



The Link

June 2017

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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SUNDAY'S NEWS

Most of you know that I recently attended a CREDO seminar in Greenfield, New Hampshire. CREDO is an educational program sponsored by the UCC Pension Boards designed to help clergy focus their attention on wellness in a variety of areas—spirituality, vocation, physical and psychological health, relationships, and finance. There was a wealth of information shared from a distinguished and knowledgeable faculty. Those of us who participated were given the gift of new colleagues from around the country, and we were tasked with doing the sometimes difficult work of evaluating our own practices and discerning how to become healthier church leaders.

I first want to express my thanks to you, the people of St. Paul UCC, for giving me the time and resources to make this opportunity possible. I chose to use the entire 2017 budget amount allotted to me for continuing education to pay the \$500 program fee associated with CREDO. I'm also grateful for our relationship to the UCC and its Pension Boards who picked up the remainder of the cost of the program, including materials, travel, lodging, food, and personnel. I am so grateful to have been given this transformative gift, and I am confident that its benefits will be long-reaching for both me and the church.

One takeaway from the CREDO program that I want to share with all of you is the concept of "kindling joy." Where do you find your joy? Do you even know? Somewhere within each of us is a fire. If we are not careful, we can lose sight of it. Sometimes the pressures of the world bear down on it and our joy gets stifled. Other times, life seems to nearly stamp it out. Sometimes we move so far from our joy that we forget it's even there. Have you ever struggled to "create" joy, as if from nothing? It's pretty hard work, and often what we come up with somehow still leaves us feeling empty or cold.

John 15 recounts part of Jesus' address to his disciples on his last night with them. He prayed for them. He gave them the assurance of God's love and instructed them (and us) to love one another. Then he explained, "I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete" (John 15:11, CEB).

"Kindling joy" means recognizing that joy is a gift and that God is its author. Like all of God's gifts, it requires stewardship. Each of us has to do the work of tending the life-giving fire that lives somewhere within us. Sometimes we have to bend low and blow gently upon the embers. At other times, we have to go searching outside of our normal, comfortable territory to find enough fuel to keep our joy-fire alive. It takes effort to kindle our joy, but it is work we have to do. If we don't, inevitably our spirits, our work, and our relationships suffer.

How are you tending to your joy? I encourage you to take a moment of quiet reflection—right now, as you read this—to think about where your greatest joy is in your life. Have you been giving this part of your life the attention it needs? Try to name three ways that you can fan the flames of joy in your life, and commit to doing something about them this month. If we all kindled a little more joy in our lives, the world would be a happier, more Spirit-filled place.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Becky

PASTOR BECKY OUT OF THE OFFICE

Pastor Becky will be out of the office June 5-9th as she leads the summer mission trip to Crossroad Child and Family Services in Ft Wayne, IN. Please keep our youth and adult mission volunteers in your prayers as they work to benefit the kids and families of Crossroad.

PASTOR JANICE'S PEN

As I came into the office today, I joked about how I thought I had gotten Nathanael and Abby off to a great start for the summer only for it to fall apart in the middle of the night. I sent Abby off for a week and a half in Florida with her best friend, and, feeling bad for Nathanael, he and I went to the movies and out for a nice dinner. Sounds good so far. Exhausted after a long day, I went to bed after sending the dog outside and reminding Nathanael to let him back in.

I woke up in middle of the night to hear the dog barking outside, whom Nathanael had forgotten to let back in. He had his chain all wrapped up in the bushes in our front yard, and I scratched myself up pretty badly trying to get him out. Nathanael was grumpy with me for waking him up at 2:00AM. I looked at my phone to see that I had a phone call and text from the parents Abby was with. Their car broke down in Lexington, KY. This morning they are going to explore whether they can afford to rent a car to complete the trip or if they will have to return home.

In the scope of things, these are minor glitches in life. But they demonstrate the fact that, as much as we like to believe we have control over our lives, ultimately we really don't. As I have heard many times as a pastor: "I am God... And you are NOT." In the end, I am glad I am not. For all the messiness, and sometimes even pain of life, I am glad I only have to deal with my tiny little corner of the planet. I am glad for the joy my kids, this church, and the rest of my life brings me. I treasure each moment of it, whether it be pain or messiness.

I am glad that, because I am not God, I didn't know ahead of time I would be fully awake at 2:00AM last night dealing with two separate issues when I should have been asleep.

Pastor Janice

CHURCH GARDEN

Due to the rainy weather of late we are getting a late start planting the garden at Doris Hibner's. We still need people to help with the planting, as well as the weeding and harvesting. If you are able to help in any way please contact Rev. Janice, or Doris Hibner.

