

We Believe... Even When...



The history of humanity is fraught with pain—especially the pain that comes accompanied by fear and leads to oppression and violence of one people against another. This is the world into which Jesus was born and through which his teachings would challenge and call for transformation. The opening words of an anonymous Jewish poet, “I believe in the sun, even when the sun is not shining,” were scrawled on a wall during the Holocaust. This theme song for our season calls us to examine our penchant for annihilating fear by annihilating each other. The power of narrative and music will call us to a different response—transformation and reconciliation through hope, love, joy, and peace.

This Advent and Christmas, let us fill the night with light and affirm and act on the reasons why we can still “believe, even when” we are discouraged.

Enjoy this ‘at home’ worship resource with family, friends and times you can’t join in worship at your church. Perhaps you will start a new tradition over Sunday breakfast of reading and lighting candles!

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Advent 1

“I Believe in the Sun: Hope for Tomorrow”

This first week, Isaiah, the prophet, and Mark—the Gospel writer who published first—reassure the people that good news is beginning and yet they both say, “Make yourself ready! Raise your voices, change your hearts, get ready to be transformed, because now is the time.” Let us embrace hope that we can do what needs to be done to bring more light into the world.

Prayer

Holy One,
we thank you for the glimpses we catch
of your gift of untiring hope.
Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—
even when our view is obscured
by clouds of doubt,
ignite the flame of hope within us,
that we might glow with its brilliance
from the inside out. Amen.

Light the Candle of Hope.

Read Isaiah 40: 1-11 & Mark 1: 1-15

Benediction

And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news that the sun still shines even on cloudy days, fill the night left by sadness with messages of hope. Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that hope alive in you and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation. Raise your voices and say, “Do not be afraid!” Amen!

Advent 2

“I Believe in Love: Daring Right Relationship”

In both the Gospel of Matthew and Isaiah, a messenger appears as a sign from God, heralding a new era. In each passage, the words “do not be afraid” appear... offering a clue that the messenger—was referencing something that induced fear in the recipient. A new way of being together, of relating and loving takes courage—giving up the present order, so that a better day can be born.

Prayer

Holy One,
we thank you for the glimpses we catch
of your gift of daring love.
Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—
even when we cannot yet see a better day
when we will act
like the human family we are,
ignite the flame of love within us,
that we might glow with its brilliance
from the inside out. Amen.

Light the Candle of Love

Read Isaiah 7: 1-14 & Matthew 1: 1-25

Benediction

And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news that God is with us, Emmanuel. And continue to fill the night left by sadness with messages of love. Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that love alive in you and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation. Raise your voices and say, “Do not be afraid!” Amen!

Advent 4
**"I Believe in the Light:
Illuminating Peace"**

The "great light" prophesied by Isaiah in today's text is echoed in the first strains of John's Gospel good news: the light that brings peace—that saves the people from all that would extinguish it—has been there from the beginning. The Word is made flesh and dwells among us. This reign is now... will we believe it? Will we continue to put flesh on it, embodying the peace meant for all humanity?

Prayer

Holy One,
we thank you for the glimpses we catch
of your gift of peace on earth.
Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—
even when we aren't sure that
goodwill among us can be found,
ignite the flame of peace within us,
Amen.

Light the Candle of Peace

Read Isaiah 9: 2-7 & John 1: 1-18

Benediction

And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news that the light has dawned and shines on all people, fill the night left by sadness with messages of peace.
Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that peace alive in you and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation.
Raise your voices and say, "Do not be afraid!" Amen!

Christmas Eve
"We Believe, Even Now"

Tonight we return to the story of Jesus' birth as it is told in the Gospel of Luke. This account is the narrative we read again and again on this holy night, for this author gives us the most beloved detail. We so desire to believe the Good News of the messengers that is the culmination of humanity's pain of birth: "don't be afraid" for unto us a sign has come that will be to all people... "on earth, peace."

Prayer

Holy One, we thank you for the glimpse of heaven on earth in the faces and the light of those around us.
Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle— even when our view is obscured by clouds of doubt,
You have ignited the flame of hope, love, joy, and peace within us.
Let us glow with its brilliance from the inside out. Amen.

