

Rooted in the past,
living faithfully in the present.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

July 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

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

As some of you know, my family and I will be returning to the Northeast next month. Per contract, July 12th will be my final Sunday as your interim minister.

Of course, there is some sadness in writing those words. During my year at St. Paul's, I experienced one of the most trying times of my life, almost losing my mother to a heart attack and then to a neurological bleed post-heart surgery. We are blessed she is still here. You were a source of support and comfort and understanding through this time, and I will always be grateful.

That said, with my father's newly diagnosed dementia, it became clear that we needed to be closer to them in Albany, New York. Family first. Hence, our return.

The final third of our journey here at St. Paul's has been extraordinary and unique. We've faced a global pandemic that has influenced this neck of the woods and the whole state. I think we've lived and learned through this time. We've developed a greater appreciation for the gift of worship and community. I also hope we've obtained a greater appreciation for the usefulness of livestreaming and that St. Paul's will continue to use this tool.

But the next parts of our journeys are soon to arrive. I've been honored to walk this short journey together with you. I have been blessed to learn from you all, namely about the power of warmth, welcome, and wisdom all of which are St. Paul's gifts. Be proud of who you are and spread the love of God in courageous and creative ways.

I pray you continue to walk in the light of God's compassion and keep opening yourself to the new things God has to teach all of us.

Love In Christ,

Rev. Don



*From Council:
Written by Barb Flory*

St. Paul's update through mid August

Because of the coronavirus and the "stay-at-home" orders, St. Paul's members, council, and search committee have been affected. As you know, our May congregational meeting was postponed. This meeting has always been when we elected our council members, received our annual reports, and enjoyed lunch together.

When we filled out our volunteer interest sheets, there was no interest from members about wanting to serve on council. At our June council meeting, current members decided to serve another term if that is agreeable with the congregation. We feel this is the right choice since it is one less change while we will be searching for a new interim minister and the search committee is involved in the search for a called minister.

We suggest that we combine several things on July 12. That will be Rev. Don's last Sunday with us. During the service, the search committee will be installed. After the service we could stay in the pews for a quick congregational meeting to re-elect the current council members and be briefed on our church safety plan. Then we could assemble in the parking lot where we can observe social distancing for refreshments and express our thanks to Rev. Don and send him with our good wishes as he begins his new job as minister of Congregational Church of Plainville, Connecticut. A basket will be provided for anyone who wants to leave a card for Rev. Don. Let's all try to attend that day to wish him well and thank him for his year at St. Paul's.

We have lined up pulpit supply for several weeks after Rev. Don leaves and until we can find a new interim minister. The two filling in on the Sundays that are not communion Sundays are both seminary students. Katie Peterson-Madden has just completed a year of interning at a UCC church in Maineville, OH. Jeff Wilder is currently youth pastor at First Christian Church in Middletown. Rev. Jim Tredinnick will cover the August 2 communion service. He was with us for communion Sunday last July before Rev. Don arrived. If we still have some Sundays to fill, we will contact Rev. Walker to see if he is able to return.



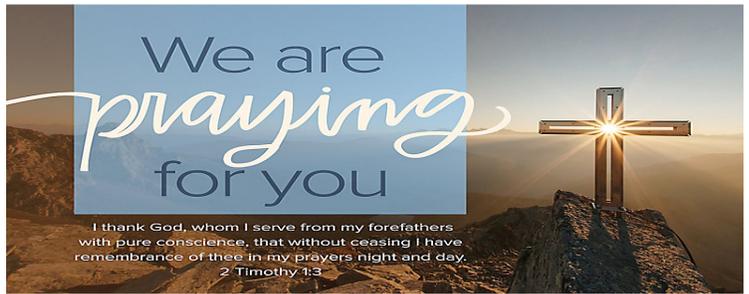
A Message from the Office.....
Will you please check your donation statements that went out in May for omissions and mistakes. We have found that with breaking the donations up over the months we were gone a few errors have occurred. Just call the office and it will be rectified.
Thanks.....Ann

i am thankful for



I think most know by now that I really like my job here at St. Paul's. I like it most on the days I get to talk to people from the past who have warm and fond memories of the church. There was a message on the voicemail a couple weeks ago that was somewhat cryptic but the call was returned. It was from a couple that was married here 50 years ago and because of Covid 19 could not have a gathering to celebrate but wanted to do something intimate to commemorate 50 years of marriage with his children and grandchildren. On Saturday 6/13 Chuck was gracious enough to meet the O'Donnell's @ 2:30 pm, the time they were married, so they could have a moment with their family. How amazing is it that they were able to spend a few moments here and reminisce. I am grateful that I played a small part in making that happen and was able to sit and listen to some stories about their life. I am even more grateful for Chuck who happened to be here and volunteered to meet them.

