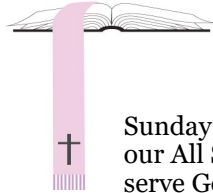


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

November 2023



THE COMMUNICATOR

Rhonda's Reflections

Sunday, November 5, 2023, during our 10:30 worship service is our All Saint's Day Sunday, which is a day to honor those who serve God. We are all called to serve God. And even though we might all serve God in different ways; we are all called to serve with enthusiasm! Serving God with enthusiasm means our serving is a reflection of loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Serving with enthusiasm means to do so happily, energetically, and with dedication and commitment.

The first Christians wrote letters to encourage one another in their service to God. Listen to what Paul said in a letter to the church in the book of Romans:

Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic – be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! Romans 12:11

Paul wanted the early Christians to be enthusiastic as they shared the Good News about Jesus. God wants us to be enthusiastic too! We learn to serve God with enthusiasm from those people in our lives who have helped us grow in our faith and inspire us with their enthusiasm for God. Saints are people who work hard for the church and love God so much that they allow God's light and his love to shine through them. They make life more beautiful and help us to grow closer to God.

All Saint's Day is a day to remember ways that people we know have been enthusiastic saints at our church and in our lives.

Who are the people that have helped you move forward in your faith journey?

Who are the people who have mentored you, encouraged you, and supported you?

Who are the people who have inspired you?

Who do you know that serves God with enthusiasm; on fire in the Spirit as they serve the Lord?

Take sometime this month to give thanks for the people that God has placed in your life to be mentors for you in your life, who have inspired you on your faith journey. Write a letter of encouragement, send a text or email, or call them and offer some words of encouragement as they continue to serve the Lord. If that someone you would like to thank has transitioned to life eternal, then share their story with someone else. Tell others how they have inspired you and made a difference for Jesus in the world.

Dear God,

Today we give thanks for the saints of our church. Thank you for the people you have placed in our lives that are helping us to grow on our faith journey. We are thankful that we have learned about your love and grace from them. We want to show our love for you too, so please help us to serve you with enthusiasm in everything we do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

See you soon,
Pastor Rhonda



SPECIAL TIMES

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

**Sunday School and Adult
Forum 9:15 am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am**

Sunday Service Live Streamed
on Facebook and YouTube

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





FAQ About Restoring the 1954 Schantz Organ

Who is doing the work?

Schantz Organ Company from Orville, Ohio, will be completing the work, the same company that built the 1954 organ and has serviced it regularly. 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. **"PLEASE BE AN ORGAN DONOR"**



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



The Numbers of Hope to Max Lucado 3:16

Small Group Bible Study

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

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.** This is a gathering for any caregivers (and others who are involved) whether you are doing it within your home, within your loved one's home or if your loved one resides in a care facility. The session will be led by Rev. Jeanette Tangeman. The purpose of the gathering is to support each other, learn from each other, and locate helpful resources. Please call Jeanette at 419-234-7935, if any questions.





**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Join us for our "Third Sunday Membership Opportunity" on the third Sunday of the month. Sunday, November 19th at 11:45 am (time approx.) Following the 10:30 am Worship Service

Interested in learning more about becoming a member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ? We invite you to our "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).

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



GIVING THANKS COMMUNITY MEAL

For the 24th consecutive year, a group of Auglaize/Mercer County citizens will be providing food, fun and fellowship for members of our community on Thanksgiving Day. We call ourselves Giving Thanks.

Our mission is to provide a dinner for any individual or family that would like to join us at no cost. The dinner is served family style with cloth tablecloths by a group of volunteers. The Giving Thanks meal will be offered from 11a-1p on Thursday, November 23, 2023, in the dining commons of St. Marys Memorial High School. We encourage everyone to come join in the meal instead of taking carryouts. Many people look forward to sharing the meal with company they wouldn't normally have instead of being alone that day. So please consider joining us this year.

In the past, the local churches have graciously helped us by providing desserts. We tend to run very low on desserts. We humbly ask for your help again this year. Desserts can be dropped off on Wednesday, November 22nd, from 1p to 4p at Wayne Street Church or at St. Marys Memorial High School (at the door south of the Commons area) from 5p-7p. We appreciate all the donations and everything the churches do for our community. If you have questions about desserts, you may call Sue Halko at 419-394-5475. If you have any other questions, please call Joni Gatton at 419-305-1997.

