

Rooted in the past,
living faithfully in the present

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

June 2019

*"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

Embracing Change

By Katie Harmon

*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
" Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV*

It's spring...a time of new beginnings, a time of change. We make our spring cleaning and exercising commitments, set our goals, set our watches, and buckle down. Sounds fun, right?

We hope the season brings good things. We hope for new jobs, new love, new bodies, new houses, new opportunities, and new adventures; knowing all the while that it may also bring some not so good things. It is possible that a new season might bring lost jobs, new heartbreak, health scares, missed opportunities, broken relationships, or even death.

No matter what we may *hope* this new season brings, we *know* it will bring change, and that can be scary. If you're anything like me, change is difficult for you. Men and women are creatures of habit. We like our Sunday dinners and our Friday nights out. We like our annual family vacations, our Christmas traditions, and our morning routines. We like customs and consistency. They make us feel comfortable and safe. But God has not called us to a life of safety and comfort. In fact, what he wants for us is quite the opposite. He wants us to be changed, to be transformed, to be made new – like the spring.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

In truth, life is nothing but change...changing seasons, growing up, growing old.

As Solomon taught, *"there is a time for everything," the good and bad (Ecclesiastes 3:1). But we have no reason to fear, for as Paul says, "all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28).*

So we change and move and learn, even if that means enduring some growing pains, because hopefully we will find ourselves better for it tomorrow. Hopefully, we embrace whatever change God brings to our lives and allow Him use it to mold us into what He wants us to be...His.

If you're like me and find yourself resisting change, I encourage you to fully embrace it this season.

Choose something specific to change about your life – give up a bad habit, volunteer regularly, read a book written by someone who holds different beliefs, actually spring-clean and get rid of the junk you've been holding onto out of fear or insecurity.

While you're doing this, dive into the Word and make a list of verses about change that give you peace and courage.

Jesus, Help us to accept Your will for our lives; To embrace change as a means of drawing nearer to You. Give us the grace to surrender more completely to You, and mold us into a more perfect image of Your love. Grant us courage and faith as we greet our new season in hope and joy. In Jesus' Name, Amen



UPDATE FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE.....

Church Council has met with Carl Robinson, our designated association minister, for guidance on selecting an interim minister. He has sent several profiles for ministers seeking an interim position. Council will discuss and interview these candidates and try to find someone who will be a good fit for St. Paul's. Interim ministers have special training in guiding churches in their search to call a minister. We will use the comments that everyone had a chance to write on the paper in Friendship Hall. Our office manager Ann has organized and printed these comments and attached them to this newsletter. If you have not been in attendance to write your comments, feel free to e-mail or bring your thoughts to the church office for inclusion. After the interim is in place, we'll decide if we want or need a full-time or part-time pastor, and then a search committee will be appointed. They will read and discuss and interview candidates who apply. We've heard people say, "I don't want to be on a search committee," or "I don't want to be on Council." If you are one of those people, please give it serious consideration if you are asked. If you're not willing to put some effort into the church and its future, don't complain if you're not happy with the decisions that are made.

Here is a brief overview of the process:

Church Council will select an intentional interim pastor to provide continuity in worship, pastoral care, and program/staff oversight. This pastor will not be a candidate for the "settled" position as our pastor, but will help to facilitate our transitional work in preparation for the settled pastor search. Rev. Carl Robinson will advise us on this process and provide ministerial profiles of intentional interim pastors for the Council's consideration.

After the interim pastor is in place, we will invite all of you to be part of a self-study and community learning process that will identify our church's imagination for the future and corresponding pastoral needs. We will develop a church profile for potential candidates and we will form and commission a search committee.

We will initiate a search process for a new pastor in accordance with our bylaws. Our conference office will advertise our open position to UCC clergy across the country. Our search committee will read ministerial profiles, screen candidates, conduct interviews, check references, and eventually select a candidate who will be recommended to the entire congregation.

Our goal is for the congregation to elect, in a unified way, a new pastor whose gifts God can use with us and among us for the sake of the Gospel.

The tradition practiced in the United Church of Christ of "calling" a pastor affirms the active presence of God's Spirit in the search process. We will prayerfully seek a pastor with particular gifts and skills while recognizing that candidates are also engaged in a Spirit-led discernment process. We will keep you informed on a regular basis as we move toward God's future as a congregation.

During Lent we reflected on what we would like to our new Pastor to be and what we would like that Pastor to reflect in our community as a church and outside in the community. The results of those reflections are below. Thank you to those who took the time to participate.

On Palm Sunday we joined together as a group to share our devotional thoughts.

I want my pastor to be...

*Easy to talk to, Diplomatic, Youthful in thought and creativity.
There for us in many ways , kind, friendly, understanding
Have wisdom, be flexible about ways to help grow our church*

I want my pastor to impact the church by...

*Infusing more energy to cause more mission work .
Work with us to grow our membership
Help with membership
Bible Study*

What duties do you enjoy when serving the church?

