



The Link

July 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 recently read a story about a college professor who wanted to demonstrate to students the power of an electromagnet. The professor put two pounds of nails on a table with the wires of an electromagnet under the table. He then flipped a switch, and the nails came together. The professor showed the students how, as long as the current was on, the nails could be formed into various shapes. Likewise, when the current was cut, the nails fell back into a lifeless pile. This story reminds me of how God works through Christian community. As long as we allow God's Holy Spirit to run through us, we will be bound and shaped together in order to fulfill God's purposes.

God tells us time and again throughout scripture how we are meant to live together in community. In the most basic tenets of our faith, we are reminded that we are not intended to live out our lives of faith in a vacuum. Jesus summed up the entire Law of God with two brief commandments: "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." With these words, Jesus reminds us, first of all, that we belong to God, and we are meant to love God. But Jesus doesn't stop there. He then reminds us that, just as importantly, we belong to one another. It is no coincidence that Jesus' first order of business when he set out in public ministry was to gather about him a faith community. God has created us to rely on each other, to feed off of each other's energy and creativity, and to support one another in times of need or uncertainty.

God's call for us to live in loving community has been underscored for me again and again, especially as I continue to live through what has become a somewhat trying year for my household. Most of you are aware that my husband, Adrian, was diagnosed in June with non-Hodgkin lymphoma. He will be receiving chemotherapy treatments in the months of July and August, followed by a six-week course of radiation. His prognosis is good, but we are currently bracing ourselves for what we know will be a difficult few

months. It is times like these that I am particularly grateful for my faith and for the faith communities that surround us. I am so grateful for the outpouring of love we have already received from you all. We know we will be able to endure what is to come because we know we do not bear it alone.

There have been others in our church family who have been struck in recent weeks by unforeseen hardships and losses. I admit that I feel simultaneously humbled and proud while I watch the St. Paul community rally around those who need love and care. There is such power in God's Spirit that lives in our community. Through that Spirit, we bolster one another, sharing strength and encouragement when they are needed most. Jesus said, "This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples: when you love each other" (John 13:35, CEB). This is what it means to be Church, and I am so grateful that God called me to be in communion with all of you.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Becky

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

St. Paul UCC church office will be closed on **Tuesday, July 4th** in celebration of Independence Day.

PASTOR JANICE'S PEN

Summer Love

We all love the outdoors more in the summer time. We tend to go for walks around our neighborhood, stand and talk with our neighbors in their yards, and talk in a way we don't when it is cold and blustery. We tend our flower beds and harvest our little gardens. We teach our kids to ride their bikes and maybe even set up a little lemonade stand. While we are doing all these things, may we remember the elderly who live in our midst, who find the summer months difficult because of the extra heat. Please go check on them and share the joys of summer with them. Bring them a flower, a tomato, a cup of lemonade, and a smile!

As I prepare the Bible study on Genesis and the one to follow it on Martin Luther and the Reformation, I cannot help but ponder my own flaws and weaknesses. After all, even if I am a clergy person, I am human. I have to laugh sometimes, when I think of some of the characters the Bible presents to us. Peter, a bawdy fisherman, with a temper, who became the rock of the church. Paul, whom I have always envisioned as the nerd who was self-righteous and smart that everyone hated, who turns into the greatest of missionaries. Joseph, the father's pet, who thought he was better than his brothers, who used the ruins of his life to save them and much of the world from famine. Jonah, who was so scared of his calling he tried to flee, yet he shared his message in the end. I could go on and on, with the accounts of folks in the Bible and throughout church history where God used the very flaws of us mere human beings, to create a great ministry.

In my training as a spiritual director, we were taught that in order to become the person God really intends for us to be, we must face our shadow side. We all have one. In fact, think about the trait that most annoys us in others, and that is likely your shadow speaking to you. It is often the part of yourself that you try your best to hide from the world. If you can learn to face that inner demon head on and admit it is there and embrace it, then it can become

your greatest strength. It may be your anger at some long ago injustice, that can become a passion for healing. It may be your fear of being in the spot light that leads you to being the mastermind behind the one who loves leading, but isn't very organized. It may be overcoming your sense of inferiority and then nurturing others who have felt the same way to do the same.

With God nothing is impossible. Look at all the stories in the Bible than can inspire us!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Janice

REAL CHARACTERS GENESIS BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Wednesday, July 20th, I will begin a 6 week Bible study of the characters in Genesis. We will seek to better understand how those we have heard about since childhood can teach us something about what it means to have real human being flaws in today's world. One of the things I have always loved about the Bible stories, is the characters are not presented as being perfect. They like us have flaws. It continues to give me hope that God can indeed use me to further the kingdom of heaven on earth.