Light the Christ Candle

Read Luke 2: 1-20

Benediction

And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news that Christ is born among us, fill the night left by sadness with messages of hope, love, joy, and peace.
Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that light alive in you and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation.
Raise your voices and say, "Do not be afraid!" Amen!

Advent 3
"I Believe in God: Ode to Joy"

This week, we turn to Luke's writing. . . Whether you were a Jew or Gentile in those days, deciding to become a part of this illegal early Christian movement could bring punishment for your allegiance. Surely the message in both Luke and Isaiah that the downcast, lowly, and oppressed would rise up is a welcome and inspirational account. Like the Jewish exiled people of Isaiah's time and like the early Christians, we also sometimes wonder where God is in our suffering. We long to hear the promise that a reason for joyful praise is the good news on the way!

Prayer

Holy One, we thank you for the glimpses we catch of your gift of the depths of joy.
Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle— even when we are not sure of your presence,
ignite the flame of joy within us, amen.

Light the Candle of Joy

Read Isaiah 57: 14-19 Luke 1: 1-4; 26-56

Benediction

And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news that God is ever-present with us, fill the night left by sadness with messages of joy. Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that joy alive in you and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation. Raise your voices and say, "Do not be afraid!" Amen!



November 21, 2022

Dear Member of St. Paul's:

Consistory has approved the 2023 Budget. Again, this year there will not be a Budget Hearing and only a Congregational meeting. If members have any questions, your questions should be directed to David Dickman at (419) 629-3678 or brought up at the annual Congregational meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2022. This meeting will be held immediately following the 10:30 a.m. morning worship service.

- Revision to Article VIII-Consistory, of the church Constitution (copy attached hereto).
- The Consistory approved 2023 Budget will be voted on.
- Also, to be considered during this meeting will be approval of those who have agreed to serve on the 2023 Consistory.

To be approved as members of the 2023 Consistory are:

DEACONS

Ruth Knous
Marsha Heckler
To be filled
To be filled

ELDERS

Kelly Kill
To be filled

TRUSTEE

Larry Kill

Please plan to stay for the meeting.

Thank you,
Budget & Finance Committee
St. Paul's UCC Consistory

/cg

St. Paul's united Church of Christ

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ARTICLE VIII - CONSISTORY

1. The Consistory shall be the executive body of this church. It shall be composed of the Pastor or Pastors, six (6) Elders, twelve (12) Deacons, and three (3) Trustees.
2. Nominations shall be made for the offices of Elder, Deacon, and Trustee by a committee appointed at the October meeting each year by the President of Consistory. The nominating committee shall ~~consist of be five (5) members, three (3) of whom shall be members of the Consistory and any other person or persons appointed by the President of the Consistory.~~ This committee shall present a slate of candidates at the November meeting of at least one for each vacancy to be filled for approval by the Consistory. Public notice of such nominations shall be given from the pulpit, by bulletin or by letter at least two (2) weeks before the election which shall be the second Sunday in December. Other nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting in which the election is held providing the nominee is present and consents to his/her nomination. ~~No Elder, Deacon, or Trustee whose term has expired shall be eligible for reelection to a consecutive term. He/she shall again be eligible for election after an interim of two (2) years.~~ It is desirable that the Consistory maintain a diversity of ages and genders.
3. Elders, Deacons, and Trustees will each serve a three year term. In order to provide continuity, these terms will be staggered and not more than one-third of each office should be vacant in any one year.
4. Elders are members of the church elected by the governing body and ordained to and installed in their office. They shall assist and support the pastor in the spiritual affairs of the church. They shall provide the elements for the Lord's Supper and, when invited by the Pastor shall aid in their distribution. Elders shall take heed to the high calling of their office, guarding faithfully all the spiritual interests of the church, maintaining order in the house of God, visiting the sick, and ministering to the edification and comfort of all.
5. Deacons are members of the church elected by the governing body and ordained to and installed in their office. Deacons shall aid in securing funds necessary for the support of the church in its various activities and minister to the physical welfare of the membership of the church. They shall aid in the distribution of the elements of the Lord's Supper when invited by the Pastor. The Deacons shall assist the Pastor at all worship services and see that the church is properly ushered.
6. Trustees are members of the church elected by the church and installed in their office. They shall have the care and custody of the property of the church as a sacred trust, whether real or personal, in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and this Constitution under the direction of the Consistory.
7. **One-half of the Consistory's members shall constitute a quorum.**
8. Each vacancy on the Consistory shall be filled by the Consistory for the unexpired term.
9. The Consistory shall organize itself each year:
 - a. It shall elect a President and a Vice President from its membership.
 - b. A Treasurer may be elected from the Consistory or appointed by the Consistory from the membership of the church.
 - c. A Secretary may be elected from the Consistory or appointed by the Consistory from the membership of the church.
10. The Consistory shall be the policy making body of the church and shall perform the following functions:
 - a. Transact the business of the church;
 - b. Make provision for the determining and managing of the current expense budget as well as for Our Church's Wider Mission and Benevolences;
 - c. Provide for the auditing of financial accounts;
 - d. Provide adequate support of the staff;
 - e. Keep a complete and accurate record of its proceedings;
 - f. Be the custodian of all church records;
 - g. Report to the governing body at its regular and special meetings;
11. The Consistory shall instruct the proper officers on all fiscal matters, including the payment of bills. Fiscal matters will be reviewed monthly.

