



The Link

January 2017

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



SUNDAY'S NEWS

I once read somewhere that the practice of establishing New Year's resolutions is over 4,000 years old. For four millennia, people have marked the turning of the calendar by examining the year behind them and then trying to determine if they can improve upon it in the months ahead. Our resolutions vary in their scope and purpose. The most common ones include promises to focus on better health and fitness or management of finances. Some people resolve to read more or to quit a bad habit. The trend that I see is that, almost always, New Year's resolutions are quite personal in nature, and they focus on having greater discipline in a certain area of our lives that may be lacking.

What sort of resolutions can we make for our spiritual lives? Are there certain spiritual muscles that we need to exercise more? Maybe we should consider becoming a St. Paul prayer partner, or coming to Sunday school, or joining a book study. Maybe this will be your year to lend a hand toward the summer lunch program, help out with our FEAST ministry, join a choir, or become part of the Called to Care team. What are your spiritual goals for the coming year?

The church as a whole has one goal: to work toward greater faithfulness in fulfilling the mission God has set before us. How will you be part of us keeping this resolution in 2017?

Peace and blessings to you and yours
this New Year,

Pastor Becky

PASTOR BECKY ON VACATION

JAN 2 THROUGH JAN 16, 2017

Pastor Becky Sunday will be on vacation and out of the office from January 2 through January 16, 2017. Please direct all pastoral concerns to Rev. Janice Burns-Watson or call the church office during this time.

OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 2, 2017 to observe New Years Day and also on Monday, January 16, 2017 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

PASTOR JANICE'S PEN

I want to give my heart felt thank you to all those who remembered my family and I during the Christmas Season with gifts. I also want to thank all those who helped with various activities around the church throughout the year to help make all of its programs a success.

As the one who coordinates the FEAST I want to thank all those who help with this program. Also all those who help with Called to Care. But we can't forget all those who serve in leadership capacities for this congregation, those who helped behind the scenes to get worship ready. Then there are those who are part of choir, hand chimes, Sunday School, Bible Studies, Women's Guild and other groups in the Church. And it takes a lot of folks to help with funeral dinners, Loaves and Fishes and the Summer Lunch Program. I am sure I am missing a number of things, but thank you one and all for making it a pleasure to serve with you here at St. Paul UCC.

The saying goes that it takes a village to raise a child. But it also takes a village to keep a church vital and meaningful in a community. To keep it alive and able to change lives for the better. And I see it happening each and every day here in this congregation.

It remains a constant blessing to me to see the impact we have on people, by the small gestures we make. The smile on people's faces when we went out to visit the shut-ins to sing Christmas carols was priceless. I am talking the smiles on the faces of the carolers as well as the shut-ins. You should have heard the wonderful conversation I had with the children during Children's worship the other day when one of them noticed the picture of Mary and Baby Jesus hanging in Timmemeister Hall and how that picture matched what they had just heard me tell them about the Christmas story. They were in total awe when they discovered the artist was a

member of the church and his wife, Cindy Chadwick, is still a member of the church. We are a church that is alive and well in Wapakoneta.

Blessings,

Rev. Janice

BOOK STUDY

The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness

This book tells the short story of a Nazi Concentration Camp prisoner who is brought to the bedside of a dying Nazi soldier who wants to be forgiven by "a Jew" before he dies. And in the rest of the book 32 prominent theologians, politicians and scholars weigh in on how Simon Wiesenthal ought to have responded.

The ability to forgive others is an issue that virtually all of us struggle with. Wading your way through this book together should lead to lively discussion and very likely will change the way that you view your own ability to forgive others. We will meet on Thursday nights at 6pm from January 11- February 22.

Our Church Family

With caring thoughts...




Our deepest sympathy and condolences on the passing of **Pauline Cook** who passed on Friday, December 23, 2016.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to **Cindy Erb and Vicki Winkler and their families** on the passing of their mother, **Maryellen Hengstler**, who passed on Wednesday, December 28, 2016.

Happy Anniversary!!

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 01/05/1958 | Wayne & Judy Quellhorst |
| 01/05/1980 | Jack Sr. & Cindy Preston |
| 01/08/1950 | Carl & Wanda Kogge |
| 01/14/1961 | Robert & Joann Camper |
| 01/16/2010 | Nathan & Rudy Elizabeth Mathewson |
| 01/18/1997 | Tom & Pat Schlenker |
| 01/21/1951 | Ernie & Marilyn Hengstler |



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to our
St. Paul Youth!

January

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| ✓ Makenna Smith | 1/10/2006 |
| ✓ Madison Loy | 1/12/2009 |
| ✓ Lucas Steinke | 1/12/2012 |
| ✓ Braydon Wireman | 1/15/2010 |
| ✓ Amber Detrick | 1/21/1999 |
| ✓ Audra Schaub | 1/23/2001 |
| ✓ Callen Martin | 1/23/2014 |
| ✓ Anna Madding | 1/24/2001 |
| ✓ Cate Allemeier | 1/25/2005 |
| ✓ Caitlin Wiedenbein | 1/31/2002 |

Happy Birthday to you...

