ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



201 N. PERRY STREET • ST. MARYS, OHIO, 45885 July/August 2023 419-394-3811 opt. 3 * www.stpaulsuccsm.com



THE COMMUNICATOR

Rhonda's Reflections

When I was a kid, I can remember every Sunday morning when my mom would have our best clothes ready for my sister and me as we prepared for church. Then she would do our hair, brushed out first,

then braided or curled. There was usually some amount of fuss until my sister and I were placed in front of the television to watch the claymation series produced by the Lutheran Church, <u>Davy and Goliath</u>, while my Mom and Dad would get themselves dressed.

Then we would all get in the car and be reminded to "Be on your best behavior! You are going before God and everybody else and we are only bringing our best to God." These words provided a pattern that was comfortable and knowable.

The one downside was that it took me years to realize that God didn't want my Sunday self to show up ... God wanted all of me to show up. It was part of the duality that is so prevalent even today in religious life. The ego part of us wants to be thought of as good ... pure ... saintly ... Christian, and the ego doesn't easily abide the vulnerability that comes from being fully known. We divide even our own selves into good and bad, and we can only take the good parts into the presence of God.

You see, our egos want us to be known as "the good people." These are people who show us only their best side, and they are the ones we talk about over Sunday lunch. We fantasize about how wonderful their lives must be. Their fall from grace is usually spectacular when it finally comes.

Following Sunday worship, our family would often go out to eat at a Chinese restaurant near the church. One day, as we sat in a booth, an older couple were seated at a table next to us. The older couple were both impeccably dressed, with their hair perfectly in place. I remember that the woman was smiling ... constantly smiling. There was this moment though that stands out in my memory. The man got up to go to the restroom, and she stopped smiling. Not only did she stop smiling, she showed a face that had tragedy etched in the lines ... she wasn't just sad ... she looked devastated. Then as soon as he returned to the table, the smile came back. That smile was all she would show to him ... at least in public.

For some reason, she couldn't bring her whole self to that moment. Not when they were together. The memory of this poor woman still stands for me as a constant reminder of what it looks like when we can't bring our whole selves into the presence of the One who knows every fiber of our being.

I have always found it interesting that we use the phrase "keep yourself together" in a way that means, "We don't want to see your shadow self; we don't want to see the part of you that is too real or embarrassing... we need to see only your best side." I wonder what would happen if we changed that to mean something like:

Keep yourself together and don't leave any part of you out. I see you, and God sees you. You are loved just as you are.

Parker Palmer writes in A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life the following: "Afraid that our inner light will be extinguished, or our inner darkness exposed, we hide our true identities from each other. In the process, we become separated from our own souls. We end up living divided lives, so far removed from the truth we hold within that we cannot know the integrity that comes from being what you are."

God does not expect us to divide ourselves. As we live our lives in God's world and, most especially, when we place ourselves in the presence of God in meditation, prayer, and worship, I think perhaps the best thing to do is to "keep ourselves together", and don't leave any part of you out. You are loved just as you are.

With Love, Pastor Rhonda



SPECIAL TIMES

Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:15 am (during school year only. No summer classes)

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Summer Worship June 4th-September 10th 10:00 am

Sunday Service Live Streamed on Facebook and YouTube

- •Televised Service TSC-Cable, Channel 2 , Digital Channel 1
- •Sunday @ 10:00 am (1 week delay)





FAQ About Restoring the 1954 Schantz Organ

What will happen to the organ during the renovation?

The following is a quote from Luke Tegtmeier from Schantz Organ Company:

"The console would also come back to our shop, where the shell, keyboards, and pedalboard would be thoroughly cleaned and refinished as needed. The tilting tablets, thumb pistons, and toe studs would all be replaced with a new mechanism to work with the new electrical control system. The new electrical control system would include features such as a Transposer, a Record/Playback function, and a nearly unlimited number of memory levels for the organist to use. When rein-

stalled, we would also run new wires to each of the 427 magnets in the organ to bring every-



thing up to current electrical code."

