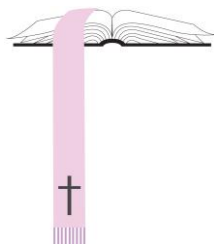


# *Rhonda's Reflections*



## Easter: A Noun or a Verb?

“Let him easter in us....” That is one of the last lines (line 277) in the poem “The Wreck of the Deutschland” by Gerard Manley Hopkins (July 28, 1844-June 8, 1889), an English Jesuit priest and poet. I wrote a major paper on this poem as a senior in college.

Hopkins is writing about a steamship, The Deutschland, that ran aground about twenty-five miles off the English coast. His poem is dedicated to five Franciscan nuns who were fleeing persecution in Germany and died in that shipwreck.

Towards the end of the poem, Hopkins speaks of his hope that Christ will enter our lives. “Let him easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us.” Hopkins understands and uses Easter as a verb rather than a noun. It is a reminder that Easter is something that happens **to us**. Easter is about action, about living, about transformation. Christ enters and easters in us. He shares his risen life with us. As the Apostle Paul says, “It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:19-20)

Christ eastering within us means we have a new center and core from which we live. We now live Christ’s life. Easter is more than a day, an event, a remembrance. It is a way of life.

So, what would it mean for your life if you knew Easter as a verb rather than a noun? How will your life be different with Christ eastering in you?

Happy Easter,

Rev. Rhonda



**A quote from Lloyd Alexander Lewis, Jr., as written in the April 2023 issue of *The American Organist***

***“For many of us, there is no music more meaningful than that which was composed for the High Holy Days and Passover, for Holy Week and Easter. But if we only open our eyes and ears, we will discover that music is the salt that has been seasoning a whole year's worth of miracles, week by week. And there will be still more musical miracles in the days to come.”***

## **FAQ About Restoring the 1954 Schantz Organ**

**The organ still sounds good, it can't be that bad, can it?**

- The organ still sounds like it has for the past sixty-eight years. The pipes – the part of the organ that makes the sound – are still in good working order, but when the mechanisms (leather) fail, the organ has holes in its sound production. The Middle C leather on the flute stop went out a couple of years ago. Our organ has been routinely checked and serviced, and the leather for that note was replaced. After sixty-eight years, it is starting to show more signs of a needed major rebuild.

By having an updated organ with 21st-century technology, the instrument will be greatly expanded in flexibility and usability making it more inviting to recruit and retain future organists.

## **BE AN ORGAN DONOR**



## Holy Week

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April 2 - Palm Sunday Worship 10:30 – Youth Sunday

April 5 - Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 p.m.

April 7 - Good Friday Worship 7:00 p.m.

April 9 - Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast 7:45 a.m.

Easter Worship 10:30 a.m.

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## Our two cents worth

### From the Stewardship Committee

In February we began leaving colored notecards in the pews. Please take a minute before church to answer the monthly “Stewardship Reflecting Question” that will be printed in the bulletin. Please write your response on your notecard and drop it in the offering plate! You can include your name on your response, or you can remain anonymous. Responses will be compiled and shared on the screens before church services.

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## Helping Each other Adjust to Loss

### H.E.A.L.

**HEAL** is St. Paul’s grief group of people who gather monthly on the third Thursday at 1:30 to **Help Each other Adjust to Loss**. Pastor Rhonda is a trained bereavement counselor, and leads this group for anyone who has recently or long ago experienced a loss of a loved one and would like a safe place to share their feelings. **HEAL** grief group is open to all faiths. The next meeting is **April 20, 2023, 1:30 p.m.** in the old library.

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## Prayer and Care Ministry

**Prayer Team:** Prayer requests are welcome for any concern or thanksgiving. Requests are kept confidential and not included in public worship screen unless specifically requested. Contact Carol Schmidt with a prayer request at [cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com](mailto:cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com), Carol's cell (419) 305-6164, or the church office.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~

**You are invited** to the Caregiving from the Heart Support Group held here at St. Paul's on **the first Monday of each month, at 7pm in the library**. This is a gathering for any caregivers (and others who are involved) whether you are doing it within your home, within your loved one's home or if your loved one resides in a care facility. It will be led by Rev. Jeanette Tangeman (or Ruth Knous in Jeanette's absence) and will be a gathering to support each other, learn from each other, and find helpful resources. Any questions, please call Jeanette at 419-234-7935, or Ruth Knous at 419-953-6274.



