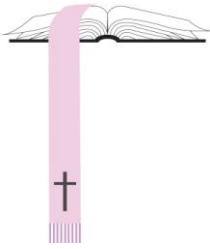


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## *Rhonda's Reflections*

### **A very COVID Christmas: Having an unforgettable holiday season when you're stuck at home**

As we enter these four weeks we call Advent, I've been thinking about how routine and structure are so important in our lives, and it's important in spiritual growth, too.

I invite you to think of a habit you already have in your home, and build on that. If every day we change into pajamas, maybe that's our cue to say a prayer or have a faith practice. The science says that it's easier to tack on something to a habit we already have than it is to create a new habit from scratch. And having two or three faith practices that are done regularly is far more beneficial than learning a hundred new practices.

Faith is learned through practice, just like sports or cooking. It's not just hands-on for children, but for adults, too. One idea to consider this year is the ornament story, where everyone in the family brings an ornament from the Christmas tree and describes what it means to them. You could do this over Zoom. Tell people in your extended family that you're going to get together and to bring a favorite ornament to talk about. It connects ordinary objects to sacred life.

Another idea is to set aside a large box and then put one food pantry item in it every day during Advent, and then take it at Christmas to our local Agape food pantry to donate. There is so much more need this year, with the pandemic, and this practice also lifts us out of our own troubles.

Christmas isn't always a happy time for everyone. Especially this year because of the pandemic, this season in general reminds us of the people who are not with us. And there are all kinds of stresses around the holidays, and in our relationships — pandemic or no pandemic.

A spiritual practice from my own childhood is the Advent paper chain. Cut out 25 strips of equal length of construction paper or typing paper. Every day take one strip of paper and write on it one thing or person you are thankful for, or the name of a person you are praying for. Link the strips together with tape, forming a chain. Hang on your Christmas tree and celebrate all that you are thankful for, or the many people we are linked together with through prayer.


Remember these are just suggestions for you to consider this year and what might work for you and your family. Above all else, please know that your pastor and staff are praying that you and yours remain safe and well.

Proverbs 17:22a – A Cheerful Heart is Good Medicine  
Keep your heart cheerful. Stay in if you can. Get your flu shot if advisable. Mask up. Wash your hands. Love one another. **Love God.**

**Merry Christmas,**  
**Rev. Rhonda**



**DON'T FORGET:** ***Deadline** for articles, announcements, etc. for the **January issue** of The Communicator will be **December 16<sup>th</sup>** (due to the holidays and slower mail) at 9a.*

 **REMINDER -- CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2020** should be submitted to the church office **no later than 10:00 am on December 31st.** in order to receive credit on your 2020 giving statement. This gives the office time to make all final deposits for the end of the year. Any contributions received **after** 10:00 am on December 31st will be credited to you in 2021. Thank you!!

**Please Note the upcoming changes:**

Everyday we are faced with emerging realities that the number of new COVID19 cases continues to rise, and that gathering in person is an unwise reality not only for those of us who might gather, but for our families, friends, and the larger community as well. Our staff and leaders are preparing to make the Christmas season meaningful, albeit different, this year. In order to keep everyone as safe as possible **we will not be holding mid-week Advent services.** On Christmas Eve we ask that you choose to attend worship at either the 7:00 p.m. or 11:00 p.m. service with Holy Communion offered at both using prefilled communion elements. Social distancing and masks will be required. Rather than risk the removal of masks to blow out the candles, individual candles will not be lit at the conclusion of the service. Instead you are invited to bring a small flashlight or use the light on your cell phone as Silent Night concludes the service.

# NOTICE – CONGREGATION MEETING

## 2021 Budget Presentation & Consistory Members Vote

The 2021 budget (approved by Consistory) is included in this edition of “The Communicator”. The budget will be considered for the congregation’s approval at the congregational meeting after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 13th.

## SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you to Andrea Clark and her crew for the beautiful Christmas decorations and wonderful job decorating our church!

## **Christmas Fund– Veterans of the Cross**

### **SPECIAL OFFERING December 20th**

They came when you needed them. They answered the phone when you called. They baptized and married and buried your loved ones. They gave up weekend after weekend after weekend to care for your spirit, lead you in worship, and point to God in your midst.

Some of them did it for less money than they could easily live on. Some of them did it for less than they would have been willing to do any other job for, because of what they believe about who God is, and what they believe about who *you* are.

For all the sacrifices that clergy and lay church workers have made in our congregations, over 100 years ago the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ created the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund, to help support them in retirement and during times of emergent need.