*Greeting, ushering, refreshments, all duties that cause personal contact.
Greeting, Ushering
Feeding the Hungry
Bible Study
Mission*

What does lay leadership do in the church?

*Music, Liturgy, visitation of ill members, Sunday school teachers, care of the building, council, mission/
community*

Where do you fit into those types of lay leadership?

What roles or decisions are solely the pastors?

*Tend to the ill and dying, funerals, Pulpit message, Communion, Baptism
Worship, Communion*

What roles or decisions belong to the church leadership?

Budget, Fellowship, Activities, Staff, Building maintenance

Do you prefer a leadership style in a pastor that sets the tone *for the church to follow*, a style that is collaborative *with the church*, or should *the church lead the way* for mission, change and new directions?

*I think we should make changes that will help grow the church.
Collaborative, Collaborative with the church.
Collaborative
Vote for some ideas*

When I am sick, I want the pastor to...

*If extremely ill –visit
Mildly ill – Short term call after 2 weeks
Visit when sick
Call if in the hospital
Home visits*

When I am in crisis, I want the pastor to...

*Listen
Listen & Be there
Call and ask before an in person visit
Offer support and/or suggestions to help situations
Recommend /council*

Pastors should visit: sick, shut ins, elderly, people who stopped coming to church, people who visit the church, every member

Visit sick/Shut in

Phone calls to people who stop coming

All the above

When I am grieving or unable to come to church, I want the pastor to...

Call and check up on me

Support without smothering

I think a pastor works ____ hours a week.

25/30 and when needed

45 avg hrs a week

Does the church create worship opportunities that shift the sermon time away from the pastor to lay leadership? (Women's week, testimony, lay preaching, youth involvement, etc.)

We could on occasion.

Not in recent years but would if youth were active

Qualified lay preachers

No

Yes...sometimes I enjoy Times Refreshing , especially the music

Does this church want to involve itself in the needs of the city beyond the benevolent assistance of utilities?

Ministerial Alliance

Groups that work for "our neighborhood" should be attended by other members

Needy/Hungry

Does the church want to involve itself in the needs of the city beyond its utility benevolent care?

Only a few members

No

Yes perhaps one main project because of the small size of the church.

Should they be initiating programs?

Doesn't have to try.

Doesn't hurt to try.

No..there are many organized groups that are fulfilling the needs in the city. Duplication would end in failure.

The Pastor should/should not challenge political/social justice issues from the pulpit?

Not if it is always one sided and trying to influence one way.

Should not.

If the Pastor does not engage in the community how will this effect the church?

St. Paul's will become a church with no mission with exception of its members and no growth

Not good but have to be careful

Qualities I prefer in a preaching voice/presence are:

Friendly, emotional, firm, able to relate to todays living in our churchmission. Teacher who provokes thought.

Clean and short English

I like a lectionary cycle followed by the preacher. Yes No

That's what we are used to but if the Minister has other strong points, give it a try.

Yes...exception to current situation in community or world needs discussion.

No

Moving forward, I'd like to see worship change in this way:

Add a confession

Add a creed *We need this*

Music *Inspiring, lively, mixed, traditional favorites*

Less liturgy *worship*

I want worship to stay the same. *No need More interaction with the congregation*

I want worship to stay the same even if it means visitors won't come back:

True- #

False-# *Worship the same more music*

If the pastor does not engage with the community, how will the church be effected?

As his/her time and interest allow

Yes, not to the neglect of our church family

Council should agree

The pastor should/ should not challenge political issues from the pulpit.

What is the public role of the minister in this church?

Not

No, unless it is effecting St. Paul's church life or its members.

Not if its always one sided

Yes....Jesus was about social justice. The Congregationalists were about justice. John Adams for example

I'm struggling with the idea of a pastor who is:

Transgender

LGBTQ

Married to the same sex or had sex change

Part of the gay community

I want a pastor who is: Full-time, even if we can afford it for a short time #

Part-time, if it means we invest money in music #

Part-time, because we don't have as many needs #

Part-time music/yes AV/yes until which time church growth requires full time.

Part-time because we don't have many needs

Part-time no need for full time very few members

What is the mission of this church?

Care for the St. Paul's family, service to the local community needs, homelessness/poverty

Carry the word of God

Don't replace banner on the side of the Church it takes away from the look of the building.


Share how the pastor would live into that mission.

What is the role of the pastor? Write a job description that touches on your expectations.

Teach and interpret the bible , keep us on track to fulfill mission and purpose support and comfort members during grief and struggle.

June 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 10:15 Worship Service	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10:15 Worship Service Council 11:30 AM	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 10:15 Wor- ship Service 	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 10:15 Wor- ship Service 30 Lunch Bunch	24	25	26	27	28	29

SUMMER MUSIC

If you know some special music that you would like to perform or know someone that would love to share their musical talents with us, please let Barb Flory know.



