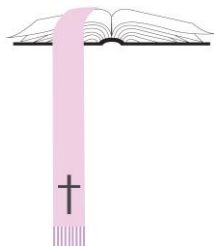


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**\*\*Inserts: September calendar/Birthdays and Anniversaries  
Willing to Respond Disaster Ministries**

# Rhonda's Reflections



*"His purpose was to equip God's people for the work of serving, and building up the body of Christ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God's Son." – Ephesians 4:12-13*

Has anyone ever asked you to do something and your first reaction was to wonder why they would ever think you could do what they were asking you to do? *Me, teach Sunday School? Lead games for youth? Be a Trustee? Facilitate an adult group? Serve on the Consistory?*

You might be able to relate to Moses. Like many of us, Moses gave God many excuses as to why he could not respond to his calling. As Moses gave God excuse after excuse, God's response remained the same. God promised to be with Moses and help Moses do all that God was asking him to do. Moses may have seemed like an unlikely leader, but God had anointed Moses for a special purpose. The same is true for us.

God doesn't always call the equipped, but God **always** equips those God calls. This is a promise we can count on. This month's scripture from Ephesians reminds us that God equips people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ. Some are called to be teachers, helpers, cooks, nursery caregivers, bus drivers, mentors, and greeters, but all are called. As we are called, God equips us to do what we've been called to do, all for the purpose of building up the body of Christ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of Christ. God wants us to become mature and realize the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

I hope you hunger for the fullness of Christ. I hope that the next time someone mentions that you would be a great Sunday School teacher, or a Youth helper, nursery caregiver, worship leader or adult group leader that your first response won't be, "Oh not me. I could never do that." But that you will first stop and pray

and trust the nudge that God may be placing on your heart, remembering that God promises to be with you and will equip and empower you and provide you with everything you need to respond to your calling. When you respond to God’s anointing, you will be blessed in ways beyond anything you could ever imagine. You will experience the fullness of Christ and God’s Kingdom will flourish. *Read more about Moses and God’s call in Exodus 3–4.*

**Prayer:** Dear God, help me to hear and respond to your call, remembering that just as you equipped and empowered Moses, your anointing means that you also promise to be with me. Lead and guide me, Lord. Use me according to your will so that we will reach unity in the faith and experience the fullness of Christ. Amen.

See you in church,  
Rhonda

Thank You



Pictured L to R: Margaret Hunter, Janet Gibson, Jill Dickman, Tom Dickman, and Kevin Gehres.



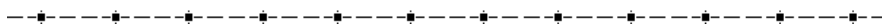
Pictured L to R: Margaret Hunter, Janet Gibson, and Becky Anderson

On behalf of the Heartland Conference, and as your Conference Disaster Relief Coordinator, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the outpouring of support

with our latest mission outreach of Church World Service Disaster Buckets and Hygiene Kits. Your generous support of nearly \$2,300 has enabled us to assemble 26 Disaster buckets, and 42 Hygiene kits! These kits will be taken to the Temples Hills CWS Depot, where they will be picked up during the Festival of Sharing on Saturday, Sept. 17. Currently, our Conference “Take the Challenge” campaign has produced over 1100 buckets and kits, with our year-end goal of 2022. We, at St. Paul’s, have contributed 42 buckets and 82 hygiene kits during this campaign, as we answer God’s calling to be “Servants in the service of others!” Blessings to each of you, and again...THANK YOU!

Kevin Gehres

Heartland Conference Disaster Relief Coordinator



## Good Grief!

### ***How Not to Say the Wrong Thing When Someone is Grieving – and what to say instead***

Why is it so easy to say the wrong thing when someone is grieving? Death is universal. It happens everywhere, and eventually, to everyone. Why are we not taught, from childhood, how to respond when someone experiences a loss? It’s such a challenge, and for the most part, we really don’t know how to deal with our own losses, or anyone else’s.

Whether the loss is the death of a loved one, the end of a relationship, the end of a job, a devastating diagnosis, or even a new understanding that renders a lifelong worldview no longer tenable, interacting with someone grieving fills so many of us with an awkward case of foot-in-mouth disease.

### ***Why it’s easy to unintentionally say something hurtful***

We can’t stand to see anyone sad. We especially can’t stand to see anyone express sadness; we’d even prefer anger. Furthermore, we

feel like we have to make it go away. So, what do we do? We do what we were taught to do. We tell them to cheer up. In essence, we give them reasons why they are having the wrong emotion.

- Their loved one is in a “better place”
- This is God’s will
- You have other children
- He lived a good life
- You hated that job anyway
- You’re better off without him
- At least now you know

And then we are shocked, offended, when they don’t respond to our perfectly logical offering with gratitude. Sometimes, they even get mad. I’ve been on both sides of that situation.

I’ve offered up the obvious, yet useless, reasons why someone should get un-sad – why they should be thankful for this tragedy they’ve experienced. Not only that, but I’ve had those things said to me as well. That experience opened my eyes a bit.

My friend’s cancer treatment left her with some chronic pain issues. For the most part, she tries to quietly muddle through, but sometimes it really gets to her. When people offer up comments like “it beats the alternative,” it doesn’t feel encouraging or uplifting. Yes, she is glad she didn’t die from cancer, but that statement feels like she’s being shamed for being uncomfortable with pain. In the long run, it’s not a great way to make anyone feel better.

### **So, how do you know which statements will be hurtful?**

There’s really no way to give you an exhaustive list of statements to avoid. But there are questions you can ask yourself that might help you sidestep some of the most egregious *faux pas*.

