The Link

April 2021

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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SUNDAY'S NEWS

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die."—Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Spring, summer, fall, and winter. One season comes after another, time and time again. There's nothing we can do to stop it. We can't slow it down or speed it up. Each year I find myself wishing I could slow time as we live those last fine days of autumn. And how many times have I wondered in the bleak cold of winter how long I will have to wait for the arrival of spring? But then I remember these words from scripture: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." And I guess it isn't my job to determine the times and the seasons. They simply follow, one after another, in God's time.

Not only the seasons of the year, but the seasons of our lives also move along. Things change. People change. Circumstances change. And somehow life goes on. In many ways, our church has seen more change in the past year than we have seen in the last several decades. And we know that in the next year, we will change even more, as we work to resume many of our ministries and find new patterns for the future. Change is hard, but moving through the seasons of our life together brings new opportunities for growth and new ways for God's Spirit to live and move within and among us. The challenge God places before us is to live into each new season and to continue the work of being the church—Christ's hands and feet in the world.

As Christ's church, we are on the brink of another new season—the Easter season! Easter celebrates the resurrection of Christ. After three long days in the tomb, Christ arose to new life. But it is not just Christ's resurrection we celebrate during this season. The Easter season is a reminder that resurrection belongs to all of God's people. We are a risen people! We are called to be a resurrection people in everything that we do—always looking for light in the midst of darkness, hope in despair, and new life springing forth from the bonds of death. The future of our church is bright as we continue to embrace God's changing call on our ministry together. We remain committed to our calling of praising God through our worship, making disciples, and feeding God's children. But as the seasons change, we must keep pressing forward, listening for the nudging of God's voice and moving even deeper into these ministries.

Winter to spring; death to life. The seasons continually change. But we are called to be a people of resurrection regardless of the season. We are to be always looking to God's future and always hoping for and working toward some better, fuller life than we have now. So let the seasons roll on, and let us strive to be God's Easter people—celebrating love, hope, light, and new life in every season.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Becky

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN…

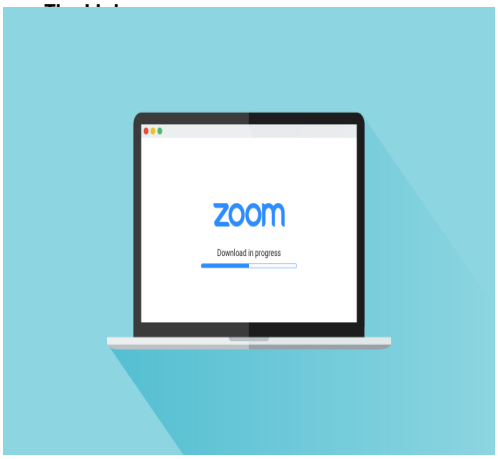
"Even when uncertainty is the only thing you are certain of, there is hope and an opportunity to thrive through God."… Nona Jones

How awesome is Spring? I love seeing green buds on plants beginning to show life; the grass looking more alive than dead; the return of migrant song birds; the opportunity to plant flowers and vegetables (especially tomatoes!) … it is sort of like an awakening from a dark, dreary and uncertain time.

Like the promise of Spring that always brings with it a fresh sense of renewal from where it looks dreary and uncertain, God always promises us our own renewal every Spring… every Easter. Like the animals, insects, and plants that have learned to adapt and live through the bleak dreariness of winter….we were not dead or lost through the uncertainty of a Covid filled winter…far from it… we were and are still thriving with God's direction, love, and renewal. Just look at our church and its accomplishments this winter… our ministries continued to thrive through God's love. And now with the renewal and promise of Spring, the possibilities to minister to God's people seem to be getting safer and continue to be growing.

As we begin this Spring Season with such awesome hope for a much better year… a safer year, let us continue to seek opportunities to minister and help each other blossom like life does during each Spring. And, let us also remember to thank God for these opportunities to thrive and make a difference through Him and for Him … for that is good.

Mark Vaughn,
Council President



YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

ZOOMING

INTO ACTION…

March 8, 2021

Zoom Meeting Highlights

Church Council is still working as evidenced from the meeting highlights found below. Members wishing a set of detailed minutes may contact Tami Zwez, Church Secretary.

