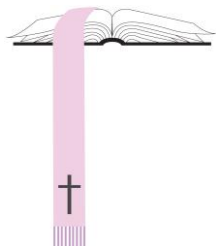


# *Rhonda's Reflections*



I love the feeling of a crisp new notebook. Clean pages ready for me to scribble all over. I am trying to look at each new month in much the same way. New opportunities waiting for me. What will this month hold? Good days and hard days. Laughter and tears. Probably some weather that I don't love. And so many opportunities.

## A Prayer for a New Month

God of Endless Possibilities! We begin a new month today filled with promise. We bring to this new month all that we are—our joys and sorrows, our dreams and failures, our memories of the past and our wishes for the future. All of this is present as this new month begins. Whatever this month holds, we are grateful to know we do not walk this way alone. You are present with us. You guide us if we only pay attention. You support us when we relax enough to be supported. You love when we seem most and least lovable. As this new month begins, we open ourselves to the possibility of goodness in our lives and goodness to share with others. Open us to receive what is to come. Amen.

See you on Sunday,  
Rev. Rhonda

---

### ANNUAL MEETING IN FEBRUARY

The annual meeting of the congregation is scheduled for **Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**. There will first be a luncheon following worship. That will be followed by the meeting in which the efforts of 2022 will be reviewed, annual reports received, and the election of President and Vice President of the congregation will be conducted.



**Join us for our "Third Sunday Membership Opportunity" on the third Sunday of the month**

**Sunday, February 19 at 11:45 am**

**Following the 10:30 am Worship Service**

If you are feeling led to be a part of our ministry and to join us as a member of Christ's body by becoming a member of the congregation of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, we invite you to our "Third Sunday" membership opportunity. You can meet with the Pastor and a few elders from the Consistory following the worship services on the Third Sunday of each month. If you are ready to make a commitment, you will be received into membership at that time. You will then be recognized during worship the following Sunday (or the next Sunday you will be in attendance).

We meet in the former library (on the left side of the church).

Please contact Pastor Rhonda with any questions at 563-210-3508.

---

## **STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

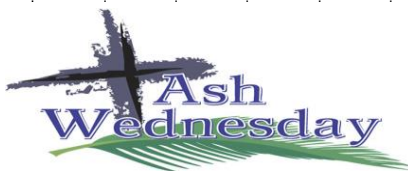
Beginning Feb 5th, there will be colored notecards in the pews. Please take a minute before church to answer the monthly "Stewardship Reflecting Question" that will be printed in the bulletin. Please write your response on your notecard and drop it in the offering plate! You can include your name on your response, or you can remain anonymous. Responses will be compiled and shared on the screens before church services.

## Prayer and Care Ministry

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

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

**You are invited** to the Caregiving from the Heart Support Group held here at St. Paul's on **the first Monday of each month, at 7pm in the library**. This is a gathering for any caregivers (and others who are involved) whether you are doing it within your home, within your loved one's home or if your loved one resides in a care facility. It will be led by Rev. Jeanette Tangeman (or Ruth Knous in Jeanette's absence) and will be a gathering to support each other, learn from each other, and find helpful resources. Any questions, please call Jeanette at 419-234-7935, or Ruth Knous at 419-394-8085.



### **Worship Service, February 22nd 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.*

Since the beginning of the church, Christians have observed the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection with great devotion. It became one of the greatest traditions of the

church to prepare for these events through serious examination of our spiritual lives.

The season of Lent is a time of penitence, discipline, and renewal. 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.



Ash Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:00 pm begins our annual series of Wednesday Lenten Services. Communion will be offered at the Ash Wednesday Service. There will be six services, with the last one occurring on April 5th. Make this worship experience part of your Lenten remembrance.

## End of Life Questions

For the past several months, Pastor Rhonda has hosted sessions on **End of Life Issues** with guest speakers who have covered these subjects: estate planning, financial planning, funeral planning, personal end of life wishes.

