

Rooted in the past,
Living faithfully in the present

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

October
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

September for me was a difficult month. Both my mother and father faced serious health issues. My mother in particular was so serious that it required me to take a week and head to Albany, New York to help. This put me a little behind the eight-ball, if you will. I am getting back into the swing of things and most importantly my parents are improving. My mother is especially doing well! Thanks for all of your prayers. I am deeply grateful.

As for work here at St. Paul's, I've made a focus of being a part of the solution when it comes to the reality of climate change. To this end, St. Paul's purchased five trees native to the area and arranged to plant them locally. Just this past Saturday (9/21), myself and Rick Lyons, representing the church, planted the trees at Bulls Run Nature Sanctuary on Rosedale Drive. In fact, if you want to see one of those trees, it is easy to do. There is a small sugar maple tree aside the gazebo as you enter Bulls Run. That is the "St. Paul's tree!"

In the same vein, St. Paul's was asked to be a part of MetroParks tree planting project on November 9th, 12 pm - 3 pm in Middletown. More on this next month. Both projects will be counted as part of the Trillion Tree Campaign to combat climate change. I am hoping with more notice and time we will have more than two people volunteer to be part of this project as representatives of St. Paul's.

As for others things, Advent is just around the corner! Thankfully, I am rather comfortable now with the format of Sunday worship. I am enjoying this aspect of the position. As I come to a close here, I want to let you know, in case you don't already know, that you can see our Sunday service online. We live-stream our Sunday Service on Facebook. On Sundays at 10:15 am, go to <https://www.facebook.com/St.PaulsUCCMiddletown/> and you can see it. The video will remain on the Facebook page for future viewing. If you don't know how to access Facebook, maybe ask a younger person in your life to show you. Maybe they can join you in watching! Maybe a nice fringe benefit.

Well, I pray everyone is doing well. Please take care of yourselves.

In God's Love,
Rev. Don

Rev. Don at the Bulls Run Arboretum planting the trees for the Trillion Tree Campaign in St. Paul's name.



The Trillion Tree Campaign..... In 2006, the Billion Tree Campaign was launched, by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as a response to the challenges of global warming, as well as to a wider array of sustainability challenges from water supply to biodiversity loss.^[1] Its initial target was the planting of one billion trees in 2007 (achieved by November).^[2] One year later, in 2008, the campaign's objective was raised to 7 billion trees – a target to be met by the climate change conference that was held in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009. Three months before the conference, the 7 billion planted trees mark had been surpassed. In December 2011, after more than 12 billion trees had been planted, UNEP formally handed management of the program over to the youth-led not-for-profit Plant-for-the-Planet Foundation, based in Tutzing, Germany.^[3] Over 14.2 billion trees have been planted as of 2016.^[4] The Billion Tree Campaign calls upon all individuals, countries and companies to participate, and accepts all contributions.

The Billion Tree Campaign was handed over to the Plant-for-the-Planet Foundation in December 2011, an organisation that has been participating in the Billion Tree Campaign since 2007. The momentum has continued with 40,000 young ambassadors spreading the message in over 100 countries. In December 2017, following the discovery that there are more than three trillion trees on Earth, the planting target was revised to a trillion trees and the Billion Tree Campaign became the Trillion Tree Campaign.^[5] ^[6] It was found that this amount of trees would cancel out the last 10 years of CO2 emissions and sequester 160 billion tons of carbon.^[7]^[8]