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 **November 16, 2023, 1:30 p.m.** in the Chapel (fka the old library).



On Sunday, October 22, 2023, St. Paul's welcomed a new member to the congregation! Miriam Lynch.

WELCOME!! We look forward to worshipping with you!



TIME CHANGE!

Don't forget to set your clock **BACK** one hour on November 5th





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

- November 9
- November 16

NOTICE of Meal Schedule Change:

There will be NO MEAL Thursday, November 23rd (Thanksgiving), or 30th.

There will be NO MEALS in the month of December

Breaking Bread Staff are taking a Holiday Break!
Please join us back here on January 11th! Thank you.

ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE

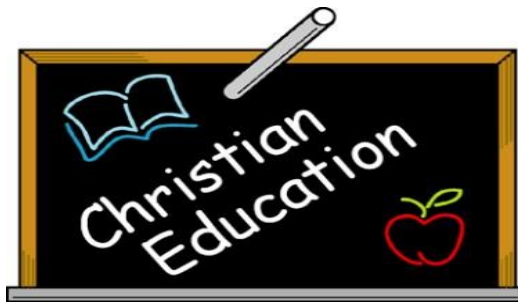
Don't forget that we now have online giving! It is available now by downloading Vanco Payment Solutions on to your mobile device by going to the app store or Google Play and search for "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement" The download is free. We also have a button on our website that will also take you to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

2023 CHURCH OFFICIALS

President of Congregation Greg Leffel
Vice-president of Congregation Bill Nuss
President of Consistory 2023 Kevin Gehres
VP 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
	Larry Kill	



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!



4th- Jameson McGee
20th- Ryen Chisholm
21st- Sophie Burden
21st- Colt Bower
21st- Presley Anderson
27th- Zoey Briggs
27th- Evelyn Cotterman

The congregation and Sunday School Mission Project for this fall is the solar lanterns for Ukraine. Each lantern is \$10. You just need to pull a tag from the whiteboard in the Sanctuary! Each tag states how many lanterns you would like to support. Sunday, November 26th is the last day to turn in lantern money. Please remember to state how many lanterns you would like to support. Place the money in an envelope and either drop it in the offering plate, or drop it off in the church office. Be sure to mark LANTERN on your envelope! Thank you!

In November, our Old Testament lessons will be about:

- God's on MY Side! Teaching us that God helps us do great things in the story of David defeating Goliath.
- Stop the Madness! God gives us wisdom as he showed Abigail bringing peace.
- As Real As It Gets, learning that God IS power as he shows Elijah providing for a widow.
- Each lesson teaches the children that God can be our friend. We open with a short story about the lesson that they will learn more about later in class time.
- Next, we talk about how to relate that to their world, You and God, You and Others and always end with a Friendship Nugget and the Lord's Prayer.

A reminder that our Christmas Program, "Hotel Noel", is December 10th during the worship service.

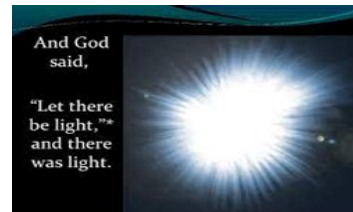


Aluminum Can Recycling for the Youth Group

Thank you to everyone who is saving aluminum cans for the **YOUTH GROUP**. We will continue to save, collect, and recycle cans. Cans need to be **rinsed out** and brought to St. Paul's - **just leave them behind the curtain under the stairs of the Creation Station door**. If you have a lot of cans and would like to take them to the recycling center and donate the money, it may be just as easy once they are in your vehicle. Thank you for your support.

St. Paul's Sunday School is "lighting" the world, and YOU can help

This year, St. Paul's Sunday School is excited about their mission project to bring light through **SoLight** solar-powered lanterns to children who have been injured in body, mind, and spirit in Ukraine. For every \$10 raised, this solar light, powered by the sun, will bring peace in the midst of terror when night falls. There is no electricity to bring these children comfort in the midst of the trauma they have faced and continue to face. Please prayerfully consider how YOU might Let Your Light SHINE!



High School YOUTH GROUP St. Paul's UCC

Things are busy, busy, busy with St. Paul's UCC High School Youth Group! We've been wrestling with some big questions about our faith regarding tough issues, ranging from relationship boundaries and forgiveness to national security. Our visit to Vandemark Farm in Sidney was a blast for everyone, and we hope our Thanksgiving-themed youth service was meaningful and enjoyable to the congregation. Next month, get ready to see some of our Youth members in the Live Nativity program. Christmas will be upon us before you know it!