## **1. Am I trying to get them to change their emotion?**

If your statement is in any way trying to cheer someone up or suggest they should have a different attitude about the situation, you probably won't have the desired effect. When you try to convince someone to cheer up (change their emotion), all kinds of responses can happen, but there are three that I see come up frequently:

- They get visibly angry at you.
- They pretend what you said was kind and made them feel better, while they internalize anger and sadness.
- They feel ashamed for having had the wrong emotion, try to paste on a fake happy face, but internalize the shame along with their sadness.

Those are probably not the end results you were looking for. And it might even be a shock that encouraging someone to cheer up when they are sad could have that kind of result. We want people to be happy, especially the people we care about. But sadness is a real and valid emotion. It's not wrong to be sad. It's completely natural, normal, and even healthy to experience sadness. It's important to allow others to feel whatever emotion they feel without judgment, shame, or pressure to change.

Sadness is different from depression, and if you worry that someone is developing a mental health crisis, you might need to intervene and get help.

## **2. Am I minimizing the situation?**

This is very similar to the situation above, and often the two are combined. We minimize the situation, and follow with a reason why they shouldn't be having this emotion. Grieving people are often called dramatic, or experienced the eye roll from

friends. We forget that grief can be completely overwhelming. We don't realize that while a situation looks straightforward to those on the outside who don't have the details, dealing with the situation causing the grief can be complex, confusing, exhausting, and devastating.

Don't minimize their pain by comparing it to your pain or someone else's. I think, to some extent, our brains are wired to categorize and compare, but comparing pain does more harm than good. For each of us, the pain, the grief we experience, is complex. There is no comparing loss because it can't be measured. Only felt.

One way that we minimize, without realizing it, is commenting on appearance. Saying things like "you don't look sick," or "you don't look tired," triggers a defensive response, even if you were trying to pay a compliment. If you do want to pay a compliment, get specific. Saying something like, "That sweater really brings out your beautiful blue eyes" leaves illness out of it altogether. Don't say, "At least...." Many attempts at helpful dialog start with a thought like "at least." The phrase is literally minimizing. If you catch yourself saying something along the lines of... "at least," that's a good opportunity to stop, apologize if you went farther than that, and then offer up an entirely unrelated topic to discuss. Doughnuts, pizza, cookies, coffee are often well-loved topics, and if all else fails, discussing the weather is better than minimizing grief.

### **3. Am I making this about me?**

One of the things that we are taught is to find common ground. When we are trying to think of something to say to someone who is grieving a loss we can't fully relate to, we try to come up with some similarity to compare it to and offer that up in the conversation. This rarely works.

Imagine this example: You've been diagnosed with breast cancer. You feel sad and scared about it, and someone says, "Oh yeah, my aunt died from that. It was awful."

Well, that didn't help any. There's a time and place to talk about your dear departed aunt, but this isn't it. If you're telling me all about how my grief makes you feel, or worse, how my grief is inconvenient to you... Well, why are you even telling me that? What are you trying to get out of that because I don't even know.

#### **4. Am I offering unsolicited advice?**

Just don't. Period.

#### **The Silent Treatment**

Another problem that individuals encounter with their grief is that people don't talk to them, or even avoid them altogether. Avoiding someone to keep from saying something hurtful does not prevent you from hurting them. We feel your absence. We feel the silence. Grief can be so lonely. People often turn and run when something terrible happens. It's quite common.

So, how do we find the middle ground? How do we find things to talk about without saying the hurtful things?

#### **Here's what to say**

Being direct can be surprisingly effective. If you're feeling awkward, it's okay to say that you're feeling awkward. If you have no experience talking about grief or death or whatever this situation is, it's okay to say, "I have no experience with this," and then move on to a question.

#### **Ask open-ended questions**

- Do you want to talk about (say out loud the name of the deceased)?
- What was his name?
- What was (say the name of the person who died) like?



- How did you meet?
- How are you spending your time?
- Do you want to talk about something else entirely?

An open-ended question allows the other person to have some input in steering the conversation. **Focus more on listening than talking.** The open-ended questions are just to get the conversation started or keep it moving.

### **Nice things people have said to the person grieving**

- “I don’t know what to say yet, but I just wanted to give you a big hug”
- Telling funny and awesome stories about my dad after he died
- Asked me what my favorite flavor of ice cream was and had it delivered
- Offered to help with childcare while I went to doctor appointments
- Came over and washed my dishes while describing in detail the comedy show she went to the previous night.

Pay attention to how they are responding to you. If they seem to want to engage in the conversation, then you can keep it going. But don’t wear people out with conversation they’re not up for. Watch body language, and make sure you’re not adding to their fatigue. Grief is exhausting.

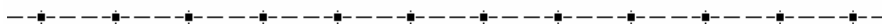
### **A Sweet Silence**

Sometimes the bereaved person doesn’t feel up for a conversation, but they don’t want to be alone. Keep that possibility in mind as well. Maybe you can have a reading party where you each read your own books, just being in the same room. Perhaps you could go for a walk at the park. Perhaps you watch a

movie together – that’s a great option because it provides entertainment, and gives an easy conversation topic when the movie is done.

Silence isn’t always bad. Sometimes it’s just what the person who is grieving needs. How do you know? You could start by asking.

