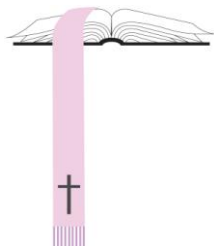


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Rhonda's Reflections



2021 Happy New Year!

A new year is always thrilling because we have the chance to make the coming year our best one yet. At the beginning of each year, I make use of a practice I call "Bury and Bring." I make a list of what I want to leave behind. I also like to make a list of the positive things in my life that I want to carry forward. I encourage you to try this same exercise. As you enter this new year, ask yourself: What do I want to bury from my past, and what do I want to bring with me into the future? What steps do I need to take today to be more of who God is calling me to be? I invite you to start your day by reading this prayer.

May today there be peace within

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith

May you use those gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you

May you be content knowing that you are a child of God

Let this presence settle into your bones and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise, and love

It is there for each and every one of us.

~Saint Teresa of Avila

God bless you all,
Pastor Rhonda





DON'T FORGET

***Deadline** for articles, announcements, etc. for the **February issue** of The Communicator will be **January 18th**.*

INSTALLATION OF 2021 CONSISTORY

The 2021 Consistory will be installed during worship on Sunday, January 10th. All Elders, Deacons and Trustees are asked to attend the service that morning.

CONSISTORY MEET AND GREET

All **current** and **new** Consistory members are invited to attend the Meet and Greet on Wednesday, January 13th at 5:30 pm. (in Heritage Hall). Please bring a small dessert or appetizer to share and join us as we welcome the new 2021 Consistory members and thank the Consistory members who have completed their term.

Following the Meet and Greet, the regular Consistory meeting will be held with the 2020 Consistory (2021 members observing until "New Business" is brought to the table).

DEADLINE

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR COMMITTEES, ETC. - Carolyn will soon begin preparing the 2020 Annual Report. Please submit your report to her by **Friday, January 22nd**. If you can type and send it by email, it is most helpful - she can cut and paste!! If you have any questions, please give her a call in the church office.

ANNUAL MEETING IN FEBRUARY

The annual meeting of the congregation is scheduled for Sunday, February 14th. There will first be a luncheon following worship. That will be followed by 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.

ELEVATOR UPDATE

On Monday, December 14, our elevator contractors from Schindler's came to do the final inspections and to sign off on the project. They will be contacting the State inspectors to schedule the official approval to use the elevator. Dorsten's work is completed, so once we get State approval, we can use our new elevator!!! I have 100 champagne glasses and 10 bottles of sparkling grape juice in my living room, so we WILL have a celebration sometime – hopefully soon. Due to the contractor missing many deadlines which delayed the completion of this project, and the contractor accruing financial penalties which benefited us, we should need less than \$20,000.00 to fully pay for the project. It's not too late to donate to the project – and you can use the donation (or any donation to the church) as a charitable donation.

Lynda Hadley

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

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 Elevette Room. 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.

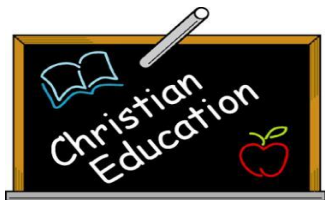


BREAKING BREAD COMMUNITY MEAL

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.

- January 14
- January 21
- January 28

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.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

Watch our church Facebook page for more news and updates.

3 - Wyatt Marsee	21 – Ava Gottschalk
5 – Tripp Burke	22 – Adelyn Clark
7 – Zoey Marsee	28 – Caroline Leffel
18 – Ollie Chisholm	28 – Rebecca Leffel

November Perfect Attendance

Nursery	6th Grade
None	None
Pre-K	7th Grade
None	None
Kindergarten	8th Grade
None	Caleb Turner
1st Grade	9th Grade
Arianna Ickes	Kaylee Clausing
Toby Turner	10th Grade
Harrison Silber	Tyler Birt
2nd Grade	11th Grade
None	Joey Vanderhorst

3rd Grade None 4th Grade Audrey Birt 5th Grade None	12th Grade Emma Birt Lindsey Clausing Katie Lucas
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MESSAGE FROM MARY

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Our Sunday School Department has been busy! The Sunday School children, with the help of the Christian Education and Nurture Committee, gave a \$279.38 donation to Goodfellows. A big thank you to all of the children for the contributions for Goodfellows.

