



The Link

January 2018

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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SUNDAY'S NEWS

As I write this article, we are still in the midst of the Christmas season, which will continue until Epiphany on January 6th. At Epiphany, we celebrate the journey of the magi and recall how they gave their gifts and their worship to the infant Jesus. This Christmas Eve, my message highlighted the fact that all of the characters in the Christmas story found themselves far from home that first Christmas, from Mary and Joseph, to shepherds and angels, and finally the magi—everyone traveled outside their comfort zones to encounter Christ.

As we enter another new year, we reflect on the events of the past twelve months, and we turn the page to look forward to what's next. But what the upcoming pages hold is still a mystery. A year ago, I had no idea what lay ahead. 2017 had its share of surprises, most notably for Adrian and me was his lymphoma diagnosis. Of course there were struggles as a result. But along with those struggles came valuable lessons learned about priorities and balance, as well as countless unexpected blessings in the form of prayers and acts of kindness from so many wonderful people.

Looking ahead to 2018, there is much to anticipate. But I am reminded once again that faith is more a journey than a destination, and no matter what plans we make, the future remains a mystery. Who knows what the next twelve months have in store. In what ways will we grow and change? In what new ways will God call us as individuals and as a congregation?

The lesson I want to emphasize throughout this year's Christmas and Epiphany seasons is that God asks us to keep our hearts open to the unexpected. Sometimes, in order to experience the holy, we are required to step outside of our

familiar patterns. God has a way of calling us beyond what is comfortable to embrace what is possible.

We can't know what the future will hold. But we can be sure that if we are willing to continue to listen for God's still-speaking voice, there will be countless blessings ahead. I am excited to see what ministries God has in store for the congregation of St. Paul UCC in the coming year. Prayers will be raised. Songs will be sung. Friends will be visited. God's Word will be opened in new ways. Babies will be baptized. Families will be fed. Children will be loved. We continue to listen for angels' voices and look for stars to follow, trusting that we will be led closer in the way of Jesus Christ.

Peace and blessings to you and yours
this New Year,

Pastor Becky

PASTOR BECKY ON VACATION

JAN 1 THROUGH JAN 13, 2018

Pastor Becky Sunday will be on vacation and out of the office from January 1 through January 13, 2018. Please direct all pastoral concerns to Rev. Janice Burns-Watson or call the church office during this time.

PASTOR JANICE'S PEN

As many of you know Abby was in the hospital again recently. It would be a hard time for any parent, made all the harder by the fact that it was her birthday and Christmas time, compounded by the fact that I am clergy. I remain off kilter. And it is certainly not a Christmas to go down in the history books for my family. But even in the midst of the hardest of times, we need to remember that we do not face our challenges alone. We follow a God who chose to live amongst us, God Emmanuel. That is what we just celebrated at Christmas.

God did not chose to send Jesus to live in a palace, but instead a stable. Jesus did not live a life of esteem as a king or warrior, but as a refugee, carpenter and itinerant preacher. Jesus did not come as a priest or Jewish scholar, but as a peasant whose ministry continued to challenge the powers that be. God knows what hard times are like, up close and personal, through Jesus.

We worship a God who knows our triumphs and our tragedies. We celebrate a faith that sees us through good times and bad.

Blessings,

Rev. Janice

STORING OF THE GREENS

It is that time of year again to take down the Christmas decorations. It is always bitter sweet to do this. Everything looks so empty after they come down. Many hands made light work, so please plan on coming to the church on **Thursday, January 11th at 6:00PM** to help get them down and put away. Please call the office and let us know if you can help. We will plan a back up date of Saturday, January 13th at 10:00AM, in case of inclement weather.

OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2018 to observe New Years Day and also on Monday, January 15, 2018 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Our Church Family

WELCOMING BABIES

Oakley Erb Preston, born December 4th to Nathan & Erica Preston. Grandparents - Louie & Cindy Erb.

Thea Rae Steinke, born December 6th to Chelsie & Kevin Steinke. Grandparents—Aaron & Doneta Kaeck.

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

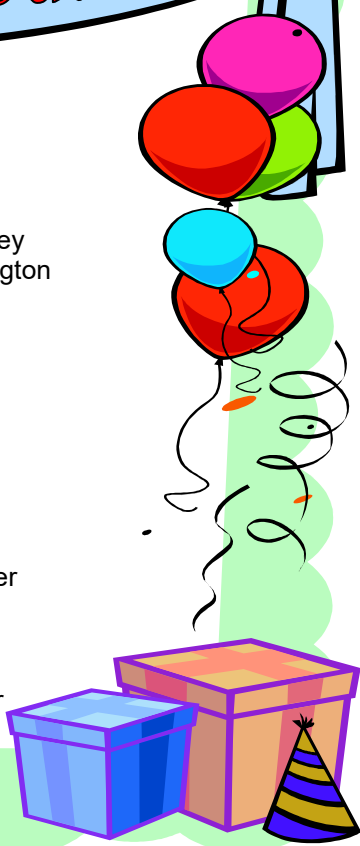
St. Paul Youth!

January

Makenna Smith	1/10/2006
Madison Loy	1/12/2009
Braydon Wireman	1/15/2010
Lucas Steinke	1/18/2012
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...