**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. Consider joining our **HEAL** group.



## **S.A.R.A. Ukrainian Emergency Fund**

Many have asked if there is a way in addition to our prayers that we may provide aid to those who are suffering in Ukraine. The answer to that question is “yes”! The Heartland Conference [S.A.R.A. partnership](#) will serve as a conduit for aid to partners in Ukraine who are suffering as a result of the war. Daily, our partners are bringing food and water relief to displaced Ukrainians in Transcarpathia. Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time. Those wishing to make a donation can send it to the following address:

Heartland Conference UCC  
S.A.R.A. Ukrainian Emergency Fund  
PO Box 1230  
Worthington, OH 43085

## 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!*

## **ST. PAUL'S REPRESENTED AT SUMMERFEST LITTLE MISS QUEEN AND QUEEN'S COURT**

Queen Molly Schlosser and her court which consists of 1st Runner-up Gracelyn Johns, **2nd Runner-up Karlie Lucas**, 3rd Runner-up Mackenzie Ott, **4th Runner-up Ava Gottschalk**! Best Interview winner was Karlie Lucas and Miss Congeniality was Ava Gottschalk! Congrats!



**Pictured to the right of the Queen,  
Karlie Lucas, and Ava Gottschalk on the far right.**

Congratulations to our **2022 Little Miss SummerFest-Rylee Dieringer!!** First Runner Up- Mara Halbert, 2nd Runner Up- Brynlee Ibarra, 3rd Runner Up- Grace Brigham and 4th Runner Up-Paige Osborne. Thank you to all our contestants!



**Rylee is the daughter of Mark and Amy Dieringer. Proud grandparents are Gregg and Kathy Dieringer. Congrats!**

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### **BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Truman Michael Wale was born on June 29, 2022. Truman weighed 8 lbs 2 oz. and 21" long. Truman is the son of Bailey (Gottschalk) and Trent Wale, and little brother to Evelyn Wale. Proud grandparents are Michelle (Brian) Wale, Kendra Gottschalk and Craig and Natalie Gottschalk. Great-Grandson of Don and Karen Raymond, and Mick and Susie Eymer, Mary (the late Harold) Wale, and the late Eugene and Maxine Gottschalk. Great-Great Grandson of Ruth (the late Bill) Dustman. Uncles and Aunt include Carter Wale, Max Gottschalk and Ava Gottschalk. Congrats!*

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

*Congratulations to Laura and Chase Drewes on the birth of their daughter, Meredith Maxine. Meredith was born August 15, 2022, weighing 7lbs, 7oz, and is welcomed by big brother, Charlie Drewes. The proud grandparents are DeWayne and Billie Marsee.*

## **AGAPE WARM WINTER COAT DRIVE 2022**

### **NEW & GENTLY USED ADULT & CHILDREN'S WINTER COATS & NEW WINTER WATER PROOF GLOVES.**

***Coat Drive Dates: September 19 – October 30<sup>th</sup>***

Drop off Coats to the Agape Client Services Building from 8 am – 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. *A large need for Adult coats are needed (up through 4X).* If dropping off at AGAPE THRIFT STORE, you must specify it is for the Warm Winter Coat Drive. St. Paul's will have a barrel set up at the rear/center of the sanctuary for drop off of coats and gloves as well.

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Breaking Bread will be serving from **4:30 to 5:15pm** (unless food is all gone before this). Looking forward to providing delicious free meals to our community every Thursday except the first Thursday of the month.

- Sept. 8
- Sept. 15
- Sept. 22
- Sept. 29

### **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.

# **HELP!**

## **DO YOU KNOW THE STORY ABOUT THIS CHURCH REPLICA?**

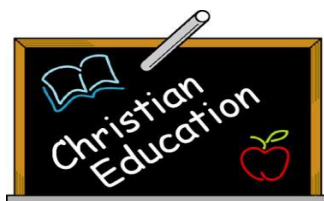


**If so, contact the church office,  
or Fred Scheer.**

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**“Give Me That Old Time Religion”  
Sunday, September 4, 2022  
8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**

Come and sing your way through worship with the old, familiar gospel hymns. Rev. Jeanette Tangeman and Jim Huckemeyer will be leading the services in song and prayer. Enjoy the memories of yesteryear and fill your heart with song and joy.



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

3 – Alyvia Schaaf	15 – Kaylee Clausing
5 – Kyler Soloman	25 – Owen Mabry
6 – Dean Tangeman	28 – Andrew Leffel
10 – Larra Lee Bower	29 - Charley Spencer
11 – Liam Bradley	

**Here we go!** Time for Sunday School to start for a new year! We are excited to see everyone and have some new things planned. It was great seeing the kids during the summer at a variety of things, but it will be even better when they are back for Sunday School. We've sent monthly postcards to the kids during the summer to keep us fresh in their minds.

We will start the year off on September 11 with Open House Rally Day, with fun things to do during Sunday School AND singing during the 10:30 am worship service. Following worship service, we will end our Rally Day with pizza and ice cream for lunch. Please remember to RSVP for the pizza lunch so that we know how many pizzas to order.

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

At times during our Sunday School lessons, we need guest readers. It is VERY EASY. We will provide the reading for you and give it to you in advance of your Sunday. In less than an hour, you will have given our youth a different spin on a Sunday School reading. If you are interested, please contact Jane Nuss or Joni Leffel.

Our Sunday School is a rotational Sunday School, meaning that

every 20 minutes the grades are rotating from story time to art time to music with Maddy. The lessons are ready to go for you. If you feel that this might be something that would interest you, please contact Jane or Joni. You DO NOT have to do it every Sunday. We have a schedule for signup by the Gathering Room. You can even pick what you want to do. We are very flexible and appreciate any help that we get.

