**“The Messenger”**

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

**SEPTEMBER 2024**

**A RETURN TO OUR ROUTINES?**

September heralds the start of normalcy for many families. Children are back to school, football on all levels is in full swing. Summer vacations have come to an end, and people find themselves returning to their place of worship after being away most of the summer. Yes, it is a signal to a return to our normal routines, getting ourselves ready for the fall season at the end of the month.

Funny how getting back to normalcy often does not include returning to church. It seems this is a low mark on the priority list for many people now a days. The saddest part of this is that for those who do not come back – or haven’t been back for some time, they are also putting their routine of prayer and thanksgiving to God away as well.

They find themselves enmeshed in so many different activities and meetings and running this way and that for family business, that they fail to find time in their schedule to take the opportunity to thank God for their blessings of home and family and friends. They zero in on their personal pleasures and pastimes, that leave little or no time for God-time. You see, when people have regularly attended worship in their community, they at least spent an hour a week communing with God and that in itself, though far from ideal, at least gave them some impetus to look for ways to follow through on what they learned in worship – what they experienced being with their fellow churchgoers.

Sadly, without that hour of interaction with fellow church members, many fail to exercise their ability to pray and follow up with what God would have them do in their daily life on their own accord. Sadly, those people who have strayed away from being with others for worship and fellowship lose out on the opportunities for moral and spiritual support in their times of stress and discouragement. Now I’m not saying that some can and do find this fellowship and support system in other areas of their lives – and for that I say great! But, a number of people do not have this happen in their daily life and the church is one place they can turn to for their spiritual need. It is also a place where people can put their heads together and reach out with their hearts and find numerous ways to help those who are in need – both spiritual and physical.

Church is where we can more easily find ways to do God’s work in our lives, the lives of people around us and in the world – because we are stronger and more resilient as people working together as opposed to trying to do many of these outreach things by ourselves.

So, as you wind down your summer fun and get back into the swing of the fall season, how about considering returning to church as a good place to start. We await your presence with open and loving arms.

**Shalom,**

**PASTOR RICH**

 **LITURGISTS GREETERS USHERS**

1 – Corrine Lowman John Williams Larry/Darlene Adams

8 – Austin Schultz Larry/Darlene Adams Carl/Jennifer Batliner

15 – Carl Batliner Dan Flory Tom/Marcia Shibley

22 – Julie Ratliff Corrine Lowman Steve/Judy Green

29 – Corrine Lowman Judy/Steve Green Rick Lyons

**We Are Back in the Sanctuary**

As an experiment, we met for a few times in the Chapel in August. But because the air conditioner wasn’t working plus the return of covid, we went back to worshiping in our sanctuary. Come join us for worship!

**LET US KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN OUR PRAYERS:**

Ruby McQuade, Linda Britton, Charlene Hale, Anne Turner, Jack Kiniyalocks, Cindy Burnett’s sister, Becky.

Let us also remember those people in our neighborhoods, state, country and in the world who are going through some real challenges in their lives – spiritually, emotionally, and physically due to all kinds of reasons. As we enjoy the rest of the summer season, try to keep in mind those who are unable to do so as well. Let us keep all of them, whether we know them or not, in our thoughts and prayers, as we are all brothers and sisters in Christ our Lord.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

2 – Judy Green

14 – John Williams

21 – Nathan Flory

**COME JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**

1 – “Be Love” – Communion

8 – “Be Opened”

15 – “Who Are You, Jesus?”

22 – “First in Caring”

29 – Guest speaker

Remember, our worship is being held in the Chapel

 **WORDS by Alexander Pope**

WORDS are like leaves; and when they most abound, much fruit of sense beneath is seldom found.

OUR PRAYER and God’s mercy are like two buckets in a well. While lone ascends, the other descends. **Hopkins**

**BELL CHOIR RECONNECTS**

Under the direction of Marsha Minge, our Bell Choir will return to action this month with our first rehearsal on September 22nd right after worship. Those of you who may be interested in joining this group, please feel free to come to the rehearsal. Our goal is to play once a month, starting in October.

 **PASTOR WILL BE AWAY**

Pastor Rich and Sue will be on vacation from September 28th – October 2nd. If there is an emergency, Pastor Jeff from First Christian Church will be covering.

**LABOR DAY**

Labor Day is observed throughout the United States in recognition of the dignity of labor, falling on the first Monday in September of each year. This year it is September 2nd. Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, May 18, 1882, at a central Labor Union meeting, in New York City, proposed that “a day be set aside as a festive day, during which parades through the streets of the city would permit public tribute to American industry.” The motion was adopted and plans for the first Labor Day celebration made.

October 7, 1884, American Federation of Labor meeting in Chicago, A.C. Cameron, member of the Typographical Union 16 introduced the following resolution: “Resolved, that the first Monday in September each year be set aside as a laborers’ national holiday, and that we recommend its observance by all wage workers, irrespective of sex, calling or nationality.”

So here you have the short history of Labor Day – and for years I thought it was celebrating the birth of children! What do I know!

“I have never let my schooling interfere with my education. The first time that a schoolboy realizes that a little learning is a dangerous thing is when he first brings home a poor report card”. **MARK TWAIN**