



The Link

February
2016

St. Paul United Church of Christ
101 South Perry Street • PO Box 147 • Wapakoneta, OH 45895
Phone: (419) 738-2215 Fax: (419) 738-2076
Email: cindy@stpaulucc.com Website: www.stpaulucc.com
www.facebook.com/StPaulWapakoneta



Words of encouragement from Rev. Becky Sunday

WALK TO THE CROSS

In just a few short days we will begin our Lenten journey once again. With Ash Wednesday on February 10, we begin this new season in the life of the church. During these forty days we are called to examine ourselves and to think about Christ's journey to the cross. Traditionally, Lent has been a time when people consider giving something up as penance or to remember Christ's sacrifice. In more recent times, some folks have revised the tradition. Instead of giving something up, they are adding something productive to their lives—perhaps volunteering in a new way or adding a new discipline of prayer.

This year, the Wapakoneta Area Ministerial Association and the YMCA are partnering to help our area churches work together to remember Jesus' road to the cross in a very special way. As Lent begins, we will begin an ecumenical "Walk to the Cross." How will it work? Simple. It is 6,100 miles from Wapakoneta to Jerusalem. Throughout the season of Lent, members in our area churches are encouraged to walk, or engage in some other form of exercise, as a spiritual discipline. Those from our congregation who choose to participate will keep track of their miles (actual miles of walking or running, or counting 15 minutes of strenuous exercise as a mile), and report them to St. Paul UCC each week. Our miles will be combined with others throughout the community, and we will give updates as the weeks through Lent continue. To help with the project, the YMCA is opening its doors to the whole community, making the facility available to anyone who says they are participating in the Walk to the Cross.

Our community goal is to get to travel to the cross and back again, for a total of 12,200 miles. As we take each step, we can remember the road that Christ walked—a road of service and sacrifice for others. It is our prayer that, through this project, we might all arrive at a closer relationship with God. As we express our faith in and through the work of our bodies, we can feel that we are literally walking the road with Christ, making Christ's journey more real to us. We begin with a single step. Won't you join us?

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Becky

We will have a **FAITH FROMATION TEAM MEETING** on Monday, February 1st at 6PM.. All are welcome!

FEAST

The FEAST Program has increased in numbers significantly with the start of this new semester. It is great that even more youth from Wapakoneta are being ministered to by this congregation and learning about the faith. However, it creates the need for even more adults to help us out. We remain in need of drivers, cooks, chaperones, table parents, etc. Even if all you can do is act as a substitute we can still use your help. Please contact Rev. Janice, Tami Zwez or the church office if you can help us out. This is a vital part of the ministry of this congregation that needs your support.



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 dropping in to see a shut-in to let them know they are still loved as part of this community.

WEIGHT LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Scripture tells us that our Bodies are God's temple, that we are all part of the body of Christ and we are to honor the Lord with our bodies. Not to mention the fact that over and over again we are told that God loves us imperfections and all and that we are created in the image of God. In other words we are to honor who we are as a child of God and to treasure our bodies as a precious gift from God. Yet most of us seem to not treasure who we are, instead viewing our bodies as something to battle against. And trust me, these words are being preached to myself as much as anyone else. We need to stop the war and learn to embrace ourselves with love and acceptance. When we are able to do that, the issues we may have with our health and well being will become much easier to manage.

Having said all of this, I do not embrace the fad diets and latest tricks and gimmicks to lose weight. I believe that we are simply called to love who we are and seek to treat ourselves as a true treasure and temple of God. And we are also called to find the world around us, even food as a wonderful miracle of God. Seeking to find a way to savor every morsel and every moment.

If you are interested in joining us we will be meeting again on Monday, February 8th at 12:00 Noon in Timmermeister Hall. Bring your own lunch. All are welcome.

If you can't come for these gatherings we can still pair you with another interested individual.



SPECIAL LENTEN SERVICES

We will once again be sharing services for our holy days in Lent with our neighbors at First English Lutheran Church & St Mark's Lutheran Church. We hope you can share in the following services:

Ash Wednesday Service-Feb 10, 7PM at First English Lutheran

Maundy Thursday Service-April 24, 7PM St Paul UCC

Good Friday Service-April 25, 7PM at St Mark's Lutheran

COMMUNITY NOONTIME LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

Weekly community ecumenical Lenten services will begin on **Wednesday, February 10**, continuing through **Wednesday, March 23**. All services are at 12:00 noon on Wednesdays at St. Joseph Church, with lunch following. This year's theme, "Restored in Christ." will focus on different forms of brokenness that are confronted by the Gospel, and how that brokenness is healed through the life, work, death, and resurrection of Jesus. All are welcome.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY "JOURNEY OF STONES"

Pastor Becky will be leading a Lenten Bible Study entitled "Journey of Stones" on Thursday evenings at 6:30PM throughout the season of Lent. The study will focus on the different burdens we carry and how, in Christ, God breaks into our lives to lift them. The study will begin at 6:30PM on Thursday, February 11 and will continue until the Thursday after Easter, which is March 31. Join us on the journey!