**Looking ahead to October:** October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Sunday School children will sing during 10:30 am worship service as well as set the altar table for World Communion Day with breads.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and have a fantastic school year! See you September 11 at 9:15am!

~~~~~

SINGING on Rally Day? Yup! We already know the songs, they're Vacation Bible School songs, and even if you weren't at VBS, you can still sing because they are catchy and easy to learn songs. Our God is an Awesome God, and we need to let everyone else know.



~~~~~

*Thank You,  
Thank You,*



To Lynda Hadley for watering the Sunday School flower pots during the summer. They are beautiful! We appreciate your green thumb to not only the flower pots, but to all the plants in our landscape. If you haven't checked out Lynda's hard work, take a walk around the church. You'll be amazed, everything is beautiful!



**Church Members:** Soon you will see colored index cards in the pews. Instructions are on the cards, but we would like you to share a favorite memory, your favorite scripture or words of wisdom. Place the cards in the offering plate. We want to “share” your thoughts with our Sunday School children during our gathering time. It is another way to connect the children with the church members.

**GET TO KNOW St. Paul’s CHILDREN!** – Rally Day Open House Sunday School starts on September 11th, and we need a few more teachers and teacher assistants. These positions do not have to be a regular commitment, you can help just one Sunday, or multiple Sundays. Any help you can give us is welcome. This is a fun way to get to know our families with young children and an easy way to fulfill your baptismal promise! Contact: Joan Leffel or Jane Nuss.

~~~~~

**RALLY DAY NEWS**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW** for Sunday, Sept. 11th, Rally Day Open House. 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 6th**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I/we will attend the worship and luncheon.

\_\_\_\_\_ # attending

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# High School YOUTH GROUP

St. Paul's UCC

Greetings, All!

I hope everyone had a great summer and that you're all ready for a new year of youth group at St. Paul's UCC. I have some new plans for us this season:

- Since it was so well-received last spring, I'd like to have Pastor Rhonda continue to teach more special sessions on other faiths and religions, as she did last year.
- In addition, I will be working on a trip or two to religious centers in nearby cities to learn about other faiths.
- My focus this year will be on questions; letting the youth ask questions about our faith and exploring the answers together, similar to a youth version of the adult Sunday School class.
- I also want to do at least one mission project locally, decided on by the youth group.

Please email me at [youth.stpaulsucc@gmail.com](mailto:youth.stpaulsucc@gmail.com) or call the church office if you have suggestions for local mission work that you'd like to submit.

I am looking forward to a fun, enlightening, and service-filled year with our youth.

God Bless,

Nick Frankenhauser  
Youth Director

## **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.

-----



**KROGER REWARDS UPDATE:** Thanks for supporting this program! Our supporters (36 households) who shopped at **Kroger** between **5-1-2022** and **7-31-2022** (SK5720) have contributed to our **\$129.94** total donation. Thank you for your continued support of your local Kroger store.

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



Bingo will be held on Tuesday, September 13 from 6:30 to 7:30 at Vancrest. Contact Jan Katterheinrich if you would like to help.

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

## **FALL HARVEST MEAL**

**WANTED** homemade bake goods and crafts for the October 5th Bake/Craft Sale, which will be held in Heritage Hall from 1:00 to 6:00p.

The Fall Cafeteria (along with the Bake/Craft Sale) will be held on October 5th. The time of serving will be from 4:30 to 6:00p. We will be serving chicken breast, swiss steak, mashed potatoes, noodles, green beans, and desserts. The cost is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. You can eat in or carry out your meals. So, come enjoy fellowship.

Proceeds from this annual all-church event (and the Craft/Bake Sale) support Women's Guild activities throughout the year. We hope you will support this meal as you have done in the past.

Thank you,

Jane Nuss

Fall Harvest Meal Chairperson

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

***ARE YOU CRAFTY? DO YOU KEEP YOURSELF BUSY WITH CRAFTS OR HOBBIES?***

The Women's Guild would like to have another Craft Show to coincide with their Fall Harvest Meal/Bake Sale. If you have the extra time this summer, maybe you could make and donate a craft?

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

**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***)



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

- Janetta "Sis" Krugh – August 16, 2022\*
- Wilma Heil – August 16, 2022\*

\*Pastor Rhonda performed the funeral service



- **To the Endowment Fund in memory of Sis Krugh:** Bill and Jane Nuss
- **To the Organ Refurbishing Fund in memory of Sis Krugh:** Jim and Kris Vanderhorst, Adele Fast, Mr. and Mrs. John Cisco, Mr. and Mrs. Rick Imwalle and family.
- **To the Organ Refurbishing Fund in memory of Wilma Heil:** Jim and Kris Vanderhorst, Adele Fast, Frances Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. John Cisco, Mr. and Mrs. Rick Imwalle and family, Donna Elsen.
- **To the Building Fund in memory of Sis Krugh:** Lynn and Carol Schmidt
- **To the Building Fund in memory of Wilma Heil:** Lynn and Carol Schmidt

THANK you!!

Dear St. Paul's UCC,

Thank you so much for the graduation gift(s). We really appreciate everything you have done for us.

## Caroline and Rebecca Leffel

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

Dear St. Paul's UCC,

Thank you for the generous scholarship. It will help further my academic career at The Ohio State University this fall.

Thank you,  
Courtney Nuss

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

Dear St. Paul's UCC,

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as one of the recipients of the church grant given to me. Thank you for your generosity, which will allow me to pursue my dream as a Physical Therapist Assistant. I am truly thankful for receiving your thoughtful gift, and I hop that I can represent St. Paul's UCC to the best of my abilities.

Sincerely,  
Lindsey Clausing

~~~~~

Dear Christian Ed and Nurture Committee,

Thank you so much for the breakfast! The food was great, and it was nice to be able to catch up with my church family.

