

Rooted in the past,
living faithfully in the present

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

July 2019

Devotion: "Every summer has a story."

By Sarah Lundgren

"Every summer has a story." -Unknown

*"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

Dear summer.....I love you.

You have given me weekends at the lake, endless dinners on the grill, pool dates with friends, scattered flip flops everywhere, bonfires, sticky s'mores, and so much more. You have nursed my broken heart more than once through the years with gifts of sunshine and ice cream. Each year, you come back again to help me write another incredible story. Thank you. Xoxo

As I look back at past summers, I see a trail of beautiful and bittersweet memories. There have been summers that overflowed with joy and summers filled with deep sadness and pain. The common thread is that every summer was unique and had its own tale to tell.

Just as every *natural* summer has a story, so does every *spiritual* summer. We will each walk through the spiritual seasons many times. Autumn is a time of change. Winter is a time of barrenness and preparation. Spring is a time of rebirth. And summer is a time for bearing fruit and embracing the abundant life that surrounds us.

The key to embracing our spiritual summer, no matter what time of year it is in the natural, is to remember to seize the joy of the season. This is a time to feel the heavenly warmth on our face and revel in the beauty that surrounds us. Relax, have fun, celebrate, and abide in gratitude for the blessings that surround. Fall and winter will come, but don't let thoughts of the unknown rob you of the joy of the moment.

Summer is a season known for cultivating and bearing good fruit. Oh goodness, there is just nothing like a sweet, sun-ripened, summer strawberry. It is like a taste of heaven on earth! Our spiritual fruit of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control must also be cultivated and ripened so it can taste even sweeter than the best summer strawberry. There is one sure way to do this, and that is to remember *who* our spiritual gardener is and to remain in him always.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5 NIV)

**God
is still
speaking,**

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



ST. PAUL'S WELCOMES REV. DON ERICSON!

Council is pleased to announce that we have hired an interim minister. Reverend Don Erickson's first Sunday will be July 14. Some of you will already be familiar with him since he led our worship service on June 9. He will be commuting from Milford where he lives with his wife and son. He will guide us through the search process for a called minister, he will have office hours similar to Ann's and will visit the homebound and hospitalized. As we get to know each other he is open to seeing what other interest might unfold. Welcome Rev. Don!

Rev. Don is a 2004 graduate of Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York and clinically certified in pastoral care (ACPE), receiving his residency training in 2006-2007 at Tampa General Hospital. From 2007 to 2013, Don served in the role of hospice chaplain in Florida and New York State. In August 2009, Don was ordained by the Riverside Baptist Church (Alliance of Baptists) in Jacksonville, Florida. Don is currently in the Privilege of Call process with the Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association (SONKA) of the UCC.

In July 2013 he was called to serve as the minister of the Community Church of North Orange & Tully (CCNOT) in Central Massachusetts, a federated UCC and Unitarian Universalist Association church. Don ended his ministry at CCNOT the summer of 2018 and moved to Cincinnati, Ohio where he has served as a chaplain at Hospice of Cincinnati.

Don is an expert in Christian theology and Buddhist philosophy. He is a published poet, amateur musician, film-buff, and book-lover. In the fall 2019 or winter 2019/2020, a book he wrote titled, *A Life Lived and Laid Down for Friends: A Progressive Christology*, will be published by Wipf & Stock Publishing.



Income for the Month of May

Total: \$11,381.25

Tithes (\$3578.00)

Expenses: \$10,284.93

Special Offering...

Strengthen the Church

\$50.00



Thankful
Grateful
and truly
Blessed

Thank
you!

WE HAVE A NEW SOUND SYSTEM IN THE SANCTUARY!!!!

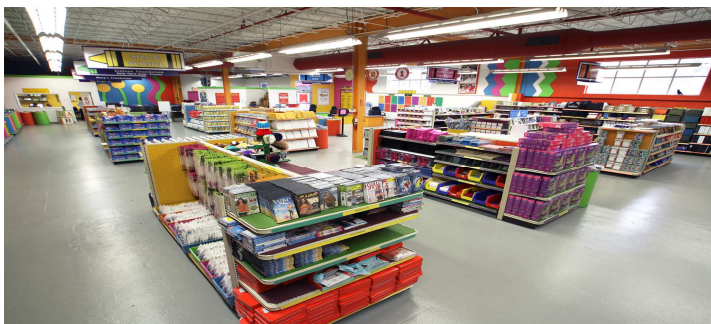
Thanks to a very generous donation from Elizabeth Banks in memory of Wilma Gade we were able to purchase a new sound system. Sound Force was here during the week of May 27 installing the system. We will be working to commemorate this donation properly!