RESTING IN THE ARMS OF GOD RETREAT JUNE 23-25

Pastor Janice has organized a retreat at Maria Stein on June 23-25th. The cost will be \$124 per person. This will include meals, and 2 nights of lodging. The weekend will include worship, Bible Study, and creative endeavors, plus down time to rest and process. Contact Pastor Janice by June 7th if interested.

PASTOR JANICE OUT OF THE OFFICE

Pastor Janice will be out of the office from **June 19th through June 22nd**. Please direct all pastoral concerns to Pastor Becky at 567-356-6773 or call the church office during this time.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Summer is almost here! The last day of school is May 25, and there will be children and adults who are hungry for food, compassion, and fellowship throughout the summer. As most of you have heard, the Summer Lunch Program will be held Mondays-Thursdays at the Wapak Middle School. However the school will not be providing lunch on Fridays. The Mission Committee of St. Paul UCC has agreed to “fill the gap” and provide lunch at the church every Friday from June 9 -Aug. 11 and to provide take-home food for the weekends. The church will also provide free lunches Monday through Friday, August 14-18 as the school program ends the week before school starts.

Tami Zwez will run the kitchen at St. Paul and has her crew of kitchen helpers already. Melanie Webb and Tammy Nuesmeyer have agreed to put together the weekend ‘backpacks’ of food. We need volunteers to help in the lobby and dining room every Friday. One or two people in the lobby would take a head count, monitor, and help people find their way to the kitchen or restrooms. Two to three people in the dining room would help people find a seat, clean, interact with attendees, monitor, and otherwise help as needed.

Quick Facts

What: Summer Lunch Program: “Filling the Gaps” Lobby and Dining Hall volunteers (no kitchen duty and no hair nets!)

Where: St. Paul Church, Timmermeister Hall

When: Every Friday June 9-Aug. 11, and Aug. 14-18. Approximately 11 AM to 1:15 PM . (Serving food 11:30-12:30)

Who: Caring, accepting, welcoming, volunteers of every age

Why: There is a real need for this ministry in our community, and it allows us to fulfill our mission statement.

Please consider joining this worthy opportunity to feed God’s children and be the body of Christ serving others. Call the church office if you are interested or email Jill Jarvis at jarvisfamily@wcoil.com.

SUMMER ADULT VBS

We have a huge number of very talented members of the congregation, with varied and wonderful skills. We have put together a program this summer where we are highlighting these gifts, as they share them with the church. If the program is successful we hope to continue it on. These classes will be held in Timmermeister Hall on Wednesdays for 6-8:00PM. Please contact the church if you are interested, so we know how many people to set up for each week.

June 7th—Genealogy w/Dan Bennett

June 14th—Using herbs & spices in your cooking w/Anthony Brookhart

June 21st—Sand Art w/Pastor Janice

June 28th—Game Night w/Pastor Janice

July 5th—Sip & 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

COME JOIN THE FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

“Passport to Peru” Vacation Bible School is just around the corner.

June 12th—June 16th from 9:00AM to 12:00 Noon

Again this year we are having all activities at First English Lutheran Church where we will meet in their sanctuary. St Mark’s Lutheran will be joining us as well. This year our church will be providing snacks on Monday and Wednesday. There are still some items needed for the snacks we provide. There is a list in the breezeway. It is too late to receive a monogrammed T-shirt as part of VBS but you can still register for the fun and awesome experience. You can find a registration form on the next page. Please turn forms into the church office as soon as possible. You may purchase the music CD for \$7.00 (any checks can be made out to FELC)

Strengthen the Church Offering

Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the Strengthen the Church offering, they can become a reality. As God calls our congregations to be “church” in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that “God is Still Speaking.”





Vacation Bible School
 Hosts: First English, St. Paul's and St. Mark's Churches
 Held at: First English, 107 W. Mechanic St., Wapakoneta
 June 12th – 16th
 9:00am-12:00pm
 Registration form (One per child/Volunteer)
Must register by May 31, if you want a T-shirt

Name _____

Home Church _____

Allergies/Health Concerns _____

T-shirt size: **Youth** S M L **Adult** S M L XL 2XL Other: _____

For ALL Volunteers

Phone _____ Email _____

Where would you like to help? _____

For Child registrations (Age 3 - completed 4th grade)
 and Youth Volunteers (Completed 5th grade – 17 years old)

Age _____ Birthday _____ Grade Completed _____

Parent/Guardian Info

Name _____

Name _____

Relationship _____

Relationship _____

Address _____

Address _____

Phone numbers at during VBS _____

Phone numbers at during VBS _____

Email _____

Email _____

Who should we contact in an emergency? (Only complete if different from above)

Name _____ Who will be picking up child? _____

Phone _____ or _____

Relationship _____

I would like to be in the same group as _____
 (We may not be able to fulfill this request)

Person registering the child _____

I give the churches permission to use my child's photo Yes _____ No _____

Music CD

\$7.00 x _____ = \$ _____

**Make checks payable to FELC
 or your home host church**

Our Church Family

With caring thoughts...



Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of **Norville Freymuth**. Norville passed on Thursday, May 4, 2017.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of **Joyce Schlenker**. Joyce passed on Sunday, May 14, 2017.



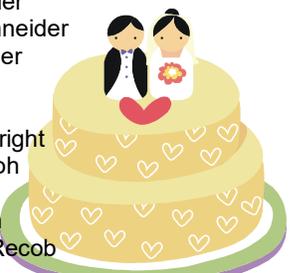
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to our
St. Paul Youth!

JUNE

Truman Johnston	6/03/2010
Reed Waitman	6/03/2007
Nolan Schoolcraft	6/05/2013
Colton Fisher	6/08/1999
Jack Waterman	6/10/2011
Sadie Wellington	6/12/2007
Kristian Martin	6/14/1999
Joshua Motter	6/15/2008
Amiyah Wilges	6/15/2015
Mylan Webb	6/16/2016
Kelly Truesdale	6/16/2006
Alec Schlenker	6/16/2004
Kaden Hawk	6/19/2011
Ryland Kohler	6/21/2010
Camel Smith	6/27/2011
Aubree Wireman	6/28/2013

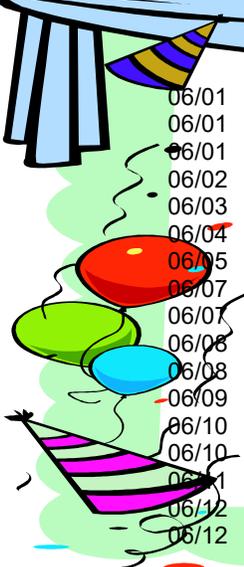
Happy Anniversary!!

06/01/1958	Jay & Sandy Koenig	06/16/2001	Tim & Laura Kinstle
06/04/1960	Lewis & Sharon Knoch	06/17/1956	Richard & Mary Lou Brautigam
06/05/1971	Delmar & Mary Jane Merricle	06/20/1954	Dudley & Joyce Schuler
06/06/1964	Alfred & Doris Hollenbacher	06/20/1998	Wayne & Melissa Schneider
06/07/1980	Michael & Susan Bartlett	06/21/1975	Fred & Diane Schlosser
06/07/1986	Rodney & Therese Schey	06/21/2003	Todd & Angela Bailey
06/09/1968	Rollie & Kay Wellington	06/22/1958	Bert & Sally Presar
06/11/1961	Alan & Karen Joseph	06/22/2002	Dwayne & Melanie Wright
06/11/1988	Milo & Brenda Wellington	06/24/1961	Hank & LeArdyce Stroh
06/12/1976	Steve & Roberta Hengstler	06/24/2000	David & Brenda Ward
06/12/1982	David & Betty Wiedenbein	06/25/1994	Mark & Laura Vaughn
06/13/1987	Tom & Susan Stinebaugh	06/26/1959	Emerson & Marlene Recob
06/15/2013	Cody & Nicole Steinke		



Happy Birthday to you...

06/01	Thomas Hunter	06/13	Evonda Erb	06/24	Fritz Ankerman
06/01	Shane Allemeier	06/13	Dena Wireman	06/25	Jason Brand
06/01	Samantha Bowsher	06/14	Jennifer McMichael	06/25	Bill Miller
06/02	Dylan Knoch	06/15	Bonnie Martin	06/26	Dick Glunt
06/03	Holly Recob	06/15	Joyce Schuler	06/26	Sandy Truesdale
06/04	Cindy Holtzapple	06/15	Sara Warner	06/26	Ruth Berger
06/05	Kalia Schlenker	06/16	Ruth Frazier	06/27	Cory Frische
06/07	Jane Burke	06/16	Katelyn Lochard	06/28	Charles Edwards
06/07	Heather Nolte	06/16	Norman Kohler	06/28	Kenda Kohler
06/08	Britni Hosterman	06/16	Eric Truesdale	06/28	Nichole Moran
06/08	Mark Azbell	06/17	Alan Mikesell	06/29	Pat Schlenker
06/09	Cheri Brandt	06/18	Marcia Hearn	06/30	Eleanor Presar
06/10	Logan Wiedenbien	06/18	Lewis Erb, Jr.	06/30	Ron Strasburg
06/10	Kellye Kantner	06/20	Jonathan Merricle		
06/11	Gary Herman	06/20	Acacia Truesdale		
06/12	Carolene Marker	06/22	Katie Edwards		
06/12	Warren Bailey	06/22	Kevin Frische		





