



The Link

July 2016

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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SUNDAY'S NEWS

As I write this article, I am making last-minute preparations for our St. Paul UCC summer mission trip to San Salvador, El Salvador from June 29 to July 6. Chances are, as you are reading this article, we are still in the midst of our trip. Thirteen of our St. Paul UCC members are traveling a continent away, leaving behind the comfortable and familiar, in order to share Christ's light and love with our sisters and brothers of the Lutheran Church in El Salvador.

As we have been gearing up for this trip over the past few months, I have had a number of church folks ask me, "Will you be building something while you are there?" It is a well-meaning question with a more complicated answer than you might suspect. We are distributing much needed money and supplies, but I have come to understand during my two previous trips to San Salvador that projects focusing on manual labor are best completed by folks local to the communities of El Salvador. The people there need the work. It is better for their economy and for community morale.

While it is true that we will not be painting walls or building fences, we will still be building some very important things. We are building relationships, building hope, building understanding and goodwill, and perhaps most importantly, building up the Body of Christ. With this kind of building, it is nearly impossible to measure our progress within the span of a week. There is a good reason for this. The work for this kind of mission is never really done. It is the kind of ministry that requires a long-term investment. Our hearts are forever changed by the history, places, and people we encounter. It's not as easy as leaving behind a structure that we have built with our hands as a mark of our ministry in Christ's name. Instead, we leave pieces of ourselves and recognize that there is always more work to be done in living out our covenant relationships with the people of God.

Please pray for us while we are sharing our love with our neighbors. I leave you with a prayer that was written in memory of deceased priests and shared in memory of Archbishop Oscar Romero, El Salvador's most beloved martyr. Penned by Ken Utener for Cardinal John Dearden, it is often referred to as the Prayer of Oscar Romero:

"It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

*The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.*

*We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.*

*This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.*

*We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.*

*We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation
in realizing that. This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well. It may be incomplete,
but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.*

*We may never see the end results, but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.*

*We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.
Amen."*

*Peace and blessings,
Pastor Becky*

**PASTOR BECKY
OUT OF THE OFFICE**

Pastor Becky will be out of the office through **July 6th** while she travels to El Salvador on our mission trip. Please direct all pastoral concerns to Pastor Janice at 740-417-6584 or call the church office during this time.

PASTOR JANICE'S PEN

It was a true blessing to be able to go on retreat and spend a week away doing basically nothing but praying and resting. And yes, I took a nap every single day. What a luxury that was.

Part of the of the Scriptures that were read in the worship service on June 19 (Philippians 4:6-7) stated that instead of being anxious we ought to pray and if we do that we will be filled with a peace that the World cannot understand. There is a lot of truth to that. There has even been scientific studies that suggest that patients who know they have been prayed for tend to recover more quickly after surgery. There is power in prayer!

I know this kind of retreat isn't for everyone. But for me prayer can be all sorts of different things, not just sitting with hands folded and heads bowed.

During the retreat I drew and made collages as prayer. I went for walks with nothing in hand but my camera, and even a set of binoculars as prayer. I wrote in my journal and listened to music as prayer. I did meditation and tried to still my mind and let God do the talking. And yes, I even did more traditional prayer as well.

It is the attitude that you do activities with that can turn them into prayer. When I take my camera with me on a prayer walk I try and walk slowly seeking to receive the gifts that God makes available to us each and every moment. I am looking for God to shine and I very often find it. I have received some truly magical moments that way, ones that I would have walked right by otherwise.

To go back to the passage from Philippians, later on in verse 8 it reminds us to focus on the excellent, admirable, true, holy, just, pure and lovely things. The things that are truly worthy of praise. What a wonderful world it would be if we could all just do this instead of sifting through our lives trying to find the things that are difficult, hard and painful.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

God's Paintbrush

I want to thank everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School (especially Cheryl Short) who put a lot of hours into this event. A special thank you to all the parents who shared their children with us for the week.

We had an average of 89 children and 32 adults & teens attending each day. Our theme of "God's Paintbrush" and how our 5 senses help us to explore God's wonderful world was discovered in song, snacks, games, crafts, and our daily Bible story.

