ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

September 2023



THE COMMUNICATOR

Rhonda's Reflections



Creating God's Vision for St. Paul's United Church of Christ

"Are we there yet?" "Are we there yet?" Every parent has heard this countless times from the back seat of the car, usually minutes into a three-hour trip. We all want to get where we're going, but sometimes the real experience is not just about getting to the destination, but the journey itself. That's why good parents (like mine) have fun "car games" at the ready to make it fun. Snacks always helped too. This focus on the journey is especially important when it comes to our walk of faith. There really isn't a time when we've "arrived," is there? We are all works in progress. We are all growing and learning, every second of every day. It's not just about the destination. It's about what happens along the way. The apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians, "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old has gone, the new is here!" He's writing to a group of people who have struggled to get along and who've let disagreements and discord get in the way of community and fellowship. Paul makes the case that things can change when we start to see things the way Jesus sees them—through the lens of grace, mercy, and love. We are not there yet, of course. But we are heading there, and that's what counts.

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 we ask that you give consideration to participating. If you are 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@ohiovmcas.org or by phone or text at (419) 953-6274.

I hope you will prayerfully consider this opportunity to join this strategic planning process, facilitated by Ruth Knous, as we listen to God and create God's vision for St. Paul's UCC. I'm so grateful to be "on the journey" with each of you!

> In Christ's Service, Pastor Rhonda

SPECIAL TIMES

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

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Beginning September 10th RALLY DAY! 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

How long will it take?

The estimated time for the project is three to six months. During that time, the piano will be used exclusively for worship.

We need to raise approximately \$200,000.00. To date, we have raised \$22,698.00. **BE AN ORGAN DONOR**



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



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.

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. IN SEPTEMBER, we will meet on the second Monday due to Labor Day. 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.



Join us for our "Third Sunday Membership Opportunity" on the third Sunday of the month. NEXT MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITY WILL BE IN OCTOBER as Pastor Rhonda will be away on the third Sunday in September.

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).

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, the history of our church will be shared, cookies, punch, and coffee will be available for those visiting. These tours are open to the public. Everyone is welcome!



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 September 21, 2023, 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel (fka the old library).

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!



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.

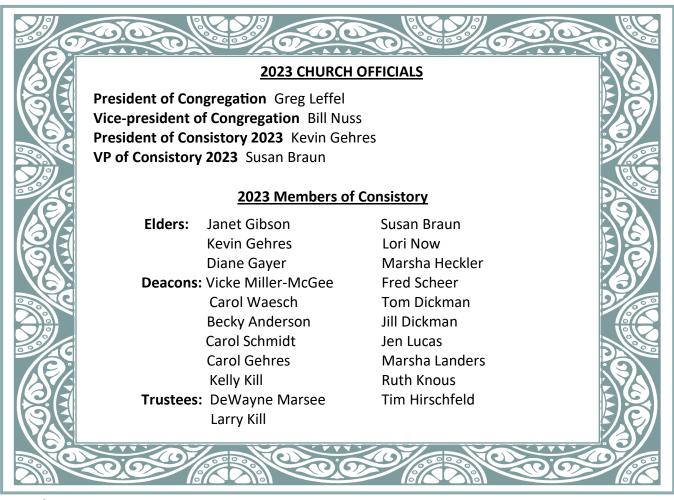
- September 14
- September 28
- September 21

BREAKING BREAD COMMUNITY DINNER NEWS

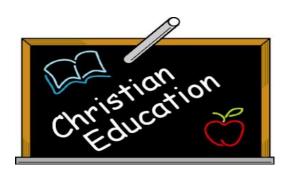
If you would like to make a financial contribution to help with costs for the weekly community dinner, these will be gratefully accepted. Donations may be placed in the Sunday offering plate or mailed to the church office.

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



September BIRTHDAYS!