As your pastor, I believe my role is not to provide you with the answers. My job is to help you find the answer that is right for you, and to remind you (often) that you already knew the answer. I am not trying to sway a family to what I would do if I were in their shoes because I am not in their shoes.

The following is how to address **End of Life Questions**.

How do I say a final goodbye to my loved one, and when is the right time to do so?

How do we ask our loved one about her final wishes without making her feel that we are hurrying her death?

In my experience, waiting until a loved one is near death (as we see on TV) is not the best time to tell someone how you feel. I recommend being open and honest with your loved one regularly. This eliminates the need for a final goodbye and the sadness people feel if they weren't present for a final goodbye. If you have always wanted to ask a parent something, do it now. If you want your loved one to know you love them, now is the time to say it.

There are times leading up to a person's death when the family gathers around to be present. If I am invited into this sacred time/space, I will encourage storytelling and memory sharing. Too often, the loved one who is dying is no longer able to participate verbally in the conversation.

My thought is to tell your loved ones you love them each time you talk, as we cannot predict what the future holds. I say this not to worry or alarm anyone. Instead, this is a reminder that all life is frail and ends and I would rather my loved ones know I love them than feel guilty that I didn't tell them!

How do we ask our loved one about her final wishes/hopes/dreams without making her feel that we are hurrying her death?

My best suggestion is to ask the question. "Hey Mom, is there anything you regret not doing? Hey Dad, what is on your bucket list? Is there anywhere you always wanted to travel and never did? Is there a food you have never eaten and would like to try? I wonder if there are any broken relationships you would like

Sometimes it is easier to talk about yourself first! "I have always wanted to travel to \_\_\_\_\_. Is there anywhere in the world you would like to go?"

You might be surprised by how simple the request is. Some people just want to feel the sunshine on their faces or see the ocean one more time or eat their favorite French fries, or dance to a favorite song. If the request is a bit more difficult to make happen, be creative. If your Dad always wanted to go to Italy and that is no longer possible, turn a room in your home into Italy. Hang magazine pictures on the walls. Play Italian music. Serve an Italian meal. Watch a movie that takes place in Italy.

Each day we live is a gift from God. Our response to God is how we spend that day. That doesn't mean that every day has to be the most productive day ever. You may remember that God rested on the seventh day and told us to do the same. If each day we can brighten the life of another, ease a little suffering, spread a little kindness, we will make God's world a better and more loving place.

**HEAL** is St. Paul's grief group of people who gather monthly on the third Thursday at 1:30 to **H**elp **E**ach other **A**djus**t** to **L**oss. Pastor Rhonda is a trained bereavement counselor, and leads this group for anyone who has recently or long ago experienced a loss of a loved one and would like a safe place to

share their feelings. **HEAL** grief group is open to all faiths. The next meeting is **February, 16, 2023, 1:30 p.m.** in the old library.

-----

**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 19, 2023.

-----

**WE WANT TO:** Rename the room currently known as the Elevette Room. Please look over these name suggestions and/or suggest one or two of your own by sending them to Carolyn during the month of February. We will put all the names in the March Communicator and the following week we will accept your votes for your favorite...either by ballot, or email, or call to Carolyn.

- The Spirit Room      Sunshine Room
- Welcome In Room    The Gathering Room.....Other????
- 



# The Family Room Event

## “Love Around the World”

Please come and join us for a Valentine’s Day theme potluck Dinner on **Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, from 5p-7p in Fellowship Hall.** Bring a dish to share that originated in another country. You won’t want to miss a fun trivia game featuring fun facts about worldwide traditions.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Keller.

-----



Mike and Jane Laird would like to announce the birth of their grandson, Chase Allen Everman. Chase was born December 2, 2022, five weeks early. The proud parents are Robin and Scott Everman.

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

Becky and Kirk Anderson would like to announce the birth of their grandson, Alex Mathew Bush. Alex was born December 26, 2022. The proud parents are Jill and Tony Bush, big brother is Evan.

