



The Link

September
2016

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Sunday's News

Doesn't it sometimes feel like we're forced to live life as if it were a race? The world moves so fast, and if we don't keep up, we are sure to miss something important. Life, it seems, is busier these days than it ever has been before. I can remember growing up, spending long days outside helping on the farm, playing basketball with my brothers, or maybe even just taking a nap in the backyard. Those were the days! There seemed to always be enough time to do what needed to be done, and there would almost always be enough left over to play in the sandbox before supper.

Not anymore. Most times we feel lucky if we get through half of what we need to get done in a day's time. What has happened? Have the hours gotten shorter? Why do we feel like we have to run around living life at breakneck speed just to survive? Maybe we do it just because everyone else around us does. Very often it seems the world is moving too fast for us to keep up.

This should not come as a surprise. We live in an extremely technologically driven age. The goal of technology is to make things faster, easier, and more efficient. In this age of smartphones and iPads, we can communicate and access information faster now than ever. "Fast" has become an expectation in our society, and "faster" is almost always "better."

This all leaves me with another question: If we are able to get so many mundane tasks done faster and more efficiently, shouldn't we have *more* time left at the end of the day? The opposite seems to be true. Perhaps it is because the same technologically based world that tells us we can do things faster also tells us that we need to have it all. In order to function in our society these days, we *need* cell phones and super-duper high-speed internet service. We believe that we *need* to cram our days full of activities, or we'll miss out on living the fullest life possible. And somehow, it seems our spirits suffer because we can no longer

find the quiet space in our lives to connect with God, or even with one another.

The apostle Paul has something to say about running through life as if it were a race. He asks us, "Don't you know that all the runners in the stadium run, but only one gets the prize? So run to win" (1 Corinthians 9:24, CEB). It might seem at first that Paul is encouraging us to run even faster, but when we keep reading, he continues, "Everyone who competes practices self-discipline in everything. The runners do this to get a crown of leaves that shrivel up and die, but we do it to receive a crown that never dies. So now this is how I run—not without a clear goal in sight" (1 Corinthians 9:25-26a, CEB). So much of what we do seems to be "without a clear goal in sight," especially when we do it while sacrificing those things that matter most. We, like Paul, need to exercise self-discipline. We sometimes need to make difficult or unpopular choices in order to reap lasting rewards. Let us all set our hearts on those things that matter—our faith and our relationships. Let us make those our greatest priorities and we may indeed discover that we have found a way to win the race.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Becky

Pastor Becky will be out of the office on vacation from **Friday, September 16th** through **Monday, September 26th**. Please direct all pastoral concerns to Pastor Janice during this time at 740-417-6584 or call the church office.

PASTOR JANICE'S PEN

As I write this article I am preparing to leave for Mission Works! A weekend long experience of seeing and hearing just how vital the church is around the globe. As I get ready to attend this weekend, memories of my time overseas have come flooding back. I want to share one memory in particular. A memory I know I have already shared with a few of you.

When I first arrived at the college I worked at for three years in Kenya as a missionary, I was showered with an immense amount of food. It was so much food, and even though much of it was quietly distributed to the students during the evening when most of the staff was gone, much of the food was still going to waste. I felt immensely guilty. Here I was, an American with more financial resources than much of the staff could ever dream of, and they were showering me with food. Too much food.

I wrote to a missionary friend, who had been on the mission field for a couple of decades, for advice. He quickly responded with these sage words: "We as Americans are great at giving and lousy at receiving. And if we can't receive the little gifts that others have to give us, how in the world will we ever learn to accept the BIG gift that God has to offer us. The gift of love, mercy, forgiveness: Salvation."

Words that I have never forgotten and hope I never will.

Blessings,

Pastor Janice

Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?: Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World.

Beginning on Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30 I will start a new Bible study. We will begin to explore a much needed topic in today's world. As part of this group study we will seek to discover how our Christian faith fits in with those around us. How we can hold fast to our beliefs in a way that still respects those who believe differently from us. I believe this is vitally important. To quote a line from the book: "In a pluralistic world, a religion is judged by the benefits it brings to its nonmembers".

From my own experience I have seen that there is much more to be gained from being open to those who are of different faiths, while still celebrating my own beliefs.

If you plan on joining this group you can order the book online yourself or contact me or the church office and we will order it for you. The cost of the book through Amazon Prime is \$10.57. It can also be ordered used for around \$6. This study will consist of six sessions beginning Oct. 4 and ending Nov. 15 (with Nov. 1 off).

Pastor Janice

Our Church Family

With caring thoughts...

Our deepest sympathy and condolences on the passing of **Ray W. Whetstone**, who passed on Wednesday, August 3, 2016

Happy Anniversary!!

