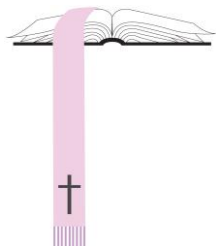


# *Rhonda's Reflections*



Years ago, as I was traveling to a church to be their guest preacher, I got stuck at a light on my way. And I mean stuck. As the stop lights cycled multiple times through for everyone else, the light in my lane remained red. Just as I was about to do something I shouldn't, the light finally turned green, and I arrived right on time.

The season of Lent, is like that. Ready or not, it's time to pause and make note of the brake lights and the stop lights. Ready or not, it's time to travel through the wilderness, take the slow lane or even a different route, knowing that in forty days (minus Sundays), we will still arrive right on time, exactly where we need to be, regardless of the impediments we experience.

The Christian season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. During Lent, Christians reflect on events of the life of Christ leading up to and including his death and resurrection. Forty days of penitent reflection is indeed inspired by Jesus' own forty-day experience in the wilderness, accounts of which are found in the books of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Now, we may not find ourselves led out into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit this Lent, as Jesus did. We may not face a talking serpent or the devil face to face. But in the wildernesses that we find ourselves in, be they physical, emotional, or spiritual, we too find ourselves tested.

Most of us are aware of our limitations and our hang-ups, and the world we live in takes every opportunity to remind us of where we fall short. But from my faith perspective, Lent is not for sacrificial self-improvement by giving up chocolate or TV or some other indulgence. Lent instead takes us through the wilderness to reflect on what more we can be. Not so that we can feel guilty at where we fail. But so that we can allow God to transform our lives and for us to become all who God calls us to be.

We Christians wear the sign of the cross in ashes on the outside to remind ourselves of the work that God is enacting on the inside of us. The confessing of our sins. The embracing of our brokenness. The naming of our grief and disappointments. And thus the slow and painful process of the transforming our lives, enabling us to better love the world and all who live therein. That transformation probably takes more than forty days. But forty days is a good start.

I hope you will join us every Sunday as well as at our Lenten Wednesday night Vespers at 7 pm.

See you on Sunday,  
Rev. Rhonda



## FAQ About Restoring the 1954 Schantz Organ

### Why do we need to restore our pipe organ?

- The pipe organ is as much a musical instrument as it is a machine. Like all machines, routine maintenance is necessary. Over time, however, a machine reaches the end of its serviceable life and requires much more comprehensive work to be done.

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

## BE AN ORGAN DONOR



## Wednesday Lenten Services

There will be six services, with the last one occurring on March 29th. Make this worship experience part of your Lenten remembrance.

## 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. 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.

## 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 **March, 16, 2023, 1:30 p.m.** in the old library.



**Become  
Part of  
*Our*  
Church  
Family**

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

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

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

If you are 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. You can meet with the Pastor 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. 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.



## **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), Carol's cell (419) 305-6164, 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 419-953-6274.



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
**March 5th**

Through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, we are planting seeds of new life.

Together, we are investing in communities worldwide: providing education to girls and boys, empowering communities through vocational training, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all.

These are just a few ways the OGHS offering touches God’s children, in addition to disaster relief and refugee initiatives.

Through your generosity, the world is a better place. But more is needed. Today, you have an opportunity to plant seeds into the lives of others. Be a co-worker with God. Building, planting, watering...and trusting that God gives growth to all good gifts shared in faith. Thank you for your partnership. Thank you for your generosity.



Please pray for the team heading to Back Bay in March from St. Paul's UCC, St. Marys:

Jeanette Tangeman

Ralph and Marsha Heckler

Kevin and Carol Gehres

Neal McCune

Tom Knous

Miriam Lynch

Karen James

Amy Keller

Diane Gayer

Janet Gibson

Jim Huckemeyer

Glenn and Lynda Hadley

These folks will have the opportunity to serve in three of the Mission's Ministries: Housing rehabilitation, the food pantry, and the Micah Day Center. A Service of Commissioning for the team will be during worship on March 12. Please keep our brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers.