That's right – after MUCH too long, the **ULTIMATE EASTER BAKE SALE** is back – bigger and better than ever!! The best bake sale in northwestern Ohio is back – April 6th in the afternoon and all day on the 7th at Minster Bank here in St Marys. We are hoping that all of you will dust off your recipes and help us make this a success again with your awesome creations. This has become quite an event in St Marys with the best in “Church lady” baking

for miles around. As in the past, the money raised will be donated to Tailgate for Cancer of St Marys. We've become pretty famous for our awesome Easter themed creations – from Jell-o eggs to homemade pies to cut-out cookies. It sure is great to be back, and we look forward to seeing all of you there.

Sara and Lynda

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# DECORATE THE ALTAR FOR EASTER!

We are asking the congregation to help decorate the altar for Easter!! Donations of spring flowers for the altar need to be in Elevette Room by **NOON** on Saturday, April 8th.

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# The Family Room Event



# AUGLAIZE COUNTY BICENTENNIAL KICKOFF

**COME AND HELP CELEBRATE THE RICH HISTORY OF ST. MARYS**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023 from 5-7:30pm**

**There will be a slideshow presentation  
and appetizers will be served**

**Local historian Lynne Paulus Ray will present a slideshow of St. Marys, and the surrounding area with pictures and postcards.**

**Please invite family and friends. If you have any questions,  
contact Amy Keller**

## Turkey & Syria Earthquake Appeal

The news continues to unfold about the devastating earthquake on the border of Turkey and Syria. The UCC has issued an appeal to help in the recovery efforts in that area. Amid this uncertainty, you can be certain that with your financial donation, the UCC will be there helping those in need. When making your check out, write the check to St. Paul's UCC, and be sure to write Turkey and Syria in the memo line so that your money goes in the correct account. Thank you.



Breaking Bread will be serving from **4:30 to 5:15pm** (unless food is all gone before this). **Grab and Go from your car only.** Looking forward to providing delicious free meals to our community. Every Thursday except the first Thursday of the month.

- April 13
- April 20
- April 27

\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

# BIG THANKS!

All of us who make Breaking Bread Community Meal happen each week would like to thank the donors of our 3 new freezers for their generosity. For 14 years we held our collective breaths and prayed the used freezers would hold out. Now we can relax and know that the food is safe, there is plenty of room, and they are much more cost efficient. You have helped this ministry of St. Paul's immensely and we are so very grateful for your generous hearts.

\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

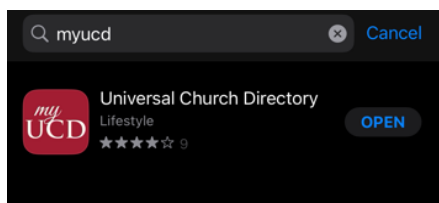
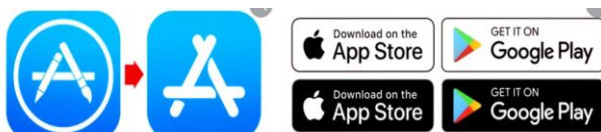
## **BREAKING BREAD COMMUNITY DINNER NEWS**

If you would like to make a financial contribution to help with costs for the weekly community dinner, donations will be gratefully accepted. Donations can be placed in the Sunday offering plate or mailed to the church office. Please be sure to indicate your name on the envelope if you would like to receive credit on your giving statement. Contributions of \$10 canned food are also accepted.