4—Piper Arnold

10—Larra Bower

25—Owen Mabry



RALLY DAY NEWS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW for Sunday, Sept. 10th, Sunday School will resume and an all-church pizza party will follow worship service. Below is an RSVP form for you to complete and send to or drop off at the church office, or you may place it in the offering plate on a Sunday morning. You may also call the office to let Carolyn know you are attending.

RSVP FOR RALLY DAY PIZZA PARTY By Tuesday, September 5th

 _Yes, I/we will attend the worship and
luncheon.

_____# attending





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.



We are looking forward to seeing the Sunday School youth on Rally Day, Sept. 10, at 9:15 a.m. We will be singing in church during worship service at 10:30 a.m. a few songs from our June Vacation Bible School. Rally Day will end with an all-church pizza party in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Jane Nuss at 419-305-9629 by Thursday, Sept. 7, if you are joining us for pizza. This is for all church youth and adults.

This year for our curriculum, we are continuing with Group Publishing but using Old Testament (fall-winter) and New Testament (winter-spring) Bible stories and applying them to everyday youth life and art. We are excited about this curriculum and hope that we can show the kids more Bible stories from their Bibles. Our Nursery, Pre-K and Kindergarten kids will continue with Simply Loved from Group Publishing. This curriculum is great for them because it as their level that they can learn a quick story and have a craft to take home.

Looking ahead:

October 1 is Worldwide Communion, and the Sunday School kids will bring loaves of bread and grapes to the altar and sing one song for us, as they have in the past.

On October 1st, our third-graders will receive their Bibles during the 10:30 am worship service.

December 10 is our Christmas program during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Program rehearsal is December 9 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Mission projects will include solar lanterns for Ukraine. Pastor Scott Johnson from the Spencerville UCC visited us during our VBS and talked to the youth about that project. These lanterns comfort children in the dark in war-torn Ukraine. Lanterns cost \$10 each. This is the congregation and Sunday School participating in this mission project for September, October, and November. Please see the related article in the newsletter for this mission project. As always, we appreciate the support of our youth, parents, and church members.

CONFIRMATION NEWS: The Confirmation class at St. Paul's will be starting soon. The orientation meeting for parents and Confirmation students will be on September 10th at 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, located in the basement of the church. Rally Day will be the same day for the Sunday School Department. This will be an exciting time as we gear up for the new year. During the orientation meeting, we will present the program that is offered. Each Confirmand will receive a workbook, folder, and schedule for the 2023-2024 school year. We look forward to the start of a new year as we continue to learn about God, the church, and becoming a member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ. If you are unable to attend the orientation meeting, please contact Amy Keller at (419) 394-7894 or the church office at (419) 394-3811, opt. 3. Thank you.

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 because of the war in Ukraine. For every \$10 raised, this solar light, powered by the sun, will bring peace in the midst of terror when night falls and 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!







🤒 Holy Hamor Sanday

Did you hear the one about the priest, the rabbi and the minister who walked into the bar? You just might on Sunday, September 10th, as we observe Holy Humor Sunday during our 10:30 a.m. Worship Service.

A custom begun by early Greek Christians, Holy Humor Sunday or Bright Sunday, as it was called, was meant to keep the excitement of the Resurrection alive, with parties and picnics, singing and laughter. Early church theologians including Augustine and Gregory of Nyssa taught that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. They called it Risus Paschalisthe Easter laugh. Well, we here at St. Paul's UCC, St. Marys, are ready to begin our Fall Schedule with lots of laughter and fun on Rally Day when our Sunday School Resumes and our Worship will be a Holy Humor Sunday, with a pizza party luncheon to follow.

Plan now to attend Holy Humor Sunday worship **September 10th at 10:30** in the church sanctuary.

- +Practice smiling a lot (try looking in the mirror)
- +Begin rejoicing in God now (no need to wait).
- +Try on a few good belly laughs.
- +Invite someone who likes to laugh
- +Invite someone who needs to laugh

See you in church on Holy Humor Sunday!





