



The Link

February
2017

St. Paul United Church of Christ
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SUNDAY'S NEWS

A whole month of this New Year is now behind us. Did you make a New Year's resolution for 2017? If so, have you kept it? Statistics show that over half of all New Year's resolutions relate to better health or some other area of self-improvement. People vow to exercise more and eat less. It's also true that there are far more people who break resolutions than those who successfully keep them. I recently had a conversation with a community member on this topic. She told me, "People don't make New Year's resolutions anymore. They don't mean anything. It just seems like an excuse to not follow through on something." I think one of the reasons our resolutions are difficult to keep is because they are usually quite personal in nature, and there is no one to help keep us accountable. We are more likely to follow through when we know someone is watching. It is always easier to reach a goal when there are others around us helping us to move forward.

Human beings are not meant to walk alone. In the book of Genesis, God looked upon the first person and said, "It's not good that the human is alone" (Gen. 2:18). We are formed for companionship, and we thrive in community. But too often, especially in our lives of faith, we try to "go it alone." We in the church have the wonderful gift of Christian companionship. We have peers to walk with us, encourage us, grow with us, and hold us accountable in our lives of faith. Is it possible to be a Christian all by ourselves, without such a community? Perhaps. But, like most things, our lives of faith are richer if we pursue them in the company of others. Those who walk with us can comfort us when we are hurting, challenge us when we grow complacent, speak words of hope when we despair, and celebrate with us in our times of rejoicing. Yes, our faith is meant to be personal, but we can walk closer to God in Jesus Christ if we take the journey together.

Whether spiritual or physical, any discipline takes practice, and we have a greater probability of success if we partner with others. Whether your goals for 2017 include working toward a more active prayer life or being more physically active, I have a suggestion that may help. This January, the churches of the Wapakoneta Area Ministerial Association, in partnership with the YMCA, began a new program called "Walk and Talk." It is designed to bring community members together to work toward greater physical and spiritual health. Community members gather at the Y for a short devotional time (15 mins), then they are encouraged to continue the conversation as they walk together or engage in some other form of physical activity. The Y has opened its doors for free to anyone participating in the program. If you are interested, Walk and Talk meets every Tuesday at 9:00am and 7:00pm. Pick whichever time works best for you. In our health and in our faith, we all do better when we walk together.

*"I am weak, but thou art strong.
Jesus, keep me from all wrong.
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk, close to thee."*

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Becky

Pastor Becky will be out of the office for approximately ten days following her foot surgery on **February 23rd**. Please keep Pastor Becky in your prayers, and direct all calls to Pastor Janice during her recovery

PASTOR JANICE'S PEN

“The children now love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise.”

Sounds pretty much how a lot of people view the current generation, does it not? In fact, over my years of ministry I have heard a number of older members of the churches I have served make a very similar comment. So much so that I have come up with a standard response to it, saying that pretty much every generation has felt that way about those that come after them. And just in case you are wondering, the quote above is from Socrates, a Greek philosopher who came 400 years before Christ. The attitude has indeed been around for a long time!

Watching my children grow up I have to admit they are much different than I was as a child. And with the rapid pace of technology over the last 25 years or so, the difference between today's youth and adults is probably more vast than ever before. The world is much smaller at one level and people are more isolated at another. And my kids understand social media 100 times better than I do.

Having said that, my view of the world is no more correct or wrong than theirs is. I am currently taking an online course about compassion, because I am always seeking to improve my faith journey. And one huge point of the class is respecting other people's point of view. Yes, there are certain facts that need to be accepted by us as Christians: God is God and we aren't. Jesus is God's Son and our Savior. We are called to follow the example that Christ set for us of love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness. Beyond that, life is as varied as the 7 Billion odd people on this planet and that is what makes our lives so rich and beautiful.

May each of us find a way to interact with those who are part of this congregation that are

much different than we are, seeking to see them as God's son or daughter as much as we are!

Rev. Janice Burns-Watson

FEAST

The Feast program is off to a good start with a number of new faces. Wapakoneta City Schools will have a 1 hour early dismissal on **Wednesday, February 8th**. On early dismissal days, there is **NO TRANSPORTATION for FEAST**. Parents need to send a note to school for that day of what your child/children should do to get where they need to go. Feast will start that day at 4:00PM.

Thanks for the host of volunteers it takes to run the program. Please see Pastor Janice if God is nudging you to help in anyway.

Recycled Items

I want to thank everyone for bringing in all the recycled items I requested.

I now am only in need of plastic lids (any size from soda bottles to coffee cans) and dish soap containers from what I previously asked for.

I am now asking if anyone has old glass dishes that are pretty to bring them in. We are going to make yard ornaments out of them.