By having an updated organ with 21stcentury technology, the instrument will be
greatly expanded in flexibility and usability making it more inviting to recruit and retain future
organists.

... when the mechanisms (leather) fail, the organ has holes in its sound production.

Our two cents worth

From the Stewardship Committee

In February we began leaving 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. Write your response on your notecard and drop it in the offering plate! Either include your name on your card, 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, Carol's cell (419) 305-6164, or the church office.

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 7p in the church Chapel—EXCEPT in July. In July we will meet on the 10th due to the holiday. 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 find helpful resources. Please call Jeanette at 419-234-7935, if any questions.

2



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

Sunday, July 16th, and August 20th at 11:15 am Following the 10:00 am Worship Service

Interested in learning more about becoming a member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ? We invite you to our "Third Sunday" membership opportunity. Pastor Rhonda will be available following the worship services on the Third Sunday of each month. 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 (fka Library).

CREATING OUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our church is embarking on a strategic planning process to create a long-range plan for our future. We anticipate a 5-month planning process, with one, 2-hour meeting each month beginning this fall. We are looking for a group of 6–9 volunteers who are willing to serve as the task force for the planning process, and ask that you give consideration to participating. If interested, or would like to learn more about what is needed, please contact Ruth Knous, who is facilitating the process. She can be reached at rknous@ohioymcas.org or by call/text at (419) 953-6274.



Celebration Postponed

Due to a medical emergency, the June 18th Pot-Luck Carry-In Luncheon Celebrating Rev. Jeanette's 25th Anniversary of her Ordination was postponed. Stay tuned to learn when the celebration will be rescheduled!



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 July 20 and August 17, 2023, 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel (fka the old li-

Turkey & Syria Earthquake Appeal

The news continues to unfold about the devastating earthquake on the border of Turkey and Syria. The UCC has issued an appeal to help in the recovery efforts in that area. Amid this uncertainty, you can be certain that with your financial donation, the UCC will be there helping those in need. When making your check out, write the check to St. Paul's UCC, and be sure to write Turkey and Syria in the memo line so that your money goes in the correct account. Thank you.



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

- July 13
- August 10
- July 20
- August 17
- July 27
- August 24
- August 31

BREAKING BREAD COMMUNITY DINNER NEWS

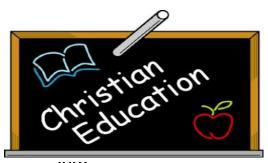
If you would like to make a financial contribution to help with costs for the weekly community dinner, these will be gratefully accepted. Donations may be placed in the Sunday offering plate or mailed to the church office.

ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE

Don't forget that we now have online giving! It is available now by downloading Vanco Payment Solutions onto your mobile device by going to the app store or Google Play and search for "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!



4



July & August BIRTHDAYS!

<u>JULY</u>

AUGUST

4th—Graham James 9th—Amelia Klosterman

11th—Dylan Winget

17th—Elliot Bower

19th—Brynn Clark

20th—Riley Anderson

Emily Turner

22nd—Lincoln James

25th—Asher Craft

7th—Berkley Knous 21st—Reece Long 26th—Vince Walter





MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW for Sunday, Sept. 10th Rally Day Sunday School will resume and an **all-church pizza party** will follow worship service.

AGAPE School Supply Program

In order to ensure that the clients that are in need of school supplies receive what they need, Agape will be administering our school supply program differently for the upcoming school year. **There will not be any collecting of supplies** in a drive, but will be offering everyone the opportunity to sponsor a child. Each sponsorship will be \$15 each child. If you would like to sponsor a child, you can donate \$15 (or more) to Agape with a note of where the money is to go, or write School Supply Program on the memo line of your check.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

WOW! We had a very successful Vacation Bible School! Thank you to the youth and the volunteers for helping. We had 30 youth attend, and 14 volunteers. Thank you to the AWESOME, Alltime best VBS Director, Amy Keller! Amy did a fabulous job! Our theme was SHINE. Sunshine Shirley . . . aka Diane Gayer, did an amazing job interacting with the children, engaging them in the SHINE theme!

