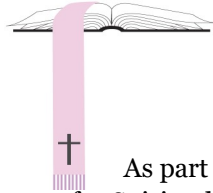


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

October 2023



THE COMMUNICATOR

Rhonda's Reflections

As part of my pastoral duties, I serve on the Council for the Academy for Spiritual Formation, through the Upper Room Ministries. This is the same Upper Room that publishes the Daily Devotional we offer here at St. Paul's.

Two years ago, I was invited to be the retreat leader for the next 5-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation. 60 participants, two faculty presenters, and a team of 7 would eventually come from across the U.S. to be together for one week to experience what it means to Cultivate Compassion for all God's children.

One day as I planned for the retreat, my heart filled with worry about who would serve on the team, who would be our faculty presenters, would we have enough interested participants to register, the list of worries was long. While in prayer, I felt led to turn to the Old Testament book of Habakkuk 2:3.

"For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end--it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay."

And then came the following question for my reflection: How does patience connect with faith in God?

As I reflect back and now, I can see more clearly how that scripture came alive in my life and has served as an important reminder to me personally. Perhaps it will be the same in yours as well.

First, I was reminded to **place my trust in God, not in myself**. So often I want to run ahead of God, thinking I know best, and not wait on God.

Second, I am reminded to **Trust in God's timing above my own**. Even when we can't see what is happening now, trusting in God's timing in that long term, we learn that God is one who hears us, the one who cares for us, the one who is good, and holy, and powerful, and faithful, and just, and worthy of all our trust.

Third, we are to **live and walk by faith in God**. Every day we are to trust in God and God's love, and God's wisdom, and God's power, and God's justice, far more than we trust in ourselves.

For me, this short verse from Habakkuk is a wonderful reminder that God has got this. In fact, God answered my prayers regarding this 5-day retreat sponsored by the Upper Room. And if you ask me the next time you see me, I'll tell you all about how God moved in the lives of the 60 who attended the retreat that was held this month, in the week following my writing these words to you.

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)

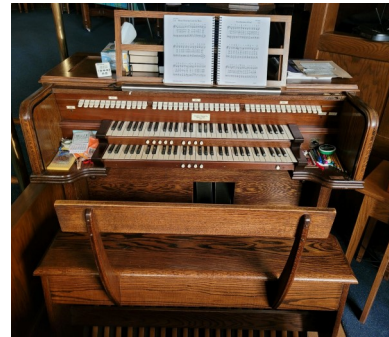




FAQ About Restoring the 1954 Schantz Organ

Why can't the work be done in stages?

It is relatively easy to divide the project into two parts, but the total cost will of course go up. A relatively small part of the work would have to be done twice if the two projects are not completed at the same time. **PLEASE "BE AN ORGAN DONOR"**



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

NEIGHBORS IN NEED **Special offering October 1st** *(part of our 5 for 5 UCC offerings)*

This year's focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet! Please consider Recycling.

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, October 15th 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.

SACRED SPACES TOUR OF CHURCHES, A BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

As part of the Auglaize County Bicentennial Celebration, the Auglaize County Historical Society has asked St. Marys area churches to open their doors to the public on **Sunday, October 1 from 1-4 p.m.** for church tours. St. Paul's UCC is one of the churches listed on the tour. Along with the tours, we will share the history of our church. Cookies, punch, and coffee will be available for those visiting. Tours are open to the public. Everyone is welcome!

SAVE THE DATE!

October 15th following worship
there will be a Pot-Luck
Carry-In Luncheon
Celebrating Rev. Jeanette's
25th Anniversary of her Ordination!
(tableware, drinks and dessert provided)

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 **October 19, 2023, 1:30 p.m.** in the Chapel (fka the old library).

"WHEREVER THERE IS A HUMAN IN
NEED, THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR
KINDNESS AND TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

- KEVIN HEATH



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
PROJECT
www.randomactsofkindness.org





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.

- October 12
- October 19
- October 26

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

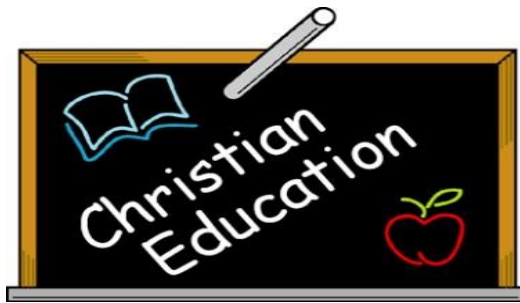
*Don't forget that we now have online giving! It is available now by downloading Vanco Payment Solutions on to your mobile device by going to the app store or Google Play and search for "**Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement**" The download is free. We also have a button on our website that will also take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



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!