Pastor Janice

OUT OF THE OFFICE

Pastor Janice will be out of the office from **July 8-13th** while she is at the Christian Church-Disciples of Christ General Assembly. Please direct all pastor concerns to Pastor Becky at 567-356-6773 or the church office during this time.

VBS PROGRAM

PASSORT TO PERU

The children's VBS program in conjunction with First English Lutheran and St. Marks Lutheran was a wonderful experience. There were more than 70 young children enrolled and over 20 older youth helpers. It was great to see so many children come and share the songs they learned in worship the next Sunday. Special thanks to everyone who helped with snacks, volunteered, and parents who allowed their children to participate.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Neil Armstrong Air & Space Museum is looking for volunteers to help with the Run to the Moon. They are looking for help on Friday, July 21st and Saturday, July 22nd. Sign up by July 16th.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Friday, July 21st: Registration Tent set-up, early Packet Pick-Up, sign placement, water stop delivery, running supplies etc.

Saturday, July 22nd: Packet Pick up (pre-registered), Race Day Registration, Parking attendants, water stop volunteers, award organizers, cone placement, 10K run around, fun run lead biker, fun run turn around, 1 mile bling run turn around, 1 mile fun run bib assignments, course leaders, various opportunities at the Neil Armstrong Air & Space Museum. Please see the bulletin board in the breezeway for sign up and more information.

This year's Featured Guest:

Astronaut Buzz Aldrin

THANK YOU

A special thank you to Sheri Sherman and her Meal Makers Crew for providing me with delicious and nutritious lunches after my recent hospital stay. Also, thanks to Rev. Janice and Cindy Erb for delivering them every day.

Sami Zwez

FEAST

It is time to start putting together the team of folks it takes to run the FEAST program. 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 13, 2017.**

Summer Lunch Program

The Summer Lunch Program is in full swing. We are serving lunch on Fridays plus the week of July **5,6,& 7th**. We are also covering the whole week before school starts, **August 14th through August 18th**, which will be the last day. School starts on **Tuesday, August 22nd**. Donations are still very much needed and appreciated. Donations of the following individual portion size items for our Friday take-home bags: Cereal, easy mac, ravioli, fruit cups, peanut butter, crackers, chips or pretzels, fruit snacks, and pudding cups. If you prefer, cash donations are great also and we will do your shopping for you.

GARDENING

Doris Hibner reported there is cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, kohlrabi, peppers, tomatoes, and cucumbers growing in the garden. Weed guard will not be able to be used for the green beans so help will be needed to keep up with the green bean patch weed control. If folks help with the garden, they may have vegetables without a donation. Otherwise, there will be a donation basket for any vegetables brought to church to help raise funds for the food program.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR 2017
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Britni Sue Hosterman: Britni is the daughter of Mike and Angie Hosterman. Britni was on the high school bowling team, participated in the Big Brother Big Sister program. She is in the Senior High Youth group and also in 4-H. She graduated with academic honors. She is planning to attend Bowling Green State University majoring in Speech Pathology.

Josee Aaron Kaeck: Josee is the daughter of Aaron and Doneta Kaeck. Josee is in 4-H, a member of FFA, played soccer, and on the bowling team. She participated in Big Brother Big Sister program and church youth group. She was state champion on the bowling team. She plans to go to OSU Lima Campus and major in nursing.

Caitlin Marie Schaub: Caitlin is the daughter of Mike and Judy Schaub. Caitlin is in 4-H and also FFA. She graduated on the honor roll. She plans to attend Rhodes State College and major in Dental Hygiene.

Kalia Evonne Schlenker: Kalia is the daughter of David and Amy Schlenker. Kalia was active in competition dance, Octagon Club, marching band and symphonic band, National Honors Society, and also Kalia plays piano. She graduated 10th in the class (top 5%), Graduate of distinction, and received the John Phillips Award. She plans to attend Ohio Northern University to pursue a career in physical therapy.

Nathan Schroer: Nate is the son of Dan and Lori Schroer. Nate enjoys hanging with friends and playing ping pong and other outdoor activities. Nate graduated with honors for Wapak High School. 4-year letter in baseball and 3-year letter in basketball. He plans to attend the Ohio State University in the fall and major in Data Analytics.

