

Rooted in the past,  
Living faithfully in the present

# St. Paul's United Church of Christ

September  
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*

I hope this month's messenger finds you well and safe during this season. I hope you don't mind that I am taking this opportunity to speak to a topic. I do not do it often but it has been on my heart and I thought that I would use this space.

As the person who prints and put your bulletins together not only do I get some extra bible reading in but I read the back of your bulletins because to be honest I like the UCC and the way they think about many of the trending social justice topics nowadays. I don't know if people read the back of the bulletins but on the August 9 The topic was "When All Seems Lost" and referenced Genesis when Joseph was sold into slavery. After reading that I wondered to myself if anyone reads the back of the bulletin here? I wondered if this congregation knows the human trafficking happens all around them here in Middletown and at some point in time you were probably standing next to a someone that is still being exploited. It is a sad fact that human trafficking in every form happens in every state, every city and township in Ohio. Ohio is ranked #5 in the United States in human trafficking cases but that is not a true number. That number is used because it is a trackable number from the Polaris Project who run the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Human trafficking is the most under-reported crime in America. One, because most victims do not identify as victims and two, because there are not enough resources for men, women and children, exiting a trafficking situation.

The UCC does good work in many areas including Human Trafficking but here in the Middletown and Butler County fails the men, women and children that are being exploited. You might ask yourself how I know this....I know this because working here is not my first job. It's actually my third job. You might also not know that I am a survivor of human trafficking and some very serious childhood sexual trauma. I am a founding member of a non-profit here in Middletown that specializes in biznitries (Business with a ministry) and the Springhaven Community which is our Anti-human trafficking division. I also sit on the Butler Co. Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force which is working diligently to bring services here along with Springhaven. I work locally and nationally with survivors and work as an advocate in the justice system and the mental health systems that most of go through at one time or another.

So I ask you what are you doing to help stop human trafficking because it is not white paneled vans and kidnappings. That is 1% of all trafficking cases. Does it happen? Yes, with no doubt but here in Middletown it looks like parents selling their children for rent. Men exploiting woman for drugs and money and for teens it's for survival. Trafficking just isn't about sex it's also about labor. According to the ILO out of the 24.9 million people trapped in forced labor, 16 million people are exploited in the private sector such as domestic work, construction or agriculture; 4.8 million persons in forced sexual exploitation, and 4 million persons in forced labor imposed by state authorities.

Here are a couple of real time action items that you can do to help. And yes one person can make a difference even if this is a global problem made worse by a global pandemic. Check your slavery footprint at [www.slaveryfootprint.org](http://www.slaveryfootprint.org). You might be surprised. Buy local, buy 2nd hand, re-purpose. Support local/grass root organizations because the large national one really do not do any direct work with survivors or helping them exit their situation. Soroptomist is very active in this area to bring awareness. Get educated and ask questions. Do you go to a nail salon? Who is doing your cleaning if you use a cleaning service? My advice is if you think or feel like something is wrong call the National Human Trafficking Hotline I have several friends that have been able to leave their situation safely because of them. That number is 888-373-7888 or **SMS: 233733** (Text "HELP" or "INFO").

**Website:** [www.humantraffickinghotline.org](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org). Also feel free to ask me questions anytime.

Thanks.....Ann



About a month ago I told you a story about the O'Donnels that were married here 50 years ago and came here to celebrate with their family. They were gracious enough to share some pictures with us and I thought you all might enjoy that! Mr. & Mrs. O'Donnel we truly appreciate you sharing both the day you married and celebrating 50 years later.



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
COUNCIL MINUTES FROM AUGUST 9, 2020

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

ABSENT: Larry Adams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from July 12, 2020. Approved as written. Chuck/Julie

APPROVAL OF AGENDA. - Agenda amended – added #8 – weddings. Approved as amended.  
Chuck/Bryan

TREASURER'S REPORT – A ½ payment of \$7,363.00 was made for the new windows. Bryan questioned the checking account balance. Motion to approve postponed until Chuck checks with Ann.

