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Rhonda's Reflections



As I write this Advent reflection, I acknowledge that we are continuing to live through a turbulent time. With a global pandemic that has taken 5 million lives thus far, political viewpoints severing relationships, protests and demonstrations calling for racial justice, most of us are feeling anxious, frightened, overwhelmed. We are in need of healing, physically from a virus that has claimed too many lives, emotionally from strained and severed relationships, spiritually from the fatigue of doubt and fear.

Lest we forget, it was into such a world that Jesus was born. A world facing disorder, oppression, and fright as well. People then, as now, longed for a Messiah who would save them, bring them wholeness and healing.

Advent is a time of deliberate attention to preparing our hearts for welcoming the Christ. This Advent season, my hope is that our Sunday morning and Mid-week evening worship, will help prepare us to receive the one who comes to make all things new. We believe in Jesus as the precious child of God who embodies God's hope, peace, joy and love for this world. This is a time that invites us to prayerfully come to a fuller understanding of who he is, and as such, come to a deeper understanding of God. Because God is so much greater than our minds can even begin to comprehend, we can only know God through glimpses, through reflections. May our reflections deepen our relationship with God, so that we may bring healing and hope to our world as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the coming of Christ.

In Christ's peace,
Rev. Rhonda

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The word '[Advent](#)' comes from Latin and means "coming;" its purpose is to look forward to the coming of Christ to Earth; it is a season that focuses on waiting. So, "Advent means something new is coming. The dawn of a new and better era. This is really what the Christmas season is all about, isn't it? It's the celebration of the ADVENT of a new era. God broke into time and space and entered our world" Over the centuries have come many traditions connected with Advent. Lighting of candles is a primary focus in many homes and churches. Each Sunday a candle is lit representing a focus of the true meaning of Christmas.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28 ~ The first Sunday of Advent includes Communion at the 10:30 worship services. The First Advent Candle to be lit is **Hope**, celebrating the coming of Jesus as the Hope for a hurting and lost world.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 ~ The second Sunday of Advent celebrates The Candle of **Peace**, that Jesus came to bring Peace between God and humanity. Altar Communion will be served following the service.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 ~ The third Sunday of Advent celebrates The Candle of **Joy** symbolizing the message the angels brought to the lowly shepherds that coming of the Messiah was for all people. The 2021 Christmas Program will be presented by our children in the Sunday School as the feature of the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 ~ The fourth Sunday of Advent celebrates the Candle of **Love** representing that God loves the world and through faith in Jesus Christ humankind can find eternal life and purpose in life.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 ~ CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 P.M. ON THIS SPECIAL NIGHT OF COMMUNION AND CANDLELIGHT the fifth candle, the **Christ** candle proclaiming Jesus as the Light of the world is lit on Christmas Eve.

Please join us during this Advent Season as we meet midweek on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. for Advent worship. Those dates are December 1, 8, 15, and 22.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you to Andrea Clark and her crew for the beautiful Christmas decorations and wonderful job decorating our church!

NOTICE – CONGREGATION MEETING

2022 Budget Presentation & Consistory Members Vote

The 2022 budget (approved by Consistory) is included in this edition of “The Communicator”. The budget will be considered for the congregation’s approval at the congregational meeting after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 12th.



REMINDER -- CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2021 should be submitted to the church office **no later than 10:00 am on December 31st.** in order to receive credit on your 2021 giving statement. This gives the office time to make all final deposits for the end of the year. Any contributions received **after** 10:00 am on December 31st will be credited to you in 2022. Thank you!!

Christmas Fund– Veterans of the Cross

SPECIAL OFFERING December 12th

They came when you needed them. They answered the phone when you called. They baptized and married and buried your loved ones. They gave up weekend after weekend after weekend to care for your spirit, lead you in worship, and point to God in your midst.

Some of them did it for less money than they could easily live on. Some of them did it for less than they would have been willing to do any other job for, because of what they believe about who God is, and what they believe about who *you* are.

For all the sacrifices that clergy and lay church workers have made in our congregations, over 100 years ago the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ created the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund, to help support them in retirement and during times of emergent need.

The Christmas Fund provides Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks for retirees and those facing unforeseen financial hardship.

Join with others in the United Church of Christ to make “the light shine in the darkness” for those who have given so much to our church.

