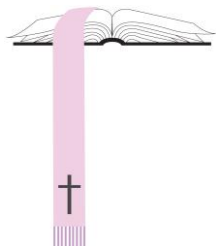


Rhonda's Reflections



Welcome to Epiphany. The season of illumination – where we announce God’s light as revealed and radiated throughout all of creation. I invite you to read Matthew 2:1-12.

So, often we want this light that is shined upon Jesus to stop there. But Jesus does not let that happen. The magicians and sorcerers point to the star, the star points to Jesus, and then Jesus points...to you. You are the light of the world. The question then becomes, what are you going to do with the divine light that shines upon you and within you? You can let the light stop at you, as King Herod did, which leads to the path of power through oppression and bondage, to the path of darkness and death. Or you can refract the light onto others, which leads to the path of love and compassion, peacemaking and blessing, to the path of light and life.

You are the light of the world. Not because of your religious affiliation. Not because of your nationality. Not because of your social class. But because of your humanity. As a child of God, as part of creation, you were created in God’s image and declared good. You are the light of the world. You are God’s deepest desire. God’s hope for the future of creation. What will you do with that light? Will you love those beside you, even when they infuriate you? Will cry out when you see injustice? When you encounter someone different from you, whether it is her hijab head covering, the tattoos crawling down his arm, or the business suit that she wears, will you whisper to them, “You are the light of the world.”

You are the one through whom the world will encounter God.

When everything else is darkness, you might be the only light they see. What will you do with that light? Do not hide it

under a bushel basket, but let your light shine before others, that they may see God.

Happy New Year,
Rev. Rhonda

End-Of-Life Issues Series Continues

- **Sunday, Jan 22, 2023, - Rhonda Hainer, Pastor - Planning Your End-of-Life Service-** Pastor Rhonda will cover what is involved in planning a funeral or memorial service, and other concerns regarding this transition in the journey of faith.

Pastor Rhonda will present at 9:00 a.m. in Heritage Hall. This is the final session and open to all. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey—whatever age you are—this series is open to you

DEADLINE

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR COMMITTEES, ETC.

Carolyn will soon begin preparing the 2022 Annual Report. Please submit your report to her by **NOON** on **Tuesday, January 17th**. If you can type and send it by email, it is most helpful - she can cut and paste!! If you have any questions, please give her a call in the church office.

INSTALLATION OF 2023 CONSISTORY

The 2023 Consistory will be installed during worship on **Sunday, January 8th**. All Elders, Deacons and Trustees are asked to attend the service that morning.

CONSISTORY MEET AND GREET All **current** and **new** Consistory members are invited to attend the Meet and Greet on Wednesday, January 11th at 5:30 pm. (in Heritage Hall). Please bring a small dessert or appetizer to share and join us as we welcome the new 2023 Consistory members and thank the Consistory members who have completed their term. Following the Meet and Greet, the regular Consistory meeting will be held with the 2022 Consistory (2023 members observing until "New Business" is brought to the table).

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, 19, 2023, 1:30 p.m. in the old library.



Congratulations to those members that graduated college in the month of December! Best wishes to all!

A NEW YEAR PROMPTS A NEW APPROACH TO STEWARDSHIP

Happy New Year, 2023! Did you make a New Year's Resolution this year?

Maybe your resolution is to lose weight (the #1 resolution each year) or to save more money or to spend more time with the ones you love. We make resolutions each year to try and do something different to hopefully better ourselves. We have gotten stuck in a routine, or we have a habit that we just can't seem to change. We know we need to change; otherwise, we are going to keep getting the same result, and we want a different, better result. We use resolutions as motivation to make positive changes that we know we need to make.

Are you stuck in a stewardship routine? Stewardship is everything we do after we say, 'I believe.' When we give of our tithes and offerings, our time and talents, to St. Paul's United Church of Christ, we are sharing the good news of how St. Paul's UCC is the hands and feet of Christ within the St. Marys community and throughout the world.

We are all invited to be a part of that good news by giving of our time, talent, and treasure. You do not have to be rich to give back to God, all gifts – of any size—are appreciated.

Make a New Year's Resolution to change your approach to stewardship.



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 or the church office.