Thanks again,  
Kyle Lucas

~~~~~

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 Grant Committee,

Thank you so much for the scholarship. I love Ohio Wesleyan, and have really enjoyed my time there so far. Your support helps me to continue, and I am looking forward to my senior year.







Thanks again,  
Kyle Lucas

## 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
  - ... Brad and Nam Gehrlich, Custodian
  - ... Rich Spencer, Audio and Video
  - ... Carol Schmidt, Email Prayer Team Contact
  - ... Jane Nuss & Joan Leffel, 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.
- 📧 **jnj12021@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.
-  **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.

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- **EYEGLASSES FOR THE NEEDY** - collected by the church school classes. Donated glasses should be placed in the basket at the North entrance to the sanctuary.
- **Kroger Fund Raiser for the Women’s Guild** – If you would like to support Women’s Guild with the Kroger fundraiser, log on to: [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) to sign up & register your Kroger Plus card. **NPO# is SK5720**. If you do not use the internet, but would like to sign up, please contact Jane Nuss or Kris Vanderhorst.
- **LIFT CHAIR** is available for 'loan' to anyone in the church who might have a need for it. Please call the church office for more information.
- **ATLAS 600 VISION MACHINE – QUANTITY OF 2** - to assist those who have vision problems with reading books, newspapers, prescription labels, writing personal checks or viewing family photographs - making this possible with video magnifiers.



- **WALKERS** - If you have need of a walker for assistance in getting around, please call the church office. One of our church members has several different type walkers, which are available for loan.
- **RESTROOM ITEMS:** If you have a need for shower chairs, toilet seat elevators and hand-held shower adapters, please call the church office. One of our church members has graciously donated a few of these items.
- **LAMINATOR** - available in the church office. This is used by the Sunday School teachers for classroom projects and activities and by the office staff. We will also laminate items for church members for a fee of \$1.00 per item (**NOTE: maximum size we can laminate is 8 ½ x 14 inches**).
- **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.**

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## **2022 CHURCH OFFICIALS**

<b>President of Congregation</b>	Darren Caywood
<b>Vice-president of Congregation</b>	Chad Laman
<b>President of Consistory 2022</b>	Susan Braun
<b>Vice-president of Consistory 2022</b>	Kevin Gehres

### **2022 Members of Consistory**

<b>Elders:</b>	Janet Gibson	Jim Huckemeyer
	Joan Leffel	Bill Nuss

Kevin Gehres

Lori Now

<b>Deacons:</b>	Vicke Miller-McGee	Fred Scheer
	Carol Waesch	Tom Dickman
	Susan Braun	Linda McDonald
	Jennifer Ginter	Susan Spencer
	Becky Anderson	Jill Dickman
	Carol Schmidt	Jen Lucas

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

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## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **June 2022:**

#### **Current Fund:**

- Budgeted through June 30, 2022 = \$133,556.52
- Received through June 30, 2022 = \$116,947.06
- Expenses through June 30, 2022 = \$112,049.90
- Received through June 30, 2021 = \$118,876.61

#### **Mission Fund:**

- Budgeted through June 30, 2022 = \$ 7,500.00
- Received through June 30, 2022 = \$ 5,673.09
- Received through June 30, 2021 = \$ 6,358.00

### **Status of 2022 Budget:**

#### **Current Fund:**

- Budgeted through July 31, 2022 = \$155,815.94
- Budgeted through July 17, 2022 = \$146,912.16
- Received through July 17, 2022 = \$127,718.46

#### **Mission Fund:**

- Budgeted through July 31, 2022 = \$ 8,750.00
- Budgeted through July 17, 2022 = \$ 8,250.00
- Received through July 17, 2022 = \$ 6,168.09

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **July 2022:**

#### **Current Fund:**

- Budgeted through July 31, 2022 = \$155,815.94
- Received through July 31, 2022 = \$131,433.46
- Expenses through July 31, 2022 = \$130,140.05
- Received through July 31, 2021 = \$133,011.76

#### **Mission Fund:**

- Budgeted through July 31, 2022 = \$ 8,750.00
- Received through July 31, 2022 = \$ 6,413.00
- Received through July 31, 2021 = \$ 7,083.00

### **Status of 2022 Budget:**

#### **Current Fund:**

- Budgeted through August 31, 2022 = \$178,075.36
- Budgeted through August 14, 2022 = \$166,945.00
- Received through August 14, 2022 = \$139,348.46

#### **Mission Fund:**

- Budgeted through August 31, 2022 = \$ 10,000.00
  - Budgeted through August 14, 2022 = \$ 9,375.00
  - Received through August 14, 2022 = \$ 6,928.00
- 

## **UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2022 CONSISTORY MEETING**

The regular meeting of St. Paul's UCC Consistory was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Susan Braun.

Pastor Rhonda shared a devotional reading from Association Minister Dan Busch. In response to the devotion, Consistory members provided words they feel describe our church: giving, caring, compassionate, welcoming, accepting, and 'a church that gets things done'. Pastor Rhonda received a nice note from Rev. Ed Bray, who continues to monitor our church's activities. Rev.

Bray commended our church for doing well when many other churches are struggling. Pastor Rhonda then offered a concluding prayer that, as we begin tonight's meeting, that our hearts would be open to the leading of God's Spirit.

**Present:** *Elders:* Kevin Gehres, Joan Leffel, and Janet Gibson; *Trustees:* DeWayne Marsee, Larry Kill and Tim Hirschfeld; *Deacons:* Susan Spencer, Fred Scheer, Carol Waesch, Susan Braun, Tom Dickman, Jill Dickman, Linda McDonald, Jen Lucas, Vickie Miller-McGee, and Becky Anderson. Also, present: Pastor Rhonda Hainer, and Treasurer David Dickman. In Carolyn's absence, Jill Dickman took the meeting minutes.

**Minutes:** Susan Braun

- Minutes from the June 8, 2022, meeting were reviewed. DeWayne Marsee made a motion to approve the minutes. Larry Kill seconded. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** David Dickman

