



The Link

November
2014

St. Paul United Church of Christ
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Words of encouragement from Rev. Becky Sunday

A few Sundays ago I preached a sermon based on Psalm 23. At the end of the sermon, I read the familiar psalm again, but with some added commentary to demonstrate all of the things that God provides for us. A number of you have asked me to share it with you again, so I'm including it here:

*The Lord is my Shepherd
That's relationship!
I shall not want
That's supply!
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures
That's rest!
He leadeth me beside the still waters
That's refreshment!
He restoreth my soul
That's healing!
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
That's guidance!
For His name's sake
That's purpose!
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
That's testing!
I will fear no evil
That's protection!
For Thou art with me
That's faithfulness!
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me
That's discipline!
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies
That's hope!
Thou anointest my head with oil
That's consecration!
My cup runneth over
That's abundance!
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life
That's blessing!
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
That's security!
Forever
That's eternity!*

Remember in this season of abundance that God has blessed us. And that we are blessed in order to be a blessing to others. If this version of Psalm 23 has been a blessing to you, share it with your friends and neighbors. We all need to be reminded from time to time how much we are loved and how we can rely on God for everything that we need.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Becky

FAITH PROMISE CARRY-IN DINNER— SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

After our unified worship service on Faith Promise Sunday, November 23, we will have a carry-in fellowship dinner in Timmermeister Hall. The church will be providing meat and beverages. Please bring your own table service along with a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Come celebrate God's great blessings!



UNIFIED WORSHIP SERVICE— NOVEMBER 23



In celebration of Faith Promise Sunday, we will gather for a unified worship service at 10:15a.m. on Sunday, November 23. We will celebrate God's blessings as we commit our gifts to the St. Paul UCC General Fund for the coming year.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS!

FEAST on Kindness

Over the last few weeks during our FEAST lessons the kids and I have been focusing on acts of kindness. Ultimately, the goal is to treat others in a manner that you would like to be treated. While this seems simple enough, living out the greatest commandment on a daily basis can be hard work. The only way we can be successful is to practice acts of kindness every day. The kids completed acts of kindness throughout the week and then shared how it made them feel.

Here are a few items from our Random Acts of Kindness Game Board you are encouraged to pick a few and give them a try.

- Hold a door for someone
- Write a positive note to a friend.
- Help someone before they ask
- Give a compliment to someone
- Say "Hello" to someone new

In addition to treating others with kindness we also talked about what it means to love God. Loving God doesn't just mean being nice to others, but it also means giving back to God. The kids listed some ways that they could give back to God. Below are some of their responses.

- Come to Church
- Be nice to my family
- Give some of my allowance to church
- Be a good listener
- Be a good helper
- Give my time and money if I can.

Not only is FEAST a great way for our kids to learn new skills, make music and create beautiful projects, but it is a way to put their faith into action by learning to share with one another and truly live out what it means to be a community of Christ followers.

"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.

~ Matthew 22:37-39 (CEB)

Come to the FEAST where kindness abounds.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

--NOVEMBER 16

Heifer Sunday will be **Sunday, November 16th.** Please plan on joining us in Timmermeister Hall after the 10:15 service. You can enjoy some animal sugar cookies decorated in many ways by the Sunday School classes. Heifer International is a great organization that our church has given to for many years. We feel that the phrase "Passing on the Gift" that Heifer promotes is a rich way to help others. Look for more info about Heifer in the coming weeks. If you wish to make a donation please make the check payable to: St. Paul UCC and write "Heifer Project" in the memo line.



2015 God's Creation Calendars

The 2015 God's Creation calendars have arrived! There are twelve beautiful pictures of the world God created, one for each month. October's picture is the brilliant colors of fall at Owen Valley, California with the scripture, "Walk In My Ways" (Zechariah 3:7). The calendars may be purchased in the Church Office or see Cheryl Short. They are \$7.00 each. If you are writing a check, please make it out to **St. Paul UCC** and write "FEAST Calendars" in the memo line.



The Christian Education/Faith Formation Team will be meeting on **Monday, November 3rd at 6PM.** We will be making final plans for the Bazaar which is on November 8th and Heifer Sunday which is November 16th. Most importantly is classes and teachers for the next semester of FEAST which needs to be discussed. All are welcome!

ARE YOU LISTENING??

by Laura Kinstle

Did you ever have someone talking to you and all at once they ask, "Are you listening?" I know I have been guilty of hearing people talk to me but afterwards I don't remember what they told me. I have my mind on something else important and just don't seem to have the time to really listen to what they are saying.

