



The Link

April 2016

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Words of encouragement from Rev. Becky Sunday

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die."—Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Spring, summer, fall, and winter. One season comes after another, time and time again. There's nothing we can do to stop it. We can't slow it down or speed it up. Each year I find myself wishing I could slow time as we live those last fine days of autumn. And how many times have I wondered in the bleak cold of winter how long I will have to wait for the arrival of spring? But then I remember these words from scripture: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." And I guess it isn't my job to determine the times and the seasons. They simply follow, one after another, in God's time.

Not only the seasons of the year, but the seasons of our lives also move along. Things change. People change. Circumstances change. And somehow life goes on. Our church has seen a lot of change over the past few years. Change is sometimes hard, but moving through the seasons of our life together brings new opportunities for growth and new ways for God's Spirit to live and move within and among us. The challenge God places before us is to live into each new season and to continue the work of being the church—Christ's hands and feet in the world.

As Christ's church, we have just experienced the birth of another new season—Easter! Easter celebrates the resurrection of Christ. After three long days in the tomb, Christ arose to new life. But it is

not just Christ's resurrection we celebrate during this season. The Easter season is a reminder that resurrection belongs to all of God's people. We are a risen people! We are called to be a resurrection people in everything that we do—always looking for light in the midst of darkness, hope in despair, and new life springing forth from the bonds of death. The future of our church is bright as we continue to embrace God's changing call on our ministry together. We remain committed to our calling of praising God through music and arts, making disciples, and feeding God's children. But as the seasons change, we must keep pressing forward, listening for the nudging of God's voice and moving even deeper into these ministries.

Winter to spring; death to life. The seasons continually change. But we are called to be a people of resurrection regardless of the season. We are to be always looking to God's future and always hoping for and working toward some better, fuller life than we have now. So let the seasons roll on, and let us strive to be God's Easter people—celebrating love, hope, light, and new life in every season.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Becky

BIBLE STUDY

Praying the Psalms

The Psalms are a unique book in the Bible in that the entire book, all 150 chapters are made up of prayers. From the beginning they were meant to be used as prayers. And it only takes a casual glance through them, to see that they pretty much cover the gamete of human emotions. There are prayers of celebration and sorrow. Prayers to defeat enemies and prayers meant to be used in worship. There are prayers of anger and frustration even at God. In this Bible study we will explore different ways to use these prayers in our own personal prayer life. This Bible Study will begin on, **Thursday, April 21st at 6:30pm in the Ritter Room** with Rev. Janice leading it. It will run through, **Thursday, June 2nd**.

Spring has Sprung

The daffodils, crocuses and various other flowers have started blooming. The grass is greening up and the trees have started to bud out. In fact, over the weekend, I saw one in full bloom just a little south of here. As spring unfolds we all tend to contract "**Spring Fever**". It is very contagious, especially if you are around school age children. With the advent of Spring though there are also a lot of jobs that need to be done around our houses. Yards need to be cleaned up and prepared for the mowing season, houses need to be aired out and deep cleaned. Relatively simple tasks for many of us, but quite difficult for others. It is a good time to check in on our elderly members and those with health issues, just to make sure how they are doing.

Church Mice

Last month we talked about the Fred Factor and some ideas to help you live out your faith in creative and active ways. Certainly you can do many different acts of kindness.

Volunteer to help with Vacation Bible School

Help out with the Summer Lunch Program

Check in on a neighbor or fellow church member

Offer to drive a shut-in to a church event or doctor appointment

Bake a plate of cookies and deliver them to someone that seems a little down

We as Christians can let Christ's light shine through us, each and every day.