Pastor Janice

MENTAL EXERCISE

As I helped lead the Walk and Talk program this week at the YMCA I could not help but think of the important fact that recent studies have shown that in order to help stave off the symptoms of dementia in older adults it is important for them to exercise their brains as well as their bodies. Reading and doing word puzzles or Sudoku actually help with this. So if you have someone in your life who you are concerned about encourage them to do these things. On a related note I also have a Life Review format that you can give to them to help them record their life stories. A valuable gift to the family and loved ones. See me if you are interested.

Pastor Janice



VALENTINE'S DAY

The holiday of love and for lovers. It is a great day to let your husband, wife or significant other know just how much they mean to you. And certainly plan on giving a card, candy, flowers, a trip to a nice restaurant to your loved one. At the same time do not forget those who are part of the St. Paul family who through death, divorce or simply life circumstances does not have a partner. For them it is all too often a time of loneliness and pain. Take the time to give them a call or send them a note. Maybe even drop in to see a shut-in to let them know they are still loved as part of this community.



SPECIAL LENTEN SERVICES

We will once again be sharing services for our holy days in Lent with our friends at St Mark's Lutheran Church. Please join us as we follow Christ's journey toward the cross.

**Ash Wednesday Service-March 1, 2017,
7:00PM at St Mark's Lutheran Church
Maundy Thursday Service-April 13, 2017,
7PM St Paul UCC**

COMMUNITY NOONTIME LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

Weekly community Lenten services will once again be held at St. Joseph Church. Services will be at noon, with luncheon following, beginning on Wednesday, March 1. This year's theme is "Jesus said...I Am." Each week a different pastor will focus on one of the "I Am" sayings of Jesus from scripture. All are welcome.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY "The Gospel according to Dr Seuss."

Pastor Becky will be leading a Lenten Bible/Book study entitled "The Gospel according to Dr. Seuss." The study will look at several Dr. Seuss books in light of scriptural texts. Join us in the Ritter Room at 6:00PM on Thursdays, beginning the second Thursday in Lent (March 9th).

Our Church Family

With caring thoughts...



Our deepest sympathy and condolences on the passing of **Howard Hershberger** who passed on Saturday, January 14, 2017.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to our

St. Paul Youth!

February

Rudy Mathewson	2/08/2011
Samatha McMichael	2/08/2010
Alyssa Camper	2/15/2000
Jack Allemeier	2/17/2010
Brant Smith	2/22/2002
Henley Johnston	2/22/2016
Marlow Johnston	2/24/2012
Oscar Wellington	2/24/2009
Emma Groh	2/25/2006
Carlee Hosterman	2/29/2000

Baptism is the initial step of a faithful heart

Eli Philip Erb was baptized on Sunday, January 22, 2017 at the 10:15 service. Eli is the son of Logan and Emily Erb. He was born on October 9, 2016. Eli is the grandson of Mark and Cheryl Erb and Holly Platt. **CONGRATULATIONS!!!**



Happy Anniversary!!

02/07/1976	Bruce & Pam Baker
02/28/1953	Dick & Carol Presar

Happy Birthday to you...

02/01	Carol Presar	02/10	Melba Idle	02/17	Sean Martin
02/02	Robert Herman	02/10	Wil Bowsher	02/19	Alex Stinebaugh
02/02	Jack Preston Sr.	02/11	Tami Zwez	02/19	Ernie Hengstler
02/02	Gary McElroy	02/11	Krystal Loy	02/20	William Rankin
02/02	J.T. Schlenker	02/12	Tom Schlenker	02/21	Chris Hibner
02/02	Jacob Lochard	02/12	Barbara Frische	02/23	John Schlenker
02/04	Helen Erb	02/13	Doris Hollenbacher	02/24	Jacob Azbell
02/04	Mindy Webb	02/14	Angela Merricle	02/24	Ann Lawrence
02/07	Jeff Bartlett	02/14	Joe Pumphrey	02/25	Janet Winkler
02/07	Sandy Koenig	02/15	Timothy Place	02/26	Janice Wright
02/07	Brian Schlosser	02/15	Michelle Herman	02/28	Gary Halfhill
02/08	Michael Bartlett	02/16	Lora Hefner	02/29	Anthony Brookhart
02/08	Erica Preston	02/16	Dusty Hoelscher		
02/08	Jennifer Schlosser	02/17	Cindy Chadwick		
02/09	Jamie Allemeier	02/17	Nancy Stroh		

Meetings and Events

FAITH FORMATION TEAM MEETING

We will have a **FAITH FORMATION TEAM MEETING** on **Monday, February 6th at 6PM.** We will be discussing how **FEAST** is going so far and any future activities being planned.

Souper Bowl Sunday

We are going to celebrate Souper Bowl Sunday again this year. The Jr. High Youth Group is asking for your help by bringing in soup and any other canned or boxed goods (no glass please) that would go great with soup. Set your cans on the football field in the back of the sanctuary for the side you would like to win our very own **SOU- PER BOWL.** We will be collecting until February 5th. All items will be donated to God's Storehouse.