Or another example is when you were growing up, did you parents ever say to you, "Do you every listen to a word I say". I can remember that quite vividly.

The world is so busy today, that our minds are on overload. We are either hurrying here or there and concentration is far from our minds.

But when you are driving, we tend to sit up and take notice when we are at a stop sign or light so we don't cause an accident. Also, if our favorite television show is on, we can tune in and tune out the rest of the world and pay close attention only to that.

And, have you ever been eating something so delicious that your mind is savoring the smell and our taste buds alert us to the wonderful flavor of the food. If someone happens to be talking to us at the same time, we don't hear a word they say.

But, how do we listen in our spiritual lives? Do we listen to the Ten Commandments and obey them or is it all right to bend them to fit our needs? Do we listen to the minister's sermons on Sundays or do we allow ourselves to take a nap or let our minds plan the day's events? Do we sometimes listen to others and compromise our moral values just be a part of today's society?

We can stop and take an assessment of our own lives and try to listen to what God has taught us and teach others to do the same. It is literally obeying the golden rule (do unto others as they would do unto you).

And, if we listen to God, we know that he will answer our prayers. It might not be the answer we want, but down the future we will realize that it was the right answer.

For example, we wanted to move to Otterbein because both of our healths are failing gradually and we knew that it would be the right thing to do. We didn't think they we would ever sell our house with it being handicapped accessible. We prayed and prayed to God and we were sure Otterbein would take our house. But, that wasn't the case. We both were so discouraged the tears flowed and flowed.

Then I had a strong feeling from God that maybe if I put our house for sale on Facebook, someone would see it. Yes, I said Facebook.

And, believe it or not, someone did see it and we sold our house in a weeks' time. We thought that God wasn't listening to us when Otterbein didn't take the house but God had planned it differently. By selling the house on our own, we were able to take the time we needed to sort out everything and get ready for the move. So, if we would have listened to God the first time, we would have known that he would answer our prayers. So now, we are on our way to Otterbein!

So, be patient and listen to God for he is always listening to you. And, try to really listen to God. He is there. He will answer your prayers and he will listen to your every care and need.

REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS

In celebration of

All-Saints Sunday on November 2, we remembered the following individuals who passed on to life eternal in the last year:

- Richard "Dick" Carnes ~ November 20, 2013
- Nancy Kinstle ~ December 26, 2013
- James Haney ~ January 1, 2014
- Hugh Morris ~ January 3, 2014
- Helen Clark ~ January 9, 2014
- Mary Jane Miller ~ February 13, 2014
- Hilda Ritter ~ March 14, 2014
- Robert "Bob" Baker ~ April 23, 2014
- Edith Rivers ~ May 12, 2014
- William "Bill" Camper ~ May 27, 2014
- Mark Schaub ~ June 16, 2014
- Ferd Link ~ June 27, 2014
- Fawn Purtee ~ July 3, 2014
- Lavina Stolte ~ July 10, 2014
- Opal Miller ~ July 11, 2014
- Wanda Capps ~ July 24, 2014
- Vi Maxson ~ October 7, 2014
- Regina Ritter ~ October 10, 2014
- Lura Kanter ~ October 17, 2014



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE INVITATION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

You are **all** invited to a Christmas open house at the home of Revs. Adrian and Becky Sunday (211 N. Main St., Buckland, OH) on **Saturday, December 13**. Drop in anytime between **1:00PM and 7:00PM**. Everything is provided—just bring your good cheer and your appetites!



Reflection on Heifer International

My first recollection of hearing about the Heifer Project, as it was then known, was standing at our kitchen window in the 1950's while four men from New Bremen/New Knoxville area talked with my dad, Reuben. They then loaded a young registered Holstein heifer from our herd onto a trailer to begin a long journey to Guatemala.

The heifer was "escorted" to her new home by the four men who wrote the following on a postcard to Daddy:

Greetings from Guatemala!

Your Heifer arrived safely and is at a well equipped farm under a good manager. It is a demonstration farm. The animals will all carry Guatemalan registry as well as American Holstein registry.

It looks like a much needed and worthwhile project.

[signed] Ken Wostaman, Jay Elshoff, Ralph Quelhorst, Bill Dalton

Over the years Daddy was very active in Heifer which was founded by Dan West, a farmer from Indiana and [quoting from the Heifer website]

"a member of the Church of the Brethren who went to the front lines of the Spanish Civil War as an aid worker. His mission was to provide relief, but he soon discovered the meager single cup of milk rationed to the weary refugees once a day was not enough.

