



The Link

November
2017

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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SUNDAY'S NEWS

November has arrived, and with it comes the mad dash through the holidays. In just a few short weeks we will be gathering with family and friends around our tables, enjoying turkey and pumpkin pie. It is a time to stop, to think about all that we have, and to say "thank you" for the blessings in our lives.

Recently I did a basic internet search for the phrase, "ways to say thank you." The results were rather interesting and quite varied. Some websites were dedicated to the making of homemade cards, while others were more literal, focusing on the variety of phrases in the English language that can be used to say "thanks." I saw a book for sale online entitled "101 Ways to Say Thank You," which detailed the art of the thank you note for a plethora of occasions. I even stumbled upon the "143 Best 'Ways to Say Thank You' Images on Pinterest," which included all sorts of creative ideas, from floral arrangements, to all sorts of food items deconstructed in mason jars, to every candy bar pun imaginable (for instance, "I can't believe I SKORed a great teacher like you" or "You deserve an extra PAY DAY"). There are countless creative ways to let folks know they are appreciated beyond saying a simple "thank you."

But what about God? How are we called to give our thanks to God? First, we can certainly stop to say thanks in our prayers. But just as Google can point us to a thousand ways beyond words to thank the special people in our lives, there are countless ways to live out our thanksgiving to the One who gave us the priceless gifts of life, forgiveness, joy, and grace. Here are just a few:

- Call a friend or family member to whom you have not spoken in a while just to say "hi"
- Visit a nursing home
- Buy an extra bag of groceries or personal care items and donate them to Mercy Unlimited or God's Storehouse

- Come to church
- Help a neighbor unload groceries
- Volunteer to help with Sunday school or FEAST
- Make your annual Faith Promise
- Go on a mission trip
- Open your Bible and read for a while
- Rake someone's leaves
- Volunteer to help with the community Thanksgiving dinner or the Loaves and Fishes meal
- Smile at a child
- Forgive someone

Jesus said, "Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other" (John 13:34-35). What better way is there to show our thanks than to pass on the gifts God has given us? This Thanksgiving, may our lives truly be testimonies of our gratitude.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Becky

ITS THAT TIME AGAIN

Its that time again to change the clocks. We will fall back on **Sunday, November 5th at 2:00AM**. Remember to change your clocks and check your smoke alarms.

PASTOR JANICE'S PEN

Holiday Season

We are headed into the holiday season, where there are many family gatherings and celebrations. We are also headed into the long hard winter months, where the hours of night outnumber the hours of daylight and the weather can often be dicey. Please remember the elderly and those who have lost loved ones recently. The next few months that most of us eagerly anticipate can be hard on some folks. Check in with phone calls, visits, and maybe a gift of food or a little trinket to let them know they are loved and cared about.

People were bringing babies to Jesus so that he would bless them. When the disciples saw this, they scolded them. Then Jesus called them to him and said, "Allow the children to come to me. Don't forbid them, because God's kingdom belongs to people like these children. I assure you that whoever doesn't welcome God's kingdom like a child will never enter it." ----Luke 18:15-17

Over the years I have been overwhelmed at the wisdom of children and blown away by the thoughtful questions they ask about the faith even from a young age. Even since I have been here at St. Paul I have had children ask me at various times to explain the Trinity, if God created everything where did God come from, and the perennial question of why bad things happen to us. I have had the children ask to pray for adults in their lives who were hurting out of the blue and I have seen them be ever so gentle with other children going through rough times. Certainly as a mother and a pastor who has been practicing ministry for more than two decades now I have had many such experiences.

In order to keep our faith fresh and vital, it is essential to keep the curiosity and the attitude of looking at God's creation as if with the eyes of a child. Think of a baby when it discovers his foot or a preschooler who is seeing her first rainbow. The pride of a little girl who just mastered a two wheel bike or a boy who just earned his driver's license. God's kingdom belongs to those who can keep this excitement and joy in their lives.

Having said that, Paul challenges us in 1Corinthians 13:11 to put away childish things. And there is a lot of truth to that as well. Imagine what it would be like if all of us as adults had temper tantrums in public like we were still 2 or 3 years old. It would not be a pretty sight. We remained as self centered and concerned about how our peers viewed us as adolescents do. We have to grow and mature or our faith will stagnate and maybe even wither away.

When I went through my Spiritual Direction Training the leader of the program used a phrase so many times it became a joke, but it is a concept that is true about much of life. The phrase was: Both/And.

We are called to have a faith that is both childlike and mature and growing at the same time. It is a balancing act.

The **Faith Formation Team** will be meeting Monday, **November 6th at 6:00PM**. We will be talking more about Heifer Sunday and any activities involving Christmas. We also will discuss activities for the last night of FEAST, which is **Wednesday, December 6th**. All are Welcome!!!!

REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS

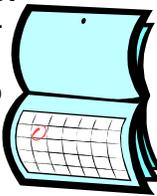
In celebration of All-Saints Sunday on November 5th, we remembered the following individuals who passed on to life eternal in the last year:

- Deborah Bailey ~ November 16, 2016
- Naomi Carnes ~ November 26, 2016
- Pauline Cook ~ December 23, 2016
- Howard Hershberger ~ January 14, 2017
- Marilyn Lee ~ February 23, 2017
- Dr. Robert Herman ~ April 3, 2017
- Norville Freymuth ~ May 4, 2017
- Laura Vaughn ~ June 21, 2017
- Diane Lunz ~ September 11, 2017
- Milo Wellington ~ September 30, 2017
- Jean Storer ~ October 10, 2017



2018 God's Creation Calendars

The 2018 God's Creation Calendars have arrived!!!! In one calendar you get scriptures for each week and beautiful photographs for each month. We start out in January with a photo of a winter day at Mount Rainier National Park in Washington. The calendars are available in the church office or see Cheryl Short. We will also be selling them at the Cookie & Candy Walk this **Saturday, November 4th**. The calendars sell for \$7.00 each.



HEIFER INTERNATIONAL December 3, 2017

Be looking for news in the weekly bulletins about Heifer International. We will be having Heifer Sunday in December this year on the 3rd. Your gift towards an animal is a brick in the foundation of a future. A future free of poverty for a family in need. Just one chicken lays more than 200 eggs a year providing a family with food and income to buy medicine and education. Together we have the power over hunger and poverty.



ST. PAUL UCC THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

We will be collecting Thanksgiving dinners for 10-12 of our St. Paul UCC and FEAST families. We are asking for donations of the following items:

- Boxed Mashed Potatoes
- Gravy Mix (either in an envelope or can)
- Can of fruit (peaches or peach cocktail)
- Boxed Stuffing Mix
- Dessert items (such as cake mix with icing, cookie mix or other dessert mix)
- Dinner rolls (tube)
- Canned Vegetables
- Bagged Noodles

Please bring items to Timmermeister Hall by **Monday, November 6th**. We can also use monetary donations for meat to complete the meal. Thank you for helping St. Paul UCC fulfill its mission to feed God's children.

SHARE YOUR GIFTS AT TEMPLED HILLS

Pastor Becky has mentioned decisions being made about the UCC church camps in many of her recent communications and messages. As you now know, the Ohio Conference received an offer on Pilgrim Hills and it will be sold as of December 31, 2017.

I visited both camps last week as they had asked for some gardening advice. Jim Kohler and I took the trip together. I had never been to Pilgrim Hill but my mom had gone to Lantern Fellowship many times. Some of you ladies may have been with her. What I want to know is who drove. As Jim stated "you don't have to go to Cedar Point for the thrills". Those roads around Pilgrim are amazing. Seriously, we dug some peonies, iris, hostas and took them over to Templed Hills for planting. At Templed we gave the caretaker, Jeff, some advice on trimming trees and where and what to plant in gardens near the entrance.

Templed Hills is where my camping memories reside. It was in the late 1950's when the Camp first opened. I remember regular camp as well as Labor Day weekend family camp. We met other kids and their families from all over the state. We experienced the wonders of God's universe in a different way.

Over these past 60 years changes have been made. The trees have certainly grown. More buildings have been built. And it is much easier to get there now than in the 50's since President Eisenhower had just proposed and instituted the Interstate Highway System. Back then, we traveled what are now back roads all the way. Now we get on 30 to 71 and we're there. It's not an "are we there yet?" kind of drive.

Now for the real purpose of this missive: Templed Hills has been in moth-balls for four years! It now needs to be awakened so that children and adults from all over the state can enjoy a wonderful God centered camping experience this summer. Work has been underway with many volunteers and staff, but there is much more to be done to get the Camp spruced up for camping next summer.

Therefore we are being called to work as volunteers using our special talents:

- Carpenters
- Painters for inside work
- Experienced electricians
- A crew to install vinyl tile or carpet tile
- Dry wall installers
- Teams to clear junk and clutter
- Experienced safety crew to cut down trees and brush
- Carpentry crew to do repairs to the pool building

We are thinking of the weekend of November 11 or 18th. We would go over on a Friday afternoon and return on Sunday after lunch. We will be staying at a motel in nearby Bellville.

If you prefer to volunteer during the week instead of weekends that can most likely be arranged, just call Alan Mikesell at 419-236-4244.

Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering on the weekend or have questions before you make a decision at 917-885-6173 by voice or text.

