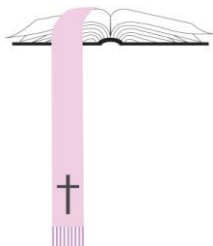


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Rhonda's Reflections



Take Heart, Have No Fear.

It was not the disciple's idea to get into that boat and go across the lake to the other side.

Matthew 14, where the story is recorded, tells us that Jesus made them get in a boat and go on

before him. So, there they were, in this boat, out on a lake, in the middle of the night, and a storm blew up.

Scripture says the boat was beaten about by the waves, the wind was blowing, they were afraid. And in the middle of the storm, through the wind, through the waves, came Jesus. He came to them and he said, "Take heart; it is I; have no fear."

Jesus never asks us to go any place that he cannot come to us. We can't go any place that Jesus cannot come. He didn't promise us smooth sailing, but he promised us that he would come to us. When the wind starts blowing on your lake, and the waves get high, look around, there he is, coming to you, and he has a message for you: "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

God bless you all,
Pastor Rhonda



DON'T FORGET

Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. for the March issue of The Communicator will be February 16th.

Ash Wednesday Worship Service February 17th

7:00 a.m., 12 noon, 7:00 p.m.

Plan now to attend one of the three services of worship offered for Ash Wednesday. (The practice of social distancing and wearing masks will be observed)

- at 7: 00 a.m. early before the work and school day begin; *This brief service will include both the imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.*
- at 12 noon (perhaps observing a fast with the deletion of the regular noon meal); *This brief service will include both the imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.*
- at 7:00 p.m. This will be a traditional worship service that will *include a message by Pastor Rhonda and both the imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.*

Since the beginning of the church, Christians have observed the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection with great devotion. It became one of the greatest traditions of the church to prepare for these events through serious examination of our spiritual lives.

The season of Lent is a time of penitence, discipline, and renewal. In the Ash Wednesday service, we are reminded of our mortality, we confess our sins, and we experience forgiveness through Christ's death and resurrection.

The "imposition of ashes" is a central part of the service. You are invited to come forward to receive the ashes on your forehead. In Scripture, ashes serve both as a symbol of mortality and as a sign of mourning and repentance.

But neither sin nor death are the final word. We leave the service in confidence and gratitude: Christ has conquered death, and nothing can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

ANNUAL MEETING IN FEBRUARY

The annual meeting of the congregation is scheduled for Sunday, February 14th. We are doing things a little different this year. Immediately following worship, we will remain in the sanctuary for the meeting in which the efforts of 2020 will be reviewed, annual reports received, and the election of President and Vice President of the congregation will be conducted. There will not be any soup and sandwich this year due to COVID.

ELEVATOR UPDATE - We had an awesome party on January 17th – I hope many of you were in attendance. Security was on high alert as our very own, beloved TP Queen graciously attended to help us celebrate. After her arrival and the “christening” of our new addition, Pastor Rhonda led us in a celebration toast. Unfortunately, we had one small glitch due to operator inexperience and the elevator doors were locked up so Gary and Sara were unable to take that ride. Rest assured that the problem has been fixed and they will get that ride very soon. It was truly a good day.

We have good fundraising news, also. The final invoice has not yet arrived, so I talked to Sean Dorsten to see if he could give me an idea of what we need yet to cover the cost. The final change order has been submitted to Garmann/Miller for approval and there needs to be a final meeting between Garmann/Miller, Dorstens and our trustees, but if nothing needs to be adjusted, we will need less than \$8000.00 to cover the total cost. The Trustees have agreed to pay that amount out of the building fund if needed. What an amazing job you all did!! In just two years, YOU pledged and donated over \$131,500.00. Of course, there is still time to donate if you want. And I encourage all of you to stop in and check out the improvements – it looks wonderful. A special thanks to Bernie Schroer for making the stained-glass windows for the new addition to match the rest of the windows in the church.

I want to thank the wonderful committee members who were involved in this fundraising – Bernie Schroer, David Dickman, Joyce Roth, and Marsha Heckler (AKA the TP Queen). And thanks also to our Trustees who have served over the last three years. This is an awesome addition to our church. We should all be very proud.


Thanks to all.
Lynda Hadley

THANKS TO ALL FOR SUPPORTING THIS UPLIFTING PROJECT

New Address: Former member, Tonie Might, has moved and would like to share her new address.