LENTEN SHOE COLLECTION

In conjunction with First English Lutheran Church and the other churches of the Wapakoneta Area Ministerial Association, we will be doing a shoe collection throughout the Lenten season. We are partnering with an organization called WaterStep, who will sell the shoes that are collected to raise money for water purification projects throughout the developing world. Take a step to end thirst by cleaning out your closet and donating your shoes. Shoes of any style and condition are acceptable, as long as they are in pairs and free from mildew and holes. There will be a box in Timmermeister Hall for your donations throughout Lent. If you have questions about the project, please contact Pastor Becky or visit WaterStep.org.

Back Bay Mission – Biloxi, Mississippi – February 27 – March 6, 2016

A mission trip is being made to the Back Bay Mission from **Feb 27 to Mar 6** this year. First, we would like to ask for your thoughts and prayers as we make this trip. Second, we will be collecting money, gift cards and donations to take with us. Lists of what is needed will be posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. If gift cards are donated (Walmart, Lowes), please keep them in smaller denominations such as \$25.

If giving money, below is a list of what different amounts can buy:

\$5 - 40 oz jar of peanut butter, bug spray, hand and foot warmers, or body wipes

\$10 - two 5 packs of mac and cheese, three cans of spam, or two tarps

\$20 - back pack, Jeans, sleeping bag, or six 12 packs of ramen noodles

\$40 - tent, 3 multi packs of underwear, or 3 multi packs of socks

Please make checks payable to St. Paul UCC with Back Bay Mission in the memo.

A box will be placed in Timmermeister Hall with a designation for Back Bay Mission for any donations.

Our Church Family

With caring thoughts...



Our deepest sympathy and condolences to **Jane Rickert and her family** on the passing of Jane's sister, **Martha Bitters** who passed away on Sunday, January 3, 2016.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences on the passing of **Helen "Yvonne" Kah** who passed on Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Baptism is the initial step of a faithful heart



Quinn Marie Steinke was baptized on Sunday, January 17, 2016 at the 8:15 service. Quinn is the daughter of Cody and Nicole Steinke. She was born on October 5, 2015. Quinn is also the granddaughter of Dave and Debbie Wheeler, Lisa and Allen Deville, and Jeff Steinke .
CONGRATULATIONS!!!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to our
St. Paul Youth!

February

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Rudy Mathewson | 2/08/2011 |
| Samatha McMichael | 02/08/2010 |
| Alyssa Camper | 2/15/2000 |
| Jack Allemeier | 2/17/2010 |
| Alex Stinebaugh | 2/19/1998 |
| Brant Smith | 2/22/2002 |
| Marlow Johnston | 2/24/2012 |
| Oscar Wellington | 2/24/2009 |
| Emma Groh | 2/25/2006 |
| Carlee Hosterman | 2/29/2000 |

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 | Ernie Hengstler |
| 02/02 | Jack Preston Sr. | 02/11 | Tami Zwez | 02/20 | William Rankin |
| 02/02 | Gary McElroy | 02/11 | Krystal Loy | 02/21 | Chris Hibner |
| 02/02 | J.T. Schlenker | 02/12 | Tom Schlenker | 02/23 | John Schlenker |
| 02/02 | Jacob Lochard | 02/12 | Barbara Frische | 02/24 | Luke Klein |
| 02/04 | Helen Erb | 02/12 | Tim Presar | 02/24 | Jacob Azbell |
| 02/04 | Mindy Webb | 02/13 | Doris Hollenbacher | 02/24 | Ann Lawrence |
| 02/07 | Sandy Koenig | 02/14 | Angela Merricle | 02/25 | Janet Winkler |
| 02/07 | Brian Schlosser | 02/14 | Joe Pumphrey | 02/26 | Janice Wright |
| 02/08 | Michael Bartlett | 02/15 | Timothy Place | 02/28 | Gary Halfhill |
| 02/08 | Erica Preston | 02/16 | Lora Hefner | 02/29 | Anthony Brookhart |
| 02/08 | Jennifer Schlosser | 02/16 | Dusty Hoelscher | | |
| 02/09 | Jamie Allemeier | 02/17 | Cindy Chadwick | | |
| 02/09 | Gabe Williams | 02/17 | Nancy Stroh | | |

Meetings and Events

FAITH FORMATION TEAM MEETING

The next Faith Formation Team meeting will be held on **Monday, February 1, 2016 at 6:00PM**. We will be discussing how **FEAST** is coming along. **All are Welcome**.

NO FEAST

There will be **NO FEAST** on **FEBRUARY 10, 2016**, this being **Ash Wednesday**. Please remember to let the Elementary School know what your child should do for transportation on that Wednesday.



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 7th. All items will be donated to God's Storehouse.

FEAST IS IN NEED OF

The Feast Program is in need of old T-Shirts to be used to make rugs. They can be any color, any size, any style, just old or unwanted, so we can cut them up in pieces. They can be brought to the church office or just put them in Timmermeister Hall and we will put them to use. What a wonderful way to start your spring housecleaning.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Women's Guild will meet on **Tuesday, February 9th 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 4th 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!