St. Marks Lutheran Church joined us this year; in fact that Sunday they did not have their 10:15 service and were invited to attend First English Lutheran Church for their 10:00 service to also watch the VBS presentation. Rev. Janice wrote the curriculum that was used that week.

The offering for the week was \$407.73 which was donated to the Wapakoneta Middle School Weekend Meal Program and 72 school kits were put together by the children on Friday that were donated to the Wapakoneta Elementary School.

Those that helped daily were: Courtney Sutton, Cheryl Short, Ashley Vaughn, Kerri Smith, Hannah Ott, Alec Schlenker, Brock Sharp, Jaiden Brannon, Olivia & Avery Place, Cate Allemeier, Nancy Newland, and Pastor Janice who led our Bible Story. Thank you to all that donated items for our snack time.

Baptism

Kherington Elizabeth McElroy was baptized on Sunday, May 29, 2016 at the 8:15 service. Kherington is the daughter of Zane and Ashley McElroy. She was born on April 15, 2016.

Henley Thomas Johnston was baptized on Sunday, May 29, 2016 at the 10:15 service. Henley is the son of Matthew and Tara Johnston. He was born on February 22, 2016.

Brock Sharp was baptized on Sunday, June 12, 2016 at the 10:15 service. Brock is the daughter of Melissa Sharp. She was born on August 8, 1997.

Kelly Truesdale was baptized on Sunday, June 12, 2016 at the 10:15 service. Kelly is the daughter of Brenda Truesdale. Kelly was born on June 16, 2006.

Amiyah Jewel Wilges was baptized on Sunday, June 26, 2016 at the 10:15 service. Amiyah is the daughter of Gwen Wilges. Amiyah was born on June 15, 2015.

NEW MEMBERS

St Paul UCC received four new members to our congregation on Sunday, June 12, 2016. They were:

Matthew Johnston
Mark Orellana
Brock Sharp
Brenda Truesdale

We welcome these new members to our faith and fellowship.

Faith Fit & Heathy

St Paul is going to have a booth at the Summer Moon Festival that is going to be held in downtown Wapak. It is going to be a program for kids called Faith, Fit, and Healthy. St Paul has agreed to have a table set up to do Face Painting. This will be a great time for us to promote the activities of the church, in particular the FEAST program. Stop by Saturday, July 16 between 10:00AM and 3:00PM to join the fun!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

FEAST

It is time to start putting together the team of folks it takes to run the FEAST program. We plan on continuing some of the classes that are favorites with the kids as well as creating some new ones, so we will need some people with different talents to teach these classes. It takes a whole army of folks to make this program a success. We need kitchen help, table parents, drivers, homework helpers, hall monitors, teachers, youth leaders, and a clean-up crew. If you think you can help with any of this please let Rev. Janice or the church office know how you can help. Our next FEAST starts on Wednesday, September 14, 2016.

St Paul Community

St Paul Community Garden

A garden has been planted at Doris Hibner's house. We have already started seeing the "fruits" and vegetables of our labors, which has been wonderful. There have been a number of people who have gone all out to help planting and weeding. This is a huge project which is still in need of labor. Please see the sign up sheet in the breezeway or talk with Doris or Rev. Janice if you are able to help.

Summer Lunch Program

The Summer Lunch Program is going great. It will run through Friday, August 12th and then on August 15, 16, and 17th St Paul Church will be providing a sack lunch until school starts on Thursday, August 18th. Donations are still very much needed and appreciated.

Our Church Family

With caring thoughts...

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of **Deborah K. (Debbie) Griffo**. Debbie passed on June 13, 2016.



Happy Anniversary!!

7/01/1972	Gary & Deb McElroy	7/23/2005
7/04/2008	Matthew & Tara Johnston	7/23/1976
7/07/2007	Adrian & Becky Sunday	7/24/1965
7/10/1948	Dick & Leona Glunt	7/26/2003
7/11/1981	Mark & Cheryl Short	7/26/1980
7/12/1979	Tom & Gwynne Freytag	7/28/1990
7/15/1985	Wendell & Ruth Frazier	7/29/2006
7/19/2003	James & Kerri Smith	7/30/1961
7/20/2002	Jason & Cheri Brandt	7/30/2011
7/23/1994	Mark & Jill Jarvis	7/31/1983
7/23/2011	Jarret & Mindy Webb	



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to our
St. Paul Youth!

