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Rhonda's Reflections



When God Whispers

“You don’t need to shout. My hearing works just fine.”

Are you a parent that has used that one on your kids? I’m not sure at what age they realize that the volume of their voice doesn’t correlate to the likelihood of receiving a favorable reply — it might be sometime in the teenage years, when the talking slows down altogether.

But I’ve got to admit, it would be nice if God always gave us a loud and dramatic sign when God wanted something — the booming voice and the torn-open heavens (“This is my beloved Son!”) really get the message across. Sometimes I find myself envious of the Apostles, who were able to witness such things in person.

The fact of the matter is, in the year 2022, God is more likely to speak in a whisper than in a shout. The prophet Isaiah forewarns that Christ himself will not be a noisemaker — for all his preaching, he will not cry out or shout to bring forth justice to the nations. His way is altogether different than that.

We are not the Apostles, and we do not have the privilege of seeing the Holy Spirit descend on Christ like a dove. But here’s the good news: God doesn’t need to shout. Our spiritual hearing works just fine. We just have to be listening.

Let’s wake up each morning ready to hear God’s whispers throughout the day. Let’s make a conscious effort to invite those whispers into our hearts, where they can become a catalyst for grace in this world.

See you on Sunday,
Rhonda



On Sunday January 9, 2022, St. Paul's was presented with the 2021 Heartland Conference Tom Paton Award for accessibility by The Rev. David Long-Higgins, of the Heartland Conference. St. Paul's UCC is proud and honored to receive the Heartland Conference's Tom Paton Award which recognizes and awards churches and Ohio UCC-related organizations which have done the most during the past year to make their building physically accessible, to make their congregations inclusive and welcoming, and who were committed to be advocates for persons with disabilities in their communities.

JTDMH Guild #20 Dues: The Joint Township District Memorial Hospital Auxiliary dues are now being collected. All are welcome to belong and support our local hospital. Dues are \$15 and checks should be made out to "JTDMH Auxiliary". Money or checks should be given to Ann Vogel by February 20, 2022.

Super Bowl Concert Canceled: Due to the rise in the Covid cases, there will NOT be a Super Bowl concert presented by the local organists in the Lima area this year.



Worship Service March 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

Plan now to attend the service of worship offered for Ash Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. This will be a traditional worship service that will include a message by Pastor Rhonda and both the imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. In the Ash Wednesday service, we are reminded of our mortality, we confess our sins, and we experience forgiveness through Christ's death and resurrection. The "imposition of ashes" is a central part of the service. You are invited to come forward to receive the ashes on your forehead. In Scripture, ashes serve both as a symbol of mortality and as a sign of mourning and repentance. But neither sin nor death are the final word. We leave the service in confidence and gratitude: Christ has conquered death, and nothing can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

AGAPE MISSION

Agape has asked us to switch over to buying these following products: *Cleaning supplies, toilet cleaner, spray cleaner, shampoo, body wash, small salt and pepper that come together in cardboard container, cooking oil, and brown sugar.*

Thank you supporting our Agape Mission.
Jane Nuss

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. 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. The HEAL group meets on the third Thursday of each month in the church's old library (next to the Sanctuary) at 1:00 p.m. This group is open for anyone who is seeking comfort, clarity, and hope for a path forward.

ANNUAL MEETING IN FEBRUARY

The annual meeting of the congregation is scheduled for **Sunday, February 13th**. There will first be a luncheon following worship. That will be followed by the meeting in which the efforts of 2021 will be reviewed, annual reports received, and the election of President and Vice President of the congregation will be conducted.



Fundraising

As you know, our cherished 67-year-old church pipe organ is in need of being refurbished. In order to update and refurbish the organ, we will need to raise funds ranging from \$155,000 to \$225,000. To help with the cost, we are looking for tax deductible donations. We are also searching for someone to head up a Fundraising Committee. If you are interested in heading up/forming a committee, please let Pastor Rhonda know.

Won't you be an organ donor? Stay "tuned" as this project progresses.

Jim's Musical Notes



Time to Praise

from God's Hymnal: Psalm 30

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing. - Psalm 30:11

It was the worst of times. In the first half of the seventeenth century, Germany was in the midst of wars and famine and pestilence. In the city of Eilenburg lived a pastor by the name of Martin Rinkart (1586-1649).

During one especially oppressive period, Rinkart conducted up to fifty funerals

a day as a plague swept through the town and as the Thirty Year's War wreaked its own terror on the people. Among those who Rinkart buried were members of his own family.