St. Paul's has such a rich history and I honor that any chance I get. I feel very lucky to be part of that rich history although I play a very small part.....Ann



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

- Virginia Elam Lorraine Clark Cleo Habig*
- Amanda Lorig*
- Carroll Stein Charlene Hale Frances*
- Stoutenborough Shirley Fore Darlene*
- Moss Kathryn O'Connor Kuhn*

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

**Liturgist--July 19--Judy Brewer
 July 26--Carl Batliner**

Ushers--

- July 5--D. & L. Adams,
 Corrine Lowman**
- July 12--C. & J. Batliner, Rick Lyons**
- July 19--T. & M Shibley, J. Rockwell**
- July 26--C. Clark, C. Burnett**



**July Special Offering
 (We are behind in Special Offerings because of Covid)**

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

JUNE 14, 2020

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

OPENING PRAYER: Bryan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from May 17, 2020 Zoom meeting. Motion made to approve. Chuck/Julie Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA. Motion made to approve. Chuck/Larry Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Check has been written for the exterior building upgrades. Motion made to accept the report and file for audit. Julie/Larry Motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT – Rev. Don

- We have finished up our online Sunday Services and are back to in-person services albeit with a protocol that implements social distancing practices.
- I will continue to do a midweek meditation on Facebook. This will take the place of a Bible study and can actually incorporate a Bible study. These midweek meditations will continue on Wednesdays at 2 pm.
- May 31st I finished my candidates weekend virtually at the Congregational Church of Plainville, Connecticut. It went very well and after a church vote, I was called to be their settled minister in August. We will be moving in mid-July back Northeast. Per our contract, July 12th will be my final Sunday as your interim minister. Of course, there is some sadness in writing those words. I've been honored to walk this short journey with you. The final third of that journey has been an extraordinary and unique one as we've faced a global pandemic in our neck of the woods. We've lived and learned, say. I've certainly grown as a minister and have been blessed to learn from you all, namely about the power of being warm and welcoming and wise all of which are St. Paul's gifts.
- I pray you continue to walk in the light of God's compassion and keep opening yourself to new things God has to teach us all.

NEW BUSINESS

- Pupil Supply after Rev. Don leaves. Barb is working on the scheduling.
- Choir and Marsha. A motion was made to continue with Marsha as Director of Music whether directing the choir of the congregation at the same rate of pay. Darlene/Julie Motion passed.
- Rev. Don's last Sunday. Council discussed ways to honor Rev. Erickson on his last Sunday while still managing social distancing.

OLD BUSINESS (tabled from last meeting)

- Set congregational meeting date or wait and see?
- Council officers – are we willing to continue?
- Install search committee when?
It was decided to have a gathering outside in the parking lot on Rev. Don's last Sunday, July 12th. At this time, we will install the Search Committee members. Also, this year's council members will be continuing their duties for the next year and will also be installed.
- Guidelines for chapel usage? Guidelines will be written for usage of the chapel. Times of Refreshing is again using the chapel on Sundays.

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

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

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

FELLOWSHIP – Chuck. The O'Dell's were in town to celebrate their 50th Anniversary. They wanted their children and grandchildren to see the church they were married in. Chuck opened up the church so all could see the inside of the sanctuary.

PROPERTY – Rick & Larry. The elevator passed the state inspection. The outside work on the church building has been completed by D & M. Outside ground work was done by Jim Rockwell, Bryan Canter, Rick Lyons, Chuck Clark and Larry Adams. Larry will be getting estimates from Champion Windows for windows in the chapel and the back of the church.

BUDGET & FINANCE – Bryan. Everything is going well.

NEXT MEETING: July 12, 2020

NEXT MONTH OPENING PRAYER: Rev. Don

Attendance: May 2019 – 0 Covid 19

May 2018 – 139 (35 week average)

Respectfully submitted by
Judith S Brewer,
Church Council Secretary

July 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4 
5 In Church service w/Communion 10:15	6	7	8	9 Woodcarvers	10	11
12 In Church service 10:15 All Congregational Meeting Outside gathering for Pastor Don	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 In Church service 10:15	20	21	22	23 Woodcarvers	24	25
26 In Church service 10:15	27	28	29	30	31	

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
114 S. BROAD STREET
MIDDLETOWN OHIO 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. Don Erickson, Interim Pastor
Marsha Minge, Choir Director • Barbara Flory, Pianist

Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday , 930am-130pm Thursday By appointment
Church Office Hours Tuesday-Thursday 11am-2pm
Office 513-422-4519

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