Tonie Might
1840 Towne Park Drive
Story Point Apt. 325
Troy, Ohio 45737

Birth Announcement

	<p><i>Carter Michael Opperman was born on January 11, 2021. Carter weighed 6 lbs 13 oz. Carter is the son of Kim Opperman, grandson of Marsha Landers and nephew of Kyle Opperman. Congratulations.</i></p>
--	---

IMPORTANT MESSAGE
GRANT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH LOUNGE ON FEBRUARY 1ST

But we will give ourselves continually to

Prayer

and to the ministry of the word. Acts 6:4

If St. Paul's Prayer Team had a motto, it could be: "No one walks alone." This team of church members spends countless minutes lifting people up in prayer weekly. Some pray during a morning walk for those on the prayer list. Others sit and pray the names out loud. Some write notes. Others make phone calls. It's an affirmation of all of us being God's hands and feet. The Prayer Team hopes the prayers give people strength by pointing them in the direction of God's care. The comfort of knowing that you're on somebody's mind. Prayer requests range from a church member facing surgery to families affected by cancer and Alzheimer's, of course, Covid-19. The Prayer Team embodies Christ's spirit in how its members care deeply and pray deeply. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, direct your prayer to the lead person of our Prayer Team, Carol Schmidt: cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com or you can call or text her at 419-305-6164.

WAYS TO KEEP INFORMED DURING THIS PANDEMIC

Updates will be through **Call-Em-All**, and also posted on our webpage: www.stpaulsuccsm.com and our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Pauls-United-Church-of-Christ-St-Marys-Ohio-244329649061259/>

JTDMH GUILD #20 DUES The Joint Township District Memorial Hospital Auxiliary dues are now being collected. All are welcome to belong and support our local hospital. Dues are \$15 and checks should be made out to "JTDMH Auxiliary." Money or checks should be given to Ann Vogel by February 7, 2021.

AGAPE MISSION: It's a new year and a new beginning for our toilet paper mission. Our ***goal again this year is 2000.*** Let's get rolling early this year and put the rolls in the Elevator Room next to the Sanctuary. 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 of Agape projects. Jane Nuss.



BREAKING BREAD COMMUNITY MEAL

Breaking Bread will be serving from **4:30 to 5:15pm** (unless food is all gone before this). **Grab and Go from your car only.** Looking forward to providing delicious free meals to our community. Every Thursday except the first Thursday of the month.

- February 11
- February 25
- February 18

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.

Musical Notes

Our sympathy and prayers of comfort are with our Dir. of Music, Jim Huckemeyer in the passing of his beloved Cindy. This month's hymn reflection is by Pastor Rhonda.

"My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation..."

The words of this familiar hymn, "How Can I Keep From Singing", seem more relevant today than they have ever been. Whether it's the cries of injustice echoing across our cities, the visualizations of tyranny seen so frequently in the news and on social media, or the ravages of the Coronavirus, Earth's lament we all feel is palpable, visual, audible... personal.

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. There on the willows we hung our harps, for there our captors requested a song; our tormentors demanded songs of joy: "Sing us a song of Zion." How can we sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land? (Ezekiel 1:1-4)

Perhaps now more than ever, we can empathize with the sentiment of God's people when they asked, *"How can we sing a song of the Lord in a foreign land?"*

We must remember Paul's admonishment to the Ephesians, *"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

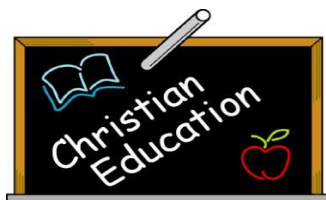
The singing of hymns each week, (suspended only in church, not at your home) is an important part of your own personal nourishment during this challenging time. There is a reason Paul and King David urged us to lift our songs to God. Singing puts "the words of our mouths" and the "meditations of our hearts" together in an outward declaration of faith and praise. Sometimes we all need to hear ourselves audibly proclaim what we know to be true—and singing hymns from our hearts allows us to connect

truth with melody. And, as the saying goes, *“truth learned in song is remembered long.”*

The refrain of the aforementioned hymn states: “...No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I’m clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?” Sing, friends. Make music in your heart. We may be in a “strange land” right now, but we have a Loving God who delights in our songs and in our praise. As we look to God for our strength, God will give our singing flight to nourish our weary souls.



