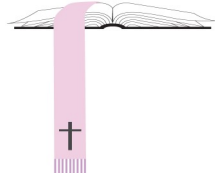


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

201 N. PERRY STREET • ST. MARYS, OHIO, 45885
419-394-3811 opt. 3 * www.stpaulsuccsm.com

January 2024



THE COMMUNICATOR

Rhonda's Reflections

A New Year's Prayer for 2024

Holy and Loving God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year, we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future. We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love. In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need. In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost. And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need.

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord"* (Psalm 33:12).

As we look back over this past year, we thank You for Your goodness to us ... far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to make You the foundation and center of our lives this year.

And so, ever present God, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. We pray all this and live by the example of Jesus, who models for us life filled with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Amen.

Happy New Year,
Pastor Rhonda



SPECIAL TIMES

**Sunday School and Adult
Forum 9:15 am**

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Service Live Streamed
on Facebook and YouTube

**Televised Service - TSC
Cable, Channel 2 , Digital
Channel 1 (1 week delay)**





- ♦ **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, Carol's cell (419) 305-6164, or the church office.

PRAYER AND CARE MINISTRY

- ♦ **You are invited** to the "Caregiving from the Heart Support Group" held at St. Paul's, **which meets on the first Monday each month at 7 pm in the church Chapel.** 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. The session will be led by Rev. Jeanette Tangeman. The purpose of the gathering is to support each other, learn from each other, and locate helpful resources. Please call Jeanette at 419-234-7935, if any questions.



Helping
Each other
Adjust to
Loss

H.E.A.L.

HEAL is St. Paul's grief group of people who gather monthly on the **third Thursday at 1:30** to **Help Each other Adjust to Loss**. Pastor Rhonda is a trained bereavement counselor, and leads this group for anyone who has recently or long ago experienced a loss of a loved one and would like a safe place to share their feelings. **HEAL** grief group is open to all faiths. The next meeting is **January 18, 2024. 1:30 p.m.** in the Chapel (adjacent to the sanctuary).



If you are not already on the prayer team email list, and would like to be, please provide Carol Schmidt with a valid email address. Carol's email is:
lschmidt@bright.net



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

***Jason Deutsch—12/24/2023**

He is the Son of Loretta Deutsch



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Join us for our "Monthly Membership Opportunity" on Sunday, January 14, at 11:45 am (time approximate) following the 10:30 am Worship Service

Interested in learning more about becoming a member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ? We invite you to our monthly membership opportunity. Pastor Rhonda will be available following the worship. If you would like to join, you will be received into membership at that time. New members will then be recognized during worship the following Sunday (or the next Sunday you will be in attendance).

We meet in the Chapel, adjacent to the sanctuary.

Please contact the church office with any questions at 419-394-3811.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Charlie Walter! Charlie graduated from University of Toledo with a degree in Electrical Engineering (minor in Business). Charlie will be starting work in January at Crown, Inc.

Congratulations to Carly Caywood! Carly graduated from Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design.

If you have a child or grandchild that has graduated from college and want to share the accomplishment with the church, please call or email the church office at (419) 394-3811 opt. 3, or smucc@bright.net



DEADLINE

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR COMMITTEES, ETC.

We will soon begin preparing the 2023 Annual Report. Please submit your report to the office by **NOON** on **Tuesday, January 16th**. If you can type and send it by email, it is most helpful. If you have any questions, please call the church office.



Breaking Bread will be serving from **4:30 to 5:15pm**, unless food is all gone. **Grab and Go from your car only.** We look forward to providing delicious free meals to our community every Thursday except the first Thursday of the month.

Jan. 11th
Jan. 18th

Jan. 25th

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.

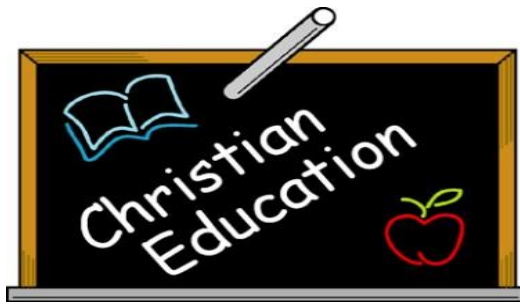
ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE

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



Breaking Bread is in need of some volunteers. Beginning Jan 11, 2024 we will need 3 volunteers to help package meals for Grab and Go. Servers would need to arrive about 4:15 pm and can leave by 5:30. Volunteers would be placing food into the containers and bagging them. There is no walking or contact with those picking up meals. We serve every Thursday except the first Thursday of the month. Those interested could volunteer for one or more Thursdays. Please call Jeanette Tangeman 419-234-7935. Thank you.





