a potted plant for their moms for Mother's Day. We had 12-14 kids attend - 8 came from our first announcement on Face Book.

After these events, we contacted Pack Pals in the New Oxford Schools (similar to what some churches call Ruth's Harvest) and asked permission to do a fund raiser. We came up with the idea of hosting a Pig Roast on Friday, August 2st. The church paid all the costs so that all the proceeds could be given to Pack Pals. Advertising was key to this event. We placed a few ads in the Merchandizer but our primary ad was a 4 X 6 card that I have enclosed. For several weeks we stressed using the card to invite family, friends, and co-workers.

Handing people a card and issuing an invitation was the prelude for using a door hanger to invite people to the next event - a new worship service that will be launched October 11.

The Pig Roast was perfect: great weather, people volunteered to help and worked well together, 200 came to eat, and we raised \$2179 for Pack Pals!

There are 2 stories. Early Good News Worship

I can live the story I write for myself:
Earns love and admiration by making myself successful and important. Deal with my worries and life's pressure by being in control. They deep inside the pain, hurts, and fears that life often brings.

I can live the story God has written:
Life secured in God's unfailing love. Communion with God and people through Jesus' power to forgive the sin and death that separate us. Meaning and purpose by serving others. Finding peace in God's promised future of no more crying, pain, or death.

Only 1 story is freeing and lasts forever... Which story are you living in?

Are your children learning the great news of Jesus that will form them in the story of God's purposes and will?

Sunday Mornings 8:30am - 9:30am
Beginning October 1st • informal.com/stpaulsdcoc

Forming my life-story by the Good News of Jesus

Gathering: Singing songs of the Good News Story (Children and adults together)

Bible Focus: Interpreting and discussing Jesus' Good News Story (Classes for Adults separate from adults)

Communion: Experiencing the power of Jesus' cross to defeat sin and death, and the mystery of his presence through which we are made new persons. (Children separate from adults)

Sending: Closing song and blessing

All Are Welcome!
Traditional Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 am

God is still speaking
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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New Oxford church helps Pack Pals

BY DYLAN MILLER
St. Paul's United Church of Christ (UCC) Pastor Tom Lush...
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