ATTENTION LADIES OF ST. PAUL'S

There will be a Ladies Luncheon at Believe Art from the Heart north of Sidney. Meet at the church by 11:15a to carpool on Thursday, September 7th. 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: Wedon't meet in the summer months)



Bingo will be held on the following Tuesdays:

Sept. 5th—Vancrest 6:15-7:15p
Oct. 3rd —Otterbein 5:30-6:30p
We are in need of BINGO

Ve are in need of BINGC helpers and cookies

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





The Family Room Event

"IN FULL SWING"

Hello! With summer activities winding down and back-to-school season in full swing, schedules are shifting to-ward autumn. Parents, kids, and teachers are all gearing up for a new school year. The summer vacation for students and teachers is ending, so there's a bittersweet feeling. We offer our prayers for everyone as they prepare for a fresh start. The good news is we are also gearing up here at St. Paul's as we prepare for Rally Day on September 10th. Sunday School for all ages will be in full swing, too. Please plan to join us for a morning of excitement as we Rally back together.

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-along. Be sure to wear you 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." This 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





- ◆ To the Organ Fund in memory of Norma Lhamon: Deborah Carmean
- To the Organ Fund in memory of Martha May: Dorothy Quellhorst, Carolyn Garrison, Ron and Margaret Hunter, Lynn and Carol Schmidt, Robert and Barb Longfellow, Connie Gibson, Jim and Kris Vanderhorst, Steven and Belinda Moeller, Hans and Joyce Steinke, Donna Nagel, Glenn and Lynda Hadley, Luke and Marilyn Gibbens, Diana Prichard, Marilyn Speckman, Judy Waesch, Gloria Spicer, Janet Gibson, Diane Gayer, Greg and Barb Dardio, Karen James, Betty Durnell, Gary and Sara Seewer, Anne Kite, Jim and Thieda Tontrup, Brad and Jeannine Goodwin, Carol Waesch, John and Ann Nagel, Bill and Jane Nuss, Minster Livestock 4H Club, Carteens 4H Club, Becky and Kirk Anderson, Kenneth and Susan Braun, Bernie and Marilyn Schroer, Pat Bruns, Lawrence and Marlene Egbert, Terry Knatz, Vaughn and Kim Arthur, Barb Bubp, Greg and Deb McDermott, Glenda Kuck, Sandy Meyer, Adele Fast, and Rolla and Evelyn Werts.
- ◆ To the UCC Disaster Ministries in Memory of Martha May: Kenneth and Susan Brawn
- ◆ To the Endowment Fund in memory of Martha May: Greg and Joan Leffel



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!

KROGER REWARDS UPDATE

Thanks for supporting this program! Our supporters (38 households) who shopped at **Kroger** between **5-1-2023** and **7-31-2023** (SK5720) have contributed to our **\$113.66** total donation. The Women's Guild thanks you for your continued support of your local Kroger store.



Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. for the **October 2023**Communicator will be **September 19th**



Thank you to the members of St. Paul's who have blessed me with the generous scholarship. This money will be used to help pay off college, and I am so appreciative of it. You will not regret investing in my future. Thank you all so much for everything.

AJ Dieringer

~*~*~*~

Dear St. Paul's UCC Friends,

Your recent work camp time spent at the Back Bay Mission was a blessed event for many! Undoubtedly, there was a good impact on both our client's lives as well as yours. We trust whenever you reflect on that time, it will summon a smile. It surely does for those you helped. Your selfless acts of kindness and service restore a comfort and are a breath of hope for many in need on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Every one of us at Back Bay Mission extends its deepest gratitude for your support of our mission. Regardless of which program you chose to give your time and service to, you aligned with and helped support its vision to "do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

We look forward to the day you can join us again, and continue the giving. May God Bless you in your journey of faith!