Helping Each other Adjust to Loss

We can all agree this has been a difficult year, full of challenges and many losses. It has been especially painful for those who are grieving the death of a loved one. Many are longing to be heard, to have their pain acknowledged. They have a need to tell their stories, to be assured that someone is listening and cares, without advice or criticism. HEAL is the St. Paul’s grief support group led by Pastor Rhonda Hainer, who is trained to assist persons in times of loss, struggle, or crisis. HEAL will meet in the church’s old library December 16th at 10:00 a.m. and is open for anyone who is seeking comfort, clarity, hope for a path forward.

Honoring Loved Ones through Endowment Gifts

Is it possible to honor a loved one by establishing an Endowment or Scholarship Fund or by giving to one that already exists? The answer is **yes**. Establishing an endowment or supporting an existing endowment is a wonderful way to provide a lasting and meaningful gift in remembrance of a special person and

at the same time help others in need. Many people appreciate the opportunity to make a gift in honor of a special person, knowing that their donation honors the life of the deceased individual and also supports a purpose which the deceased held dear.

What should I do?

- Talk with Memorial Chairperson Rich Spencer, for information on existing endowments at St. Paul's that may serve your needs the most.
 - If you would like to establish your own endowment or scholarship fund, please contact Rich Spencer, Memorial Chairperson or Pastor Rhonda.
-



**A Stewardship
Moment**

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 1 Thessalonians 3:9

This year the first Sunday of Advent comes right on the heels of Thanksgiving. Even with all of the sports, shopping, and overeating associated with Thanksgiving—not to mention its cultural and historical baggage—the celebration does provide a handy bridge to entering Advent with a focus on stewardship.

The epistle lesson from the first letter to the Thessalonians is all about gratitude, joy, and prayer in the face of suffering and persecution. Paul and Silas have experienced persecution. The

Christians at Thessalonica who have turned away from the cultural norm of worshiping idols have also experienced a considerably less-than-hospitable response from their community. And yet they pray. They claim joy. They choose to be grateful.

How about us today? Here in the 21st century we live in a land of abundance with plenteous choices, yet not everyone is doing just fine, and as Christians we dare not forget our neighbors in need. One in five U.S. children goes to bed hungry or wondering where they will find their next meal. More and more of our Muslim brothers and sisters in our country face persecution in response to the heinous acts of a few radicals. We remember neighbors of color who live in the shadow of racism every day. So where do we start, knowing that poverty, problems, and plenty live side by side, hidden in plain sight? We begin in fervent prayer with humility, with gratitude, and with purpose.

Like Paul and Silas, we can give thanks for God's abundance. Even if we are suffering from illness, loss of job or financial stress, broken relationships, depression, or stress, we are still called to give thanks. And in giving thanks and expressing our gratitude, we may experience attitudes shifting, circumstances becoming more manageable, and hope rising like the winter sun. So yes, begin in prayer with praise and thanksgiving.

Next move from prayer to relationship. Give thanks for those around you, for your church community, your family, your friends, and co-workers. Initiate small and simple acts of gratefulness. When was the last time you wrote a note of appreciation to your spouse? How long has it been since you've praised your child simply for being unique and worthy as God's child? When did you last thank your server or grocery store check-out clerk for a job well-done? Be on the look-out during this season of Advent for

ways to connect with both those you know and those whom you encounter in your daily comings and goings.

Finally, take action. Prayer, gratitude, and connection lead to action. If you see someone in need—whether it’s material, relational, or emotional—take a simple step to meet that person’s need. How about instead of an Advent Calendar this year, you make each day with a simple act of gratitude? It could be a smile to a harried shopper. It might be a note of thanks and a gift card for your mail carrier. It could be the anonymous purchase of a cup of coffee for the person behind you in line. Or it could even be skipping your own cup of daily coffee to make a special offering through your congregation or another ministry.

This year enter Advent with prayer and Thanksgiving. Focus on building relationships rather than credit card debt. Do random acts of kindness and generosity rather than stressing over the perfect Christmas. Lift up your soul to God and watch your spirits lift in response. Know this, as your pastor, I give thanks for your faithful witness and partnership in sharing the gospel. You are in my prayers.

AGAPE MISSION: The latest total for TP is 1836 rolls we **only need 164 more rolls to meet our goal**. Soap so far we have 1474 bars of soap. We only need **26 more bars** the we have met our goal. Thank you to all who has help make this TP and soap drive a successful . Agape has really benefitted from all your support in the pass and now. Thank you Jane Nuss.