~*~*~*~*

You are invited to the Caregiving from the Heart Support Group held here at St. Paul's on **January 9, 2023, 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 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.



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.

- January 12
- January 19
- January 26

BREAKING BREAD HELP

Breaking Bread has been serving meals for ten plus years and the freezers that they have are showing their age. The freezers were donated and have served well. With electric rates on the rise, replacement of the freezers will lower our operating cost and provide for better storage. I have checked with Moran Refrigeration about pricing. A new 20 cu ft frost free freezer will cost \$ 1059.00. This includes delivery and hauling away of the old freezer. Two new ones have already been donated, **THANK YOU**, and Breaking Bread could still use one more freezer. Please contact the church office or Fred Scheer if you wish to help.

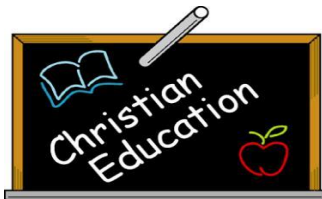
~~*~*~*

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.

Liturgists Needed for 2023

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



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

3 - Wyatt Marsee

5 – Tripp Burke

7 – Zoey Marsee

11 – Carter Opperman

18 – Ollie Chisholm

21 – Ava Gottschalk

23 – Adelyn Clark

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

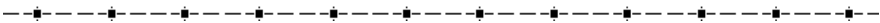
Wow, Wow, Wow ... our Sunday School youth in every aspect are awesome, but in December, they have done everything we have asked of them and most of the time they volunteer! And that's a great feeling when you know your church youth volunteer or say YES when you ask. We truly do have awesome youth.

The advent wreath candle lighting groups were all Sunday School based. From Adult Forum to the varies levels of Sunday School

youth. Some youth didn't like public speaking, but they did it anyway and found out it wasn't quite as awful as they thought it would be. Some were so glad to do it that they added to their group. Just shows, you never know what might happen on a Sunday morning at St. Paul's!

"Good News Ahead, signs of Christmas" was our Christmas program. If you were unable to come to church that Sunday, you need to watch it online or through the church Facebook page. The children did awesome! We received many great compliments that we will share with the children during Sunday School time. Singers, solos, speaking parts, and non-speaking parts, they worked hard and sang their hearts out.

The 6th 7th 8th graders had their Christmas skit during the December 18 worship service. They have been working hard on it and did a fantastic job! Miscommunication can be a good thing or a bad thing. The Play Director has a play that will be the most wonderful Christmas play ever. However, her assistant gets things all messed up. A huge miscommunication. But eventually, it all works out as the meaning of Christmas is revealed through scripture and truly does end up being the most wonderful Christmas play ever. Thank you to the youth for showing us another way to see the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you to their teachers Amy Keller and Sarah Walter for guiding those kids to see the true meaning of Christmas.



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.

- M.A.D.D. (Music, Mindfulness, Art, Dance, Drama)
- ages 8-18 , June 18-24
- (NEW) Camp "Out" ages 8-18, June 18-24
- Sportscamp 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

The high school Youth Group has been busy this December- no surprise there!

After a successful Youth Sunday service before Thanksgiving, we turned our minds to the season of Advent and have been sharing our thoughts about the meanings of the candles in the Advent wreath.

Two of our members, Ollie Chisholm and Hunter Winget, joined with two middle school youth members to light the Advent candles on December 11th, and several other high school Youth made cameos as angels in the middle school youth group's Christmas sketch on December 18th. The Youth Group also held an End-of-the-Semester Party on December 21st to celebrate the beginning of Christmas Break with games, holiday movies, fellowship, and of course, FOOD!

We hope you all had happy holidays, and we wish you good fortune and God's grace in the new year!

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.



ATTENTION LADIES OF ST. PAUL'S

There will be a Ladies Luncheon at JT's on Thursday, January 5th 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 3rd**.



- **To the Organ Refurbishing Fund in memory of Joan Gephart:** Ruth Tuttle, Pam Stapleton, and Kathy Langsdon
- **To the Organ Refurbishing Fund in memory of Ernest “Bill” Wurster:** Fred and Pam Scheer
- **To the Endowment Fund in memory of Wilma Tester:** Ron and Margaret Hunter

THANK YOU!