9 —Ethan Frankenhauser
18—Beckett Clark
27—Caleb Turner

It's hard to believe that one month of Sunday School is complete, and we're onto the second month. We enjoy working with our youth and helping them understand the Bible stories. Thank you to our teachers this fall for teaching our youth the Bible stories.

We like visitors in Sunday School! Just like in church visitors receive a chocolate bar, in Sunday School they receive a "theatre-style" box of candy wrapped with a picture of our church and our Sunday School and worship service times.

Worldwide Communion is October 1, and we will have the Sunday School youth bring loaves of bread and grapes to the altar at the beginning of the 10:30 worship service. They will also sing during the service.

Another special time on October 1 is when the third-graders will be getting their Bibles during the worship service. Letters have been sent home to the third-graders and their parents inviting them to join us for worship that Sunday for a Bible presentation.

Our mission project will start on September 24 and run until November 26. This mission project is for Sunday School youth and for congregation members. During our VBS this summer, Pastor Scott Johnson from the Spencerville UCC showed our youth about solar lanterns called "SoLight" for Ukraine. These lanterns comfort children in the dark in war-torn Ukraine. The cost is \$10 each. If you would like to support this mission project, please feel free to put your donation in the offering plate marked LANTERNS. We can let our St. Paul's light shine all the way to Ukraine!

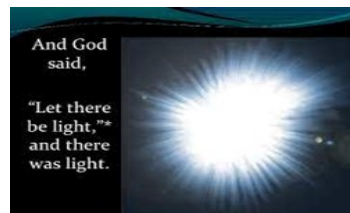


Aluminum Can Recycling for the Youth Group

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

It's fall, and St. Paul's UCC high school Youth Group is back in full swing!

After a restful and recharging summer, the Youth Group resumed Sunday morning meetings on Rally Day, reflecting on God's holy humor. We put this lesson into practice immediately as senior Ray Walter, sophomore Madi Mauter, and myself told jokes to the congregation during the Holy Humor worship service.

The Youth Group celebrated a return to fall fellowship by attending a corn maze together, and plans are underway to hold another Thanksgiving Youth Sunday service in November. Stay tuned for more news next month!

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.

October 22: Harvest Meal Carry-In—Fellowship Hall 5-7:30pm Game night; bring your favorite game.

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. It 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



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.

On a Sunday coming soon, you can pick up your questionnaire packet at the back of the Sanctuary, after our worship service. Packets picked up at church will help the church save money on postage. Packets not picked up will be mailed the following week. In addition to a questionnaire, 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.

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.



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

There will be a Ladies Luncheon at **The Anchor in Celinea** on Thursday, October 5th. 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:



Oct. 3rd — Otterbein 5:30-6:30p
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 Tom Hevlin and Dick Hudson:
American Guild Organists



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Noah Hartsock and Brandy (Mowery) Mikesell gave birth to twin girls on June 23, 2023 at Grand Lake Health Systems, here in St. Marys. The twins were welcomed home by a sister Chloé and brother Cooper. The twins were born 7 minutes apart, with Nora Christine Hartsock born 1st at 1pm weighing 6 lb 14 oz. and Ellie Von Hartsock at 1:07pm weighing at 7lbs 4 oz. Both girls were 20" long. They were both born happy and healthy. The grandparents of the twins are: Rick and Paige Canfield, the late Scott Hartsock and Lisa Hartsock, and Lesley Mowery and Tina Rohrbach. The great-grandparents of our church family were the late Rodney Martin and the late Vonnie Martin.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Emma Wibbeler! Emma graduated from Ohio State University with a Bachelor Degree in Exercise Science. She will be taking a gap year and will be working at Grand Lake Health Center before applying to schools to become a Physician's Assistant.

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

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 spoken aloud during worship and a chime is rung in their memory.

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

Everyone is invited to bring a small bell and to hang on the All Saints Banner to honor those who you love, who are the saints who have gone before us. You can hang 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.

You are welcome to bring and hang a memory bell or bells on the All Saints Bell Banner on the three Sundays preceding; October 15, 22, and 29.



FALL HARVEST MEAL

OCTOBER 4, 2023

Bake/Craft Sale: 1:00—6:00 p.m.

Fall Cafeteria: 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Choice of Swiss Steak or Chicken Breast, with sides of mashed potatoes, green beans, noodles and homemade desserts.