July

Ethan Brandt	7/07/2008
Caden Falke	7/11/2007
Bailey Waitman	7/12/2005
Christopher Wright	7/14/2006
Jozie Hoelscher	7/17/1999
Emma Nolte	7/20/2001
Evelyn Preston	7/23/2012
Cole Miller	7/30/2013
Brooke Hunter	7/31/2002

Jay & Jennifer McMichael
Dave & Chris Hibner
Alan & Elaine Mikesell
Steve & Dawn Miller
Jeff & Patricia Brown
Kevin & Dawn Warner
Ryan & Krystal Loy
Don & Kadene Warner
Zane & Ashley McElroy
Joe & Elaine Pumphrey



Happy Birthday to you...

7/03	Mary Lou Brautigam	7/13	Nick Warner	7/22	Dawn Warner
7/03	Carol Berg	7/14	Ryan Azbell	7/23	Allen Ferguson
7/03	Melanie Webb	7/14	Kathy Glick	7/23	Ned Ruck
7/04	Norville Freymuth	7/14	Harold Poppe	7/24	Vickie Bidwell
7/05	Eileen Werling	7/15	Jeff Beane	7/25	LeArdyce Stroh
7/06	Amy Zwez	7/16	Jim Everhart	7/25	Renee Place
7/07	Joann Brockman	7/16	Tim Kinstle	7/26	Barbara Wheeler
7/07	Nicole Steinke	7/16	Annabelle Zwiebel	7/26	Marilyn Brandehoff
7/07	Betty Wiedenbein	7/17	Nellie Montgomery	7/28	Karen Maxson
7/07	Betty Wiedenbein	7/17	Helen Holthaus	7/29	Rob Frische
7/08	Michele Prater	7/17	Ashley McElroy	7/30	Trenton Smith
7/10	Pam Halfhill	7/19	Richard Brautigam	7/31	Richard Presar
7/10	Laura Edwards	7/19	Kendra Short	7/31	Wayne Schneider
7/11	Alice Fischbach	7/20	Jay Koenig	7/31	Dwayne Wright
7/11	Ed Shroyer	7/20	Pauline Cook	7/31	Melanie Wright
7/11	Michael Zwez	7/21	Louie Erb Sr		
7/12	Susie Kohler	7/21	Susan Stinebaugh		
7/12	Elizabeth Herman	7/22	Jeremy Kohler		
7/13	John Simpko	7/22	Bart Smith		

Meetings and Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Pastor Janice's Installation Service will be on **Sunday, August 14th at 3:30PM.**

The Full Sound Chamber Group will be performing at St Paul UCC on **Sunday, August 21st** at 3:00PM. Please mark your calendars and save the date to attend this great performance.

CALLED TO CARE MINISTRY

July 1st begins an exciting opportunity to participate in Called to Care Ministry for St Paul Church. We are asking people for a one year commitment to contact home-bound members of our congregation. If you are able to join us please call Kay Wellington 419-738-8803.

BUS TRIP

Nancy Freymuth has a bus trip for **Thursday, August 18, 2016 to Fremont & Bellevue, Ohio.** One of the stops is Lyme Village which was founded by our own retired Rev. Will Cook. The Historic Lyme Village began from the Lyme Congregational Church to preserve the history of the church and community. The village offers frontiersmen, pioneer craftspeople, famous Americans (Lincoln, Franklin, Webster, and Grant among others). Also featured are American Revolution and Civil War campuses. The entire village has grown to 16 buildings housing hundreds of artifacts. The Postmark Collectors Club has placed its National Museum there. Rev. Cook was honored last year as the founder of Lyme Village. Additionally the trip includes stops at President Hayes' home, and the Nickle-Plate Railroad Museum.

The tour includes bus fare, all admissions, and a catered meal, along with a surprise on the way home. The cost is \$75.00 per person. Depart St Paul UCC at 7:30AM and arrive back about 8:00PM. Send check (payable to Nancy Freymuth) to Nancy Freymuth at 13140 CR 25A, Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895 or you can leave check with Cindy in the church office. Please pay by August 1, 2016.



