



The Link

July 2018

St. Paul United Church of Christ
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SUNDAY'S NEWS

THREE GREAT LOVES: LOVE OF CREATION

Earlier this year, I wrote an article introducing the United Church of Christ's "Three Great Loves" initiative which was rolled out at General Synod last year. This campaign is intended to provoke thought and action within UCC congregations, inspiring us to consider how God has called us to these Three Great Loves: love of neighbor, love of creation, and love of children. In June I wrote about how I see St. Paul UCC living out our call to love our neighbors. This month I'm focusing on how St. Paul UCC has shown love of creation.

The Psalmist writes, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants too. Because God is the one who established it on the seas; God set it firmly on the waters" (Psalm 24:1-2, CEB). Human beings are called to be caretakers of this earth, recognizing that everything we see around us is a blessing from God. We are merely stewards of the things that rightly belong to God. For many of us at St. Paul UCC, it may be easy to take the beauty and wonder of creation for granted. After all, we live in the midst of meadows and trees. We know the splendor of fantastic sunsets on the endless western Ohio horizon. Many folks in our community are farmers who live their lives tilling God's earth and coaxing forth the grain from the seed. We have the gift of seeing this miracle over and over again as the seasons roll, one after the next.

For many years, our church has been committed to sending children and adults to summer church camp, recognizing that there is a special connection between nature and faith. Several of our church members sewed curtains that were hung in the newly renovated Memorial Lodge at Temple Hills this spring. It might seem a small thing, but youth and adults from throughout the Ohio Conference are benefiting from those efforts at camp right now! While we haven't sent

any campers this summer, it is my hope that our commitment to Outdoor Ministries will be renewed in the future, encouraging the next generation to explore their faith through this unique program.

Closer to home, I have seen the love of creation being lived out through the garden efforts at Doris Hibner's. With the help of church members, Doris's garden will supplement our summer lunch program and provide fresh produce for many local families. Last summer, in addition to familiar produce items such as tomatoes and peppers, we were able to give many families fresh herbs and some less familiar vegetables, as well as providing education and recipes to help them learn to use those items in their meal preparations at home. Just this past week, The Village Green donated several flats of tomato plants which we were able to distribute to families attending lunch. Those families will have the joy of watching these plants grow while also supplementing their home pantries.

Perhaps most of all, we are called to recognize that the people of God are the capstone of creation. Every time we show care and concern for another human being we are honoring God's creation. Are there new ways God may be calling us to show that we care? How might we recommit to our love of creation in our individual lives and in our shared ministries?

*Peace and blessings,
Pastor Becky*

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

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

VBS PROGRAM

Shipwrecked Rescued by Jesus

Our theme "Shipwrecked—Rescued by Jesus" was held with around 60 children plus teen and adults crew leaders and station leaders. Scripture for each day was:

1. "The Lord will hold me close." Psalm 27:10
2. "The Lord comes to the rescue each time."
Psalm 34:19
3. "Be still, and you know that I am God!"
Psalm 46:10
4. "Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." John 16:33
5. "This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead." Ephesians 1:19-20

Our power saying for each day was:

1. When you're lonely....Jesus Rescues!
2. When you worry....Jesus Rescues!
3. When you struggle...Jesus Rescues!
4. When you do wrong...Jesus Rescues!
5. When you're powerless....Jesus Rescues!

The offering this year is being given to World Vision Operation Kid-Kid-program for helping children and families in Haiti. Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. With decades of deforestation and hurricanes their soil is no good for growing their usual crops that they depend on. We are sending seeds that will grow in these conditions and help the thousands of children that suffer from chronic malnutrition. Thank you to all that donated items and money for snacks. The children and teen helpers learned and had fun every day.

SUMMER LUNCH

The Summer Lunch Program is in full swing. We now serve lunch everyday, Monday through Friday from 11:30 to 12:30PM. The program has served 2,163 meals as of June 26th which is an average of 103 meals a day. Thank you for all who have volunteered day after day. We are always looking for more help so please call Vicki Smith at 419-303-4567 or call the church office if you have any free time. Thank you to St. Joe Church volunteers who come on Tuesday's.

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 Tami Zwez or the church office know how you can help. Our next FEAST starts on **Wednesday, September 12, 2018**. We are planning on a lot of new and exciting things.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of nursery volunteers for Sundays at the 10:15 AM service. Sign-up outside the nursery or call the church office at 419-738-2215. Thank you!