2017 COLLEGE GRADUATES

Sarah Ferguson: Sarah is the daughter of John and Diane Ferguson. Sarah graduated from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, on April 29, 2017. She has majored in Early Childhood Education.

Annie Imondi: Annie is the daughter of Rudy and Sally Imondi. Annie has a bachelors degree in Social Work from the Ohio State University

ADVANCED DEGREES

David Herman: David is the son of George and Parmie Herman. David earned his Doctor of Medicine degree from the Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University on May 26. He received an award for outstanding achievement in internal medicine and will be beginning his residency in internal medicine at Wright State University this July.



Welcome our Newest Members!!!!

Ashley Marie Vaughn

Elizabeth Grace Schroer

Brooke Elizabeth Hunter



CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2017

Our Church Family

With caring thoughts...

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of **Mike Schlenker**. Mike passed on Friday, June 2, 2017,

Our deepest sympathy and condolences on the passing of **Laura Vaughn** who passed on Wednesday, June 21, 2017.

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
7/16/1977	Jeff & Vickie Knoch	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	7/14	Kathy Glick	7/24	Vickie Bidwell
7/03	Carol Berg	7/14	Harold Poppe	7/25	LeArdyce Stroh
7/03	Melanie Webb	7/15	Jeff Beane	7/25	Renee Place
7/05	Eileen Werling	7/16	Jim Everhart	7/26	Barbara Wheeler
7/06	Amy Zwez	7/16	Tim Kinstle	7/26	Marilyn Brandehoff
7/07	Joann Brockman	7/16	Annabelle Zwiebel	7/28	Karen Maxson
7/07	Nicole Steinke	7/17	Nellie Montgomery	7/29	Rob Frische
7/07	Betty Wiedenbein	7/17	Helen Holthaus	7/30	Trenton Smith
7/08	Michele Prater	7/17	Ashley McElroy	7/31	Richard Presar
7/10	Pam Halfhill	7/19	Richard Brautigam	7/31	Wayne Schneider
7/10	Laura Edwards	7/19	Kendra Short	7/31	Dwayne Wright
7/11	Alice Fischbach	7/20	Jay Koenig	7/31	Melanie Wright
7/11	Ed Shroyer	7/21	Louie Erb Sr		
7/11	Michael Zwez	7/21	Susan Stinebaugh		
7/12	Susie Kohler	7/22	Jeremy Kohler		
7/12	Elizabeth Herman	7/22	Bart Smith		
7/12	John Simpko	7/22	Dawn Warner		
7/13	Nick Warner	7/23	Allen Ferguson		
7/13		7/23	Ned Ruck		

THANK YOU to Called to Care Team

July 1, 2016- June 30, 2017

The Called to Care Team is an outreach ministry of St. Paul UCC to those of our congregation who are unable to join us on Sundays in the sanctuary. Team members visit folks in their homes and also in nursing homes. Over the past year many good friendships have developed as a result of the over 340 visits, cards, and small gifts given. Additionally, we now have six ladies who craft hand-made birthday and anniversary cards for our friends at home. A big thank-you to all who have helped make this a growing ministry of our church this past year. If you would like to join us, please call Kay Wellington, 419-738-8803.



Back:: Rodney Schey, Bill Schlenker, Rollie Wellington, Eileen Werling, Sandy Koenig, Wayne Quellhorst, Jay Koenig

Middle: Therese Schey, Peg Schlenker, Jan Schlenker, Kadene Warner, Sally Presar, Kay Wellington

Front: Pastor Becky Sunday, Nancy Stroh, Elaine Mikesell, Judy Quellhorst, Pastor Janice Burns-Watson

Not pictured: Fritz Ankerman, Cindy Erb, Jim & Jenny Everhart, Ruth Frazier, Bert Presar, Lori Schroer, Sheri Sherman, Don Webb, Tami Zwez

John 13.34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you are to love one another.

REMEMBER WITH YOUR PRAYERS

Remember with your prayers and cards those at the Wapak Manor, Gardens, Otterbein Nursing Homes, Golden Living Center, and or still living at home but unable to get out:

Wapak Manor:

Cindy Chadwick
Gary Kantner
Ken Kohler

Gardens:

John Berg
Jane Rickert
Doris Sunderland

Golden Living Center:

Martha Baker

Otterbein St Marys:

Janice Hershberger
William Sawmiller
Joyce Schuler

Otterbein Cridersville:

Dorothy Frey
Wanda & Carl Kogge
Nellie Montgomery

At Home:

Betty Brookhart
Will Cook
Willis Keller
Tim Kinstle
Laura Kinstle
Grace Knatz
Marilyn Long
Bill Method
Milo Wellington

Altercare of Wadsworth

Faero Linker

Bickford of Lancaster

Melba Idle

Lewis Center

Eleanor Presar



Meetings and Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Full Sound Chamber Group will be performing at St. Paul UCC on **Sunday, August 20th** at 3:00PM. Please mark your calendars and save the date to attend this great performance.

