



The Link

June 2015

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Words of encouragement from Rev. Becky Sunday

This Pentecost Sunday, May 24th, the Chancel Choir surprised me by singing an anthem on which I collaborated some years ago. When I was a graduate student in musicology at Kent State University, I was blessed to attend regular worship services at the United Church of Christ in Kent and sang in their choir under the leadership of the late Dr. Walter Watson. Dr. Watson and I wrote this anthem as part of the congregation's stewardship campaign one year—my words, set to his music. We used as our inspiration the motto of the United Church of Christ, taken from Christ's words in the Gospel according to John where he prayed, "that they may all be one" (John 17:21, NRSV).

I recently had the chance to preach on these words from John's gospel, and I was reminded that, too often, we divide the world into "us" and "them," when Christ's vision of the world includes everyone united in love, justice, and peace. One of the things of which I am most proud in our United Church of Christ is our understanding of covenant—that we are inextricably bound together by the extravagant, endless love of God. Our differences are merely the paints that God uses to color the world. While we do not always agree, we are always called to love one another and to participate as members of *one* body.

Some of you have asked me for the words of the anthem, so I am sharing them here. I pray they would be a reminder to all of us of how God calls us to live together in the world.

*O God of Color, God of Light,
Red and yellow, black and white,
You weave the fabric of our lives,
Each one a beauty in Your eyes.*

*We bid You draw Your presence near,
That for our motto You might hear,
Not words of hatred, but instead
The words of Jesus when he said:*

*"I pray that they may all be one,
Just as You and I are one.
May they put their wars aside,
Respecting race, forsaking pride.
No longer bound by age or youth,
One world, united in the truth."*

*Where so much threatens to divide,
We come together side by side,
We work for justice, strive for peace,
And pray that kindness never cease.*

*Ages have slowly slipped away,
Since brother Jesus knelt to pray.
Now, God, we gather at Your feet,
His words, together to repeat:*

*We pray that we may all be one,
Just as You and Christ are one.
May we put our wars aside,
Respecting race, forsaking pride,
No longer bound by age or youth,
One world, united in the truth.*

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Peace and blessings,
Pastor Becky

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

“Thailand Trek” Vacation Bible School is just around the corner.

June 8th—June 12th from 9:00AM to 12:00 Noon

This year we are having all activities at First English Lutheran Church where we will meet in their sanctuary. There are still some items needed for the snacks we provide. There is a list in the breezeway. Registrations can be turned into the church office and we also have the music CD’s that may be purchased for \$6.50 (any checks can be made out to FELC)

Even if you forgot your registration this week, please come on the 8th or 9th etc, where we will have tables set up to be assigned to a crew.

Come join us as we travel to Thailand and learn how children there worship God!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—OFFERING “THAILAND TREK”

Our offering during the week of Vacation Bible School is going towards buying Children’s Bibles. Sadly, children’s Bibles are a rarity throughout the world. The cost is high and availability is low. Our mission during the week is to change that! For \$4.00, a child in Thailand can have a colorful kid-friendly, eye-catching, age-appropriate New Testament of his or her own. The congregation may also donate for this cause during the month of June, by putting an envelope marked VBS mission. Checks can be made out to FELC.

Our churches will join other VBS programs this summer and together we can help put God’s Word in the hands of Thai Children!

Mission Message from Kendra Short

Dear Congregants of St. Paul U.C.C.,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your willingness to support me in international ministry. Your local, national, and global commitment to shine God's light in impoverished and oppressed areas is at the heartbeat of the Word and deed that Christ demonstrated to us, and I am grateful to be a part of that commitment. Now that I am fully funded to serve in the inner-city of Athens, I am working to secure a long-term visa into Greece. Please pray for God's favor through this process so that I will be able to move to Athens by August. Thank you once again for your support, and I look forward to representing St. Paul UCC on the opposite side of the world!

In Christ,
Kendra Short

Called to Care Ministry

July 1, 2015 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. Please join us for a brief meeting on **Sunday, June 28th following the 8:15 or 10:15 Service**. We will be meeting in the Ritter Room to receive helpful materials and your calling partners. If you have any questions or are unable to join us on this date, please call Kay Wellington at 419-738-8803.

