

St. Paul's Church

of the United Church of Christ



**"The Light" Newsletter
September 2016 Edition**

Caring For Those Who Care

By: Pastor Chad

It all began when my grandmother died. My grandfather, a 90 year old widower, was left to be at home by himself. My sister called me one evening to say she had a crazy idea. She was worried about him because he was increasingly not himself and was starting to slow down significantly. She suggested that she might put her house on the market to sell or for rent and then move in with grandpa. She wanted to know if I thought she was crazy. I told her that I thought she was courageous, compassionate, and caring. She decided to do it and moved in with him a couple months later. A few months after that my grandfather fell and ended up in the hospital and never came home. He died four months later in a facility on Easter day. He was an amazing man and I miss him a great deal. But, when I look back at that experience over the months that my sister was his caregiver, I witnessed a love and care that so strongly resembles the servanthood of Christ.

At the same time that my sister was caring for my grandfather, I was also noticing a lot of people here at St. Paul's caregiving for their loved ones. Many of you do so, not out of some false sense of obligation, but because it is in your bones to care for family. I began coming across other caregivers in northern Kentucky and across the country. It was as if God was shouting, "Hey Chad, pay attention to those who are caring for others. They are at times invisible." Some of the universal themes I came across among caregivers from all over is that they were feeling exhausted, lonely, and isolated. I began feeling called to answer the question, "What can we do to care for those who care for others?" I didn't want to start a new ministry program because the last thing a caregiver needs is to

have one more thing to add to their regular schedule. But, I thought that perhaps what we could do is offer a respite for one evening. What if we offered a one evening event that would provide opportunities for community and restoration? And so, here is the idea I came up with.

I decided to put together an event called the "Blessed are the Caretakers Gala" that would offer three very simple things: a catered meal, a world class concert, and a blessing for those who are caregivers. There is an entirely whole other story as to how this event came into being, but one of things I did was pitch the idea to my local UCC clergy group. They were so thrilled with the idea, that they began working with me to help cover the catering. They were amazing and so helpful. I, then, began raising money and after raising nearly \$7,000, we have invited Carrie Newcomer, a famous folk singer from Indiana, to come offer us a concert along with the catered meal. So, later this month on the 25th, we will host our first ever "Blessed are the Caretakers Gala" down at Christ Church UCC in Ft. Thomas. We are hoping to have 200 caregivers and their friends to join us for the event. I want to invite any of you who are caregivers to come and talk with me about getting a free ticket to the event. I know many of you have already gotten yours and plan to attend, but if you have not I want to highly encourage you to touch base with me.

In the end, will such an event solve everything? Of course not. Will caregivers suddenly not be lonely? No. Will they still have exhaustion? Of course. But, perhaps for one evening, there might be a respite for those who care for others. We as the Church desperately need to look at those who are invisible in our world and care for them...bind up their wounds....and offer healing. And perhaps caregivers

will connect with each other in ways that they can offer each other support. I am so thankful that our mission committee here at St. Paul's and several individuals have agreed to offer both money in support and offer themselves to volunteer for the event. It would seem to me that one of the ongoing themes present in our ministry at St. Paul's these days is "caring." We have offered bereavement meals to those who are grieving, we have started a worship ministry at the Carespring to those who are elderly and injured, and now we are caring for caregivers. Our new theme is "St. Paul's Cares..." I think we need T-Shirts. But, more than anything we need to continue to care for one another and our community. After all, at the heart of caring is love and Christ's ultimate command to us is to "Love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength....and to love our neighbors as ourselves."

CHURCH TIDBITS



St. Paul's Nursery

St. Paul's has child care for children ages infants to kindergarten during the worship service in the Nursery on the Lower Level. There is no adult supervision for children first grade and older. It is requested that these children remain with their parents/guardian in the sanctuary during the worship service.

Thanks, Church Council

Mother's Room,

We now have a private space available for nursing mothers. It is located on the lower level next to the restroom.

Recycle Pill Bottles! In developing countries, medications (when actually obtainable) are often dispensed into hands, pockets, leaves or any other available container. We can help improve healthcare quality in developing nations by donating clean pill bottles to help the poor: medicine can be distributed in sterile containers. Please bring your empty pill containers [prescription bottles, large & small, with and without child resistant caps, and over-the-counter pill bottles] for recycling to help others and keep thousands of bottles out of landfills each year! And, by placing a nickel, dime or quarter in each bottle helps with shipping costs. You can drop them in the collection box by the front door of the church. Thank you!

Mission Committee News

We collected \$555 on Sunday for the Louisiana flood victims. The Mission Committee added \$250 to make a total of \$805. The money was sent to the Ponder family. Thanks for your support and generosity.

Mark your calendar! Sunday, September 18th @ 5:00.

Spread the word - let's grow the league!!!

For *potential* and returning bowlers, the Fun Fellowship League will have a Pre-Season Bowling Pizza Party on Sunday, September 18th at 5:00 p.m. at Southern Lanes.

The League bowls 2x per month on Sundays at 7:00 p.m. from October through April. If you have been thinking about joining the league and are looking for some fun, this is your chance to try-it-on-for-size before making a commitment! *Returning bowlers* - come on out for a fun evening and knock off the dust before the league season begins.