----- Doris J. Hibner



Thank you to everyone who helped with our effort to raise funds throughout the month of September for hurricane relief efforts. The benefit dinner on October 1st raised \$1,816.30. Additionally, benevolence gifts were given in the amount of \$2,316.60. Because of your dedication and generosity, we were able to send a total of \$5,032.90 to the UCC's Disaster Response Ministries for hurricane relief. Thank you to everyone who gave donations of time, energy, and dollars in the name of Christ to help our suffering neighbors.

**HANGING OF THE GREENS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

Every year we enjoy the beauty of our sanctuary decorated for the Advent and Christmas seasons. This year, you can be part of making that magic happen. We will be having an old-fashioned Hanging of the Greens on Sunday evening, **November 26** beginning at **6:30pm**. There will be Christmas goodies to snack on and festive music as we decorate. Please let Pastor Becky know if you are able to join us.

Our Church Family

With caring thoughts...

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to **Louise Jung** and family on the passing of **Diane Lunz** who passed on Monday, September 11, 2017.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences on the passing of **Milo Wellington** who passed on Saturday, September 30, 2017.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to **Rita Knoch and family** on the passing of her mother, **Jean Storer**, who passed on Tuesday, October 10, 2017.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to **David Wheeler and family** on the passing of his father-in-law, **Richard (Dick) Brorein**, who passed on Sunday, October 22, 2017



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to our
St. Paul Youth!

November

✓ Zoey Schlenker	11/07/2009
✓ Raine Ingle	11/09/2007
✓ Alena Hoelscher	11/10/2004
✓ Seth Leek	11/12/1999
✓ Grant Childress	11/13/2004
✓ Zachary Schlenker	11/16/2001
✓ Lauryn Falke	11/18/2008
✓ Deacon Smith	11/19/2005
✓ 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!!

November	11/01/2003	Nathan & Jessie Groh
	11/05/1983	Jim & Jona Limbert
	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
	11/20/1966	Bill & Wayna Assenheimer



Happy Birthday to...

11/01	Wendell Frazier	11/12	Dylan Shaffer	11/25	Travis Limbert
11/01	Michael Lawrence	11/12	Doris Sunderland	11/25	Therese Schey
11/02	Brenda Wellington	11/12	Kenny Weber	11/26	Carl Kogge
11/03	Judy Schaub	11/13	Kim Klein	11/26	Tom Hunter
11/03	Kayla Limbert	11/13	Emily Smith	11/27	Wendy Schlenker
11/04	Kody Kohler	11/13	Johnathon Schlosser	11/27	Nathan Bailey
11/04	Jan Schlenker	11/15	Gwynne Freytag	11/27	Cindy Jurosic
11/05	Elijah Acheson	11/16	Jeff Dorner	11/28	John Smith
11/06	Trudy Berg	11/18	Erin Falke	11/28	Howard Brandehoff
11/06	Ann Shroyer	11/19	Joanne Schnell	11/28	John Ferguson
11/07	Rex Thomas	11/19	Marlene Recob	11/28	Katie Poppe
11/08	Ed Bowsher	11/19	Jim Limbert	11/29	Kadene Warner
11/10	Kim Warner	11/22	Tyler Bailey	11/30	Bill Schlenker
11/10	Monte Berg	11/23	Carol Fuerst	11/30	Thomas Bailey



Meetings and Events

SECOND SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

Have you been looking for a different kind of worship experience? Pastor Becky and the Worship and Arts Committee of St. Paul will be experimenting in the coming months with a new worship service. You are all welcome to join us in Timmermeister Hall at 6:30pm on the second Sunday of each month, beginning on November 12, for an informal service incorporating dialogue, Bible study, and prayers. The goal of the service is to nurture a welcoming environment which will allow regular churchgoers and newcomers alike a comfortable place to bring their faith questions, joys, and concerns as the community of Christ within the context of a flexible and informal worship service. Mark your calendars, and plan to come as you are. ALL are welcome.

NO FEAST

There will be no FEAST on Wednesday, November 22nd due to the Thanksgiving holiday. FEAST will resume on Wednesday, November 29th. The last day of FEAST will be Wednesday, December 6th. Everyone have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th for our staff to celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday.