BUCKLAND UCC QUARTER AUCTION

On Saturday, June 13 Buckland UCC will be holding its 4th annual Quarters for Camp quarter auction here at St. Paul UCC. Doors open at 5:00pm, and the auction starts at 6:00pm. Paddles will be \$2 and can be purchased at the door or pre-purchased. A special "all-in" paddle (\$25 pre-sale; \$30 at the door) will be in every drawing (no need to be present to win!). There will be prizes from multiple vendors and local businesses, concessions, and a 50/50 raffle. Get a special drawing ticket for every nonperishable food item you bring for the local food pantry! Proceeds help send Buckland UCC kids to church camp. For info call: Barb Bowsher (419-305-3051).



Northwest Ohio Association,

Nominations are being taken for the Association Vice Moderator position. This person will need to be a member of a NWOA church and be a lay person from the Auglaize Valley Region. The Vice Moderator has a term of 2 year which would end in 2017 with the expectation that he/she will become Moderator for a 2 year term ending 2019. The Vice Moderator will serve on the Cabinet and Executive Committee. Please call the Association Office with your nominations or if you would like to be considered for the position please call



IT'S DARK IN HERE

by Laura Kinstle

When you hear the word dark, you think of nighttime. But, there is another kind of darkness – depression. I don't know if many of you have gone through it but it comes like the darkness of the night and you can't seem to see daylight.

Depression can be caused by many things such as a loss of a loved one, divorce, loss of a job or a huge change in your life. My depression came when I realized that I would be a wheelchair the rest of my life. I suppose not many of you will ever have to face that but one thing for sure is that I never thought it would affect me this much. I also have a leg that is fused permanently straight along with being wheelchair confined.

I am not able to do things like I use to. I miss not being able to walk in the park, the stores or even across the room. Someone else may miss going with their spouse to the movies or still loving their spouse who has just divorced them. Or maybe you have lost your job through downsizing and don't know how you'll feed your family.

One way of dealing with depression is to see a doctor and get medicine to help you through the rough patch. And forcing yourself to go out and be among the masses is very hard to do but in the long run helps you feel better. No one knows what depression is like unless you go through it.

One way that the darkness can be dealt with is to see the light of God's love for you and to know that he will hear your deepest thoughts and concerns. I have a magnet on my refrigerator that says "A friend is someone who knows you and loves you the same" and God's love is like this.

I have felt God's love going through depression when I go outside to walk my dogs and hear the tiniest bird singing to me. I also know that God is with me when I approach each day feeling better than the day before. I'm not saying you won't have setbacks but it will get better.

Also you can turn to your minister for help and guidance through this rough time in your life. And, the church's congregation will reach out to you if you ask for their help. If we surround ourselves with friends that love us, the journey is not as hard. But, remember most of all that God loves you no matter what you are going through. As the old hymn says, "never be discouraged, just take it to the Lord in prayer".

And my prayer for you is that your family and friends are as understanding as God; and, will be with you through the darkness. And, may God bless you through each day of darkness until you see the sun shine again.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Come join us for summer lunch. St Paul UCC is hosting a summer lunch program here at our church- Monday through Thursdays, from June 15th to August 6th. The time is from 11:30AM to 12:30PM.

**All are welcome
and it is free.**



Christian Education/Faith Formation

The next meeting will be **Monday, June 1st at 6PM.** We will be discussing our fair booth in August. Also our planning for FEAST in the Fall. More info about T-Shirts for the adults involved with FEAST. All are welcome!!!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2015 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Chloe Adkins: Chloe is the daughter of Jeff & Mary Adkins. Chloe is also the sister of Tiffanie, Morgan, and Jeffrey. During high school Chloe was active in soccer, French club, Octagon Club, and volunteers at St Rita's Hospital. She was on the honor roll all 4 years of high school. Chloe plans to attend OSU—Lima in the medical-health field.

Kalene Byer: Kalene is the daughter of Todd & Christina Byer. Kalene has been active since the age of 14 in Special Olympics. She bowls, swims, and runs track. Kalene has won several medals in all three sports. She is currently working at Kroger in St Marys.

Tiffanie Marie Camper: Tiffanie is the daughter of Glen & Lisa Camper. During high school Tiffanie was active in softball all 4 years, French club for 2 years, and Art Club for 3 years. She is a 4 year scholar athlete award winner, 2 year varsity letter winner, achieved an honor diploma, and 2 academic awards. Tiffanie plans on attending Walsh University to pursue the career of physical therapy.