-----  
**Super Bowl Organ Concert:** The Lima Area Chapter of American Guild of Organists will present their Super Bowl Concert this year. It will be held at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 301 West Market Street, Lima, Ohio, on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. A free will offering will be taken.



-----  
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 9
- February 16
- February 23



## **BREAKING BREAD BIG THANKS!**

Breaking Bread would like to give a **BIG THANK YOU** to Grace Young, Glenn and Lynda Hadley, and the St. Paul's Women's Guild for each purchasing a new 20 cu ft frost free freezer! These three freezers will replace three of our old freezers, and will be much more energy efficient, and cost saving! Thanks again! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

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

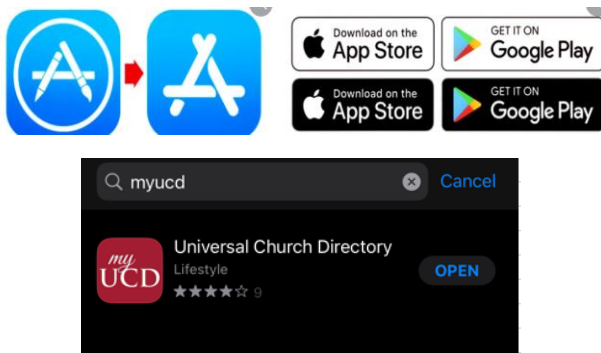
## **BREAKING BREAD COMMUNITY DINNER NEWS**

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.

-----

## **CHURCH DIRECTORY APP**

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



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

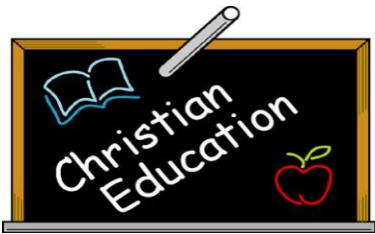
**Step 3: Click "Open" and your App is ready for use.**

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

Please call Susan Spencer 419-305-5267 or email her at [Susan\\_Spencer@live.com](mailto:Susan_Spencer@live.com)

Liturgists Needed for 2023

We are always in need of liturgists for our upcoming worship services. Let your voice ring out ... as often as you like! If your son or daughter is a Senior, and plans on applying for a church grant, this is an opportune time to sign up to be a Liturgist and show your involvement in the church! Please contact Carolyn Garrison in the Church Office to volunteer. Many thanks!



**FEBRUARY  
BIRTHDAYS!**

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



One month in for 2023 and we are excited to see what the new year brings. Our winter quarter of lessons continues with

Bible stories about John the Baptist’s introduction, Jesus’ early ministry in Capernaum ending the quarter with the unexpected way of the King. We start our Sunday School by joining in the Gathering Room to review the children’s week with them, then give them a glimpse of what their lesson will be for the day, starting with a scripture reading. Maddy works with them on music selections. We then split them into groups, and they go to the second floor for rotational classes for 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Those two classrooms are Theatre Room (which has actual movie seats) and they either act out the lesson, a teacher reads it to them, or they all participate in some way. The other classroom is the Art Room, and that’s where the creativity begins. The art project is usually lesson related, but sometimes we do some seasonal crafts as well.

In the March newsletter, we will highlight the Nursery class and the Pre-K to Kindergarten class.

Sunday School mission project for January and February is collecting toilet paper for Agape. We are not doing a challenge with the congregation (sorry, you’re on your own). The kids set their own goal of 100 rolls and once they reach that goal, they will set another goal. We will be “filling in” a wall in the Gathering Room to stack their toilet paper against. Can we get to the top of the wall? We’ll see and share pictures with the congregation.

April 2nd is Palm Sunday! For the first time ever (we think), we will have an Easter program. The kids have already started learning the songs, and next up is speaking parts. The youth from Nursery to Senior High will be doing the entire service. Remember the date because we don’t think you will want to miss this service.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support of Sunday School youth, teachers and for the both of us.