S e p t e m b e r

09/01/1996	Rod & Linda Carter
09/03/2015	Lee & Bonnie Martin
09/04/1993	Michael & Angela Hosterman
09/05/1981	Bill & Diane Method
09/05/1987	Doug & Sherrie Fisher
09/16/2006	Nathan & Terri Bailey
09/06/2006	Sean & Amy Runkel
09/16/1989	David & Lisa Mittelkamp
09/17/1966	Don & Mary Rohrbaugh
09/18/2006	Jim Jr. & Jessica Hearn
09/19/1964	Bill & Linda Baker
09/20/1997	Scott & Heidi Leek
09/21/2013	Travis & Christy Limbert
09/22/1956	Bernard & Donna Azbell
09/24/1988	Keith & Rita Knoch
09/25/2010	Kiel & Ashley Waterman
09/26/1987	Jeff & Mary Adkins
09/27/1953	Lewis Sr. & Helen Erb
09/27/1959	Charles (Ed) & Marilyn Lee
09/27/1986	Jeff & Judy Zwiebel
09/28/2002	Shane & Jamie Allemeier
09/29/1979	Mick & Kathy Haehn
09/29/1990	John & Diane Ferguson



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to our

St. Paul Youth!

September

✓ Reed Miller	9/01/2008
✓ Hannah Schaub	9/03/2003
✓ Landon Prince	9/09/2013
✓ Hope Ann Erb	9/10/2013
✓ Penny Closson	9/12/2002
✓ Drew Peachey	9/13/2000
✓ Haakon Moninger	9/15/2006
✓ Jillian Schlosser	9/18/2014
✓ Kaelyn Zwiebel	9/19/2006
✓ Ty Lamb	9/20/2005
✓ Cyrus Smith	9/21/2006
✓ Damien Lamb	9/23/2000



09/01	Linda Carter	09/10	Roberta Hengstler	09/20	Bill Bowersock
09/01	John Zwez	09/10	Susan Bartlett	09/20	Dale Schmidt
09/02	Robert Bidwell	09/12	John Lamb	09/21	Jean Gilroy
09/03	Carolyn Edwards	09/13	Mark Erb	09/21	Jordan Kaeck
09/03	Wayland Detrick	09/13	Justin Wireman	09/22	Rodney Schey
09/04	Ken Kohler	09/13	Heidi Leek	09/23	Lauren Hengstler
09/04	Sheri Sherman	09/14	Pat Shaw	09/23	Jona Limbert
09/04	Jim Brautigam	09/15	Don Rohrbaugh	09/24	Dan Schroer
09/04	Brenda Ward	09/15	Alicia Smith	09/24	Jessie Groh
09/05	Jeff Brown	09/15	Tom Stinebaugh	09/26	Robert Camper
09/05	Jennifer Frische	09/16	Sharon Knoch	09/26	Deborah Bailey
09/07	Shirley Baughman	09/17	Barb Smith	09/27	Dudley Schuler
09/07	Kiel Waterman	09/17	Jim Smith	09/28	Chelsie Steinke
09/08	Howard Hershberger	09/17	Larry Thiedt	09/28	Morgan Adkins
09/08	Keith Kohler	09/17	Mark Vaughn	09/30	Brian Warner
09/08	Sally Presar	09/18	Barb Kohler	09/30	Rudy Elizabeth
09/08	Jeff Smith	09/18	Kim Azbell		Mathewson
09/10	Martha Baker	09/18	Ammie Coolidge		



Meetings and Events

GAME NIGHT

St Paul UCC is planning a fun game night for all ages. Mark your calendars and plan to join the fun on **Sunday, October 1st at 6:30PM**. Bring games and snacks to share.

THANK YOU

A special **THANK YOU** to everyone or anyone that had anything to do with the help of our Summer Lunch Program. Once again it was a huge success. We look forward to next year.

SERVANTS DAY

Servants Day will be **September 17 from 8 AM until 4 PM**. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. It will be based over at St. Joseph's church. The volunteer sign up list is on the bulletin board in the breezeway. You will be contacted about your job assignment before September 17 so you can come prepared. If your job is not an 8-4 job, please be prepared to help elsewhere as there are always projects that can use a few more hands.

NURTURED HEART APPROACH SEPTEMBER 7TH FROM 6-9:00PM

Come experience an introduction to the Nurtured Heart Approach. We will spend the evening exploring this method of encouraging the greatness that exists within every child. As parents, teachers, or other adults who work with kids, we have to admit that there is a tendency to focus our attention on children's misbehavior. Over time, this teaches children to act out in order to receive the love and focus they so desire. The Nurtured Heart Approach reverses this focusing instead on recognizing and celebrating children who make good choices. We truly believe this approach embodies the example Jesus set for us of love and grace toward all. After all, each and every child is made in God's own image. And we are called to help them see the miracle they really are.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Women's Guild will begin meeting again on **Tuesday, September 13th 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

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.

THE BLESSING TREE

In Timmermeister Hall, you will find the Blessing Tree. If you witness God's blessing, record it on the Blessing Tree by placing a paper hand on a branch. The Tree's branches will fill up with examples of God's blessings through our actions. An act of kindness, a moving musical performance, a peaceful solution, a healing, a moment of joy, are a few examples of ways God blesses us. Help us to symbolize the blessings and reaching hands of God. Please acknowledge God's blessings on our Blessing Tree.

COMING SOON

Mark your calendars for a up coming attraction..... On **Saturday, November 12, 2016** St Paul UCC will be holding a Craft Day. Several artist will be sharing their talents with participants. More information to follow soon.