Yet during those years of darkness and despair, when death and destruction greeted each new day, Pastor Rinkart wrote sixty-six sacred songs and hymns. Among them was the song "Now Thank We All Our God." As sorrow crouched all around him, Rinkart wrote:

Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Rinkart demonstrated a valuable lesson for us all: Thankfulness does not need to wait for prosperity and peace. It's always a good time to praise God for the "wondrous things" He has done.

-- Dave Branon

Backstory: In addition to the plague, Eilenburg also suffered through a severe famine and even monetary abuse from high government taxes. Yet Martin Rinkart gave of everything he had to help his people and to remind them to be grateful.

From TUNE MY HEART TO SING, "90 devotions on Hymns from Our Daily Bread"

2014 by RBC Ministries

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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.



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.

- February 10
- February 17
- February 24

BREAKING BREAD COMMUNITY DINNER

Due to how Breaking Bread is having to serve their meals in a drive-thru fashion, they are unable to use the plastic containers that people have been saving for them. Until Breaking Bread is back serving meals inside, plastic containers are no longer needed. Thank you!

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.

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	<p>Congratulations to Rich and Susan Spencer for being promoted to being Grandparents! Alex and Marissa Spencer welcomed their first child, a son, Noah Edward Spencer, on January 12, 2022. Noah weighed 7 lbs, 8 oz and 20" long.</p>
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<p>CONGRATULATIONS goes out to Kendall Dieringer scoring 1,000 career points for the Lady Riders Basketball Team! Kendall is the daughter of Jeff and Sara Dieringer.</p> 	
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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 – Madilyn Mauter	12 – Ford Klosterman
4 – Brett Speckman	16 – Maya McDonald
5 - Ruby Laman	16 – Austin Winget
8 – Jillian Frankenhauser	16 – John Long
9 – Allie Long	16 – Charlie Drewes
10 – AJ Dieringer	28 – Toby Turner
10 – Nolan Frankenhauser	



January and February mission project for the Sunday School department is diapers (all sizes) and wet wipes. We will be donating the diapers and wet wipes to Rustic Hope located in Russia, Ohio. Rustic Hope is a non-profit organization that offers free support to single mothers before, during and after delivery. They are a Christ centered and family focused organization. Please bring your donations to the Gathering Room.



Sunday School children will be singing during the 10:30am church service on February 13 and April 10 (Palm Sunday).



A person can do a lot in 3 minutes or 9 minutes. But the real question is, what can you do to impact a child in those 3 or 9 minutes? When can you have the greatest impact on a child?

- The first 3 minutes right after they wake up.
- The 3 minutes after they come home from school.
- The last 3 minutes of the day before they go to bed.

Make those minutes special and help your children feel special, loved and accepted.

- Each day children need meaningful eye-to-eye conversations with a parent. It is especially important to slow down and look them in the eye. Listen to what they are saying. Many of us even in adult conversations think that we are listening but we are already forming our reply. Did we really listen to the conversation?
- Hug your child, give them a pat on the back and tell them how proud you are of them every day. Adults like to hear that reassurance, kids do as well! A simple touch makes them feel connected to a parent in ways that words never will. Remember, actions speak louder than words!
- At Sunday School, Jane and I greet each child as they come to Sunday School. We start with a greeting and then remind them to put their sticker on snowflake for attendance, then we continue to talk to them while we are in the Gathering Room waiting on Sunday School to start. Currently, we

have a LONG-hidden picture for them to find objects to fill some of their wait time. We start Sunday School by asking them how their week was and what they enjoyed about it. We then split into different groups to learn the lesson of the week. In one room we have theatre/Story time which is reading the lesson as a class and sometimes acting it out. In another room we have Art, which is an activity related to the lesson. And we can't forget Music with Maddy. At the end of Sunday School, we come back to the Gathering Room, talk about what they did this week and we ALWAYS take those last three minutes to wish them a good week and we will see them next week.

A lot can happen in 3 minutes. What can you do in 3 minutes to make a positive impact on a child?



Summer Camp 2022 registration is now open!

- **Grands and Family (ages 4-12 with adult)**
Dates: June 12-15 and July 13-16
- **Music, Mime, Arts, Dance and Drama (ages 7-18)**
Date: June 19-25, 2022
- **Just Camp! (ages 7-18)**
Date: June 19-25, 2022
- **Sports Camp (ages 7-18)**
Date: June 26-July 2, 2022
Ages 7-9, Ages 10-12, Ages 13-15, Ages 16-18

- **Mini Just Camp!** (ages 7-13)
Date: July 6-9, 2022
- **Choir Camp** (ages 7-18)
Date: July 10-16, 2022

Detailed camp information will be handed out during Sunday School for several weeks.