- Meeting was called to order by Mark Vaughn, Council President at 6:30 p.m.
- Received correspondence from the Northwest Conference.
- Received the Monthly Pastor's Report from Reverend Becky.
- Approved the recorded minutes of February 8, 2021 meeting.
- Approved the Monthly Treasurer's Report as presented by Fritz Ankerman, Treasurer.
- Received an update on the technology usage for on-line streaming of worship services from Anthony Brookhart.
- Authorized via a motion to empower the Covid Response Team to make necessary decisions on behalf of Church Council regarding safety issues and in-person worship, as it especially relates to Easter Services.
- Trustees continued to reported issues with the kitchen fan not working properly. The vent louvers do not open fully, followed by little fan exhaust that creates enough draft to remove occasional smoke, steam, and heat from the stove area. Problem is being studied by a repair company for possible solutions.
- Lay Ministries Coordinator provided updates on Online Learning Students Meals Food Ministry, Take-out Tuesday Meal Food Ministry, and FEAST To Go Children's Ministry Program.
- Approved a motion to accept Christopher Wright and Makenna Smith as members of our Church through the successful completion of their confirmation program facilitated by Reverend Sunday.
- <u>Continued to table discussions on:</u>
  - a.Purchase of a small church bus
  - b.doption of the new Constitution
  - c.Establish Mission Statement Review Committee
  - d.Establish a Public Relations Committee
  - e.Establishment of a centralized Food Pantry
- Created a celebration committee to plan for Reverend Becky's Ordination Anniversary Celebration.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

HATS OFF TO THESE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CHURCH…

- The **RESUMPTION** of in –person worship services in our Sanctuary!!!!
- **Surviving** and **continuing** to grow in faith during a full year of pandemic!
- **ALL** who are in worship each week at home via our live streaming and recorded services!!!
- **Bill Miller** and **Anthony Brookhart** for all they are doing to continue the weekly live streaming and recording of church services.
- **Daniel Landis, Wendy Schlenker, Pastor Becky, Karen Joseph** and **Martha Heffner** for providing the music used to enhance our worship.
- **Drs. George and Parmie Herman** for all their advice and guidance regarding worshiping safely in the Sanctuary.
- **Church Council**'s Covid Response Team for their work at maintaining in-person weekly worship services safely.
- **Zoom Bible Lenten Study Class** participants and Reverend Becky for studying the *"I Am"* statements of Jesus.
- **The Mission Committee** for meeting on March 15th to plan and facilitate our Church's ministries… and pre-planning a mission trip to Back Bay Mission for 2022!!!!!
- **Faith Formation Committee** for meeting on March 22nd to begin pre-planning and organizing for eventual in-person worship and social activities.
- **Our Church's participation** in the community-wide Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt Program held on March 27th.
- The continuation of the **Online Learning Student Meal Program**… serving 30 students 5 meals weekly. Thank you to Tami Zwez and her staff for making this program a success!
- **Tami Zwez** for continuing the leadership necessary to make our Take-Out Tuesday Evening Meal Programs a growing success!!!! ***Over 250 meals served weekly!!!!***
- **ALL** the volunteers that are working on Tuesday evening to make Take Out Tuesday's Evening Meal Program a growing success... meeting the hunger needs of the community one meal at a time!!!!
- Continuing our **FEAST To Go Program** and reaching approximately 40 kids weekly by continuing our ministry during this pandemic!!!!!
- **Reverend Becky** for continuing to provide us strong leadership and guidance during this pandemic.
- **Church Council** for continuing to work… via ZOOM to move our Church's mission and ministry forward during this pandemic.
- Our **Church Staff** for their continuing efforts at meeting our church's needs in an era of uncertainty.
- **ALL** of the unnamed volunteers and members that continue our Church's ministry to the Wapakoneta Community!!!

Our Church Family

Happy Anniversary!!

04/08/2000	Greg & Wendy Schlenker
04/11/1970	James & Deb Kaeck
04/20/1985	Michael & Jane Burke
04/21/2012	Marty & Andrea Brookhart
04/22/1978	Lewis & Cindy Erb
04/26/1980	Dennis & Barbara Kohler
04/26/1986	Larry & Vicki Winkler
04/27/1984	David & Lori Acheson
04/29/2011	Erin & Chase Falke
04/30/1977	Devin & Cindy Holtzapple

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to our
St. Paul Youth!

Kherington McElroy	4/15/16
Hudson Martin	4/18/12
Ayla Webb	4/26/13
Avery Place	4/26/05

Happy Birthday to you...