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ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2023 Budget

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>A. WORSHIP AND ARTS</u>		
Bulletins	\$500.00	\$500.00
Seasonal and Liturgical Supplies	\$950.00	\$950.00
Baptism Items	\$200.00	\$200.00
Books for 1 Year Olds	\$50.00	\$50.00
TOTAL OF A	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
 <u>B. MUSIC</u>		
All Music Department	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
Organ and Piano Tuning	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Music Copyright Licensing	\$800.00	\$800.00
TOTAL OF B	\$4,700.00	\$4,700.00
 <u>C. LOCAL MISSION & OUTREACH - EVANGELISM</u>		
Mission Education Resources/Postage	\$50.00	\$50.00
Assoc./Conf. Meetings	\$250.00	\$250.00
General Synod Delegates (Two)	\$0.00	\$0.00
DVD of Worship Service Outreach	\$300.00	\$0.00
Local Community Missions	\$500.00	\$500.00
Grief Ministry	\$600.00	\$600.00
Live Streaming Worship Service	\$200.00	\$200.00
Promotional Materials	\$400.00	\$400.00
Web Site	\$150.00	\$150.00
Text-Em-All Program	\$900.00	\$900.00
Parade Float	\$300.00	\$300.00
TOTAL OF C	\$3,650.00	\$3,350.00
 <u>D. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND NURTURE</u>		
<u>1. Church School</u>		
Curriculum	\$600.00	\$500.00
Bibles	\$500.00	\$500.00
Classroom Supplies	\$500.00	\$700.00
End of Unit Celebrations/End of Year Festival	\$200.00	\$400.00
Postage and Ink	\$75.00	\$100.00
Awards & Gifts	\$100.00	\$100.00
Sub-total	\$1,975.00	\$2,300.00

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
2. Membership and Confirmation		
Resources and Supplies	\$250.00	\$0.00
Retreats and Trips	\$200.00	\$0.00
Confirmation Gifts	\$300.00	\$0.00
Sub-total	<u>\$750.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
3. Special Programs		
Vacation Bible School	\$1,100.00	\$500.00
Camps	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Christmas, Easter, and Other Programs	\$400.00	\$200.00
Cub Scout Pack 36	\$100.00	\$100.00
Rally Day	\$300.00	\$300.00
Miscellaneous	\$400.00	\$200.00
Family Ministry	\$275.00	\$275.00
Sub-total	<u>\$6,575.00</u>	<u>\$5,575.00</u>
4. Youth Programs		
Youth Programs Middle School	\$400.00	\$400.00
Youth Programs Sr. Hi	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Sub-total	<u>\$1,400.00</u>	<u>\$1,400.00</u>
Total of D	\$10,700.00	\$9,275.00
<u>E. FELLOWSHIP</u>		
Golden Sunday	\$450.00	\$450.00
Church Picnic(Rental of shelter house/meat)	\$200.00	\$200.00
TOTAL OF E	\$650.00	\$650.00
<u>F. STEWARDSHIP</u>		
Miscellaneous	\$500.00	\$500.00
Materials and Postage (3 Mailings)	\$350.00	\$350.00
TOTAL OF F	\$850.00	\$850.00
<u>G. PASTORAL CARE AND COMMUNICATION</u>		
Telephone Service-Church	\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00
Office Supplies	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Postage (Bulk & First Class)	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Office Equipment Maintenance/Lease	\$7,000.00	\$6,500.00
Car Allowance - Sr. Pastor (.535)	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
(approx. 3600 miles)		
Car Allowance - CE & Youth Directors	\$500.00	\$500.00
TOTAL OF G	\$18,100.00	\$17,600.00