Kathryn Edwards: Kathryn is the daughter of Charlie & Carolyn Edwards. Kathryn has attended the Auglaize County Autism Program. After graduation, Katie will continue to live at home and attend Benchmark Day Services in St Marys, Ohio. Benchmark offers a variety of recreational, social, volunteer, and learning opportunities to individuals with disabilities.

Mikayla Halfhill: Mikayla is the daughter of Gary & Pam Halfhill. During high school Mikayla was active in show choir, symphonic choir, musical theater, soccer, and French club. She holds a 3 year varsity soccer letter, 4 year symphonic & show choir letter. and academic letter. Mikayla plans to attend Bowling Green State University majoring in Leisure, Tourism, & Event Planning with a minor in German.

Carly Sue Jarvis: Carly is the daughter of Mark & Jill Jarvis. During high school Carly was active in varsity soccer, student senate, NHS, FCA, and church youth group. She received scholar athlete award, honorable mention all WBL, 3rd team all WBL, WBL All Academic Team, and was a 4 year letterman. Carly plans to attend the University of Cincinnati.

Nathan Kaeck: Nate is the son of Brad & Sherry Kaeck. Nate has been involved in Varsity Bowling Team State Champions 2013-2014 season. He was a member of the varsity baseball team. He enjoys spending time with friends, playing sports, and hunting. Nate will be attending OSU Branch in Lima in the fall.

Luke Williams: Luke is the son of Wendy Williams Fetter and Greg Williams. Luke has been involved in varsity soccer, fishing, and Boy Scout Troop 14. He has worked through high school at Lakewood Village Resorts. This fall, Luke will begin college at Ohio Northern University as a pharmacy student.

Also congratulations to Wapakoneta High Graduates **Samantha Bowsher** and **William Rankin**. Samantha is the daughter of Ed & Maggie Bowsher. Wil is the son of David & Dawn Rankin



2015 COLLEGE GRADUATES

Samantha Hoelscher: Samantha is the daughter of Julie Hoelscher. She has graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a major in Journalism-News and a Minor in Communications. Samantha was a 4 year member of the University of Cincinnati Marching Bands, a resident advisor, alumni member of Theta Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma, and was the James Morand Scholarship recipient. Her plan after graduation is FIGURING OUT LIFE.

Kayla Limbert: Kayla is the daughter of James & Jona Limbert. She graduated on May 10th from the University of Toledo in Exercise Science, Concentration in Physical Therapy. She will begin Physical Therapy classes on May 26th at Bellarmine University in Louisville Kentucky. Kayla graduated with honors.

Acacia Truesdale: Acacia is the daughter of Eric & Sandy Truesdale. She graduated from Ohio University. She has a Doctorate of Physical Therapy. She graduated on the 29th of May.

**Church of the Messiah UM
Jubilation Ringers and Youth Choir
from Westerville, OH**

Directed by Timothy Smith

YOUTH IN MISSION CONCERT

**JUNE 1, 2015 @ 7:30 p.m. St.
Paul United Church of Christ
WAPAKONETA, OH**



REMEMBER WITH YOUR PRAYERS

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

Auglaize Acres:

Pauline Cook

Wapak Manor:

Cindy Chadwick

Janis Rohrbaugh

Gardens:

John Berg

Agnes Hutt

Yvonne Kah

Jane Rickert

Golden Living Center:

Martha Baker

Otterbein St Marys:

Howard Hershberger

Janice Hershberger

William Sawmiller

Otterbein Cridersville:

Betty Brookhart

Dorothy Frey

Melba Idle

Laura Kinstle

Tim Kinstle

Eleanor Presar

John Ramge

David Smith

Ray Whetstone

At Home:

Will Cook

Robert Keller

Grace Knatz

Bill Method

Nellie Montgomery



Our Church Family

With caring thoughts...



Our deepest sympathy and condolences to **Helen Erb and her family** on the passing of Helen's brother, Ted Timmerman of Lima who died on May 4, 2015.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to **Yvonne Kah and her family** on the passing of Yvonne's son, Eric Kah who died on May 5, 2015.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to **Lara Sutton and her family** on the passing of Lara's mother, Pam Hahn who died on May 19, 2015.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of **Doris Weber**, who passed away on Saturday, May 23, 2015.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of **Eileen Briscoe**, who passed away on May 27, 2015.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to our
St. Paul Youth!

