**“The Messenger”**

**JUNE 2025**

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

**SUMMER HAS ARRIVED!**

“The Tree” BY JONES VERY

I LOVE THEE WHEN THY SWELLING BUDS APPEAR,

AND ONE BY ONE THEIR TENDER LEAVES UNFOLD,

AS IF THEY KNEW THAT WARMER SUNS WERE NEAR,

NOR LONGER SOUGHT TO HIDE FROM WINTER’S COLD;

AND WHEN WITH DARKER GROWTH THY LEAVES ARE SEEN

TO VEIL FROM VIEW THE EARLY ROBIN’S NEST,

I LOVE TO LIE BENEATH THY WAVING SCREEN,

WITH LIMBS BY SUMMER’S HEAT AND TOIL OPPRESSED;

AND WHEN AUTUMN WINDS HAVE STRIPPED THEE BARE,

AND ROUND THEE LIES THE SMOOTH, UNTRODDEN SNOW,

WHEN NOUGHT IS THINE THAT MADE THEE ONCE SO FAIR,

I LOVE TO WATCH THY SHADOWY FORM BELOW,

AND THROUGH THY LEAFLESS ARMS TO LOOK ABOVE

ON STARS THAT BRIGHTER BEAM WHEN MOST WE NEED THEIR LOVE.

**“THEY WHO ARE OF THE OPINION THAT MONEY WILL DO EVERYTHING, MAY VERY WELL BE SUSPECTED TO DO EVERYTHING FOR MONEY”.**

GEORGE SAVILE

**PENTECOST SUNDAY – JUNE 8TH**

Come join us as we celebrate the birthday of the church at our service. We will be serving Holy Communion. We look back at the first Pentecost when Peter stood up and had his endearing sermon. While Peter can’t be with us, I will try to relay to all what this day means to us as Christians.

Of course we will have a Coffee hour after.

**BRING ON THE SUMMER SEASON!**

Summer is just around the corner and many people are excited about what this means for their family – vacations, mowing the lawn weekly, watching their children and grandchildren play softball and hardball, perhaps some tennis in the offing as well. Picnic planning, swimming at the lake or backyard pool, and trips to the farmer’s market leads to a large array of enjoyment for the next three months.

Summer is a time when we can and should reflect on the beauty of this earth that God has so created. Just stop in your busy schedules to look around and observe all the natural gifts God has provided for our use and enjoyment: flowers, trees, birds and other animals – all these and more often go unnoticed because we are just too busy with our own agendas. We many times fail to take a bit of time to see just what God has given to us and we should be ashamed to admit that we just do not care to see those things because we feel they are not important to us in our lives.

So, please stop and take a look around you – in your neighborhoods, in your travels that you take, in your daily ventures to the ballfields or swimming pools, in your times you have a picnic with family and friends – and just marvel at all the wonderful scenes God has given you and I to enjoy and to relish in our lives.

Then, when we do take the time to observe all the natural beauty God bestows upon us – then we should thank Him and in so doing, show Him how much we appreciate these things by how we take care of them! For He entrusts us with all these natural gifts and depends on us to treat them as preciously as we treat our own families. By doing this, we truly can enjoy the summer season as it is meant for us to do; and God will smile approvingly on us for our efforts!

**Pastor Rich**

**BIBLE STUDY**

We are taking a summer break and will resume our studies of Paul’s Letters on September 8th (MONDAY). Many thanks to Linda and Roger Britton and Corrine Lowman for their dedication to attending our sessions. May you all have a joyous summer break!

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**THIS IS A REMINDER TO ALL OF YOU THAT OUR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JUNE 22ND DOWNSTAIRS IN OUR FRIENDSHIP HALL AFTER WORSHIP.**

At this meeting we will elect our Church Council members and finalize our decision in regard to the Future Committee’s work about what our next step will be in the process of St. Paul’s future. This was agreed upon at our last Congregational Meeting in November.

Plus, our 150th Anniversary Committee will update us on some tentative plans for celebrating this milestone in our church history when we celebrate it next year.

Speaking about this Anniversary Committee – it is spearheaded by Darlene Adams. Darlene and her committee members are seeking ideas on how we can celebrate this anniversary in as grand a way as possible. If you have some ideas about souvenirs or special activities, please let Darlene know. Let’s make this a celebration to remember!

**WE HAVE A DELEGATE TO GENERAL SYNOD!**

Our own Steve Schnabl has been selected from our region to be a delegate from the Ohio Conference at the General Synod Meeting in St. Louis this summer on July 10-16. We congratulate Steve and thank him for his genuine interest in the UCC and our own congregation in particular! We eagerly await his return so he can fill us in on the highlights.

**To My Father by William Hamilton Hayne**

It matters not that time has shed his thawless snow upon his head. For he maintains, with wondrous art, a perpetual summer in your heart.

**REMEMBER FATHER’S DAY IS JUNE 15TH**

Yes, this is a day when we celebrate our fathers – those who are still with us and those who have passed on. Most people have fond memories of their father and, just as with the remembrance we do for mothers, our fathers now have a day when we join in giving thanks to them for their influence in our lives.

So, take the time to reminisce about what they mean or have meant to you in your life and know that their influence has now become a very part of your life – an influence that resonates through your own words and actions.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

9 – Dawn Debolt; 14 – Marsha Minge; 25 -Charlene Hale; 26 – Jeff Flory;

 29 – Lena Lowman. May you all have a wonderful celebration!

 **LAY READERS GREETERS USHERS**

1 – CARL BATLINER RICK LYONS LARRY/DARLENE ADAMS

8 – HILLARY FRALEY JOHN WILLIAMS CARL/JENNIFER BATLINER

15 – DAN FLORY STEVE/JUDY GREEN TOM/MARCIA SHIBLEY

22 – CORRINE LOWMAN MARSHA/CORRINE BRYAN CANTER

29 – MIKE RATLIFF HILLARY FRALEY STEVE SCHNABL/RICK LYONS

**REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS AND THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS:**

Charlene Hale (Majestic); Ruby McQuade (Spring Hills), Jack Kiniyalocts, Becky Hall, Abby Alexander, Kip, Susan Hannah, Bryan Canter, Pastor Jeff Wilder.

**OUR SPECIAL OFFERING THIS MONTH**

CRAYONS TO COMPUTERS: This is so teachers can provide their students with the needed tools to succeed in school. 94% of the teachers routinely spend $500.00 out of their own pockets every year to provide items for their classrooms. This offering will help alleviate the extra expenses incurred by them.