

AUGUST 2021



United  
Church of  
Christ

# ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

114 S Broad St. Middletown, OH 45044

## *In Awe of Life*

A DEVOTIONAL FROM THE RAGGAMUFFIN GOSPEL BY: BRENNAN  
MANNING

Creation discloses a power that baffles our minds and beggars our speech. We are enamored and enchanted by God's power.

We stutter and stammer about God's holiness. We tremble before God's majesty...and yet we grow squeamish and skittish before God's love.

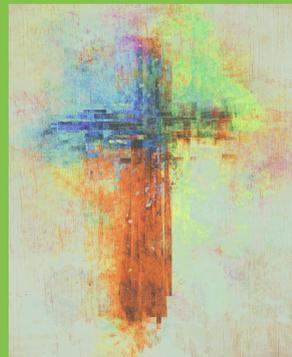
I am flabbergasted by the widespread refusal across this land to think big about a loving God. Like nervous thoroughbreds being guided to the starting gate at Churchill Downs, many Christians bray, bridle, and bolt at the revelation of God's all-embracing love in Jesus Christ.

In my ministry as a vagabond evangelist, I have encountered shocking resistance to the God whom the Bible defines as Love. The skeptics range from the oily, over-polite professionals who discreetly drop hints of the heresy of universalism, to the Bible thumper who sees only the dusty, robust war God of the Pentateuch, and who insists on restating the cold demands of rule-ridden perfectionism.

Our resistance to the furious love of God may be traced to the church, our parents and pastors, and life itself. They have hidden the face of a compassionate God, we protest, and favored a God of holiness, justice, and wrath.

Yet if we were truly men and women of prayer, our faces set like flint and our hearts laid waste by passion, we would discard our excuses. We would be done with blaming others.

We must go out into a desert of some kind (your backyard will do) and come into a personal experience of the awesome love of God. Then we will nod in knowing agreement with that gifted English mystic Julian of Norwich, "The greatest honor we can give Almighty God is to live gladly because of the knowledge of his love." We shall understand why, as Kittel's Theological Dictionary of the New Testament notes, in the last years of his life on the island of Patmos, the apostle John wrote, and wrote with magnificent monotony, of the love of Jesus Christ. As if for the first time, we shall grasp what Paul meant when he said, "But however much sin increased, grace was always greater; so that as sin's reign brought death, so grace was to rule through saving justice that leads to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 5:20-21).



"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





Shalom has put a call out for assistance for sleeping bags in perpetration for the upcoming months. If you have the resources. to buy one or a few I am sure the men and women in our community would appreciate it.

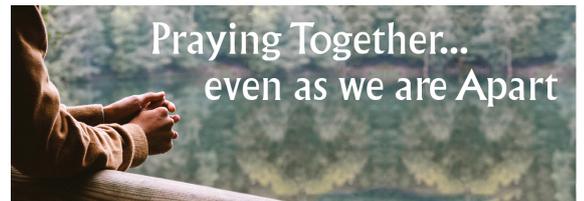
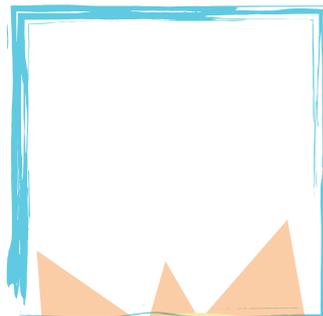
If your are wondering what kind you should buy here are a couple things to think about.

1. Is it an all weather sleeping bag?
2. What is the coldest temperature that it will protect the person using the sleeping bag? Needs to go below freezing.
3. Does the sleeping bag have a pull over hood to protect their head from the elements .
4. Does the sleeping bag come with a bag to store and carry it in to help prevent theft and easy to carry with them.

