

“The Messenger”

St. Paul’s UCC (513-422-4519); Rev. Rich Luh, Pastor (937-993-5464)

OCTOBER 2023

“HAPPY HALLOWEEN!”

October is the time when youngsters get ready for trick or treating in their neighborhoods to collect goodies in their bags. Parties galore mark this month as people bring out decorations and costumes to celebrate this special day called Halloween.

One big tradition for this day is people, especially youngsters, get all dressed up in their favorite costume. Then as they go from door to door, people try to guess who they are made up to be. Costumes range from traditional garb, such as cartoon characters or scary movie monsters to princesses and Mario Brothers, etc. All in all, it is a great time for people to pretend to be what they really aren’t!

Unfortunately, there are many people who pretend to be what they really aren’t in everyday life. People proclaiming to be Christian, often just treat their Christianity as a costume to be worn when they attend church or when they are involved in some other church activity. But often these same people unmask themselves when they gossip about others in the church or drop away because they feel church isn’t as friendly as it used to be. But what is more unfriendly than to drop away and to talk about others in a negative way? Did Jesus ever do that? Does God? Of course not.

It seems these people want to pretend, but not believe that Christians are to be open and accepting of all God’s people; and that the purpose of coming to church is to worship our all-inclusive God, who loves everyone – from all walks of life – even those who steadfastly refuse to budge from their rather narrow attitude about others.

Now we all have different opinions – that’s what makes our world interesting. God accepts that we all don’t agree on everything. But God disagrees when we try to convince people how faithful we are to his children, when in reality, we would rather walk away, mumbling about how unfriendly others have become or how church isn’t the way it used to be, or how distasteful it is for certain people to be allowed to worship in the same building! Yes, church isn’t like it was years ago in that back then we had more people attending worship and most

people lived in the same neighborhood and had the same lifestyle and dressed pretty much the same. But now we have diversity – just as it is out in the world around us! It is up to us to adapt – not necessarily to adopt. If we do this simple thing, adapt, life will continue to bless us with all kinds of opportunities and joys.

Let us therefore keep the Halloween traditions of make believe out of our worship experiences and show God how much we really believe in Him and His Son and all they stand for as a loving Father and Brother; that we too may show this same attitude and enthusiasm to all we meet along the way. Thus, no one will ever have to guess who we are or what we stand for as beloved children of God.

Shalom,

Pastor Rich

BIBLE STUDY

We are studying the Book of Mark every Tuesday at 1pm in the Church Parlor. Those of you interested in joining us for these sessions, please feel free to do so.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

3 – Dylan Edwards
10 – Charlene Kiniyalocks
14 – Sabrina Barraclough
16 – C.J. Barraclough
19 – Sue Luh

LAY READERS

1 – Marsha Minge
8 – Judy Brewer
15 – Cindy Burnett
22 – Corrine Lowman
29 – Carl Batliner

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR THIS MONTH

Our special offering in October goes to the UCC Neighbors in Need, which supports ministries of justice and compassion. 1/3 of the fund supports the Council for American Indians; and 2/3 for the Justice and Witness ministry.

We want to remember that **October 1st** marks “World-wide Communion Sunday”, where Christian churches around the globe celebrate the Lord’s Supper.

MY SYMPHONY

BY WILLIAM HENRY CHANNING

To live in content with small means; to seek elegance rather than luxury, and refinement rather than fashion; to be worthy, not respectable, and wealthy, not rich; to listen to stars and birds, babes and sages with open heart; to study hard; to think quietly, act frankly, talk gently, await occasions, hurry never; in a word, to let the spiritual, unbidden and unconscious, grow up thru the common – this is my symphony.

FUTURE'S COMMITTEE

This group, consisting of Judy Brewer, Corrine Lowman, Darlene and Larry Adams, Barb and Dan Flory, Rick Glatfelter (Chair), and Pastor Rich, has started to meet on Sunday mornings to talk about where our church is headed in the next five years. The committee will be asking the Church Council members and congregation for their input and ideas as well.

It is hoped that some sort of plan can be in place sometime next year. We prayerfully wish for your full participation in this endeavor, by giving us your thoughts on this matter. We appreciate any advice you can share with us.

Pastor Rich

COME JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

1 – “God’s Sustaining Presence” (Sacrament of Holy Communion)

8 – “Wisdom for the Way”

15 – “Praiseworthy Living”

22 – “Living Messages”

29 – “The Compassionate Life”

“One of the best temporary cures for pride and affection is seasickness: a person who wants to vomit never puts on airs.” **Mark Twain**

LUNCH WITH THE BUNCH

Remember, the last Sunday of each month, October 29th for this month, is when we travel to an area restaurant for food and fellowship with one another. Stay tuned to the bulletin for an update as to where we are headed this month. If you have any ideas of places we can go, please let Chuck Clark know ASAP.

TRUNK OR TREAT – OCTOBER 29TH

Yes, this year we are going to share this event with several other churches – it will be held at the Crosspoint Christian Church St. Rt. 122 – near the Atrium hospital from 4-7pm. There will be games, bounce houses, refreshments, music – we are just asked to bring candy to share with those who come by.

There will be a box downstairs in Friendship Hall to collect candy donations. Invite your grandchildren and others to come out and enjoy the festivities.

GREETERS:

1 – Roger Britton

8 – John Williams

15 – Chuck Clark

22 – Jim Rockwell

29 – Rick Lyons

USHERS:

Larry and Darlene Adams

Carl and Jennifer Batliner

Tom and Marcia Shibley

Rick Lyons and Dan Flory

Marsha Minge and

Corrine Lowman

UCC PRESIDENT

Our denomination elected Rev. Dr. Georgia Thompson as the New President of the UCC. She will be installed on October 20th. She is the first woman President.

“Because of Previous Gladness”

There was a little dachshund once, so long he had no notion, the time it took from head to foot to register emotion. And so it was that when his face was filled with tears and sadness, his little tail kept wagging on because of previous gladness.