

“The Messenger”

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

JUNE 2023

SUMMER IS COMING UPON US!

Indeed, the warmer weather is here to stay for awhile. Picnics, vacations, cookouts, little league baseball – all are signs of the summer months. Of course we also can have sweltering heat, cranked up air-conditioning, bugs galore, and cars covered in dust from traveling the highways and byways.

Summer overall brings up opportunities to engage in outdoor activities and fresh air to breathe. However, summer also leaves many churches sorely missing their congregants as they are off being involved in a variety of seasonal doings. With their absence, so goes their financial and physical support for the ministries the church is engaged in.

Hopefully, amidst all your commitments you will not forget your commitment to your church family and make provision for supporting its missions in whatever way you can.

We hope you will keep your church in your thoughts and prayers as we endeavor to reach out to those in need in our community through the various mission projects your church supports. If we work together as a unified family of believers, there is no end to what we can accomplish in the name of our Lord for the good of people not only the members – but those who feel estranged from society and find it difficult to realize that anyone really cares about their plight in life.

Church is not a building but a soul, not a portion but a whole – yes, there is a church within us – a church that calls for building – not with steel, not with stone – but with our lives God calls His own – to do that which is asked of each and everyone one of us as his children, as brothers and sisters in Christ – to bring comfort and hope to the brokenhearted, clothe the naked, feed the hungry, help those who are confused, angry, despondent, addicted, or lonely.

These are missions we are to be about as Christians – not just at certain times of year – but throughout the entire 12 months. So, please prayerfully consider your obligation to the work of the Lord to include the summer season as well as the other three, and together, we can make a difference not only in our lives but in the lives of those we touch.

May the warmth of the summer sun remind you of the warmth of our Lord's love as it permeates your heart and soul.

Shalom,

Pastor Rich

“CHRISTIANITY” BY BABCOCK

It is not a voice in the wilderness, but a life in the world. It is not an idea in the air but feet on the ground, going God's way. It is not an exotic to be kept under glass, but a hardy plant to bear twelve months of fruits in all kinds of weather. Fidelity to duty is its root and branch. Nothing we can say to the Lord, no calling Him by great or dear names, can take the place of the plain doing of His will. We may cry out about the beauty of eating bread with Him in His kingdom, but it is wasted breath and a rootless hope, unless we plow and plant in His kingdom here and now. To remember Him at His table and to forget Him at ours, is to have invested in bad securities. There is no substitute for plain, every-day goodness!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

9 – Dawn DeBolt

14 – Marsha Minge

25 – Charlene Hale

26 – Jeff Flory

29 – Lena Lowman

LUNCH OUT ~ This month we will be going to the **Barn-n-Bunk Market – Buffet in Trenton**; Adults - \$9.99; Children 3-10 - \$5.99. JUNE 25TH after church.
Let Chuck know if interested.

LAY READERS

4 – Julie Ratliff

11 – Abbey Breeding

18 – Carl Batliner

25 – Cindy Burnett

GREETERS

Julie Ratliff

Larry Adams

Rick Lyons

Chuck Clark

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JUNE 4TH

Every member is hereby informed that our Biannual Meeting will take place immediately following our worship service. This meeting will provide reports from the various committees as well as electing people to the Church Council.

Folks, in order for a church to run efficiently, it needs willing volunteers to help in its daily operation. This is what the Church Council does. Many of these current members have been serving faithfully on this body on and off for years and would welcome with open arms new faces to the fold.

The question is – will you be the one to answer the call? While you are hopefully considering this, let us not hesitate to thank from the bottom of our hearts the tireless efforts our current Council members have put forth this year and in the previous years many have served.

Folks, it is time we step up and offer to spell these people by a willingness to carry on with the jobs they have so nobly performed. Are you ready to do this? If so, please let Barb Flory, our Council Moderator, know.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

4 – “This Is Good” (Sacrament of Holy Communion - Altar)

11 – “Don’t Put God on Hold!”

18 – “In God We Trust?”

25 – “Daring Discipleship”

“It is the month of June, the month of leaves and roses, when pleasant sights salute the eyes and pleasant scents the noses.” N.P. WILLIS

Bible Study

We will continue our study in the Book of Luke through the month and then take a break for July and August. Many thanks to those who have attended our sessions week in and week out. We still meet in the Church Parlor at 1pm on Tuesdays.

COMMUNION PROCEDURE

We will have Pew Communion every other month; the first having been at the end of May. The following is a guideline for all of us to follow:

PEW COMMUNION: It will be announced from the Pulpit. Ushers will pass plate of bread in the pew and collect it on other side. When Pastor gives words of institution, people will eat the bread and then the cups will be passed in the same manner. After the words of institution, they will drink the juice and when people are finished, people will put their cups in the cup holders on the back of the pews.

ALTAR COMMUNION: People will come up front – they will be directed up by the Ushers. After receiving the bread and the Pastor gives the words of institution, they will eat and then a Server will distribute the cup and after words of institution, drink it and then some will turn right, and others left and deposit their cup in the tray by the wall and return to their seat.

“WHAT MAKES A SAINT?”

Why are the saints saints? Because they were cheerful when it was difficult to be cheerful; patient when it was difficult to be patient; and because they pushed on when they wanted to stand still; and kept silent when they wanted to talk; and were agreeable when they wanted to be disagreeable. That was all. It was quite simple, and always will be.

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR THE MONTH

June is when we collect for *CRAYONS TO COMPUTERS*. This offering is so that teachers can provide their students in need with tools to succeed in school. 94% of teachers routinely spend \$500.00 out of their own pockets every year to provide items for their classrooms. This Offering can help alleviate this burden.