Worship Folder 2019 app_Worship Folder 5/21/19 3:04 PM Page 1



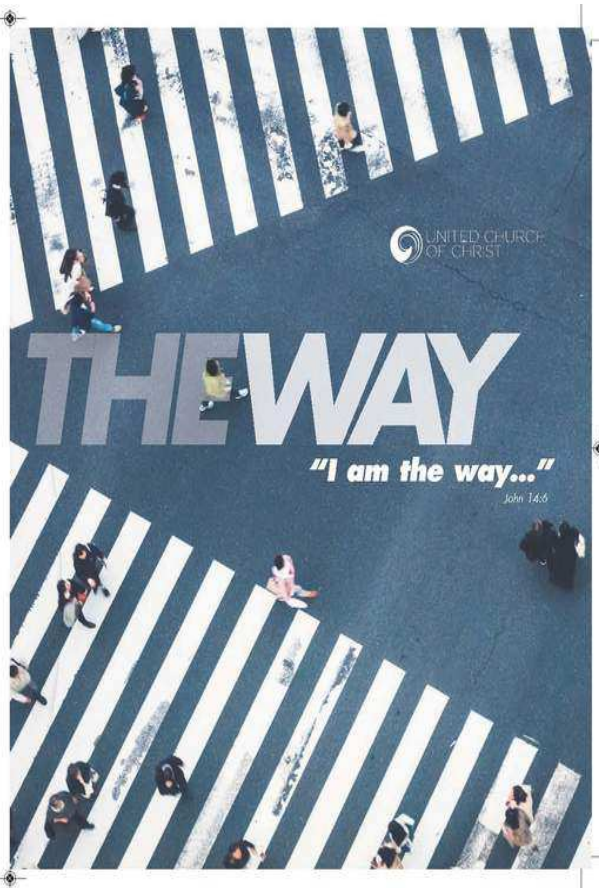
This year's stewardship theme, "I am the way..." takes shape from this passage in John 14:6, when Jesus said to Thomas:
"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to God except through me."

We share a particular way of being Christian and being church. We are not alone. The early Christian movement was known internally as well as to its persecutors at the Way (Acts 9). The life of faith is a way of being human, a way of interpreting, a way of practicing, and a way of living.

- The wisdom tradition of the faith often spoke of the Way. *God watches over the way of the righteous. (Psalm 1:6)*
- The prophetic tradition of the faith also refers to faith as a Way. *Prepare the way of our God, make straight in the desert a highway for our God (Isaiah 40)*
- Jesus refers to himself and his commitment to a cruciform Way of life as, "I am the way" (John 14:6)
- Paul advising the early church in Corinth being torn asunder with division counsels that in the way of love, he would show them "a more excellent way." (I Corinthians 12:31)

You are invited to reflect on this shared way and how we individually and collectively are stewards of this way. Stewarding your faith community by pledging your support allows the church to plan the way forward. And, this year, be reminded that giving is a way to participate in a church community striving to live in such a way that the reign of God becomes real in each of us and is extended to others through us.

For indeed, the journey to generosity is the way of Jesus.



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 10



The Council has decided that there will not be a soup sale this year. We appreciate the support over the years and we prayerfully hope for volunteers so we can continue this tradition next year.

Clean Sweep of the Great Miami
 Saturday, October 26
 9 am—12 noon
Middletown
 Bicentennial Commons
 Just South of SR 122 intersection with 2nd Ave

Great Miami River Cleanup is a fun, rewarding community beautification project for individuals, clubs, companies, schools, scouts, churches and other groups.

Free T-shirt Free bottled water
 Garbage bags & gloves will be provided

Register Online:
www.GreatMiamiRiverCleanup.org

Or Contact the Site Coordinator:
 Jeff Michel, Keep Middletown Beautiful 425-7750

Cargill
 MillerCoors
 American Rivers
 Rumpke
 Cox Media Group, Ohio
 Tier Co. Storm Water District

Keep Middletown Beautiful
 City of Middletown
 Butler Soil & Water Conservation District
 Hamilton to New Baltimore Ground Water Consortium
 Miami Conservancy District



Our annual snack sale is happening on 10/27 after services. If you are interested in donating a snack please contact Julie or Judy for more information.



OCTOBERS SPECIAL OFFERING

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry(CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.



Date	Ushers	Liturgists	Greeters	Refreshments	Open/Close	Communion
10/6	L. Adams D. Adams C. Lowman	D. Flory	R. Britton L. Britton	Chuck Clark	Chuck Clark	Dan Meeker Pat Beatty
10/13	M. Shibley T. Shibley J. Rockwell	C. Kinyalocts	J. Williams A. Turner	Cindy Burnett	Chuck Clark	
10/21	C. Kinyalocts C. Clark J. Rockwell	M. Minge	C. Burnett C. Lowman	C. Kinyalocts	Chuck Clark	
10/27	C. Clark C. Burnett D. Flory	R. McQuade	C. Kinyalocts J. Kinyalocts	C. Clark	Chuck Clark	



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Dylan Edwards 10/04
 Virginia Elam 10/08
 Charlene Kinyalocts 10/10
 Carroll Stein 10/12
 Tina Gregory 10/20
 Diane Burnett 10/22
 Rebecca Honn 10/24