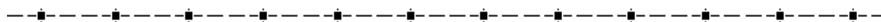
**SPRING FORWARD**

There will be more light in the evening



**March 12<sup>th</sup> – DAYLIGHT SAVINGS**

**Don't forget to set your clock ahead one hour on Saturday evening, March 11th, before you go to bed. That way you'll be on time for worship!**





### **ARE YOU READY TO MAKE SOME “GOOD TROUBLE” ???**

Back Bay Mission is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of service in the Mississippi Gulf coast this year with the motto “Making Good Trouble on the Mississippi Gulf Coast for 100 years”. At the end of March, our church will be sending a team to Back Bay to work for a week. Jeanette has sent us a wish list of items needed, which you will find included in this Communicator. We have access to a 6x12 foot enclosed trailer and your “mission” is to fill that trailer with the items listed. Will you accept the challenge?? OH YEAH!!!! Please follow the list closely as storage is limited there, and **they cannot accept things that are not on the list**. The team is leaving on March 17, so items will need to be at the church by March 13. We need lots of help to fulfill the goal. If you have questions, please contact Lynda Hadley 419-305-3368.

*A complete list is enclosed with this newsletter*

## **Lenten Breakfast**

**Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m.**

at Wayne Street UMC

130 N. Wayne Street, St. Marys, Ohio

Guest Speaker: Connie McEldowney from Rustic Hope

**Everyone is welcome! It's Free!**



That's right – after MUCH too long, the **ULTIMATE EASTER BAKE SALE** is back – bigger and better than ever!! The best bake sale in northwestern Ohio is back – April 6th in the afternoon and all day on the 7th at Minster Bank here in St Marys. We are hoping that all of you will dust off your recipes and help us make this a success again with your awesome creations. This has become quite an event in St Marys with the best in “Church lady” baking for miles around. As in the past, the money raised will be donated to Tailgate for Cancer of St Marys. We've become pretty famous for our awesome Easter themed creations – from Jell-o eggs to homemade pies to cut-out cookies. It sure is great to be back, and we look forward to seeing all of you there.

Sara and Lynda

---

## DECORATE THE ALTAR FOR EASTER!

We are asking the congregation to help decorate the altar for Easter!! Donations of spring flowers for the altar need to be in Elevette Room by **NOON** on Saturday, April 8th.





# The Family Room Event

## Family Room Event for April 23, 5:00 - 7:30pm Fellowship Hall

Come and enjoy an evening featuring the rich history of St. Marys as we begin to celebrate our Bicentennial. Invited guest, Lynne Paulus Ray, will have a presentation featuring post cards and maps from years past. A light meal of appetizers will be at 5:00pm, presentation to follow and a time for sharing stories. Watch the bulletin in April for more information.

Thank you,  
Amy Keller



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.

- March 9
- March 16
- March 23

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

## **BREAKING BREAD COMMUNITY DINNER NEWS**

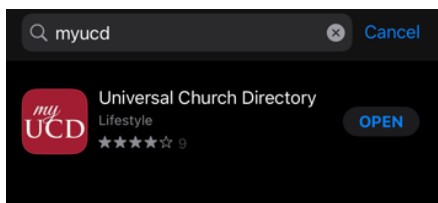
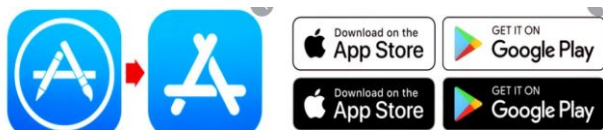
If you would like to make a financial contribution to help with costs for the weekly community dinner, these will be gratefully accepted. Donations can be placed in the Sunday offering plate or mailed to the church office. Please be sure to indicate your name

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)**

---

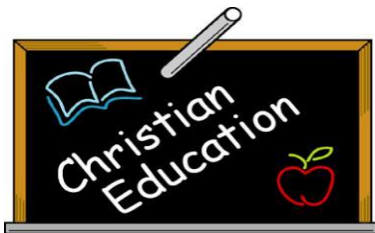
On Sunday, February 19, 2023,  
St. Paul's welcomed two new  
members to the congregation!  
Kathlene and Richard Larson.  
WELCOME!! We look forward  
to worshipping with you!