Jane Nuss and Joni Leffel



**GRANT APPLICATIONS:** Grant forms are available in the church library (on podium), and in the church office.



**2023 SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW!**

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

- M.A.D.D. (Music, Mindfulness, Art, Dance, Drama)
- ages 8-18, June 18-24
- (NEW) Camp “Out” ages 8-18, June 18-24
- Sports Camp: ages 7-18, June 25-July 1
- Grands and Family Camp: ages 4-13 with Parent(s) or Grandparent(s)
  - \*June 14-17 Directors: Rev Mark and Margee Frey
  - \*July 5-8 Directors: Kathy Smith and Revs. Janis and Joel Montgomery
  - \*July 9-12 Directors: Rev Mark and Margee Frey
- (NEW) Pathfinder/Confirmation July 9-15
  - Pathfinder 12-15 years
  - Senior Pathfinder 16-18 Years
- (NEW) Junior Pathfinder: July 12-15 (7-12 yrs.)

# High School YOUTH GROUP

St. Paul's UCC

Greetings, St. Paul's!

I hope 2023 has been treating you well so far. As we in the high school Youth Group have been discussing, the great thing about a new year is that, as with Jesus, a fresh start is always possible.

While a prior obligation kept me out of the Youth Room one Sunday in January, Amy Keller graciously stepped up to cover for me, and the teens were very excited to spend time with their former confirmation class teacher once again. We also celebrated the New Year with a bowling party at the end of January, where much fun was had by all.

There is not much else to report as the year is still young, but a Youth Group fundraiser is in the works for this spring, so stay tuned for more news about that in the coming months.

May God bless your 2023!

In Christ,  
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 home bound members. There will not be bags for the college members, as Women's Guild has decided to send them a gift card. On Sundays, February 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, a table with the bags will be set up. **We will be sending only cards.** If you can help deliver these bags, please contact Jane Nuss or Kris Vanderhorst.

***Parents, please send to the office your child's college or military address, so we can send them a Valentine!***

**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 12<sup>th</sup>. They can be decorated, plain, or bar cookies. The cookies will be delivered to Crossroad the next day. **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 will also be collecting** socks and underwear for the residents of Crossroad. The ages of the youth are 6-18. Bikini or boy shorts for the girls and boxer/brief for the boys. Any type of sock. A tub will be in the sanctuary until February 12.

**Soup and Sandwich-** Please join us in Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> for soup and sandwiches and, of course, desserts! The Annual Meeting will follow.

**Many thanks** for all the hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves which were collected for Goodfellows. So many of these were again hand-made and all the items will be much appreciated this winter. There were over 75 items collected and donated, and your help in supporting this mission is valued.

**Women's Guild Cabinet** met on January 9th to mainly discuss donations to be made. Thank you to Greg and Kathy Dieringer for donating two crock pots. Women's Guild previously donated \$200.00 for Clean-up kits, \$250.00 for an 8<sup>th</sup> grader's school trip, \$50.00 to Veteran's of the Cross, and \$250.00 to Helping Hands. Motion was made and approved to donate: \$200.00 to Back Bay Mission, \$100 to buy socks and underwear for Crossroad, \$500.00 to Temple Hills, and \$1059.00 for a new freezer. Billie will research new curtains/blinds for Fellowship Hall.

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

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

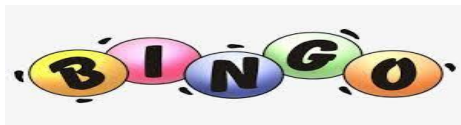
There will be a Ladies Luncheon at JT's on Thursday, February 2nd at 11:30 a.m. All of the ladies of the church are welcome. Please **RSVP to the church office or Jane Nuss by Noon on January 31st.**

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

**SCRAP WOOD NEEDED!** Contact Jane Nuss if you have any scrap wood that could be used for crafts for this year's Fall Sale!