June

Truman Johnston	6/03/2010
Reed Waitman	6/03/2007
Kalia Schlenker	6/05/1998
Nolan Schoolcraft	6/05/2013
Colton Fisher	6/08/1999
Britni Hosterman	6/08/1998
Jack Waterman	6/10/2011
Sadie Wellington	6/12/2007
Kristian Martin	6/14/1999
Joshua Motter	6/15/2008
Alec Schlenker	6/16/2004
Kaden Hawk	6/19/2011
Ryland Kohler	6/21/2010
Aubree Wireman	6/28/2013

Happy Anniversary!!

06/01/1958
06/04/1960
06/05/1971
06/06/1964
06/07/1980
06/07/1986
06/09/1968
06/11/1961
06/11/1988
06/12/1976
06/13/1987

Jay & Sandy Koenig
Lewis & Sharon Knoch
Delmar & Mary Jane Merricle
Alfred & Doris Hollenbacher
Michael & Susan Bartlett
Rodney & Therese Schey
Rollie & Kay Wellington
Alan & Karen Joseph
Milo & Brenda Wellington
Steve & Roberta Hengstler
Tom & Susan Stinebaugh

06/16/2001
06/17/1956
06/18/1955
06/20/1954
06/20/1998
06/21/1975
06/22/1958
06/22/2002
06/24/1961
06/25/1994

Tim & Laura Kinstle
Richard & Mary Lou Brautigam
Ted & Joanne Schnell
Dudley & Joyce Schuler
Wayne & Melissa Schneider
Fred & Diane Schlosser
Bert & Sally Presar
Dwayne & Melanie Wright
Hank & LeArdyce Stroh
Mark & Laura Vaughn



Happy Birthday to you...

06/01
06/01
06/02
06/03
06/04
06/07
06/07
06/08
06/09
06/10
06/11
06/12
06/12
06/13
06/13

Shane Allemeier
Samantha Bowsher
Dylan Knoch
Holly Recob
Cindy Holtzaple
Jane Burke
Heather Nolte
Mark Azbell
Cheri Brandt
Logan Wiedenbien
Gary Herman
Carolene Marker
Treasa Detrick
Evonda Erb
Dena Wireman

06/14
06/15
06/15
06/15
06/16
06/16
06/16
06/16
06/16
06/17
06/18
06/18
06/20
06/20
06/22
06/22

Jennifer McMichael
Bonnie Schneider
Joyce Schuler
Sara Warner
Ruth Frazier
Scott Leek
Katelyn Lochard
Eric Truesdale
Alan Mikesell
Marcia Hearn
Lewis Erb, Jr.
Jonathan Merricle
Acacia Truesdale
Katie Edwards
Kevin Frische

06/24
06/25
06/26
06/26
06/26
06/27
06/28
06/28
06/28
06/29
06/30
06/30

Fritz Ankerman
Jason Brand
Dick Glunt
Larry Marker
Sandy Truesdale
Cory Frische
Charles Edwards
Kenda Kohler
Nichole Moran
Pat Schlenker
Eleanor Presar
Ron Strasburg



Meetings and Events

BOOK CLUB MEETING



The next book club meeting will be held AT THE GARDENS on **Tuesday, June 16th at 7PM**. The book for this month is "We Are Called To Rise" by Laura McBride.

Tragedy causes the lives of a mother, a social worker, a soldier and an immigrant boy to collide in the Las Vegas desert. This is a story about families—the ones we have and the ones we make. It challenges us to think about our responsibilities to each other while reminding us that compassion and charity can rescue even our darkest moments. Pick up a copy in the office for a good read and see you on the 16th.

Summer Music

It's time for summer!!! That means that our adult choirs are taking a break. We are in need of people interested in doing summer music beginning on May 31. Last summer was wonderful and we would like to run it the same way. Last summer our goal was to get as much of our summer music from our own church members and their families. We are not looking for professional performances from you, and we are not only looking for singing and instruments. Last year we had piano, singing, other instruments, and dancing from kids, teens, and adults. This is a great opportunity for our members to showcase their talents and to praise God in a positive environment. Think outside of the box!!! We want to be creative and share our faith through the arts. So if you have a talent that you would like to share (music, drama, dance, etc) please sign up for a date. There will be a sign up sheet in the breezeway. If you need ideas or assistance with a performance do not hesitate to ask! We are very open to new things and welcome your creativity! We want to share and appreciate the talents of all of our members. Please sign up for a summer date!