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## **CHURCH DIRECTORY APP**

**Step 1: Download the App from the App Store or Google Play**



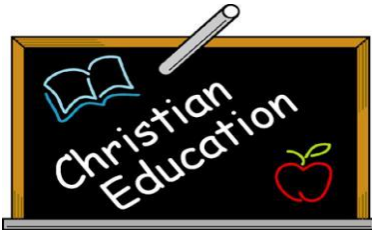
**Step 2: Enter your unique identifier sent to you via email**

**Step 3: Click "Open" and your App is ready for use.**

**If you did not receive an e-mail, or you have any questions:**

**Please call Susan Spencer 419-305-5267 or email her at  
Susan\_Spencer@live.com**

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## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS!**

4 – Bree Howell 7 – Claydon Milner 8 – Harrison Silber 8 – Savannah Hills	13 – Jose Schmackers 23 – Valerie Hufford 24 – Emma Wibbeler
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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

- The Sunday School children brought in 518 rolls of toilet paper for Agape. For reaching their goal, Lincoln James suggested that they had to recite the Lord's Prayer (since they were covering the prayer with the toilet paper) before they could move the toilet paper. The prayer was recited, and then Joni, Jane and Maddy got wrapped as toilet paper mummies. Thank you to the kids and parents for bringing us the toilet paper.
- Our next mission project for Sunday School was donating Easter basket items for the Agape Easter baskets. With the Sunday School mission money, we donated \$200 worth of items to fill those baskets. This will be our last mission project until fall.
- March 12 we sang during the worship service.
- One of our church members that went to Back Bay Mission, took signed cards from the Sunday School youth to our church members thanking them for their mission work.



- April 2 all ages of Sunday School will be doing the Palm Sunday Service. From the beginning of the service to the end of the service, it will be a Palm Sunday service to remember. During this service, we will have a special Palm Sunday program, which is similar to our Christmas program. We invite ALL to attend and bring guests. Our youth have been working hard to bring you a memorable Palm Sunday service.
- **Vacation Bible School will be May 31, June 1 and June 2 from 6-8pm.** In May, we will hand out registration forms. Our theme this year will be SHINE, which will teach the youth about our church SHINE logo. Amy Keller is our VBS director. If you are interested in helping, please contact Amy, Jane or Joni. More information will be in the May newsletter.
- Church Camp is a favorite time of summer for the youth that attend. Parents and campers, if you have not let Jane or Joni know that you are attending church camp this summer, please do by April 15. As in the past years, the CEN committee has agreed to pay up to half the cost for church camp. Ex: If your camp is \$500; CEN/church will pay \$250. If your camp is \$250, CEN/church will pay \$125.
- **PLEASE contact Jane Nuss or Joni Leffel if you will be attending camp,** so that we can compile our list and pay our portion one time to Temples Hills. By allowing us to know by **April 15**, that will give church camp time to post our donation to your account, so that you have the correct balance to pay off. Please call, text or email us. Joni 419-305-5610; Jane 419-305-9629 or [ijnl2021@gmail.com](mailto:ijnl2021@gmail.com)

- **Don't Forget!! Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**, the Christian Education and Nurture Committee and teachers will have a meeting in the Heritage Hall.

## **ATTENTION PARENTS/CAMPERS**

Please inform Jane Nuss and Joni Leffel if you are going to church camp by **May 1st**, so that the church has time to submit funds towards your camp fees. Please email us, or text/call us. Email: jnjl2021@gmail.com or cell numbers: Joni Leffel 419-305-5610, Jane Nuss 419-305-9629. It is easier for us if you email, call or text us instead of leaving a message for us at the church office. There will also be a signup list in the gathering room.

\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*



**Sunday School children will be leading the 10:30am church service on April 2nd (Palm Sunday).**



## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS**

Vacation Bible School is three evenings this year and will be held on May 30, May 31, and June 1 from 6p-8p. We will send more information home with the youth in early May.

## The Camp at the "heart" of Heartland



### 2023 SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW!

Summer Camp is just around the corner! When you register online, you will be prompted to fill out necessary forms and will be contacted periodically about camp and important information. Have a question? Contact Jill Frey, Executive Director of Outdoor Ministries, [jill@heartlanducc.org](mailto:jill@heartlanducc.org).