On December 17th we passed out break bags full of food for children in our community to use during their Christmas break.

On Friday, December 18th, the children practiced in small groups (while following the social distancing protocols) for the Sunday School Christmas program that was taped for the December 20th online worship service. Many thanks to Maddy Frankenhauser for her time and talent of putting together our Christmas program, as well as the parents for their help with the Christmas program. A special thank you to our talented Sunday School children as well.

While this has been an odd year for all, I want to thank all of the Sunday School teachers and the Superintendent for their support and volunteering their time. And, thank you to Pastor Rhonda and Carolyn Garrison for their help and assistance when I have questions or concerns.

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

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)*

BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER FOR LEONA PETERMAN

Leona will be turning 100 years young on January 7th. If you would like to send her a birthday card, you can mail the card to:

Leona Peterman
Main Street Terrace #16 B
1318 E. Main Street
Lancaster, OH 43130-4004



Dear St. Paul's UCC,

In these extraordinary times, your generosity inspires us in the hope we share. Your monetary gifts from 2019 and 2020 is an affirmation of hope, and expression of God's love that makes possible a seminary experience that will prepare the faith leaders of tomorrow to bring wisdom, healing, and creativity to the life of the Church. Your gift makes a huge difference in providing theological education. We are grateful for your gift of partnership as we bring this hope to life for all of our communities, and the world of God is bringing it into being.

Blessings,
Rev. Campbell Lovett
Rev. Franz Rigert
Chicago United Eden (CUE) Seminaries of the UCC

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

Dear church members,
Thank you all so much for remembering about me. The cards and phone calls are very much appreciated.

Dorothy McMullen

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



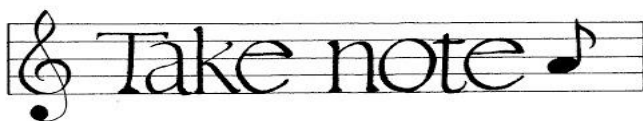
Our sympathy to the family and friends of the following member(s) who have passed away since the last newsletter:

- Harold Lauth – November 17, 2020
- Todd Huckemeyer – December 11, 2020 (son of Jim and Cindy Huckemeyer)



- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Willis Henschen:**
Fred and Pam Scheer.

- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Mary Alice Stoner:** Fred and Pam Scheer
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Ruth Seewer:** Fred and Pam Scheer
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Terry Tangeman:** Peg Meyer, Fred and Pam Scheer.
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of the Saints who have passed; in honor of the Saints who continue to serve:** Rev. Patricia Minnick
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Naomi Sollman:** Shirley Huckeriede, St. Paul's Quilters, Fred and Pam Scheer.
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Betty McDonald:** Mary Wale
- **To the Endowment Fund in memory of Ruth Seewer:** Sherry Corle



- ☎ 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**

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.

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

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

2020 Members of Consistory

Elders:	Ralph Heckler	Virginia Burroughs
	Jane Nuss	Marsha Landers
	Joan Leffel	Mary Holtzapple

Deacons:	Becky Rasaweahr	Victor Long
	Carol Waesch	Luke Leffel
	Lynn Schmidt	Melinda Silber
	Lynda Hadley	Kelly Kill
	Susan Braun	Linda McDonald
	Jennifer Ginter	Susan Spencer

Trustees: Greg Walter, Kyle Opperman and Larry Kill

FINANCIAL REPORT

November 2020:

Current Fund:

- Budgeted through November 30, 2020 = \$246,334.00
- Received through November 30, 2020 = \$194,598.80
- Expenses through November 30, 2020 = \$209,332.49
- Received through November 30, 2019 = \$192,959.42

Mission Fund:

- Budgeted through November 30, 2020 = \$ 13,750.00
- Received through November 30, 2020 = \$ 12,379.00
- Received through November 30, 2019 = \$ 10,952.00

Status of 2020 Budget:

Current Fund:

- Budgeted through December 31, 2020 = \$268,728.00
- Budgeted through December 13, 2020 = \$257,531.00
- Received through December 13, 2020 = \$205,874.82

Mission Fund:

- Budgeted through December 31, 2020 = \$15,000.00
 - Budgeted through December 13, 2020 = \$14,375.00
 - Received through December 13, 2020 = \$13,124.00
-

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CONSISTORY MEETING OF NOVEMBER 22, 2020

The special meeting of St. Paul's UCC Consistory was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by President Ralph Heckler.

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, Jennifer Ginter, Carolyn Waesch, Lynn Schmidt, Linda McDonald, Susan Braun and Luke Leffel. Also present were, Treasurer, David Dickman, Custodian Bob Schumacher, and Administrative Assistant Carolyn Garrison and Pastor Rhonda Hainer.

Pastor Rhonda opened the meeting by spotlighting the surge in the spread of COVID-19 in our State and in Auglaize County. Rhonda said that on Friday the church received a strong recommendation from the Heartland Conference to suspend all in-person worship and activities through the end of the year due to the surge of the spread of COVID-19 and the fact that numbers are higher than they were back in March. Pastor Rhonda expressed that she knows that it feels that we are going backward, but that we need to fight through those feelings because this is about how we best care for our congregation and our community, especially with hospitals, including our local hospital being inundated with COVID patients. Pastor Rhonda expressed how proud she has been with the congregation wearing their masks and following safety precautions. Rhonda reiterated that we need to keep in mind that this is only for this year and not every year after this. Rhonda expressed that these are her thoughts and prayers and that she loves all of us, she also wants to keep all of us safe.

President Ralph echoed what Pastor Rhonda was saying. Ralph said he could give us all kinds of statistics from the State with the numbers rising, but in Auglaize County alone in the last two weeks

the numbers have gone over 2100. Ralph mentioned that we have at least two, maybe three members that he is aware of in the last two weeks that have come down with COVID. Ralph went on to say that we just don't know who we are in contact with out in the community that may be a carrier of COVID and then come to church on Sunday morning and there is a big possibility that we can spread it to our older generation. If our doors are open, they (i.e. the older generation) are the ones that will be affected the worst. Ralph went on to say that he really believes that we should suspend all in-person worship and activities until after the first of the year. Ralph then asked for input from other Consistory members as to whether we should stay open or not.

Mary Holtzapple spoke up and said that the Sunday School has done fine and that they take their temperatures every Sunday morning. If the children have any symptoms at all, they are not allowed to come into the church.

Kyle Opperman expressed concern as to whether the church can afford to shut down. Ralph asked David Dickman to give us a financial update. David reassured everyone that so far, we are doing well and should be okay even without the Cares Act money. Ralph mentioned that in the past people have sent in their donations at the end of the year so that they can get their tax deductions in.

Marsha Landers remarked that "We really can't place a price on someone's life." Marsha went on to say that she worked 14 hours this past weekend at the nursing home and there has been a serious increase in COVID cases. Marsha also said that she has two weekends mandated at St. Rita's because they don't have enough staff with the sickness. Marsha said "It's hard, I work with these people, I know how it is."

Pastor Rhonda spoke up and said that she met with the UCC Excellence in Ministry pastors this week and the UCC churches in this area have voted to suspend in person worship already.