Christian Education News

YMCA SWIM & GYM-PIZZA PARTY

Around 70 adults and children enjoyed themselves on Sunday, March 20th for our annual swim party. With both the  pool, gym and track available, an appetite was built up with 16 empty pizza boxes later. Those winning door prizes were: Rylan, Addison & Mckenna Smith, Xavier, Caleb, Damien & Ty Lamb, Aubree & Braydon Wireman, Jacoby Martin, Alena & DaVita Hoelscher, Helen & Louie Erb, Sr., Alex & Seth Bajwa, Hudson, Henry & Kristian Martin, Mason & Lucas Steinke, Ayla Webb, Brady King, Emory & Paison Preston, Brenda & Kelly Truesdale, Braden Jenkins, Madison Erb and Marlen Moninger. Special thanks to George Herman, Jan Schlenker and Alena Hoelscher for helping Cheryl Short with the refreshments and door prizes.

EASTER POTLUCK BREAKFAST

Around 50 adults and children enjoyed our potluck breakfast on Easter morning. We had a good variety of food choices for all to enjoy. We also had a visit from the Easter Bunny, who hopped in to say hello and pass out gifts to the children. Special thanks to Gwynne Freytag for helping out that morning.

The **Faith Formation Team** will meet on **Thursday, April 7th at 6PM.** (Note that this is a different day) We will finish planning for the last night of FEAST, which is April 13th. Also, more info about Vacation Bible School and the Summer Lunch Program. All are welcome!

DISASTER CLEAN UP BUCKETS

The Mission Committee will be collecting disaster clean up buckets again this year. Mission Committee will be providing the bucket and a list of what is needed in the bucket. The buckets can be picked up at the doors to the sanctuary. We have been told the UCC Disaster Relief is running low on buckets, so we have a goal of filling 50 buckets again this year. Please try to have your bucket filled and turned back in by the end of April.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

We are beginning to plan for the Summer Lunch Program here at St Paul UCC. We will be starting on **Tuesday, May 31, 2016 and will continue for the rest of the summer break. Our last day will be Friday, August 12, 2016.** We will also be serving lunch 5 days a week, Monday through Friday.

We will still be sending home 2 breakfast and 2 lunches to each participants on Fridays of every week.

We are asking for donations of the following items:

- Ramen Noodle Cups
- Pudding, Fruit, or Jello Cups
- Cheese or Peanut Butter Crackers
- Any individual packs of snacks ie.

Chips, Cookies, Raisins, or Granola Bars
Several volunteers will be needed to help with the summer lunch program. Please leave your contact information with the church office if you can help.



General Fund

Approved General Fund Monthly Budget	\$26,175.83
Given to General Fund	\$20,547.93
Difference	\$ 5,627.90
Given to Benevolences	\$ 1,790.50
Approved General Fund Budget Year to Date	\$78,527.49
Given to General Fund so far this Year	\$60,130.43
Difference	\$18,397.06
Given to Benevolences so far this year	\$3,803.50



Benevolence Giving for April ~ OCWM

COMPASSION CORNER

Please check out the newly named Compassion Corner in Timmermeister Hall. The mission committee hopes that you will donate the following in hopes of helping those near and far:

- Box Tops – Crossroad Ft. Wayne, IN
- Campbell’s Labels – Crossroad Ft. Wayne, IN
- Pop tabs – Ronald McDonald House Dayton, OH
- Community Market receipts – God’s Storehouse
- Eyeglasses – Lion’s Club – developing countries
- Supplies for Sisters – God’s Storehouse and Mercy Unlimited
- Aluminum cans – helps fund our senior dinner



Our Church Family

With caring thoughts...



Our deepest sympathy and condolences to **Bill Bowersock and his family** on the passing of Bill's father, **Robert Bowersock** who passed away on Monday, March 7, 2016.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the **family and friends** of **Emma Jane Acheson** who passed on Thursday, March 10, 2016.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the **family and friends** of **Donald Smith** who passed on Monday, March 14, 2016.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to our
St. Paul Youth!

