



# The Link

February  
2019

*St. Paul United Church of Christ*  
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## SUNDAY'S NEWS

A whole month of this New Year is now behind us. As I write this article, we are bracing for the arrival of a polar vortex—a term with which I am only just becoming more familiar. It promises to carry with it the coldest temperatures of this year. They are talking about high temperatures below zero degrees Fahrenheit, and wind chills could reach more than thirty below. I shiver just thinking about it!

It seems to defy logic that anything can survive in such conditions. I think about the animals in the woods or the perennials in the ground, and I wonder how it is possible that they can be sustained through the harsh winter. Yet I am confident that in a few months the baby bunnies will be in the yard and the flowers will still come up in front of the parsonage where Adrian and I live in Buckland. In fact, many of those spring blooms rely on the cold of winter. It's during the winter months, when everything looks dormant on the surface, that the cold temperatures trigger the important biochemical process that allows the bulb to flower in the spring.

There is a famous hymn by Natalie Sleeth called "Hymn of Promise." It is sometimes known by the beginning of its first line, "In the bulb there is a flower." The hymn goes on to speak to how God is often busy at work bringing about new life through all kinds of unexpected circumstances, asserting that "In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."

This coming April 29, I will be leaving for my sabbatical. While the sabbatical was announced many months ago, the time is now coming quickly. As laid out in the terms of my call agreement with St. Paul UCC, I will spend three months (plus two weeks of my regular vacation time) away from my responsibilities at St. Paul UCC and apart from the

people of the congregation. The word "sabbatical" comes from "Sabbath," and it is meant to be a time for me to focus on my own spiritual health to allow for new things to come forth.

Scripture tells us that we are to cherish Sabbath time and to keep it holy. We are to take seriously the commandment to dedicate time to resting in God and focusing on our spiritual lives. Elsewhere in scripture, God mandates a related practice for the land—every seventh year the people were directed to let the land lie fallow so that the nutrients in the soil might be replenished and new growth could flourish. In many ways, during my sabbatical I will be like that bulb in the ground, trusting that new life is coming with God's help and in God's timing. My sabbatical will last from April 29 to August 11, when I will be returning for worship with you all. While I am away, my time will be spent on retreats, reading, and travel, specifically related to a study of music and spirituality, giving me time and space to immerse myself in the things that draw me closer to God. When I return, the hope is that we can usher in a new season in our life together as pastor and people, and that wonderful and unexpected things may grow out of this sabbatical process. You'll continue to hear more about the sabbatical in the coming months as preparations continue. In the meantime, please spend some time in prayer for our church—that God would be working in and through this time in unseen ways in order to bring life and color to our lives of faith in the future.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Becky



## WORSHIP SERVICES

The Wapakoneta Area Ministerial Association will once again be holding ecumenical Lenten services on Wednesdays during Lent, beginning on **Ash Wednesday, March 6th**. Each service will begin at noon at St. Joseph Catholic Church, followed by a weekly community luncheon. All are welcome.

### **SPECIAL LENTEN SERVICES**

St. Paul UCC will be hosting  
ASH WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE

**On Wednesday, March 6, 2019**

At 7:00PM

Along with First English Lutheran and St. Mark's Lutheran

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

On Maundy Thursday, **April 18, 2019** the worship service will be hosted by St. Marks Lutheran at 7:00PM. All are welcome.

## GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday, Friday, **April 19, 2019** the worship service will be hosted by First English Lutheran at 7:00PM. All are welcome.

