

## Church Calendar

**Monday, April 29, 2024**

*Closed*

8:00 p.m. - to 9:00 p.m. AL-Anon

**Tuesday, April 30, 2024**

*Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Pacific Discussions (AA)

**Wednesday, May 1, 2024**

*Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.*

3:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Remain Teachable (AA)

**Thursday, May 2, 2024**

*Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*

7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Thursday AA

**Friday, May 3, 2024**

*Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.*

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – AA Group (Farsi)

**Saturday, May 4, 2024**

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – El Nido Family Centers

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – *Choir Rehearsal*

**Sunday, May 5, 2024**

10:00 a.m. – In-Sanctuary Service & Live Streaming

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Sunday AA/NA

## Church Leadership

Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank  
*Bishop in Residence*

Rev. Melissa Roux MacKinnon  
*North District Superintendent*

Rev. Vernon Kemp  
*Pastor*

Jacqueline Tringov  
*Music Director*

Evelyn Arnold  
*Administrative Assistant*

### *St. Paul's - Leadership Team*

**Diana Bruno** - Administrative Chair/ Lay leader  
to Conference

**Deborah Davies** – Staff Parish Relations Chair

**Linda Graul** – Finance Chair

**Donald Metzger** – Team Member

**Cathy Green** – Team Member

**Jackie Adams** – Team Member

**Vacant** - Trustee Chair

### Saint Paul's United Methodist Church

5619 Lindley Ave., Tarzana 91356

Office Phone: 818-708-7068

**Church Email: [st\\_paulschurch@icloud.com](mailto:st_paulschurch@icloud.com)**

Church Website: [stpaulstarzana.org](http://stpaulstarzana.org)