*Virginia Elam Lorraine Clark Cleo Habig
 Amanda Lorig Carroll Stein Charlene Hale
 Frances Stoutenborough Shirley Fore Darlene Moss
 Kathryn(O'Conner) Kubn*

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



SURVEY RESULTS

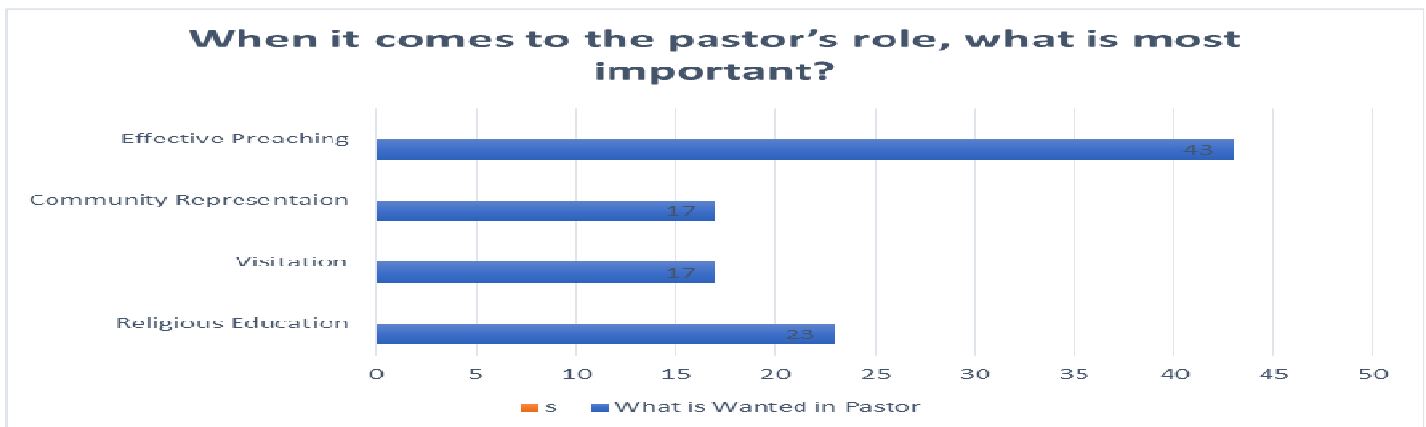
At the beginning of the month we began looking more closely at what the church wanted in the new Pastor. These are the results of the surveys that were turned in.

1.) Is living in Butler County or vicinity a must for your next minister?