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>H. FACILITIES AND PROPERTIES</u>		
Utilities: Gas	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Utilities: Electric, Water, Trash, Sewer	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00
Insurance (All Properties & Boiler)	\$15,000.00	\$16,000.00
Janitor Supplies	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Lawn Care and Snow Removal	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL OF H	\$38,500.00	\$39,500.00

<u>I. BUDGET AND FINANCE</u>		
Vanco E-giving Charges	\$0.00	\$500.00
Offering Envelopes	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Checks	\$250.00	\$250.00
Advent & Lenten Coin Folders/Boxes	\$100.00	\$100.00
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TOTAL OF I	\$1,350.00	\$1,850.00

<u>J. MISCELLANEOUS AND PETTY CASH</u>		
Organ Refurbishing Committee	\$0.00	\$500.00
Budget Items	\$500.00	\$200.00
Long Range Planning	\$100.00	\$100.00
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TOTAL OF J	\$600.00	\$800.00

<u>K. PERSONNEL</u>		
1. Pastor Base Salary	\$50,895.00	\$53,440.00
Housing Allowance (Guideline is 30% of base)	\$15,268.00	\$16,032.00
Pension - 14% x (Base + Housing Allow.)	\$9,263.00	\$9,726.00
Crown COBRA premium Jan. & Feb. 2023		\$1,000.00
Health Ins. & Family Protection/Dental Opt Out	\$1,300.00	\$0.00
<i>Health Ins. if needed in lieu of Opt Out 14,374.00 (2022)</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>Health Ins. & Family Protection/Dental (\$325/10 mo)</i>	\$0.00	\$3,250.00
Study & Reference	\$500.00	\$500.00
Social Security Allowance - 7.65% x (Base + Housing)	\$5,061.00	\$5,315.00
Life & Disability 1.5% x (Base + Housing)	\$992.00	\$1,042.00
Sub-total	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$83,279.00	\$90,305.00

2. Administrative Assistant Salary	\$32,055.00	\$33,016.65
Insurance	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Sub-total	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$37,055.00	\$38,016.65

3. Custodian Salary (\$14.42/hr)	\$21,135.00	\$21,769.00
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4. Organists Salaray (\$90 per service)	\$5,715.00	\$7,756.00
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	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
5. Volunteer Coordinator of Special Music ((*wages waived)	\$4,820.00	\$4,820.00
6. Director of Bell Choir (*Volunteer-wages waived)	\$1,631.00	\$1,631.00
7. Youth Director of Music Salary 149.35/mo	\$1,740.00	\$1,792.20
8. Youth Leader (paid in 10 mo.) 360.50/mo	\$3,500.00	\$3,605.00
9. Director of Children's Ministries (*Wages waived)	\$8,840.00	\$8,840.00
10. Pulpit Supply (\$150.00 Flat Fee)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
11. Nursery Care (\$31 per week)	\$1,560.00	\$1,612.00
12. Accounting by an outside firm	\$6,300.00	\$6,300.00
13. F.I.C.A. (Social Security)	\$6,814.00	\$6,949.00
14. Workmen's Compensation Insurance	<u>\$850.00</u>	<u>\$850.00</u>
TOTAL OF K	\$186,313.00	\$195,245.85
<i>Additional cost of one bolded line above if used</i>	<u>\$13,074.00</u>	
<i>Personnel cost if one bolded line is used</i>	\$199,387.00	
 TOTAL BUDGET	 \$267,113.00	 <u>\$275,520.85</u>
<i>Additional cost of one bolded line above if used</i>	<u>\$13,074.00</u>	
<i>TOTAL BUDGET if one bolded line is used</i>	\$280,187.00	