Dear Members of St. Paul's,

During a recent tuning of our organ at church, it was noted that due to the age of the organ (67 years), it will soon be needing some major refurbishing. The Schantz organ in our church was installed in 1954 at a cost of \$13,470.00. As directed by our Consistory, quotes of refurbishing and updating from three companies have been received and reviewed.

Several issues were addressed and to update it, it would take a minimum of two to three months to complete the work. Items would be removed and taken to their shop, updated, then returned to St. Paul's. The quotes received ranged from \$155,000 to \$225,000.

The sound of the organ playing "Joy to the World" at Christmas is a sound that stays with us long after Christmas. We do not want to lose that musical memory.

To help with the cost, we are looking for tax deductible donations. Won't you be an organ donor? Stay "tuned" as this project progresses.

Ann Vogel

ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE

Don't forget that we now have online giving! It is available now by downloading Vanco Payment Solutions onto your mobile device by going to the app store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church"- the download is free. We also have a button on our website that will take you to the Vanco site. This service is available for your convenience!

CUSTODIAN POSITION OPEN

St. Paul's United Church of Christ is seeking a responsible and committed person(s) to fill the following part-time position.

CUSTODIAN

This part-time position (20 – 25 hours per week) keeps our Church facilities and grounds clean and orderly. The custodian reports to and works with the Trustees and will be responsible for the following:

- Perform daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly cleaning tasks to maintain excellent level of cleanliness throughout the church.
- Remove trash as needed as part of regular duties and following special events.
- Requisition and maintain cleaning supplies and paper products.
- Identify and notify Trustees of concerns related to the church facility, and opportunities where additional volunteers are needed to accomplish large cleaning projects.
- Perform basic maintenance (changing light bulbs) and seasonal maintenance (mowing lawn, snow removal from sidewalks).
- Close the Church per schedule when activities are complete for the day.
- Interact with church and community members in a positive and cooperative manner.

To apply please submit a resume and cover letter to St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 201 N. Perry St., St. Marys, OH 45885 Attn: Personnel Committee. The required documents can also be submitted via email at smucc@bright.net. Equal Opportunity Employer.

NURSERY SUPERVISOR POSITION AVAILABLE

St. Paul's United Church of Christ is seeking a responsible and committed person(s) to fill the following part-time positions.

Nursery Supervisor

This part-time position is responsible for maintaining a safe and healthy environment for children (birth through kindergarten) while their parents/guardians attend Sunday morning worship.

- Arrive 15 minutes prior to worship to open Nursery and remain until all children are picked up following service.
- Monitor and encourage safe play among the children.
- Maintain a sign-in record of children in nursery, parent contact information and any special information (allergies, etc.).
- Change diapers and assist children with bathroom trips as needed.
- Respond appropriately in emergencies.
- Supervise toy clean up.
- Identify own replacement in the event that you are unavailable to work on a Sunday. (The replacement must be an approved volunteer with a background check on file.)
- Interact with church and community members in a positive and cooperative manner.

To apply please submit a resume and cover letter to St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 201 N. Perry St., St. Marys, OH 45885 Attn: Personnel Committee. The required documents can also be submitted via email at smucc@bright.net. Equal Opportunity Employer. The candidate will be subject to a background check.



BREAKING BREAD COMMUNITY MEAL

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.

NOTICE of Meal Schedule Change:

There will be **NO MEAL** Thursday, November 25 (Thanksgiving)

There will be **NO MEALS in the month of December**

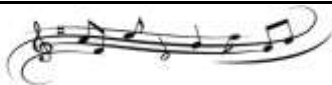
Breaking Bread Staff are taking a Holiday Break!

Please join us back here on January 13th! Thank you.

BREAKING BREAD' COMMUNITY DINNER

If you would like to make a financial contribution to help with costs for the weekly community dinner, these 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.

Jim's Musical Notes



Good King Wenceslas

(1854)

"But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."
Luke 14:13-14

This story is about two men - a Bohemian Duke and an Anglican minister – who lived nearly a thousand years apart.

Wenceslas was born in Bohemia, in modern Czechoslovakia, in the early 900s. His father, the Czech ruler, Duke Ratislav, gave him a good education supervised by his godly grandmother. When his father died, Wenceslas, seeing his mother mishandle affairs of state, stepped in at age 18, seizing the reins of government. From the beginning, he proved a different sort of King. He sought good relations with surrounding nations, particularly with Germany. He took steps to reform the judicial system, reducing the number of death sentences and the arbitrary power of judges. He encouraged the building of churches and showed heartfelt concern for the poor. He reportedly cut firewood for orphans and widows, often carrying the provisions on his own shoulders through the snow.