This month our Spotlight is on Rich Spencer, our multi-media specialist who prefers to be behind the scenes controlling our multi-media equipment for our online worship. St. Paul’s has been offering media services to our homebound for over 30 years; first starting with audio cassette tapes to our present system. Gone are the early days with one camera and microphone. Now with our advanced multimedia equipment, the learning curve continues its arc. From camera shot changes to muted microphones, Rich spins plates behind the scenes so folks at home can connect to worship. Rich devotes many hours to online worship, which requires intense focus. He enjoys the work and opportunity to serve. The new audio/visual setup better captures the look and feel of the Sanctuary, especially the live music. Rich appreciates what goes into worship and outreach and hopes this helps nourish the congregation in a way that allows us to continue to have an outsized impact on the surrounding community. Thank you, Rich Spencer, for your service to God and St. Paul’s.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

2 – Madilyn Mauter	16 – Maya McDonald	
4 – Brett Speckman	16 – Austin Winget	
5 – Katie Lucas	16 – John Long	
9 – Allie Long	16 – Charlie Drewes	
10 – AJ Dieringer	28 – Toby Turner	

MESSAGE FROM MARY

On January 17th, the church resumed in-person service as well as Sunday school classes. We had 47 kids show up for Sunday school and everything seemed to go very smoothly. I am working closely with Amy Keller on planning some new things for the rest of the year. We will be starting a study of the books of the Bible.

Thank you to all of the congregation and students for their help.

Mary Holtzapple

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.

The 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

Many thanks for all the hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves which were collected for Goodfellows. So many of these were handmade and all of the items will be much appreciated this winter. There were 114 items collected and donated and your help in supporting this mission is valued.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

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)

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Valentine cards: St. Paul's Women's Guild has again adopted a Valentine's service project for St. Paul's senior, college, and military members. On Sundays, January 24th, 31st and February 7th, several baskets will be in the Sanctuary for you to place your cards. We will be sending **only** cards to our senior members, but hope to send additional goodies to our college and military members.

These cards will be delivered or mailed during the week of February 7th so members who can't join us in fellowship can enjoy reading your cards and letters. If any of you would enjoy distributing some of the Valentine cards, please contact Jane Nuss or Kris Vanderhorst. Thank you!

~*~*~*~*~*~*~

COOKIES FOR CROSSROADS – The Women's Guild mission and outreach project for this month is to aid Crossroad of Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Crossroad is a home for troubled teens in the surrounding area. Gathering cookies for Crossroad has been a tradition of our church for many years. We would like to continue this worthy mission with your help. Bake your favorite cookies and bring them to the church kitchen or the elevette room by Sunday morning, **February 7th**. They can be decorated, plain, or bar cookies. The cookies will be delivered to Crossroad during the following week. **Please pack them in a gallon or quart zip lock bag to keep them fresh.** Any questions, please call Kris Vanderhorst.

BUSY NEEDLES UPDATE

There is a time in our lives when we must make difficult decisions, that time has come for me. I will no longer be doing Busy Needles on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Since the beginning of the 1980's there have been over 9,000 lap robes made with past and present church family members. I want to thank everyone for all donations to make this program a success over the years.

God Bless. Thank you again,
Margaret Hunter

~*~*~*~*~*~*~

MESSAGE OF THANKS TO THE WOMEN'S GUILD

Dear women of the Women's Guild of St. Paul's UCC,
Thank you for the generous and thoughtful gift you gave me this Christmas. I thank God for you and the incredible ministry that the Women's Guild provides to St. Paul's and our community of St. Marys, Ohio. You are blessed to be a blessing to so many.

God bless you all in 2021,
Rev. Rhonda Hainer

~*~*~*~*~*~*

Dear St. Paul's Women's Guild:
Thank you for the gas card. It will help with my trips to Columbus and Celina for treatments and appointments. Thank you also for your support and prayers. It is much appreciated.

Diane Steinbrunner

~*~*~*~*~*~*

Dear Ladies of the Women's Guild,
Thank you so much for the generous gift card you gave me for Christmas. I look forward to getting out of the house and enjoying a nice meal.
Thank you again for your kind gesture.

Blessings,
Carolyn Garrison

~*~*~*~*~*~*

Dear ladies of Rebecca Circle,
Thank you very much for the gift certificate. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Nellie Krauss



Thank you to St. Paul's UCC Consistory,
For the faithful service to God.
For shining God's light in our community of St. Marys.
For your generous Christmas gift to me this year.
May 2021 be a year filled with God's love and light as we continue
to serve God's people.