Happy New Year from the St. Paul's UCC Youth Group!

I hope everyone had a restful holiday season and is ready to tackle 2022. In the past month, the youth group had a bowling party at Varsity Lanes to kick off Christmas break, and Pastor Rhonda provided a lesson on the Jewish faith to help supplement the students' understanding of where Christianity comes from. We will likely have her back in the future to discuss other faiths in order to deepen our understanding and to better allow us to love our neighbors, as Christ commands us.

On the horizon is the annual Youth Group Super Bowl party! We hope to see you on Sunday mornings, and pay attention to your Remind messages for news about fellowship activities outside Sunday School.

Nick Frankenhauser.
Youth Director

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.



Valentine Project – Women's Guild will again send Valentine cards to our Senior, College, and Military members. On Sundays, January 30th and February 6th, a table with baskets and bags will be set up. We will be sending **cards only** to our senior members, but plan to send additional goodies to our college and military members. Candy, suckers, etc. are welcome. If you can help deliver these letters and packages, please contact Jane Nuss or Kris Vanderhorst

Cookies for Crossroad – Gathering cookies for Crossroad has been a tradition of our church for many years and the youth at Crossroad look forward to these. Please bake your favorite cookies and bring them to the church kitchen or the elevette room by Sunday morning, **February 6th**. They can be decorated, plain, or bar cookies. The cookies will be delivered to Crossroad during the following week. **Please pack them in a gallon or quart zip lock bag to keep them fresh.** Any questions, please call Kris Vanderhorst, 419-733-2112.

We are also collecting socks and underwear for residents of **Crossroad**. Ages of the youth are 6-18. Bikini or boy short for the girls and boxer/brief for boys. Any type of socks. A basket will be in the sanctuary until February 6.

Cabinet Meeting was held on January 12 with 5 members present. \$3552.05 is in the checkbook. Upcoming projects are the Valentine bags, cookies for Crossroad, Soup and Sandwich on February 13. Water and cookies will be provided for the Mom to Mom Sale on March 5. \$200.00 will be donated to Jeanette Tangeman for Back Bay Mission trip.

Many thanks for all the hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves which were collected for Goodfellows. So many of these were handmade again and all of the items will be much appreciated this winter. There were 100 items collected and donated and your help in supporting this mission is valued.

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:

- Richard Hudson (father of Nancy Mauter) – January 11, 2022



Thank you to the St. Paul's UCC Consistory for the Christmas gift this year. I enjoy working with the children and staff of St. Paul's church. You have given me great support throughout this year.

God Bless,
Jane Nuss

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Thank you so much to the St. Paul's Consistory for my Christmas gift. I do enjoy playing each month.

Thanks again,
Becky Anderson

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

Thank you, St. Paul's Consistory for the Christmas gift. I appreciate it.

Cindy Hanover

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

Dear church family,
Belated Christmas and New Year wishes to all! Thank you to all of the kind people of St. Paul's UCC. I would like to say thanks for the cookies, cards, visits and gift certificates I have received. They are much appreciated.













Nellie Krauss

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

Thank you to Karen James for making a new curtain to hide the aluminum can recycling storage! Very nice!

St. Paul's staff and members

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.
-  **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**
... **Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher**
... **Tracy Winget, 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.**

2021 CHURCH OFFICIALS

President of Congregation	Jeff Dieringer
Vice-president of Congregation	Darren Caywood
President of Consistory 2022	Susan Braun
Vice-president of Consistory 2022	Kevin Gehres

*****2022 President and Vice President to be elected in February should the current officers decide to only do one term.***

2022 Members of Consistory

Elders:	Janet Gibson	Jim Huckemeyer
	Joan Leffel	Bill Nuss
	Kevin Gehres	Lori Now
Deacons:	Vicke Roode	Fred Scheer
	Carol Waesch	Tom Dickman
	Susan Braun	Linda McDonald
	Jennifer Ginter	Susan Spencer
	Becky Anderson	Jill Dickman
	Carol Schmidt	Jen Lucas
Trustees:	Larry Kill, DeWayne Marsee and Tim Hirschfeld	