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

**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*)



Bingo will be held on the following Tuesdays:

Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> – Otterbein from 5:30-6:30p  
 Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – Vancress 6:15-7:15p  
 Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – Otterbein from 5:30-6:30p  
 Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Vancress 6:15-7:15p


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

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



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

- Hazel Armstrong – January 9, 2023

|                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To the Organ Refurbishing Fund in memory of Sis Krugh:</b> St. Paul's Women's Guild</li> <li>• <b>To the Organ Refurbishing Fund in memory of Wilma Tester:</b> St. Paul's Women's Guild</li> <li>• <b>To the Organ Refurbishing Fund in memory of Deb Sudman:</b> St. Paul's Women's Guild</li> <li>• <b>To Breaking Bread in memory of Jo Rowen:</b> Jim and Kris Vanderhorst, and Karen James</li> <li>• <b>To Breaking Bread in memory of Shirley Gayer:</b> Karen James</li> </ul> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



# THANK YOU!

Thank you, St. Paul's Consistory,

I appreciate the Christmas gift. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the music ministry team.

Thank you,

Cindy Hanover

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

Dear Members of St. Paul's:

Thank you for your generous gift to Back Bay Mission's 100-Year Capital Campaign and celebration. "Making Good Trouble on The Mississippi Gulf Coast for 100 Years".

You are the key to ensuring that our mission of strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice, and transforming lives, continues for the next century!

Grace and Peace,

James Pennington

Executive Director

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

Dear Ladies of Rebecca Circle,

Thank you for the holiday hair salon gift certificate. It was greatly appreciated!

Nellie Krauss

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

Dear Members of Consistory,

I want to thank you for the bonus that you gave me at Christmas. It was so thoughtful of you to remember me.

Ann Vogel

## STAFF OF ST. PAUL'S UCC

- ... Rev. Rhonda Hainer, Pastor
  - ... Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant
  - ... Nick Frankenhauser, Youth Director
  - ... Maddy Frankenhauser, Director of Children's Music
  - ... Andrea Spencer, Organist
  - ... Ann Vogel, Organist
  - ... Cynthia Hanover, Pianist
  - ... Becky Anderson, Pianist, & Volunteer Coordinator of Special Music
  - ... Brad and Nam Gehrlich, Custodians
  - ... Rich Spencer, Audio and Video
  - ... Carol Schmidt, Email Prayer Team Contact
  - ... Jane Nuss & Joan Leffel, Volunteer Christian Ministry Directors
  - ... Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher
  - ... Tracy Winget, Nursery Supervisor
- 



- ☎ If you will be going to the hospital or if someone you know is hospitalized, please call the church office and let us know.
  - ☎ Please call the church office with address corrections or if you do not see your **Birthday** or **Anniversary** listed during the correct month. Call 419-394-3811. Thank you!!
  - ☎ **CALL-EM-ALL** - Please let the church office know if you are experiencing any problems with the Call-Em-All phone messages. **Also, if you would like to be removed from the calling list, listen to the broadcast and at the end follow their directions to 'opt out' of any future broadcasts - this will remove your number from the calling list.** Thank you!
  - ☎ **Cell phone # for Pastor Rhonda** (563) 210-3508
  - 📧 **rhainer@bright.net** – Rev. Hainer's e-mail address.
  - 📧 **smucc@bright.net** - church e-mail address. Use this to e-mail articles for the newsletter/messages for the Sunday bulletin.
-