The Christmas Fund provides Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks for retirees and those facing unforeseen financial hardship.

Join with others in the United Church of Christ to make “the light shine in the darkness” for those who have given so much to our church.

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### **A Note of Thanks to You from the Consistory**

We note with appreciation the care exhibited by our members in attending worship and church meetings using hand sanitizer and wearing face masks. We are most grateful for all you do to minister to one another in helping to promote the health and general welfare of all by using social distancing and masking up.



## **WAYS TO KEEP INFORMED DURING THIS PANDEMIC**

Updates will be through **Call-Em-All**, and also posted on our webpage:

[www.stpaulsuccsm.com](http://www.stpaulsuccsm.com) and our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Pauls-United-Church-of-Christ-St-Marys-Ohio-244329649061259/>

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## **Hope For The Holidays**



For some, the holidays are the most difficult, emotionally-loaded months of the year triggering difficult feelings of sadness, stress, anxiety, and depression. Grief from loved ones lost, trauma from holidays past, the cold dark weather, the lasting effect of COVID-19, there are many factors that make the holiday season hard for people. Join us for a free workshop led by Pastor Rhonda Hainer, which will address the reasons why the holidays are hard. Learn strategies to cope with the season's blues, and make the holidays a hopeful time again. **There is no charge for this workshop. Please wear a mask.**

- **So You Wanna Make A Resolution:** Thursday, December 3rd, 3:00 pm-4:30 pm in the sanctuary, will help to create a resolution success plan, as we look toward the new year ahead.
-

## **ELEVATOR UPDATE**

As of this writing on November 17, the elevator company is here hopefully to finish the installation. My greatest hope is that by the time you read this, we have already sent out a Call-Em-All with the date of the grand opening celebration. As far as funding, we still are about \$30,000.00 short of the original quote, although at this point there will certainly be late penalties assessed in our favor.

Lynda Hadley

### **AGAIN, MANY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR SUPPORTING THIS UPLIFTING FUNDRAISER**

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## **Musical Notes from Jim Huckemeyer**

### **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

(Worship and Rejoice Hymnal #182)

John Francis Wade, author of this hymn, was hounded out of England in 1745. He was a Roman Catholic layman in Lancashire; but because of persecution arising from the Jacobite rebellion, streams of Catholics fled to France and Portugal, where communities of English-speaking Catholics appeared.

But how could he, a refugee, support himself? In those days, the printing of musical scores was cumbersome, and copying them by hand was an art. In the famous Roman Catholic College and Ministry Center in Douay, France, Wade taught music and became renowned as a copyist of musical scores. His work was exquisite.

In 1743, Wade, 32, produced a copy of a Latin Christmas carol beginning with the phrase *Adeste Fidelis, Laeti triumphantes*. At one time historians believed he had simply discovered an ancient hymn by an unknown author, but most scholars now believe Wade himself composed the lyrics. Seven original hand-copied

manuscripts of this Latin hymn have been found, all of them bearing Wade's signature.

John Wade passed away on August 16, 1786, at age 75. His obituary honored him for his "beautiful manuscripts" that adorned chapels and homes.

As time passed, English Catholics began returning to Britain, and they carried Wade's Christmas carol with them. More time passed, and one day an Anglican minister named Rev Frederick Oakeley, who preached at Margaret Street Chapel in London, came across Wade's Latin Christmas carol. Being deeply moved, he translated it into English for Margaret Street Chapel. The first line of Oakeley's translation said: "Ye Faithful, Approach Ye."

Somehow, "Ye Faithful Approach Ye" didn't catch on, and several years later Oakeley tried again. By this time, Oakeley, too, was a Roman Catholic priest, having converted to Catholicism in 1845. Perhaps his grasp of Latin had improved, because as he repeated over and over the Latin phrase *Adeste Fidelis, Laeti triumphantes* he finally came up with the simpler, more vigorous *O Come, All Ye Faithful, Joyful and Triumphant!*

So two brave Englishmen, Catholics, lovers of Christmas and lovers of hymns, living a hundred years apart, writing in two different nations, combined their talents to bid us come, joyful and triumphant, and adore Him born the King of Angels.