SUMMER MUSIC

We are looking for people interested in sharing their talents this summer during worship for summer music. Anyone is welcome and please do not feel that you have to be a professional musician. In the past we have had piano solos/duets, vocal solos/duets/groups, instrumentalists, dance numbers, etc. We would love to get as many people involved in summer music as we can. There is a sign-up sheet in the breezeway. Please consider sharing your talents for the glory of God. If you have any questions or would like help preparing or choosing music, feel free to contact Wendy Schlenker at schotch@ohiolink.net or 567-204-1966. Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Colton Fisher: Colton is the son of Doug and Sherrie Fisher. Colton was in 4-H and FFA. He received a FFA State Degree. He plans on joining the workforce.

Jozie Lynn Hoelscher: Jozie is the daughter of Julie Hoelscher, Dave and Kim Hoelscher. She was a member of Wapak FFA and Volleyball. She overcame a huge achievement. On October 21, 2017 Jozie was in a car accident. From being off school for a month and a half to going back to school half days and having to reschedule all her classes, she did not think she was going to graduate with her class on time. If it wasn't for her parents and George Herman and the school working with her it would not have happened, but it did. Jozie graduated with all A's and graduated on time.. She plans to go into the workforce, save money and move out of her mom's house.

Carlee Hosterman: Carlee is the daughter of Mike and Angie Hosterman. Carlee played volleyball, softball, and bowling. She was a member of the French Club for 4 years, and also a member of the AA Club. She spent her time volunteering in Celina every Wednesdays at Big Brothers Big Sisters. Carlee bowled a 300 bowling game at Districts in Port Clinton this year. She graduated with honors, all A's all year. She also won the all sports trophy all 4 years in high school. Carlee plans to attend Rhodes State College and study toward Human Resources.

Caleb Schlenker: Caleb is the son of David and Amy Schlenker. Caleb was on the swim team, Robotics team, youth in government, NHS and plays the piano. He was a 4 year varsity athletic and 4th in his graduating class. Caleb plans on attending Miami University for accounting and finance.

Kurt Schlenker: Kurt is the son of David and Amy Schlenker. Kurt was involved in cross country, swim team, youth in government, marching band, Fellowship Christian Athletes, and NHS. He was a 4 year varsity athletic, state qualifier for swimming, and received Patrick S. Gilmore award and Graduate of Distinction. Kurt plans on attending Ohio State University with an accounting and finance major.

2018 COLLEGE GRADUATES

Sara Marie Warner: Sara is the daughter of Kevin and Dawn Warner. Sara graduated from The Ohio State University College of Engineering, magna cum laude, on Sunday, May 6, 2018 in Columbus. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and will be a Process Engineer with Procter and Gamble in Iowa City, Iowa.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Theodore Bennett: Theodore is the son of Ann and Dan Bennett. Theodore graduated with a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Toledo.


Kayla Limbert Lim: Kayla is the daughter of Jim and Jona Limbert. Kayla graduated on May 12 from Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky with a doctorate of Physical Therapy.

Kala Alexis Warner: Kala is the daughter of Kevin and Dawn Warner. Kala graduated from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry on Sunday, May 6, 2018 in Columbus. She earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree and will be practicing in Zanesville and Cambridge, Ohio.

Our Church Family

Happy Anniversary!!

7/01/1972	Gary & Deb McElroy
7/04/2008	Matthew & Tara Johnston
7/07/2007	Adrian & Becky Sunday
7/10/1948	Dick & Leona Glunt
7/11/1981	Mark & Cheryl Short
7/12/1979	Tom & Gwynne Freytag
7/16/1977	Jeff & Vickie Knoch
7/19/2003	James & Kerri Smith
7/20/2002	Jason & Cheri Brandt
7/23/1994	Mark & Jill Jarvis
7/23/2011	Jarret & Mindy Webb
7/23/2005	Jay & Jennifer McMichael
7/23/1976	Dave & Chris Hibner
7/24/1965	Alan & Elaine Mikesell
7/26/2003	Steve & Dawn Miller
7/26/1980	Jeff & Patricia Brown
7/28/1990	Kevin & Dawn Warner
7/29/2006	Ryan & Krystal Loy
7/30/1961	Don & Kadene Warner
7/30/2011	Zane & Ashley McElroy
7/31/1983	Joe & Elaine Pumphrey



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to our
St. Paul Youth!

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
Jayce Steinke	7/20/2015
Evelyn Preston	7/23/2012
Cole Miller	7/30/2013
Brooke Hunter	7/31/2002



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		
7/13	John Simpko	7/22	Dawn Warner		
7/13	Nick Warner	7/23	Allen Ferguson		
		7/23	Ned Ruck		

Meetings and Events

FAITH FORMATION

The next Faith Formation Team meeting will be **Monday, July 2nd at 6:00PM**. We will be discussing FEAST and Sunday School for the fall. **All are Welcome!!!!**

GAME NIGHT

St. Paul UCC will be hosting a game night on **Friday, July 13th from 6:00 to 8:00PM in the Timmermeister Hall**. We will be ordering pizza, so come hungry and ready to have some fun and enjoy some fellowship.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, July 15th we will recognize the 30th anniversary of the ordination of Rev. Gale Gebhart at our 10:15AM worship service. After worship, please join us for a celebration dinner featuring Erb BBQ chicken. Chicken, mac-n-cheese, and beverages will be provided. Those attending are invited to bring a salad or dessert to share. Please sign up in the breezeway or call the church office so we know how much chicken to prepare.

