



The Link

August 2016

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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SUNDAY'S NEWS

"I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy. I'm glad because of the way you have been my partners in the ministry of the gospel from the time you first believed it until now" (Philippians 1:3-5). These are words Paul wrote to his beloved congregation at Philippi. It is clear when we read the New Testament and consider all of Paul's letters together, he had a special relationship with the Philippians' church. His letter to them lacks the admonishment we see in his correspondence with the Corinthians, his warnings to the Galatians, and his irony directed toward Philemon. It is instead, from beginning to end, a letter of thanksgiving and encouragement. The Philippians were dear to Paul. He wanted them to know how much he appreciated their ongoing efforts for the sake of the gospel and to give them encouragement to stay the course. I choose these words to share with you because I want you to know the same.

There are challenging churches out there. I see many pastors scratching their heads, wringing their hands, or exclaiming as Paul did, "You irrational Galatians!" (Galatians 3:1). While times have not always been easy during the nearly six years of ministry I have spent among you, I can say with confidence that it is my greatest joy and blessing to be your pastor. You need to know that you are special, that you are loved, and that the work you do on behalf of Christ Jesus is valued and appreciated. I would be powerless in ministry if I did not have you—a congregation that seeks to know God's will and that is passionate about bringing God's love and light to the community and the world.

This month we will complete our second year of summer lunches. This summer's program has affirmed that there is a definite need in this community

and that our efforts are worthwhile. We recently received an anonymous note that I would like to share with all of you:

To all:

We want to say thank you and we appreciate this program from the bottom of our hearts. My husband and I appreciate this wonderful service your church allows us to have. This summer you didn't just help us keep a budget, your generosity kept us fed. As you fed myself and my children, what you didn't know was that my husband was laid off. That the treats and little extras brightened my 4 kids' faces and our dinner tables every night. You gave us a highlight of our afternoon, that eating here made the jelly sandwiches seem okay at home, and gave my children a "normal meal." We appreciate it more than I can express.

*Thank you,
Our Family*

As your pastor, I also want to say thank you—not just for supporting this particular program with your hours and dollars, but for everything you all do in the name of Jesus: for every person you visit, every funeral salad you prepare, every weed you pull, every note you play or sing, every cookie you bake, every note you send, every lesson you teach, every envelope you stuff, every minute you sacrifice, every child you love. "I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers...and it's always a prayer full of joy" (Phil. 1:3,4). I couldn't have said it better myself.

*Peace and blessings,
Pastor Becky*

PASTOR JANICE'S PEN

Present and Future

We live in a society that seems to prize living in the moment. Many of us know the saying: "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift from God, which is why we call it the present" (Attributed to Bill Keane). And while there is immense wisdom in this statement we also cannot skate by and ignore the need to plan for the future.

This week has certainly been one of planning for me. I have been working heavily on planning for the next semester of FEAST that doesn't start for another couple of months. I have also been planning ahead for events that will occur in October and November. All while on the personal front getting my kids ready for school and preparing for a week of vacation.

We all have to constantly juggle the responsibilities of the present moment with those of the future. Even the church as an institution has to do this. We plan events weeks and months ahead of time, in order to have all the details in place. We set budgets to ensure that we don't overspend our resources. We encourage members to remember the church when planning their estates and wills, to help the congregation to maintain vital ministries well into the future for our children and grandchildren.

We cannot live each and every moment of our lives in the present. The passage that Rev. Becky will be preaching from on July 31 tells the story of Mary and Martha. With Jesus praising the choice that Mary made over that of Martha. Martha was dealing with the very practical matters of the moment, preparing the next meal. Mary was more absorbed in the matter of the heart, listening to the wisdom of Jesus. One would presume that as she listened she related his words to her life experiences of the past and thought through how to live them out into her future.

Both Mary and Martha made choices. Those choices had consequences. In actuality neither of their choices was bad. If Martha hadn't decided to help with lunch, everyone would have been grumbling later about how hungry they were. Yet we also need Marys in the world who choose a more deeply spiritual path to help teach us and guide the rest of the group spiritually.