Dear members of St. Paul’s UCC:

Goodfellows and the St. Marys Community Foundation sincerely thank you for your generous donation of \$104.00 in support of this program to provide families in the St. Marys School district a memorable Christmas this year.

Michael Makley

Executive Director of St. Marys Community Foundation

~~*~*~*~*

Thank you for all of your cards, thoughts, and prayers during my fight with cancer. I am much improved, but continue to take treatments.

God Bless,

Bill Nuss

~~*~*~*~*

Thank you everyone for all of your support, love, and prayers with the passing of our mother, and grandma, Shirley Gayer.

Diane, Drew, Paula, and Kalie Gayer

~~*~*~*~*

Dear Members of Consistory:

I wanted to thank you for my holiday bonus. I really enjoy being part of St. Paul's and look forward to starting my eleventh year here at St. Paul's.

Thanks again,
Carolyn Garrison

~~*~*~*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you to everyone involved with the beautiful and comforting funeral service and delicious dinner for Frank McLain. Our family appreciated all that was done for us.

Sincerely,
Marilyn McLain, Alison Craft, Elaine Walker
and our families

~~*~*~*

Dear Church Family,

I was pleasantly surprised to receive the hand drawn Thanksgiving cards from the Sunday School children. Thank you, also, to the ladies of the church for the signed card and the potted plant that I can watch grow.

All of this giving brightened my holiday season. Thank you.

Ruth Dustman

~~*~*~*

Dear Ladies of Women's Guild,

Thank you for the gift card, it is greatly appreciated! Anytime that I do not have to cook makes me happy! Thank you for thinking of me this holiday season.

Carolyn Garrison

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** - Dowload 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

President of Congregation	Darren Caywood
Vice-president of Congregation	Chad Laman
President of Consistory 2023	Kevin Gehres
Vice-president of Consistory 2023	Susan Braun

2023 Members of Consistory

Elders:	Janet Gibson	Susan Braun
	Kevin Gehres	Lori Now
	Diane Gayer	Marsha Heckler
Deacons:	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
Trustees:	DeWayne Marsee, Tim Hirschfeld, and Larry Kill	

FINANCIAL REPORT

November 2022

Current Fund:

- Budgeted through November 30, 2022 = \$244,853.62
- Received through November 30, 2022 = \$200,614.89
- Expenses through November 30, 2022 = \$200,995.97
- Received through November 30, 2021 = \$195,383.10

Mission Fund:

- Budgeted through November 30, 2022 = \$ 13,750.00
- Received through November 30, 2022 = \$ 11,003.50
- Received through November 30, 2021 = \$ 11,196.00

Status of 2022 Budget:

Current Fund:

- Budgeted through December 31, 2022 = \$267,113.00
- Budgeted through December 18, 2022 = \$261,548.17

- Received through December 18, 2022 = \$213,947.40

Mission Fund:

- Budgeted through December 31, 2022 = \$ 15,000.00
- Budgeted through December 18, 2022 = \$ 14,687.50
- Received through December 18, 2022 = \$ 11,618.50

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2022
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 presented each Consistory member with an angel ornament, opened with a reading from the book of Luke, chapter 2:8-9, and asked the question, "Whose Angel will You be?" sharing the Good News of Christ's birth and the message of hope, peace, joy, and love. She followed with a prayer.

Present: *Elders:* Joan Leffel, Bill Nuss, Kevin Gehres, and Lori Now *Trustees:* Larry Kill, and DeWayne Marsee; *Deacons:* Linda McDonald, Fred Scheer, Carol Waesch, Susan Braun, Tom Dickman, Jill Dickman, Susan Spencer, Jennifer Ginter, Carol Schmidt, and Becky Anderson. Also, present were, Pastor Rhonda Hainer, Treasurer, David Dickman, and, Administrative Assistant Carolyn Garrison.

Minutes: Susan Braun

- Minutes from the November 9, 2022, meeting were reviewed. Lori Now made a motion to approve the minutes. DeWayne Marsee seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report: David Dickman

- David submitted for review of the Financial Report for the month of November 2022. There being no further discussion, President Susan asked to file the November financial report for review by the church Administrative Assistant.