- M.A.D.D. (Music, Mindfulness, Art, Dance, Drama)
- ages 8-18, June 18-24
- (NEW) Camp "Out" ages 8-18, June 18-24
- Sports Camp: ages 7-18, June 25-July 1
- Grands and Family Camp: ages 4-13 with Parent(s) or Grandparent(s)

\*June 14-17 Directors: Rev Mark and Margee Frey

\*July 5-8 Directors: Kathy Smith and Revs. Janis and Joel Montgomery

\*July 9-12 Directors: Rev Mark and Margee Frey

- (NEW) Pathfinder/Confirmation July 9-15
  - Pathfinder 12-15 years
  - Senior Pathfinder 16-18 Years
- (NEW) Junior Pathfinder: July 12-15 (7-12 yrs.)

## **Aluminum Can Recycling for the Youth Group**

Thank you to everyone who is saving aluminum cans for the **YOUTH GROUP**. We will continue to save, collect, and recycle cans. Cans need to be **rinsed out** and brought to St. Paul's - **just leave them behind the curtain under the stairs of the Creation Station door**. If you have a lot of cans and would like to take them on to recycling and donate the money, it may be just as easy once they are in your vehicle. Thank you for your support.

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### High School **YOUTH GROUP** St. Paul's UCC

It's springtime again, and the high school Youth Group members are busy as bees! In March we competed against each other to see who knew the most about Lent and took on sacrifices to better understand the sacrifice God made when He gave his Son for our sins. As befits this season of contemplation, we also explored some heavy subject matter that today's teens need to navigate, such as mental health, suicide, and homosexuality, all in the name of equipping ourselves to love our neighbors more fully. The high school youth will be assisting with the Palm Sunday service on April 2nd and serve Easter breakfast after the Sunrise Service on April 9th. Please keep all our teens in your prayers as they finish out the school year in May.

In Christ,

Nick Frankenhauser  
Youth Director

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**WOMEN'S OVERNIGHT RETREAT:** *ATTENTION WOMEN OF ST PAUL'S:* Women's Guild would like to host a women's overnight retreat at the Retreat House in Maria Stein. It would be Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, starting at 6:00 PM and ending on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00. We will have a fun filled time with crafts, exercise, spiritual reflection, and most of all, time for yourself and friendship. If you are interested in this time together, **please call the office by April 1<sup>st</sup>**, so we can get an idea of how many would love to participate. We will be staying in their dorm room, with a cost of \$25 which is dorm cost and breakfast. But if you would want a room to yourself, that can be arranged, but at your expense. Everything else will be covered by the Guild. Once we get a pretty good count of interest, then more information will follow. Guaranteed to be a fun and memorable weekend.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~

### **ATTENTION** **LADIES OF ST. PAUL'S**

There will be a Ladies Luncheon at JT's on Thursday, April 6th at 11:30 a.m. All of the ladies of the church are welcome. Please **RSVP to the church office or Jane Nuss by Noon on the Monday before the luncheon.**

~\*~\*~\*~\*~



Look at this beautiful stain glass! Bernie and Marilyn Schroer have graciously donated their handmade stain glass window, displaying their artistic craftsmanship, to the Women's Guild. If you have ever seen the large handmade stain glass wall hanging at our local hospital, this is a smaller version of Bernie's wall hanging at the hospital.

This stain glass will be a silent auction by bids starting Feb. 19 until April 9 (Easter). Each Sunday following worship, someone will be in the Elevette Room with the stain glass for church members to bid on the item.

*How will a silent auction work?*

Each person who would like to bid on the stain glass will sign up for a bidder number in the Elevette Room. You will use that bidder number for each time you want to bid. You can bid as often as you would like, but whatever the last bid is on the sheet, you have to increase it. An example would be: Bidder #1 is Samuel, and he bids \$50; Bidder #5 is Matthew, and he would like to increase that \$50 so Bidder# 5 writes down \$75. Bidder #2 is John, and he increases it to \$100. Each bid is by a bidder number, no names can be used. You will need to remember your bidder number from the card that is given to you when you sign up.

Proceeds from the silent auction will be used to purchase new window blinds in the Fellowship Hall.