04/01	Nathan Kaeck
04/01	Shirley Pohlable
04/01	Stephanie Steinke
04/02	Philip Schlenker
04/05	Mary Jo Roth
04/05	Delmar Merricle
04/06	Kay Dorner
04/08	Zane McElroy
04/08	Alexander Hively
04/09	Kalene Byer
04/10	Sarah Guakin
04/11	James Hearn Jr.
04/12	Allison Nolte
04/12	Victoria Smith
04/13	Linda Baker
04/14	Alexis Stiles
04/14	Lewis Knoch
04/15	Catherine Copeland
04/15	Emilie Brown
04/15	Martha Hefner
04/16	Lisa Wellington
04/16	Alexander Smithey
04/16	Charles Sutton
04/16	Laura Kinstle
04/19	Judy Mason
04/19	Richard Roth
04/20	David Wheeler
04/20	Steven Crace
04/22	Davita Hoelscher
04/23	Mark Short
04/24	Michael Hosterman
04/26	Kirk Azbell
04/26	Dawn Miller
04/27	Peg Schlenker
04/28	Dorothy Frey

EMERGENCY CLEANUP BUCKET LIST

Flooding devastates too many communities each year. You're helping a family recover quickly and safely with a bucket that is full of key supplies like gloves, dust masks and trash bags. These supplies mean families can get straight to work cleaning up and moving forward.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ☐ One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (if bucket has been used, clean well but do not use if it has held chemicals of any kind)
- ☐ Four scouring pads
- ☐ Seven sponges, including one large
- ☐ One scrub brush
- ☐ Eighteen reusable, lightweight dry cleaning towels (e.g. Handi wipes)
- ☐ One 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- ☐ One 16-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- ☐ One 12-16 oz. bottle of household cleaner that can be mixed with water (no spray bottles)
- ☐ One package of 48-50 clothespins
- ☐ Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- ☐ Five dust masks
- ☐ Two pairs of heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves (latex-free, non-surgical)
- ☐ One pair of work gloves (cotton with leather palm or all leather)
- ☐ 24-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll and removed from carton
- ☐ One 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent

All cleaning items must be new and all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.

Please do not enclose cash or checks inside of the kits or the boxes. Please send all monetary donations to: CWS, PO Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515 or pay your shipping online at **cwskits.org/shipping**

VALUE: $75 **PROCESSING FEE:** $3 per kit

For additional shipping & donation instructions, visit **cwskits.org**

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CWS
Church World Service

HYGIENE KITS LIST

These little kits are jam-packed with supplies to help keep people clean and healthy. From toothbrushes to washcloths, you're making sure that someone's needs are going to be met in the wake of an emergency when even the most basic supplies can be hard to come by.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ☐ *One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel, or micro-fiber)*
- ☐ *One washcloth*
- ☐ *One wide-tooth comb removed from the package (found at discount dealers like sallybeauty.com)*
- ☐ *One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package (either one is acceptable)*
- ☐ *One bath size bar of soap in the original package*
- ☐ *One toothbrush in the original package*
- ☐ *Ten standard size Band-Aids*

Affordable wide-tooth combs can be found at discount suppliers such as **sallybeauty.com**. Search for "wide-tooth pastel comb" to see an example of combs that meet the kit requirements.

All items need to fit inside a one-gallon Ziploc type bag. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal before boxing.

Do not add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each hygiene kit just prior to its journey.

Please do not enclose cash or checks inside of the kits or the boxes. Please send all monetary donations to: CWS, PO Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515 or pay your shipping online at **cwskits.org/shipping**

VALUE: $15 **PROCESSING FEE:** $2 per kit

For additional shipping & donation instructions, visit **cwskits.org**

CWS
Church World Service

UPCOMING

ST. PAUL UCC CRAFT SHOW

St. Paul UCC is “Crafting For A Cause” on May 1, 2021 at Moon City Music & Event at 4:00PM. Come out and support St. Paul UCC for their Mission Trip to Biloxi, MS.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Our next large-scale food distribution event through West Ohio Food Bank will be on Friday, April 30, 2021 from 10:00AM to 12:00 Noon at the Wapakoneta Fair-grounds. Registration will be at 9:00AM.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The next church council Zoom meeting will be on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 6:30PM.

MISSION COMMITTEE

Mission Committee meeting on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 6:30PM on Zoom.

LOAVES AND FISHES

Wapak Loaves and Fishes are continuing to prepare meals, as carry-outs only, for the Wapak community, on Thursdays from 4:30 -5:30 p.m.

Pickup location is First English Church, rear entrance along the alley. No need to get out of the car. A greeter will ask for your name and number of meals being picked up.

Meal reservations need to be called in to Connie Krites at either 567-204-6708 or 419-657-6983 by 6 p.m. Wednesdays. If leaving a message please give your name, phone number, and number of meals need-ed.

St. Paul UCC will be preparing the meal on Thursday, April 29, 2021.

DEACON COMMITTEE

Deacon committee meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 6:30PM

EVENTS

General Fund

Approved General Fund Monthly Budget	$28,389.47
Given to General Fund	$25,813.38
Difference	$ 2,576.09
Given to Benevolences	$ 593.46
General Fund Budget Year to Date	$85,168.40
Given to General Fund Year to Date	$69,024.14
Difference	$16,144.26
Given to Benevolences Fund Year to Date	$ 2,923.88
Given to Building Fund Year to Date	$ 4,212.75

Benevolence Giving for April~ OCWM

MONTHLY SUMMARY

February 2021

Income	$28,650.60
Expenses	$24,780.16

We Support Our Church By Our Prayers

Members of St. Paul's prayer chain are honored to pray for individual and family needs. If you have a prayer request, please contact Hannah Kohler at home at (419) 738-4251 or email her hkkohler36@gmail.com or Jennifer Frische after hours at (419) 738-6703. To have a name printed in the bulletin for prayers, please contact Cindy in the church office (419) 738-2215.
Names will appear for **four weeks**, and then will be removed unless otherwise notified.

The following people are in need of your prayers:

Susan Bartlett
Betty Brookhart
Donna Cady
Connie Claybaugh
Jamie Clements
Alicia Cummins
Marsha Elliott
Teagan Elliott
Emil George
Haley Greer
Ethan Hibner
Laura Kinstle
Tim Kinstle
Kenda Kohler
Ron Kohler
Rex & Brenda Lippincott
Alan McClintock
Jade Miller
Nellie Montgomery
Katherine Norman
Shirley Place
Carol Presar
Doris Sunderland
Cindy Vinco
Ezra Wellington
Janet Winkler

Members and friends serving in the U.S. military:
Alex Bowersock
Matthew Cox
Amanda Preston Johnston
Haley Jean Kill
Valerie Orellana
Scott Presar
Nathan Quellhorst
Johnathon Schlosser
Morgen Sindelar
Dave Sodders
Douglas Sodders
Alexis Stiles
Jeff Sunday
Daniel Turnbow
Ian Wiedenbein
Jian Feng Zhao

Please keep in your prayers all of those affected by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, including

Medical personnel
First responders
Those unemployed or furloughed
Business owners
Government leaders
Essential workers
Those suffering from depression and anxiety

APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service at St. Paul UCC	*2* 7:00 Good Friday Service at St. Mark's Lutheran Church Ofice Closed	*3*
4 8:15 Service 10:15 Service **Easter Sunday**	*5*	*6* 5:30-6:30 Take Out Tuesday Meals	*7*	*8* 6:30PM Dea-con's Meeting	*9*	*10*
11 10:15AM Worship Service 12-1:30PM 8th Grade Con-firmation Class	*12* 6:30PM Church Council Zoom Meeting	*13* 5:30-6:30 Take Out Tuesday Meals	*14*	*15* 6:30PM Zoom Mis-sion Com-mittee Meet-ing	*16*	*17*
18 10:15AM Worship Service 1-2:30PM 8th Grade Confirmation Class	*19*	*20* 5:30-6:30 Take Out Tuesday Meals	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24* UCC Association Meeting on Zoom
25 10:15AM Worship Service 1-2:30PM 8th Grade Confirmation Class	26	27 5:30-6:30 Take Out Tuesday Meals	28	29 Loaves & Fishes St. Paul Prepares	30 10-12:00Noon West Ohio Bank Food Drive at Wapak Fairgrounds	

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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.

WORSHIP WITH US!

Weekly worship services are available in-person & on the church Website: www.stpaulucc.com or our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StPaulWapakoneta/

HAPPY EASTER!