Sunday School may be on "summer break", but Christian Education and Nurture are busy preparing for the upcoming Sunday School year. We look forward to seeing all of you in the fall! *Rally Day is Sunday, September 10th, be sure to mark your cal-*



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 vour vehicle. Thank you for your support.



Our thanks to Fred and Pam Scheer for painting and redecorating the new Chapel (formerly the Library) and the new Hospitality room (formerly the Elevette room). Stop by to see the welcoming improvements.









***5 for 5" Church Celebration at the Annual Meeting in April**

Pictured below from L to R: Pastor Rhonda Hainer, members Janet Gibson, and Susan Braun.



Being 5 for 5 means that your church is a leader, providing support to Our Church's Wider Mission and the Special Mission Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen The Church, Neighbors In Need and The Christmas Fund.

St. Paul's youth & chaperones June mission trip to Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS













ATTENTION LADIES OF ST. PAUL'S

There will be a Ladies Luncheon at JT's at 11:30 a.m. on Thursdays July 6th and August 3rd. 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:

July 11th—Vancrest 6:15-7:15p

Aug. 1st— Otterbein 5:30-6:30p

Sept. 5th—Vancrest 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 in any way.

During Lent, the Women's Guild held a silent auction to benefit new blinds in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Bernie and Marilyn Schroer for designing and donating the stain glass wall hanging. This was a smaller version of their wall hanging at the hospital. Because of their generosity, the Women's Guild raised \$1150.00. There were many who took part in the bidding, but the winners were Tom and Ruth Knous.

Women's Guild Cabinet met on June 12 to discuss the 2023-2024 booklet and to discuss donations. Thanks to Gregg and Kathy Dieringer for the donation of the pie cutter. This should make our job easier. Motions were made and approved to donate \$100.00 to church camp for snacks or extra food if needed (decided not to this year). Will donate \$1000.00 to the Organ Fund and will increase the memorials in memory of women members who have passed from \$15.00 to \$25.00 with all donations going to the Endowment Fund.

New blinds have been installed in Fellowship Hall. Please check them out if you have not already done so. We are able to see out but no one can see in. Thanks to Billie Marsee for picking them out, and to DeWayne Marsee for taking down the old curtains and installing the new blinds. Not an easy job working on these windows. Many thanks to the Marsee's!

Thank you for your thoughts, cards, and prayers while I am healing from my fall. Wrist and femur are improving. I just started therapy which should help greatly!

Blessings, Kris Vanderhorst

FUN AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023





- To the Organ Fund in memory of John Hall: Joyce Keller, Jim and Kris Vanderhorst, Janet and Amy Keller, Shirley Huckeriede, and from John's siblings—James Hall, June Hall, and Fay Poppe
- ◆ To the Organ Fund in memory of Nellie Krauss: Shirley Huckeriede
- ◆ To the Endowment Fund in memory of Nellie Krauss: Jim and Kris Vanderhorst
- ◆ To the Organ Fund in memory of Eileen Chiles: Joyce Keller, Janice Katterheinrich, Murray and Barb Fitzgerald, Shirley Huckeriede, Ron and Margaret Hunter
- ◆ To the Organ Fund in memory of Vernon Leudeke: Shirley Huckeriede
- ◆ To the Endowment fund from Women's Guild in memory of: Susan Wicker, Tonie Might, Hazel Armstrong, Nellie Krauss, Eileen Chiles, and Linda Hight
- To the Organ Fund in memory of Kenneth and Nellie Krauss: Connie Dennings



On June 4, 2023, we welcomed the following individuals into the St. Paul's congregation:

- ♦ Steve Taylor
- ◆ Derick Johnson
- Wynette Mase
- ♦ Nanette Price



IN SEARCH OF AIR CONDITIONING UNITS

Looking ahead to the upcoming Fall Sunday School, we are looking for **4 used window air conditioning units**. These units must still be in good running condition. So, if you happen to be cleaning out your garage, and come across one, please consider donating it to the Sunday School program! Thanks in advance.