It is my prayer for this congregation that we have both Marys and Marthas, so that we are prepared for the future both practically and spiritually.

INSTALLATION SERVICE

Pastor Janice's installation service will be on **Sunday, August 14, at 3:30PM**. There will be a reception to follow. Please plan to attend.

The Faith Formation Team will meet on **Wednesday, August 10th at 6PM**. We will be discussing FEAST, Sunday School curriculum, and Rally Day.
ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!

FAITH FORMATION NEWS!

FEAST

And they were bringing even their babies to Him so that He would touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they began rebuking them. But Jesus called for them, saying, "Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these". **Luke 18:15-17**

FEAST will begin again on September 14. It is exciting to again be gearing up for this program. We have a number of great classes planned and look forward to doing our part to bring the children to the faith. Many of the children who are part of the FEAST program have no other exposure to church and the many benefits that come through being raised in a church. We pray for the energy, love, compassion and faith we need to keep up with these children coming in the door. It is especially the children who have no other church involvement for whom the FEAST is the most valuable. We each know how much our faith has meant to us over our lives, and we at St. Paul are truly blessed to have the opportunity to introduce these kids to the same hope, joy, promise and love that we already know.

This unit of FEAST we will be offering classes on arts and crafts, banner making, Medieval games and studies, poetry and writing, hand chimes, canvas painting, yoga, clog dancing and origami. It is a wide variety of creative expression. I want to thank all those who are helping teach, cook, drive, and supervise study time, etc. It takes a whole army of people to make the FEAST a success.

We are still looking for helpers as drivers and table parents. So please prayerfully consider helping with these tasks. Please call the church office if you are able to help, even if it is not every week we can still use you. We can use kitchen help, hall monitors, etc. If you can help we will find a place for you.

NURTURED HEART APPROACH

September 7 from 6-9pm

Nurture My Heart is intended for any parent or adult who desires a powerful yet simple formula for growing greatness in children. It is a formula for creating a family or classroom culture based on genuine success and positive relationship. (Nurture My Heart: A Nurtured Heart Approach Handbook, Catherine Stafford, p. 4).

We all know we have the tendency to give the most energy to our children when they misbehave in some way. What children tend to learn from this is if they want their parents' or teachers' attention then they need to do something bad. Yet at the same time the negative words and actions they receive lower the child's self esteem. The Nurtured Heart Approach reverses this thinking with all the attention being focused on recognizing and celebrating the child for making good choices. After all every child is full of greatness and we simply need to acknowledge it!

I will be offering a 3 hour introduction to this relationship approach to children. If those who attend are interested we can continue meeting and perfecting this method of child rearing. I would encourage all those who help with FEAST to come as well as all parents and teachers.



First day of school for Wapakoneta City Schools is **Thursday, August 18th**. Hope everyone has had a great summer.

Our Church Family

With caring thoughts...

Our deepest sympathy and condolences on the passing of **Patricia (Miller) Woolf**, who passed on Friday, July 8, 2016.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences on the passing of **Ted Schnell**, who passed away on Tuesday, July 12, 2016.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences on the passing of **Margene Herman**, who passed away on Sunday, July 24, 2016.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to **Dawn Warner and her family** on the passing of Dawn's mother, Ann Haney, who passed on Monday, July 25, 2016

Happy Anniversary!!

08/02/1980	Charles & Carolyn Edwards	08/14/1976
08/03/1997	Gary & Helen Holthaus	08/16/2008
08/03/1991	Todd & Christina Byer	08/18/1979
08/05/1991	Tom & Beverly Lee	08/19/1995
08/05/1978	Larry & Elizabeth Thiedt	08/20/1982
08/08/1970	Jerry & Terry Clark	08/21/1976
08/08/1981	Michael & Ann Lawrence	08/26/1989
08/08/2014	Timothy & Sydney Smith	08/26/1961
08/10/1996	Richard & Katie Madding	08/28/
08/11/1946	Will & Pauline Cook	08/29/1992
08/11/1957	Howard & Janice Hershberger	08/31/1996
08/13/1966	Robert & Vickie Bidwell	08/31/2013



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to our
St. Paul Youth!