SUPER BOWL ORGAN RECITAL

Members of the Lima Area Chapter, American Guild of Organists, including our own Karen and Martha, will be playing on **Sunday, February 5th at Trinity UMC in Lima at 3:00PM.** As always, the recital concludes with the organ duet of "Stars and Stripes Forever" played by Karen and Mary Jane Eichelberger. Plan to attend.....

AUGLAIZE COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

Delivered to the Humane Society in January was 26 items from an animal treat of newspapers and bags of food. They were thankful for our gifts and mentioned you can always stop out to see the animals, especially if you are looking for a pet. They are in need of kitty litter, cat & kitten food and dog collars right now. Thanks again for all the wonderful donations.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Women's Guild will meet on **Tuesday, February 14th 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. Maybe you have recently retired, just became an empty nester or a Mom who just needs an afternoon out. **COME SEE** what we are all about!

CIRCLE ONE

Circle One will meet the first Thursday of every month September through May. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, February 2nd** 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!

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Thank you to all that donated to Heifer International. St. Paul UCC sent in \$957.00. This was our way of sharing so that others can benefit and pass on the gift in their communities.

SAVE THE DATE

Nancy Freymuth is planning a bus trip on Thursday, September 14, 2017.

Mansfield: Bible Walk
Kingwood Center Gardens
Richland Carrousel Park
Bellville: Der Dutchman

If interested contact: Nancy L. Freymuth
419-738-5415

More information to follow
Remember everyone receives a gift!!!

NO FEAST

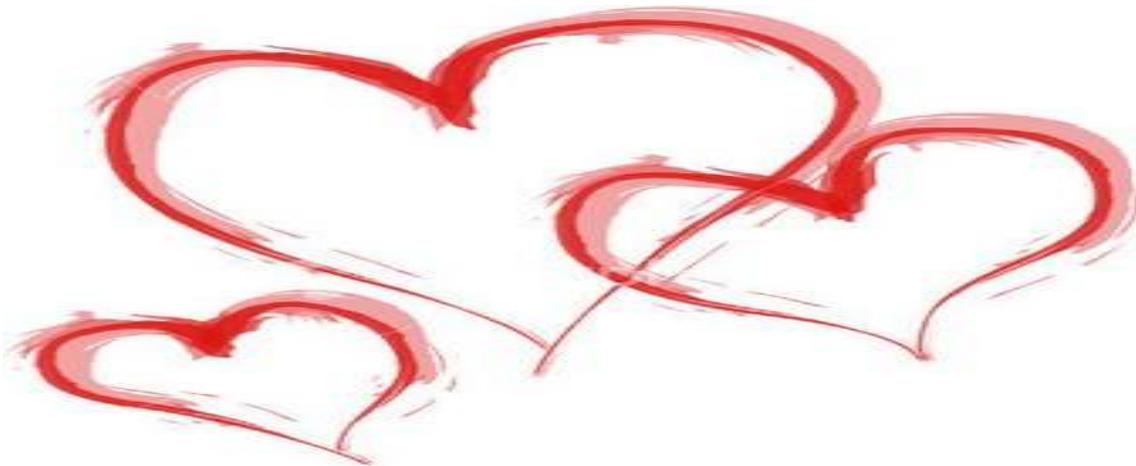
There will be **NO FEAST** on **March 1, 2017**, this being **Ash Wednesday.** Please remember to let the Elementary School know what your child should do for transportation on that Wednesday.

General Fund

Approved General Fund Monthly Budget	\$26,402.50
Given to General Fund	\$29,263.80
Difference	\$ 2,861.30
Given to Benevolences	\$ 1,490.76
Approved General Fund Budget Year to Date	\$26,402.50
Given to General Fund so far this year	\$29,263.80
Difference	\$ 2,861.30
Given to Benevolences so far this year	\$ 1,490.76



Benevolence Giving for February ~ Camp Fund





February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 3:00PM Feast 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	<i>2</i> 1:30PM Circle One	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 3-6:00PM Confirmation Class	<i>6</i> 6:00PM Faith Formation Meeting	<i>7</i> 7-8:30PM Suicide Survivors Support Group	<i>8</i> 4:00PM Feast 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir 1 hr Early Dismal for Wapak School	<i>9</i> 6:00 Book Study	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 9AM-12PM CRI Sorting
<i>12</i> 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	<i>13</i> 6:00PM Church Council Meeting	<i>14</i> 1:30PM Women's Guild 6:30PM Roots & Shoots 	<i>15</i> 3:00PM Feast 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	<i>16</i> 6:00 Book Study	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 3-6:00PM Confirmation Class	<i>20</i> NO SCHOOL President's Day	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 3:00PM Feast 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	<i>23</i> 6:00 Book Study Pastor Becky out of office	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 3-6:00PM Confirmation Class	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>				

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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

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



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.