WOMEN'S GUILD

Women's Guild will be meeting on **Tuesday, June 9th 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 3th** at 1:30PM in the multipurpose room. We meet the 1st Thursday of every month September—May. Please plan to join us.

CIRCLE THREE

Circle Three will NOT be meeting **June, July and August**. Circle Three meets on the third Thursday of the month from September through May. The next meeting of Circle Three will be on **Thursday, September 17, 2015** at 11:30 A.M. at the Coffey Cup Restaurant. Please join us, all are welcome.

SENIOR HIGH CIA YOUTH CAR WASH

Saturday, June 20th from 9:00AM to 2:00PM in the church parking lot. Please come support our Senior High Youth and get your vehicle sparkling clean.

Thank You

Thank you so very much to all who volunteered at the Letter-Carrier Food Drive on May 9th. It just would not have happened without you!! You covered all the bases-driving the in town routes, picking up bags of food, unloading food, weighing food, sorting food, transporting & lifting boxes of food. Bless you, St Paul UCC volunteers for donating an entire day to this most beneficial cause and community outreach.

General Fund

Approved General Fund Monthly Budget	\$26,808.69
Given to General Fund through May 24th	\$14,502.00
Difference	- \$ 12,306.69
Given to Benevolences through May 24th	\$ 1,632.00
Approved General Fund Budget Year to Date	\$134,043.45
Given to General Fund so far this year	\$ 93,090.21
Difference	- \$ 40,953.24
Given to Benevolences so far this year	\$7,600.81



Benevolence Giving for June ~ OCWM

MESSAGE FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

- Capital Repair and Replacement Update- The handicapped restroom is ready to be retiled. The contractor is waiting for additional materials and will begin as soon as possible.
- Council approved the hiring of Mark Freer as our new Financial Secretary.
- Church directory committee consisting of Pat Shaw, Peg Prater, and Bill Miller are planning to begin work on the directory in September 2015. Bill Miller is taking pictures to include in the directory and our Face Book page. Life Touch will be compiling the directory for the church. Susan Bartlett will be the council's contact liaison.
- Marketing Update – A group has been formed to update our logo and to investigate marketing activities. Members of this committee at present are Bill Miller, Harold Poppe, and Vicki Smith.



June 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 6:00PM CE Board Meeting-Faith Formation 6:00PM Living Endowment Board 7:30PM Youth Mission Concert	<i>2</i> 7:00PM Suicide Survivors Support Group	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 5:00PM Executive Meeting 7:00PM Bible Study	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15AM Worship	<i>8</i> 6PM Church Council Vacation Bible School 9AM—12Noon	<i>9</i> 1:30PM Women's Guild	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 7:00PM Bible Study	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 9AM—12 Noon CRI Sorting Buckland UCC Quarter Auction Door open at 5:00PM
<i>14</i> 8:15AM Worship 10:15AM Worship w/ VBS Program	<i>15</i> Summer Lunches Start Monday thru Thursdays	<i>16</i> 9:30-4:30 Crisis-Center(In Little Shoes) 7:00PM Book Club	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 6:00PM Stewardship Committee Meeting 7:00PM Bible Study	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 9-2:00PM Sr. High Youth Car Wash 6:30PM Faith & Film—One Night with the King
<i>21</i> 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15AM Worship 11:30AM Nominating Committee Meeting	<i>22</i> Summer Lunches Monday thru Thursdays	<i>23</i> 6:00PM Mission Committee	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 8:15AM Worship 10:15AM Worship	<i>29</i> Summer Lunches Monday thru Thursdays 6:00PM Personnel Committee	<i>30</i>				

St. Paul United Church of Christ
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Rev. Becky Sunday, Senior Pastor

Study (419) 738-6216
Cell (567) 356-6773
Email becky@stpaulucc.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LET'S GET TOGETHER !

Regular Worship Times

Sunday Mornings 8:15 & 10:15 AM

Children's Church during 10:15 worship

Vacation Bible School

June 8th-12th

9:00 – 12:00



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.