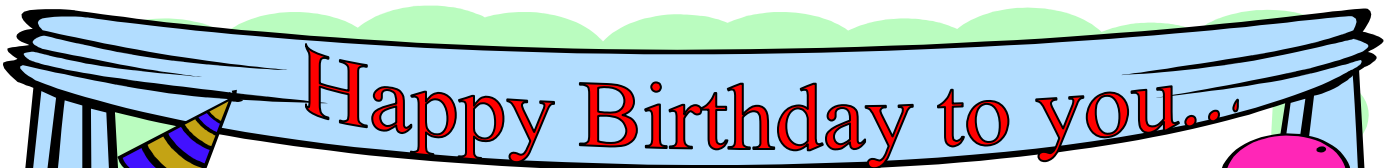
- ✓ Allison Nolte 4/12/98 ✓
- ✓ Tori Coolidge 4/12/06 ✓
- ✓ Makayla Bailey 4/13/05 ✓
- ✓ Makenna Bailey 4/13/05 ✓
- ✓ Charles Sutton 4/16/98 ✓
- ✓ Alex Smithey 4/16/01 ✓
- ✓ Hudson Martin 4/18/12 ✓
- ✓ Emma Closson 4/22/99 ✓
- ✓ Davita Hoelscher 4/22/03 ✓
- ✓ Ayla Webb 4/26/13 ✓
- ✓ Avery Place 4/26/05 ✓

Happy Anniversary!!

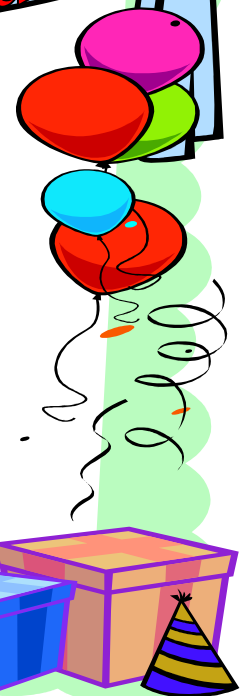
- | | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| 04/04/1988 | Luke & Kim Klein |
| 04/08/2000 | Greg & Wendy Schlenker |
| 04/09/1994 | Brad & Sherry Kaeck |
| 04/11/1970 | James & Deb Kaeck |
| 04/20/1985 | Michael & Jane Burke |
| 04/21/2012 | Andrea & Marty Brookhart |
| 04/22/1978 | Lewis & Cindy Erb |
| 04/26/1980 | Dennis & Barbara Kohler |
| 04/26/1986 | Larry & Vicki Winkler |
| 04/29/2011 | Erin & Chase Falke |
| 04/30/1977 | Devin & Cindy Holtzaple |

BAPTISM

Gavin Matthew Renner was baptized on Sunday, March 13, 2016 at the 10:15 service. Gavin is the son of Matt & Kaylynn Renner. He was born on June 12, 2015. Gavin is also the grandson of Carl & Kathy Renner, Linda Keckler, & Gary & Evie Becker. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!



- | | | | |
|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|
| 04/01 | Nathan Kaeck | 04/14 | Alexis Hoelscher |
| 04/01 | Leanne Moninger | 04/14 | Lewis Knoch |
| 04/01 | Shirley Pohlable | 04/15 | Emilie Brown |
| 04/01 | Stephanie Steinke | 04/15 | Martha Hefner |
| 04/02 | Philip Schlenker | 04/16 | Laura Kinstle |
| 04/04 | Randy Frick | 04/19 | Judy Mason |
| 04/05 | Nancy Shaffer | 04/19 | Richard Roth |
| 04/05 | Mary Jo Roth | 04/20 | David Wheeler |
| 04/05 | Delmar Merricle | 04/23 | Mark Short |
| 04/06 | Kay Dorner | 04/24 | Michael Hosterman |
| 04/08 | Zane McElroy | 04/25 | Miranda Allen |
| 04/08 | Alex Hively | 04/25 | William Method |
| 04/09 | Kalene Byer | 04/26 | Kirk Azbell |
| 04/10 | Margene Herman | 04/26 | Dawn Miller |
| 04/10 | Sarah Lawrence | 04/27 | Peg Schlenker |
| 04/11 | James Hearn Jr. | 04/28 | Dorothy Frey |
| 04/12 | Victoria Smith | 04/28 | Elaine Mikesell |
| 04/13 | Linda Baker | 04/30 | Merlin Dingedine |