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>01/01 Rex Azbell</p> <p>01/01 Dan Howe</p> <p>01/02 David Hibner</p> <p>01/04 Jane Rickert</p> <p>01/04 Harold Werling</p> <p>01/04 Nathan Mathewson</p> <p>01/04 Lindsey Short</p> <p>01/05 Carol Wagner</p> <p>01/05 Diane Schlenker</p> <p>01/06 Jack Prater</p> <p>01/06 Wayne Quellhorst</p> <p>01/06 Janet Schuler</p> <p>01/06 Linda Coil</p> <p>01/06 Emil George</p> <p>01/07 Kay Wellington</p> <p>01/07 Dan Bennett</p> <p>01/07 Benjamin Warner</p> <p>01/09 Donna Azbell</p> <p>01/09 Ellen Brautigam</p> <p>01/09 Toby Shaw</p> <p>01/09 Adam Webb</p> <p>01/10 Ellen Brautigam</p> <p>01/11 William Baker</p> <p>01/12 Emerson Recob</p> <p>01/12 Jerry Clark</p> <p>01/12 Lawrence Steinke</p> | <p>01/12 Anne Bennett</p> <p>01/14 Mikayla Halfhill</p> <p>01/14 Louise Jung</p> <p>01/14 Ian Wiedenbein</p> <p>01/15 Bernard Azbell</p> <p>01/15 Dennis Kohler</p> <p>01/16 Amy Weber Bailey</p> <p>01/16 Katherine Wellington</p> <p>01/16 Amy Weber Bailey</p> <p>01/17 Thomas Braun</p> <p>01/18 Becky Sunday</p> <p>01/18 Linda Presar</p> <p>01/19 Jeff Zwiebel</p> <p>01/19 Judy Zwiebel</p> <p>01/20 Marilyn Deever</p> <p>01/20 Larisa Sutton</p> <p>01/21 Don Warner</p> <p>01/22 Jack Acheson</p> <p>01/22 Steve Nuesmeyer</p> <p>01/22 James Hearn</p> <p>01/24 Carly Jarvis</p> <p>01/24 Lori Schroer</p> <p>01/24 Maggie Bowsher</p> <p>01/25 Wanda Kogge</p> <p>01/28 Mike Schaub</p> <p>01/29 Tara Johnston</p> |
|---|---|





Meetings and Events

UNIFIED WORSHIP & ANNUAL MEETING

Please plan to attend the St Paul UCC Annual Meeting on **Sunday, January 29, 2017**, immediately after a UNIFIED worship service at 10:15 (there will be no 8:15 service). The Senior High Youth will be hosting a spaghetti dinner fund raiser. The menu will include, spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, and a dessert.

FEAST

St Paul UCC New Session of FEAST will be starting on **Wednesday, January 18th through April 5, 2017**. There are many new and exciting classes. Registration deadline is December 31, 2016. We are asking that you rank your interest in classes this time as some of the classes are filling up already. Classes offered this session are Crafting with Recycled Items, Hand Chimes, God & Harry Potter, Chef Training, Genealogy, Fun & Games, Praying in Color, & Painting & Crafting. All are Welcome!!!!

PARTNERS IN PRAYER POTLUCK

If you participated in St. Paul UCC's Partners in Prayer program in 2016, you and your family are invited to attend our special "reveal" potluck on **Sunday, January 8th** after the 10:15 worship service. Please plan to bring your table service and a dish to share.

FAITH FORMATION MEETING

Faith Formation will be meeting Monday, January 2, 2017 at 6:00PM. Final plans for the Winter Session of FEAST (which starts Jan 18th) will be discussed plus activities for February and March. Please plan to attend.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Women's Guild will meet on **Tuesday, January 10th** 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! 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, January 5th** 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!



DONATIONS FOR HUMANE SOCIETY

We are still accepting donations for the Auglaize County Humane Society. The Christmas tree will be up through the 1st week of January and then items may be put over by the counter in Timmermeister Hall.

RECYCLED DONATIONS

One of the Classes that will be offered for the next session of FEAST will be making crafts out of recycled items, and we are still in need of a few items. Please drop them off in Rev. Janice's office, or outside her door.

- Dish soap bottles
- Plastic lids from various containers: Milk, soda, yogurt, coffee, peanut butter, etc.
- Soda cans
- CD's

NEW OUTLOOK BLUEGRASS

The New Outlook Bluegrass Group will be joining us for worship on **Sunday, January 22, 2017**. Mark your calendars.