Wenceslas' brief reign ended suddenly. His pagan and rebellious brother, Boleslav, murdered him on September 28, 929, as he left for church. His people venerated him as a martyr, and today Wenceslas is the patron saint of Czechoslovakia.

He would be hardly remembered, however, but for John Mason Neale, an Anglican minister with a passion for returning church architecture and music to their ancient grandeur. Neale helped establish a committee to investigate and restore dilapidated church buildings in Great Britain. He was particularly upset at the ugly stoves installed to heat churches in Victorian times.

Disliking the hymns of Isaac Watts, he also sought to return the church music to its medieval routes. Neale worked hard to translate ancient Greek, Latin and Syrian hymns into English. In so doing, he gave us the Christmas Carols, "Good Christian Men Rejoice," (a fourteenth century text set to a fourteenth century tune), and "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," (a ninth century text set to a fifteenth century tune). He also translated the Psalm Sunday hymn "All Glory, Laud and Honor."

Good King Wenceslas is not a translation, but an original poem

written by Neale to honor a godly monarch's concern for the poor. Neale himself worked with the needy, serving as warden of a charitable residence for indigent old men.

John Neale's antiquated opinions were widely scorned in his own day, but we're still singing his songs.

From Then Sings My Soul by Robert J Morgan (2003), Thomas Nelson Publishers



The Family Room Event



Fa La La La La La La

Join us for an afternoon around the town to sing ***Christmas Carols*** on ***Sunday, December 12th at 1pm.*** We will meet in Fellowship Hall and will divide into groups and sing to shut-ins, friends and family in the nursing homes and other church members. Afterwards, we will gather back at church for hot chocolate and treats. Watch for sign up sheets and let Amy Keller know of anyone who would enjoy a visit.

Your friend in Christ,
Amy Keller

*****Be watching for January's gathering – Soup and sandwich after worship service on January 16th***



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 – Colton McCollum	23 – Elli Powell
2 – Zane Solomon	23 – Ellie Burden
6 – Conner Milner	27 – Landon Schaaf
13 – Brian Speckman	30 - Aubrielle Hufford



November has brought a variety of new lesson plans, crafts and excitement for the Christmas season. In November we sent home a daily Thanksgiving booklet for the children to use their Bibles to read a scripture and answer a few questions. We also made Thanksgiving cards for our shut-in members. The first three Sundays we made family advent wreaths. The wreaths are wire framed and the children of each family have wrapped them with garland, decorated with berries and pinecones and then Nov.21 will be given the advent candles, along with the meanings of the candles. Nov. 28, the first Sunday of Advent, they will take them home and share as a family.

THANK YOU to the Sunday School families and the church members for collecting food to partner with Agape in the break bags for the school children. The break bags provide food to the school children that need some help with meals during the Christmas school break.

December brings a whole different level of excitement to Sunday School. We continue to prepare for the Christmas program on December 12 (see related article). Learn about advent season and do some fun crafts.

Some fun crafts we are doing in December is making apple-pine candle holders, marble paint coated ornaments, wooden ornaments with a hymn attached to it, manger scene sticker sets. We are continuing to use the “trees, shrubs” that are painted on the hallways by decorating them with our attendance every month. December we will be using ornaments to decorate the trees and shrubs.

The hallway leading to the sanctuary will be in a “ongoing in process work of art” for a few weeks. The children will be using the lower walls (below the bulletin boards) to create the advent wreath and a nativity scene. Each week we will have the kids add something to it until we are completed. So, while it may look like we forgot to add some things to our displays, we are adding to it every week. Each child will be able to add to the display something at least once. By Christmas we will be done!

Jane and Joni wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and we are looking forward to 2022!



When you look online for something to entertain the Sunday School kids for a few minutes at the beginning or the end of Sunday School, you want something fun and educational. Just when you think you’ve found the perfect thing, you order it and

when it comes in, you're thinking "this is going to be perfect"! What did Joni order? A giant crossword puzzle called The Christmas Story. Perfect to learn and remember the Christmas story from the Bible. Never did I think that The Christmas Story would not be that. Well, this crossword puzzle is now a puzzle for the "big kids" as Pastor Rhonda call us. The puzzle will be on the wall between the lounge and the library and all you "big kids"... start answering the questions. The Christmas Story for this puzzle is the movie with the leg lamp, the tongue stuck on the pole and the BB gun. A pencil will be attached to the puzzle and see if you can answer a question. Have fun! By the way, Joni does not have the answers (they weren't furnished), nor do I know them. Maybe I should watch that movie this year.