Meetings and Events

NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION MEETING

Saturday, April 30, 2016

We look forward to our 2016 NWOA 53rd Annual Meeting to be held at Calvary UCC in Crestline, Ohio, from 9:00AM to 4:00PM. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Becky.

NEW OUTLOOK BLUEGRASS GROUP

The New Outlook Bluegrass group will return to St. Paul UCC on **Sunday, April 17th** at both services. A love offering will be collected to help support the band's expenses. Please plan to come enjoy some great music.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL GOD'S PAINTBRUSH June 6-10, 2016

The theme we are using this year for Vacation Bible School is "God's Paintbrush", which is about experiencing God through our senses: Sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste. How we can use this understanding of God and share it with others. As in recent years we will be working together with First English Lutheran Church for this wonderful event. It truly takes a village to make VBS a success, so we are asking for those of you who are willing and able to help out. Please contact Rev. Janice or Cheryl Short if you are interested or simply call the church office.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Women's Guild will meet again on **Tuesday, April 12th at 1:30PM**. All women of the church and their friends are encouraged to attend. If you haven't been able to attend a meeting, we would love to have you join us. All Are Welcome!!!!

CIRCLE ONE

Circle One will meet the first Thursday of every month **September through May**. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, April 7th at 1:30PM** in the multipurpose room. We welcome newcomers. If you have a free afternoon, please join us. We'd love to have you!

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at St Paul UCC on Thursday, **April 21st from 11:30AM to 5:30PM**. Thank you for your continued support in saving lives with this wonderful donation.

SUMMER CAMP

It's time to register for Summer Camp at Pilgrim Hills. More information and registration forms are available at www.journeythehills.org. St Paul UCC offers camp scholarships for the full amount of registration for first time campers and for half of the fee for return campers. Don't miss out on your chance to grow in discipleship through experiencing God and nature in this wonderful way!



APRIL 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Ohio Federation of Women's Club	2
3 Holy Humor Sunday 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	4	5 7-8:30PM Suicide Survivor Support Group	6 3:00PM Feast 6:15PM Cherubs 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	7 1:30PM Circle One 6:00PM Faith Formation Meeting	8	9 9:00-Noon CRI Sorting Buckland
10 8:15AM Worship w/Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 3:00-6:00 Confirmation Class	11 12:00Noon Wt Support Group 6:00PM Church Council	12 1:30PM Women's Guild 6:30PM Roots & Shouts	13 Last Day of FEAST 3:00PM Feast 6:15PM Cherubs 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	14	15	16
17 8:15AM Worship w/New Outlook Bluegrass 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship w/New Outlook Bluegrass	18	19	20	21 6:30 Bible Study 11:30-5:30PM Red Cross Blood Mobile 	22	23
24 8:15AM Worship w/Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 3:00-6:00PM Confirmation Class	25 12:00Noon Wt Support Group	26	27	28 6:30 Bible Study	29	30

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Cell (740)417-6584
Email janice@stpaulucc.com

Rev. Elaine Mikesell, pastor Emerita

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LET'S GET TOGETHER !

Regular Worship Times

Sunday Mornings 8:15 & 10:15 AM

Sunday School 9AM

Children's Church during 10:15 worship



ST. PAUL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Wapakoneta, Ohio

Our MISSION

As a congregation of God's people, we welcome and encourage all to join in fellowship, joyful and inspirational worship and faithful stewardship. United in Christ, we support and nurture one another in personal development and spiritual growth. We strive to reflect Christ's Love and to spread God's Word throughout our community and the world.