Greg Walter stated that in his field of work (Pharmacist), he believes that it makes sense to go to virtual services at this point in time. Greg went on to state that we have been trying all along to prevent the hospitals from overcrowding. We did fine in the Spring, but now it is to the point that it is cutting things close. Greg stated that he has a neighbor that belongs to a different church that doesn't mandate masks. Greg's neighbor told Greg that within a two-day period, 14 people tested positive for COVID. Greg stated, "I don't want to go virtual, but I find myself almost being mad that other churches aren't doing what we are doing. I believe that members feel more spiritual being inside the building, it is nice to be here, it is comforting to be here, but we need to step back and do what is right as far as not spreading the virus."

Joan Leffel raised the question, if the vote goes toward closing, what staff would remain working their scheduled hours. Obviously, Pastor Rhonda will be working as well as Carolyn who will be keeping the office will be open. What about the rest of the staff that isn't working, do they not get paid? Ralph asked if that was how their contracts were written? Joan said that it is not in their contracts for that and that is something we need to take into consideration. Carolyn spoke up and asked David Dickman if it would be part of the Cares Act Grant we received. David Dickman stated that was from the past and not for this period of time. David went on to say that if Jim is still doing stuff for the online worship services, then he should continue to get paid,

Ralph asked if anyone else had anything. Mary Holtzapple spoke up about the food being collected for the school system and that if we do close down, we still have to pass out that food. Jane suggested taking the Break Bag notes to the school on Tuesday as

the school themselves haven't made a decision yet about closing or remaining open through the semester.

Ralph asked if anyone else had anything to contribute or question. With no further questions, Ralph took a vote asking for those in favor of closing until the first of the year to raise their hands. Twelve members raised their hands. Ralph asked for a vote from those not in favor of closing. Four members raised their hands. By a vote of 12 to 4, we will be closing until the first of the first of the year. Ralph stated that he will make an announcement during worship today. Ralph went on to say that while he feels sad that we are suspending in person worship again, because of the increase in numbers of COVID in our community he also feels we are doing the right thing as we are committed to caring for each other and want to keep our congregation members safe.

Ralph said that next month we were to have a Congregation Meeting. Ralph said that we will possibly have to postpone the meeting until after the first of the year. This meeting has to do with voting on the 2021 Budget and voting for the 2021 new members of Consistory. The Budget has hardly any changes and Ralph recommended that we postpone the meeting until the first of the year and those current members that were to come off of Consistory in January will need to hang on a little while longer.

Ralph asked Pastor Rhonda if she had anymore to add. Rhonda said that she has two more items, one: There is a wedding scheduled for the day after Thanksgiving; a wedding that had to be postponed because of COVID back in April. The bride is a nurse and she is very well aware of our safe protocols in place. The guests and bridal party will practice social distancing and will all wear masks. Since we have no further weddings scheduled at this time, any requests for future weddings will have to wait to be considered until in person worship reconvenes and we feel that it is safe to do so. The second item: Rhonda asked members of

Consistory to consider two options for Christmas Eve in an attempt at normalcy in a very abnormal year. One idea is to hold an outdoor Christmas Eve service on the lawn adjacent to the Christian Ed. Building and the other idea is to hold a worship service where people sit in their cars and meet for Christmas Eve. Bob Schumacher asked about decorating for Christmas and Rhonda stated that she will be in contact with Andrea Clark to decorate the chancel area for the pre-recording of the services.

Jane Nuss asked about ASPIRE GED classes and the Boy Scouts. Ralph responded, "We will suspend the Boy Scouts for sure and that he will talk with the ASPIRE instructor." Carolyn stated that she will send Ralph those phone numbers of the contacts for each party. Breaking Bread served their last meal for the year this past Thursday, and therefore is finished until Jan. Pastor Rhonda said that she had already decided that she would not be holding Advent Worship on Wednesdays in December and went on to say that she knows that we are all disappointed, maybe angry and frustrated, but that we all feel the same way. Rhonda asked that everyone please understand that we have not made this decision lightly and it was very, very hard. Ralph said that this was the hardest decision he believes he had to do.