*Thank you to Bernie and Marilyn Schroer for sharing your stain glass talent with your church members. God truly has endowed you with the perfect talent to share with others.*

**QUILTERS:** Our quilting ladies meet on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to ??? in the sewing room. Questions? Call Margaret Hunter at 419-733-4332. ***(Note: We don't meet in the summer months)***

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Bingo will be held on the following Tuesdays:  
Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – Otterbein from 5:30-6:30p  
Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Vancrest 6:15-7:15p

**We are in need of BINGO helpers and cookies**

*Please call Janice Katterheinrich at (419) 394-3264 to let her know if you can help work the Bingo or if you can bring cookies.*



Our sympathy to the family and friends of the following member(s) who have passed away since the last newsletter:

- Carol McDonald – February 25, 2023\*
- \*Indicates Pastor Rhonda conducted services.





- **To the Endowment Fund in memory of Chuck Greenawalt:** Glenn and Lynda Hadley, Bill and Jane Nuss.
- **To the Scholarship Fund Fund in memory of Chuck Greenawalt:** Teresa Knatz
- **To the Organ Refurbishing Fund in memory of Chuck Greenawalt:** Fred and Pam Scheer, John and Becky Davis.
- **To the Organ Refurbishing Fund in memory of Bill Grunden:** Melody Grunden
- **To the Organ Refurbishing Fund in memory of Harold and Emily McCune (parents), Maria McCune (wife), and Norbert Landwehr (father-in-law):** Neal McCune
- **To the Memorial Fund in memory of Carol McDonald:** St. Paul's Women's Guild
- **To the Organ Refurbishing Fund in memory of Zoe Parker:** Larry and Nancy Roettger.

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THANK YOU!

Dear members of St. Paul's,  
Thank you for your "sweet" donation of home baked cookies! They are a huge hit every year! Also, thank you very much for the underwear and socks! We needed them so much! The love that your pour into making our kids feel special is very heartwarming. Thank you for caring so much!!

Beth McCord  
Chief Development Officer

Mackinzie Sharpe  
Resource Development Director



Dear ladies of Women's Guild,  
I apologize that I never got this accomplished over the holidays,  
but I did appreciate the monetary gift at Christmas time. So not  
necessary, but very thoughtful. Thank you very much. And thanks  
for all that you do for the CHURCH! Your efforts are very much  
apprciated!

Andrea Spencer

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

Dear St. Paul's Women's Guild,  
Thank you very much for the Valentines cards and gift cards. We  
really appreicate it and will enjoy using the cards.

Thanks again,  
Brett and Brad Speckman

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

Dear St. Paul's UCC,  
I am a (now former) student of English as a Second Language (ESL)  
class. I have been here for six years (returned to Japan in  
February). Thank you for always providing such wonderful facilities  
and rooms! Also, I am grateful to my teacher, Sandy! I appreciate  
all who work here. Wishing you all endless happiness and smiles.  
Thank you very much! I have made great memories here!

Manami Arakawa

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

Thanks to all of you for the Valentines and notes. The candy was  
delightful. I miss St. Paul's and my friends. I'm sorry that this is late,  
when you are retired, times go fast!

Sincerely,  
Janet Swartz

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

Dear Ladies of the Women’s Guild:

Thank you Women’s Guild for the gift card for Valentine’s Day. I really appreciate my church family for keeping me in their thoughts and prayers while I’m in college. It was a nice gesture and will be greatly enjoyed.

Courtney Nuss

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear St. Paul’s Consistory,

I apologize thast this is a bit late, a lot late, but I do want to thank you for the monetary gift at Christmas time. I always appreciate that, but it is not expected. I appreciate all of you working hard for the CHURCH – you all deserve a gift yourselves! Thanks again!

Andrea Spencer

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St. Paul’s Women’s Guild,

Thank you so much for the Subway gift card. EAT FRESH! It was very much appreciated.