## 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.

-----



## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS!**

2 – Tyler Birt 2 – Bradyn Dicke 6 – Carsen Long 7 – Henry Klosterman 10 – Chloe Tangeman 13 – Ava Winget	14 - Sam Wheeler 16 – Nickales Dieringer 20 – Piper Marsee 20 – Henry Topp 24 – Rylee Dieringer
---	---

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Just like adults punch a time card, we have a PUNCH CARD for the Nursery-5<sup>th</sup> grade kids. They each have their own punch card and their own spot on the time card rack for their punch card. Starting February 19 to May 7 in those 12 weeks, the kids will have 10 weeks to “punch” their card for attendance and other

incentives. The reward, at the end of the 12 weeks, is breakfast with Joni and Jane on May 14.

We are filling the sanctuary with music in March and April. March 12 we will be singing one song during the 10:30 am worship service. After the song, the children will be dismissed to sit with their parents for the rest of the worship service.

Palm Sunday is April 2 and the Sunday School youth--Nursery to Senior High will be doing the entire 10:30am worship service. The Nursery to 8<sup>th</sup> graders will have a Palm Sunday program (similar to how the Christmas Program was) during the worship service. Senior High will be helping during the program in other ways. This is a great service to see our youth in action and hear the message of Palm Sunday in a new way. Please plan on joining us for worship!

Vacation Bible School will be three days, Tuesday - Thursday. Dates are May 30, May 31 and June 1. Time is 6pm to 8pm. Amy Keller has offered to be our VBS director, and we will be learning about our SHINE logo and what that means to us at a kid level. More information will be coming in the next newsletters and information sent home with the youth during Sunday School.

Toilet paper mission for Agape and covering the Lord's Prayer that's on the wall is ongoing until the end of February. At the time of newsletter submission, the kids were over 400 rolls. We will update again in the next newsletter.



All the Sunday School youth, Nursery to High School, signed Valentine cards for the shut in bags. We also made Valentine bookmarks and gave small bags of candy to church members before the Feb. 5 worship service. Our next mission project for the Sunday School year is using some of our mission money to purchase items Easter basket items for Agape.



Classroom spotlight this month is our Nursery kids. We have an active bunch of 2, 3, 4-year-olds for our teachers. They enjoy playing with the toys while listening to music on the CD player. Their lesson is a short story or a video on the lesson. They also have a craft that they take home. Currently, they have an outline of themselves hanging on the walls leading to the sanctuary. They learned that Jesus loves them, and then they decorated themselves. Every Sunday, they come to the Gathering Room and sing songs with Maddy. By far, their favorite is This Little Light of Mine, which we have sung in church services in the past. We are very fortunate that even the “big” kids enjoy singing the songs with the Nursery kids when we are all together.

## **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Grant applications are available in the church library (on podium). ***Deadline to turn the application in is APRIL 1<sup>st</sup>.***

The Camp at  
the "heart"  
of Heartland



## 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.)

## **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.

---



Thank you to all who baked cookies and donated socks and underwear for Crossroad. Jim and Neva Rowen delivered 55 dozen cookies, 22 pairs of girls' underwear, 8 boys' underwear, 38 pairs of boys' socks, and 26 pairs of girls' socks. On average, Crossroad serves 250 children in their residential and non-residential programs combined.



Valentine cards in decorated bags were delivered to 20 of our homebound members and Valentine cards with a \$10.00 Subway card were sent to our college members. Thank you to all who included cards or notes to our members and thank you to all who delivered the bags personally.

Soup and Sandwich was held on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> before the annual meeting. Chicken noodle soup, sloppy joes, and cookies were served to 45 before the meeting. Thanks to all for attending and thank you for your generous monetary donations.