ANNUAL POOL PARTY

St. Paul's Annual Pool Party will be held at the Wapakoneta Waterpark on **Saturday, August 13, 2017 from 6:00 to 8:00PM**. Hot dogs, chips, cookies, and drinks will be available free of charge. All are welcome to attend. Bring a friend if you wish.



BUS TRIP

Nancy Freymuth is leading a bus trip on **Thursday, September 14, 2017 to Mansfield, Ohio**. This will include a Bible Walk, a one hour tour, "The Life of Christ." Lunch at Der Dutchman in Belleville. Then on the the Richland Carrousel Park. From there we will go to the Kingwood Center just to walk at your leisure and shop. 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 10, 2017. If need more information please contact Nancy at 419-738-5415.

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 on **Thursday, July 6th at 6:00PM**. (due to July 4th holiday). We will be talking more about FEAST in the fall. We will also be discussing Sunday School and different options to offer. It would be good for all Sunday School teachers to be present or tell Rev. Janice or Cheryl Short your thoughts or suggestions. Any parents or other interested in Sunday School are very welcome to attend this meeting now or in the future. We will have the new class lists for all ages and grades.

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.

SUMMER ADULT LEARNING EXPERIENCES

We have had a lot of fun so far with the classes that have already been held during the summer adult learning experiences. It has been great to learn and share with one another. Please come and join us for one or more of the remaining activities on Wednesdays from 6-8:00PM.

- July 5th—Sip and Paint w/Tami Zwez*
- July 12th-Mary Kay Make Over w/Dena Wireman*
- July 19th-Picasa Photo Editing w/Bill Miller*
- July 26th-Game Night w/Pastor Janice*
- Aug 2nd-Cake Decorating w/Janice Wright*
- Aug 9th-Fairy Gardens w/Pastor Becky*
- Aug 16th-Paper Crafting w/Elisha Smith*

General Fund

Approved General Fund Monthly Budget	\$26,402.50
Given to General Fund for the Month of June	\$14, 998.01
Difference	-\$11,404.49
Given to Benevolences for the Month of June	\$ 1,085.74
Approved General Fund Budget Year to Date	\$158,415.00
Given to General Fund so far this year	\$ 75, 995.81
Difference	- \$ 82,419.19
Given to Benevolences so far this year	\$6,914.00

Benevolence Giving for July ~ OCWM

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 4th

Our 2017 community Servants Day is scheduled for **Saturday, September 16, 2017**. 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 2017 Servants Day to be given to St. Paul UCC by August 4th. Thank you for your support.





JULY 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Wedding (Chris Wibley & Jodi Hurley)
2 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion	3	4 Church Office Closed 	5 Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM 6-8:00M Summer Adult Learning Class Sip & Paint w/Tami Zwez	6 Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM 6:00PM Faith Formation Meeting	7 Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM	8 9AM—12Noon CRI Sorting Pastor Janice at General Assembly till 14th →
9 8:15AM Worship 10:15AM Worship	10 6:00PM Church Council Meeting	11 <i>Roots & Shoots</i>	12 6-8:00PM Summer Adult Learning Class MaryKay Make Over w/Dena Wireman	13 6:00PM Mission Committee Meeting	14 Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM Pastor Janice Back →	15
16 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15AM Worship	17	18	19 Summer Moon Festival 6-8:00PM Summer Adult Learning Class Picasa Photo Editing w/Bill Miller	20 6:00PM Bible Study w/Pastor Janice	21 Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM	22 Wedding (Anthony Brookhart & Tyler Spears)
23 8:15AM Worship 10:15AM Worship	24	25	26 6-8:00PM Summer Adult Learning Class Game Night w/Pastor Janice	27 6:00PM Bible Study w/Pastor Janice	28 Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM	29
30 8:15AM Worship 10:15AM Worship County Fair Starts	31					

St. Paul United Church of Christ

101 South Perry Street
PO Box 147
Wapakoneta, OH 45895



Non Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895
Permit No. 5

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
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.