Howie Spencer

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**STAFF OF ST. PAUL’S UCC**

- ... **Rev. Rhonda Hainer, Pastor**
- ... **Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant**
- ... **Nick Frankenhauser, Youth Director**
- ... **Maddy Frankenhauser, Director of Children’s Music**
- ... **Andrea Spencer, Organist**
- ... **Ann Vogel, Organist**
- ... **Cynthia Hanover, Pianist**
- ... **Becky Anderson, Pianist, and Volunteer Coordinator of Special Music**
- ... **Brad and Nam Gehrlich, Custodians**
- ... **Rich Spencer, Audio and Video**
- ... **Carol Schmidt, Email Prayer Team Contact**

- ... **Jane Nuss and Joan Leffel, Volunteer Christian Ministry Directors**
  - ... **Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher**
  - ... **Tracy Winget, Nursery Supervisor**
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## The Bulletin Board

- ☎ If you will be going to the hospital or if someone you know is hospitalized, please call the church office and let us know.
- ☎ Please call the church office with address corrections or if you do not see your **Birthday** or **Anniversary** listed during the correct month. Call 419-394-3811. Thank you!!
- ☎ **CALL-EM-ALL** - Please let the church office know if you are experiencing any problems with the Call-Em-All phone messages. **Also, if you would like to be removed from the calling list, listen to the broadcast and at the end follow their directions to 'opt out' of any future broadcasts - this will remove your number from the calling list.** Thank you!
- ☎ **Cell phone # for Pastor Rhonda (563) 210-3508**
- 📧 **rhainer@bright.net** – Rev. Hainer's e-mail address.
- 📧 **smucc@bright.net** - church e-mail address. Use this to e-mail articles for the newsletter/messages for the Sunday bulletin.
- 📧 **jnj12021@gmail.com**- Christian Ministry Directors email address.
- 📧 **youth.stpaulsucc@gmail.com**- High School Youth Director email address.
- 📧 **cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com** to contact Carol Schmidt for the Prayer Team Requests or you can call/text her at (319) 305-6164.
- 💻 **www.stpaulsuccsm.com** - church website address and most current worship service videos can be seen here.
- 💻 **VANCO electronic giving** - Dowload Vanco Payment Solutions onto your mobile device by going to the app store or Google

Play and search for “**Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement**”. The download is free.

- 📺 **Televised worship service**- our worship service here at St. Paul’s is shown on **TSC cable - Digital channel 1 OR non-digital channel 2, LIVE** every Sunday at 10:30 am and one day delayed on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm.
- ♥ **EMERGENCY AED** – There is an emergency AED Unit located on the wall behind the soundboard in the Sanctuary.
- **OFFERING ENVELOPES** - are distributed by quarterly mailing. Please notify the church office if you are not receiving envelopes and would like to be added to this mailing list. Also, **PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**
- **COPIES** - if you need copies made of any personal items, you may stop by the church office, and we will be glad to make them for you. If it is a large project, it is best to call ahead. **Cost for making copies for church members is 15 cents per copy if you use the office paper, or 10 cents per copy if you bring your own paper.**

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## **2023 CHURCH OFFICIALS**

<b>President of Congregation</b>	Greg Leffel
<b>Vice-president of Congregation</b>	Bill Nuss
<b>President of Consistory 2023</b>	Kevin Gehres
<b>Vice-president of Consistory 2023</b>	Susan Braun

### **2023 Members of Consistory**

<b>Elders:</b>	Janet Gibson	Susan Braun
	Kevin Gehres	Lori Now
	Diane Gayer	Marsha Heckler
<b>Deacons:</b>	Vicke Miller-McGee	Fred Scheer
	Carol Waesch	Tom Dickman
	Becky Anderson	Jill Dickman
	Carol Schmidt	Jen Lucas

Carol Gehres

Marsha Landers

Kelly Kill

Ruth Knous

**Trustees:** DeWayne Marsee, Tim Hirschfeld, and Larry Kill

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## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **February 2022**

#### **Current Fund:**

- Budgeted through February 28, 2023 = \$ 45,920.00
- Received through February 28, 2023 = \$ 29,573.75
- Expenses through February 28, 2023 = \$ 38,715.81
- Received through February 28, 2022 = \$ 31,913.96

#### **Mission Fund:**

- Budgeted through February 28, 2023 = \$ 2,500.00
- Received through February 28, 2023 = \$ 1,313.00
- Received through February 28, 2022 = \$ 1,803.00

### **Status of 2023 Budget:**

#### **Current Fund:**

- Budgeted through March 31, 2023 = \$ 68,880.00
- Budgeted through March 20, 2023 = \$ 63,140.00
- Received through March 20, 2023 = \$ 47,285.00