August

Reed Merricle	08/08/2001
Henry Martin	08/13/2010
Mason Smithy	08/13/2011
Hannah Ott	08/13/2001
Jeffrey Adkins	08/16/2000
Ashley Vaughn	08/16/2002
Colin Moninger	08/16/2003
Heidi Schlenker	08/20/2004
Maren Moninger	08/22/2011
Josee Kaeck	08/24/1998
Noelle Hunter	08/28/2004
Ellie Schroer	08/28/2002

James & Marcia Hearn
Brian & Jennifer Schlosser
Steve & Janet Schuler
Mike & Judy Schaub
Don & Melanie Webb
Ed & Maggie Bowsher
Mark & Kim Azbell
Jack & Peggy Prater
Charles & Martha Hefner
Dan & Lori Schroer
Fred & Nancy Burrell
Kevin & Chelsie Steinke



Happy Birthday

08/01	Allen Winkler	08/13	Linda Unrue	08/24	Nancy Buettner
08/02	Andrew Beane	08/13	Holden Hengstler	08/25	Jim Berg
08/02	Amy Runkel	08/14	Mary Rohrbaugh	08/25	Jill Jarvis
08/03	Adrian Sunday	08/14	Randy Sutton	08/26	Will Cook
08/04	Jenson Merricle	08/14	Gwen Wilges	08/26	Fred Schlosser
08/06	Steve Schuler	08/16	Beverly Lee	08/26	Cody Steinke
08/06	Mary Adkins	08/16	Logan Erb	08/27	Nancy Hunter
08/07	Matthew Johnston	08/18	Skyler Wilges	08/27	Gary Holthaus
08/08	Brock Sharp	08/18	Mick Haehn	08/27	Richard Hines, Jr.
08/08	David Presar	08/19	Debbie McElroy	08/27	Steve Miller
08/08	Luke Williams	08/19	Jillian Rhoad	08/27	Aaron Kaeck
08/09	Todd Bailey	08/20	Wayna Assenheimer	08/27	Ryan Vaughn
08/09	Kevin Warner			08/28	Cindy Erb
08/09	Charles Hefner	08/21	Cheryl Erb	08/29	Karen Joseph
08/11	Marilyn Lee	08/21	Tony Quellhorst	08/29	Kathleen Pellington
08/11	Rollie Wellington	08/21	Cate Rankin	08/31	Julie Hoelscher
08/11	Jenny Everhart	08/22	Steve Hengstler	08/31	Taylor Sutton
08/12	Amy Schlenker	08/22	Stephanie Unrue		
08/13	Judy Berg	08/24	Parmie Herman		

Meetings and Events

Pillowcases

If you are interested in learning how to make pillowcase dresses for overseas missions, please contact Bonnie Poppe at 937-693-4094.

RALLY DAY—SEPTEMBER 11

Just around the corner is Rally Day which is **Sunday, September 11th**. There will be a potluck dinner with Erb Chicken provided after the 10:15 service. More information will be coming!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

As part of our church's outreach mission, we are expanding our church's annual school supply collection to help more children in our community. This year we will be collecting school supplies for children receiving services through the Auglaize County Crisis Center AND children that attend our summer lunch program. The scope of this project has increased tremendously, and we will need your help to make this project a success. Here is how you can help:

1. Sponsor a child and buy all his/her school supplies based upon the child's school and grade.
2. Purchase general school supplies and bring them into the church office.
3. Make a monetary donation.

Please bring all donations and supplies to the church office by Friday, August 5th. If you have any questions, please contact Kalia Schlenker at 419-738-2756 or by email at davidschlenker@bright.net.

Rev. Will Cook 60th Ordination

There will be a 60th ordination anniversary celebration for Rev. Will Cook on **Sunday, August 14th**. We will have fellowship hour at 9:00am and recognition during the 10:15am service.