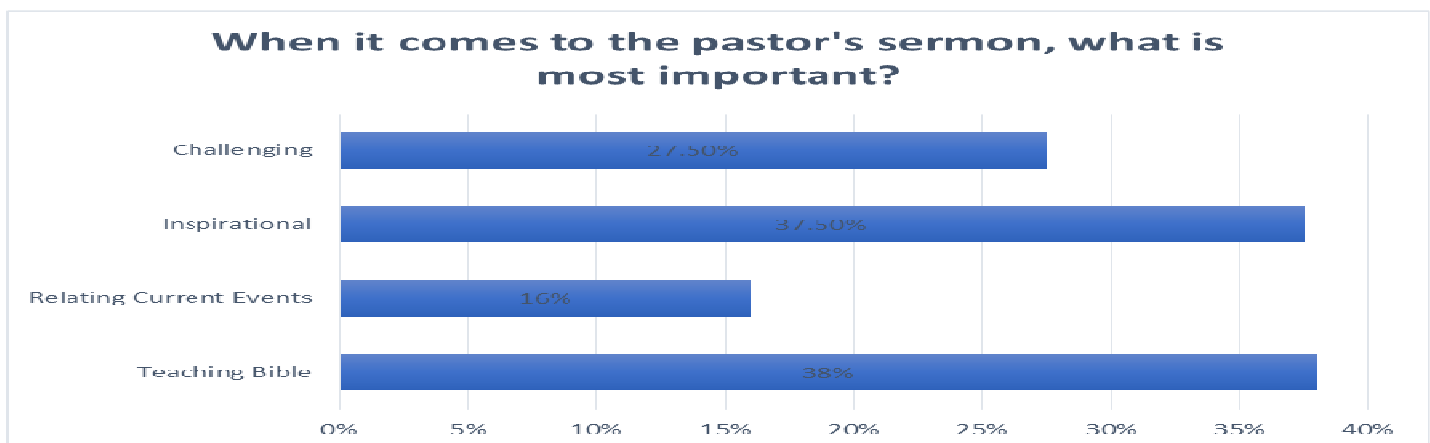
15 - NO

5 - YES

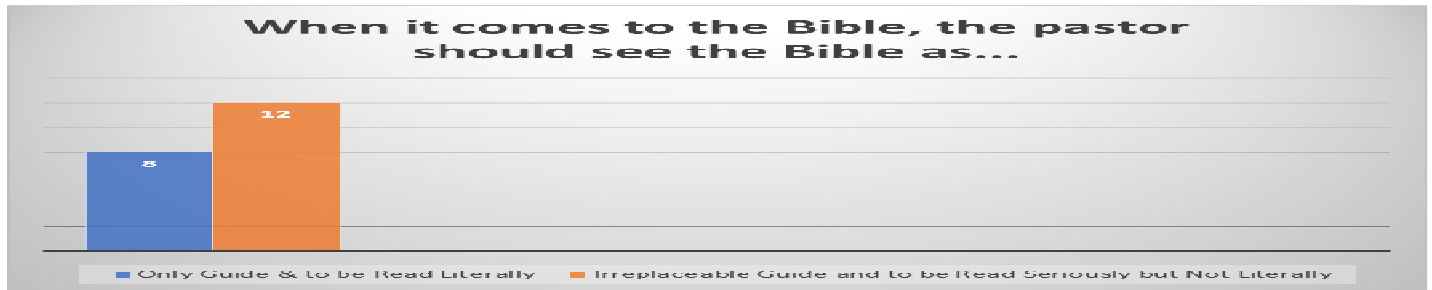
2.) When it comes to the pastor's role, rank the following by importance to you by placing a number next to the following (#1 being most important):



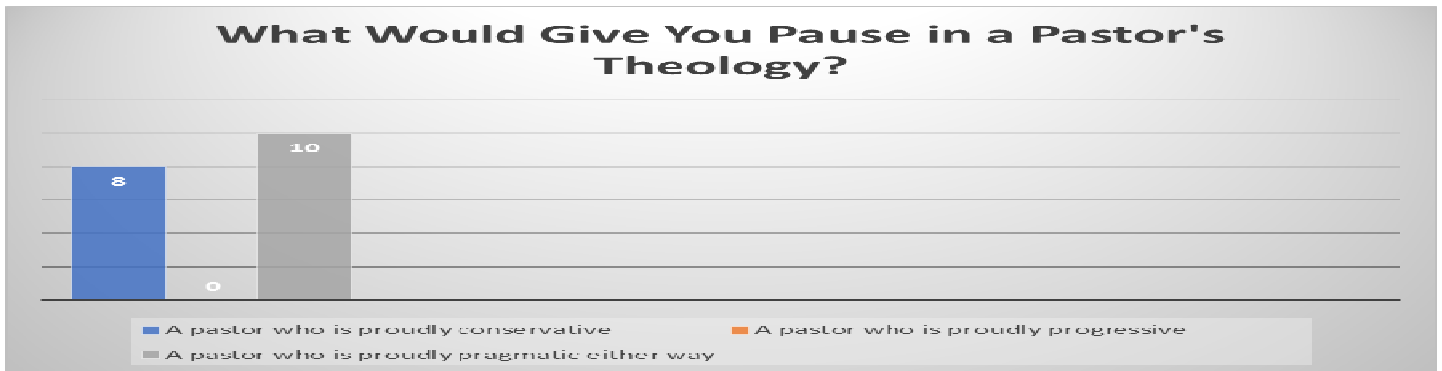
3.) When it comes to the pastor's sermon, rank the following by importance to you by placing a number next to the following (#1 being most important):



4.) When it comes to the pastor’s view of the Bible, the pastor should see the Bible as (circle what you prefer or explain your preference)



5.) What description would give you pause in a pastor? (circle below or explain)



6.) What best describes your approach to growth? (circle what you prefer or explain your preference)



7.) Knowing there are three mainline churches right next to us, what differentiates or what would you like to differentiate St. Paul’s here in Middletown?

Six people used the term, “Open and Affirming”

One person states “Bring in young couples, more activities outside of church service, more publicity about downtown church.”