Joni Leffel



It's coming...December 12th!

The children's Christmas program is December 12th during the 10:30am worship service. All ages will be involved in some way for the program. The children have been practicing hard for the program and it should be very entertaining.

We will have a program practice on Saturday, December 11 from 10am to noon. After the practice we will provide pizza for the children. Please plan to pick up your children by 12:30 -12:45pm.

We will send more information home with the children in a few weeks.

We look forward to seeing parents, family members, grandparents and friends at our Christmas program.



Wow, it seemed like October stretched out forever, but November is passing right by us! I'm pleased to report that the Youth Group trip to Cedar Point on Halloween was a howling success--all totaled we had a whopping 19 middle and high school youth attend, with nine guests added, and we were even joined by four former Youth Group members. I want to extend a HUGE thanks to our chaperones Sarah Walter, Audrey Chisholm, and Adam Milner; the trip would not have gone nearly as smoothly without them. Thanks also to the Vanderhorst family for the use of their van, and to Far Motors of Minster for the rental vans.

This month the Youth Group is focused on thankfulness activities, which is appropriate as we are also wrapping up our exploration of what it means to be "chosen" by God through discussion of the hit web series of the same name. What's coming next for the Youth Group? Show up on Sunday mornings to find out!

Nick Frankenhauser
Youth Director

THANK YOU!!

Dear Guild members,

Thank you for your donation to the church in memory of
my mother, Leona Peterman.

My mother really enjoyed going to the Rebecca Circle meetings, making lap robes, helping with dinners and playing the piano at meetings.

St. Paul's has always been a truly wonderful church family. Thanks to everyone who remembered her with cards these past years.

Sincerely,
Linda Millington

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

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)***



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

- Kurt Lauth – October 22, 2021*

*Indicates Pastor Rhonda conducted services.



- **To the Memorial Fund in memory of Kurt Lauth:** Mark Cisco & Co., Keith Fledderjohann
 - **To Women's Guild in memory of Leona Peterman:** Michelle and John Hill
-



Dear St. Paul's UCC,

Thank you! Your generosity is making a difference. Your support for our CUE seminars, especially as uncertainty continues to affect our lives, has been a gift of much-needed stability for our seminary communities

Blessings,
Rev. Franz Rigert, on behalf of the CUE Board

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Pastor Rhonda and St. Paul's members,

You all continue to be a light in St. Marys and further beyond! I am excited for walking alongside of what God will do through your monetary gift of reaching every international student with the Gospel. I can't wait to share stories with you all!

Praying for you!
Heather Dawson, CRU




*****~*****~

Dear Consistory and Church Family,
Thank you! I would like to thank the Consistory for the card and gift cards. Also, to thank my church family for the gifts and cards for my retirement party.

Bob Schumacher



- ☎ 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.
- 📧 **jnjl2021@gmail.com**- Christian Ministry Directors email address.
- 📧 **franken.nick@gmail.com**- High School Youth Director email address.
- 📧 **cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com** to contact Carol Schmidt for the Email Prayer Team Requests.

-  **spmedia@bright.net** – to contact Jim Huckemeyer or Rich Spencer email address.
-  **www.stpaulsuccsm.com** - church web site address and most current worship service videos can be seen here.
-  **Televised worship service**- our worship service here at St. Paul's is shown on **TSC cable - Digital channel 1 OR non-digital channel 2**, every Sunday at 10:30 am and also on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm. There is a one week delay of the service shown.

STAFF OF ST. PAUL'S UCC:

- ... **Rev. Rhonda Hainer, Pastor**
- ... **Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant**
- ... **Nick Frankenhauser, Youth Director**
- ... **Jim Huckemeyer, Director of Music**
- ... **Maddy Frankenhauser, Director of Children's Music**
- ... **Andrea Spencer, Organist**
- ... **Ann Vogel, Organist**
- ... **Cynthia Hanover, Pianist**
- ... **Becky Anderson, Pianist**
- ... ***Vacant*, Custodian**
- ... **Rich Spencer, Audio and Video**
- ... **Carol Schmidt, Email Prayer Team Contact**
- ... **Jane Nuss & Joan Leffel, Christian Ministry Directors**
- ... **Kim Opperman, Church School Superintendent**
- ... **Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher**
- ... ***Vacant*, Nursery Supervisor**

EYEGASSES FOR THE NEEDY - collected by the church school classes. Donated glasses should be placed in the basket at the North entrance to the sanctuary.