FINANCIAL REPORT

December 2021:

Current Fund:

- Budgeted through December 31, 2021 = \$263,426.00
- Received through December 31, 2021 = \$217,628.00
- Expenses through December 31, 2021 = \$230,539.19
- Received through December 31, 2020 = \$211,073.80

Mission Fund:

- Budgeted through December 31, 2021 = \$ 15,000.00
- Received through December 31, 2021 = \$ 12,172.00
- Received through December 31, 2020 = \$ 13,774.00

Status of 2022 Budget:

Current Fund:

- Budgeted through January 31, 2022 = \$ 22,259.42
- Budgeted through January 16, 2022 = \$ 13,355.64
- Received through January 16, 2022 = \$ 6,061.00

Mission Fund:

- Budgeted through January 31, 2022 = \$ 1,250.00
 - Budgeted through January 16, 2022 = \$ 750.00
 - Received through January 16, 2022 = \$ 1,455.00
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UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2022 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 inviting the members who are going off of Consistory to share one thing that you they have learned and/or one thing they celebrate while serving on the Consistory. Members shared positive experiences and accomplishments completed during their three years on Consistory. Pastor Rhonda thanked them for their years of service, contributions and the difference they have made in the life of this church. Pastor Rhonda then followed with an opening prayer.

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

Also in attendance, the new 2022 Consistory members: Jim Huckemeyer, Janet Gibson, Carol Waesch, Tim Hirschfeld, and Tom Dickman.

Minutes:

- Minutes from the December 8, 2021, meeting were reviewed. Kyle Opperman made a motion to approve the minutes. Lynda Hadley seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report: David Dickman

- David reviewed the Financial Report for the month of December 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

- Marsha passed around a couple of Thank You cards from staff members.

- Marsha thanked Pastor Rhonda, Lynda Hadley, Carolyn, Kevin and everyone else for helping her through this year as it has been a little challenging, but went okay overall. Marsha thanked everyone very much.

Pastor's Report: Rhonda Hainer

- Happy 2022!
- Pastor Rhonda wished that she could say that the threat of COVID with all the variants were over and that we could rest easy. However, that is not true. But we continue to meet the challenges by keeping God as our focus and caring for our congregation and community as Jesus would call us to.
- Our Sunday school children put on a fantastic and very meaningful Christmas program under the direction of Maddie Frankenhauser, our Children's Music Ministry Dir.
- The four weeks of Advent mid-week Worship were a meaningful preparation for Christmas.
- Our Christmas Eve service was very well attended with 188 in attendance, and much warmer than our outside service a year ago.
- The Stewardship Committee's efforts to energize committees to make info boards to be set up for the information fair last Sunday was a huge success. Thank you to all the many persons who brought to life the workings of their committees in such a colorful, engaging way. Besides the adults, the Confirmation class and senior high Sunday school class benefited from perusing each info board. These boards highlighting the work of various committees will be featured during worship in the next few weeks.
- Last Sunday was a true celebration being presented the Tom Paton Award as well as the message by Rev. Dave Long-Higgins who gave a very personal and inspiring message reminding us that we are not a silo church, but connected to the United Church of Christ in Ohio and nationwide. Carolyn Garrison had a wonderful suggestion

of hanging the award in the hallway from the Sanctuary to the new elevator. Members of Consistory agreed with the suggestion.

- Pastor Rhonda also expressed her appreciation to the Consistory for the Christmas gift of money given to her and to our church staff.
- Pastor Rhonda's focus is on the upcoming Lenten season.

Loose Offering:

- President Marsha asked for suggestions for the Loose Offering (second Sunday of each month) for both February and March. After some discussion, Susan Braun made a motion for Back Bay Mission in February and St. Marys After Prom for the month of March. Lynn Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Joan Leffel made mention of not passing the offering plates and the fact that they are sitting on stands at the rear of the church. People forget to leave their offering or put anything in the plate at all. When kids sing and on holidays, we have so many people in attendance that we should pass the plate. There was a suggestion to have the offering plates at the entrances to the sanctuary with the Deacons and then the Deacons can move them inside the sanctuary once the service begins. Jane Nuss mentioned that she had set plates up in the balcony as well. Lori Now made the suggestion that instead of passing the plate, the Deacons could go up each aisle and reach in with the plate for people to drop their offering into and not truly "pass the plate." Marsha Landers asked about the online giving. David Dickman stated that he will go over that in his Budget and Finance report. David did mention that online giving was down this past year. Pastor Rhonda asked for a final suggestion and that she was open to whatever will work. After some discussion, Becky Anderson made a motion to have offering plates at the front of the church, in each balcony and to have plates with the Deacons at the

entrances to the Sanctuary with the Deacons moving them into the sanctuary once worship begins. Kyle Opperman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Carolyn will also put a reminder in the bulletin as well as in the opening announcements.