1 Hour Early Dismissal

There is a 1 hour early dismissal for all Wapakoneta schools on Wednesday, September 21st. As in prior years, when there is an early dismissal there will be no transportation from the schools and no homework table time. FEAST will then start at 4:00 with Session 1 class. Please remember to send a note to the Elementary School that day as to what your child/children should do to get home or wherever they go on regular days.

RALLY DAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

SUNDAY SCHOOL

MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday School classes will start on **Sunday, September 11th** at 9:00AM. For 3 years old—7th grade we will meet in Timmermeister Hall for our opening, then go to our classes. Come and join us every Sunday. Dr. Parmie Herman’s adult class will also start this Sunday at 9:00 AM.

Following the 10:15 morning worship services there will be a potluck dinner with Faith Formation providing Erb BBQ Chicken and drinks. There is a sign-up sheet in the breezeway for the dinner to give us an idea of how much chicken to have. Please bring your own table service and a side dish or dessert to share.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Parmie Herman teaches Adult Sunday School every week between the two services. All are welcome to attend. Even if you arrive a little late or must leave a little early, the class has something to offer to anyone who is interested. Class will start at 9:00 am this year and run about 60 minutes – sometimes shorter, never longer. The first topic of the year will be “Christianity’s Family Tree” which will explore the different denominations of Christianity – their history and current particular beliefs. Emphasis will be what draws us together as Christians. This is an Adam Hamilton study. A Christmas Advent study will use Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” to discuss Advent topics. These topics will take the class through the holiday season. After the first of the year, plans are to do a Bible study on Paul’s letter First Corinthians.

General Fund

Approved General Fund Monthly Budget	\$26,175.83
Given to General Fund for Month of August	\$18,563.50
Difference	\$ 7,612.33
Given to Benevolences for the Month of August	\$ 1,162.50
Approved General Fund Budget Year to Date	\$209,406.67
Given to General Fund so far this year	\$146,269.41
Difference	\$ 63,137.26
Given to Benevolences so far this year	\$10,811.90

Benevolence Giving for September~ St Paul Families in Need

FEAST

STARTING SEPTEMBER 14TH

The next season of FEAST will be here before we know it. The last session we averaged around 70 children and youth. What a blessing this ministry is to the community. We have an exciting array of classes planned and are eager to nurture and love the kids that will walk through our doors again in just a couple of weeks. The energy and curiosity of the kids never ceases to create a sense of awe within us. If you have never helped with FEAST you should consider it, because it is contagious in a wonderful way.

Registration forms are in the back of the sanctuary and in the church office. If you haven't already registered the children in your family please do so as soon as possible.

FEAST T-SHIRTS!!!!

Feast T-Shirts can be purchased for your child or children. The cost is \$12. We hope to have them ordered by September 2nd. There is a sign up form in the breezeway for your name and shirt size. Check out the picture. They look awesome!!!!



Feast Schedule

WEDNESDAYS—Sept. 14—Dec 7

- 3:00-4:00-Study Tables
- 4:00-4:45-Class **Session One**
- 4:45-5:30-Class **Session Two**
- 5:30-6:30-Feast Lesson for the week and Dinner
- 6:30-7:15-Class **Session Three**
- 7:15-7:30—Final Pick-up. All participants need to be checked out by 7:30 p.m.

Session One:

- Banner Making
- Poetry and Writing (3rd grade and up)
- Painting and Crafting
- Medieval Games and studies (2nd grade and up)

Session Two:

- Hand Chimes (3rd grade and up; Youth will play occasionally for Sunday worship)
- Art of Paper Folding
- Yoga
- Canvas and Mixed-media Painting

Session Three:

- Cherub Choir (4yrs -4th grade)
- Middle School Youth Group (Grades 5-7)
- Sr. High CIA (Christians in Action) Youth Group (Grades 8-12)

Please come join the FEAST.....

September 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 1:30PM Circle One 6:00PM Faith Formation Meeting	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion	Church Office Closed Labor Day	<i>6</i> 7—8:30PM Suicide Survivors Support Group	<i>7</i> 6-9:00 Pastor Janice's Parenting Class 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 8:30-4:00PM Federation of Women's Club	<i>10</i> 9AM—12Noon CRI Sorting in Buckland
<i>11</i> 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 9:00AM Stewardship Committee Meeting 10:15AM Worship Rally Day w/Potluck Dinner (Erb's BBQ Chicken)	<i>12</i> 6PM Church Council	<i>13</i> 1:30PM Women's Guild	<i>14</i> 3:00PM FEAST 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> Pastor Becky Vacation →	<i>17</i> Servants Day
<i>18</i> 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship →	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 1 hr Early Dismissal Wapak City Schools 4:00PM FEAST 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> Rain Day for Servants Day →
<i>25</i> 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship →	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> 6:00PM Mission Committee Meeting Pastor Becky Back	<i>28</i> 3:00PM FEAST 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	<i>29</i> 4:00 -6:30PM Loaves & Fishes St Paul Serving	<i>30</i>	

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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

**Church Office Closed
September 5, 2016**

Labor Day



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.