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

### **WOMEN'S OVERNIGHT RETREAT**

*ATTENTION WOMEN OF ST PAUL'S:* Women's Guild would like to host a women's overnight retreat at the Retreat House in Maria Stein. It would be Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, starting at 6:00 PM and ending on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00. We will have a fun filled time with crafts, exercise, spiritual reflection, and most of all, time for yourself and friendship. If you are interested in this time together, please call the office by March 1<sup>st</sup>, so we can get an idea of how many would love to participate. We will be staying in their dorm room, with a cost of \$25 which is dorm cost and breakfast. But if you would want a room to yourself, that can be arranged, but at your expense. Everything else will be covered by the Guild. Once we get a pretty good count of interest, then more information will follow. Guaranteed to be a fun and memorable weekend.

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

**KROGER REWARDS UPDATE:** Thanks for supporting this program! Our supporters (37 households) who shopped at **Kroger** between **11-1-2022** and **1-31-2023** (SK5720) have contributed to our **\$126.60** total donation. Thank you for your continued support of your local Kroger store.

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

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

There will be a Ladies Luncheon at LaCarteta II on Thursday, March 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.**



Look at this beautiful stain glass! Bernie and Marilyn Schroer have graciously donated their handmade stain glass artistic craftsmanship to the Women's Guild. If you have ever seen the large handmade stain glass wall hanging at our local hospital, this is a smaller version of Bernie's wall hanging at the hospital.

This stain glass will be a silent auction by bids starting Feb. 19 until April 9 (Easter). Each Sunday, someone will be in the Elevette Room with the stain glass for church members to bid on the item.

*How will a silent auction work?*

Each person who would like to bid on the stain glass will sign up for a bidder number in the Elevette Room. You will use that bidder number for each time you want to bid. You can bid as often as you would like, but whatever the last bid is on the sheet, you have to increase it. An example would be: Bidder #1 is Samuel, and he bids \$50; Bidder #5 is Matthew, and he would like to increase that \$50 so Bidder# 5 writes down \$75. Bidder #2 is John, and he increases it to \$100. Each bid is by a bidder number, no names can be used. You will need to remember your bidder number from the card that is given to you when you sign up.

Proceeds from the silent auction will be used to purchase new window blinds in the Fellowship Hall.

*Thank you to Bernie and Marilyn Schroer for sharing your stain glass talent with your church members. God truly has endowed you with the perfect talent to share with others.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**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:

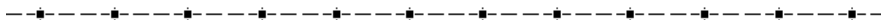
Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – Vancrest 6:15-7:15p

Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – Otterbein from 5:30-6:30p

Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Vancrest 6:15-7:15p

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

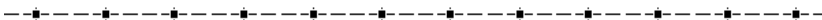
*Please call Janice Katterheinrich at (419) 394-3264 to let her know if you can help work the Bingo or if you can bring cookies.*



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

- Susan Wicker – December 16, 2022
- Tonie Might – February 6, 2023\*
- Merle Sampson – February 9, 2023\*
- Chuck Greenawalt – February 13, 2023\*
- Vern Luedeke – February 13, 2023\*

\*Indicates Pastor Rhonda conducted services.





- **To Breaking Bread in memory of Jo Rowen:** DeWayne and Billie Marsee, Janet Gibson, and Sandra Dingledine
- **To the Endowment Fund in memory of Chuck Greenawalt:** Ruth Dustman
- **To Breaking Bread in memory of Chuck Greenawalt:** Jim and Kris Vanderhorst, and Ron and Margaret Hunter.

-----■-----■-----■-----■-----■-----■-----■-----■-----■-----

THANK YOU!

Dear St. Paul's UCC,  
Thank you so much for your gift to Heidelberg University.  
The university is indeed grateful to be the recipient of such a kind and thoughtful gift.