***"O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord"***

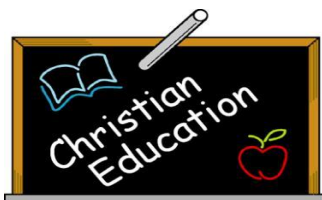
From Then Sings My Soul, Robert J Morgan (2003)

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## AGAPE MISSION

**OUR TOILET PAPER MISSION IS RUNNING SHORT!!!** Our goal for the year is 2000 rolls of toilet paper and we have a lot more to collect! Our current count is 1566 for the toilet paper and 819 for bar soap. If you would like for me to purchase rolls for you, I can do this. Just give your donation to me or the office. I will be glad to help out. So, let's just keep the paper rolling. Thank you for your past and present support on this project. Jane Nuss





# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Watch our church Facebook page  
for more news and updates.

1 – Colton McCollum	23 – Ellie Burden
2 – Zane Solomon	27 – Landon Schaaf
6 – Conner Milner	29 – Lindsey Clausing
13 – Brian Speckman	30 - Aubrielle Hufford
23 – Elli Powell	

## October Perfect Attendance

<b>Pre K</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>
Lucy Klosterman	None
Austin Winget	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	Hunter Winget
None	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	None
Amelia Klosterman	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Cody Birt
Dylan Winget	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Tyler Birt
Henry Klosterman	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	Joey Vanderhorst
Emily Turner	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>
Aubrey Birt	Emma Birt
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	
Ava Winget	

## MESSAGE FROM MARY

Here we are about to embark on our third month into our Sunday School and a lot has happened. We open class with The Lord's Prayer, then the children want to share their talents in the classroom, so we try to have one play the piano or singing. We haven't gotten to the dancing part of talents yet, but there are some that can share their dancing. We go into our regular music, then the children break up into two-three classes. The seventh grade goes to their own class. Our curriculum is dealing with the love and trust of God, and working it into our own lives.

Our children have started learning their Christmas songs and parts for the Christmas program. Mark your calendar for December 20th as this will be the annual Christmas Program during church. We are very excited about this program and look forward to all the kids participating! We are always looking for the kids to participate by playing instruments, piano, etc. – if they have a hidden talent that they would like to share please let us know!

We have chosen Goodfellows for our Christmas mission and the children are donating loose change for this mission.

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new Children's Choir Director, Maddy Frankenhauser. Maddy and her husband, Nick, have three children, Nolan, Ethan and Jillian. Maddy grew up in St. Marys and is currently the Assistant Band Director for St. Marys City School.

Kara Birt started a project/mission in the past to collect food for children to have while they are on Christmas break. We are keeping her project/mission going, and appreciate any food donated by the congregation. Thanks to Kara for starting such a great project.

The Sunday School Department would also like to give a big **THANK YOU** to an anonymous donor for the donation of a brand

new laptop. Now, Maddy Frankenhauser, will not have to bring in her personal laptop to play any music/videos for the children.

Thank you all,  
Mary Holtzapple

- We are still in need of some teachers and subs!! If you are interested in assisting with Sunday school for one Sunday a month - we would love to have you join us!!! Many hands make light work!!

**Youth Director Opening:** St. Paul's United Church of Christ, St. Marys is seeking an energetic, organized and creative youth leader. Candidate must have excellent communication skills and be able to work with all age ranges of our congregation, with a focus on Senior High youth and school age children.

Person should be a lay member of the United Church of Christ or a person with like beliefs of the United Church of Christ. Position is part-time.

Send resumes to: St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Attn: Pastor Rhonda Hainer, 201 N. Perry Street, St. Marys OH 45885. Applications can also be picked up at this address.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

**Aluminum Can Recycling for the Youth Group** - Thank you to everyone who is saving aluminum cans for the **YOUTH GROUP**. We will continue to save, collect, and recycle cans. Cans need to be **rinsed out** and brought to St. Paul's - **just leave them behind the curtain under the stairs of the Creation Station door**. If you have a lot of cans and would like to just take them on to recycling and donate the money, it may be just as easy once they are in your vehicle. Thank you for your support.

# WOMEN'S NEWS

**THE GIVING TREE** – will be set up in the sanctuary for collection of hats, gloves, mittens, & scarves. Items will be collected through December 20 at which time they will be given to Goodfellows to be distributed. Thank you for always supporting this mission!

**KROGER REWARD UPDATE:** Thanks for supporting this program. Our supporters (34 households) who shopped at Kroger between 8/1/2020 and 10/31/2020 have contributed to our \$125.88 total donation. Thanks for your continued support of this program & please consider joining if you shop at Kroger's!

