



The Link

April 2017

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Words of encouragement from Rev. Becky Sunday

Why is it so hard to accept help? Why is it even harder to ask for it? Since my foot surgery at the end of February, I have had to learn to accept and ask for help. I have needed more help in these weeks than I have ever needed before in my adult life. Even the simplest of tasks—going to the kitchen for a glass of water or getting into the car—are things I have been unable to accomplish by myself. It's amazing how much easier it is to ask when we *have to*. I haven't had a choice. In order for these things to happen, I need to ask for help, and to accept that help when it is offered.

In those first days after my surgery, I was so blessed by our St. Paul UCC Meal Makers, who brought meals to our home in Buckland. What a wonderful ministry! In accepting their gifts of food and loving-kindness, Adrian, my mom, and I were blessed beyond measure. We were so appreciative to know that this one basic need was taken care of.

Often in our lives of faith, our needs are less tangible. Unfortunately, because our spiritual needs are invisible, we can sometimes forget that we have those needs at all. Even though they are less concrete than our physical requirements, our spiritual needs are just as basic. Each one of us stands in need of something in our lives of faith, whether forgiveness or renewal, patience or guidance, understanding or inspiration.

As we conclude our Lenten journey this month and move closer to the life and renewal that comes with Easter, it may be helpful for us to examine again some of the details of Jesus' final days on earth. According to John's gospel, as Jesus shared his last evening with his disciples, he reminded them, "I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father

can be glorified in the Son. When you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it" (John 14:13-14, CEB).

What do you need? Have you asked for it? If you think you don't need any help, I urge you to look deeper. Everyone needs something. Our congregation's namesake, Paul, reminds us that "all have sinned and fall short of God's glory" (Romans 3:23, CEB). If nothing else, we all stand in need of our Savior.

God is ready and waiting to give us what we need. And if we're not sure what to ask for, we can ask for God to help us figure it out. As we continue walking with Jesus toward the darkness of Good Friday, let us remember the promise of the Easter light that is to follow. Light, love, and life are ours through our risen Christ!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Becky

WELCOME

BISHOP GOMEZ OF EL SALVADOR

Sunday, April 30 we will welcome Bishop Medardo Gomez of the Lutheran Church in El Salvador for worship at St. Paul UCC. Bishop Gomez and his wife, Abelina, will be in our area to sign the renewal of the covenant partnership between the Iglesia Luterana Salvadoreña and the Northwest Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ at our NWOA Annual Meeting. Bishop Gomez has graciously accepted our invitation for him to offer the message that Sunday morning, and we are grateful for the opportunity to have him bring the Word to us. Please join us!

PASTOR JANICE'S PEN

Many of you are aware I have had a stressful month, with a lot of illness in my family. I have long said that much of what pastors preach is precisely what they need to hear and believe themselves. Little did I know the last time that I preached just how much I would need to reflect back on my own words even the next day.

I preached the passage from Matthew 6 where we are told that God provides for the birds of the air and the flowers of the field. So we should not fret and stew about our needs, because to God we are even more important, and God does indeed give us what we really need. And I focused in my sermon on the final verse of the text: "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." (NRSV) I know have been telling myself that a lot over the last few weeks. "One day at a time. One day at a time..."

As a pastor I follow the lectionary closely. So even at the hospital I read the lectionary. Psalm 130 was part of the lectionary for the week. It begins with the words: "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord." It continues with stating "my soul waits" and "hopes for the Lord" and reminds us that God's love is steadfast and has the power to redeem us. Exactly what I needed to hear during a hard week.

Like most of you I have gone through hard times and good ones. But I marvel over and over again and just how God continues to provide for me. Through the Word. Through friends and congregations. Through outright miracles.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Janice

CHURCH CAMP

I know I can say without a doubt that my years of attending church camp were pivotal in forming my faith. I am sure a number of those reading this newsletter would agree. It is important to try and get as many of our youth to attend as we can.

