

SEPTEMBER 2021



United
Church of
Christ

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

114 S Broad St. Middletown, OH 45044

SUMMER IS WINDING DOWN

It's hard to believe, but children are already back in school and summer activities are easing up as we prepare to get back into the fall season. Hopefully, we'll get back to more seasonable temperatures as well!

With the advent of the fall season, we certainly hope that this pandemic eases up as well. However, leaning on the side of precaution, we will not resume our coffee hours yet. Stay tuned to when we will be able to get that up and going again.

Sometimes it is difficult to celebrate. What with the pandemic, other illnesses, the unpredictable weather, deaths of loved ones – well you know – the list can go on and on. It seems that finding joy in a day is like pulling teeth! But I look back in the Scriptures and find in Psalms, "This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it". This reminds me that even though there are varying amount of challenges to face each day, God does give us much to be rejoicing about.

Each seasonal change comes with a special beauty of its own – and this is a gift from God. Watching children get back into the swing of things with their school routines and the joy they have reacquainting themselves with their classmates and meeting new faces, brings a sense of joy to one's heart.

We find many opportunities God gives us to be of service to one another as individuals and as a church. There certainly is a lot of joy offered to those who give of themselves in service to others – and this is a wonderful gift God bestows upon us.

Yes, God does provide us with endless joys for us to partake of and we should be ready and willing to thank Him for these things, instead of wallowing in our rues and regrets that are all so easy to concentrate on. We ought not to waste the time that God gives us to be a real part of this world He created for us – so let's be joyful for all the opportunities, all the wonderful ministries we can become a part of as children of the one true God and as brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yes, summer is winding down – but we all have the chance to gear up for wonderful things to come in our life. Are we ready to take that chance that God offers to us?

Shalom,
Pastor Rich



"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





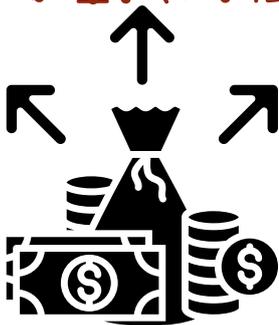
Calling ALL CRAFTERS

If you like to paint, knit, sew, quilt, journal or make cards, some of the ladies in the church are interested in starting a "Crafty Ladies" group. We will meet maybe once or twice a month, to be determined. If you would be interested in a group like this, please see Darlene Adams. A date and time will be determined after we know who is interested and what day works best for all involved.

September Volunteers

Date	Greaterers	Ushers	Liturgists	Open/Close
September 6	J. Ratliff	L. & D. Adams	C. Batliner	J. Rockwell
September 12	L. Adams	C & J Batliner	J. Brewer	J. Rockwell
September 19	R. Lyons	T. & M. Shibley	M. Ratliff	J. Rockwell
September 26	J. Williams	R.Lyons/J. Williams	M. Minge	J. Rockwell

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



THANK
YOU!

St. Paul's UCC Cong.
Thank you so much for remembering me at graduation.
I will be using the check for some items for college and will take the book with me and remember you all when I look at it. Again, Thank You
Love, Brielle Adams



*We are
praying for
you!*

We continue to pray for our home bound members and those with on-going health concerns:

Virginia Elam Lorraine Clark
Charlene Hale
Frances Stoutenborough
Pat Beatty Calleigh Barraclough
Barbara Ligget Ruby McQuade

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - AUGUST 8, 2021

PRESENT: Bryan Canter, Rick Lyons, Chuck Clark, Julie Ratliff, Jennifer Batliner, Carl Batliner, Barb Flory, Judy Brewer, Rev. Luh

OPENING PRAYER: Judy

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes not available to approve.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion made & approved. Jennifer/Carl

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion made to approve for audit. Julie/Rick. Motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT - Rev. Luh

1. The past month I had 4 visitations to shut-ins or those recovering from surgeries.
 2. I was present at the meeting between our Council members and the Seventh Day Adventist group.
 3. I participated with the Ministerial Alliance at the National Night Out at Smith Park on August 3rd where some people took one of our brochures.
 4. The Clothes Closet has had more customers lately and is doing well.
 5. Pastor Conner from First Christian Church and I will exchange pulpits on September 5th. Now, we can either let him do Communion that day or move Communion to September 12th.
 6. I do hope that the door can be fixed so it is easier to get in.
- Otherwise, nothing else new to report.
Respectfully submitted, Rich Luh, Pastor