01/02	Dan Howe	01/14	Mikayla Halfhill
01/02	David Hibner	01/14	Louise Jung
01/04	Jane Rickert	01/14	Ian Wiedenbein
01/04	Harold Werling	01/15	Bernard Azbell
01/04	Nathan Mathewson	01/15	Dennis Kohler
01/04	Lindsey Cairns	01/16	Amy Weber Bailey
01/05	Carol Wagner	01/16	Katherine Wellington
01/05	Diane Schlenker	01/17	Thomas Braun
01/06	Jack Prater	01/18	Becky Sunday
01/06	Wayne Quellhorst	01/18	Linda Presar
01/06	Janet Schuler	01/19	Jeff Zwiebel
01/06	Emil George	01/19	Judy Zwiebel
01/07	Kay Wellington	01/20	Larisa Sutton
01/07	Dan Bennett	01/21	Don Warner
01/07	Benjamin Warner	01/21	Amber Detrick
01/09	Donna Azbell	01/22	Jack Acheson
01/09	Ellen Brautigam	01/22	Steve Nuesmeyer
01/09	Toby Shaw	01/22	James Hearn
01/09	Adam Webb	01/24	Carly Jarvis
01/10	Ellen Brautigam	01/24	Lori Schroer
01/11	William Baker	01/24	Maggie Bowsher
01/12	Emerson Recob	01/25	Wanda Kogge
01/12	Jerry Clark	01/26	Corey Karch
01/12	Lawrence Steinke	01/28	Mike Schaub
01/12	Anne Bennett	01/29	Tara Johnston





Meetings and Events

UNIFIED WORSHIP & ANNUAL MEETING

Please plan to attend the St Paul UCC Annual Meeting on **Sunday, January 28, 2018**, 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.

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.



Cheryl Short will make as many trips as she need to. Thank you for all your donations.

PARTNERS IN PRAYER POTLUCK

If you participated in St. Paul UCC's Partners in Prayer program in 2017, you and your family are invited to attend our special "reveal" potluck on **Sunday, January 21st** 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 8, 2018 at 6:00PM. Please plan to attend.

CIRCLE ONE

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

PARTNERS IN PRAYER

We are planning on doing secret prayer partners again this year. We all need prayers everyday of our lives to keep us going and to nurture our faith. And I know I firmly believe that we can never have too many people praying for us as well. Becoming a secret prayer partner is a fun way to encourage the practice of daily prayer, being able to do something nice for the person you are praying for (and we all know "It is more blessed to give than receive". All while you know that someone is praying for you as well. A real win-win situation. If you are interested in joining on just call the church office at 419 738 2215, and ask for Rev. Janice.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

The Senior High Youth Group (grades 8-12) will begin meeting again on Wednesday nights from 6:15PM to 7:45PM. This will start on **Wednesday, January 17, 2018**. On **Wednesday, January 24th** they will be travel to the Gardens to play card bingo with residents and enjoy pizza for a night of friendship and fellowship.



General Fund

Approved General Fund Monthly Budget	\$ 26,402.50
Given to General Fund for Month of December	\$ 39,257.00
Difference	\$ 12,854.50
Given to Benevolences for Month of December	\$ 1,770.75
Approved General Fund Budget Year to Date	\$316,830.00
Given to General Fund so far this year	\$248,278.12
Difference	\$ 62,551.88
Given to Benevolences so far this year	\$18,248.80

(Does not included December 31, 2017 offering)

Benevolence Giving for January ~ Crisis Center



CHURCH VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

The YMCA is once again organizing a Sunday night volleyball league. This league is open to anyone over the age of 15 and is Co-Ed. The cost is \$10 per player. Each team can contain up to 12 players, but must have at least 3 women at each game. Sign up in the breezeway to join the St. Paul UCC team. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, January 7th.





ELECTRONIC GIVING: Which Path Is Right for You?

To get started on the journey to electronic giving, choose whichever of the following options you prefer:

1. St. Paul UCC Website

Visit www.stpaulucc.com and click on “GIVE” in the upper right hand corner.

2. Paper Authorization Form

If you prefer filling out a paper form, we have Authorization Forms available at the sanctuary doors or in the church office.

3. Online Giving Workshop

We are planning two workshops at the church where we will gladly walk you through the steps to set you up for automatic payments. Join us in the Ritter Room at St. Paul UCC for one of the following sessions:

Tuesday, January 16 at 6:00pm
Thursday, January 18 at 2:00pm

4. Individual Appointment

Set up an appointment with our church Financial Secretary by calling the church office at 419-738-2215.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



January 2018



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<p>1</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>Rev Becky on vacation</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00-8:30PM Suicide Survivors Support Group</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:30-5:30PM Red Cross Blood Mobile</p> <p>1:30PM Circle One</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p>8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00PM Faith Formation</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9AM-12PM CRI Sorting</p>
<p>14</p> <p>8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 3-6:00 Confirmation Class 6:30PM 2nd Sunday Service</p>	<p>15</p> <p>No School Church Office Closed 6:00PM Church Council Meeting</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:00PM E Giving Workshop</p> <p>7:00PM Mission Committee</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:15-7:45PM Sr. High Youth Group 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>18</p> <p>2:00PM E Giving Workshop</p> <p>6:00PM VBS Meeting</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:30 Prayer Partners Luncheon</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:15-7:45PM Sr. High Youth Group 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Unified Service 11:30AM Annual Meeting 12Noon Sr. High Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser 3-6:00PM Confirmation Class</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:15-7:45PM Sr. High Youth Group 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir</p>			

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Church Office

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Rev. Becky Sunday, Senior Pastor

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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 28 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.