General Fund

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|---|--------------|
| Approved General Fund Monthly Budget | \$ 26,175.83 |
| Given to General Fund for Month of December | \$ 27,471.00 |
| Difference | \$ 1,295.17 |
| | |
| Given to Benevolences for Month of December | \$ 2,330.50 |
| | |
| Approved General Fund Budget Year to Date | \$314,110.00 |
| Given to General Fund so far this year | \$231,930.62 |
| Difference | \$ 82,179.38 |
| | |
| Given to Benevolences so far this year | \$17,596.65 |

Benevolence Giving for January ~ Crisis Center



WALK AND TALK AT THE WAPAK YMCA

Walk & Talk is a weekly devotional & exercise opportunity beginning January 10. Each week, a devotional leader will open with a 15 minute devotional. The group then breaks for whatever exercise opportunity you would like: walk, basketball, swim, exercise. Non-members of the YMCA may use the facility at this time for free. Simply complete a one-time registration form. This event is available for adults and middle school and high school youth. Nursery is available for parents with younger children.

This event is jointly sponsored by the Wapakoneta Area Ministerial Association and the Wapakoneta YMCA

CHURCH VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

The YMCA would like to organize another church volleyball league this winter. There are some differences this year—for instance, the league is open to adults only. Please consider having a team or teams compete. It is a good opportunity to share in Christian fellowship while enjoying fun and friendly competition. You can find a sign-up sheet hanging in the breezeway that also gives more information.

THANKS TO CAROLERS

Single digit temperatures were no match for the smiles and warm Christmas Wishes that were shared with our homebound on Thursday, December 15. We had four groups with a total of 25 carolers who made twenty stops to sing and visit. Additionally, six baked cookies and prepared candy for "goodie plates" that were delivered to the homebound and the remainder was enjoyed in a time of fellowship back at the church following the caroling.

Thanks to Jan Schlenker and Sheri Sherman for plating the goodies and also setting up and serving the fellowship time. Those donating cookies and candies were Jenny Everhart, Roberta Hengstler, Elaine Mikesell, Jan Schlenker, and Revs. Adrian & Becky Sunday.

Carolers this year included: Fritz Ankerman, Dan Bennett, Pastor Janice, Sharon Campbell, Rob & Barbara Frische, Jay & Sandy Koenig, Alan & Elaine Mikesell, Bill & Christine Miller, Heather Nolte, Peggy Prater, Bert & Sally Presar, Mary Jo Roth, Rodney & Therese Schey, Jan Schlenker, Mark Short, Bart & Elisha Smith, and Rollie & Kay Wellington.

A big thank-you to all the singers and bakers and especially to the homebound for allowing us to enter their homes to sing!



**Lunch at Subway
John Berg
and
Anthony and Wayne
Quellhorst**



January 2017



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|------------------|--|
| <p><i>1</i></p> <p>9:00AM Unified Service w/Holy Com- munion</p> | <p><i>2</i> Church Office Closed</p> <p>6:00PM Faith Formation</p> <p>Rev Becky on vacation</p> | <p><i>3</i></p> <p>7:00-8:30PM Suicide Survivors Support Group</p> | <p><i>4</i></p> | <p><i>5</i></p> <p>1:30PM Circle One</p> | <p><i>6</i></p> | <p><i>7</i></p> |
| <p><i>8</i></p> <p>8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:30 Prayer Partners Luncheon</p> | <p><i>9</i></p> | <p><i>10</i></p> <p>1:30PM Women's Guild</p> | <p><i>11</i></p> | <p><i>12</i></p> <p>6:00PM Book Study</p> | <p><i>13</i></p> | <p><i>14</i></p> <p>9AM-12PM CRI Sorting</p> |
| <p><i>15</i></p> <p>8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship</p> | <p><i>16</i> No School Church Office Closed</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p> <p>Becky Back</p> | <p><i>17</i></p> | <p><i>18</i></p> <p>3:00PM FEAST 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chan- cel Choir</p> | <p><i>19</i></p> <p>6:00PM Book Study</p> | <p><i>20</i></p> | <p><i>21</i></p> |
| <p><i>22</i></p> <p>8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship w/New Outlook 3-600PM Confirmation</p> | <p><i>23</i></p> | <p><i>24</i></p> | <p><i>25</i></p> <p>3:00PM FEAST 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chan- cel Choir</p> | <p><i>26</i></p> <p>6:00PM Book Study</p> <p>Red Cross Blood Mobile</p> | <p><i>27</i></p> | <p><i>28</i></p> |
| <p><i>29</i></p> <p>9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Unified Service 11:30AM Annual Meeting 12Noon Sr High Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser</p> | <p><i>30</i></p> | <p><i>31</i></p> | | | | |
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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

**Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 29 immediately
following the 10:15 unified
worship service
Spaghetti Dinner to Follow**



**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.