PASTOR'S REPORT – None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Search committee update – the committee has been meeting and reviewing those who have expressed an interest in the position. Responses have been slow coming from the SONKA office.
2. Rev. Don's exit interview – Rev. Don completed his exit interview and turned it in.
3. Choir robes & Marsha – Barb has been checking on the cost of cleaning one choir robe. Other dry cleaning establishments will be checked. Regarding Marsha – A motion was made to offer of songs during Church service and occasionally supplying songs. Rick/Chuck. Motion passed.
4. Credit card – Those who will have the newly issued credit cards will be Ann, Rick & Chuck.
5. Funeral policy – A motion was made to continue with the meat & cheese tray to the home and to extend the offer of the church building for free. Darlene/Julie. Motion passed.
6. Memorial plaque – This was tabled until we can talk to Pat's daughter to decide the wording & size of the plaque.
7. Woodcarvers – They have not started back yet but gave the church a \$250.00 donation for use of the building.
8. Wedding – A question was brought to council regarding use of the church for a wedding in 2022.

OLD BUSINESS – None

CO-MODERATORS' REPORTS – Barb & Rick. No report.

SERVICE – Julie & Judy. No report.

WORSHIP – Barb & Darlene. No report.

FELLOWSHIP – Chuck. A meat & cheese tray was delivered to Carolyn Stein's family.

PROPERTY – Rick & Larry. Rick cleaned up in front of the church and has been changing the lettering on the sign in front of the church. One of the refrigerators in the kitchen quit & has been removed. Next week 2 loads of mulch will be delivered. Rick & Bryan will work on spreading it.

BUDGET & FINANCE – Bryan. The mutual funds have had some growth.

NEXT MEETING: September 13, 2020

NEXT MONTH OPENING PRAYER: Rick

Attendance: July 2020 – 82 (20/4 week average)

July 2019 - 119 (29/4 week average)

Respectfully submitted by

Judith S Brewer,

Church Secretary

# September Volunteer Schedule

Date	Ushers	Liturgists
September 6	L & Darlene Adams, C. Lowman	Judy Brewer
September 13	C & J Batliner, R. Lyons	Marsha Minge
September	T & M Shibley, J. Rockwell	Cindy Burnett
September	C. Clark C. Burnett	Carl Batliner



## THE DASH

I read of a man who stood to speak at a funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning... to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth and now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own, the cars... the house... the cash.

What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash. So think about this long and hard; are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left that still can be rearranged. To be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile... remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash, would you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?

Linda Ellis

St. Paul's lost a few of its beloved members over the past *months*. They have been remembered fondly through conversations with their loved ones and conversations with the people that knew them from the church. We honor them and are glad part of their "dash" was spent here at St. Paul's.

- **WE HONOR**
- **MARY HUNT**
- **AMANDA LORIG**
- **PAUL MEEKER**
- **BARBRA O'CONNOR**
- **CARROLL STEIN**



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

- Virginia Elam    Lorraine Clark
- Cleo Habig        Charlene Hale
- Frances Stoutenborough
- Shirley Fore        Dan Meeker
- Mike Davies
- Kathryn O'Connor    Kubn    Velma Griffith

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



# September 2020

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

		1	2	3	4	5
6 I n person services 10:15	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 In person services 10:15  Council 11:30am	14	15	16	17	18	19
20  In person services 10:15	21	22	23	24	25	26
27  In person services 10:15	28	29	30			

*September's Special Offering is "Neighbors in Need"*

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

114 S. BROAD STREET  
MIDDLETOWN OHIO 45044

**OPEN AND AFFIRMING**

**Sunday 10:15 a.m. Worship Service**

**Nursery Provided • Lift to Sanctuary • Handicap Accessible**  
**Holy Communion celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.**

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

Office Hours Tues-Wed-Thurs 11am-2pm  
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**WEB PAGE:** [stpaulsuccmidd.org](http://stpaulsuccmidd.org)