- David submitted for review the Financial Report for the month of June 2022, which he just received earlier this date. Carolyn will email the June Financial Report to Consistory members upon her return to the office. There being no further discussion, President Susan asked to file the June financial report for review by the church Administrative Assistant.

**President's Report:** Susan Braun

- No report

**Pastor's Report:**

- VBS -a lot of fun, great leadership and neighborhood children.
- Update on Rally Day – Sept. 11. Pizza and hopefully ice cream sundaes provided by the youth.
- Open Church Membership Day June 19th – Received Connie Gibson into membership by profession of faith.

- Pastor Rhonda continues to make many visits to members who are hospitalized, nursing home residents, and at home members.
- Rhonda and her husband David enjoyed a week of vacation to the Blue Ridge Mountains and thanked Kevin Gehres for filling the pulpit and Jeanette Tangeman for being on-call during that week.

#### **Loose Offering:**

- Jeannette Tangeman requests the October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> loose offering be designated to Back Bay Mission. Discussion was held on possibly earmarking all Sundays in October for Back Bay Mission giving. Joan Leffel noted the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of October is Worldwide Communion Sunday, Sunday School parents will be in attendance, and that Sunday's loose offering has been designated for the Organ Fund. Jen Lucas motioned to approve Jeannette's request that the loose offering be designated for Back Bay Mission on both October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Carol Waesch seconded the motion, and it passed.

#### **Budget and Finance:** David Dickman

- No report.

#### **Trustees:** Larry Kill/DeWayne Marsee/Tim Hirschfeld

- Larry reported the old boilers have been removed; and the new furnaces are onsite and will be hooked up soon.
- Larry also reported that Brad Gehrlich/Custodian has taken responsibility for mowing the lawn.
- DeWayne reported that Rich Spencer has noticed an increase in speed from the new router which was installed in the office, preparing for a faster internet speed. The additional cost for the faster internet speed was included in the 2022 Budget; and DeWayne asked whether a motion was necessary to approve the additional monthly cost. After discussion, it was agreed a motion was not necessary. Along with the router was a new switch put in

the custodian room and a network cable pulled from the office to the custodial room. This switch is preparing for a cable being pulled to a camera that will be mounted on a light pole on the corner of Perry and High Street and can be used for future projects. Larry noted the cost of the camera is being quoted.

- Larry has repaired the toilet in the men's restroom in the Education Building.
- Larry has raised the new basketball hoop on the parking lot; and the old will be removed.

**Elders:** Joan Leffel

- 15 took altar communion on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The 2022 Communion schedule has been revised (Communion will be provided on All Saints Day/November 6<sup>th</sup> rather than October 30<sup>th</sup>)

**Deacons:** Linda McDonald

- Fred Scheer provided a tutorial on filling the altar candles with oil (twist top off and load oil). With two services, the candles will likely need to be refilled every two weeks. The Deacons will complete this task. The oil is kept in the old library in the last cabinet to the west. The key to the cabinet is located on the old coat rack.

**Christian Education:** Joan Leffel

- No report.

**Christian Mission and Outreach:** Jill Dickman

- No Report

**Personnel:** Jen Lucas

- Jim Huckemeyer has provided his resignation notice as Director of Music to Jen, Pastor Rhonda and the Personnel Committee. Jim indicated that he is cutting back on a number of activities. Jim also indicated an interest in reviving the bell choir on an occasional basis if there is interest. Pastor Rhonda noted that Jim initially accepted the role as Interim Director of Music and has been very gracious to continue on for as long as he has. The

Personnel Committee will meet on July 21<sup>st</sup> to determine its course of action. Joan Leffel made a motion to accept Jim's resignation with regret. Tim Hirschfeld seconded the motion; and it passed.

**Stewardship:** Kevin Gehres

- No report

**Organ Refurbishing Committee:** Becky Anderson

- Becky reported the Committee has met twice to date and is in the early stages of planning for the fund drive. Becky reported on ideas the Committee has brainstormed to date, and both Jen Lucas and Joan Leffel made suggestions for Committee consideration.

**Old Business:**

- Linda McDonald reported that she and Carol Schmidt updated First Aid Kits located in the lounge, kitchen, elevette room, and pulpit.
- Linda continues to investigate the possible purchase of an AED. An estimated cost for an automatic AED is \$1500, and Linda will look into possible grants for this acquisition.
- On July 5<sup>th</sup> Pastor Rhonda, Kevin and DeWayne met with Matt Schrolucke of the Fire Department to address safety issues within the church. Matt provided an overview of offerings by the St. Marys Fire Department, including a walk-through of the building to identify safe places in event of a natural disaster. DeWayne outlined recommendations of the Fire Department which include regular fire and tornado drills, designating a 'rally point' in the event of a fire, basic first aid education (including how to apply a tourniquet), CPR education, how to transport/move a person in need of medical care, and an overview of when to call for EMS.
- Earlier this date, Pastor Rhonda, Larry, Carolyn, and DeWayne met with St. Marys Police Chief Jake Sutton who also provided an overview of St. Marys Police Department offerings. DeWayne outlined those offerings and