Many of those who attend church camp move on to become clergy or key leaders in their congregation. St. Paul sees that and has a continuing pledge to pay the full cost for a child who has never attended church camp before and half for each continuing year.

Pilgrim Hills offers a wide variety of camps throughout the summer. Swim camps, arts camp, choir camp, etc. There is grandparent-grandchild camp for kids as young as first grade and a camp just for high schoolers to help with the college decision making process.

See Revs. Janice or Becky if you are interested in registering.



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

YMCA SWIM & GYM-PIZZA PARTY

Approximately 45 children and adults enjoyed swimming, walking, and shooting baskets on Sunday, March 19th. Afterward 11 pizzas were eaten up with pizza to share! Those winning door prizes were: Addison Schneider, Travis Link, Hudson Martin, Jayson Swiney, Aubree & Braydon Wireman, Deacon & Cyrus Smith, Alec & Sydney Schlenker, John Jenkins, Jessica Freytag, Addison & Makenna Smith, Gwen Wilges, and Mason Steinke. Others winners took home a pizza and liters of pop.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

During the first 4 weeks of Lent our Sunday School classes has been using a curriculum called "Building Easter." This is going along with the popularity of Legos, so each week is a different color (green, black, red & white) Lego. We have skits, games, snacks and activities along with the Bible Story. We want to thank Wapakoneta,'s True Value for donating material for our crosses which will be seen on Easter morning.

EASTER POTLUCK BREAKFAST

On Easter morning, April 16th from 9:00 to 10:00AM, Faith Formation is hosting our annual Easter breakfast. Table service and drinks will be provided. That morning there will be **NO** Sunday School. Please bring a food item to share on this Happy Easter with our church families.



THANK YOU

A thank you was received from God's Storehouse to the Middle School Youth Group for donated items collected for "Souper Bowl Sunday." Thank you for the wonderful collection of soups, popcorn, and assorted non-perishable foods which you collected and donated for the families we serve each week. You have been very generous and set an example for others to help those less fortunate. Your help is greatly appreciated.

The next **Faith Formation Team** will meet on **Monday, April 3, 2017 at 6PM**. Final preparation for the last night of FEAST (which is Wednesday, April 5th) will be discussed. Also plans for the Easter breakfast (which is Sunday, April 16th). There will be no Sunday School that morning. The Faith Formation team is made up of teachers for Sunday School, instructors for the FEAST program., and other volunteers. All are welcome!!!!

Thank you to all who contributed to the Sr. High CIA Youth Chili Cook off. Thanks to the effects of our youth and your generosity, we raised a total of \$464.14, Hats off to the big winner, Ashley Vaughn. Congratulations!!!!!!



General Fund

Approved General Fund Monthly Budget	\$26,402.50
Given to General Fund	\$17,602.50
Difference	\$ 8,800.00
Given to Benevolences	\$ 1,610.00
Approved General Fund Budget Year to Date	\$79,207.50
Given to General Fund so far this Year	\$60,997.80
Difference	\$18,209.70
Given to Benevolences so far this year	\$4,470.76



Benevolence Giving for April ~ OCWM

COMPASSION CORNER

Please remember there is a collection corner in Timmermeister Hall. Items such as eyeglasses, feminine products, pop tabs and labels for education can be donated to help. However, the Campbell's labels collection is coming to an end, so those will no longer be needed. Check out the corner.

Our Church Family

With caring thoughts...



Our deepest sympathy and condolences to **Thomas (Nancy) Hunter Sr. and his family** on the passing of Tom's mother, **Madeleine Hunter**, who passed away on Saturday, March 18, 2017.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to **Tami Zwez and family** on the passing of Tami's brother, **Victor Carnes** who passed away on Wednesday, March 22, 2017.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to our

St. Paul Youth!