## August Volunteers

Date	Greaterers	Ushers	Liturgists	Open/Close
August 1	R. Lyons	L & D Adams	D. Flory	J. Williams
August 8	J. Rockwell	C. & J. Batliner	J. Ratliff	J. Williams
August 15	J. Williams	T. & M. Shibley	J. Brewer	J. Williams
August 22	C, Clark	R.Lyons/C. Lowman	C, Clark	J. Williams
August 29	C. Batliner	J. Williams/C. Clark	C. Kinyalocts	J. Williams

### Income & Expenses



We continue to pray for our home bound members and those with on-going health concerns:

We are in the process of updating the directory. If you have new phone #, email or address please let the office know via email at

- Virginia Elam Lorraine Clark  
 Charlene Hale  
 Frances Stoutenborough  
 Pat Beatty Calleigh Barraclough  
 Barbara Liggett Ruby McQuade

stpaulsuccmidd@att.net



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, MIDDLETOWN, OHIO  
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - JULY 11, 2021

PRESENT: Barb Flory, Chuck Clark, Jennifer Batliner, Carl Batliner, Rick Lyons, Judy Brewer, Rev. Luh. ABSENT: Bryan Canter, Julie Ratliff.

OPENING PRAYER: Rick

APPROVAL of minutes from June 13, 2021. Motion made & passed. Jennifer/Chuck

APPROVAL OF AGENDA. Motion made & passed. Chuck/Carl

TREASURER'S REPORT. Motion to approve to file for audit. Jennifer/Carl

Audit for 2019 & 2020 will be done in-house. Chuck will get it ready on the computer. Carl & Bryan will do it together.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

1. In the past month I made visitations to Judy Curtis (both hospital and home), Charlene Hale, Pat Beatty and Barb Ligett.

2. In talking with some Area Pastors (Conner from First Christian and John from the First Methodist and Scotty from First Baptist) - they liked the idea of having a joint picnic on August 15th here at our church - 12:30 pm with Conner's sister giving a short presentation on her mission trip to the Dominican Republic. So, John thought I should invite the Lutheran Church and 2nd Baptist as well - and I did with the stipulation that an RSVP will be necessary by August 8th. It was thought that this picnic should be indoors in case of bad weather but the possible problem would be too many people RSVP about coming and we have no room for them. Hopefully, the number will be on the lower side. This will be a good way to establish some neighborly relations with the area churches. They are asked to bring a main dish if their last name starts with the letter A-L and a dessert if it is M-Z. All are asked to bring their own drink. We would provide table covering and utensils for the serving table. If this is not acceptable to you, just tell me and I will cancel it out.

3. The Clothes Closet is status quo - but we now have another volunteer helping out on Tuesdays -Jim Rockwell.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Scholarship for education discussion -suggested by Batliners. Handouts were given from the Middletown Community Foundation - the agreement letter, a sample of qualifications, a copy of the Louise Richter scholarship, and information sheets about setting up a scholarship with the Middletown Community Foundation. It was decided that council members should read over the handouts and be ready to discuss at the next council meeting.

2. Picnic with other churches - Rev. Rich. After discussion, it was decided to not have a picnic at this time due to COVID concerns.

3. SHALOM. SHALOM is asking for donations of new or used sleeping bags that have been cleaned to give to the homeless who are having to sleep outside in the elements. We decided to help by having a collection box for sleeping bags in Friendship Hall. Also, it was decided to use the July and August special offering for the purchase of sleeping bags.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Seventh Day Adventists - have we heard back from them? We will schedule a meeting with them for 11:30 am after on 7/18/2021.

2. Clothing Closet racks update. Chuck will order one on Amazon and bring it next week to meeting so we can check it out.

3. Plastering update. We still have only one bid. Rick will check on other bids.

4. Nursery update - carpet, toys. Jennifer & Carl got rid of broken toys etc.. They were given the go-ahead to use their discretion to get rid of toys, books, etc.. The room above Ann's office with the split door will be used for the nursery. The tables and chairs now in that room will be moved to another room. No decision was made on the carpet.

5. Welcome tri-fold. The tri-fold will be in color with pictures. It will state that we are "open & affirming" and "come as you are". Barb will redo a sample and bring to the next meeting for thoughts.

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

SERVICE - Julie & Judy. SHALOM - see #3 under New Business.