## St. Paul UCC 2019 Church Council

President – Rodney Schey- [schey@bright.net](mailto:schey@bright.net) - 419-738-8389  
Vice President – Mark Vaughn – [mvaughn@bright.net](mailto:mvaughn@bright.net) – 419-738-2415

Treasurer – Susan Stinebaugh - [stinsu@wapak.org](mailto:stinsu@wapak.org)- 419-738-4300 (H)

Head Elder -Nancy Newland – [njnewland@yahoo.com](mailto:njnewland@yahoo.com) - 419-773-9049  
Anthony Spearhart – [anthonybrookhart@gmail.com](mailto:anthonybrookhart@gmail.com) -  
419-773-0141

Head Deacon – Pat Shaw- [t3pshaw@bright.net](mailto:t3pshaw@bright.net) - 419-738-8509  
Brock Sharp – [brocksharp97@gmail.com](mailto:brocksharp97@gmail.com) - 567-356-6485  
Kathy Haehn – [khaehnmom@hotmail.com](mailto:khaehnmom@hotmail.com) – 419-738-7001  
Melanie Wright – [dmwright02@hotmail.com](mailto:dmwright02@hotmail.com) – 419-738-8022

Head Trustee – Fritz Ankerman – [ankerman@bright.net](mailto:ankerman@bright.net) – 419-738-2223  
Dan Bennett – [bennett1@bright.net](mailto:bennett1@bright.net) – 419-738-7053  
Doris Hibner – [doris@hibnerfamilyfarmLLC.com](mailto:doris@hibnerfamilyfarmLLC.com)  
917-885-6173

## WELCOME NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

# Our Church Family

## With caring thoughts...

Our deepest sympathy and condolences on the passing of **Joyce Schuler** who passed on Thursday, January 3, 2019.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to Dr. Thomas Freytag on the passing of his mother, **Marjorie M. Freytag** who passed on Wednesday, January 16, 2019


## NEW BABY

Noah Michael McElroy, born on January 24, 2019. Parents are Zane & Ashley McElroy. Grandparents: Bill & April Bowersock & Gary & Debbie McElroy. Noah is welcomed by big sister Kherington.

## Happy Anniversary!!



02/07/1976	Bruce & Pam Baker
02/11/1984	Mark & Tracy McDonald
02/28/1953	Dick & Carol Presar



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
to our  
**St. Paul Youth!**

**February**

✓ Rudy Mathewson	2/08/2011
✓ Samatha McMichael	2/08/2010
✓ 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
✓ Angela Honaker	2/26/2005

## Happy Birthday to you...

02/01	Carol Presar	02/11	Tami Zwez	02/19	Ernie Hengstler
02/02	Jack Preston Sr.	02/12	Tom Schlenker	02/19	Mitchell Presar
02/02	Gary McElroy	02/12	Barbara Frische	02/21	Chris Hibner
02/02	J.T. Schlenker	02/13	Doris Hollenbacher	02/22	Timothy Norton
02/02	Jacob Lochard	02/14	Angela Merricle	02/23	John Schlenker
02/04	Helen Erb	02/14	Joe Pumphrey	02/24	Ann Lawrence
02/04	Mindy Webb	02/15	Timothy Place	02/25	Janet Winkler
02/07	Jeff Bartlett	02/15	Michelle Herman	02/26	Janice Wright
02/07	Sandy Koenig	02/16	Lora Hefner	02/28	Gary Halfhill
02/07	Brian Schlosser	02/16	Dusty Hoelscher	02/29	Anthony Spearhart
02/08	Michael Bartlett	02/17	Cindy Chadwick	02/29	Carlee Hosterman
02/08	Erica Preston	02/17	Nancy Stroh		
02/08	Jennifer Schlosser	02/17	Sean Martin		
02/09	Jamie Allemeier	02/18	Gale Gebhart		
02/10	Melba Idle	02/19	Alex Stinebaugh		



# Meetings and Events

## FAITH FORMATION TEAM MEETING

The Faith Formation Team will be meeting Monday, February 4, 2019 at 6:00PM. We will be talking about FEAST and Sunday School and any future activities. All are welcome!

## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

We are going to celebrate Souper Bowl Sunday for the next couple weeks. The Jr. High Youth Group is asking 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 SOUPER BOWL. We will be collecting from Sunday, January 19th through Wednesday February 6th. All items collected will be donated to God's Storehouse.