WOMEN'S GUILD

Women's Guild will begin meeting again on **Tuesday, September 8th at 1:30PM.** ALL women of the church and their friends are encouraged to attend. Please join in for fellowship, faith, and fun.

CIRCLE ONE

We take the summer off to garden and picnic. Our next scheduled meeting is **Thursday, September 1st** at 1:30PM in the multipurpose room. We meet the 1st Thursday of every month September—May. Please plan to join us.

NEXT MEETING

The Faith Formation Team will be meeting **Wednesday, July 18, 2016 at 6:00PM** We will be looking ahead for FEAST planning that starts in September and ideas for Rally Day. All are Welcome to attend!!!!

ANNUAL POOL PARTY

St Paul's Annual Pool Party will be held at the Wapakoneta Waterpark on **Saturday, July 30, 2016 from 6:15 to 8:15PM.** Hot dogs, chips, cookies, and drinks will be available free of charge. All are welcome to attend. Bring a friend if you wish.



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS EL SALVADOR GROUP JUNE 29TH-JULY 6TH

Please remember in your prayers for the safe travels of the following people going on the El Salvador Mission trip which leaves Thursday, June 29th and returns on Wednesday, July 6th. Nathanael Burns-Watson, Britni Hosterman, Carlee Hosterman, Michael Hosterman, Nancy Newland, Allison Nolte, Emma Nolte, Heather Nolte, Mark Orellana, Janet Schlenker, Brock Sharp, Rev. Becky Sunday, and Ryan Vaughn

General Fund

Approved General Fund Monthly Budget	\$26,175.83
Given to General Fund for the Month of June	\$13,971.50
Difference	-\$12,204.33
Given to Benevolences for the Month of June	\$ 1,031.05
Approved General Fund Budget Year to Date	\$157,055.00
Given to General Fund so far this year	\$110,946.65
Difference	- \$ 46,108.35
Given to Benevolences so far this year	\$8,361.90

Benevolence Giving for July ~ OCWM

THANK YOU, THANK YOU. THANK YOU

We would like to thank **Nancy Newland** for the donation of the carpet rug in our newly remodeled foyer area here at St Paul UCC. Also, thanks Nancy for your help in picking out and ordering the new furniture in the foyer and the library.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

SERVANTS DAY



Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of pastoral retirees whose low income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. Your benevolence giving helps to care for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the UCC through participation in this year's Christmas Fund, one of the UCC's 5 for 5 programs. Please consider making a donation to this special offering to help make this a blessed Christmas in July for low income clergy in the UCC.

DONATE TO SERVANTS DAY BY AUGUST 1ST

Our 2016 community Servants Day is scheduled for September 17, 2016. We will gather with volunteers from throughout Wapakoneta and the surrounding area to complete a number of home projects for those in our community who need a helping hand. The number of projects we are able to complete is limited by available funds, so we are asking for your donations for our 2016 Servants Day to be given to St. Paul UCC by August 1st. Thank you for your support.





JULY 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>El Salvador Trip</i>	2
3 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion	4 Church Office Closed 	5 7—8:30PM Suicide Survivors Support Group Summer Lunches thru Friday	6 Back from El Salvador	7 6:00PM Bible Study	8	9 9AM—12Noon CRI Sorting
10 8:15AM Worship 10:15AM Worship 11:30AM Worship & Arts Meeting	11 6:00PM Church Council Meeting Summer Lunches Monday thru Friday	12	13 6:00PM Faith Formation Meeting Summer Moon Festival	14 6:00PM Bible Study	15	16
17 8:15AM Worship w/Holy Commun- ion 9:00AM Steward- ship Committee 10:15AM Worship	18 Summer Lunches Monday thru Friday	19	20	21 6:00PM Bible Study	22	23
24 8:15AM Worship 10:15AM Wor- ship	25 Summer Lunches Monday thru Friday	26	27	28 6:00PM Bible Study	29	30 6:15-8:15 Annual Pool Party at Wapak Pool
31 8:15AM Worship 10:15AM Worship Wapak Fair Starts						

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Rev. Janice Burns-Watson, Associate Pastor

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Cell (740)417-6584
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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
Children's Church during 10:15 worship



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.