## QUILTERS

Our quilting ladies meet on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to ??? in the sewing room. Questions? Call Margaret Hunter at 419-733-4332. *(Note: We don't meet in the summer months)*

## BUSY NEEDLES

Our Busy Needles ladies meet in the old kitchen on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 9 a.m. to?? We knot lap robes and comforters for local nursing homes, VA hospitals, Shriners hospitals in Cincinnati and Lexington, Ky., and anyone in need to keep warm. We are looking for anyone wanting to help with this Mission. If you can thread a needle, we need you. Thanks for everyone who has donated fabric and yarn to this Mission. It is through the donations of many that this program has continued for over 35 years. It only costs the church for the electricity we use in a few short hours. For more information, call Margaret 419-733-4332. *(Note: We don't meet in the summer months)*



## **BREAKING BREAD COMMUNITY MEAL**

### **NOTICE of Meal Schedule Change:**

There will be **NO MEALS in the month of December**

**Breaking Bread Staff are taking a Holiday Break!**

**Please join us back here on January 14th! Thank you.**

**BREAKING BREAD' COMMUNITY DINNER** - If you would like to make a financial contribution to help with costs for the weekly community dinner, these will be gratefully accepted. Donations can be placed in the Sunday offering plate or mailed to the church office. Please be sure to indicate your name on the envelope if you would like to receive credit on your giving statement. Contributions of \$10 canned food are also accepted.

\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO EAGLE SCOUT** **ALEX MAUTER**

Twenty-one is the minimum number of merit badges needed to become an Eagle Scout. Alex Mauter has earned 36, becoming the first ever scout from Troop 138 to earn an additional 15 merit badges. Alex is the son of Erik and Nancy Mauter.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you to all that have honored Ruth Seewer's memory with donations to the St. Paul's Endowment and Elevator funds. She was a longtime supporter of both.

We deeply appreciate the flowers, cards, and expressions of sympathy to our families.

The Seewer Family

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

Dear members of St. Paul's:

It is my sincere pleasure to thank the congregation for their recent gift to Heidelberg University. The university is indeed grateful to be the recipient of such a kind and thoughtful gift. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Jen Bricker, Senior Coordinator for Donor Relations  
The Heidelberg Fund.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

Dear church friends,

Thank you everyone for all of the cards and memorial donations following the death of Willis. I would also like to thank Leslie Hullinger for the delicious cookies.

Ruth Henschen

Dear St. Paul's UCC,

Thank you to the members of your church for the kind gift to Defiance College. We are proud of our connection with the United Church of Christ and very grateful to your church for helping to fund our efforts.

Sincerely,  
Sheri McCoy, Advancement Services Specialist  
Defiance College

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

Dear Rev. Hainer and Members of St. Paul's UCC,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$500 to *The Hills are Alive!*, the Templed Hills Campaign. We are very grateful for this expression of your congregation's commitment to the stewardship of this sacred space.

Your donation is an investment in our shared future at Templed Hills, helping to ensure that this unique place of faith formation and renewal continues to build congregations, strengthen shared ministry, and change the lives of both children and adults in the Heartland Conference and beyond.

Combining your gift with others will bring us closer to our goal for Templed Hills to model exemplary care for Creation, to provide accessible and appealing accommodations, and to advance the work of the wider church by tithing our campaign to the UCC's Shaping Our Future endowment.

Thank you again for your partnership in securing a sustainable future for Templed Hills and the Outdoor Ministry that gives it life.

Blessings,  
Rev. David Long-Higgins, Transitional Conference Minister  
Cathy Green, Campaign Chairperson

A special thank you for all the thoughts, prayers and cards which have aided my speedy recovery from hip replacement surgery. They brought joy and smiles to my days. I would also like to thank those who have stepped up to fill in for me with Breaking Bread during my recovery

Jeanette Tangeman

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*



Our sympathy to the family and friends of the following member(s) that have passed away since the last newsletter:

- Ruth Seewer – October 25, 2020
- Robert Deitsch – November 4, 2020
- Naomi Sollman – November 10, 2020

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*



- **To the Memorial Fund in memory of Robert Deitsch:** Jerry and Charlett Wolfe, Adele Fast, Krauss-Anderson Financial Services (employer of Robert's daughter, Dawn).
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Terry Tangeman:** Ruth Henschen, Joe and Bev Hurlburt of The ROC.
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Kristine Hubbell:** Ruth Henschen, Adele Fast