SUMMER PROGRAMING

As we begin to look ahead towards the upcoming summer months we are already foreseeing some support we need from the congregation. We are asking for donations of new or gently used children's or young adult books. To supplement the summer lunch program we are also encouraging folks who garden to plant an extra row or two to share the produce with the church. And as with the FEAST we will need lots of extra hands for VBS and the summer lunch program. So if you could plan on helping out with a day or two or even a week or more you would reap many rewards in the end. If you want any more information please contact Rev. Janice.

SWEETS FOR THE SWEET BAKE SALE

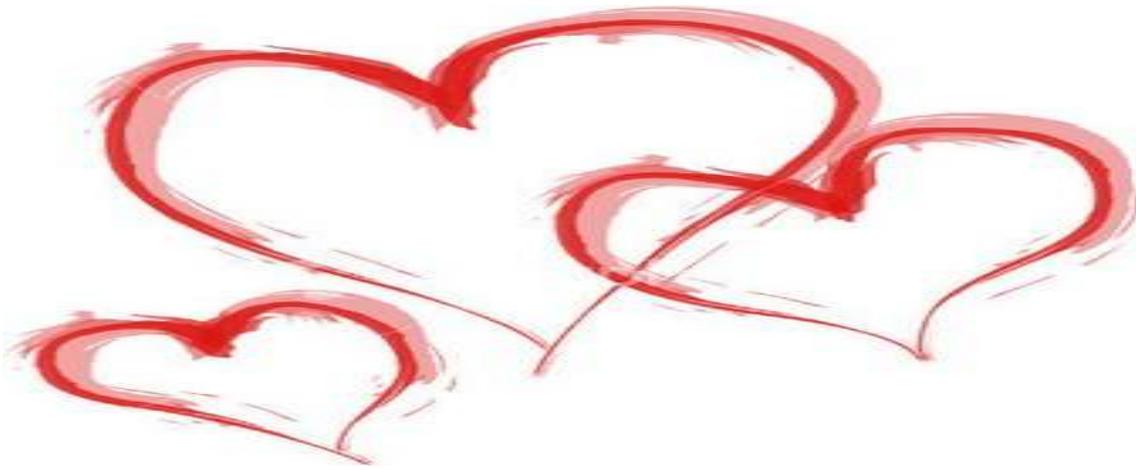
On **Sunday, February 14**, remember your valentine with a special treat! There will be a bake sale in Timmermeister Hall between services and after worship on Valentine's Day. Proceeds will go toward the summer mission trip to El Salvador.

General Fund

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Approved General Fund Monthly Budget | \$26,175.83 |
| Given to General Fund through January 24th | \$15,441.50 |
| Difference | \$10,734.33 |
| | |
| Given to Benevolences through January 24th | \$ 1,296.00 |
| | |
| Approved General Fund Budget Year to Date | \$26,175.83 |
| Given to General Fund so far this year | \$15,441.50 |
| Difference | \$10,734.33 |
| | |
| Given to Benevolences so far this year | \$ 1,296.00 |



Benevolence Giving for February ~ Camp Fund





February 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|---|-----------|--|
| | <i>1</i> 6:00PM Faith Formation Meeting | <i>2</i> 7-8:30PM Suicide Survivors Support Group | <i>3</i> 3:00PM Feast 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir | <i>4</i> 1:30PM Circle One 6:30PM Group Study | <i>5</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>7</i> 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 11:30AM Church MICE 3-6:00PM Confirmation Class | <i>8</i> 6:00PM Church Council Meeting | <i>9</i> 1:30PM Women's Guild 6:30PM Roots and Shoots | <i>10</i> NO FEAST <i>Ash Wednesday</i> | <i>11</i> 6:30 Lenten Bible Study | <i>12</i> | <i>13</i> 9AM-12PM CRI Sorting |
| <i>14</i> 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship Mission Trip Bake Sale  | <i>15</i> NO SCHOOL President's Day | <i>16</i> 6:30PM Mission Committee Meeting | <i>17</i> 3:00PM Feast 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir | <i>18</i> 6:30 Lenten Study | <i>19</i> | <i>20</i> |
| <i>21</i> 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 3-6:00PM Confirmation Class | <i>22</i> | <i>23</i> | <i>24</i> 3:00PM Feast 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir | <i>25</i> 6:30 Lenten Study | <i>26</i> | <i>27</i> Back Bay Mission Trip |
| <i>28</i> 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship Back Bay Mission Trip | <i>29</i> Back Bay Mission Trip | | | | | |

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101 South Perry Street
PO Box 147
Wapakoneta, OH 45895



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Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895
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Church Office

Phone (419) 738-2215
Fax (419) 738-2076
Website: www.stpaulucc.com
Email: cindy@stpaulucc.com

Rev. Becky Sunday, Senior Pastor

Study (419) 738-6216
Cell (567) 356-6773
Email becky@stpaulucc.com

Rev. Janice Burns-Watson, Associate Pastor

Study (419)739-7716
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

HAPPY VALENTINE 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.