- 📧 **jnj12021@gmail.com**- Christian Ministry Directors email address.
  - 📧 **youth.stpaulsucc@gmail.com**- High School Youth Director email address.
  - 📧 **cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com** to contact Carol Schmidt for the Prayer Team Requests.
  - 📧 **spmedia@bright.net** – to contact Jim Huckemeyer or Rich Spencer email address.
  - 💻 **www.stpaulsuccsm.com** - church website address and most current worship service videos can be seen here.
  - 💻 **VANCO electronic giving** - Download Vanco Payment Solutions onto your mobile device by going to the app store or Google Play and search for **“Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement”**. The download is free.
  - 💻 **Televised worship service**- our worship service here at St. Paul’s is shown on **TSC cable - Digital channel 1 OR non-digital channel 2**, LIVE every Sunday at 10:30 am and one day delayed on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm.
  - ♥ **EMERGENCY AED** – There is an emergency AED Unit located on the wall behind the soundboard in the Sanctuary.
  - **OFFERING ENVELOPES** - are distributed by quarterly mailing. Please notify the church office if you are not receiving envelopes and would like to be added to this mailing list. Also, **PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**
  - **COPIES** - if you need copies made of any personal items, you may stop by the church office, and we will be glad to make them for you. If it is a large project, it is best to call ahead. **Cost for making copies for church members is 15 cents per copy if you use the office paper, or 10 cents per copy if you bring your own paper.**
-

## **2023 CHURCH OFFICIALS**

|                                          |                |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>President of Congregation</b>         | Darren Caywood |
| <b>Vice-president of Congregation</b>    | Chad Laman     |
| <b>President of Consistory 2023</b>      | Kevin Gehres   |
| <b>Vice-president of Consistory 2023</b> | Susan Braun    |

### **2023 Members of Consistory**

|                  |                                                |                |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Elders:</b>   | Janet Gibson                                   | Susan Braun    |
|                  | Kevin Gehres                                   | Lori Now       |
|                  | Diane Gayer                                    | Marsha Heckler |
| <b>Deacons:</b>  | Vicke Miller-McGee                             | Fred Scheer    |
|                  | Carol Waesch                                   | Tom Dickman    |
|                  | Becky Anderson                                 | Jill Dickman   |
|                  | Carol Schmidt                                  | Jen Lucas      |
|                  | Carol Gehres                                   | Marsha Landers |
|                  | Kelly Kill                                     | Ruth Knous     |
| <b>Trustees:</b> | DeWayne Marsee, Tim Hirschfeld, and Larry Kill |                |

---

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **December 2022**

#### **Current Fund:**

- Budgeted through December 31, 2022 = \$267,113.04
- Received through December 31, 2022 = \$223,233.00
- Expenses through December 31, 2022 = \$221,866.89
- Received through December 31, 2021 = \$217,628.00

#### **Mission Fund:**

- Budgeted through December 31, 2022 = \$ 15,000.00
- Received through December 31, 2022 = \$ 12,253.50
- Received through December 31, 2021 = \$ 12,172.00

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

#### **Current Fund:**

- Budgeted through January 31, 2023 = \$ 22,960.00
- Budgeted through January 15, 2023 = \$ 13,776.00
- Received through January 15, 2023 = \$ 8,665.58

### **Mission Fund:**

- Budgeted through January 31, 2023 = \$ 1,250.00
- Budgeted through January 15, 2023 = \$ 750.00
- Received through January 15, 2023 = \$ 450.00

---

## **UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2023 CONSISTORY MEETING**

The regular meeting of St. Paul's UCC Consistory was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Susan Braun. Pastor Rhonda opened the meeting with prayer.

**Present:** *Elders:* Lori Now, Kevin Gehres, and Janet Gibson; *Trustees:* Larry Kill, and DeWayne Marsee; *Deacons:* Susan Braun, Carol Schmidt, Susan Spencer, Jill Dickman, Jen Lucas, Fred Scheer, Carol Waesch, and Tom Dickman. Also present were, Pastor Rhonda Hainer, Treasurer, David Dickman, and Administrative Assistant Carolyn Garrison.

Also in attendance, the new 2023 Consistory members: Marsha Heckler, Diane Gayer, Marsha Landers, Carol Gehres, and Kelly Kill.

### **Minutes:**

- Minutes from the December 14, 2022, meeting were reviewed. President Susan asked that the minutes be modified to add that the Consistory went into Executive Session from 6:55 pm to 7:07 pm with no action taken. Joan Leffel made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Larry Kill seconded. Motion carried. Jill Dickman made a motion to approve the minutes as modified. Linda McDonald seconded. Motion carried.

### **Financial Report:** David Dickman

- David reviewed the Financial Report for the month of December 2022. There being no other questions, President

Marsha asked to file the financial report for review by the church Administrative Assistant.

**President's Report:** Susan Braun

- Susan explained that the church has received notice of our Chamber of Commerce Membership renewal of \$95. Jill Dickman made a motion to renew said membership. Larry Kill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Rhonda Hainer

- As we begin this new year as a Consistory, two opportunities are before us this year. First, Openness; our church has an opportunity to welcome and accept people for who they are, (if St. Paul's is to be any kind of a magnet in St. Marys), and then love them into who they get to become in Christ. Rhonda encouraged us to particularly welcome those from the Wayne Street UMC who are currently deciding whether to leave their denomination. We have an opportunity to embrace those that are unhappy or disillusioned with the transition. Second, Delight in every sign of our congregation's faithfulness. We have so much to celebrate. Let's delight in the active and alive Sunday school program. The Trustees who placed new signage visible to new visitors, the large number of folks that went to Back Bay Mission, and an even larger number that have signed on to go this spring. The youth and young adults that are also committing to travel to Back Bay this summer. Let's delight in our joint partnership with Agape Ministries. Rhonda concluded her report by expressing her continual excitement to be a part of all that God with do in the life and ministry of this congregation. What joy there is in sharing this pilgrimage together.

**Loose Offering:**

- President Susan reminded the Consistory that the Loose Offering for February is designated to Back Bay Mission.

**Budget and Finance:** David Dickman

- David discussed that normally the Consistory President is approved to sign checks, and with Kevin Gehres living some distance away from St. Marys, David asked Consistory if Vice President, Susan Braun, can continue to sign checks, but as Vice President instead of President. After some discussion, it was decided to have both Kevin and Susan added to the approved signatures for checks. Jen Lucas made a motion for both the President and Vice President to be approved to sign checks. Lori Now seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Trustees:** Larry Kill

- Set up/cleaned up for one party
- The automatic handicap-accessible door was caught by some wind, and the arm of the door needed to be repaired.
- The new storage room (old ABLE office) is ready for Breaking Bread storage as well as church historical items.
- New electric has been run from the storage room to the boiler room.
- There are numerous fuse boxes throughout the church. Trustees will be labeling each of them, noting what area that fuse is connected to.
- The handrail leading to the basement from the High Street entrance had become loose. The handrail was removed and repainted, the wall was repaired and painted, and the handrail was reinstalled.
- Fire Department was in for their inspection. Batteries in some safety lights needed to be replaced, and the Fire Exit light in the library was not working. All batteries were replaced, and it was discovered that the Fire Exit light in the library was connected to the light switch. The Exit light was rewired, so it will work when the Library lights are off.

- Hung a few pictures for Pastor Rhonda.
- Fixed a couple of lights in the sanctuary.
- Need to look into the old wiring in the sanctuary and around the church.

**Elders:** Joan Leffel (report submitted)

- We had 157 people partake in the Christmas Eve pew communion.
- We had 88 people partake in the New Year's Day intinction communion.

**Deacons:** Carol Schmidt

- No Report

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

- Just beginning to start back up after the holidays. Our mission project for Jan. and Feb. is collecting toilet paper for Agape to add to the collection the congregation is doing. As we start the new quarter of the curriculum, we will continue to hang our artwork in the hallway leading to the Sanctuary. Please check it out. Some of the artwork will be seasonal and some will be lesson related.

**Christian Mission and Outreach:** Jill Dickman

- A recommendation has been made that our committee consider offering meals for sick members of our church. The CMO/E Committee is considering this recommendation.
- A recommendation has been made that our committee consider offering a 'Sunday Ride to Church' to those members who no longer drive. The CMO/E Committee is considering this recommendation.
- Donation – Back Bay Mission.
- Our committee will make a recommendation at the February Consistory meeting regarding a donation to Back Bay Mission. We have donated \$1,000 each of the past two years.