Meetings and Events

FLY TO THE MOON KITE FESTIVAL



On June 4 from 2-4pm in conjunction with the Neil Armstrong Air and Space Museum, St. Paul United Church of Christ will be hosting a Kite Festival on the grounds of the museum. Bring your own kites if you have one. But know that there will be kites provided, to the 1st 96 people who arrive, if they do not have one. There will also be kites for sale inside the museum. Water and lite snacks will also be provided. It will be exciting to see how many kites we can get in the sky at one time as we try to "Fly to the Moon". June 4th is also Pentecost Sunday, the day we celebrate the Holy Spirit blowing into each one of us. As citizens of Wapakoneta, may we celebrate this gift by also seeking to fly to the moon and let others see the Spirit continue to blow among us to the moon and back.

ERB BBQ CHICKEN DINNER

We are having an Erb Chicken BBQ, carry-out dinner on **Saturday, June 10th from 11:00AM to 1:00PM in the church parking lot.** Tickets are \$8.00 which includes a half-chicken, chips, apple-sauce, roll, and a cookie. Proceeds will help defray the cost of Anthony Brookhart participating as a delegate for the 31st General Synod of the UCC in Baltimore, MD from June 30 to July 4. Tickets can be purchased in the church office.

CALLED TO CARE MINISTRY

July 1st begins another 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. Most people visit at least six times at their convenience over the course of the year. You would be a partner of one or two of our members who are unable to join us regularly in Sunday worship. If you would like to be a part of this rewarding ministry please call Kay Wellington at 419-738-8803.

GENERAL SYNOD 31

If you're interested in what's going on at General Synod 31 in Baltimore, MD from June 30 to July 4, our St Paul UCC delegate, Anthony Brookhart, will be writing a daily blog chronicling his experience. To follow Anthony on his General Synod adventure, visit the following website: <https://www.asmileandasong.com/generalsynod/>

BUCKLAND UCC QUARTER AUCTION

On **Saturday, June 24th** Buckland UCC will be holding its 5th annual Quarters for Camp **quarter** auction here at St. Paul UCC. Doors **open** at 5:30pm, 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).

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Beginning on June 12, Pastor Becky's weekly day off will be moving to Monday for the remainder of the summer to accommodate our Friday lunch program.

Confirmation Sunday/Pentecost—June 4th
Graduate Recognition Sunday— June 11th

FALL BUS TRIP TO MANSFIELD

Nancy Freymuth has a bus trip to Mansfield lined up for Thursday, September 14, 2017. Trip highlights are Bible Walk, Der Dutchman, Richland Carrousel Park and Kingwood Center. Sign up now for a enjoyable day trip to Mansfield. Contact Nancy at (419)738-5415 for more information.



June 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00PM Bible Study	2	3
4 Pentecost Sunday Confirmation Sunday 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15AM Worship w/Holy Communion 2-4PM Kite Festival	5 Crossroad Mission Trip	6 7:00PM Suicide Survivors Support Group	7 Summer Adult VBS w/Dan Bennett	8	9 Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM	10 Erb BBQ Dinners 11-1:00PM 9AM—12 Noon CRI Sorting
11 Graduation Recognition Sunday 8:15AM Worship 10:15AM Worship	12 6PM Church Council Vacation Bible School 9AM—12Noon	13	14 Summer Adult VBS w/Anthony Brookhart	15 6:00PM Bible Study	16 Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM	17
18 Father's Day 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15AM Worship w/ VBS Program	19	20	21 Summer Adult VBS w/Pastor Janice	22 6:00PM Bible Study	23 Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM	24 Buckland UCC Quarter Auction Door open at 5:30PM at St Paul UCC
25 8:15AM Worship 10:15AM Worship	26	27	28 Summer Adult VBS Game Night w/Pastor Janice	29 6:00PM Bible Study 4:30—6:30PM Loaves & Fishes 	30 Summer Lunch 11:30 to 12:30PM	

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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

Vacation Bible School

June 12th~16th

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.