Thank you again,  
Cheryl Staib-Lewis, Director of Advancement Services

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

Dear St. Paul's UCC,  
Thank you to the members of your church for the kind gift to Defiance College. We are always grateful to be remembered by St. Paul's!

Sincerely,  
Sheri McCoy  
Director of Donor Relations and Special Events

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

Dear members of St. Paul's,

Beth McCord  
Chief Development Officer

Dear Women's Guild,

Thanks again,  
Emma Birt

To the Women's Guild and church family,  
I just wanted to say thank you so much for the lovely Valentine's  
card and gift card. It meant so much to know that even though I  
am away from home, that my church family is still thinking of me!

Dear Church Family,





Bea Lehman

## 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, and Volunteer Coordinator of Special Music
  - ... Brad and Nam Gehrlich, Custodians
  - ... Rich Spencer, Audio and Video
  - ... Carol Schmidt, Email Prayer Team Contact
  - ... Jane Nuss and 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.
-

-  **jnjl2021@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 or you can call/text her at (319) 305-6164.
-  **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**

<b>President of Congregation</b>	Greg Leffel
<b>Vice-president of Congregation</b>	Bill Nuss
<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

**Trustees:** DeWayne Marsee, Tim Hirschfeld, and Larry Kill

---

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **January 2022**

#### **Current Fund:**

- Budgeted through January 31, 2023 = \$ 22,960.00
- Received through January 31, 2023 = \$ 15,093.33
- Expenses through January 31, 2023 = \$ 18,485.84
- Received through January 31, 2022 = \$ 14,561.38

#### **Mission Fund:**

- Budgeted through January 31, 2023 = \$ 1,250.00
- Received through January 31, 2023 = \$ 585.00
- Received through January 31, 2022 = \$ 1,254.00

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

#### **Current Fund:**

- Budgeted through February 28, 2023 = \$ 45,920.00

- Budgeted through February 19, 2023 = \$ 40,180.00
- Received through February 19, 2023 = \$ 25,182.75

**Mission Fund:**

- Budgeted through February 28, 2023 = \$ 2,500.00
  - Budgeted through February 19, 2023 = \$ 2,187.50
  - Received through February 19, 2023 = \$ 983.00
- 

## **UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2023 CONSISTORY MEETING**

The regular meeting of St. Paul's UCC Consistory was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by President Kevin Gehres. Pastor Rhonda opened the meeting with prayer.

**Minutes:**

- Minutes from the December 14, 2022, meeting were reviewed. DeWayne Marsee made a motion to approve the minutes. Diane Gayer seconded. Motion carried.

**President's Report: Kevin Gehres**

- President Kevin asked where we want to designate the Lenten loose offerings? After some discussion, Tim Hirschfeld made a motion for the Lenten loose offerings to be designated to the Organ Refurbishing Fund. Carol Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- In receipt of a letter from the Association letting us know that Rev. Jeanette Tangeman will be celebrating her 25<sup>th</sup> year of ordination in June. Members of the Consistory discussed ways to celebrate Rev. Jeanette's anniversary. President Kevin will reach out to Dan Busch to coordinate schedules.
- President Kevin thanked everyone who submitted photos for the Annual Report/Annual Meeting slide show. Copies of the Annual Report will go to the shut-ins with their Valentine bags this week, and Kevin will address with the

Stewardship Committee ways to get the Annual Report to everyone in the congregation.

- President Kevin reviewed the 2023 Committees and recruited Consistory members to help fill some vacancies on a few committees. Currently, the following members are on the committees listed below:

***Christian Ed and Nurture:*** Janet Gibson

***Mission and Outreach/Evangelism:*** Jill Dickman, Lori Now, and Carol Waesch

***Hospitality:*** Marsha Landers

***Personnel:*** Jen Lucas, Kelly Kill, Lori Now, and Diane Gayer

***Scholarship:*** Becky Anderson and Carol Schmidt

***Budget and Finance:*** DeWayne Marsee

***Worship and Arts:*** Pastor Rhonda

***Long-Range Planning:*** Ruth Knous volunteered

***Stewardship:*** Marsha Landers volunteered

***Pastoral Relations:*** Susan Braun

**Pastor's Report:** Rhonda Hainer

- Pastor Rhonda focused on Hospitality using Genesis 18, Abraham's encounter with three strangers, which can teach us 6 things about hospitality as a church.
  1. ABRAHAM MADE HIS GUESTS FEEL WELCOME- Hospitality means not only greet new guests, and invite them to complete a Welcome Card located in the pews, but additionally to give them a tour of our building, i.e., where the classrooms are for themselves or for their kids. Greet them again the following week, etc.
  2. HE REFRESHED THEM by washing their feet. - When people come into St. Paul's are we offering them an opportunity to heal?
  3. HE OFFERED THEM REST! - As a church who cares, we are to be sensitive to the needs of those who come through these doors. They may have endured a difficult

week or have a burden to carry that we won't know about. We have the opportunity to offer them rest and security. Our sanctuary is a "sanctuary".

4. HE GAVE THEM THE BEST SEAT- It was in the heat of the day, and Abraham offered his guest the shade tree to sit under to cool off.
5. HE ENERGIZED THEM FOR THE ROAD AHEAD- The worship service including prayers, hymns, message and sending forth are prepared with the hope being that the guests are given what they need to face the week ahead.
6. HE STOOD READY & WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THEM. - All this is to say, when a guest comes into our church, we need to ensure that they are welcomed, refreshed, rested, comfortable, and given what they have to face the week ahead, we are to stand ready to serve and invite people to St. Paul's and actively look for them to come in.

**Loose Offering:**

- President Kevin reminded the Consistory that the Loose Offering this weekend is designated to Back Bay Mission.

**Financial Report:** David Dickman

- David reviewed the Financial Report for the month of January 2023. There being no other questions, President Kevin asked to file the financial report for review by the church Administrative Assistant.

**Elders:** Lori Now

- We had 22 people partake in the after-service Communion on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Deacons:** Carol Schmidt

- Following the meeting this evening, there will be a brief communion "run through" in the Sanctuary.

**Trustees:** Larry Kill

- No Report

**Budget and Finance:** David Dickman

- David discussed that so far this winter, our Dominion Gas MCF usage has been lower than last year. The average temperature has been about 10 degrees warmer so far this year than last, but this lower usage is also due to the new boilers too.

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

- Kids are working on collecting toilet paper for Agape until 2/26/23. A new mission project will start in March/April/May.
- Vacation Bible School is set for three days. Tuesday, May 30, Wednesday, May 31, and Thursday, June 1, from 6p-8p.
- Kids are singing March 12<sup>th</sup> during the worship service.
- Kids are doing the Palm Sunday service, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The kids are doing everything for the service, including collecting the offering. Pastor Rhonda will provide us with the Call to Worship, and Scriptures. All ages of the Sunday School youth will be participating.
- We are starting a “rewards” punch card for the Nursery-5<sup>th</sup> grade youth. They will have 12 weeks to collect 10 punches. Punches are mainly to encourage attendance, but we will give punches for other incentives as well. The punch cards will start February 19<sup>th</sup> and run through May 7<sup>th</sup>. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Jane and Joni will have breakfast with the kids.
- Senior Youth will be serving Easter Breakfast again this year.
- All classes have had steady attendance.
- The kids made Valentine bookmarks and handed out small bags of candy on February 5<sup>th</sup> to church members in attendance. Several of the Sunday School children passed them out.
- Camp information has been given to all families.
- A Sunday School Facebook page has been started. We will try to link it with the church Facebook page in a few weeks. The Sunday School page will have lots of pictures of our youth on it.