- Working with Pastor Rhonda to get a representative here from SARA for an upcoming worship service.

**Personnel:** Jen Lucas

- No Report

**Stewardship:** Kevin Gehres

- No Report

**Church Directory:** Susan Spencer

- The app, “MyUCD”, is ready for church members. An email will be going out to members on Friday, followed by a Call-Em-All.

**Old Business:**

- Linda McDonald reminded members of AED training at either the Fire Department or the hospital.
- President Susan thanked those members whose Consistory term is completed. Those members were excused to leave the meeting.

**New Business:**

- The 2023 Communion Schedule, Deacon Schedule, Communion Processional list, Deacon Responsibilities list, and list of Consistory members were passed around.
- Pastor Rhonda installed Marsha Heckler into the Consistory as she was unable to attend installation on January 8th.
- President Kevin thanked Susan Braun for her leadership over Consistory in 2022. Kevin also thanked Larry Kill and DeWayne Marsee for all of their hard work around the church, and also for the Constitution change allowing for some of the prior Consistory members to remain on Consistory.
- DeWayne Marsee passed around a document of various items that the Safety Committee discussed in depth, including how to keep the church safe for all who enter our church and to review the UCC stance/terms on firearms. The National UCC office has done extensive research on

this matter. After some discussion, Carol Schmidt made a motion for Consistory to review these items and report any recommendations at the February Consistory meeting. Carol Gehres seconded the motion.

- President Kevin explained that it was time to review the church Constitution, and possibly bring it up to date. Kevin has established a Constitutional Review Committee consisting of the following members: Susan Braun, Chairperson, Ruth Knous, Jerry Lucas, David Hainer, and Lynn Schmidt. Susan Braun made a motion to accept these appointed members to the Constitutional Review Committee. Jill Dickman seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- President Kevin reminded Consistory to send photos from their various committees to Carolyn and Rich to be included in the Annual Report, as well as a slide show during the Annual Meeting next month. Carolyn will be getting in touch with each committee to remind them of the photo submissions.
- Carolyn discussed the Church Budget Offering envelopes being late again, and members not having their envelopes. Carolyn discussed her conversation with the company President and his suggestion of going to Bi-monthly envelopes rather than quarterly. After some discussion, it was suggested that the Stewardship Committee look into this matter.
- The Women's Guild asked if the Consistory wanted a soup and sandwich meal before the Annual Meeting next month. It was the consensus of the Consistory to have the meal.
- Kelly Kill discussed the information management in the office, that being the Churchsoft software, and whether there is a better option available. After several calls to area

churches, some of them used Churchsoft, and some used a different software that costs several thousand dollars. Our annual fee with Churchsoft is \$350/year. For an additional cost of \$130, Pastor Rhonda would be able to have the mobile access she has been asking about. Kelly explained that there are many areas of the software that is not being used, and updates are also needed. Kelly will be working with Carolyn to review/train on these items. Kelly also mentioned that for \$45, there is a 30-minute training session with Churchsoft to consider.

There being no further matters to discuss, Tom Dickman made the motion to adjourn and Jen Lucas seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Braun, 2022 Consistory President  
Kevin Gehres, 2023 Consistory President  
Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant



***Deadline for articles,  
announcements, etc. for the  
March 2023 Communicator will  
be February 17<sup>th</sup>***

# Happy Valentine's Day !

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

|            |          |           |            |           |
|------------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| affection  | bow      | boyfriend | candy      | card      |
| crush      | cupid    | date      | diamond    | envelope  |
| fairy tale | February | flowers   | friend     | gifts     |
| girlfriend | heart    | hug       | kiss       | lace      |
| letter     | love     | love song | poem       | ring      |
| rose       | serenade | sweets    | teddy bear | valentine |