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

3rd—Wyatt Marsee
5th—Tripp Burke
7th—Zoey Marsee
11th—Carter Opperman
18th—Ollie Chisholm
22nd—Adelyn Clark

We finished out the 2023 year with our annual Christmas program, Hotel Noel, on Dec. 10. Youth from Nursery to Senior High participated in the program or worship service. They all did a fabulous job. Thank you to Maddy Frankenhauser for directing the program. Amy Keller and Jane Nuss also presented a live nativity scene with our middle and high school youth, complete with live animals, music and hot chocolate and cookies. Thank you to the both of them and their "tribe" of helpers. On Dec. 17, we had a fun day of Sunday School, which was well deserved after that outstanding Christmas program. We did not have Sunday School on Dec. 24 and 31 so that our youth could have family time and also give our teachers a well-deserved break.

Starting in January until the end of Sunday School (May 12), we will continue with our Friends with God Bible series, finishing up the Old Testament stories and then starting with the New Testament stories. This curriculum teaches a Bible story and also puts it into perspective for the youth, showing them how God is their friend and how the youth can share their love for God with others. Our Nursery, PreK and Kindergarten classes will continue with their Simply Loved Bible lessons.

January is typically a quiet time for Sunday school after a busy fall.

FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHRISTIAN MISSION AND OUTREACH:

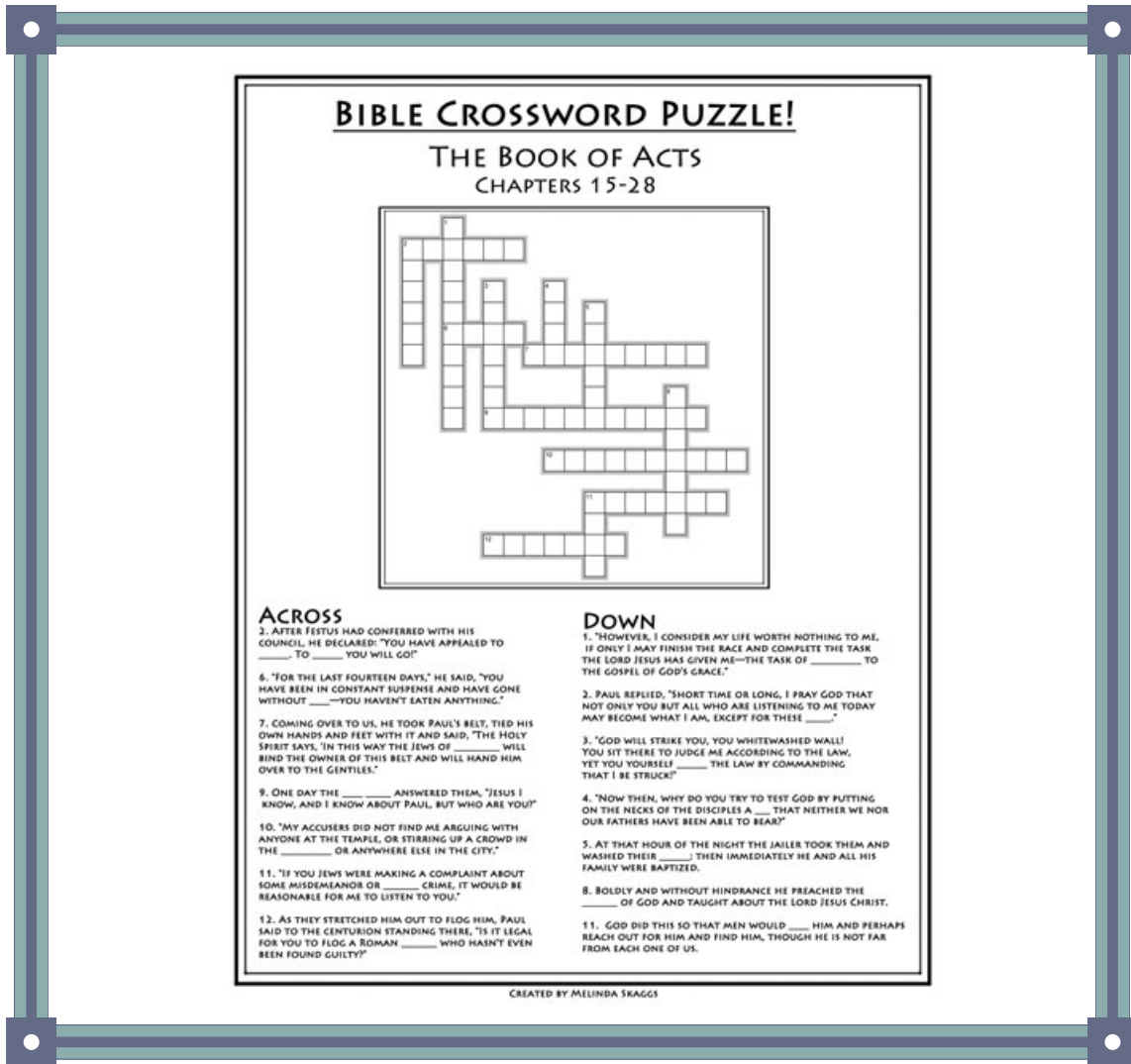
THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE LANTERNS!