Thank you,
Rev. Rhonda Hainer

~*~*~*~*~*~*

Dear St. Paul's UCC,
Thank you all so much for the cards, goodies and phone calls. It
means a lot to me.

Bea Lehman

~*~*~*~*~*~*

Dear members and Consistory,
Thank you for letting me share my music with you and for the
Christmas gift. How very kind.

Cindy Hanover

~*~*~*~*~*~*

Dear church members,
Thank you all for the Christmas and birthday cards! Thank you also
for remembering about me. It is very much appreciated.

Dorothy McMullen

~*~*~*~*~*~*

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 St. Paul's,
Thank you so much for the generous Christmas bonus. We look
forward to using it for a nice date night! We hope everyone had a
wonderful Christmas and pray for a prosperous New Year!

In Him,
Mark and Amy Dieringer

~*~*~*~*~*~*

Dear Members of Consistory,
I can't begin to express what your holiday bonus meant to me. But
more than the monetary value, I so greatly appreciate the thought
behind the gift. Thank you again for your kindness.

Blessings,
Carolyn Garrison

~*~*~*~*~*~*

Dear St. Paul's Consistory,
Thank you so much for the note of thanks and the Christmas
money. Very much appreciated.

Andrea Spencer

~*~*~*~*~*~*

To St. Paul's 2020 Consistory,
Thank you for leading your church family through the unprecedented times of 2020. You had some tough decisions to make throughout the year, and you did so by always keeping in mind what was best for all of us. If this was your first time being on Consistory, I hope you will serve again. I can almost promise it will be a much easier time! (I pray!)

Blessings always,
Sharon Sullivan

~*~*~*~*~*~*

Dear St. Paul's Consistory,
Thank you for the generous Christmas gift. It was greatly appreciated. I am proud to be part of this church family.

Thank you,
Kim Opperman

~*~*~*~*~*~*

Thank you all so much for remembering Leona Peterman on her 100th birthday. The staff went out of their way to provide a very nice party for her. I was able to watch it on Skype. They had all of her cards set up on a table.

Two weeks before Christmas, she was positive for COVID-19; however, she had no symptoms other than being extremely tired. Praise God!

I appreciate all of your kindness from St. Paul's.

Sincerely,
Linda Millington

~*~*~*~*~*~*



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

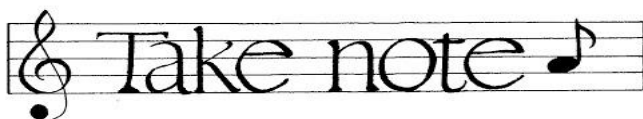
- Shirley May – December 11, 2020 (mother of Kay May)
- Joyce Hansel – December 11, 2020*
- Cindy Huckemeyer – January 6, 2021*
- Kenneth A. Krauss – January 9, 2021*
- David Brodbeck – January 11, 2021* – brother of Rodney Brodbeck
- Ed Goldenetz – January 17, 2021*
- Janet Mann – January 17, 2021* – mother to Becky Mann, grandmother to Ashley Behr and Kyle Denney

*Indicates Pastor Rhonda conducted services.



- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Mary Alice Stoner:** Peg Meyer, Jim and Cindy Huckemeyer, St. Paul's UCC Women's Guild.
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Kristine Hubbell:** St. Paul's UCC Women's Guild
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Ruth Seewer:** St. Paul's UCC Women's Guild, Janet Swartz.

- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Naomi Sollmon:**
St. Paul's UCC Women's Guild.
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Harold Lauth:**
The family of Harold Lauth.
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Cindy Huckemeyer:** Linda Bryan, Rollin and Kay Wellington, Janet Swartz, Sheila Westrick, Jim and Kris Vanderhorst, and Ruth Dustman.
- **To Breaking Bread in memory of Cindy Huckemeyer:**
Sheila Westrick
- **To the Endowment Fund in memory of Cindy Huckemeyer:**
Ron and Margaret Hunter
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Todd and Cindy Huckemeyer:** Greg and Mary Schumm
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Joyce Hansel:** The family of Joyce Hansel



- ☎ 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!!
- ☎ **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!
- ☎ **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**

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.

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 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.