II. MISSION FUND

MISSION FUND ENVELOPES: PROPORTIONATE DISTRIBUTION

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Chicago/Eden/United Seminaries	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Camps and Conference	\$250.00	\$250.00
Heidelberg College	\$300.00	\$300.00
Defiance College	\$300.00	\$300.00
Church Development	\$150.00	\$150.00
TOTAL	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00

NOTE: Back Bay Mission @ Biloxi, MS, Church World Service (Blankets), Crossroad, Fairhaven, One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, Strengthen the Church, and Christmas Fund have a special offering and will be taken and sent dollar for dollar.

III. BUILDING/MAINTENANCE FUND

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Normal repairs, maintenance and inspections	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00
Reserve for contingency	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
TOTAL	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00

Approved by Consistory: 9-Nov-22
Voted and passed by Congregation:

DECEMBER

Happy Birthday!!!

DECEMBER

- 1 - Loretta Deitsch
- 2 - Molly Hartsock
- 3 - Stanley Sanford
Janice Farley
- 4 - Robert Adams
- 5 - Nellie Krauss
Dianne Caywood
Adam Braun
Melissa Hollman
- 6 - Penny Brown
- 7 - Beverly Miller
Victor Long
Abbie Spencer
- 8 - Andrea Spencer
- 9 - Mike Wilson
Nick Stabelli
Virginia Burroughs
- 10 - Heidi Meade
- 12 - Carol Schmidt
- 13 - John Cisco
- 15 - Jason Ruwoldt
- 16 - David Luedeke
- 17 - Mary Wale
Scott Meeker
Craig Speckman
- 18 - Brandon Phipps
- 20 - Kayla Tangeman
- 21 - Vicki Miller-McGee
Laura Marsee-Drewes
- 22 - Scott Fast
- 24 - Joy Sibold
- 26 - Brenda Sharp
Carlos Bowman
Carly Caywood
- 28 - Jeff Deitsch
- 29 - Lindsey Clausing
- 31 - Max Moeller
Greg Schumm
Ruth Knous

Happy Anniversary!!!

DECEMBER

- 8 - Dan & Heidi Lemmerman
- 27 - DeWayne & Billie Marsee
- 30 - Daniel & Mary Haley
- 31 - Donny & Penni Carroll



December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6 pm Personnel Mtg. 6 pm Hospice Service Bell Choir Practice 7p-8:30p	2	3
4 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:15 am Church School Confirmation Adult Forum 10:30 am Worship	5 Samaritan Sisters Ladies Christmas Dinner 5pm at JT's (ALL ladies of St. Paul's are welcome)	6 Zion Lutheran Church Annual Advent Breakfast 9:30a in their auditorium Bingo @ Otterbein 5:30-6:30pm	7 Advent Midweek Service 7p No Quilting	8 Church staff Christmas dinner 6p Bell Choir Practice 7p-8:30p	9	10
11 3rd Sunday of Advent Children's Program 9:15 am Church School Confirmation EOL Series w/J. Dieringer 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Congregation meeting in Sanctuary	12 Bingo @	13	14 No Quilting 6:00 pm Consistory Advent Midweek Service 7p	15 Newsletter Deadline 9a 1:30 pm Heal Group Bell Choir Practice 7p-8:30p	16	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent 9:15 am Church School Confirmation Adult Forum 10:30 am Worship	19 Rebecca Circle 1:00 pm	20	21 No Quilting Advent Midweek Service 7p	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 7p Candlelight and Communion Service
25 Christmas 10:30 am Worship 	26 Church closed for holiday	27	28 No Quilting	29	30	31 
Jan. 1, 2023 10:30 am Worship	2 Church closed for holiday					