Mary Holtzapple raised concern about the likelihood of being able to have the Sunday School Christmas Program as the children have been preparing for this. Some options are: to wait to have the program in January or February; recording the children performing (with their masks on) and using it for one of the Sunday worships. Rhonda said the lighting of the Advent Candles will continue although it may be done from member's homes and be pre-recorded. Rhonda will work with Mary and explore all possible options. Ralph mentioned that when we recorded the service this summer for online worship, we reached hundreds of people that were not regular attenders said that it was more than the amount of people that we can fit in this church. So, he thought this was a

positive outcome of last summer's decision to suspend in person worship.

Bob Schumacher raised the question of which doors will be open. The Perry Street door we be open for the mailman and other deliveries as well as the door from the parking lot into the Education building.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10: 09 a.m. with a motion by Kyle Opperman. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph Heckler, 2020 Consistory President
Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant

CONSISTORY MINUTES OF THE DEMBER 9, 2020 MEETING VIA ZOOM

The regular meeting of St. Paul's UCC Consistory was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Ralph Heckler. Pastor Rhonda opened the meeting with prayer.

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

Christian Ed & Nurture: Mary Holtzapple

- The Sunday School started a loose change mission for Goodfellows before the shutdown. We collected \$29.52. The CE&N Committee took a vote and was in favor of using \$250 from the Sunday School Savings and add the \$29.52 collected to it and donated \$279.52 to Goodfellows.

Minutes: Ralph Heckler

- Minutes from the November 11, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Kyle Opperman made a motion to approve the minutes. Larry Kill seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report: David Dickman

- David reviewed the Financial Report for the month of November 2020. There being no other questions, President Ralph asked to file the financial report for review by the church Administrative Assistant.
- Lynda Hadley, who is in charge of the Endowment Fund account, transferred \$2,000 to Edward Jones so that the funds would get a better earning.
- David reported that he has heard back from BP regarding the paperwork turned in to have the dividends directly deposited into the Building Fund. David reported that our stock registration was listed to TTEES St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church St. Marys, Ohio and that registration does not match the title on our Building Fund Checking Account. David prepared a corporate resolution to correct the issue, which will need approved by Consistory. Joan Leffel spoke up and mentioned that Carolyn Garrison's (Administrative Assistant) name and title should be removed and Luke Leffel's name, being that he is the Congregation President and the document is a Corporate Resolution, should replace Carolyn's name. Kelly Kill made a motion to accept the Corporate Resolution with said correction. Virginia Burroughs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President's Report: No report

Pastor's Report: Rhonda Hainer

- Pastor Rhonda asked for feedback on the recording of the service since we have suspended our in-person worship. The consensus was positive and especially liked recording it from the sanctuary with the chancel area decorated for Christmas and with the Advent Candles being lit.
- Rhonda expressed appreciation to Rich Spencer for helping with the Saturday morning recording/video and asked Susan Spencer to convey our thanks to him.
- Pastor Rhonda presented the plan for an outdoor Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24th, at 7:00 p.m. brief (approximately 30 minutes) and gathering on the grassy area next to the Education Building. This service will include carols of the season, scripture reading, a time of prayer and the lighting of candles and/or flashlights to celebrate the coming of the light of God into an increasingly dark world. In the event of rain or snow, last minute updates will be posted on our church Facebook page. Rhonda brought up the idea to offer hot cocoa and cookies, with the cookies being in a baggie and one person could be in charge of pouring the cocoa just to keep the touching down to a minimum. Marsha Landers is in charge of the Hospitality Committee and will see about cookies. Mary Holtzapple said that she would help and Kills' said that they will make the cocoa as they have an XL thermos that has been used at Winterfest in the past.
- Lynn Schmidt asked about the duties of the Deacons. Deacons will hand out candles.
- Rhonda asked members of the COVID team if they had any suggestions to offer for the Christmas Eve Service. They said to wear a mask unless we are able to spread out. If sick, don't come.