@stpaulstarzana



@saintpaulunited



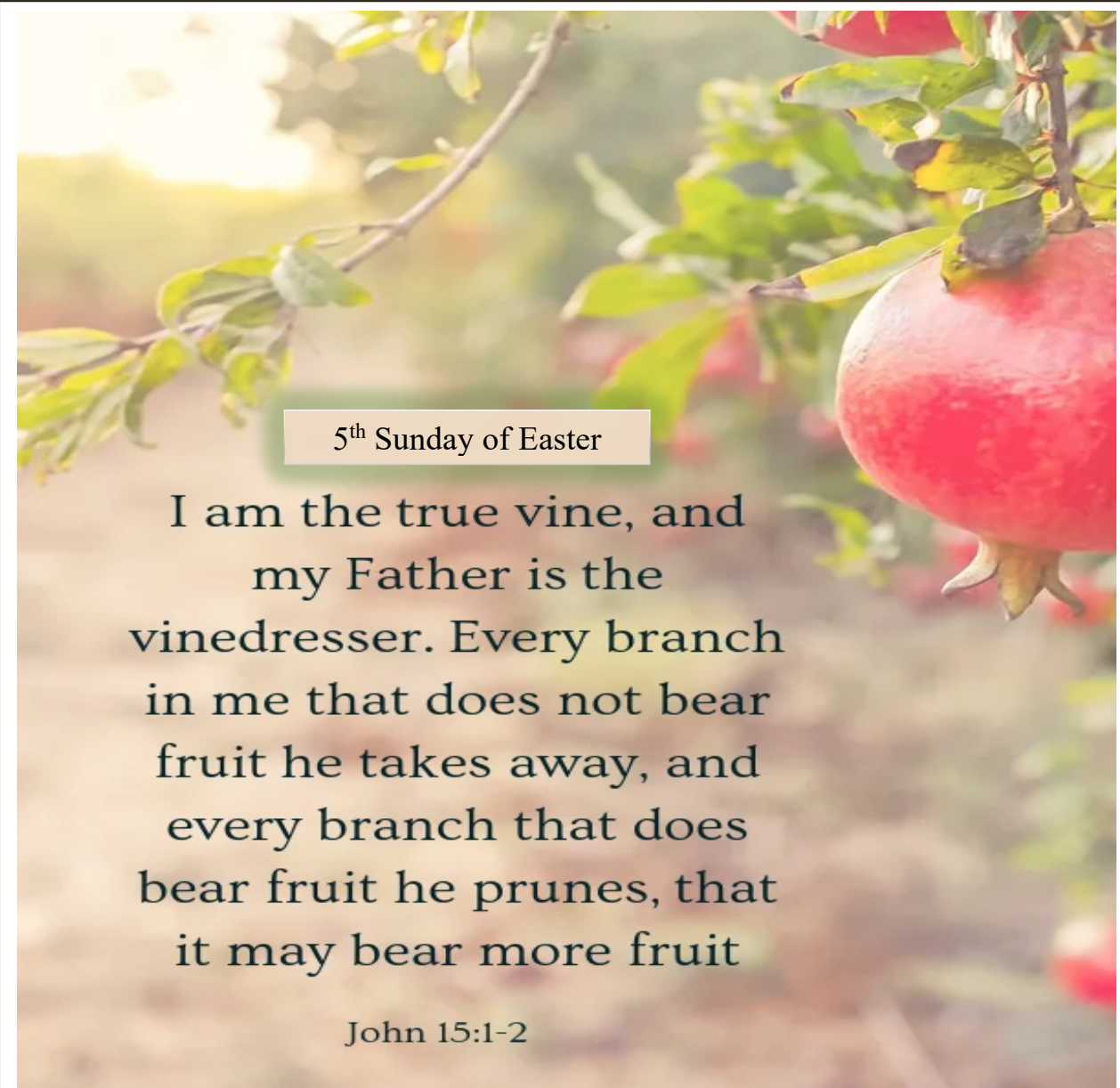
@saintpaulsunited

**For online giving and support, please go to: [stpaulstarzana.org/Donate](http://stpaulstarzana.org/Donate)**

**To donate via Zelle, please use our email, [st\\_paulschurch@icloud.com](mailto:st_paulschurch@icloud.com).**

Pastor Vernon's Email: [V\\_kemp2000@yahoo.com](mailto:V_kemp2000@yahoo.com)

Pastor Vernon's cell phone: 323-864-5967



5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

I am the true vine, and  
my Father is the  
vinedresser. Every branch  
in me that does not bear  
fruit he takes away, and  
every branch that does  
bear fruit he prunes, that  
it may bear more fruit

John 15:1-2

April 28, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Pastor Vernon Kemp

Our Mission is to be: The Beacon of the Valley

**Lighting** 'The Way' of Jesus

**Growing** Disciples and Community in God's Love and

**Sending** the Hope and Joy of Jesus into the World



*The Beacon of The Valley*

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Color: White  
April 28, 2024  
10:00 a.m.

**\*\*Indicates to stand if able**

**Theme Ideas**

Prelude "Anthem" Jacqueline Tringov

**\*\*Gathering Words** Pastor Vernon Kemp

**\*\*Hymn** "Blessed Assurance" UMH #369

**\*\*Call to Worship** Liturgist, Pheleta Santos

L: Easter people, we have been saved by the Risen Christ, the life-giving Vine.

**P: We abide in Love, the life-giving Vine.**

L: We are branches of the Vine—sustained, nurtured, and pruned by Love.

**P: We have no life apart from Love, the life-giving Vine.**

L: When we make our home in the Vine, and the Vine makes a home in us, we bear the fruit of Love.

**P: We produce the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine.**

L: Easter people, how shall we bear the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine?

**P: We will love and learn to love as we rest, play, work, and build community with God and one another. Amen.**

**\*\*Hymn** "To God Be the Glory"

**Opening Prayer** Liturgist, Pheleta Santos

For all the blessings of this life, we give thanks to You, Creator God. For families, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers, who nurture us, that the love of God may grow within. That Your love, your Word, like a seed, may grow to produce in us, good fruit.

**May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

For the leaders of various nations and cities, that they may lead with strong hearts and gentle hands and generous spirits, with compassion and mercy, with wisdom and grace. May they reflect your will guiding all their actions and decisions.

**May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

For those who serve in harm's way, those who live in dangerous places, those who live in areas of war and strife, those who live in fear, those who worry about employment, bills, food, and struggle just to find dignity in life. May your grace bring peace and safety to all people, one to another.

**May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**



*This is a time of renewal, reflection, and rejuvenation. If you are seeking prayer and would like your name to appear on the prayer list, please contact the office no later than Wednesday noon via telephone or email.*

**Let us keep the following in prayer and please reach out to them for care, comfort, and prayer:**

**Diana Bruno, Cathy Green & Family, Dean Brown, Gwinn Lavery & Family, Bonnie Jay, Marianne Crosby, Anthony Basuto, Mildred Porter & Family, Jae Sessions, David Cox & Family, Marina Bezinovir, Roberta Lanning, Megan Carson, Ellie Harrison & Family, for the loss of her mother, Donna Beers (Linda Graul's niece), Deanna Borque, Marilyn Wright, Kamonie Wright, Miracle Wright-Lindo, Henry Lindo, Rowena Anderson, Alice Crawford, Alicia Nance**

*"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*

**Hebrews 4:16**





**April Birthdays**

4/9 – Bill Lashbrook

4/10 – Toussaint Sanchies

4/21 – Loni Betterton

4/21 – Michael G. Evangelista

4/25 – Bentley Ella

4/27 – Florence Ella

**April Anniversaries**

4/9 – Lisa & Maduka Nkuku

*If you would like to add your name to this month's Birthdays and/or Anniversaries list, please call 818-708-7068.*