recommendations, which include placing landlines in strategic locations and additional safety measures during the Sunday School hour in the event of an armed assailant.

- DeWayne reported that Fireman/Paramedic Sam Rammel will address safety and security offerings by the St. Marys Fire and Police Departments with any members of Consistory who can stay after this meeting.
- DeWayne suggested a Safety Response Team be assembled to begin addressing these concerns, using the Police and Fire Departments as resources.

### **New Business:**

- Tabled: Kevin will speak on the Disaster Ministries 'Willing to Respond' congregation effort, and the need for delegates to the Heartland Conference Annual Gathering, at the August meeting.
- Pastor Rhonda noted that The Resource Opportunity Center (R.O.C.) has announced it is closing its doors. A call was received in the office today asking for rent assistance, and it is unclear where to direct the caller for this service. Suggestion was made to contact Bev and Joe Hurlbert for guidance.
- The local Grace Methodist Church has disassociated from the United Methodist Church and has purchased the former Baptist Church building on Holly Street.
- Vickie Miller-McGee announced her resignation from Consistory as she will be spending six months in Florida each winter. Vickie will serve through September of this year.

There being no further matters to discuss, Tim Hirschfeld made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Joan Leffel seconded, and the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. Members who were able to stay then participated in the presentation by Sam Rammel of the St. Marys Fire Department.



Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Braun, 2022 Consistory President  
Jill Dickman, Acting Administrative Assistant

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## **UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 10, 2022 CONSISTORY MEETING**

The regular meeting of St. Paul's UCC Consistory was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Susan Braun.

Pastor Rhonda welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer regarding the summer winding down and tuning our hearts to what God has planned for the fall.

**Present:** *Elders:* Kevin Gehres, Lori Now, and Janet Gibson; *Trustees:* DeWayne Marsee, and Tim Hirschfeld; *Deacons:* Fred Scheer, Carol Waesch, Susan Braun, Tom Dickman, Jill Dickman, Linda McDonald, Vickie Miller-McGee, and Becky Anderson. Also present were, Pastor Rhonda Hainer, Treasurer, David Dickman, and, Administrative Assistant Carolyn Garrison.

### **Minutes:** Susan Braun

- Minutes from the July 13, 2022, meeting were reviewed. Tim Hirschfeld made a motion to approve the minutes. Kevin Gehres seconded. Motion carried.

### **Financial Report:** David Dickman

- David submitted for review the Financial Report for the month of July 2022, which he just received earlier this date. Carolyn will email the June Financial Report to Consistory members upon her return to the office. There being no further discussion, President Susan asked to file the June financial report for review by the church Administrative Assistant.

### **President's Report:** Susan Braun

- Susan has received a request regarding the responsibility of turning the lights off after worship and meetings. After some discussion, Personnel will send a copy of the custodial duties to the Trustees.

### **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Rhonda

- We are now LIVE STREAMING! Go on the Live Stream and push the "Share" button so that others will see! Share it with everyone!
- I participated in the Disaster Team Ministry refurbishment of a house hit by a tornado (2019) in Dayton, joining the Gehres's, and Jim Huckemeyer from St. Paul's.
- Summerfest begins tomorrow. The Ministerial Association did not have enough interest this year to have a Summerfest Worship Service, so we will be having our regular worship here at St. Paul's. The parade is Saturday, we did not opt to have a float in the parade this year.
- Christian Ed participated in the First Friday event on August 5<sup>th</sup>. It was successful and the banner is wonderful and should be used again for Rally Day.
- Our Open House Rally Day is scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup>. We will resume all Sunday School classes at 9:15 a.m. and back to the regular worship time of 10:30 a.m.
- Beginning this fall once a month, I will gather with the children in the Gathering Room at the start of Sunday School and share a biblical life application with them.
- There is an All-Church Rally Day Pizza Party following worship on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Youth Group will be dishing out ice cream as well. Carolyn has prepared bulletin inserts with an RSVP, as well as included that information in the upcoming newsletter.

### **Loose Offering:**

- Jill Dickman made a motion for the second Sunday of September loose offering to go toward disaster kits. Tim Hirschfeld seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Budget and Finance:** David Dickman

- Almost time for the 2023 Budget Committee to meet. If you're on a committee and have some changes or suggestions, please see a member of the budget Committee.

**Trustees:** DeWayne Marsee/Tim Hirschfeld

- DeWayne reported that the commercial garbage disposal in the kitchen needs replaced. Calls have been made and found that Consolidated Hunter in Celina can replace and install the disposal for approximately \$2600. The disposal is on order and should arrive in 4-6 weeks.
- All Temp has been here working on the installation of the new boilers.

**Elders:** Lori Now

- We had a nice size group that took the after-service communion on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Deacons:** Linda McDonald

- No report.

**Christian Education:** Jane Nuss via Carolyn Garrison

- Christian Ed has no use for the Wishing Well that sits in the hallway by the office. Christian Ed is asking permission to get rid of it.