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.

2021 CHURCH OFFICIALS

President of Congregation	Luke Leffel
Vice-president of Congregation	Jeff Dieringer
President of Consistory 2021	Marsha Landers
Vice-president of Consistory 2021	Lynda Hadley

2021 Members of Consistory

Elders:	Jane Nuss	Marsha Landers
	Joan Leffel	Mary Holtzapple
	Kevin Gehres	Lori Now
Deacons:	Lynn Schmidt	Melinda Silber
	Lynda Hadley	Kelly Kill
	Susan Braun	Linda McDonald
	Jennifer Ginter	Susan Spencer
	Becky Anderson	Jill Dickman
	Carol Schmidt	Jen Lucas

FINANCIAL REPORT

December 2020:

Current Fund:

- Budgeted through December 31, 2020 = \$268,728.00
- Received through December 31, 2020 = \$211,073.80
- Expenses through December 31, 2020 = \$225,203.40
- Received through December 31, 2019 = \$214,931.44

Mission Fund:

- Budgeted through December 31, 2020 = \$ 15,000.00
- Received through December 31, 2020 = \$ 13,774.00
- Received through December 31, 2019 = \$ 12,229.00

Status of 2020 Budget:

Current Fund:

- Budgeted through January 31, 2021 = \$ 21,952.00
- Budgeted through January 17, 2021 = \$ 15,197.64
- Received through January 17, 2021 = \$ 11,074.70

Mission Fund:

- Budgeted through January 31, 2021 = \$ 1,250.00
 - Budgeted through January 17, 2021 = \$ 750.00
 - Received through January 17, 2021 = \$ 835.00
-

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2021 CONSISTORY MEETING

The regular meeting of St. Paul's UCC Consistory was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Ralph Heckler. Pastor Rhonda opened the meeting thanking everyone on Consistory for their service in the past year.

To be a member of the Consistory is truly an honor to serve God and St. Paul's UCC. The Consistory discusses and handles important matters, participates in visioning the future direction of the church; the dreams and possibilities for ministry. She thanked the current members who are concluding their term and welcomed the new members who will begin their term tonight. (listed in the roll call below) She referred to the Consistory as the "A Team" representing the church members and representatives to the St. Marys community of the ongoing ministry at St. Paul's. Pastor Rhonda introduced the five areas of focus for 2021:

1. Gratitude
2. Praise others
3. Focus on Success
4. Let go of things we have no control over
5. Pray for each other and for the ministry of St. Paul's

Consistory members are Ambassadors for Christ who intentionally lead our conversations and discussions during the Consistory and beyond our church walls with positivity, and Pastor Rhonda cautions that constructive criticism can quickly turn into negativity, which draws people away from and not toward Christ. Pastor Rhonda encouraged us to Stop and Challenge our thinking, and Choose to turn to God's leading and guidance. Pastor Rhonda followed with an opening prayer.

Present: *Elders:* Jane Nuss, Mary Holtzapple, Joan Leffel, Marsha Landers, and Ralph Heckler; *Trustees:* Greg Walters, Larry Kill and Kyle Opperman; *Deacons:* Melinda Silber, Kelly Kill, Lynda Hadley, Carolyn Waesch, Lynn Schmidt, Linda McDonald, Susan Braun, and Luke Leffel. Also present were, Treasurer, David Dickman, and Administrative Assistant Carolyn Garrison and Pastor Rhonda Hainer.

Also, in attendance were the new 2021 members to Consistory: Kevin Gehres, Lori Now, DeWayne Marsee, Jen Lucas, Carol Schmidt, Jill Dickman and Becky Anderson.

Christian Education and Nurture: Mary Holtzapple

- The Sunday school made up 150 Break Bags and passed out 50 to members of the public. After the Children's Christmas Play, each child took a bag home. Extra bags went to Goodfellows and The ROC.
- The Sunday school was able to donate \$279 to Goodfellows.

Minutes:

- Minutes from the December 9th 2020 regular meeting and the December 30th special meeting were reviewed. Kyle Opperman made a motion to approve the minutes. Joan Leffel seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report: David Dickman

- David reviewed the Financial Report for the month of December 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 didn't have anything to report, but passed around Thank You notes from staff members and a congregation member.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rhonda

- Pastor Rhonda reported that nearly 60 people attended the outdoor Christmas Eve service.
- We resume in-person worship and Sunday school classes this weekend as well as have the dedication of the new elevator and multi-media equipment.
- Our prayers are with our Dir. of Music, Jim Huckemeyer in the loss of his wife Cindy, recently, and his son Todd, a month ago.