President's Report: Susan Braun

- Received a letter from Jim Huckemeyer resigning his position effective immediately from Consistory due to scheduling conflicts on Wednesday evenings, and it is hard for him to be an Elder when he is also in charge of running the video. Jim has two years remaining on his term. President Susan read the Consistory guidelines from our church Constitution and President Susan asked for any recommendations of someone to fill Jim's term. Jill Dickman spoke up and asked President Susan, whose term ends in 2022 if she would be willing to stay on Consistory and fill Jim's vacancy. President Susan agreed to fill the vacant Elder position starting in January 2023. Jill Dickman then made the nomination for Susan Braun to fill Jim Huckemeyer's vacant position. Joan Leffel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rhonda

- Twenty-eight ladies attended the Samaritan Sister's dinner at JT's.
- We've had several new people in attendance at worship.
- Terri and Mike Kerns have completed their transfer from Wayne Street and will be joining our congregation in January.
- The Grief Support Heal Group continues to grow.
- Hosted the staff Christmas dinner last week to celebrate our great staff.
- The children's Christmas program was phenomenal. Maddy Frankenhauser and the Sunday School teachers did a wonderful job. Thank you Joan Leffel and Jane Nuss for their leadership and commitment to serve St. Paul's families.
- The Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight service will be at 7 pm. Holy Communion will be passed in the pews for this service. There will be a brief communion rehearsal this Sunday following the worship service.

- Thank you to DeWayne Marsee for the new outdoor signage which will aid in providing helpful hospitality to visitors.
- St. Paul's hosted the Hospice Memorial Service led by the St. Marys Hospice staff. The service was meaningful for those in attendance, and the Hospice staff was impressed with our facilities.
- Fred Scheer is making wooden risers (like those used for the Hospice service) for votive candles to be used for persons to light for special prayer.

Loose Offering: Susan Braun

- According to the Loose Offering Chart, the loose offering for January is designated for Crossroads.

Budget and Finance: David Dickman

- The 2023 Budget passed at the congregation meeting this past Sunday.

Trustees: Larry Kill

- New signage is up. We still need one more additional sign.
- Trustees set up for two funerals and one party.
- Fixed a couple of doors and toilets.
- Working on installing shelving in the (classroom that used to be the Able Office), as well as installing appropriate wiring for Breaking Bread freezers.
- Due to a radiator leak on the third floor of the Education Building, causing water damage to the ceiling and carpet in the Pastor's office, the carpet was cleaned and the ceiling will be repainted in the spring. The leak was repaired.
- **Elders:** Lori Now
- 63 people took communion in November.

Deacons: Carol Schmidt via Pre-Meeting Report

- Thanks to all those volunteering to help out when needed to cover on Sundays due to other commitments.
- When Linda and I started, as Co-Head Deacons, there was always a paper form that documented the amount of money that was collected from the Sunday School kids (as

well as the loose offering during worship). This system is a great way to double-check the amounts of what Sunday School took in, as well as the loose offering that the Deacons/Elders have to count. Lately, the Deacons/Elders have been having to count both the loose offering and the Sunday School offering. Is this just an oversight? Joan Leffel stated that for a while there were no slips for us to use, as we had used them all up. I just realized the other day that there were more slips on our desk. We have been extremely busy the last few months. However, it is also OK for the deacons to do our count for us.

- According to the Constitution, the congregational meeting is designated to occur on the second Sunday in December. The meeting, of course, was this past Sunday, the same day as the Children's Program. The conflict is that a lot of the Sunday School teachers were attending to the kids after the program, as they should be. This caused plenty of folks to not be able to attend the meeting, even if they wanted to. In previous years, the Children's Program generally fell on the third Sunday of December. Should these two events even occur on the same day? Joan Leffel stated that the children's Christmas program has been the 2nd Sunday of the month for several years. Changing it to the third Sunday would not be feasible because parents know when it is. Christian Education and Nurture decides when the program date is. Unfortunately, the December congregation meeting does not have a lot of attendance.
- Carol thanked Linda McDonald for being her Co-Chair this year. With Linda's term ending, Tom Dickman has agreed to Co-Chair in 2023.

Christian Education: Joan Leffel

- The children's Christmas program, Good News Ahead, the Signs of Christmas, was wonderful! Speaking parts, singing, and extra youth participating with musical talents as well. Many thanks to Maddy and the teachers for helping make

this a great program. To the parents, we thank you for faithfully bringing your child to Sunday School.