Kroger Fund Raiser for the Women's Guild – If you would like to support Women's Guild with the Kroger fundraiser, log on to:

www.krogercommunityrewards.com to sign up & register your Kroger Plus card. **NPO# is SK5720**. If you do not use the internet, but would like to sign up, please contact Jane Nuss or Kris Vanderhorst.

LIFT CHAIR is available for 'loan' to anyone in the church who might have a need for it. Please call the church office for more information.

ATLAS 600 VISION MACHINE – QUANTITY OF 2 - to assist those who have vision problems with reading books, newspapers, prescription labels, writing personal checks or viewing family photographs - making this possible with video magnifiers.

WALKERS - If you have need of a walker for assistance in getting around, please call the church office. One of our church members has several different type walkers, which are available for loan.

RESTROOM ITEMS: If you have a need for shower chairs, toilet seat elevators and hand-held shower adapters, please call the church office. One of our church members has graciously donated a few of these items.

LAMINATOR - available in the church office. This is used by the Sunday School teachers for classroom projects and activities and by the office staff. We will also laminate items for church members for a fee of \$1.00 per item (**NOTE: maximum size we can laminate is 8 ½ x 11 inches**).

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.**

THE DVD/CD DUPLICATOR in the church office enables us to make multiple copies of the morning worship service. Please call the church office to request a copy. **The charge for duplicating a DVD will be \$2.00 each.** Monthly sets of worship DVD’s can also be mailed at a cost of \$10.00 per month. Call the church office for more information.

2021 CHURCH OFFICIALS

President of Congregation	Jeff Dieringer
Vice-president of Congregation	Darren Caywood
President of Consistory 2021	Marsha Landers
Vice-president of Consistory 2021	Lynda Hadley

2021 Members of Consistory

Elders:	Jane Nuss	Marsha Landers
	Joan Leffel	Bill Nuss
	Kevin Gehres	Lori Now
Deacons:	Lynn Schmidt	Melinda Silber
	Lynda Hadley	Kelly Kill
	Susan Braun	Linda McDonald
	Jennifer Ginter	Susan Spencer
	Becky Anderson	Jill Dickman
	Carol Schmidt	Jen Lucas
Trustees:	Kyle Opperman, Larry Kill and DeWayne Marsee	

FINANCIAL REPORT

October 2021:

Current Fund:

- Budgeted through October 31, 2021 = \$219,521.70
- Received through October 31, 2021 = \$183,651.04
- Expenses through October 31, 2021 = \$194,580.77
- Received through October 31, 2020 = \$180,023.50

Mission Fund:

- Budgeted through October 31, 2021 = \$ 12,500.00
- Received through October 31, 2021 = \$ 10,371.00
- Received through October 31, 2020 = \$ 11,549.00

Status of 2021 Budget:

Current Fund:

- Budgeted through November 30, 2021 = \$241,473.87
- Budgeted through November 14, 2021 = \$230,497.78
- Received through November 14, 2021 = \$190,811.80

Mission Fund:

- Budgeted through November 30, 2021 = \$ 13,750.00
 - Budgeted through November 14, 2021 = \$ 13,125.00
 - Received through November 14, 2021 = \$ 10,831.00
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UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2021 CONSISTORY MEETING

The regular meeting of St. Paul's UCC Consistory was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Marsha Landers. Pastor Rhonda opened the meeting with a message about Thanksgiving blessings. Pastor Rhonda read a poem about being thankful for farmers and offered appreciation to our farmers and the long hours they put in for all of us to have food. Then each Consistory member was asked to name aloud what people they were thankful for. She concluded with prayer.

Present: *Elders:* Lori Now, Jane Nuss, Bill Nuss, Joan Leffel and Marsha Landers; *Trustees:* Kyle Opperman, Larry Kill, and DeWayne Marsee; *Deacons:* Lynda Hadley, Melinda Silber, Jill Dickman, Susan Braun, Susan Spencer, Lynn Schmidt, Carol Schmidt, Linda McDonald, Becky Anderson, Jen Lucas, and Kelly Kill. Also present were, Treasurer, David Dickman, and Administrative Assistant Carolyn Garrison. Also present were guests Ann Vogel and Jane Laird.