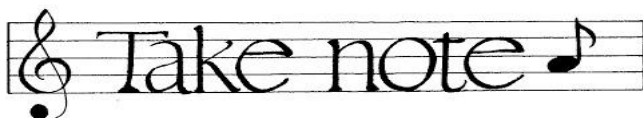












- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Mary Alice Stoner:** Ruth Henschen.
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Willis Henschen:** Ann Vogel, Janet Swartz, Judy Waesch, Jim and Kris Vanderhorst, Dick and Ann Hudson, Dorothy McMullen, Mohican Valley Ohio Airstream Club, and Leona Peterman.
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Ruth Seewer:** Jim and Kris Vanderhorst, Tom and Pat Vanderhorst, Martha May (Swinging Seniors Line Dancing), Judy Waesch, Red Hat Society, Shirley Huckeriede, Bernie and Marilyn Schroer, Dorothy Quellhorst, Lowell and Roberta Dowler, Steve and Leslie Hullinger, Bill and Jane Nuss, Ruth Dustman, Lynn and Carol Schmidt, Glenn and Lynda Hadley, Tom and Nancy Seewer, Becky and Mike Graves, John and Dorothy Schelby, Shirley Huckeriede, Mary Wale and Devin Boehringer, Grace Young, Ron and Margaret Hunter, David and Melissa Dues, Ron and Carol Jones, and Leona Peterman.
- **To the Endowment Fund in memory of Ruth Seewer:** Eileen and Kenton Rohrberg.
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Guy and Ruth Seewer, and Russell and Katherine Morris:** Gary and Sara Seewer.
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Virginia Sweigart:** Janet Swartz
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Naomi Sollman:** Janet Swartz
- **To the New Elevator Fund in Honor of Rev. Rhonda Hainer:** The family of Mary Alice Stoner.

## CHURCH INFO

**CALL-EM-ALL** - Please let the church office know if you are experiencing any problems with the Call-Em-All phone messages. **Also, if you would like to be removed from the calling list, listen to the broadcast and at the end follow their directions to 'opt out' of any future broadcasts - this will remove your number from the calling list.** Thank you!

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-  If you will be going to the hospital or if someone you know is hospitalized, please call the church office and let us know.
-  Please call the church office with address corrections or if you do not see your **Birthday** or **Anniversary** listed during the correct month. Call 419-394-3811. Thank you!!
-  **Cell phone # for Pastor Rhonda** (563) 210-3508
-  **rhainer@bright.net** – Rev. Hainer's e-mail address.
-  **smucc@bright.net** - church e-mail address. Use this to e-mail articles for the newsletter/messages for the Sunday bulletin.
-  **christianed@bright.net** - Christian Education and Youth Director email address.
-  **cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com** to contact Carol Schmidt for the Email Prayer Team Requests.
-  **spmedia@bright.net** – to contact Jim Huckemeyer or Rich Spencer email address.
-  **www.stpaulsuccsm.com** - church web site address and most current worship service videos can be seen here.
-  **Televised worship service**- our worship service here at St. Paul's is shown on **TSC cable - Digital channel 1 OR non-digital channel 2,** every Sunday at 10:30 am and also on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm. There is a one week delay of the service shown.

## **STAFF OF ST. PAUL'S UCC:**

- ... **Rev. Rhonda Hainer, Pastor**
  - ... **Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant**
  - ... **Amy & Mark Dieringer, Youth Directors**
  - ... **Jim Huckemeyer, Director of Music**
  - ... **Maddy Frankenhauser, Director of Children's Music**
  - ... **Andrea Spencer, Organist**
  - ... **Ann Vogel, Organist**
  - ... **Cynthia Hanover, Pianist**
  - ... **Bob Schumacher, Custodian**
  - ... **Rich Spencer, Audio and Video**
  - ... **Carol Schmidt, Email Prayer Team Contact**
  - ... **Mary Holtzapple, Christian Ed Coordinator**
  - ... **Kim Opperman, Church School Superintendent**
  - ... **Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher**
  - ... **Kim Opperman, Nursery Supervisor**
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**Kroger Fund Raiser for the Women's Guild** – If you would like to support Women's Guild with the Kroger fundraiser, log on to: [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) to sign up & register your Kroger Plus card. **NPO# is SK5720**. If you do not use the internet, but would like to sign up, please contact Jane Nuss or Kris Vanderhorst.

**EYEGASSES FOR THE NEEDY** - collected by the church school classes. Donated glasses should be placed in the basket at the North entrance to the sanctuary.

**LIFT CHAIR** is available for 'loan' to anyone in the church who might have a need for it. Please call the church office for more information.