WORSHIP - No report at this time.

FELLOWSHIP - Chuck. No report at this time.

PROPERTY - Rick. The elevator will be serviced this week to replace switches and check the door.

Rick will check with Waste Management about replacing the dumpster since the bottom is falling out.

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

NEXT MEETING: August 8, 2021

NEXT MONTH OPENING PRAYER: Judy

ATTENDANCE: June 2021 - 103 (26/4 week average)

June 2020 - 77 (19/4 week average)

Respectfully submitted by  
Judith S Brewer, secretary

## OUR GRADUATES

*Congratulations  
Daniel & Brielle*

In June we celebrated two of our highschool graduates  
Danny Kishler and Brielle Adams. We wish them luck with their  
upcoming endeavors !



### Brielle Adams

Brielle was an honors graduate from Lanier High School in Sugar Hill, Georgia. While at Lanier High School, she was a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, National Beta Club, Marching Band and Concert Band. She was the recipient of the Director's Award for band. She plans to attend the University of North Georgia and major in nursing.

### Daniel Kishler

Danny graduated with Honors from Turpin High School, one of 2 high schools in the Forest Hills School District.

While in high school, Danny was a 4-year member of the Marching band and concert band, participated in Winter Percussion, was a member of Men's Choir, Turpin Singers, and Chamber Choir. He was nominated and picked to be an Ohio Ambassador of Music and traveled to 7 European countries in the summer of 2019 as a member of the percussion section of the concert band. Danny also was a member of the Turpin track and field team, throwing shots and discus. He received a varsity letter and was credited as being an Academic Athlete. Danny will be attending Ohio University and plans to major in animal science, focusing on pre-veterinary studies. This summer, he is working as a security guard at Coney Island Park in Cincinnati.



## Love packages

**WHERE DO THEY GO?  
A NOTE FROM CHARLENE**

LOVE PACKAGE BOX located in Friendship Hall is no longer being used for religious materials as in the past. BUT, aluminum can tab, and medicine bottles are being collected. The tabs are used for Ronald McDonald House. The tabs help pay for a family's lodging while their children are treated in Children's Hospital. The medicine bottles are taken to PAWS and Humane Shelter for many uses during the care and adoption of animals. Plastic grocery bags are still being collected in the green recycle bin for Family Services food distribution on Verity Parkway.

# August 2021

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

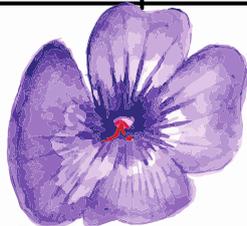
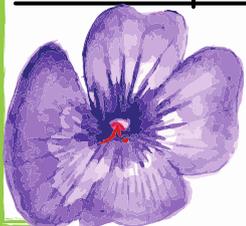
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

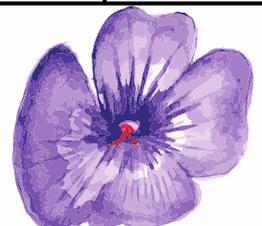
FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1 Worship 10:15 am	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Worship 10:15 am Council 11:30	9	10 Closet Closet 10-1	11	12 Woodworker Group	13	14
15 Worship 10:15 am	16	17 Closet Closet 10-1	18	19	20	21
22 Worship 10:15 am	23	24 Closet Closet 10-1	25	26 Woodworker Group	27	28
29 Worship 10:15 am	30	31 Closet Closet 10-1				



**NO SPECIAL  
OFFERING**  
AUGUST



St.Paul's UCC  
114 S.Broad St.  
Middletown, OH 45044



## OPEN AND AFFIRMING

10:15 a.m. Worship Service  
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

Office Hours Tuesday-Thursday, 9:30am-2pm or By appointment

Church Office Hours Tuesday-Thursday 11am-2pm  
Office 513-422-4519  
E Mail: [stpaulsuccmidd@att.net](mailto:stpaulsuccmidd@att.net) WEB PAGE: [stpaulsuccmidd.org](http://stpaulsuccmidd.org)

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