One person wrote, “Inclusive”

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MIDDLETOWN

OHIO CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

AUGUST 11, 2019

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

OPENING PRAYER: Judy APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 14, 2019. Motion made & passed. Bryan/Chuck APPROVAL OF AGENDA. Motion made and passed to approve as amended. #5 - Soup Sale & Dinner & #6 - Video was added. Bryan/Chuck

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

PASTOR'S REPORT: 1. One of Rev. Don's primary tasks during his first month at St. Paul's was to get the Order of Service down and begin a good rhythm in this regard. He is writing all the prayers we read as well as the sermon. 2. He enjoyed the feeling of "close-knitnes" and togetherness that was felt during the weeks we worshiped in the chapel. He is wondering if we'd like to worship in the chapel once a month and maybe more in the summer? 3. In order to understand what we want in the next minister, Rev. Don has put together a survey that will be passed out during church service. 4. He feels we should be more visible on social media. He would like to have his sermons livestreamed on Facebook. This could be accomplished by using a smartphone held on a tripod. Also, he would like to purchase an ad on Facebook to Advertise for the Religious Education class. 5. Every Tuesday he sends Ann a docket of things planned for the week.

CO-MODERATORS' REPORTS - Barb & Rick. Both appreciate the way Rev. Don has hit the ground running and is hard at work.

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

WORSHIP - Barb. Summer music scheduled for the remainder of August is Steve Pearce for 8/11 and Kip Moore for 8/18. It was also decided to bring back the recorded music to be played before Barb starts the prelude. This affords a quiet time in the sanctuary before the service starts.

FELLOWSHIP - Chuck. A meat and cheese tray was offered to the family of Virginia _____ but it was not needed.

PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE - Rick & Larry. 1. New air conditioners have been installed. 2. Telephones are out except for Ann's. Need to check with Spectrum and AT&T. AT&T is needed for the lift and we have Spectrum for the internet. 3. Larry did cleaning outside the church. Chuck and Ginger also cleaned up the outside of the church. 4. There is a lot of work that needs to be done such as the roof on the steeple and the gutters need replaced. Larry is getting an estimate. Also, the carpet in the chapel needs replaced and the chair cushions cleaned or replaced. There are 8 windows that needs replaced. The number one priority is the steeple roof. 5. Larry is trying to get someone from the Middletown Police Department to come into the church to give us suggestions as to what we can do in our situation.

BUDGET & FINANCE - Bryan. Not much change in the amount of money that we have.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS 1. Rev. Don's pay is all figured out and done correctly in the system.

NEW BUSINESS 1. Website. Before the council meeting started, Ann walked us through the website to see if we want to make any changes. The website is beautiful and Ann was commended for the work she had done on it.

2. The Covenant agreement needs to be signed. It was signed by the required parties at the meeting.

3. The first steps to prepare for the search were discussed. The survey is the first step to be taken and it will be completed by Rev. Don and passed out during church service. The next step is to complete the profile. Also, a decision needs to be made concerning how many will be on the search committee and who they will be.

4. The background check for Rev. Don has been done and the cleared copy is in his employee file. The company we are using for background checks is Sterling Now.

5. Soup Sale and German Dinner. After discussion, it was decided that we would not have the Soup Sale or the German Dinner this year. Both require people who have a lot of time and energy to give and it falls to the same people to make it happen. Other avenues of bringing in money will be pursued.

6. We had an opportunity to watch the short film The Voice on the Radio that was filmed locally. The church scenes were filmed in our sanctuary. It showed our church in a positive light.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, September 8 after worship

NEXT MONTH OPENING PRAYER - Barb

Attendance: July 2019 119 (30/4 week average) July 2018 165 (33/5 week average)

Respectfully submitted by Judith S Brewer, Church Council Secretary

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

MIDDLETOWN, OHIO
SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

PRESENT: Barb Flory, Chuck Clark, Rick Lyons, Larry Adams, Darlene Adams, Judy Brewer, Julie Ratliff & Rev Don Erickson.

ABSENT: Bryan Canter

OPENING PRAYER: Barb

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from August 11, 2019 – Changed Julie Adams to Julie Ratliff. Approved as amended. Darlene/Larry

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Approved as written. Chuck/Rick

TREASURER'S REPORT: Approved to file for audit. Chuck has been working with Ann to learn Church Windows.

