

# HALF

Volume 4  
Issue 2



# TRUTHS

A Worship Series at Shawnee St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Benjamin Franklin once said, “Half a truth is often a great lie.” Mark Twain went even further, calling a half-truth “the most cowardly of lies.” Strong words—but ones that speak directly to the spiritual challenge we’re exploring this summer in our worship series, *Half Truths*.

In our everyday lives—and even in our churches—we often rely on familiar phrases that sound biblical, sound comforting, and sound true. But many of these well-worn sayings don’t hold up when placed alongside the fullness of Scripture or the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Phrases like “Everything happens for a reason,” or “God won’t give you more than you can handle,” might be offered with good intentions, but they can lead us to believe in a version of God that is distant, punishing, or indifferent to suffering.

That’s the trouble with half-truths: they’re just true enough to sound convincing, but incomplete enough to do harm. Our goal in this series isn’t to shame anyone for repeating these phrases—we’ve all said them or clung to them at some point. Instead, we want to take a closer look. What do these sayings reveal about what we believe about God? About grace? About free will, justice, and suffering?

And most importantly: **what does Scripture actually say?**

As United Methodists, we read the Bible through a particular lens—what John Wesley called the “Wesleyan Quadrilateral.” This framework invites us to interpret Scripture through the lenses of tradition, reason, and experience. Scripture is always primary, but God also gave us minds to think, communities of faith to learn from, and lived experiences that help us understand how God is still speaking and working in the world today.

When we bring all of that together, we don’t just uncover the whole truth—we also discover the full beauty and depth of the Gospel. Over the course of this series, we’ll reflect on several popular half-truths and offer faithful alternatives rooted in love, humility, and the character of Christ. Rather than saying “God helps those who help themselves,” we might ask: *What does grace look like for those who cannot help themselves?* Instead of assuring someone that “God said it, I believe it, that settles it,” we might explore how Scripture invites us not just into certainty, but into relationship, transformation, and ongoing growth.

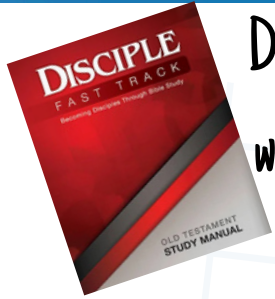
The Gospel is not simplistic—and neither are our lives. But the good news is that God’s love is deep enough to handle our hard questions. When we look past half-truths and lean into the whole story of Scripture, we find not empty platitudes, but real hope. Not shallow answers, but deeper grace.

Whether you’re new to faith or have spent a lifetime in church, this series will offer you the chance to explore, reflect, and grow. You might find that some old sayings don’t hold up under the weight of real life—but God’s Word always does.

I hope you’ll join in as we move beyond the half-truths, and into the full, abundant truth of God’s love in Jesus Christ.

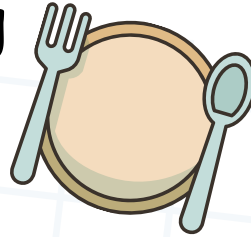
– Pastor Desi

# Living out our Faith @ St. Paul's

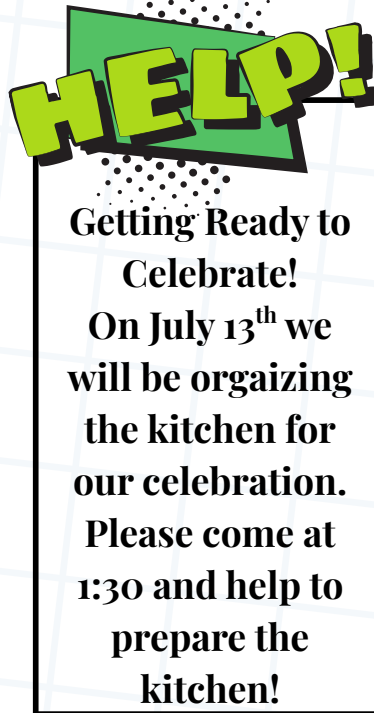


Disciple "Fast Track" Bible Study  
will meet at 6:00 pm on Wednesday  
evening.

We will have our family style meal  
followed by the study for the adults



**Needed this week..**  
**Reading Buddies**  
If you can help out  
we meet at 9:50 AM



Will be meeting  
next Thursday,  
July 17th  
Billy Boys  
11:30am

**Office Hours**  
Monday-Thursday  
9:00-12:00 & 1:00-4:00  
Closed on Fridays

**Service Times**  
Sunday Mornings  
Small Groups 9:30 AM  
Worship 10:45 AM

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