ANNUAL POOL PARTY

St. Paul's Annual Pool Party will be held at the Wapakoneta Waterpark on **Sunday, July 22, 2018 from 6:15 to 8:15PM**. Snacks will be provided. All are welcome to attend. Bring a friend if you wish.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's church has begun again with Tami Zwez leading the class. There is no children's church the 1st Sunday of every month. This is for children age 3 through 4th grade. Join us as we explore our faith and worship.

CIRCLE ONE

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

SUMMER ADULT ENRICHMENT CLASSES

The adult enrichment classes started on Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 6:00PM. There is no charge for this class, but we are limiting the group to 10-12 people. Call the office to add your name to the class by the deadline listed. There will no be a class on July 4th so the next one will be July 11th.

July 11 – Oils, vinegars, salts and spices
Anthony Spearhart . Deadline – July 3rd
Limited to 12-15

July 18 – Paper crafting
Elisha Smith—Deadline July 11
Limit 10

July 25- TBD
Rev. Becky Sunday- Deadline July 18th
Limit 10

August 1st and 8th will be announced later.

BUS TRIP September 13, 2018

For those who are signed up for Nancy Freymuth's Holmes County, Ohio trip on **Thursday, September 13, 2018**, you may pay your \$75.00 anytime until September 1, 2018. Remember no refunds. Bring coolers for any purchases you make. Checks can be made to:

Nancy L. Freymuth
13140 CR 25A
Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895

or leave with Cindy in the church office
Any questions call Nancy at 419-738-5415.



General Fund

Approved General Fund Monthly Budget	\$26,253.55
Given to General Fund for the Month of June	\$14,790.50
Difference	-\$11,463.05
Given to Benevolences for the Month of June	\$ 1,318.00
Approved General Fund Budget Year to Date	\$157,521.31
Given to General Fund so far this year	\$107,786.00
Difference	- \$ 49,735.31
Given to Benevolences so far this year	\$7,296.50

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 5th

Our 2018 community Servants Day is scheduled for **Saturday, September 15, 2018**. 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 2018 Servants Day to be given to St. Paul UCC by August 5th. Thank you for your support.





JULY 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>1</i></p> <p>8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM 6:00 Faith Formation Meeting</p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM</p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p>Church Office Closed No Summer Lunch</p> 	<p><i>5</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM 6:30 Group Study</p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM</p>	<p><i>7</i></p>
<p><i>8</i></p> <p>8:15AM Worship 10:15AM Worship w/Confirmation Bible Presentation</p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM 6:00PM Church Council Meeting</p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM Roots & Shoots</p>	<p><i>11</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM 4-5:30PM Confirmation Class 6-8:00PM Summer Adult Learning</p>	<p><i>12</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM 6:30 Group Study</p>	<p><i>13</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM 6:00 Game Night</p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p>9AM—12Noon CRI Sorting</p>
<p><i>15</i></p> <p>8:15AM Worship 10:15AM Worship Gale Gebhart Reception</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM</p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM</p>	<p><i>18</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM 4-5:30PM Confirmation Class 6-8:00PM Summer Adult Learning</p>	<p><i>19</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM 6:30 Group Study</p>	<p><i>20</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM</p>	<p><i>21</i></p>
<p><i>22</i></p> <p>8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15AM Worship 6:15-8:15PM Swim Party at Wapak Water Park</p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM</p>	<p><i>24</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM 6:00PM Mission Committee Meeting</p>	<p><i>25</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM 4-5:30PM Confirmation Class 6-8:00PM Summer Adult Learning</p>	<p><i>26</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM 6:30 Group Study</p>	<p><i>27</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM</p>	<p><i>28</i></p>
<p><i>29</i></p> <p>8:15AM Worship 10:15AM Worship County Fair Starts</p>	<p><i>30</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM</p>	<p><i>31</i></p> <p>Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM</p>				

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Rev. Becky Sunday, Senior Pastor

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Cell (567) 356-6773
Email becky@stpaulucc.com

Rev. Elaine Mikesell, pastor Emerita

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LET'S GET TOGETHER !

Regular Worship Times

Sunday Mornings 8:15 & 10:15 AM



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.