

Rooted in the past,
Living faithfully in the present

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

October
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

“The Wind Beneath God’s Wings”

Paraphrasing the famous song, I got to wondering what kind of wind we can provide. Perhaps for some, a small whiff; some a mild breeze and others a virtual hurricane!

Just what wind am I referring to? The wind of the Spirit blowing through our hearts and out into our surroundings. This wind is a wind of love, hope, and reconciliation to help us mend relationships, lift us, and those around us up out of our doldrums – our discouragements in life.

This is the wind we can generate as part of the body of Christ, known as the church – our church – St. Paul’s. It is a wind that can bring remarkable changes for good in the life of individuals we meet and work with, as well as in the life of the congregation.

But, in order to make this happen, we must be determined to work together and share our ideas and enthusiasm with one another and let this wind of the Spirit lead us forward.

I am willing to help all of us realize the potential God has given each of us to make a difference in the life of our congregation and the community which surrounds it. The question is whether you are ready to jump on board and let the wind carry you to uplifting experiences.

I realize the limitations for visitations with COVID; but for those of you who would be comfortable with me visiting you, I will be happy to do so. Or you can schedule to visit me in my office. Just give me a call at 937-993-5464. My Office hours will be, for now, at least, 9:30-2:30 Tuesday-Thursday; other times, by appointment. You can also email me at revluh@hotmail.com. Please use my cell number to get a hold of me. I have trouble enough handling one cell phone without juggling two!

Lastly, I wish to thank you for your vote of confidence in electing me as your Pastor. I will do what I can to serve you effectively. I cannot do this by myself; I need your cooperation and assistance in any way you can. Together, we hopefully can realize a new beginning for St. Paul’s, as we carry the love and hope and joy of God’s presence out into our midst and into the community.

To help bring us closer together as a congregational family, you will find enclosed with this newsletter another survey (I know, this is about as exciting as watching paint dry!); which I **ask you to fill out and return by October 15th**. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

(cont. on next page)

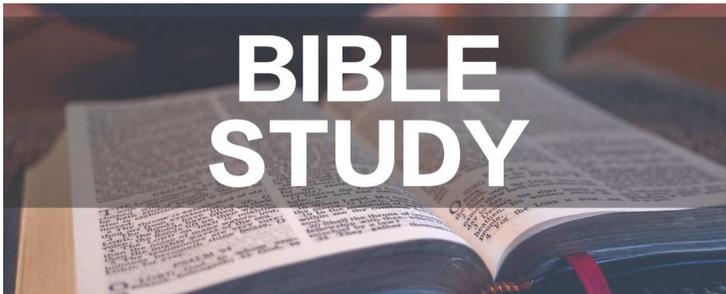
One of the purposes for this survey is to help update our membership roster. A number of people have been away from the life of the church for some time and we would like to know your current status as members. Through this co-vid time, we hope you have kept yourselves well; and we miss you! Plus, if any of your loved ones have since gone into a nursing facility, we would like to know how to stay in touch with them; or if you have since moved yourself.

Another purpose is to see if you would be willing to get actively involved with the ministries of the church.

I look forward to serving you and with you.

Shalom,

Rev. Rich Luh



Yes, our Bible study will commence on Tuesday, October 6th 1pm in the Fellowship Hall – social distancing will be observed. So, come on out and join with us as we look into the Scriptures together. Bring your neighbors and other family members as well.

Thanks to Rev. Luh's soon to be 16 year old granddaughter, Sabrina, there will be bells ringing in church at least by the Christmas season. If interested, please indicate as such on the survey and don't forget to leave your phone number and email so you can be contacted as to times for rehearsal. This music ministry is open to people of all ages. So far, my youngest granddaughter, who will be six in November, is part of it.



October Volunteers

DATE	GREETERS	LITURGIST	OPEN/CLOSE
October 4	L & D Adams	J. Ratliff	C.Clark
October 11	C & J Batliner	C. Lowman	C.Clark
October 18	T & M Shibley	C. Burnett	C.Clark
October 25	C Burnet & C. Clark	J. Brewer	C.Clark



If you have a emergency and need to speak to Pastor Loh off office hours you can reach him at 937-993-5464 or via email at revluh@hotmail.com.

Office Hours are Tuesday-Thursday 9:30-2pm or by appointment



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

God is watching over you. I know because I *asked* Him to

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

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

October 2020

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

				1	2	3
4 In person service 10:15 am	5	6 Bible Study 1 pm	7	8	9	10
11 In person service 10:15 am	12	13 Bible Study 1 pm	14	15 Please turn Surveys in.	16	17
18 In person service 10:15 am	19	20 Bible Study 1 pm	21	22	23	24
25 In person service 10:15 am	26	27 Bible Study 1 pm	28	29	30	31

Bible Studies will be held in Friendship Hall

Special Offering will be "Neighbors in Need" (2nd Month)



Welcome



Welcome

My name is Rich Luh. I was born and raised in Buffalo, New York, where I did most of my education. I graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary and served churches in Pa, NY, Illinois and Ohio since 1979. I also served close to three years as Pastor and rotating worship leader for almost 3 years. I live in Miamisburg with my wife Susan, youngest daughter, Melissa and her four children, Sabrina, junior at Miamisburg HS; Crystal, an eighth grader; Calleigh, a sixth grader and CJ, a second grader at Bauer. Our oldest daughter, Jennifer, lives in Miamisburg with her two children, Austin, a third grader at Bauer and Kaitlynne, starting kindergarten. We also have four dogs, a parrot and a horse (which lives in the country). My wife and I enjoy doing things, traveling, etc with our grandchildren and going to movies and taking cruises. Of course, this pandemic has seriously hampered these interests. My wife is a retired nurse.