Our goal was to purchase 100 lanterns, and we exceeded that amount with the final total of 134! Thank you to everyone who supported this mission!



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 to the recycling center and donate the money, it may be just as easy once they are in your vehicle. Thank you for your support.



COLLEGE AND MILITARY PARENTS!!



PARENTS, please email college and military addresses to smucc@bright.net, jvanderhorst@woh.rr.com, or call 419.394.3811 with this information so Valentine cards can be sent to them!



Small Group Bible Study

Every Tuesday Afternoon 1:00 pm in the church chapel - led by Derick Johnson. Join us for study, reflection, and fellowship as we grow closer to Jesus Christ.



FROM: Heidelberg University

Thank you for your generous support! Your commitment to making a positive impact is deeply appreciated, and we are grateful for partners like you who share our visions for a better Heidelberg.

Together we can make a difference and champion current and future Student Princes along their Heidelberg journey and beyond!

Sydney Hieronymus
Director of Annual Giving
And Alumni Engagement

Thank you to the congregation for the lovely Christmas cards and gifts, as well as to the Consistory for the Christmas gift. I thank God for each one of you and look forward to serving God and his congregation in 2024.

Rev. Rhonda Hainer



Liturgists Needed for 2024

We need liturgists for our upcoming worship services. Let your voice ring out ... as often as you like! Please contact the Church Office to volunteer. Many thanks!



INSTALLATION OF 2024 CONSISTORY MEMBER

The new 2024 Consistory member Kyle Opperman was installed during worship on **Sunday, January 7th.**

CONSISTORY MEET AND GREET All **current** and **new** Consistory members are invited to attend the Meet and Greet on Wednesday, January 10th at 5:30 pm. (in Heritage Hall). Please bring a small dessert or appetizer to share and join us as we welcome the new 2024 Consistory member and thank the Consistory members who have completed their term. Following the Meet and Greet, the regular Consistory meeting will be held with the 2023 Consistory (2024 member will be observing until "New Business" is brought to the table).



ATTENTION LADIES OF ST. PAUL'S

The regular monthly Ladies Luncheon will meet at **JT's Brew & Grill** on Thursday, January 4th at 11:30 a.m. All of the ladies of the church are welcome. **Please RSVP to the church office or Jane Nuss by Noon on the Monday before the luncheon.**

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:

Jan. 2 — Vancrest 6:15-7:15p
Feb. 6—Otterbein 5:30-6:30p
Mar. 5 — Vancrest 6:15-7:15p
Apr. 2—Otterbein 5:30-6:30p

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 in any way.



To the Organ Refurbishing Fund:

- **In memory of Shirley Huckeriede:** Cindy Homan, Tom and Joan Steva, Cindy Huckeriede, Steve Huckeriede, Mark Huckeriede and Family, Christy and Family, Diana Prichard, Sue Luthman, Steve and Kathy Frankenburg, Larry Scott, Terry Ruppert, Shelly and Victor Anderson, Annette Haberkamp, Robert Day, Jr., Dwight and Cheryl Parson, Wayne and Pat Loyer, Linda Niemeyer, Janice Sudman, Darrel and Dianne Storer, Michael Raines and Family, Clark and Juli Froning, Barb Frost, David Janine Huckeriede, and Richard Huckeriede.
- **In memory of Ken and Nellie Krauss:** Connie Dennings.
- Pat Minnich, Robert Adams, and JoAnn Bambauer.

To the Endowment Fund:

- **In memory of Shirley Huckriede:** Bill and Jane Nuss.

To the Current Fund:

- **In memory of Ruth Griesdorn:** St. Paul's Women's Guild, Dan and Ann Henning, Deb McKivison and Carla Kohnen.