Budget and Finance: David Dickman

- On November 30th, David applied for forgiveness of the Cares Act. On December 1st, First Financial confirmed that the application was complete and now we wait (up to 90

days) to hear from the Federal Government. Due to a lawsuit, the Government will be listing those companies (to the public) who applied and how much they received.

Trustees: Greg Walter

- They are continuing to pursue quotes for the automated door opener for the new elevator entrance.
- Kevin Turner is to continue with clearing snow/ice from the parking lots.
- The thermostat has been turned down throughout the church, except for the sanctuary as that temperature needs to be regulated due to the organ. Ralph asked if there was anything more the Trustees could do to get more heat into the office. Carolyn said she has a portable heater in her office and that she and Pastor Rhonda adjusted the temperature on the radiators in their offices.

Elders: No report

Deacons: Lynn Schmidt

- Lynn would like help with candles on Christmas Eve. Larry and Kelly Kill volunteered.

Christian Mission and Outreach: No Report

Personnel: No report

Elevator Committee: Lynda Hadley

- Schindler, Dorsten's and Electrician need to meet and fine tune the elevator. Dorsten's are having trouble with Schindler's not showing up. There is at least a 1-1/2 days of work left and then inspection.
- So far, we have approximately \$10,000 (to our benefit) for a penalty fee due to the delay of completion. We still need \$25-\$26,000; however, with the penalty money, it will fall just under \$20,000.
- Susan Braun asked about paying for the \$15,000 worth of brick work around the new elevator section that had to be repaired. Lynda Hadley advised that the Endowment Fund covered that bill.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Marsha Landers said that Pastor Rhonda had forwarded an email from the National UCC office in Cleveland about a possible Grant of up to \$3,000. Marsha applied for the Grant that helps with bills and received word that we will be receiving \$1500 and will use that money toward the repair of the organ in the Spring.
- Virginia asked about whether anyone was placing flowers on the altar in December since there is no in-person service. Pastor Rhonda confirmed that there are no flowers for December.
- Pastor Rhonda asked about possibly sending the congregation a letter reminding them to send their offering in and include a return envelope for the return, or we could do a Call-Em-All. After some discussion, it was decided that we would add the reminder to the Sunday Announcements, and have a short article in the newsletter, along with a provided return envelope.
- Due to some questioning the state of our budget, David Dickman reported that even with the Budget Report and the offerings being down, we are still a little ahead of last year.
- Pastor Rhonda reported that Pastor Scheer at Living Hope Church has been diagnosed with COVID. Rhonda also mentioned that she is aware of and has reached out to St. Paul's congregation members who have COVID and/or recovering from it.
- It was asked about the church/Agape Giving Tree that we normally do each December. Carolyn let Consistory know that a Call-Em-All is already scheduled for tomorrow regarding collecting those items and a tub has been set inside the parking lot entrance door to place those items in.
- President Ralph mentioned voting for 2021 Consistory Officers.

- Election of 2021 Consistory President – Kelly Kill nominated Marsha Landers; Mary Holtzapple seconded and Ralph moved to close the nominations. Motion carried. Marsha accepted.
- Election of 2021 Consistory Vice-President - Virginia nominated Lynda Handley, Ralph seconded and moved to close the nominations. Motion carried. Lynda accepted.
- Appointing head Deacon for 2021 – Lynn Schmidt will continue with this position
- We are still looking for one more Deacons/Consistory member. So far, we have DeWayne Marsee as Trustee, Kevin Gehres and Lori Now as Elders, Becky Anderson, Carol Schmidt and Jill Dickman as Deacons. Some names were mentioned and Marsha Landers will be giving those individuals a call.

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. Mary Holtzapple seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

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



DON'T FORGET

Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. for the February issue of The Communicator will be January 18th.



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