AN IMPORTANT WORD

Thank you for your continual support of the ministry of St. Paul's UCC, St. Marys. As we give of our tithes and offerings whether online located through our website:

www.stpaulsuccsm.com, or putting it in an envelope and mailing to us at 201 N. Perry Street, St. Marys, OH 45885,. You can even drop your envelope in the mail slot of the door to the church office. We step out in faith down the road in grace, and we do this together as God's people called and sent to be a blessing for all the world.



Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. for the

September 2023

Communicator will be

August 21st



Dear St. Paul's UCC,

Thank you to the members of your church for the kind gift to Defiance College. Your support is important to our success, and is very appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sheri McCoy, Director of Donor Relations and Special Events

~*~*~*~

Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for the scholarship to begin my schooling at the University of Dayton in Engineering this fall. I appreciate the love an support I have received from my church family over the years, and continue to share as I move on to college. I am blessed to be apart of the St. Paul's UCC congregation.

Karlie Lucas

~*~*~*~

St. Paul's Women's Guild,

Thank you so much for the graduation card and gift! I am so blessed to have such a loving church

family!

Karlie Lucas

~*~*~*~

St. Paul's Christian Ed Dept.,

Thank you for the Graduation Sunday breakfast! It was great to see all of our old youth group, and update each other on our progress. We are so blessed to have a loving church family!

Karlie and Katie Lucas

~*~*~*~

Scholarship Committee Members,

I am currently double majoring in psychology and business administration at Ohio Wesleyan University, and have been really enjoying my time there. The scholarship provided by St. Paul's will be very helpful in funding my third year! Thank you for this assistance and for your support!

Katie Lucas

~*~*~*~

Thank you for your generous donation to our dance that was held at Moon City on April 28th. We really appreciated it more than you know. We had a great time with our friends. Thank you once again.

The Capabilities Community Club, Renee, Danielle, Seth, Angela, Mary, Scott, Ashley and Madi

~*~*~*~

Dear St. Paul's UCC,

Thank you so much for granting me with the church scholarship. This money is a huge boost for next semester. I really appreciate the money and everything that you've done for me and my peers. Joey Vanderhorst



Hello Church family, I miss you!

Just writing to say thank you so much for the grant money this year, and apologize that I couldn't be there to receive it in person. I am so grateful for the support I have received from St. Paul's over the years, and I can assure you that it is helping me grow. This summer I am in Dallas, Texas for an internship and I have never been so eager to grow in my faith. It is so comforting knowing I have a church back home praying for me and supporting me through college. St. Paul's has always been so selfless and supportive of others in their lives/faith, including myself. Thank you for teaching me the foundation of what it means to know Christ, and I can assure you I will never stop growing in Christ-likeness to share God's glory with others. Hopefully, I'll be home soon! And thank you again for your support.

Allie Vanderhorst

~*~*~*~

Dear St. Paul's Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for the scholarship money. It will help with my continued education at UNOH. I appreciate all that the church does for me and my classmates.

Thank you,

Brett Speckman

~*~*~*~

Dear Scholarship Committee Members,

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship! I will use it to continue my education at UN-OH. Thanks again!

Emma Birt

~*~*~*~

Dear St. Paul's Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for the scholarship. It is very much appreciated, and will help me with my future education.

Tyler Birt

~*~*~*~

Dear Women's Guild,

Thank you for the graduation gift to good use.

card. It is very much appreciated, and will be put

Tyler Birt





CONGREGATION MEETING SEPTEMBER 24th

A congregation meeting has been scheduled for September 24th, immediately following worship service. This meeting is to vote on changes to the church Constitution. Those potential changes will be included in your September newsletter for you to review prior to the meeting. Please mark you calendar and plan on attending.