LOAVES & FISHES

St. Paul will be serving the Loaves & Fishes dinner on **Thursday, November 30th** from **4:30 – 6:30PM**. We have a Small Benevolence Fund here at St. Paul to help with meals. Signup sheets will be posted in the breezeway. We would appreciate any monetary support you could donate

CIRCLE ONE

Monthly meetings are the 1st Thursday of the month at 1:30PM in the Ritter Room. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, November 2nd at 1:30PM**. Please join us.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE



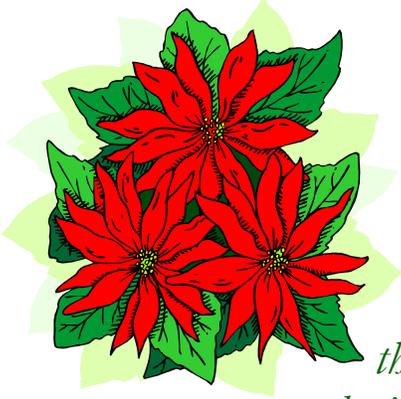
In order to accommodate members' holiday celebrations, we will be having just **ONE** service on Christmas Eve morning, **December 24h at 9:00AM**. There will not be Sunday school. We will observe Christmas Eve worship at our usual times, with a family service at 5:00PM and the candlelight service at 11:00PM. Plan to join us as we celebrate the newborn Savior!

GENERAL SYNOD PROGRAM

. We were blessed to be able to send one of our St. Paul UCC, Wapakoneta members, Anthony Spearhart, to serve as one of Ohio Conference's delegates at this past summer's UCC General Synod in Baltimore, MD. This Thursday evening, we have an opportunity to hear from Anthony about his experience at General Synod and to receive an update on the business and witness of the national church. Please join us **this Thursday, November 2 at 7:00pm** in Timmermeister Hall for a carry-in dinner as Anthony shares all of the General Synod news. Please bring your table service and a dish to share.

POINSETTIA ORDERS

On the following page please find the poinsettia order form for our display in our sanctuary at Christmas. All orders are due by **Monday, December 4th** and must be accompanied by a check made out to St. Paul UCC. If you have any questions please call the church office.



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 Wednesday, December 20th. 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 4h 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" pot at \$ 10.00ea.	_____	_____	_____
7" pot at \$15.50ea.	_____	_____	_____
8" pot at \$21.50ea.	_____	_____	_____

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

ST. PAUL UCC's
Cookie/Candy Walk
Bazaar

Nov. 4th 9AM – 2PM

In conjunction with the Wapakoneta Downtown Holiday Open House

featuring
Various vendor booths

Come shop for your holiday needs all in one place!!!!



FAITH PROMISE CARRY-IN DINNER
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

The Stewardship Committee is busy preparing for our annual Faith Promise Sunday which we will celebrate on **November 19, 2017** at both worship services (8:15 and 10:15). We ask you bring a dessert to share. Help us celebrate our mission as we follow Jesus' example and grow in discipleship together.

General Fund

Approved General Fund Monthly Budget	\$ 26,402.50
Given to General Fund through October 22nd	\$18,484.00
Difference	\$ 7,918.50
Given to Benevolences through October 22nd	\$1,722.00
Approved General Fund Budget Year to Date	\$264,025.00
Given to General Fund so far this year	\$185,223.12
Difference	\$78,801.88
Given to Benevolences so far this year	\$14,919.35



Benevolence Giving for November ~ St. Vincent DePaul

Happy Thanksgiving





NOVEMBER 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 3:00PM FEAST 6:30PM Cherub Choir 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel	<i>2</i> 1:30PM Circle One 6:00PM Formation Study 7:00PM Anthony Spearhart presentation on General Synod	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> Cookie & Candy Walk/ Bazaar 9:00AM to 200PM
<i>5</i> 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion All Saints Sunday	<i>6</i> 6:00PM Faith Formation Meeting	<i>7</i> 7—8:30PM Suicide Survivors Support Group Election Day	<i>8</i> 3:00PM FEAST 6:30PM Cherub Choir 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel	<i>9</i> 6:00PM Formation Study	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 9-12 Noon CRI Sorting at Buckland
<i>12</i> 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 6:30PM Second Sunday Service	<i>13</i> 6:00PM Church Council Meeting	<i>14</i> 8-5:00PM Y Board Mental Health Training 7:00PM Roots & Shoots	<i>15</i> 3:00PM FEAST 6:30PM Cherub Choir 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	<i>16</i> 6:00PM Mission Committee Meeting	<i>17</i> 8:30-5:30PM Life Line Screening	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> 8:15AM Worship w/Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:30AM Faith Promise Meal Faith Promise Sunday	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> NO FEAST OR CHOIR PRACTICES	<i>23</i> Church office closed 	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 6:30PM Hanging of the Greens	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 3:00PM FEAST 6:30PM Cherub Choir 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	<i>30</i> 4-6:30 Loaves & Fishes		

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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

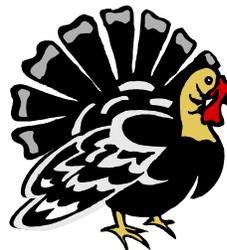
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LET'S GET TOGETHER !

Regular Worship Times

Sunday Mornings 8:15 & 10:15 AM
Sunday School 9AM
Children's Church during 10:15 worship

Faith Promise Sunday
On Sunday, November 19th



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.