PASTOR'S REPORT: August 2019. Week of 8/5 – Order of Service planning, visited Charlene Hale, prepared for Bible Study, wrote the sermon & prepared for the council meeting. Week of 8/12 – Order of Service planning, visited Charlene Hale & Carol Stein, reached out to non-active members Nichole Fisher, Alex and Jennifer Webb, coffee hour at Java Johnny's, wrote note for newsletter, looked into Planting Trees project and did Bible Study prep. Week of 8/19 – Order of Service and sermon prep, visitation, testing FB live, worked on UCC Profile review and tweaked recommendations, followed up with Tree Planting Project and Bible Study prep. Week of 8/26 – Order of Service and sermon prep, reviewed surveys turned in so far, worked on UCC Profile review and tweaked recommendations, did mid-week pre-sermon on FB, followed up with Tree Planting Project and did Bible Study prep.

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

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

WORSHIP – Barb & Darlene. Is there an interest in an adult Sunday morning class? It was decided no at this time.

FELLOWSHIP – Chuck. Chuck gave the master list of those assigned duties to Barb so she can add the names of the liturgists and communion servers.

PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE – Rick & Larry. Chapel flooring – carpet tiles will cost \$149.00 per box for 60 sq. ft.. Inspection of roof, gutters, and painting - Larry had Mike McKinney inspect the steeple, roof, gutters and painting and give an estimate to get the needed work completed. The work will not be able to be done until the spring. To get on the waiting list for spring a down payment of 10% (\$2,490) would need to be paid. A motion was made to hold an emergency meeting of the church on September 22nd after services for the purpose of okaying the expenditure of \$24,900.00 for needed repairs and upon approval will pay the \$2,490 down payment. Notification will be given the congregation by email the week of September 8th and during the church service on September 15th. Motion passed. Rick/Chuck. Windows need washing – Mike McKinney also has a window washing service. Larry will check to see the cost for them to do the work. The blowers in the sanctuary need cleaning and new filters put in. Rick & Larry will take care of this. ATT Spectrum update – ATT will be here September 11 to put in one hard-wired line dedicated to the elevator and two other lines for the office and internet.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Alice Training – Larry asked Marsha to check with the police officers who do the training for the Middletown High School to see if either they or Marsha could meet with him to walk through the church and give suggestions on how we can best protect ourselves.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Survey results – what is the next step? We have covered the survey results and they will be used when writing the UCC profile.

2. Snack Sale – It was decided to have a snack sale on Sunday, October 27. The snacks will be for sale in friendship hall after the church service. Volunteers will be asked to supply the snacks which will be sold for \$1.00 per bag.

3. Stewardship campaign – Time & Talent. We will have a Stewardship Sunday and congregants will be asked to volunteer their talents.

4. Trees – A motion was made to purchase 5 trees @ \$29.00 each from the Hamilton County Park District. Motion passed. Rick/Chuck.

These will be planted as part of the 10 Thousand Trees initiative to plant ten thousand trees by the year 2025 as a way to beautify neighborhoods and parks and to prevent sewer overflows from reaching area waterways. An option will be given to the congregation to sponsor a tree or helping with the planting of the tree. Rick will pick up the trees.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, October 13 after worship

NEXT MONTH OPENING PRAYER: Rick

Attendance: August 2019 – 120 (30/4 week average)

August 2018 – 150 (37/4 week average)

Respectfully submitted by

Judith S Brewer, Church Council Secretary

October 2019

**Sun****Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat**

		1	2	3	4	5
		Bible Study 2pm	Choir 4:30			
6	7	8 Bible Study 2pm	9 Coffee w/ Rev. Don @ Java Johnny's 11am	10	11	12
13 Council 11:30	14	15 Bible Study 2pm	16 Choir 4:30	17	18	19
20	21	22 Bible Study 2pm	23 Choir 4:30	24	25	26
27 Snack Sale Lunch Bunch The Florentine	28	29 Bible Study 2pm	30 Choir 4:30	31		

* Bible studies are held at Triple Moon Coffee shop 1100 Central Avenue, Middletown

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, Pastor
Marsha Minge, Choir Director • Barbara Flory, Pianist



Pastors office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday 9:30-1:30p.m. Thursday by appointment
Church office hours Tues-Wed-Thurs 11-2pm Office 513-422-4519
E Mail: stpaulsuccmidd@att.net **WEB PAGE:** stpaulsuccmidd.org