- ✓ Makayla Bailey 4/13/05 ✓
- ✓ Makenna Bailey 4/13/05 ✓
- ✓ Kherington McElroy 4/15/16 ✓
- ✓ Alex Smithey 4/16/01 ✓
- ✓ Hudson Martin 4/18/12 ✓
- ✓ Davita Hoelscher 4/22/03 ✓
- ✓ Ayla Webb 4/26/13 ✓
- ✓ Avery Place 4/26/05 ✓

Happy Anniversary!!

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------|
| 04/08/2000 | Greg & Wendy Schlenker |
| 04/11/1970 | James & Deb Kaeck |
| 04/20/1985 | Michael & Jane Burke |
| 04/22/1978 | Lewis & Cindy Erb |
| 04/26/1980 | Dennis & Barbara Kohler |
| 04/26/1986 | Larry & Vicki Winkler |
| 04/27/1984 | David & Lori Acheson |
| 04/29/2011 | Erin & Chase Falke |
| 04/30/1977 | Devin & Cindy Holtzaple |

BAPTISM

Kensington Grace Martin was baptized on Sunday, March 26, 2017 at the 10:15 service. Kensington is the daughter of Lee & Bonnie Martin. She was born on September 26, 2016. Kensington is also the granddaughter of Mark & Cheryl Erb & Steve & Angie Schneider. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!

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

Meetings and Events

RESURRECTION EGGS

On top of the traditional activities for Easter we will also be offering what are called Resurrection Eggs for the kids this year. These eggs help to better explain the Good News of the Easter story to the kids. There will be no candy in the eggs, so if you can somehow let the kids know this ahead of time, it would be helpful.

FULL SOUND CHAMBER GROUP

The Full Sound Chamber group will return to St. Paul UCC on **Sunday, April 23rd** at 3:00PM. A love offering will be collected to help support the band's expenses. Please plan to come enjoy some great music.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PASSPORT TO PERU June 12-16, 2017

Passport to Peru is the theme for Vacation Bible School this year, June 12-16, 2017. I would like to have all of our registrations in before May 25. If you are interested in helping in any way please contact Rev. Janice or Cheryl Short. We need teacher's aides and help with providing snacks.



WOMEN'S GUILD

Women's Guild will meet again on **Tuesday, April 11th** 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 6th** at **1:30PM** in the Ritter Room. We welcome newcomers. If you have a free afternoon, please join us. We'd love to have you!

GAME NIGHT

On April 21st from 6-8:00PM we will host another game night at the church. We will again offer a light supper and snacks. Come with games you would like to play. Games and simple crafts will also be provided. For more information please contact Pastor Janice.

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 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<p>2</p> <p>8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship</p> <p>3-6:00PM Confirmation Class</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7-8:30PM Suicide Survivor Support Group</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Last Day of FEAST</p> <p>3:00PM Feast 6:15PM Cherubs 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1:30PM Circle One</p> <p>6:00PM Lenten Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00-Noon CRI Sorting Buckland</p>
<p>9 <i>Palm Sunday</i></p> <p>8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00PM Church Council</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00PM Maundy Thursday Service</p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>Good Friday</i></p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 <i>Easter</i></p> <p>8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:00AM Breakfast</p> <p>10:15AM Worship w/Holy Communion</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir</p> <p>6:30PM Sr. High CIA Youth</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Mission Com. Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6-8:00PM Game Night</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Sr High Youth 30 Hour Famine</p>
<p>23 <i>Holy Humor</i></p> <p>8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship</p> <p>3-6:00PM Confirmation Class</p> <p>3:00PM Full Sound Chamber Group</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir</p> <p>6:30PM Sr High CIA Youth</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>NWOA Annual Meeting in New Breman</p>
<p>30</p> <p>8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship</p> <p>3-6:00PM Confirmation Class</p>						

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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

Maundy Thursday Worship
April 13—7:00PM

Easter Sunday Worship
April 16
8:15—Worship w/Holy Communion
9:00—Potluck Breakfast
10:15—Worship w/Holy Communion



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.