Giving Tree Success!!

Many thanks to all of you for making the Giving Tree such a success this year! 320 families will receive over 330 items from our church! We collected 30 blankets, 66 hats, 155 pairs of socks, 13 pairs of slippers, & 80 pairs of gloves! Thank you Renee & Darren Caywood for counting & delivering all of these items to be packed in the Goodfellows boxes.





New Year's Word Search



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

BABY
BALL
CALENDAR
CELEBRATION
CLOCK
CONFETTI
COUNTDOWN
EVE

FAMILY
FRIENDS
HAPPY
JANUARY
MIDNIGHT
NEW YEAR
NOISEMAKER
PARTY

RESOLUTION
TOAST



CRAYONSANDCRAVINGS.COM

FINANCIAL REPORT

November 2023

Current Fund:

Budgeted through Nov. 30 2023	= \$ 252,560.00
Received through Nov. 30, 2023	= \$ 199,324.00
Expenses through Nov. 30, 2023	= \$ 207,585.00
Received through Oct. 31, 2022	= \$ 200,614.89

Mission Fund:

Budgeted through Nov. 30, 2023	= \$ 13,750.00
Received through Nov. 30, 2023	= \$ 11,958.00
Received through Nov. 30, 2022	= \$ 11,003.50

STATUS OF 2024 BUDGET:

Current Fund:

Budgeted through Dec. 31, 2023	= \$275,521.00
Budgeted through Dec. 17, 2023	= \$266,336.00
Received through Dec.17, 2023	= \$281,911.00

Mission Fund:

Budgeted through Dec. 31, 2023	= \$ 15,000.00
Budgeted through Dec. 17, 2023	= \$ 14,500.00
Received through Dec. 17, 2023	= \$ 15,836.00

JANUARY LOOSE OFFERINGS

- ♦ January 7 —Organ Refurbishing Fund
- ♦ January 14— Crossroads



Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. for the

***February 2024
Communicator will be
February 18th***

Highlights from the December 12, 2023 Consistory Meeting

- Budget and Finance presented the 2024 proposed Church Budget, which was reviewed and approved.
- The Trustees shared they are working on upgrading the interior/exterior camera security system. They are looking into grants to assist in the costs of replacement. They have put the door numbers above the outside doors.
- Mission, Outreach & Evangelism reported the congregation had supported the Sunday School project with the purchase of 134 solar lanterns for the children in Ukraine.
- The Strategic Planning Committee will be presenting the results in a joint planning meeting with the Consistory at their January or February meeting.
- The Safety Committee reported that they are working on CPR training, in conjunction with the SMFD, for interested church members, training will be held early 2024.
- Fred Scheer reported church signage for the west side of the church is in and will be installed soon.
- 175th Anniversary Committee is working on events/celebrations for 2024, concentrating on the June 9 Sunday.

Full Consistory Minutes are available upon request in the church office.

The Bulletin Board

- ♦ If you will be going to the hospital or if someone you know is hospitalized, please notify 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!
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **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.**

2024 CHURCH OFFICIALS

President of Consistory 2024: Marsha Landers

VP of Consistory 2024: Carol Gehres

2024 Members of Consistory

Elders:	Janet Gibson	Susan Braun
	Diane Gayer	Marsha Heckler
Deacons:	Vicke Miller-McGee	Fred Scheer
	Carol Waesch	Tom Dickman
	Carol Gehres	Marsha Landers
	Kelly Kill	Ruth Knous
Trustees:	Tim Hirschfeld	Kyle Opperman
	Larry Kill	

Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer, Pastor
 Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher
 Nick Frankenhauser, Youth Director
 Joan Leffel and Jane Nuss,
 Children's Ministry Coordinators
 Maddy Frankenhauser, Children's Music Director
 Ann Vogel, Organist
 Andrea Spencer, Organist
 Becky Anderson, Church Pianist, and
 Volunteer Coordinator of Special Music
 Cynthia Hanover, Choir/Church Pianist
 Rich Spencer, Audio and Video
 Jim Huckemeyer, Multi-Media
 Rev. Jeanette Tangeman, Back Bay Missionary
 Brad and Nam Gehrlich, Custodians

Church email: smucc@bright.net
 Website: www.stpaulsuccsm.com
 Email for Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer: rhainer@bright.net
 Rev. Rhonda's cell phone number: (563) 210-3508
 Email for Prayer Team: cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com
 Email for Christian Education: jnj12021@gmail.com
 Email for Youth Director: franken.nick@gmail.com
 Email for media: spmedia@bright.net



THE COMMUNICATOR
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