FINANCIAL REPORT

May 2023

Current Fund:

Budgeted through May 31, 2023 = \$ 114,800.00 Received through May 31, 2023 = \$ 95,765.50 Expenses through May 31, 2023 = \$ 97,527.67 Received through May 31, 2022 = \$ 98,294.46

Mission Fund:

Budgeted through May 31, 2023 = \$ 6,250.00 Received through May 31, 2023 = \$ 5,070.00 Received through May 31, 2022 = \$ 5,128.09

STATUS OF 2023 BUDGET:

Current Fund:

Budgeted through June 30, 2023 = \$137,760.00 Budgeted through June 18, 2023 = \$132,020.00 Received through June 18, 2023 = \$104,770.94

Mission Fund:

Budgeted through June 30, 2023 = \$ 7,500.00 Budgeted through June 18, 2023 = \$ 7,187.50 Received through June 18, 2023 = \$ 5,499.00



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

- Rachael and Micah Smith, and their son, Everett, mourn the death of their twin boys/siblings who were due in July. Rachael is Eric and Lori Now's daughter and Martha May's granddaughter. Pray for God's healing arms to hold them all together during this very difficult time.
- ◆ Linda Hight 6/4/23* (former member)

*indicates Pastor Rhonda performed the service

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JUNE 14, 2023 CONSISTORY MEETING

- President's Report: Ruth Knous is still looking for volunteers to serve on the Strategic Planning Task Force. Additionally, Pastor Rhonda will be serving as a United Church of Christ General Synod delegate, June 30 July 4, representing the Northwest Association and the Heartland Conference.
- The trustees report that the new AC unit for the sanctuary is being finished up.
- Christian Ed and Nurture shared that they had 30 youth and 14 adults participate in the Vacation Bible School.
- The Safety Committee reported that they are finishing Evacuation plans and revamping signage. Consistory approved Phase Two of the safety plan.
- A congregational meeting is scheduled for September 10 for proposed changes and updates to our Constitution.

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



- 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!!
- <u>CALL-EM-ALL</u> Please let the church office know if you are experiencing any problems with the Call-Em-All phone messages. <u>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!</u>
- ♦ 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 AD-DRESS.
- <u>COPIES</u> 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.**

Summer Word Search G E U S U E R D W E R P Y N D M M U Н J K T C Х Q т н F F R Ε 0 R G B L K 1 W K 5 D P ı Х C A M N G W E X Z В N M L 0 C 0 P R E G F Т Y U N ٧ S N D В C M E 0 S F D U T C U R U Q W Υ L L 1 0 C R X W Н A M м 0 C K E Т Y N 0 P L J M R S D F W ٧ G Ε R В S R н Т м Н W A 0 K P E н R т G F 0 т F B R 1 L A 0 J U G N C W E S F G C R Н Y A X Z D N Q A D E E M 0 В T Н Υ N G В 1 X C L A L G Т S W D E G C X S G н K E н L L H D F W Т Y E 0 Н Ε G H Н L N J A A 1 D P 0 Р C E F C ٧ Ε S 1 L S D 0 X D S W F ٧ 1 F Υ U 1 0 н K L Υ U 1 м N N S В В В C D W E R L Y T E F C ٧ J Y D X R W н N M C X н G Т R В A R В E C E W Ε Q K 1 C V F Α M L Y W S C Т R E G L A P L C Н R E Y Ü L Y G F Y U K J N G А Н C Т В K D G N 0 X

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friends

family

barbecue

camping

outdoors

picnic

summer

sun

beach

umbrella

sunblock

ice cream

vacation

sand

lemonade

hammock

fireworks

relax

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

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: jnjl2021@gmail.com Email for Youth Director: franken.nick@gmail.com

Email for media: spmedia@bright.net



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