Guest Ann Vogel was in attendance to discuss the quotes she has received from three organ companies to re-furbish our 70-year-old church organ. Ann discussed some of the quotes involved with re-furbishing the organ. The quotes ranged from \$155,000 to \$225,000 with an estimated repair time of 2-3 months. Ann proposed that we move forward with this project and that we should go with Schantz quote as they are the company that built our organ. Ann asked Consistory to think about this and give it some serious thought as the quotes were only good for six months.

Stewardship: Guest, Jane Laird for Kevin Gehres

- Our committee met a couple of weeks ago wherein we discussed the project of an Informational Fair. With our Conference Minister, the Rev. David Long Higgins as our guest preacher on January 9th and to present the Thomas Paton Award, with possibly a pot luck to follow, we thought this would be a wonderful opportunity to highlight or “SHINE”, to spotlight all our church committees and positions to inform every one of the who, what and when of each committee and position i.e., Deacon, Elder, etc. and encourage people to volunteer in serving in the future. Stewardship is asking that each committee make some sort of creative, eye catching, sign board that people can look at to promote their group and describe what they do. It

doesn't have to be elaborate, but we ask that you use your imagination. We will have either coffee and donuts to go with the Informational Fair or even possibly a potluck to follow worship and have the sign boards on display. The Consistory has asked that the Stewardship Committee provide the signboards.

Minutes:

- Minutes from the October 13, 2021, meeting were reviewed. Linda McDonald made a motion to approve the minutes. DeWayne Marsee seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report: David Dickman

- David reviewed the Financial Report for the month of October 2021. There being no other questions, President Marsha asked to file the financial report for review by the church Administrative Assistant.

President's Report: Marsha Landers

- In 2024, St. Paul's will be celebrating 175 years. We are looking for someone to chair that anniversary committee. After some discussion, the matter was tabled until after the first of the new year.
- Candidates for the 2022 Consistory are: Trustee: Tim Hirschfeld, Elders: Jim Huckemeyer and Janet Gibson, Deacons: Vicki Roode, Fred Scheer, Carol Waesch and either Emma Birt or Tom Dickman. Kellie Kill made a motion to accept these candidates, Jane Nuss seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Jill Dickman questioned the number of Deacons that are actually needed and the three years required to serve. Many get burned out. If this changes, the Constitution would need to be revised and approved by the congregation. After some discussion, a Deacon Revision Committee will be formed with Joan Leffel, Marsha Landers, Susan Spencer and Jill Dickman on said committee. Jill Dickman will head this committee.

Pastor's Report: Rhonda Hainer

- Thank you to those of you who decorated for fall on the outside doors of the church and especially the eye-catching display on the corner of High and Perry Street. It gives a positive and welcoming impression to passersby.
- Performed two funerals and one wedding in October.
- All Saints Sunday was well attended, especially by families who have lost a loved one in this past year.
- Led a Hope for the Holidays bereavement Workshop that was well attended.
- Currently working on a 4-week mid-week Advent Service that will run on Wednesday evenings during Advent.
- Pastor Rhonda suggested the possibility of having just one service on Christmas Eve and fill the church at that one service at either 8p or 7p. After some discussion, Susan Braun made a motion to have one Christmas Eve service that starts at 7pm. Jill Dickman seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Loose Offering:

- President Marsha asked if we want to have the loose offering designated to the Current Fund. Jane Nuss spoke up and said that would be a good Sunday for it as it is the day of the Christmas Program and congregation meeting. Jane Nuss made a motion for the December loose offering to go toward the Current Fund. Joan Leffel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Budget and Finance: David Dickman

- David reviewed the second draft of the 2022 Budget. Lori Now made a motion to accept the budget with suggested revisions. Becky Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Discussion ensued about where the money will come from or do a fund raiser to refurbish the church organ. With it being the end of the year, many may consider a tax-

deductible donation toward this project. There was mention of money in the Endowment Fund; however, the Trustees are concerned with upcoming expenses for the repair of cracks in the Sanctuary ceiling as well as problems with our boilers as of late and the cost to replace them. It was suggested that a possible organ fund-raising committee be formed as well as look into see if there are any grants out there. Questions were asked if Schantz would extend the quote response time and how are they about making payments? President Marsha will let Ann Vogel what all was discussed.

Trustees: Kyle Opperman

- Two cameras have been replaced.
- Experiencing boiler issues this week. Hopefully the issues of a loose connector and bad pump have resolved the issues.
- Replaced a circulating pump in the hot water heater.
- Repaired a couple of leaking faucets.
- Replaced batteries in a couple of the thermostats.
- Fixed the door closure on the High Street entrance.