- The increase of deaths of members has led to graveside or committal only services due to COVID. Some have been postponed until spring when hopefully the threat of COVID has diminished.
- Building Custodian Bob Schumacher had emergency gallbladder surgery this morning. He came through the surgery fine and will be in the hospital for a few days. The Trustees will fill in for Bob during his recuperation.
- Pastor Rhonda praised Mary Holtzapple and Maddy Frankenhauser for their tremendous efforts on directing the children's Christmas program that was recorded and shown on Facebook and TSC. The children did an outstanding job.

Loose Offering:

- Jane Nuss made a motion for the loose offering for January to go to the New Elevator/Building Fund and the February 14th loose offering to be designated to Back Bay Mission. Kyle Opperman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Budget and Finance: David Dickman

- David reported that the Vanco online giving for 2020 was \$34,205.00 with approximately \$25,000 going to the Current Fund.
- Mailed the paperwork for the BP stock, but with the delays going on with the Postal Service, it took approximately 3 weeks before it was received.
- Our Paycheck Protection loan has been forgiven entirely. There is a new Cares Act now available with eligibility being that there would need to be a 25% reduction in income for a quarter. We will monitor to see if we qualify.
- We are in receipt of the final bill from the architects, Garmann/Miller.
- The Endowment money is all invested with an amount available if needed.

- Spoke with Tammy Sanford (member/Accountant) regarding doing an audit. The cost for an audit is around \$10,000. Spoke with Mark Cisco and they don't do audits, but if they did, it could cost \$7,000-\$10,000. It was suggested having two people sign checks. Joan Leffel made a motion for all checks to require two signatures (with signatures from one of these three: Administrative Assistant, Consistory President or Church Treasurer). Larry Kill seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- In 2012, the Consistory voted that if the current balance was over \$10,000 at the end of each year, we could apply some of that balance to the building loan. We currently have enough to pay off the building loan. Lynda Hadley made a motion to pay off the building loan. Kelly Kill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Trustees: Greg Walter

- The handicap automated door opener has been installed this week.
- Trustees are in the process of obtaining quotes for new insurance coverage.
- Bernie Schroer did an amazing job with the stained-glass windows in the new elevator section. Thank you to Bernie, as well as Glenn Hadley and Bill Nuss who helped install them.

Elders: No report

Deacons: No report

Christian Mission and Outreach: No report

Personnel: Joan Leffel

- End of year reviews (except for one) have been completed.

Elevator Committee: Lynda Hadley

- We're having a PARTY!!!! Plans are set for this Sunday to celebrate the completion of our new elevator. Invitations have been extended to Cathy Maurer-Green and her brothers to attend, but due to COVID, they are unable to attend. We will be sending photos.

- We are awaiting the final bill from Dorsten's.
- We will be taking plenty of photos on Sunday and submitting one or two to the local newspaper.

Agape: Jane Nuss

- Thank you to those who were very generous with donations of toilet paper and toiletries. We met our 2020 goal and have a nice start of toilet paper to start the new year.

Old Business:

President Ralph thanked everyone for helping deal with the issues that the 2020 year created and thanked those Consistory members who have completed their term. Ralph dismissed those members and handed the reigns over to the 2021 Consistory President, Marsha Landers.

New Business:

- President Marsha passed around the 2021 Deacon Schedule and Communion Schedule.
- We will be dedicating the Elevator before worship this Sunday and the multi-media/screen dedication during worship.
- January 24th will be a congregation meeting to present the 2021 Budget and 2021 Consistory members to the congregation for approval.
- January 31st we will install the new Consistory members and also have communion during worship.
- The church annual meeting will be held February 14th. Jane Nuss said that the Women's Guild would still like to offer soup and sandwich as in years past, but are looking for suggestions due to COVID. After some discussion, Kyle Opperman made a motion to have the annual meeting in the sanctuary immediately following worship and those who want to attend the soup and sandwich may do so (with social distancing and safety precautions in place) afterwards in Fellowship Hall. Joan Leffel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Marsha presented the annual Chamber of Commerce Membership Renewal invoice to Consistory and explained the benefits of being a Chamber member. Lynda Hadley made a motion to renew our membership. Jane Nuss seconded. Motion carried.
- Jane Nuss reported that the Women's Guild will be collecting Valentines for our shut-ins, college kids and military members. They will be using baskets rather than bags. Carolyn will do a Call-Em-All to request updated addresses and/or names of those in college and active military.
- Kyle Opperman reported that in the Confirmation Room and old office, there are 100's of VHS tapes of old worship services as well as older hymnals. After some discussion, Carolyn will get in touch with the Association office and ask about churches that may be in need of hymnals and Kyle will check with Rich Spencer (media specialist) and Fred Scheer (church historian) regarding the VHS tapes. Kyle also mentioned old artificial altar flowers were stored up there as well. After discussion, it was decided to dispose of those artificial flowers.
- Pastor Rhonda offered congratulations to Consistory President, Marsha Landers for becoming a new grandma this week.

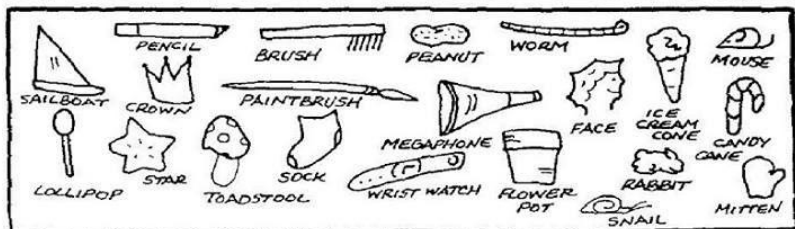
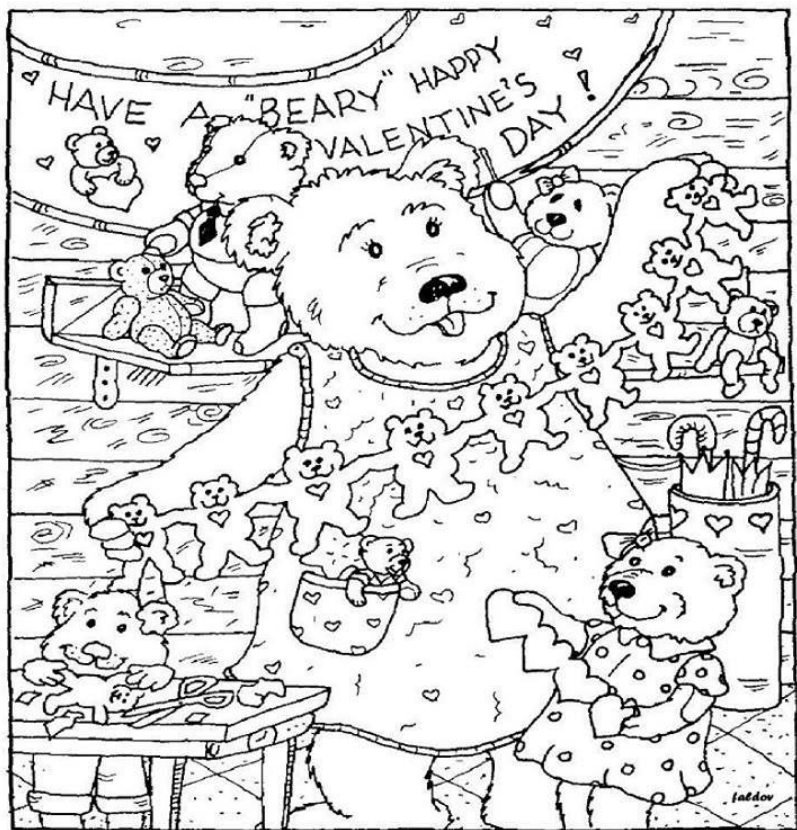
There being no further regular business, Jane Nuss made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kyle Opperman seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Ralph Heckler, 2020 Consistory President
 Marsha Landers, 2021 Consistory President
 Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant



DON'T FORGET

Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. for the **March issue** of The Communicator will be **February 16th**.



Valentine's Day

Word Search

K S Q S J I V R T D S R Q G K
R Q Q T D M A B X U F N Q J J
K G D A S N L Y E U S F S N S
S V E E M B E R I G C E V O L
Q W Q R Q Q N I A W R A O C G
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CANDY
CARDS
CUPID
DEAR
DOVES
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