**ATLAS 600 VISION MACHINE – QUANTITY OF 2** - to assist those who have vision problems with reading books, newspapers, prescription labels, writing personal checks or viewing family photographs - making this possible with video magnifiers.

**WALKERS** - If you have need of a walker for assistance in getting around, please call the church office. One of our church members has several different type walkers, which are available for loan.

**RESTROOM ITEMS:** If you have a need for shower chairs, toilet seat elevators and hand-held shower adapters, please call the church office. One of our church members has graciously donated a few of these items.

**LAMINATOR** - available in the church office. This is used by the Sunday School teachers for classroom projects and activities and by the office staff. We will also laminate items for church members for a fee of \$1.00 per item (**NOTE: maximum size we can laminate is 8 ½ x 11 inches**).

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** - are distributed by quarterly mailing. Please notify the church office if you are not receiving envelopes and would like to be added to this mailing list. Also.....**PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**

**COPIES** - if you need copies made of any personal items, you may stop by the church office and we will be glad to make them for you. If it is a large project, it is best to call ahead. **Cost for making copies for church members is 15 cents per copy if you use the office paper or 10 cents per copy if you bring your own paper.**

**THE DVD/CD DUPLICATOR** in the church office enables us to make multiple copies of the morning worship service. Please call the church office to request a copy. **The charge for duplicating a DVD will be \$2.00 each.** Monthly sets of worship DVD's can also be mailed at a cost of \$10.00 per month. Call the church office for more information.

## **2020 CHURCH OFFICIALS**

<b>President of Congregation</b>	Luke Leffel
<b>Vice-president of Congregation</b>	Jeff Dieringer
<b>President of Consistory</b>	Ralph Heckler
<b>Vice-president of Consistory</b>	Marsha Landers

### **2020 Members of Consistory**

<b>Elders:</b>	Ralph Heckler	Virginia Burroughs
	Jane Nuss	Marsha Landers
	Joan Leffel	Mary Holtzapple
<b>Deacons:</b>	Becky Rasaweher	Victor Long
	Carol Waesch	Luke Leffel
	Lynn Schmidt	Melinda Silber
	Lynda Hadley	Kelly Kill
	Susan Braun	Linda McDonald
	Jennifer Ginter	Susan Spencer
<b>Trustees:</b>	Greg Walter, Kyle Opperman and Larry Kill	

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## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **October 2020:**

#### **Current Fund:**

- Budgeted through October 31, 2020 = \$223,940.00
- Received through October 31, 2020 = \$180,023.50
- Expenses through October 31, 2020 = \$189,740.64
- Received through October 31, 2019 = \$177,603.42

#### **Mission Fund:**

- Budgeted through October 31, 2020 = \$ 12,500.00
- Received through October 31, 2020 = \$ 11,549.00
- Received through October 31, 2019 = \$ 9,992.00

### **Status of 2020 Budget:**

#### **Current Fund:**

- Budgeted through November 30, 2020 = \$246,334.00

- Budgeted through November 15, 2020 = \$239,443.55
- Received through November 15, 2020 = \$191,818.50

**Mission Fund:**

- Budgeted through November 30, 2020 = \$13,750.00
- Budgeted through November 15, 2020 = \$13,365.38
- Received through November 15, 2020 = \$10,757.00

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**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 11, 2020  
CONSISTORY MEETING IN HERITAGE HALL**

The regular meeting of St. Paul's UCC Consistory was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Ralph Heckler. Pastor Rhonda opened the meeting with prayer.

**Present:** *Elders:* Marsha Landers, Jane Nuss, Virginia Burroughs, Mary Holtzapple, and Ralph Heckler; *Trustees:* Kyle Opperman, and Greg Walter; *Deacons:* Carolyn Waesch, Lynda Hadley, Susan Braun, Lynn Schmidt, Linda McDonald, Melinda Silber, Luke Leffel, Jennifer Ginter and Kelly Kill. Also present were Pastor Rhonda Hainer, Treasurer, David Dickman, Custodian Bob Schumacher, Administrative Assistant Carolyn Garrison and guest Maddy Frankenhauser.

**Christian Ed & Nurture:** Mary Holtzapple

- Members of Christian Ed have been busy setting up the Christmas Program.
- We had approximately 350 kids who stopped by our table in our church parking lot to receive individual baggies of candy for Trick or Treat.
- Donuts and coffee served on All Saint's Sunday and the following week was appreciated before and after worship.