"And then he had a thought: What if they had not a cup, but a cow?"

"That "teach a man to fish" philosophy is what drove West to found Heifer International."

"The core of our model is [Passing on the Gift](#). This means families share the training they receive, and pass on the first female offspring of their livestock to another family. This extends the impact of the original gift, allowing a once impoverished family to become donors and full participants in improving their communities"

I don't know how my dad got involved in Heifer but it was probably through either the Men's Brotherhood of one of our predecessor churches, the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and/or the Holstein Association. But whatever it was, the mission of Heifer touched his heart and soul which led to his leadership of the annual collection of funds in the St. Paul Sunday School each year.



Upon Daddy's death in 2005, the Sunday school designated their gift in his memory. They were able to buy a whole herd of animals. I found it amusing that goats were being given in memory of a person who raised cows but I soon realized that both animals provided milk for human consumption and that is what Heifer International is all about.

Since my return to Ohio, my soul has been touched to carry on Daddy's legacy with St. Paul and Heifer International. I had planned to be greeting you in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday during the fundraising period but find that I won't be able to be present this year, therefore this missive.

You can give anything from a cow or water buffalo to a flock of chickens or rabbits to seeds to grow wholesome foods.

Whatever your donation to Heifer International, every penny will go toward enabling people around the world, including the United States, to grow animals and crops to end hunger and bring them out of the severe poverty that challenges this world.

Peace & Blessings,

Doris J. Hibner



BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

“May the Lord reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!”—Ruth 2:12

Everyone loves a happy ending, but in the book of Ruth, blessing appears far from certain. It is worked out in the midst of harsh realities: famine, barrenness and death. Difficult choices must be made.

Famine in Bethlehem, “House of Bread,” drives a family to seek food in Moab. There the sons marry. When all the males die, Naomi and her daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, are left alone and vulnerable. Out of the strength of her love, Ruth makes a determined choice to return with Naomi to Israel where “your people shall be my people, and your God my God.”

God is found within human commitment, the blessings of one person to another. Boaz recognizes Ruth as a woman of “hayil”—worth, virtue, valor—and marries her. The women of Bethlehem

recognize Ruth’s “hesed,” or loving-kindness. She is “worth more than seven sons.” The baby born to Ruth and Boaz restores life, hope, and happiness. Baby Obed, “servant,” will become the grandfather of King David and ultimately ancestor of another redeemer, Jesus. In this celebration of the survival of one particular family are the seeds of blessing of all peoples.

Like Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz, we seek to be faithful people of valor, serving with loving-kindness, extending the circle of blessing. We, too, are essential to each other, giving what we can in gracious cooperation with those who give what we cannot. On Sunday, November 23 we will be making our pledges to the St. Paul UCC General Fund for the coming year. As we consider what we will give, consider this: God multiplies blessings beyond anything those struggling to keep the faith could ever imagine. Remember that we have been blessed to be a blessing.

Women’s Guild Nuts and Candy Available



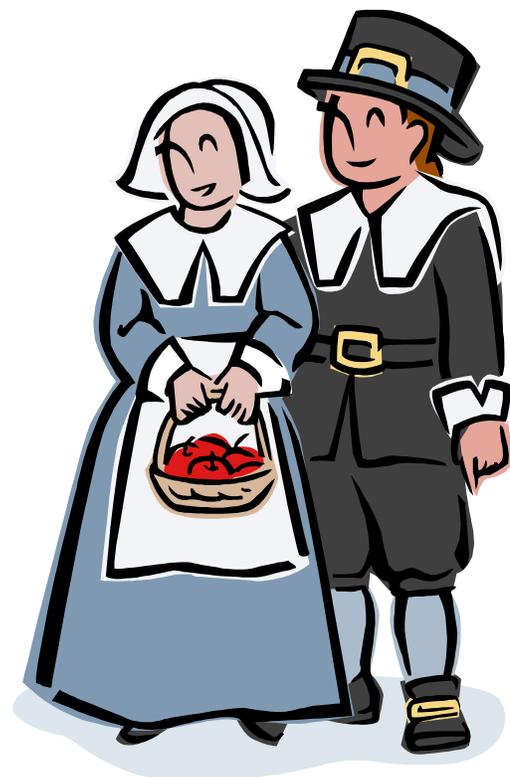
Once again the Women’s guild is selling our packaged candy and 1# packages of nuts and mixes.