### **Christian Mission and Outreach:** Jill Dickman

- Our committee is asking for approval of a \$1000 donation to Tempel Hills renovation project. Jill Dickman made a motion for said donation. Lori Now seconded. Motion carried.
- *Post meeting request:* After the meeting Wednesday night, it was discovered that we had indeed discussed a \$1,000 donation from Christian Mission Outreach at the January meeting (as noted in the January minutes); however, had indicated that it would be brought to Consistory for vote at the February meeting. Thus, we are doing an email motion as follows: Jill Dickman has moved that \$1,000 be sent to Back Bay Mission, from Christian Mission and Outreach. Carol Gehres has seconded the motion. Per the response emails received, motion carried.
- The Committee is looking into the potential of a driver service for those who cannot drive themselves to church, and also a meal service for those who were just released from the hospital.

### **Personnel:** Jen Lucas

- No Report

### **Stewardship:** Kevin Gehres

- No Report. The Stewardship Committee are meeting next week.

### **Organ Refurbishing Committee:** Becky Anderson

- The organ committee is planning to kick off their fundraising efforts on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. We have a video prepared by Rich Spencer, who followed the organ tuner around when he was here, and he explained what needs to be done. Following that we will be sending a letter in the mail to all who receive the communicator plus some prior folks who had connections with either the church, were in the choir or maybe their parents were in the choir. Each letter will contain a pledge card. A trifold

has been prepared to have on display, as well as an organ pipe to show progress. We are also planning on having a question/answer section in the communicator each month. “BE AN ORGAN DONOR”.

### **Old Business:**

- President Kevin read a letter from the Auglaize County 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee requesting that all churches ring their church bells for 175 seconds (three minutes) at noon on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Rhonda has been in contact with Ann Vogel already, and St. Paul’s will be ringing our bells on that day and time.
- President Kevin also brought up that there was a request that all the churches hold an Open House (at the same time) sometime in 2023. After some discussion, it was decided to refer this request to the local Ministerial Association.
- President Kevin asked members of the Consistory if they have any recommendations for the Safety Committee after reviewing the Safety Committee sheet handed out at the January meeting. Safety Committee Chairperson, DeWayne Marsee, asked members of the Consistory, “Where do we go from here, and how do we proceed?” Discussion commenced regarding upgrading cameras, since our current system has some age to it. DeWayne is looking into prices and possible Grants for a digital system as ours is analog. DeWayne asked Consistory about ways to “harden” the Sunday School classrooms, with either locks, and window coverings. DeWayne suggested, maybe the quilting ladies and other congregation members that sew, could possibly make the window coverings. DeWayne also mentioned that the local Fire Department has a list of suppliers and ideas to keep the classroom doors locked for safety. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Consistory for the Safety Committee to pick out the most important items listed and proceed forward. Susan Braun

made a motion to accept the recommendation for the Safety Committee to prioritize and group the listed items, and proceed with what is most important. Jill Dickman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ruth Knous asked about child abuse training. DeWayne replied that education is “key” and will be addressed. Janet Gibson and Larry Kill agreed to also serving on the Safety Committee with DeWayne and President Kevin.

- The Deacon Responsibility form that was passed out at the January meeting needs to be accepted as written. Jill Dickman made a motion to accept said form. Carol Gehres seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- President Kevin asked how the new directory app was working for everyone. The app is still in need of being updated with deaths and new members, and asked how these updates can be done. Susan Spencer is still currently working with the company regarding these questions. At the same time, our current church software can offer the same information. Kelly Kill will be working with Carolyn in the office on training and getting our current software up-to-date.

### **New Business:**

- Susan Braun reported that the Constitution Review Committee is continuing to meet and should have an update in March.

There being no further matters to discuss, Marsha Landers made the motion to adjourn, and Lori Now seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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

Just a  
reminder...



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

# SAINT PATRICK'S DAY



iHeartCraftyThings.com

# ST. PATRICK'S DAY WORD SEARCH

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

Saint	Ireland	Clover
Patrick	Wishes	Parade
Leprechaun	Shamrock	March
Rainbow	Green	Pinch
Gold	Lucky	Emerald



©2018 Happiness is Homemade (www.happinessishomemade.com) FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY!