

Rooted in the past,
Living faithfully in the present

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

April 2020

*“By listening to
the still
speaking God,
we seek to
connect people
to God and to
others through
worship,
service, and
fellowship.”*

We are a church
that values:

Welcome

Fellowship

Outreach

Tradition


**God
is still
speaking,**

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

For my column this week, I simply offer this prayer:

Gracious God, the One who pours love into our hearts, we pray this morning that accompanying your love you will pour into us courage, stillness, and wisdom as well. We live in a moment of upheaval and fear. We live in a moment when we worry about tomorrow and fear what it will bring. O God, give us the gift of life in the moment, the gift of seeing the reality of that moment and the discernment to do what is right. Give us eyes of wisdom and compassion especially for the most vulnerable.

In this pandemic, we pray for all those affected by the Coronavirus, first and foremost for those who've contracted the disease and for those caring for them. We pray also for those who struggle with clinical anxiety and worry who are really suffering amid the panic we see everywhere. Give us balance, a balance that forgoes panic but applies wisdom and prudence, so we can help ease other's pain.

We also pray for those suffering from other illnesses and issues amid this time. Let us not forget that struggles and hurt exist all around and in various forms. Help the aging, the sick, the dying, the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the victims of war and devastation, the hated and despised and discarded.

We pray as well for our leaders. Help them rise to the moment, see past themselves and see the most vulnerable among us. Help them to make decisions based on the wisdom of experts who you've gifted with knowledge and expertise. Help them to balance it all, and lead us to avoid the extremes of panic and dismissiveness by firstly mirroring it in themselves.

May our own feelings of vulnerability during this time of pandemic lead us to more clearly see the most vulnerable among us who've always been there needing our help. May we sense in our own fear and worry those who've experienced and still experience the same all too often, all year long, year after year. Let our momentary stress and concern lead to more compassion individually and collectively, O Loving God.

(continued on next page)

Lastly, Lord, may we sense glimpses of gratitude amid it all. May we hear music a little more poignantly and appreciatively. May we enjoy more walks in the neighborhood, acknowledging with light hearts the grass, the trees, the sky and clouds that greet us along the way. May we send and receive notes of greetings and well-wishes with a cheerful, reciprocating spirit. May we laugh as much as we can, smile through the worry, and know You are in control and that this too shall pass.

God, bless us and keep us. Make your face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. Smile toward us and bring us peace, a peace that outlasts all earthly and temporal things.....Amen.



EASTER NEWS

We've decided through Easter, we will continue to do virtual services via Facebook, YouTube, and teleconference. Here is the schedule for Holy weeks. Links to those websites and info for the teleconference option will follow.

- Through April, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 2 pm, Rev. Don will do a virtual Psalm Reading on our Facebook page and teleconference
- During Holy Week (April 6-11), Rev. Don will offer a daily meditation (Mon-Sat) via Facebook and teleconference at 2 pm.
- Palm Sunday and Easter Service will be offered on Facebook Live and teleconference at 10:15 and recording posted on YouTube at 11:30 am.

Here are the links to get to these offerings:

Facebook

Live: <https://www.facebook.com/St.PaulsUCCMiddletown/videos>

YouTube (Recording posted at 11:30 am): shorturl.at/dsDJ2

- Teleconference: Dial In Number: 800-941-1840 Participant ID/extension: 298729#



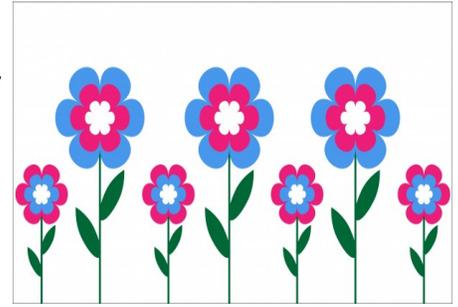
There have been some questions about tithes and offerings . You are still able to continue giving a couple of ways.

1. Mail it to the office @ 114 S. Broad St. Middletown, OH 45044
2. You can go to stpaulsuccmidd.org and use the online method That is on the website.
3. Drop it at the office on a Tuesday or Thursday between the hours of 11am-2pm.
4. Call the office and make other arrangements 513-422-4519





May Congregational Meeting will be on May 17!



Virginia Elam Lorraine Clark Cleo Habig Amanda Lorig Carroll Stein Charlene Hale Frances Stoutenborough Shirley Fore Kathryn(O'Conner) Kuhn

Prayers for our service men and women.. Chase McConnehea Jake Burley



If you have the need to speak to Pastor Don for support the number that you should call is 513-320-7441



A Message from Charlene about the Love Packages



This is a thank you for your faithful support to Church Women United who had the Love Packages Box placed in Fellowship Hall many years ago. It supported third world countries with the religious materials, the Ronald McDonald House with the can tabs, the medicine bottles for the Human Society, and St. Jude's children with greeting cards for their art projects.

The collection of these items will be discontinued and the box you've gotten so used to will be removed. I ask that all these items be recycled and/or passed on to other organizations who do charity work with the donations.

On behalf of Church Women United, thank you again. Sincerely, Charlene Kinyalocets

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

MARCH 8, 2020

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

PRESENT: Barb Flory, Chuck Clark, Rick Lyons, Julie Ratliff, Darlene Adams, Larry Adams, Judy Brewer and Rev. Don Erickson. ABSENT: Bryan Canter

OPENING PRAYER: Rick Lyons

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approved as amended. #7 under New Business – “he” changed to “she” and “hem” to “she”. Chuck/Julie

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Approved. Chuck/Julie

TREASURER'S REPORT: Approved to file for audit. Julie/Larry

PASTOR'S REPORT – Rev. Don

1. Ash Wednesday happened without a hitch in the newly redone chapel. There was a small turnout of people due to the blustery, snowy weather.
2. I will be planning a Maundy Thursday service per tradition at St. Paul's.
3. The Open Mic Worship idea has been scratched. It has not been well received at other venues in the community.
4. I am thinking of advertising on Facebook for a Sunday service after Easter. It would be wise to somehow make the service unique. \$100.00 for advertisement would be a good first time start.
5. We will be joining First UMC Lenten Study starting Thursday, March 5. The Parables Of Jesus will be taught by Dr. Marilyn Clark, a retired professor at Xavier University.
6. I will be making a push to make more visits through Lent. If you know of anyone who would like visit, let me know.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Schedule to cover office duties while Ann is out. Surgery delayed.
2. Search committee update. Carl Batliner is head of the committee.
3. Do we need to “install” the search committee? Yes, Rev. Don will setup.
4. Be thinking ahead to May election of officers.
5. The date for the May congregational meeting has been set for May 17. Annual reports are due. No food for this meeting.
6. Audit? In the past it was done at this time of the year. When do we want it done? This will be discussed at the next meeting.
7. Pastor Don's exit date is July 12th.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Security discussion. We have security in place. The congregation will be informed during Sunday service.
2. Update on chapel chairs. The chairs are due to be here the first week of April.

CO-MODERATORS' REPORTS – Barb & Rick. No report at this time.

SERVICE – Julie & Judy. Due to a mix-up, the food that was collected for Shalom was given to Hope House. It was very much appreciated.

WORSHIP – Barb & Darlene. Maundy Thursday service will be April 9 at 7:00pm.

FELLOWSHIP – Chuck. Lunch bunch will be going to Gracie's in March and Shooter's in April.

PROPERTY – Rick & Larry. The outside work on the church will be starting as soon as weather permits.

BUDGET & FINANCE – Bryan. No report at this time.

NEXT MEETING: Due to Easter being on our scheduled date, we will be meeting on Thurs. April 9 – 5:30

NEXT MONTH OPENING PRAYER: Darlene

ATTENDANCE: February 2020 – 104 (26/4 week average)
February 2019 - 133 (33/4 week average)

Respectfully submitted by
Judith S Brewer,
Church Council Secretary

April 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4
5 Facebook Live Service	6 Daily online meditation @ 2 pm FB & teleconference	7 Daily online meditation @ 2 pm FB & teleconference	8 Daily online meditation @ 2 pm FB & Teleconference	9 Maundy Thursday Daily online meditation @ 2 pm FB & Teleconference Council 5:30	10 Good Friday Daily online meditation @ 2 pm FB & teleconference	11 Daily online meditation @ 2 pm FB & teleconference
12 Facebook Live Service 	13 Facebook Live Psalm reading @ 2 pm and teleconference	14	15 Facebook Live Psalm reading @ 2 pm and teleconference	16	17 Facebook Live Psalm reading @ 2 pm and teleconference	18
19 Facebook Live Service	20 Facebook Live Psalm reading @ 2 pm and teleconference	21	22 Facebook Live Psalm reading @ 2 pm and teleconference	23	24 Facebook Live Psalm reading @ 2 pm and teleconference	25
26 Facebook Live Service	27 Facebook Live Psalm reading @ 2 pm and teleconference	28	29 Facebook Live Psalm reading @ 2 pm and teleconference	30		

Here are the links to get to these offerings:

Facebook

Live: <https://www.facebook.com/St.PaulsUCCMiddletown/videos>

YouTube (Recording posted at 11:30 am): shorturl.at/dsDJ2

Special Offering for April "Abilities First"

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

114 S. BROAD STREET
MIDDLETOWN OHIO 45044

OPEN AND AFFIRMING

Nursery Provided • Lift to Sanctuary • Handicap Accessible
Holy Communion celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.

Rev. Don Erickson, Interim Pastor
Marsha Minge, Choir Director • Barbara Flory, Pianist



Pastors Office Hours Tuesday-Wednesday 9:30-1:30pm Thursday by appointment

Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Office 513-422-4519 **E Mail:** stpaulsuccmidd@att.net

WEB PAGE: stpaulsuccmidd.org