We have your holiday baking needs covered with whole pecans, pecan pieces and walnut pieces. We are also selling cashews, pistachios and mixed nuts. For those who like something different we offer dried apricots, praline pecans, fruit & nut mix, berry & nut mix and harvest medley mix.

Wishing for boxed chocolates as gifts or for entertaining? We have you covered with milk chocolate pecan clusters, mint meltaways, dark chocolate sea salt caramels and dark chocolate mint patties.

Same great quality as last year and most prices are the same as last year. Check out our selection at the bazaar on November 8th or every Sunday in the Fellowship Hall from November 9th through the end of December. Buy early for best selection.

Happy Thanksgiving





CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS

*Poinsettias may be ordered for display in our sanctuary at Christmas time by filling in the attached order blank and putting it, with your check, in the Sunday offering plate, or mailing it to the church office. The flowers can be ordered in red, pink or white and will be encased in **GOLD** foil with a **RED** bow. They will be delivered to the church by Tuesday, December 23rd. There will be a notice in the bulletin acknowledging all memorial poinsettias. All flowers may be picked up after the Christmas Eve services.*

*All **orders are due by MONDAY, December 1st** and must be accompanied by a check made out to **St. Paul UCC.***

Poinsettia Order Form

Name _____

Phone _____

	Quantity	Red, Pink or White	Total
6 1/2" pot at \$ 6.70 ea.	_____	_____	_____
7 1/2" pot at \$ 9.45 ea.	_____	_____	_____
8 1/2" pot at \$12.45 ea.	_____	_____	_____



The dedication in the bulletin should read:

(Example: In memory of _____ (or use: in honor of; in celebration of) and given by _____.)

Mail to: St. Paul UCC PO Box 147 Wapakoneta, OH 45895 PH(419) 738-2215

Our Church Family

With caring thoughts...



Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the friends and family of **Vi Maxson**, who passed away on Tuesday, October 7, 2014.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the friends and family of **Regina Ritter**, who passed away on Friday, October 10, 2014.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the friends and family of **Lura Kantner**, who passed away on Friday, October 17, 2014.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the friends and family of **Lura Ruck**, who passed away on Wednesday, October 29, 2014.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to our
St. Paul Youth!

November

Zoey Schlenker	11/07/2009
Alena Hoelscher	11/10/2004
Seth Leek	11/12/1999
Johnathon Schlosser	11/13/1998
Grant Childress	11/13/2004
Zachary Schlenker	11/16/2001
Lauryn Falke	11/18/2008
Rylan Smith	11/21/2011
Kyan Daniels	11/22/2009
Courtney Sutton	11/25/2001
Elizabeth Childress	11/27/2008
Owen Sharp	11/29/2009

Happy Anniversary!!

N o v e m b e r	11/01/2003	Nathan & Jessie Groh
	11/05/1983	Jim & Jona Limbert
	11/06/2004	Theodore & Holly Bennett
	11/07/1964	Howard & Marilyn Brandehoff
	11/08/1980	Eric & Sandy Truesdale
	11/11/1967	Bill & Peg Schlenker
	11/14/2009	Sean & Jackie Martin
	11/17/1973	Tom & Nancy Hunter



St Paul United Church of Christ, Wapakoneta

Wanted: Church Secretary – part-time 25 hours per week

Skill requirements include computer skills, highly organized, interpersonal communications, oral and written skills, confidentiality & professionalism vital. Send resume to St Paul UCC, Attention: Personnel Committee, 101 South Perry Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Happy Birthday to...

11/01	Wendell Frazier	11/19	Joanne Schnell
11/02	Brenda Wellington	11/19	Marlene Recob
11/03	Judy Schaub	11/19	Tom Werling
11/03	Kayla Limbert	11/22	Carole Brandstadt
11/04	Jan Schlenker	11/22	Tyler Bailey
11/06	Trudy Berg	11/25	Travis Limbert
11/06	Ann Shroyer	11/26	Carl Kogge
11/07	Rex Thomas	11/26	Tom Hunter
11/08	Ted Schnell	11/27	Wendy Schlenker
11/08	Ed Bowsher	11/27	Nathan Bailey
11/10	Kim Warner	11/27	Cindy Jurosic
11/10	Monte Berg	11/28	John Smith
11/11	Harry Sherman	11/28	Howard Brandehoff
11/12	Doris Sunderland	11/28	John Ferguson
11/13	Kim Klein	11/28	Katie Poppe
11/13	Emily Smith	11/29	Kadene Warner
11/15	Gwynne Freytag	11/30	Bob Keller
11/18	Erin Falke	11/30	Bill Schlenker