In Christ,
Nick Frankenhauser
Youth Director



The Family Room Event

Mark your calendar and watch for more details for upcoming Family Room events that are geared for all ages, singles, children and families.

November 12: Intergenerational Sunday School—Fellowship Hall 9:15-10:15am Adults and children team up and work on an Advent project during the Sunday School hour. Supplies will be provided.

December 3: Christmas Party Carry-In—Fellowship Hall 5-7:30 pm Special music and a Christmas Carol sing-a-long. Be sure to wear your most beautiful Christmas sweater, or your “ugliest” Christmas sweater!

When you have a chance, take a look at the blue and white UCC flag in the sanctuary. The flag has the Bible verse John 17:2 “that they may all be one.” The flag is a good reminder for me that we may think and believe differently on certain topics, but we are rooted together like a family in the love of Jesus Christ!

Blessings,
Amy Keller



ATTENTION TEMPLED HILLS AND (FORMERLY) PILGRIM HILLS CAMPERS!

The Heartland Conference is creating an Alumni Association!!

- Connect with fellow Alumni Campers
- Share stories, photos and more
- Help ensure that Templed Hills continues to provide great opportunities for future generations.

Email Jill Frey at jill@heartlanducc.org to make sure they have your contact information and vote on a name for the Alumni Association.

Follow them on Facebook and join their online Alumni group, “Templed/Pilgrim Hills Alumni Association” (please note the name will be changed when we finalize the name).

Follow their main Facebook page: Templed Hills Camp and Retreat Center – Ohio



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

There will be a Ladies Luncheon at **Shandy's in Celina** on Thursday, November 2nd. 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:



Nov. 7th—Vancrest 6:15-7:15p
Dec. 5th—Otterbein 5:30-6:30p

We are in need of BINGO helpers and cookies

Please call Janice Katterheinrich at (419) 394-3264 to let her know if you can help in any way.



- **To the Organ Fund in memory of William Grunden:** Melody Grunden
- **To the Endowment Fund in memory of Shirley Harold:** Jim and Kris Vanderhorst

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who made the Fall Harvest Meal and Craft/Bake Sale a huge success this year. Special thanks to Karen James, Neva Rowen, Joyce Greenawalt, Becky Rasaweher, and Terry Knatz for making the delicious meal! So many people are needed to run this day. Thanks to Carolyn for the advertising, tickets, and keeping everyone organized; Renee Caywood for heading the Carry-Out station; Amy Keller and Kathy Dieringer for helping the confirmation class with carrying trays and serving the diners; Sara Seewer and Lynda Hadley for heading the bake sale. So many others made desserts, cut the desserts, wrapped silverware, washed dishes and cleaned up. A very long but productive day. Most of this money will go to future projects. After expenses, the Women's Guild brought in \$1550.85 from crafts and bake sale and \$1088.94 from the meal.

Thank you again
Women's Guild

~~*~*

Dear Church family,

I would like to thank everyone that blessed me with a birthday card on my 85th birthday, and also for all of the birthday wishes. I enjoyed the "card shower".

Sandra Clausing

~~*~*

My heart is so full of gratitude for all the love which filled the sanctuary in celebration of my 25th Ordination Anniversary that I do not have adequate words. It was truly beautiful to look out and see the people from all walks of my life...family, friends and church family...who have loved and supported me not only for the past 25 years but literally all of my life. A huge thank you to all of St. Paul's who put on the meaningful service, gifted me with the amazing "God's Fingerprint" picture, and coordinated all the delicious food that everyone brought. What a day! A special thank you to Pastor Rhonda for always being by my side through the ups and downs, and who made the worship and celebration service very special for me.

Rev Jeanette Tangeman



November 5th is All Saints Sunday, the day set aside in the Christian Year to remember those who have completed this life and now live forever in the church eternal. During the time of remembrance in our traditional service, the names of the members who have died in the past year are announced during worship time and a chime is rung in their memory.

This year, we also invite everyone to participate by remembering those you love by placing a bell on the **All Saints Banner of Bells**.

