

Rooted in the past,
Living faithfully in the present

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

April 2021

*“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

HAPPY EASTER!

Yes, this day is a glorious one indeed! For on this day over two thousand years ago, Jesus rose from the grave and left all the guilt and sin of humanity in the tomb. With this event, we are free – free to be what God intends all of us to be – loving, caring, forgiving, trusting people – His beloved children.

But, over the centuries, this freedom we have been given through His Son and our Lord Jesus Christ has not been taken as seriously as it should. We have become lazy in our faith journey and forgotten the sacrifice our Lord made for us at Calvary on the cross. We have not loved others as we should; we have not forgiven others as we want them to forgive us – although there are people who don't even care about that either; we have too many times ignored the opportunities we have been given to care for others in their times of need, as we have become so wrapped up in our own lives and the personal wants and desires we have that at times we become obsessed with; we have not shown much trust – and in a number of instances – that lack of trust has become well-founded with how people treat each other as they quest for power and control over others in this world we live in.

Yes, indeed, what truly can be a Happy Easter for all, becomes only a once-a-year celebration for far too many people. If only we would sit back and think about what this event really means to each of us – the opportunity to begin life anew – to throw away old habits and actions; to toss out old grudges and resentments; to bury our differences with others and instead celebrate the commonality we all have – that being the love of God through Christ Jesus our Lord!

So, let us prayerfully consider what Easter is and let the joy of this celebration – let the hope generated by this celebration ring forth in our daily living. Then, can we begin to understand better how God's love through the Risen Christ, is ready to help change us and us the world we live in.

Sue and I wish you all a most Blessed Easter celebration for you and your family.

**Shalom,
Pastor Rich**



"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." - John 13:34

Maundy Thursday Service will be a shared experience with First Christian Church located at 4520 Rosedale Rd. Services will start at 7:30pm



"The highest act of love is the giving of the best gift, and, if necessary, at the greatest cost, to the least deserving. That's what God did. At the loss of His Son's life to the totally undeserving, God gave the best gift - the display of the glory of Christ who is the image of God." - John Piper

Good Friday Services will be held at St. Paul's starting at 7pm.



MANY THANKS

To the Church Council and others who helped with the Installation on March 28th. I really appreciated all your efforts. It was a wonderful day.

Clothes Closet

We haven't any customers yet; but we certainly have lots of clothing! Now we are about to receive added shelving and racks from the Episcopal church – so that will help eliminate the piles of clothing we have in our room. If you would like to come and help organize the Closet, please feel free to come in and dig in. Your help would be certainly appreciated!



HAT'S OFF!

As we continue our celebration of people in our midst, this month we salute Marsha Minge. Marsha right now is our choir! She has been a member here for many of years; and has led our adult choir. But, through the COVID and members passing away, our Choir has become non-existent, save for Marsha, who has shared her wonderful voice with us during worship each week. She also has assisted us with the Bell Choir.

We thank Marsha for her talents and that she unselfishly has shared them with us over the years, bringing joy to our worship experiences. HAT'S OFF TO YOU!



BIBLE STUDY

We are still meeting at 1pm every Tuesday in Friendship Hall. Right now we are in the Book of Exodus. We will not meet on April 6th; but will resume on the 13th. Please come and join with us.



Rich on Vacation

Pastor Rich and his wife and grandchildren will be away on a short vacation from the afternoon of April 4th through Saturday, April 10th. He will be back in the pulpit on the 11th. While he is away, if there is a pastoral emergency, **Pastor Connor Thompson from First Christian Church** will be covering. His number is: 513 – 594 – 0070 and his church number is: 513-422-2853.

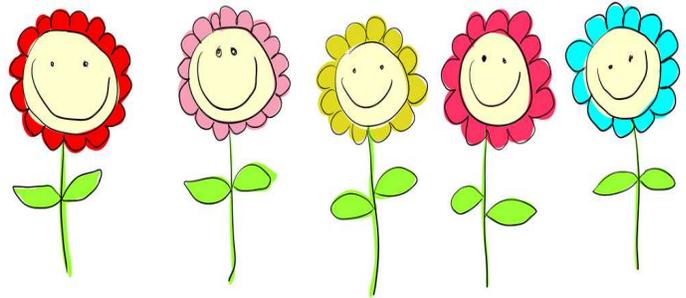




SPRING



*Virginia Elam Lorraine Clark
Charlene Hale Frances Stoutenborough
Mike Davies Margaret Morrison & Family*



VOLUNTEERS

DATE	GREETERS	USHERS	LITURGIST	Open/Close
04/04/2021	R. Britton	L & D Adams	Marsha M.	John W.
04/11/2021	J. Williams	R. Lyons J. Rockwell	Pat B.	John W.
04/18/2021	C. Clark	T & M Shibley	Corrine L	John W.
04/25/2021	C. Lowman	C. & J. Batliner	Chuck C.	John W.