#### **Mission Fund:**

- Budgeted through March 31, 2023 = \$ 3,750.00
- Budgeted through March 20, 2023 = \$ 3,437.50
- Received through March 20, 2023 = \$ 2,186.00

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## **UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MARCH 8, 2023 CONSISTORY MEETING**

The regular meeting of St. Paul's UCC Consistory was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Kevin Gehres. Kevin opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Present:** *Elders:* Kevin Gehres and Janet Gibson, Susan Braun, and Diane Gayer; *Trustees:* Larry Kill; *Deacons:* Carol Schmidt, Jill Dickman, Jen Lucas, Fred Scheer, Carol Waesch, Becky Anderson, Ruth Knous, Kelly Kill, Marsha Landers, Carol Gehres, and Tom Dickman. Also, present were Treasurer, David Dickman, and for a portion of the meeting, Greg Leffel and David Hainer.

### **Minutes:**

- Minutes from the February 8, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Diane Gayer made a motion to approve the minutes. Fred Scheer seconded. Motion carried.

### **President's Report:** Kevin Gehres

- The March 12<sup>th</sup> loose offering is designated to the Disaster Relief Fund.
- We have received a request from St. Paul in Wapakoneta, which is hosting the Northwest Association Annual Meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>, for support in the way of breakfast foods (bagels, rolls, donuts), set up and clean up, and parking assistance.  
They have asked for a response by March 20<sup>th</sup>. Jill Dickman offered to request that the Women's Guild provide breakfast foods. Jill will check with the Women's Guild and report back to Kevin prior to March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- A letter has been received from Scott Lynch of Capabilities requesting financial support for their annual dance. After discussion, Marsha Landers made a motion to make a donation of up to \$150. Janet Gibson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Funds will be taken from the Local Community Mission and Outreach fund.
- President Kevin has assigned those Consistory members not currently serving on a committee to a committee. Please see Kevin with concerns.

### **Pastor's Report:**

- Pastor Rhonda was excused from the meeting due to recovering from recent surgery, and no report was given.

**Constitution Revision Committee Report:**

- David Hainer and Greg Leffel were present for this portion of the meeting as members of the Constitution Revision Committee, (along with Consistory Members, Susan Braun and Ruth Knous), and provided a report of recommended changes to the Constitution, as well as recommended methods of notifying and educating the Congregation of the proposed changes if the Consistory has approved them. The Consistory discussed the proposed changes at length and will continue discussion at the April Consistory meeting.

**Financial Report:** David Dickman

- David reviewed the Financial Report for the month of February 2023. There being no other questions, President Kevin asked to file the financial report for review by the church Administrative Assistant.

**Elders:**

- No report.

**Deacons:** Carol Schmidt

- No report.

**Trustees:** Larry Kill

- The Trustees set up for a number of funeral dinners in the past month.
- A water leak in the Education Building was experienced during the recent rain/wind event. Larry investigated and could not find a leak and believes it was more a wind event. Larry has contacted a roofing company to double-check and to also repair loose eave flashing.
- A tree service company has been contacted to grind out the two stumps between the parking lots.

**Budget and Finance:** David Dickman

- No report.

**Christian Education and Nurture:** Janet Gibson (report submitted by Joan Leffel)

- Our next CEN meeting is April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- The Sunday School children brought in 518 rolls of toilet paper for Agape. For reaching their goal, Lincoln James suggested that they had to recite the Lord's Prayer (since they were covering the prayer with the toilet paper) before they could move the toilet paper. The prayer was recited, and then Joni, Jane and Maddy got wrapped as toilet paper mummies.
- The next mission project for Sunday School was donating Easter basket items for the Agape Easter baskets. With the Sunday School mission money, we donated \$200 worth of items to fill those baskets. This is our last mission project until the fall.
- March 12 we are singing for the worship service.
- April 2 all ages of Sunday School will be doing the Palm Sunday Service.
- CEN has decided to pay up to half of the cost of church camp for campers. Camp cost for a week is \$500 (sports camp, which is what most go to) so CEN would pay \$250; other camps for a few days are \$250, CEN would pay \$125.

**Christian Mission and Outreach:** Jill Dickman

- The Christian Mission and Outreach Committee recommends Consistory approval of a \$250 donation to the Auglaize County Agricultural Society for payment to Gospel Tent performers. We have supported the Gospel Tent ministry over the past several years.
- Pastor Rhonda is in communication with Jeannie Szilagyi, the S.A.R.A. representative, and is attempting to schedule a Sunday for her to present on S.A.R.A.'s efforts in Ukraine.

**Personnel:** Jen Lucas



- No Report

**Stewardship:** Kevin Gehres

- The Stewardship Committee met in February and discussed the size of the monthly Communicator and whether it is being read by members. The Committee suggests the monthly Consistory meeting minutes be summarized with 4–6 bullets, rather than printed in full.

**Organ Refurbishing Committee:** Becky Anderson

- No report at this time.

**Old Business:**

- President Kevin has been in contact with Dan Busch regarding Jeanette’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary recognition. Dan is available on June 18<sup>th</sup> and that date has been set aside for the recognition. The Hospitality Committee will organize a pot luck luncheon after the service. Jill Dickman will ask the Women’s Guild to provide drinks and paper products for the luncheon.

**New Business:**

- A recommendation was made that the Easter Sunrise Service start time be moved from 6:45 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. Susan Braun made a motion to move the start time to 7:00 a.m. Carol Waesch seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Diane Gayer suggested that Consistory meetings be moved to Tuesdays during the Lenten and Advent seasons to avoid the time crunch we have experienced these past two meetings with Lenten services starting at 7:00 p.m. President Kevin will place the request on a future Consistory meeting agenda for consideration.

There being no further matters to discuss, Diane Gayer made the motion to adjourn. Becky Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Gehres, 2023 Consistory President  
Jill Dickman, Acting Administrative Assistant



***Deadline for articles,  
announcements, etc. for the  
May 2023 Communicator will be  
April 19<sup>th</sup>***



# Hoppy Easter

S S Y E Q S A S P R I N G B R E A K E X S E H K  
 T E A M G W K S Y V F F U T Y T T T D G K G U V  
 I G A G U C H D W H X U K X U A N E V C C X Y V  
 B F E X D C N I F E T S T V L L U D Y M A M V N  
 B S C M W E P K T E E D E L I O B D R A H F G E  
 A E Z Z E B O N N E T T H R I C E J D E X H H D  
 R A E R Y T B N G U D E S K D O L P L B D F A D  
 S S G B H S E E P K Z P Q B F H P T C Y X K P I  
 R T U Z O O P S T A H B O I W C R O Z E J P P H  
 E E I Y D E C O R A T E S S V N U R G L U L Y O  
 W R Z Z X C Z X B L H N L A I O P R T L R A O E  
 O B Y D N A C U J T B U Q M Z E B A T O Q S E R  
 L A G P P S N A E B Y L L E J A S C N W K T H S  
 F S W U O N F W J N T A L Y S Y P J G C S I O W  
 A K E Z Y I U A Y W H M V K X P K D P R A C P O  
 R E L I A T N O T T O C E I H D I G U S Z E P L  
 J T S Q U K D X I Z F T Y D X D A N B C B G I L  
 X E C L C E H B P C K G L Q Y X N F K F K G T A  
 I J B S U L P B P U H B I Y K E D L F S V S Y M  
 O X A L J B G X I Y Z I L G Q S D A P O W L P H  
 Z Q B E O H U V H V J L C X C F V E D D D J M S  
 H C U S L E T S A P P U S K X Z E X G S F I C R  
 B X G R A S S B T U L I P S S P G M G G Z B L A  
 R F T U M C C O L O R I N G E N U I T T S H W M

Basket	Blue	Bonnet	Bunny	Candy	Carrot
Chicks	Chocolate	Coloring	Cottontail	Daffodil	Decorate
Ducks	Dyed Eggs	Easter Basket	Eggs	Flowers	Grass
Green	Happy	Hard Boiled	Hats	Hidden	Hippity
Hoppity	Jelly Beans	Lily	Marshmallows	Pastel	Peeps
Pink	Plastic Eggs	Posies	Purple	Rabbits	Spring Break
Sweets	Tulips	White	Yellow		