## SUPER BOWL ORGAN RECITAL

The Super Bowl Organ Recital will be **Sunday, February 3** at the Trinity United Methodist Church at 301 West Market St. in Lima, Ohio at 3:00PM. This annual event is given by the members of the Lima Area Chapter, American Guild of Organists. Both Karen and Martha will be performing along with other Chapter members. This is a free concert and all are invited to share in this celebration of the Organ.

## THANK YOU FROM HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Thank you to all that donated to Heifer International. We received a letter from them thanking for our continuing support of \$2,718.90. We will be sending additional donations of \$495.00. This year they are celebrating 75 years of Heifer International. Along with our help and others, families can eat three nutritious meals a day. Heifer gives people a hand up-not a hand out-that they may thrive for years to come.

## CIRCLE ONE

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

## MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee will have a meeting on **Tuesday, February 19th at 6:00PM.**

## BELATED THANK YOU FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

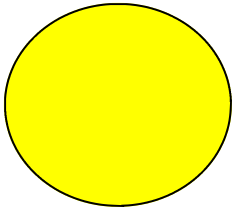
A belated thank you to the congregation for their support of our middle school youth group. Because of your generous support of our food stand during the Holiday Bazaar and Cookie Walk held in November, the middle school youth group was able to purchase a pair of warm, non-skid socks and hand cream for every resident of Auglaize Acres. The youth went to Auglaize Acres on December 12<sup>th</sup> where they sang Christmas carols and presented the residents the Christmas gifts purchased from funds raised from the luncheon stand at the Bazaar. Again, our thanks for supporting our efforts at providing some comfort and joy to the residents of Auglaize Acres and helping foster our growth as young disciples in Christ.



THANK  
YOU!

# General Fund

Approved General Fund Monthly Budget	\$24,992.75
Given to General Fund	\$13,379.00
Difference	\$ 11,613.75
Given to Benevolences	\$ 1,119.00
Approved General Fund Budget Year to Date	\$24,992.75
Given to General Fund so far this year	\$13,379.00
Difference	\$11,613.75
Given to Benevolences so far this year	\$ 1,119.00



*Benevolence Giving for February ~ Camp Fund*

## AUGLAIZE COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

Thank you from the Auglaize County Humane Society. Cheryl Short delivered over 50 different items from cat and dog food, to garbage bags, and detergent, to pet toys last month. They were very appreciative of the good variety and some things were opened and used that day. The many dogs and cats say bow-wow and meow!

# THANK YOU





# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 5-7:00PM 8th Grade Confirmation Class <b>SCOUT SUNDAY</b>	<b>4</b> 6:00PM Faith Formation Meeting	<b>5</b> 7-8:30PM Suicide Survivors Support Group	<b>6</b> 3:00PM FEAST 6:30PM Cherub Choir 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	<b>7</b> 1:30PM Circle One 4:30-6:30 PM Loaves & Fishes	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9AM-12PM CRI Sorting
<b>10</b> 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	<b>11</b> 6:00PM Church Council Meeting	<b>12</b> 6:00PM Roots & Shoots	<b>13</b> 3:00PM FEAST 6:30PM Cherub Choir 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	<b>14</b> 4:30-6:30PM Loaves & Fishes 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:30 Music Staff Meeting 5-7:00PM 8th Grade Confirmation Class	<b>18</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>  <b>President's Day</b>	<b>19</b> 6:00PM Mission Committee Meeting	<b>20</b> 3:00PM FEAST 6:30PM Cherub Choir 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	<b>21</b> 4:30-6:30 PM Loaves & Fishes	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 3:00PM FEAST 6:30PM Cherub Choir 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	<b>28</b> 4:30-6:30 PM Loaves & Fishes		

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Rev. Becky Sunday, Pastor

Study (419) 738-6216  
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Email [becky@stpaulucc.com](mailto:becky@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

## 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.*