FULL SOUND CHAMBER GROUP CONCERT

The Full Sound Chamber Group will have a concert at St Paul UCC on **Sunday, August 21st at 3:00PM** in the church sanctuary.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Women's Guild will begin meeting again on **Thursday, September 8th at 1:30PM**. ALL women of the church and their friends are encouraged to attend. Please join in for fellowship, faith, and fun.

CIRCLE ONE

We take the summer off to garden and picnic. Our next scheduled meeting is **Thursday, September 1st at 1:30PM** in the multipurpose room. We meet the 1st Thursday of every month September—May. Please plan to join us.

BUS TRIP

Nancy Freymuth has a bus trip for **Thursday, August 18, 2016 to Fremont & Bellevue, Ohio**. One of the stops is Lyme Village which was founded by our own retired Rev. Will Cook. The Historic Lyme Village began from the Lyme Congregational Church to preserve the history of the church and community. The village offers frontiersmen, pioneer craftspeople, famous Americans (Lincoln, Franklin, Webster, and Grant among others). Also featured are American Revolution and Civil War campuses. The entire village has grown to 16 buildings housing hundreds of artifacts. The Postmark Collectors Club has placed its National Museum there. Rev. Cook was honored last year as the founder of Lyme Village. Additionally the trip includes stops at President Hayes' home, and the Nickle-Plate Railroad Museum.

The tour includes bus fare, all admissions, and a catered meal, along with a surprise on the way home. The cost is \$75.00 per person. Depart St Paul UCC at 7:30AM and arrive back about 8:00PM. Send check (payable to Nancy Freymuth) to Nancy Freymuth at 13140 CR 25A, Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895 or you can leave check with Cindy in the church office.



General Fund

Approved General Fund Monthly Budget	\$26,175.83
Given to General Fund through July 24th	\$18,221.26
Difference	\$ 7,954.57
Given to Benevolences through July 24th	\$ 1,277.50
Approved General Fund Budget Year to Date	\$183,230.83
Given to General Fund so far this year	\$129,167.91
Difference	\$ 54,062.92
Given to Benevolences so far this year	\$ 9,639.40

Benevolence Giving for August ~ OCWM

Wapakoneta Area Ministerial Association will host
the 7th Annual

Servants Day

Servants Day on Saturday, September 17th, from 8AM until 4PM with breakfast and lunch being provided. It will be based over at St Joseph Church.

The **Volunteer sign up list** is on the bulletin board in the breezeway. You will be contacted about your job assignment before September 17th so you can come prepared. If your job is not an 8-4 job, please be prepared to help elsewhere as there are always projects that can use a few more hands.



The Fall Session of FEAST will start on **Wednesday, September 14, 2016.**

FEAST

There are many new classes like: Banner making, poetry and writing, art of paper folding, Yoga, canvas and mixed-media painting, and more, along with cherub choir, middle school youth, and senior high youth. You will find registration forms in the church office or in the back of the sanctuary.

If you need a form mailed to you just call the church office at 419-738-2215 and they will get one out to you.



August 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> Summer Lunches Monday to Friday	<i>2</i> 7-8:30PM Suicide Survivors Support Group	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 6:00PM Bible Study	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion	<i>8</i> Summer Lunches Monday to Friday 6:00PM Church Council Meeting	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 6:00PM Bible Study	<i>12</i> Last Official Day for Summer Lunches	<i>13</i> 9AM—12Noon CRI Sorting in Buckland
<i>14</i> 8:15AM Worship 10:15AM Worship w/Rev Will Cook celebration 3:30PM Pastor Janice's Installation	<i>15</i> Sack Lunch provided by St Paul UCC	<i>16</i> 6:00PM Mission Committee Sack Lunch provided by St Paul UCC	<i>17</i> Sack Lunch pro- vided by St Paul UCC	<i>18</i> 6:00PM Bible Study Nancy's Bus Trip First Day Back to School	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:00 Stewardship Meeting 10:15AM Worship 3:00PM Full Sound Chamber Group	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 6:00PM Bible Study	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 8:15AM Worship 10:15AM Worship	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>			

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Cell (740)417-6584
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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

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.