Elders: Jane Nuss

- We had 125 people participate in communion on All Saints Sunday,

Deacons: Lynn Schmidt

- No report.

Christian Education and Nurture: Joan Leffel

- Sunday School attendance is going very well.
- CE&N met earlier this week and discussed a variety of topics plus set our 2022 meeting dates.
- The children's program in October went over very well. We received many compliments on the program.
- One or two children are bringing the offering up front to the altar. Sometimes we will have them put food on the

steps and/or read a scripture at the beginning of the service.

- We are finishing up our first quarter of lesson plans and throwing in some Thanksgiving crafts and making cards for the shut-ins.
- Advent starts November 28 and our lessons through the end of December will revolve around Advent, Christmas crafts and the children's Christmas program.
- We are working on making family Advent wreaths in the first three Sundays of November. The wreaths are wire framed with garland on them. On November 21 we will give the children the candles and what the meaning is of each candle. On November 28th the wreaths should be ready to go home. The only thing that the families will have to add is the white Christ candle in the middle. Instructions will go with the wreaths so they know what to do.
- We are still working on our food collection mission for Agape until November 28th. The food is being collected for the break bags for school children.
- You may have noticed the decorations on the walls of the Education Building. October, we did pumpkins on a fence for attendance. November is acorns and turkeys. For December, the kids picked ornaments. Every month will be different and the kids enjoy putting their stickers on for attendance. We are using painters' tape so as to not pull paint from the walls.
- In December we will use the two walls below the bulletin board heading to the Sanctuary as "Learning about Advent." On one wall we will build a nativity scene over the course of four weeks and on the other wall we will build an Advent wreath. Each child will be able to help with either wall. Every week we will add something to the wall. It will be consistently changing. The kids are also taking home a countdown to Advent tree or birthday cake to put pom-poms on each day until Christmas.

- There will also be an “all ages cross word puzzle on the wall in the hallway between the Lounge and the Library. This is about the Christmas Story and a pencil will be attached for members to fill in the answers.
- Family Ministries Coordinator, Amy Keller, and committee had a successful Fall Fun Day at the Nuss Farm. There were 29 in attendance. The next event will be caroling on December 12th at 1p. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall to car pool, etc. Amy has a list of houses that groups can go to do caroling to include nursing homes, unless restrictions are in place. Afterwards, we will meet back at the church for hot chocolate, cookies and donuts. This event is for the entire church to participate in.

Christian Mission and Outreach: Jill Dickman

- The committee recommends disbursement of funds to include the \$50 to CRU that was sent last month, \$250 to Agape, \$50 to the Auglaize County Cancer Society and \$1,000 to Tempel Hills. Jen Lucas made a motion to approve the disbursement and amounts recommended. Joan Leffel seconded. Motion carried.

Personnel: Jen Lucas

- Unfortunately, there has been no interest in either position. Please share with your family, friends and on social media. In the meantime, the Nursery will be a “Cry Room” until a Nursery Supervisor is hired. A parent or responsible adult must be present with their child during this time.
- Carolyn will be opening the church in the morning when she arrives and will lock up at the end of the day **if there is nothing scheduled**. Committees and groups **MUST** let Carolyn know when you have something scheduled.
- Trustees will have the church open on Saturdays until noon (due to any floral delivery, etc.)
- Personnel is working on year-end reviews with the staff.

- Jeff Dieringer has concluded his time on the Personnel Committee.

Church Directory: Susan Spencer

- Currently waiting on a few military pictures and church photos. Due to staff at the company having COVID, we will not have our directories before Christmas. There are other churches ahead of ours and they have fallen behind due to COVID.

Old Business:

- Susan Braun asked about the status of the Pickle Ball request. Lynn Schmidt said that they are currently using Noble School, but he will check with Ron Ketchum.

New Business:

- No new business

There being no further matters to discuss, Kyle Opperman made the motion to adjourn and Lynda Hadley seconded. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Landers, 2021 Consistory President

Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant



DON'T FORGET

Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. for the January 2022 issue of The Communicator will be December 17th. (Early due to holiday)



Getting Ready for Christmas



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PRESENTS
REINDEER
RUDOLPH
SANTA
SLEIGH

SNOW
STAR
STOCKINGS
TINSEL
TRAIN
TREE
WINTER
WREATH

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