For those who suffer from any illness or dis-ease— of mind, body, or spirit. Restore these, and all those we carry in our hearts, to fullness of health— health as only you, O God, can bring. May your mercy shower each of us with healing mercy and love. **May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

For those who are dying, and for those who have died. Send forth your comforting love. Give solace to those who mourn. Console those who grieve. May your grace surround us like a mantle upon our heads, a shawl upon our shoulders, a hand, to hold our hand. **May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong. Amen.**

Music Selection **“I Need You, Lord”**

**\*\*Unison Prayer of Confession** Liturgist, Pheleta Santos

Merciful One, you know when we are afraid to love; you know when we are too cowardly to show mercy. Remind us again that perfect love casts out such fears. Surround us and strengthen us with your perfect love, even in the face of our imperfections. Imbue us with a love so strong, with such growth toward perfection, that we may cast aside our pride and embrace the power of love.

Music Selection **“Falling In Love with Jesus”**

**Words of Assurance** Liturgist, Pheleta Santos

Christ is the vine. We are simply branches. If we abide in Christ, Christ’s words will abide in us. Ask for whatever you wish in Christ’s name, and it will be granted. In the name of Christ, you who seek forgiveness are forgiven!

**In the name of Christ, you who seek forgiveness are forgiven!**

Hymn **“I Will Trust in the Lord”** UMH #464

**\*\*Passing the Peace of Christ**  
As forgiven children of God, let us share together the peace of Christ’s love in our lives.

Music Selection **“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Invitation to the Word**  
Dear God, as we hear your word, may we be transformed into a true community of believers, ready to go into the world to testify that Christ is alive and active in our lives today. Amen.

**\*\*Scripture Reading** **John 15:1-7; Hebrews 6:1-12** Liturgist, Pheleta Santos

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

Song of Preparation

“When I Think About the Lord”

Sermon

“Being Fruitful & Wealthy”

Pastor Vernon Kemp

**\*\*Altar Call/Invitation to Discipleship**

*You are welcome to light a candle and kneel at the altar for prayer.*

Music Selection

“Here’s My Heart, Lord”

**Invitation to the Offering**

Liturgist, Pheleta Santos

All that we have belongs to God. As we celebrate our unity as a community of faith and focus our hearts on the risen Christ, we joyfully lay our possessions at the altar. Through the grace of God and the bounty of this church, we can share our gifts so that all may have what they need to live. We thank God for the opportunity to truly be in fellowship with one another and with the world through our offerings today.

**\*\*Doxology**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH #94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God, all creatures here below!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Praise God, the source of all our gifts!*

*Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!*

*Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**\*\*Offertory Prayer**

Liturgist, Pheleta Santos

Gracious God, as we offer our gifts today, we reflect on the wisdom in the words from John’s gospel. In this imagery, we recognize our role as branches, connected to you, the source of our strength and vitality. Help us stay rooted in your love, producing fruit that brings glory to your name. May these gifts signify our commitment to abide in your teachings and work joyfully in response to your love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

**Announcements**

Liturgist, Pheleta Santos

***Women’s Support Group***

Please join us after today’s service for our first women’s support group meeting. All ages and backgrounds are welcome to share their perspectives and experiences as we support and learn from one another. We’re eager to gather with you and embark on this faith journey together.

***Professional Schools of Beauty Fashion and Arts Inc. Expo***

St. Paul’s members and friends are invited to sign up for a **FREE** hair, facial, and/or nails service to be held on **Friday, May 24, 2024, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** These services are being sponsored by our church member Florence Ella.

***3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Memorial Day Concert***

Please join us on Sunday, May 19, at 3:00 p.m. for our Annual Memorial Day Concert. See the attached flyer for more information.

***Support for Bonnie Jay***

As part of our commitment to caring for one another and being our brother’s keeper, a GoFundMe page has been established to aid Bonnie Jay in her healthcare and rehabilitation journey. Instead of changing course, we encourage you to extend a helping hand and unite with us in supporting Bonnie, as we continue to practice unity in our community. Please visit the GoFundMe page below to make a donation.

***May 2024 Challenge: Bring A Friend to Church***

As disciples and stewards, our mission is to invite others to join us in worship. Our goal is to spread God’s message among our neighbors, loved ones, friends, and beyond.

**Supporting Bonnie’s Journey of Care & Independence**

<https://gofund.me/d66c9e0d>

**\*\*Benediction**

Pastor Vernon Kemp

Lord of mercy, be with us as we go from this place today. Fill our lives with your love. Help us to bring the good news of hope and peace wherever we go. Let us truly be people of the Resurrection - the Easter people! Amen.

**\*\*Closing Song**

“I’ll Fly Away”

TFWS #2282

***Scripture Readings***

Psalm 22:25-31

Acts 8:26-40

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8