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ministerial Association dues. Motion made and passed to pay the \$100.00 fee. Jennifer/Chuck
2. Fire Inspection. Inspection due in October. Rick will follow up with the fire marshal about immediate changes that need to be made following informal inspection made with Jennifer & Carl.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Seventh Day Adventist Church contract. We cannot move forward until we find out if they have someone who is legally able to sign. Also, we need to know about non profit status. Bryan will call Patrick for information.
2. Office door lock. Lock has been ordered. A deposit of 1/2 of the total due was requested. \$622.00 went out to them on 8/5. Reagan will call when it comes in.
3. Are we ready to resume passing offering plates and having refreshments after worship? After discussion it was decided that we are not ready.
4. Email protocol. It was decided to reply to all if it involves all.
5. Scholarship for education discussion. This was tabled until next month.
6. Clothing Closet racks. Chuck ordered one for \$100.00 to see if it was acceptable and it was. So, he will order three more.
7. Directory update. This was tabled until next month. Everyone has the latest list to look over before the next meeting.
8. Audit for 2019 & 2020. Chuck will get the check stubs entered into Quicken then Bryan & Carl will complete the audit.

Continued on next page

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

SERVICE - Julie, Judy & Jennifer. We are collecting sleeping bags for Shalom.

WORSHIP - Barb. No report at this time.

FELLOWSHIP - No report at this time.

PROPERTY - Rick. We received a new dumpster on 7/30. A cleanup day is needed for outside landscape. See #2 under New Business. A motion was made to have a special meeting after church on August 15th to ask the congregation permission to spend over \$5,000.00 if needed to fix problems found by the fire Marshall. Jennifer/Bryan. Motion passed. Larry...has been talking with Madeline Wagner of the Otis Elevator Company, Sharonville, OH to find out what is needed to keep the elevator in operation.

BUDGET & FINANCE - Bryan & Carl. See #8 under Old Business.

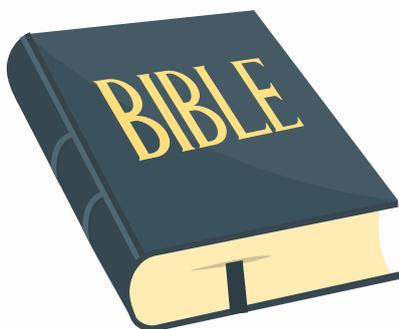
NEXT MEETING: September 12, 2021

NEXT MONTH OPENING PRAYER: Carl

Attendance: July 2021 - 113 (28/4 week average)

July 2020 - 82. (20/4 week average)

Respectfully submitted,
Judith S Brewer,
Church Council Secretary



Right now, we are in the midst of studying the Book of Leviticus. We welcome newcomers to join with us. We meet Tuesdays at 1pm in Friendship Hall.



This month we celebrate Judy Brewer. She has been a long-time member of this congregation and currently serves as Secretary for the Church Council. Judy has been active as part of the Bell Choir. Her dedication and enthusiasm for the ministries of this church are to be admired. We thank you Judy, for all your efforts on behalf of St. Paul's! Our hats are off to you!



You'll get a break from me on September 5th as Pastor Conner from First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be preaching here and I will be preaching at his church that Sunday morning.

**Middletown Interfaith
Clothes Closet**
We've Got you Covered
CLOTHES CLOSET

Our cliental has increased recently. We are moving along nicely and expect more customers as fall approaches. Please keep us in your prayers as this ministry continues to serve those in need in our community.

September 2021

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Bible Study 1pm Closet Closet 10-1	8	9 Woodworker Group	10	11
12	13	14 Bible Study 1pm Closet Closet 10-1	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Bible Study 1pm Closet Closet 10-1	23	24 Woodworker Group	25	26
27	28	29 Bible Study 1pm Closet Closet 10-1	30			

Worship
10:15 am

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING

9

Neighbors in Need



St.Paul's UCC
114 S.Broad St.
Middletown, OH 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

Office Hours Tuesday-Thursday, 9:30am-2pm or By appointment

Church Office Hours Tuesday-Thursday 11am-2pm
Office 513-422-4519

E Mail: stpaulsuccmidd@att.net WEB PAGE: stpaulsuccmidd.org