June's Special Offering

I am not sure if everyone is aware that my daughter is a teacher and she teaches young children that have Autism. I have to say I admire her because this is truly a calling. I wanted to share a story with you.... I have heard of Crayons to Computers but to be honest I never truly was aware of how important they are to our teaching community.

My daughter had just graduated from college, her first teaching job and she had moved back from Bowling Green, OH and was excited about her first job. I was excited for her because she was living with me and she had a job. (Shhh...don't tell her that). She came home distraught one afternoon and I asked her what was bothering her. I knew teachers spent a lot of money on their own supplies and since she was going to be working for a small non-profit school I had imagined it would be even worse. She was worried that she wasn't going to be able to give the children she was going to be teaching the proper tools because of limited money. She had an appointment the next day to go down to the Crayons to Computer store in Cincinnati the next day and planned to volunteer on top of it.

She came back from the experience exhilarated because she had no idea what to expect and the magnitude of supplies available to teachers across the county. I just thought you would want to know that the money that you donate to this cause helps not only first year teachers but so many across our county and others and provides our teachers with valuable tools that would otherwise come out of teachers hard earned paychecks which are much too small as it is. Thank you from my daughter and all her teacher friends.....Ann



crayons
to computers

July Volunteers

DATE	GREETERS	REFRESHMENTS	USHERS	Liturgist	COMMUNION
July 7	J. Williams N. Fisher	C. Clark	M. Shibley T. Shibley J. Rockwell	J. Brewer	D. Meeker
July 14	R. Britton L. Britton	C. Burnett	C. Batliner J. Batliner R. Lyons	C. Clark	P. Beatty
July 21	C. Clark R. Lyons	J. Ratliff	C. Kiniyalocts C. Burnett C. Lowman	C. Burnett	(Forward) <u>OPEN/CLOSE</u> <u>M.RATLIFF</u>
July 28	C. Batliner J. Batliner	C. Kiniyalocts	C. Clark L. Britton R. Britton	R. Lakes	*We always welcome volunteers! Let Chuck Clark know if you'd like to help out. Thank You



7/1 Larry Adams
 7/2 Kurt Kishler
 7/5 Emily Webb
 7/6 Steve Green
 7/10 Tom Shibley
 7/15 Dan Flory
 7/19 Lawrence DeBolt
 7/25 Cassaday Edwards
 7/30 Darlene Adams
 7/30 Corrine Lowman



Virginia
 Elam
 Lorraine Clark
 Amanda Lorig
 Carroll Stein
 Cleo Habig
 Charlene Hale
 Frances Stoutenborough

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Please continue to remember those that are homebound and others that are dealing with on-going health concerns.

Our Military
Service Personnel:

Chase McConneha
Jake Burley



The church secretary, Ann, is in the office Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM



Addresses for Lunch Bunch:

July **Houston's Inn**
 4026 US-42, Lebanon, OH 45036
August **TJ Chumps**
 12 E. Linden Ave. Miamisburg, OH 45342
September **Spinning Forchette (ELKS)**
 4444 Hamilton Middletown Rd,
 Liberty Township, OH 45011

JUST A REMINDER



You will notice the box in Fellowship Hall marked **“Love Packages”**. This box is for depositing all the items the Church Women United collect for recycling and dispersing to communities locally and around the world. Ruby McQuade is St. Paul’s Representative to the Organization and is the Corresponding Secretary.

Aluminum can tabs are collected for the Ronald McDonald House in Cincinnati where families of Children’s Hospital patients can stay without charge. **Religious materials**, including Bibles are collected for distribution to third world countries who are just being introduced to the Christian faith but have no study materials. **Pill bottles** are collected and given to the local Human Society for multiple purposes at the animal shelter. The bottles should be empty and all labels removed.