Everyone is invited to bring a small bell and to hang it on the All Saints Banner to honor those who you love, the saints who have gone before us. Bring as many bells as you would like. The All Saints Bell Banner is a symbolic reminder of all of those who have touched our lives and have been witnesses to our faith throughout our lives. Each bell represents a person whose legacy and life continues to be carried within our own.

The banner will be used in the processional at the beginning of our Worship Service on **All Saints Sunday, November 5th**. As the bells ring at the beginning of the service, we are reminded of the sacredness of this life and of the lives of those who live within us and whose love fill us.

Are you ready to play an important part in planning for the future of St. Paul's?

St. Paul's United Church of Christ is undergoing a strategic planning process. A group of individuals met in September and decided to survey congregants who received information about our church in the monthly newsletter.

In addition to a survey, the packet also contains a letter with information about our study and an addressed, stamped envelope so that you can easily return the questionnaire by dropping it in your mailbox. If you have completed and returned your survey, thank you. If you have not, we ask that you complete the survey and mail it in as soon as humanly possible so that the findings can be calculated in a timely manner.

Kathlene Larson is the Project Manager for the study. If you have a question, please contact Kathlene through the church office at (419) 394-3811. Watch your mail and plan to play your part in this important study about the future of St. Paul's church.

NOVEMBER LOOSE OFFERINGS

- ♦ November 5—Organ Refurbishing Fund
- ♦ November 12—Goodfellows



***Deadline for articles,
announcements, etc. for the
December 2023
Communicator will be
November 17th***

FINANCIAL REPORT

September 2023

Current Fund:

Budgeted through Sept. 30, 2023	= \$ 206,640.00
Received through Sept. 30, 2023	= \$ 159,050.56
Expenses through Sept. 30, 2023	= \$ 172,911.83
Received through Sept. 30, 2022	= \$ 164,349.69

Mission Fund:

Budgeted through Sept. 30, 2023	= \$ 11,250.00
Received through Sept. 30, 2023	= \$ 8,944.00
Received through Sept. 30, 2022	= \$ 7,932.50

STATUS OF 2023 BUDGET:

Current Fund:

Budgeted through Oct. 31, 2023	= \$229,600.00
Budgeted through Oct. 15, 2023	= \$220,416.00
Received through Oct. 15, 2023	= \$169,240.56

Mission Fund:

Budgeted through Oct. 31, 2023	= \$ 12,500.00
Budgeted through Oct. 15, 2023	= \$ 12,000.00
Received through Oct. 15, 2023	= \$ 9,901.00



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

Shirley Harold —October 3, 2023*

*indicates Pastor Rhonda performed the service



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

Highlights from the October 11, 2023 Consistory Meeting

- Auglaize Historical Society "St. Marys Tour of Churches" was a success, with approximately 50 visiting our sanctuary and Christian Education wing. Visitors were greeted with live music, a PowerPoint of history, tours, and a parting gift.
- The Sunday School launched their fund-raising project including the congregation to raise money for solar-operated SoLight lanterns for children in Ukraine.
- Temporary transfer of funds were approved to cover the September income shortfall, with the intention of paying the funds back.
- The Safety Committee reported that new cameras have arrived, Sunday School conducted a successful fire drill. Plans are in process for CPR/AED training.
- The 175 Anniversary of St. Paul's is next year, so a committee will be needed to assist in determining how we will celebrate this special time in our church life.
- December's Consistory meeting will be moved to Tuesday evening, Dec. 12 at 6:00pm, so as to avoid the Advent service on Wednesday evening.

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



The Bulletin Board

- ♦ If you will be going to the hospital or if someone you know is hospitalized, please 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!
- ♦ **VANCO electronic giving** - Download Vanco Payment Solutions onto your mobile device by going to the app store or Google Play and search for "**Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement**". The download is free.
- ♦ **OFFERING ENVELOPES** - are distributed by quarterly mailing. Please notify the church office if you are not receiving envelopes and would like to be added to this mailing list. Also, **PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**
- ♦ **COPIES** - if you need copies made of any personal items, you may stop by the church office, and we will be glad to make them for you. If it is a large project, it is best to call ahead. **Cost for making copies for church members is 15 cents per copy if you use the office paper, or 10 cents per copy if you bring your own paper.**

Thankfulness

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

Joy
Bible
Food
Jesus

Freedom
Salvation
Friends
Love

Prayers
Shelter
Family
God

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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