- The advent lighters this advent season have been the various "levels" of Sunday School. From Adult Forum to Sunday School ages including 2nd grade to high school.
- The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are having a Christmas skit during the December 18 worship service. Sarah Walter, Amy Keller, and the kids have worked hard on this skit. Please plan on attending and showing our support.
- We gave the children a mini nativity snow globe as a Christmas present after the program. We gave the teachers a gift card to Bigby.
- Wednesday, Dec. 28 from 6-8 pm we are having an all-ages, all-church skating party at Grand Lake Roller-Skating Rink on Celina Road. Admission is \$1.00 which includes skate rental. The CEN committee will cover the remaining balance due for admission (\$1.00 ea). If you would like to come but not skate, there is no admission charge. So, you could come to visit, catch up on Christmas, and be entertained! If you have questions, please contact Amy Keller, Jane, or Joni.
- We will not be having Sunday School on December 25 and January 1 but will resume on Sunday, January 8.

Christian Mission and Outreach: Jill Dickman

- No report

Personnel: Lori Now

- No Report

Stewardship: Kevin Gehres

- No Report

Safety Committee: DeWayne Marsee

- Due to time constraints with the 7 pm Advent Service, as well as new Consistory members joining in January, the Safety Committee report is tabled until the January meeting.

Old Business: No Report

New Business:

- President Susan announced that new Consistory Officers for 2023 need to be elected. Jill Dickman asked the current Vice President, Kevin Gehres if he would be willing to take on the position of Consistory President. Kevin stated that he would be willing. President Susan asked if we have any other nominations, with no other nominations, President Susan announced that nominations were closed. President Susan stated that nominations for Vice President are now open. Jill Dickman asked the current President, Susan Braun since she is staying Consistory with filling Jim Huckemeyer's term if she would be willing to be the Vice President of Consistory. Susan stated that she would be willing. President Susan then asked if there were any other nominations, with no other nominations, President Susan announced that nominations were closed. With only one person being nominated for both President and Vice President, we declare that the nominees are elected by unanimous consent.
- President Susan announced that it has been five years since the church Constitution has been amended. In 2023 there will be a committee formed to review the Constitution and see if anything needs to be updated.
- Kevin Gehres shared with Consistory that this morning on the Heartland Conference Enews, Andrew Warner who is with the National Office Stewardship and Generosity Minister, made a very "cool" point in his piece this morning because he talked about how some annual meetings in churches can be very painful to sit through as they can be very cut and dry, and varying in length. Here at St. Paul's we are down here and we eat, some people are still eating their pie and we are done with the business. It is very short and sweet. Andrew's point was to raise in celebration of the previous year's accomplishments within the congregation. One way to do that would be for

each committee to select a picture from that year that would be included in the annual meeting booklet above, below, or beside their small report so that it would give the reader more of an incentive to be involved. Andrew's point was that those things don't have to necessarily be dry, and can be a celebration of the year's accomplishments as the annual meeting is all about the year in review. This would also be another opportunity to highlight those committees that we highlighted back in the spring. After some discussion, committees will submit photos to be displayed on the Fellowship Hall screen during the annual meeting. Pastor Rhonda spoke up and said that our theme this year could be "GIFT" Growing In Faith Together.

- Kevin Gehres also wanted to let everyone know, as Disaster Ministries Coordinator, that as of a week ago December 13th, we had not just met, but exceeded our goal of 2022 of buckets, kits, and backpacks here at Heartland Conference. In no small part to the heart of this church and the willingness, we all gave the financial backing of almost 100 of those kits and buckets from St. Paul's here in St. Marys. Kudos to all of you and all of our congregation for all of the hard work and willingness to support that ministry.

There being no further matters to discuss, President Susan dismissed the staff and moved the meeting into Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.

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

DON'T FORGET



Deadline for articles,
announcements, etc. for the
February 2023
Communicator will be
January 19th





Happy New Year



Word Search

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

Ball Drop

Herrera

Midnight

Party Hat

Celebrate

Hopkins

New Year

Sparklers

Fireworks

Kiss

New York

Time Square

Happy

McEvoy

Party