- Mary introduced Maddy Frankenhauser to the Consistory. Maddy is going to be our new children's music director. Maddy asked the Consistory for some firm direction on whether the children are allowed to be singing (and speaking) at the upcoming Christmas program. After questions were addressed, the general consensus of the Consistory was to allow the children to sing wearing their masks and those who have speaking parts can do so without their masks.

**Minutes:** Ralph Heckler

- Minutes from the October 14, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Kyle Opperman made a motion to approve the minutes. Linda McDonald seconded. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** David Dickman

- David reviewed the Financial Report for the month of October 2020. There being no other questions, President Ralph asked to file the financial report for review by the church Administrative Assistant.

**President's Report:** Ralph Heckler

- Ralph passed around a thank you letter from the Temples Hills campaign, thanking our church members for the donation.

**Pastor's Report:** Rhonda Hainer

- Pastor Rhonda reported that at a quarterly Pastoral Relations meeting held recently, recognizing that she is starting her 2<sup>nd</sup> year as our Settled Pastor, and as a way to check in with members to evaluate how they view her ministry is going, she passed around a checklist of her duties and invited them to select the top 5 important duties. Then she asked them to prioritize the duties. During her report tonight she invited the same from Consistory members and positive responses were given to her ministry.

Pastor Rhonda reported that she is currently leading a five-week workshop using the Five Love Languages as well as a 3 month Grief Support Group. Both are going extremely well.

- Since our last meeting Rhonda conducted 4 funerals with one upcoming. The day after Thanksgiving a wedding that had been postponed in April due to COVID restrictions will be held.
- Rhonda is proud of members wearing masks when entering the building, for meetings, and worship.

**Loose Offering Designation:** Ralph Heckler

- President Ralph asked members of Consistory for suggestions for the second Sunday in December. Susan Braun suggested Goodfellows. Lynda Hadley made a motion to accept the Goodfellows recommendation. Kyle Opperman seconded. Motion carried.

**Budget and Finance:** David Dickman

- David reviewed the final draft of the 2021 Budget. There is one new item added under the Worship and Arts section for Pastor Rhonda's subscription to an Annual Worship Series. Marsha Landers made a motion to approve the 2021 Budget. Virginia Burroughs seconded the motion. Motion carried. The 2021 Budget and a cover letter will be an insert in the December Communicator. Congregation will vote on the budget after worship on December 13<sup>th</sup>.
- We are in receipt of a check for \$1500 from the Roland Clausing Fund through the Community Foundation. In years past, these checks have been used to pay down the loan from the Building Fund. Lynda Hadley made a motion to use the money to pay down the loan to the Building Fund. Marsha Landers seconded. Motion carried.

**Trustees:** Kyle Opperman

- There has been a new issue arise with the elevator construction. There are some "soft" bricks and water is leaking through those bricks and into the new section. Upon the recommendation of Dorsten's, we have hired a



company called Trisco to perform the repairs. This is an additional cost of approximately \$15,700.

- They are in receipt of a quote for an automated handicap door opener for the outside door to the new elevator section. The quote is for \$8,000. Trustees are not going to go with that quote and will be seeking additional quotes.
- Tuners for the organ were here this week. The Middle C note is “dead” and will need repaired at the spring tuning. Discussion ensued regarding which fund should pay for the repair. Jane Nuss made a motion for the Building Fund to be responsible for paying the cost of the repair. Kyle Opperman seconded said motion. Motion carried. Carolyn will email Schantz Organ and let them know immediately.

**Elders:** No report

**Deacons:** Ralph Heckler

- We are still in need of four Deacons for 2021 year. So far, we have Kevin Gehres and Lori Now as Elders and DeWayne Marsee as Trustee. Ralph will make an announcement at worship on Sunday as well as an announcement placed in the bulletin.

**Christian Mission and Outreach:** No Report

**Personnel:** Marsha Landers for Joan Leffel

- Personnel has completed updating the staff job descriptions and will conduct yearly paid staff evaluations in December.
- Personnel is recommending the hiring of Maddy Frankenhauser as the Children’s Music Director. Since Maddy has come to us late in the year, we are suggesting a 14-month contract with a pay of \$145/month. Mary Holtzapple made a motion to accept this recommendation. Lynda Hadley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Elevator Committee:** Lynda Hadley

- The ceiling that was ordered for the new elevator, was ordered incorrectly. We are told that the new ceiling should arrive early next week to be installed as well as the “fine

tuning” of the elevator buttons. The local fire department can sign off on letting us use the new elevator rather than bringing in the State to do an inspection. We are still in need of approximately \$30,000 for the completion of the elevator.