Gratefully,

Craig, Nancy, Julie, James, Sam, Jack and Rob

~*~*~*~

Thank you St. Paul Bible School - St. Marys for your donation of 176 Mac-n-Cheese cups for the Weekend Power Pack Bags

Agape Ministries

~*~*~*~

Dear St. Paul's UCC.

Thank you for your generous contribution to help me further my education at the University of Cincinnati. It is greatly appreciated, and will help me accomplish my goals. I am very thankful for my church family. Thank you.

Charley Spencer

~*~*~*~

Dear Friends of St. Paul's UCC,

We, the board of Sharing America's Resources Abroad, would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous support of the work we are doing in Ukraine. We have heard from our executive director in Hungary that he is making several trips a week, taking supplies and food to the refugees at the border and beyond. We have much work to do now, and in the future, we could not do this mission work without faithful supporters like you. Thank you so very much. In the words of our founder, Rev. Stephen T. Szilagyi, "To God Be the Glory".

Blessings,

Marty Siegel



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 & Special Events



Dear St. Paul's,

Thank you for your generous gift to Back Bay Mission. Your gift to our food pantry provides people with the resources they need to make it through tough times, and get back on their fee. Clients wouldn't have made it this far without the support of gifts like yours. Thank you!

Grace and Peace, James Penningtoin, Executive Director Back Bay Mission

~*~*~*~

Dear members of the Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for your continued effort in helping me further my college education! It means so much to know that my church is supporting me!

Kalie Gayer

~*~*~*~

Dear St Paul's,

Thank you for the many birthday wishes and the many cards I received for my 90th birthday. I appreciated every one.

Grace Young

~*~*~*~

Dear Breaking Bread members;

Thank you so much for delivering the delicious meals each week. It is truly a blessing. Sandra Clausing

FINANCIAL REPORT

June and July 2023

Current Fund:

Budgeted through July 31, 2023 = \$ 160,720.00 Received through July 31, 2023 = \$ 131,260.16 Expenses through July 31, 2023 = \$ 135,784.84 Received through July 31, 2022 = \$ 131,433.46

Mission Fund:

Budgeted through July 31, 2023 = \$ 8,750.00 Received through July 31, 2023 = \$ 6849.00 Received through July 31, 2022 = \$ 6,413.00

STATUS OF 2023 BUDGET:

Current Fund:

Budgeted through August 31, 2023 = \$183,680.00 Budgeted through August 20, 2023 = \$177,940.00 Received through August 20, 2023 = \$140,930.88

Mission Fund:

Budgeted through August 31, 2023 = \$ 10,000.00 Budgeted through August 20, 2023 = \$ 9,687.50 Received through August 20, 2023 = \$ 7,673.00



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

Martha May—July 23, 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 OF THE AUGUST 9, 2023 CONSISTORY MEETING

- that updates to Security/Safety items are ongoing, with several new cameras and new interior signs to be installed soon.
- Organ Refurbishing Committee shared that the fund continues to grow...albeit a bit slowly at times. Approximately 16% of the total needed has been collected. Also noted was that a new "button" for Organ Refurbishing fund will be added in on the Vanco giving website.
- Strategic Planning Committee is set, with members: Kathleen Larson, Doug Spencer, David Hainer, Kevin Gehres, Connie Gibson, Jason Clark, Andrea Clark, Glenn Hadley, Marsha Landers, Carol Schmidt, Ruth Knoss, and Pastor Rhonda.
- The 25th Anniversary Ordination celebration for Rev. Jeanette Tangeman has been rescheduled for Sunday, October 25th, with a potluck luncheon for all to follow.
- ◆ The St. Marys "Tour of Churches", including St. Paul's, will be on September 10th, 1:00 4:00. Welcome bags will be handed out to visitors, with church volunteers serving as greeters. **Note: This date is a conflict with the Bicentennial Committee and is being rescheduled.

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.**





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





THE COMMUNICATOR

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