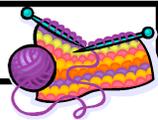
Meetings and Events

BOOK CLUB MEETING



The Book Club will be meeting **Tuesday, November 18th** at **7PM** at The Gardens. The book for this month is "Murder on the Orient Express" from the Agatha Christie Mystery Collection. We find private detective Hercule Poirot returning to London after receiving a telegram. He books a 1st class compartment on the Orient Express. After boarding, he is approached by an American who believes his life is in danger and wants to hire Poirot, but he refuses. The next morning the gentleman is found dead it falls on Mr. Poirot to investigate. The book is available in the Church Office. Please come join us on November 21st!

JOIN US FOR "IN STITCHES"



The St. Paul "In Stitches" group will meet on **Tuesday, November 11th** at **7PM**. As always, please bring whatever craft projects you are working on! It's sure to be a fun time!

WORSHIP ARTS



Worship Arts will be meeting this month of **Sunday, November 16th** after the 10:15 worship.

GENTLE WORSHIP

The next **Gentle Worship** Service will be held on Sunday, November 9, 1:30 p.m., at St. Paul UCC, Wapakoneta (catercornered from the Auglaize County Courthouse). The half-hour **Gentle Worship** includes subdued lighting and sound, large format worship aids, and other features for those with developmental disabilities. A rotation of Wapakoneta area ministers presides at the services. All are welcome.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Women's Guild will begin meeting again on **Tuesday, November 11th** 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, November 6th** 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 meets on the third Thursday of the month from September through May. The meeting of Circle Three on **Thursday, November 20, 2014** at 11:30 A.M. at the Coffey Cup Restaurant. **HAS BEEN CANCELLED** Please join us again in December all are welcome.

CALLED TO CARE



Called to Care will be meeting this month of **Sunday, November 9th** after the 10:15 worship.

Gospel Concert

The St. Joseph Church 175th Anniversary Committee will present a concert of a capella Gospel music by the Northern Kentucky Brotherhood Singers on **Sunday, November 16**, at 2 p.m. The Brotherhood Singers have performed nationally and internationally--including Spain and Russia--to great acclaim--and always provide an inspiring program. The free event is the last in the church's anniversary celebration and will include a reception with birthday cake afterward. All are welcome. For more information, call Rachel Barber, 419/738-4924. To give us a taste of the music of this excellent group, they will be with us for gathering music before 10:15 worship at St. Paul UCC on November 16. Come to worship a few minutes early and enjoy!



ST. PAUL UCC's
HOLIDAY
BAZAAR

featuring
Vendor Booths -Cookie/Candy
Walk & Luncheon

Nov. 8th 9AM – 3PM

In conjunction with the Wapakoneta Downtown Holiday Open House

Proceeds benefit the St. Paul FEAST program

Lunch Served 11AM-2PM

*****Lunch is served by the ladies of the Guild. Featuring: homemade soups & sandwiches, along with desserts & beverages. Proceeds benefit the St. Paul FEAST program.***





November 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>All Saints Day</i> 8:15AM Worship w/ Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion	3 Holy Communion 6:00PM CE Meeting	4 7—8:30PM Suicide Survivors Support Group	5 3:00PM FEAST 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	6 1:30PM Circle 3:30PM Budget Committee 7:00PM Family of Heroes	7 9:30—11AM Bible Study Group	8 FEAST Bazaar 9AM - 3PM
9 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:30AM Called to Care 1:30PM Gentle Worship	10 6:00PM Church Council	11 1:30PM Women's Guild 7:00PM In Stitches 7:00PM Roots & Shoots	12 3:00PM FEAST 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	13 7:00PM Family of Heroes	14 9:30—11AM Bible Study Group	15
16 <i>Heifer Sunday</i> 8:15AM Worship w/ Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:30AM Worship Arts	17 Holy Communion 7:30PM Irving Club	18 7:00PM Book Club	19 3:00PM FEAST 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	20 5:00PM Stewardship Committee 7:00PM Family of Heroes	21 9:30—11AM Bible Study Group	22
23 <i>Faith Promise</i> 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Unified Worship 11:30AM Carry-in dinner	24 4:00PM Finance Committee	25	26 NO FEAST OR CHOIR PRACTICES	27 <i>Thanksgiving</i> Church office closed 	28	29
30 8:15AM Worship w/ Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	Holy Communion					