ADULTS-\$10.00 and CHILDREN under 11 yrs. -\$5.00

**Tickets can be purchased at the Church Office
or through a member of Women's Guild**

Drive Thru and Carry Out are available for meals



WANTED for the FALL HARVEST MEAL

Homemade bake goods and crafts for the October 4th Bake/Craft Sale, which will be held in Heritage Hall from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Thanks in advance!

OCTOBER LOOSE AND SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ♦ October 1—Organ Refurbishing Fund
- ♦ October 1—Special offering for UCC Neighbors in Need (5 for 5)
- ♦ October 8—Disaster Kits



***Deadline for articles,
announcements, etc. for the
November 2023
Communicator will be
October 18th***



THANK YOU!

Dear Friends at St. Paul's UCC in St. Marys,

Thank you for providing food items for our breakfast and snacks at the 60th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Ohio Association on April 29, 2023, held at St. Paul UCC in Wapakoneta. Your generosity and donations nourished our bodies as we met in deliberations for spiritual nourishment during the meeting. Your gifts were appreciated.

Again, thank you for making our meeting a success.

Blessing always,

Rev. Daniel L. Busch, Association Minister

~*~*~*~*~*~*~

SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild would like to thank all those who attended the pizza lunch after church on September 10th for Rally Day. Over 60 members were served pizza for lunch that day.

St. Paul's Women's Guild

FINANCIAL REPORT

August 2023

Current Fund:

Budgeted through August 31, 2023	= \$ 183,680.00
Received through August 31, 2023	= \$ 144,330.16
Expenses through August 31, 2023	= \$ 151,863.26
Received through August 31, 2022	= \$ 144,816.36

Mission Fund:

Budgeted through August 31, 2023	= \$ 10,000.00
Received through August 31, 2023	= \$ 7,794.00
Received through August 31, 2022	= \$ 7,103.00

STATUS OF 2023 BUDGET:

Current Fund:

Budgeted through Sept. 30, 2023	= \$ 206,640.00
Budgeted through Sept. 17, 2023	= \$ 200,900.00
Received through Sept. 17, 2023	= \$ 157,995.16

Mission Fund:

Budgeted through Sept. 30, 2023	= \$ 11,250.00
Budgeted through Sept. 17, 2023	= \$ 10,937.50
Received through Sept. 17, 2023	= \$ 8,774.00



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 of September 13, 2023 Consistory Meeting

- ◆ Trustees shared a new viewing screen has been installed in the Gathering Room, as well as updates to the Coffee Bar in the Hospitality Room.
- ◆ Christian Education & Nurture shared that in addition to a very successful Rally Day Kickoff and 22 kids singing in church, there were 66 that shared in the Pizza Party after church. The Sunday School kids will be singing again for the October 1 World Wide Communion Sunday. They also shared that the Sunday School mission project is solar lanterns for areas less fortunate.
- ◆ Organ Refurbishing Committee now has a separate listing on the Vanco online giving site.
- ◆ The Strategic Planning Committee is planning to send out a Congregational Survey this fall, and asks everyone to watch for this. It's imperative for the Strategic Planning that everyone responds to this vital survey. More info to follow.
- ◆ St. Marys Tour of Churches is October 1 from 1:00 - 4:00, with St. Paul's as one of 5 churches on the tour. Visitors to our church will be greeted with music, historical slides, greeters and tour guides, and gift bags.

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



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THANKSGIVING+CO.

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.**

HALLOWEEN WORD SEARCH

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

Ghost
Boo
Witch
Pumpkin

Costume
Frankenstein
Skeleton
Candy

Broom
Bat
Mummy
Vampire

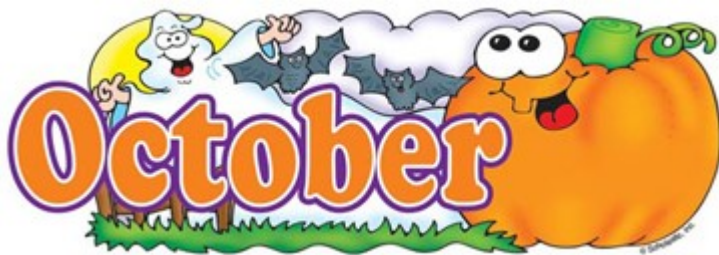
Spider
Black Cat
Halloween
Fall

Spooky
Potion
Haunted
Zombie

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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 Gehrlach, 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



THE COMMUNICATOR
 St. Paul's United Church of Christ
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