The other collection that continues is the green bin. **Plastic or paper grocery bags** are to be placed in the bin. These are given to the Choice Pantry that is a part of Family Services of Middletown. Charlene and Jack Kinyalochs empty the bin each week and on Wednesdays go to Barn N Bunk to receive the produce they give to the Pantry and take all that was placed in the green bin. Sometimes you will see Jim Rockwell place bars of soap and/or toothpaste and brushes. From time-to-time we have sent out an appeal for personal products that cannot be purchased with government assistance cards. Jim continues to donate such items and I hope I always remember to let him know how much it is appreciated by those who must rely on the Pantry to get by. We are no longer asking for plastic bottles with caps. Their purpose was to put small amounts of shampoo, dish soap, laundry soap, etc. rather than give entire large bottles of taxable personal items. They are no longer receiving donations of such products. When this changes I will send out an appeal for the bottles again.

Respectfully,
Charlene K.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

No matter their mental health challenge.
No matter their immigration status.
No matter their sexual orientation.
No matter their economic status.
No matter their gender identity.
No matter their disability.
No matter their religion.
No matter their race.

Love your neighbor. No exceptions.



BIBLE QUIZ

Of the 66 books in the Protestant Bible, 39 have people’s names as titles. Some names indicate the person credited as author — for example, Matthew; others name the book’s main character — such as Ruth. How many books are written to the person named in the title?

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 13
- D. 21



Answer: B (See 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:4; Philemon 1:1.)

St. Paul's UCC
MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

COUNCIL MINUTES.

JUNE 9, 2019

PRESENT: Barb Flory, Chuck Clark, Bryan Canter, Rick Lyon, Julie Ratliff, Darlene Adams, and Judy Brewer

OPENING PRAYER: Julie Ratliff

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from May 5, 2019. Approved as written. Bryan/Chuck

APPROVAL OF AGENDA. Approved as written. Judy/Chuck

TREASURER'S REPORT. Approved to file for audit. Darlene/Bryan

CO-MODERATORS' REPORTS - Barb & Rick. Barb - Discussion as to what is the best way to communicate with council members? If a speedy reply is needed, text message is the best way. Otherwise on emails mark urgent.

SERVICE - Julie & Judy. Judy - Will look into things for recycling such as dried markers and old crayons for Crayola Co. and empty pill bottles for the veterinary office. Judy will write something for the newsletter.

WORSHIP - Barb. Ann is doing the majority of the newsletter now. So anything for the newsletter needs to go to her.

FELLOWSHIP - Chuck. Third quarter duty assignment sheets will be out by next week.

PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE - Rick. Sound system is working. It was used for last Sunday's service. A little tweaking of the settings will be done. The sign on the corner of the building is cracked so it will be taken down, fixed and painted/stained. Rick is looking to have a roofing company come and give an estimate for the front of the church.

BUDGET & FINANCE - Bryan. Bryan received an inquiry from Guide One Insurance to give the church a quote for Insurance. Bryan is happy with the insurance company we currently have.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Interim minister discussion. Candidates were discussed and it was decided to pursue one of the candidates. There was also a discussion concerning full time vs. part time.

1. Update profile. Everyone was given a copy of the current profile that was completed before the last pastoral search. Council members need to look it over and note any areas that need to be updated. Info on property insurance. (See Property & Maintenance above)

2. Middletown Pride - looking for sponsors. It was decided not to be a sponsor this year due to the late notification we received. Motion made and passed. Darlene/Bryan

3. Do we want to remain with Sunday meeting for Council? It was decided that Sunday after Church was good for everyone. Motion to continue meeting on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Motion made and passed. Darlene/Chuck

NEXT MEETING: July 9, 2019

NEXT MONTH OPENING PRAYER: Chuck

Attendance: May 2019 - 139. (35/4 week average)


May 2019 - 147. (37/4 week average)

Respectfully submitted by

Judy Brewer,

July 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

114 S. BROAD STREET
MIDDLETOWN OHIO 45044

OPEN AND AFFIRMING

Every Sunday: 10:15 a.m. Worship Service

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

Marsha Minge, Choir Director • Barbara Flory, Pianist

Office Hours Tuesday 11 am– 2 PM, Wed 11 AM–2 PM, Thurs 11 am-2pm

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WEB PAGE: stpaulsuccmidd.org