Budget and Finance: David Dickman

- David reviewed percentages of giving with our online giving program, Vanco. Preliminary Vanco figures without the processing fee that is charged for 2021 \$28,405.00 and \$34,205.00 in 2020. Most of the giving is to the Current and Mission funds. David is still gathering information and will have it in his 2021 Annual Report.

Trustees: Kyle Opperman

- We have contracted with All Temp for a new boiler

Elders: Jane Nuss

- New communion/wafer cups were a hit and much easier to open.

Deacons: Lynn Schmidt

- Lynn passed around a list of new Deacon duties.
- Kevin Gehres recommends not asking all of the Deacons to not attend Consistory meetings. Kevin offered a possible alternative to consider: 6 Elders, reduce Deacons from 12 to 9 and continue with 3 Trustees. Elders should be included in the rotation of Greeters, Offertory and serving Communion. This will be discussed more at the annual meeting next month.
- Jane made a motion to remove the bottom paragraph from the Deacon duties list that Lynn had passed around. Kyle Opperman seconded. Motion carried.

Christian Education and Nurture: Joan Leffel

- The Sunday school mission project for January and February is diapers and wet wipes for Rustic Hope in Russia, Ohio.
- The children will be singing February 12th, April 13th, and then again in May.

- Summer camp info will be handed out to families this Sunday. Also, online registration is now open.
- Family Fellowship will have soup and sandwich after worship this Sunday.
- Confirmation and youth group is going well.
- Postcards were sent out to families. Either “We Miss You” or some type like “Thanks for coming in on a chilly day.”
- The youth have concluded a video series and is now discussing several aspects of that series. Pastor Rhonda will also be in the classroom at least one Sunday to answer questions and see how it goes from there.
- Pastor Rhonda will also be teaching a unit on Judaism, and probably next month on Islam. After that, we will see how things go.
- Lesson plans for the remainder of the year are complete for Nursery through 5th grade. Sarah Walter has hers done for the 6th-7th grades as well.
- The nursery children are learning the ABCs of the Bible.
- We are currently working on Vacation Bible School curriculum and dates for it to be held. We have asked Amy Keller and Diane Gayer to help guide us with that.
- Rally Day will be Sunday, September 11th.
- The Confirmation kids will be interviewing those that attend the Adult Forum class this Sunday.

Christian Mission and Outreach: Lynda Hadley

- The committee has held virtual meetings. Jane Nuss made a motion to give Back Bay Mission \$1,000. Kyle Opperman seconded. Motion carried.

Personnel: Kyle Opperman for Jen Lucas

- There is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow night. Trustees should be in attendance.

Stewardship: Kevin Gehres

- The Information Fair last Sunday was awesome. The idea came from Jane Laird and was two years in the making.

- Thank you to all that made posters for their individual committees.
- We are going to spotlight two committees each Sunday.

Old Business:

- There being no old business. Thank you to those members whose Consistory term is completed. Those members were excused to leave the meeting.

New Business:

- The 2022 Communion Schedule, Deacon Schedule and list of Consistory members was passed around.
- Pastor Rhonda installed Tim Hirschfeld and Jim Huckemeyer into Consistory as they were unable to attend installation on January 2nd.
- Prom is scheduled for late April; therefore, the third Sunday in May will be Scholarship Sunday.
- Bill Nuss and Joan Leffel will be Co-Head Elders.
- Carol Schmidt and Linda McDonald will be Co-Head Deacons
- President Susan made the suggestion of all committees submit their Consistory report prior to meetings to help speed things up.

There being no further matters to discuss, Tim Hirschfeld made the motion to adjourn and Joan Leffel seconded. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Marsha Landers, 2021 Consistory President
 Susan Braun, 2022 Consistory President
 Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant

DON'T FORGET



Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. for the **March 2022 issue** of *The Communicator* will be **February 18th**.



Valentine's Day

Word Search

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



- Gift
- Hugs
- Love
- Arrow
- Candy
- Cupid
- Heart
- Sweet
- Kisses
- Flowers
- Chocolate
- Valentine