**Christian Mission and Outreach:** Pastor Rhonda/Jill Dickman

- Pastor Rhonda suggested that we should have someone from S.A.R.A. (they have been doing the emergency donations for Ukraine) come and speak to the congregation. We could even do a loose offering for S.A.R.A. that day. Jill will follow up with this.

**Personnel:** Jen Lucas via Lori Now

- The Personnel Committee met on July 21 to discuss what action to take following Jim Huckemeyer's resignation as Director of Music effective July 31, 2022. We determined that we would like to wait and do some inquiry prior to posting a position or making a recommendation. Pastor Rhonda shared that there is

music planned for August, so we have a bit of time to think about what is best before moving forward. For the inquiry, we would like the members of Consistory and the Congregation to think about the following questions and share with a Personnel Committee member or Pastor Rhonda their thoughts or ideas:

- What part/parts of the church music program are most important to you?
- What have you heard about other congregations doing to support music in church?
- What ideas do you have for getting more folks involved in music at church?
- What else would you like to share, or what ideas do you have related to music in church?

Personnel Committee members include: Cal Caywood, Diane Gayer, Ron Ketchum; Kelly Kill, Jen Lucas, Lori Now, & Lori Scheer, and Pastor Rhonda. We thank you in advance for your input. We would like to have lots of ideas to discuss at our September 1<sup>st</sup> monthly meeting!

**Stewardship:** Pastor Rhonda/Kevin Gehres

- Our online giving, VANCO, times out auto payments. Please check and renew your givings. Could be a “glitch”. It may be time to shop for a new vendor.
- Kevin Gehres asked for suggestions on ways to communicate the church budget to the congregation.

**Memorial Committee:** Rich Spencer via Carolyn Garrison

- As per Consistory’s approval at the June meeting, a new baptismal bowl was ordered, and has been received and installed.

**Organ Refurbishing Committee:** Becky Anderson

- Becky reported the Committee has met and discussed suggestions on ways to raise funds for the organ, such as AmazonSmile which is just like what the Women’s Guild uses with Kroger. The committee also discussed sending a letter to past/current members regarding legacy donations.

- Becky reported that they would like Rich Spencer to be here when Schantz comes to tune the organ next. They would like Rich to video the tuners, showing what repairs are needed.
- Becky asked if there was money in the Stewardship budget to help with postage.

### **Old Business:**

- Linda McDonald reported her findings on purchasing a basic AED unit for \$1,095, along with the wall cabinet that it would be stored in, for a total of \$1215. Pads and batteries will need replaced every 4 years for approximately \$199, and the unit itself comes with an 8-year warranty. The unit does a “self-test” monthly. As for liability, members would be covered under the Good Samaritan Law. Sam Rammel at the fire department suggested to Linda that it would be encouraged for the staff to have basic CPR. Possibly, even offer a CPR class here at the church. Linda has looked into grant applications; however, deadlines have passed and Linda suggested possibly reaching out to the Memorial Committee to see if they can help pay for the unit. Jill Dickman made a motion to ask the Memorial Committee to consider paying for the AED unit and cabinet. Kevin Gehres seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- The Memorial Committee has purchased a new baptismal bowl as the old one has become “pitted” and somewhat rusty. Carolyn asked for suggestions of what to do with the old bowl. Fred Scheer, church historian, said that he will put it in the display case with other historical items.
- DeWayne reported that he has four people in mind for a Safety Committee and will be talking to them prior to the September Consistory meeting.
- Last month, Vicke Miller-McGee reported that she will be living in Florida six months out of the year. Discussion ensued as to whether to finish out Vicke’s term, or just have someone fill in during her six-month absence. Vicke

reported that she isn't on the schedule again until December. It was decided that we would just find someone in the congregation that has served in the past to fill in during that time.

### **New Business:**

- Kevin gave his presentation on the Disaster Ministries 'Willing to Respond' church congregation effort and searching for a "point person." Jill Dickman made a motion for St. Paul's UCC to be a "Willing to Respond" church, with her and her husband, Tom Dickman, being the "point persons" for that committee. Lori Now seconded the motion. Motion carried. Thank you, Jill and Tom! Thank you, Kevin Gehres, Heartland Conference Disaster Response Ministries Coordinator!

There being no further matters to discuss, Tim Hirschfeld made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Jill Dickman seconded, meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Braun, 2022 Consistory President  
Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant

**DON'T FORGET**



***Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. for the October 2022 of The Communicator will be September 19<sup>th</sup>.***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# FALL WORD SEARCH

S E L P P A L S Q U I R R E L F R Y W W  
 T V G I R M L J S B L Q Y A O E S L O B  
 E G K K B D A A K W S B C L B K E L L O  
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 J F L O M N O T S E O B B E U H N X E R  
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 C N B L A I H N Y C D G S R E D K V E I  
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acorns	cobweb	harvest	October	seasons
apples	corn	hayride	orange	September
autumn	Fall	jackets	pumpkin	squash
bonfire	festivals	leaves	quilt	squirrel
brown	foliage	maize	rake	sweaters
chestnuts	football	migrate	red	Thanksgiving
chilly	gourds	November	scarecrow	wagons
cider	green	nuts	scenic	yellow