***MANY THANKS TO THOSE
THAT PARTICIPATED IN
CLEAN UP DAY!***



Please keep in your prayers...

Barb Ligett Shirley Fore
Virginia Elam Amanda Lorig
Carroll Stein Cleo Habig
Charlene Hale
Lorraine Clark
Frances Stoutenborough

***Our Military Service Personnel:
Chase***

McConnehea, Jake Burley



**Fathers Need Not Fathers Be
Fathers need not fathers be.
All one needs to do is choose
To love for life, and that embrace,
Held long and hard, bestows the grace
Each craves. For all in time must
lose,
Restored alone by memory.**

June

June 9 Dawn Debolt
June 10 Shirley Fore
June 14 Marsha Minge
June 16 Barb Ligett
June 25 Charlene Hale
June 27 Kaitlyn Canter
June 27 Grady Webb
June 29 Lena Lowman
June 29 Ian Edwards



**Income for the month of April....\$12,285.19
(only \$3,204.00 of that amount is offering)
Expenses for the month of April...\$9,611.81
Easter Offering was Abilities First
\$223.00**



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**MAY 5, 2019**

Present: Barb Flory, Bryan Canter, Chuck Clark, Cindy Burnett, Julie Ratliff, Darlene Adams & Judy Brewer.

Opening Prayer: Rick

Approval of Minutes from April 10, 2019. Approved as written. Barb/Julie.

Approval of Agenda. Added to new business: #6 - Ann's raise and #7 - Visits and funerals in the absence of a minister. Approved as amended. Chuck/Bryan.

Treasurer's Report. Approved to file for audit. Judy/Julie

Pastor's Report for March/April 2019. This report was part of the council minutes from April 10, 2019.

Co-Moderators' Reports - Barb & Rick. Nothing except to thank Cindy & Darlene for their service on the Church Council.

Service - Julie & Judy. No report.

Worship - Barb & Darlene. No report.

Fellowship - Chuck & Cindy. Chuck thanked Cindy for the work she did on the committee.

Property & Maintenance - Rick. City is coming to check the water meter to see if it is working correctly. Spring Clean-Up Day is Saturday, May 18 from 9am-noon.

Budget & Finance - Bryan. Jan. thru April most of the budgeted items have been under budget. We are doing okay as far as money investments are concerned.

Unfinished Business

1. Sound system. It was decided to go with Sound Force Inc.. This will include items for digital audio mixing, assistive listening system and a CD media player. The total cost is \$4,980.40. A motion was made to approve the purchase. Motion passed. Chuck/Cindy.
2. Council member. A replacement for Cindy has not been found.
3. Congregational Meeting May 19. Meal will be chicken & carry-in. Charlene will pick up the chicken. A sign-up slip for the carry-in will be put in the church bulletin this Sunday. There will be an election of officers/council.
4. Annual reports are due to Ann by April 30. Julie has the Service report turned in. Ann needs to add the profit from the soup sale to the report.

New Business

1. Budget. Motion made & passed last month to change 501.010 from 'Honorarium' to 'Supply Minister' and to create an additional line of 'interim' when the time comes.
2. Interim minister-what dates are good to meet, discuss, interview. It was decided to meet next Sunday after church to discuss the files we have received from possible interims.
3. Search committee. There was a discussion of who we think may be possible members of the search committee.
4. Agenda for Congregational Meeting. It was decided to have the meeting first and then eat after. While we are eating, a 25 minute DVD hoping to influence members to help in the search process will be shown.
5. It was decided to print out the thoughts listed in Friendship Hall and add it to the Congregational Meeting handout.
6. A motion was made to raise the Church Secretary Ann's salary to \$15.00 per hour. Motion passed. Rick/Bryan
7. Visits and funerals in absence of a minister. A motion was made & passed to have Dan Flory do the funerals. Bryan/Darlene. As for visits to shut-ins and those in the hospital, it was decided to ask the congregation for help.

Next Meeting: Sunday, June 9 after church service.

Next Month Opening Prayer: Julie

Attendance: April. 2019 - 177 (44/4 week average)

April 2018 - 188 (37/5 week average)

Respectfully submitted, Judith S Brewer, Church Council Secretary

June Volunteer Schedule Open/Close C. Clark

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
June 3	J. Burnett C Burnett	L. Britton R. Britton	D. Meeker P. Beatty J. Rockwell	J. Brewer
Communion—M. & J Ratliff				
June 9	J. Rockwell R. Lyons	C. Clark	C. Kinyalocts R. Britton L. Britton	C. Kinyalocts
June 16	C. Kinyalocts . Kinyalocts	J. Batliner	C. Clark C. Burnett D. Meeker	C. Burnett
June 23	C. Burnett	R. McQuade	M. Shibley T. Shibley P. Beatty	J. Ratliff
June 30	J. Green S. Green	R. Lakes	C. Batliner J. Batliner R. Lyons	R. McQuade

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 , Wednesday Thursday 11am—2pm
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