I enjoy doing skits and other dramatic presentations and encourage people in the congregation to join in on them. I also enjoy doing Bible Studies and getting feedback from the congregation as to what kind of programs they would like and what they would like to see in our worship experiences.

I enjoy making visits to shut-ins and nursing homes and hospitals.

I feel that I have plenty of energy to help St. Paul's realize more potential as they reach out into the surrounding community.

We have great challenges facing us, and other congregations as well in this day and age; but I am confident that working together, we can continue to transform our faith into action, spreading God's love throughout our community.

SURVEY
PLEASE RETURN TO CHURCH BY OCTOBER 15TH

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (Cell): _____

Email: _____

Current membership status:

Please circle appropriate one: (1) Active (2) Inactive, but still wish to remain as a member (3) Joined another church

I would like a Pastoral Visit: (1) Yes (2) No if yes, what is best time: _____

Church Ministries: Please circle those you would be interested in being involved with:

Greeter; Liturgist; Usher; Serve Communion; Food Pantry; Hosting a Coffee Hour; Participating in a Drama Club (where we do readings, skits during worship and sometimes a full-length play; play a musical instrument during worship; sing in the choir; be in the Bell choir; I would be interested in Bible Study (1) Yes (2) No

Serve on a Mission Committee; Serve on a Music and Worship Committee. Please list any other interests have and would be willing to help get organized: _____

Do you know any family or individual, couple looking for a church to worship at?

If yes, please give name, address and phone, if available

Do you know anyone who will be ready for Confirmation next year? They must be turning twelve in 2021. Yes _____ No _____

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

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

OPENING PRAYER: Rick Lyons

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from August 9, 2020 and any special meetings. Under New Business change #8 wedding date to 2021 instead of 2022. Motion to approve as amended. Rick/Julie. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Changed #3 to Voting and added #4 Covid 19. Motion to approve as amended. Julie/Darlene Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bryan's question last month concerning the checking account balance has been resolved and the account is balanced. Motion to accept the report and file for audit. Julie/Bryan.

PASTOR'S REPORT – None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Search Committee Update. Following discussion of the Call Agreement, it was decided that the contract would run to the end of 2021. Bryan will write the contract.
2. Funeral policy. Rick shared a Funeral Policy draft from August 2019. After reading and discussing the policy, a vote was taken to accept the policy. Vote was unanimous to accept. The Lorig family plans to use the Sanctuary and Friendship Hall on Sat. Sept. 26 for a Memorial service. There will be no food involved. Ann will schedule the cleaning crew to come after 3pm that Saturday.
3. Voting on Sept. 13. Procedures for the vote to take place after the service on Sept. 20th were discussed. It was decided to allow phone & text voting up to 5 minutes after the service concludes. Carl Batliner will hand out the ballots and collect them. The count will be done by Carl & Bryan.
4. Covid 19 Protocol. It was decided that starting on Sunday, September 20 the offering plate with the collections will be walked to the front of the church during the service.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Memorial Plate Mounting. Barb has the memorial plate for the sound system. She will talk with Pat Beatty to decide on an appropriate place to mount it.
2. Choir robes. This was tabled until next month.

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. Chuck & Barb will do quarterly reports for workers. Chuck will open and cover the building during the Lorig Family Memorial.

PROPERTY – Rick & Larry. Projects to get ready for colder weather include: new filters, bleed the radiators, clean the fans & make sure the blowers work.

BUDGET & FINANCE – Bryan. Everything is good.

NEXT MEETING: October 11, 2020

NEXT MONTH OPENING PRAYER: Bryan

Attendance: August 2020 – 110 (22/5 week average)

August 2019 – 120 (30/4 week average)

Respectfully submitted by

Judith S Brewer, Church Council Secretary

Congregational Meeting – September 20, 2020 after the church service.

The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the acceptance/rejection of Reverend Rich Lou who gave the Message during today's service.

The meeting was called to order by Barb Flory. Carl Batliner, leader of the Search Committee led the discussion and Bryan Canter helped answer questions. After discussion, Carl passed out the ballot sheets. After giving time to vote, the ballots were collected and counted by Carl & Bryan. The count was unanimous in favor of offering the position of part time minister of St. Paul's Church to Reverend Rich Lou. Reverend Lou addressed the members of the congregation and accepted the position. Barb Flory then adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,
Judith S Brewer

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. Rich Luh Pastor
Marsha Minge, Choir Director • Barbara Flory, Pianist



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