April 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 Maundy Thursday @ First Christian 7:30 pm	2 Good Friday Services First Christian 7pm	3
4 	5	6 PASTOR RICH	7 ON VACATION	8	9	10
11 Council Meeting 11:30 am	12	13 Bible Study 1pm	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Bible Study 1pm	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Bible Study 1pm	28	29	30	

Bible Study will be held on Tuesdays in Friendship Hall at 1pm. Social Distancing protocols are followed

Special Offering for April "Abilities First"

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

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - MARCH 14, 2021

PRESENT: Bryan Canter, Rick Lyons, Barb Flory, Chuck Clark, Judy Brewer & Rev. Luh

ABSENT: Darlene Adams, Larry Adams & Julie Ratliff

OPENING PRAYER: Chuck

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from February 14, 2021. Motion to approve. Bryan/Chuck Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to approve. Chuck/Rick Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Nothing out of the ordinary to report. One more month and Church Windows and the realtime report will be in sync.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Our services are moving along. Various members will be participating in our Palm Sunday worship - doing dramatic readings. Our Maundy Thursday service will be a joint effort with First Christian Church at their church on April 1st - 7:30pm. It will be a moving Tenebrae service. The Community Good Friday service will be here at St. Paul's at 7:00pm. Ruth Kelly and I will be preaching.

Bell Choir - Due to some members having outside conflicts, our Spring debut will be on April 11th. There is still room for more volunteers!

Funerals - I had the funeral of **Cleo Habig** on February 22 and the Memorial service for **Dan Meeker** on March 6th. I have been in communication with Cindy Burnett via phone and have visited her this past week. She is doing better.

Clergy Group - I met via Zoom February 18th and met with another group this past Wednesday.

Clothes Closet - I have been here several Saturdays with some volunteers to help get the room ready. As of yet, we have had no one come in - but I am sure once the word spreads, we will have a steady line of customers. Thanks to an individual, we now have contact with the Episcopal Church and I was told we can have access to their racks and shelves (both of which we are in desperate need). The contact person will let me know when these items can be picked up - but there will be a need for pick-up trucks to help carry these racks - eight feet in length. Donated clothing is coming in at a fast clip. We are now looking for toiletry items as well.

Confirmation - Due to the fact that my granddaughter is the only one in the class, I have decided to do her sessions at home - her sister, Sabrina, is her mentor.

Bible Study - We are on the Book of Exodus - still meeting every Wednesday at 1.

Installation - Rev. Carl Robinson will be here on March 28th to install me. I am putting the service together. Rev. Dr. Brian Q Newcomb and Rev. Michelle Wilkey - both from David's UCC, will be participating.

Vacation time - My wife and I and our grandchildren will be going away from Easter afternoon through Saturday, April 10th. Pastor Conner Thompson, First Christian Church, will cover for any emergencies.

Shalom, Pastor Rich

NEW BUSINESS

1. Update for Rev. Rich's service of installation March 28 at 2:00 p.m.. See above in Pastor's Report under Installation.
2. Palm Sunday/Easter palms and flowers have been ordered and to be picked up on 3/27 @ Rogers. Total is \$7.50 each and Ann will leave a check in her desk drawer for whomever is going to pick them up.
3. Monthly benevolences for 2021 - April-December. This was tabled until next month under New Business. It was decided to do what we did last year for April and decide next month for May-December.

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4. Rick - outreach idea. Rick brought an idea of having a St. Paul's Church calendar for 2022 to go out to current members and members who are no longer attending St. Paul's. Rick brought an example from another church for us to see. It was decided that this would be a good thing for our church to do. This will be brought up again next month under new business. Council was asked to bring ideas one what information they would like to see included.
5. An update on Ann's dealing with Covid was given.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Clothing Closet Update. See above in Pastor's Report under Clothes Closet.
2. Plastering - more estimates. No prices as yet. Larry is following through.

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

SERVICE - Julie & Judy. No report at this time.

WORSHIP - Barb & Darlene. No report at this time.

FELLOWSHIP - Chuck. Dan's memorial service went well.

PROPERTY - Rick & Larry. No report at this time.

BUDGET & FINANCE - Bryan. Bryan made a motion to stop withdrawals from the Schwab account for two months to draw down our checking account. Bryan/Chuck Motion passed.

NEXT MEETING: April 11, 2021

NEXT MONTH OPENING PRAYER: Bryan

Attendance: February 2021 - 103 (20/4 week average)
February 2020 - 102 (20/4 week average)

Respectfully submitted by,
Judith S Brewer,
Church Council Secretary

Easter Word Search



Angel

Cross

Crown of Thorns

Easter

Empty Tomb

Good Friday

Holy

Hope

Jesus

King

Love

Mary

Messiah

Resurrection

Risen

Sacrifice

Salvation

Sunday

Savior

Third Day



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. Rich Luh, Pastor

Marsha Minge, Choir Director • Barbara Flory, Pianist



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

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

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