**Pastoral Relations:** Luke Leffel

- The committee has met recently with Pastor Rhonda. Since she has begun her 2<sup>nd</sup> year as our Settled Pastor and as a way to check in with members to evaluate how they view her ministry is going, she passed around a checklist of her duties and invited them to select the top 5 important duties. Then she asked them to prioritize the duties. A discussion was held about the goal of long range planning for the future; identifying who we are and where we want to go as a congregation. A quarterly schedule of meetings for 2021 will be prepared.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- Kyle Opperman asked if we could streamline the Sunday morning worship announcements since they are in the bulletin and up on the screen as well. He doesn't see a need to have to announce them as well.
- With the elevator not yet completed and the door to Heritage Hall is still not accessible, can Carolyn call the director of the ASPIRE GED class and ask them to use the Fellowship Hall door as an entrance until the new elevator is up and running. Trustees will take care of hanging the ASPIRE sign by the Fellowship Hall doors.
- Pastor Rhonda asked for direction for the Christmas Eve services since COVID is getting worse. Rhonda asked Consistory if we needed to take reservations? Do we need to use the flash lights on our cell phones instead of candles? Do we add a third service, such as 4p, 7p and 11p? If more services, we need to keep in mind the availability of those in charge of music as well as sanitizing between

services. It was the consensus of the Consistory to continue with two services, 7 and 11 p. with the use of flashlights or cell phone lights in lieu of individual candles to conclude the service. President Ralph will ask the congregation on Sunday as well as have an article about it in the upcoming Communicator. Pastor Rhonda asked about singing at the Christmas Eve services. After some discussion, singing is strongly discouraged, however if members sing quietly, they are to do so with their masks on.

- Pastor Rhonda asked that the Advent wreath candle lighters sit in the front row for worship service. Due to the rise in COVID cases in our area, with the desire to keep members safe at home Pastor Rhonda will not be leading mid-week Advent Services.
- Kyle asked how many bulletins are leftover after worship on Sunday. Custodian, Bob Schumacher gave an approximate amount. Carolyn suggested cutting back the regular size bulletin amount from 70 to 50 and leave the large bulletins at a 50 count.

Pastor Rhonda closed the meeting with a prayer.

President Ralph asked if there are any other committees needing to report. There being no further regular business, Kyle Opperman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lynn Schmidt seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ralph Heckler, 2020 Consistory President  
Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant



**DON'T FORGET**

**Deadline** for articles, announcements, etc. for the **January issue** of *The Communicator* will be **December 16<sup>th</sup>** (due to the holidays and slower mail) at 9 a.m.



**4**

## Christmas Word Search

U	Z	F	H	R	U	D	O	L	P	H	P	U	H	U
N	U	V	A	Y	E	L	L	E	B	A	R	W	N	T
L	O	S	I	G	T	I	L	S	C	U	P	I	D	E
T	E	R	A	X	L	S	N	A	M	W	O	N	S	M
S	S	P	T	N	E	J	O	D	B	R	H	R	E	O
T	T	R	S	H	T	N	I	R	E	H	S	A	D	C
N	O	E	L	U	P	A	A	K	F	E	K	T	Y	H
Y	C	S	E	W	G	O	C	C	Z	X	R	S	E	T
B	K	E	D	R	R	A	L	L	Y	Y	O	T	N	A
G	I	N	G	E	R	B	R	E	A	D	W	I	M	E
S	N	T	N	C	W	M	G	P	E	U	N	B	I	R
M	G	N	T	N	E	Z	T	I	L	B	S	A	H	W
K	O	U	D	A	N	C	E	R	F	U	S	A	C	K
D	N	P	R	R	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	A
L	A	A	G	P	E	A	C	E	A	Z	V	S	V	K

BALL  
BELL  
BLITZEN  
CANDYCANE  
CHIMNEY  
CHRISTMAS  
COMET  
CUPID  
DANCER  
DASHER  
DONNER  
ELF

FROSTY  
GIFT  
GINGERBREAD  
NOEL  
NORTHPOLE  
NUTCRACKER  
PEACE  
PRANCER  
PRESENT  
REINDEER  
RUDOLPH  
SACK

SANTA CLAUS  
SLED  
SNOWMAN  
STAR  
STOCKING  
SUGARPLUMS  
TOY  
TREE  
VIXEN  
WORKSHOP  
WREATH

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