Please RSVP by Monday, September 12th to Teresa Knauer [859-750-3573](tel:859-750-3573); email knauerteresa@gmail.com. Cost is \$10 per person (includes bowling, pizza and beverage). Feel free to bring a side or dessert to share!

THANK YOU:

The Family of Robert Schmidt wants to thank everyone at St. Paul's who have sent cards, shared their condolences and supported all of us during this difficult time. A special Thank You goes out to the Monday Men for setting up the Fellowship Hall for the Funeral Luncheon as well as to all those who prepared, served and help clean up after the Luncheon. We also want to thank Pastor Chad for his support and the wonderful service he prepared and led that so honored a life well lived. Dad loved this church and for good reason; there are caring, loving, awesome people here!

Thanks again....Martha Anne and Family

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild will meet for lunch at the Cold Spring Frisch's at noon on Tuesday, September 6th. If you want a ride be at the church parking lot by 11:30 a.m.

THANK YOU From the Edna Noble Family:

Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement.

Thank you, Helen & Craig McAlpin, Harry, Jay & Roger Noble

THOSE WHO SERVE IN SEPTEMBER

Liturgist

Sept. 4 Charlene Rogers
11 Roger VonStrohe
18 Karey Thomas
25 Marion Gosney

Coffee

Sept. 4 Tim Ash
11 Donna Mader
18 Mindy Connell
25 Amy Meyer

Acolyte

Sept. 4 Cole Johnson
11 Kennedy Johnson
18 Shae Weinel
24 Ben Dietz

Communion Set-up: Sept. 4 - Barb Fausz & Helen McAlpin

Ushers:

Sept. 4 10:30 Asbury Turner, Lilla Losey,
Debbie Fowee and Rick Carr

Sept. 11 10:30 Cameron McDonald and Kayla McDonald

Sept. 18 10:30 Jessica McDonald and Leah McDonald

Sept. 24 10:30 Andrew Saunders and Sue Hatfield

**IF YOU CANNOT MAKE YOUR ASSIGNED DATE, PLEASE
TRADE WITH SOMEONE ELSE AND LET THE CHURCH OFFICE
KNOW.**

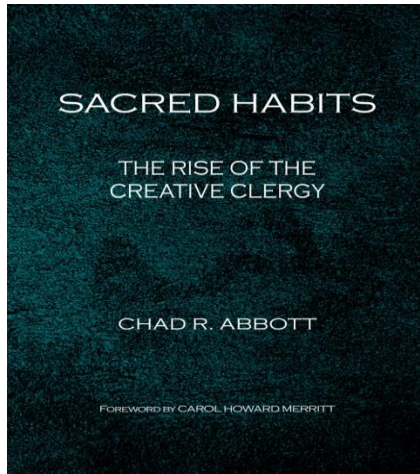
**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR ANY OF THE
ABOVE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE. THANK YOU!**



Do we have your email address? St. Paul's is continuing to work on our communication and social media outlets so that we can best communicate with as many of you as possible. If you are not receiving our weekly Constant Contact emails about events and the sermon preview, please write your email on the line below and return it to the office or put it in the offering plate. Thank you!

The Church Office

Order Pastor Chad's New Book!



At a time when the church in the United States is struggling to make sense of its place in the public square, a space of inquiry is needed that intersects the work of religion scholars and local church pastors. What will the future of the church look like and is there hope for transformation? Urban theorists have seen over the last decade a transformation of communities centered in creativity, and it is this book's contention that clergy and their congregations possess an inherent spirituality and creativity that has this same potential within the structures and local expressions of our faith.

"Chad Abbott has gathered a collection of articulate pastoral voices who make knowing responses to the current crisis in the U.S. church. The themes of these essays are not new or surprising. They are, however, explored in rich and suggestive ways."

---Walter Brueggemann

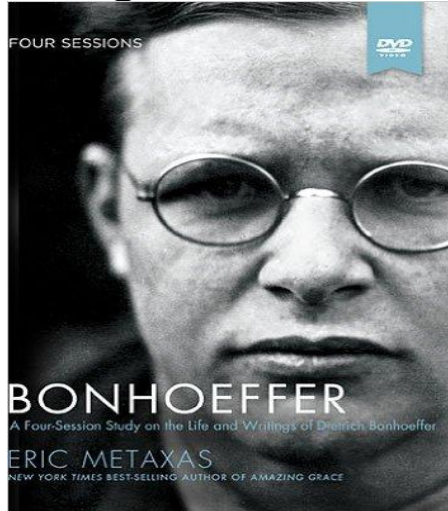
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Copies: 1 2 3 4

Cost: **\$22.50** made payable to St. Paul's and submitted in the office by September 18.

5 Session Study

on *Church and Community* through the life and writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Join Pastor Chad's Wednesday night class to begin on **September 21st** in the **Parish House @ 7pm**. In this five-session video-based small group Bible study, *New York Times* best-selling author Eric Metaxas will help us discover the major themes of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's writing and speaking and how he not only helped transform an entire faith community in Germany during World War II, but how his beliefs continue to impact the Christian faith of people throughout the world today. The 5 sessions include:

September 21: What does it mean to belong?

September 28: What is the Church?

October 5: Living in Christian Community

October 12: Fall Break

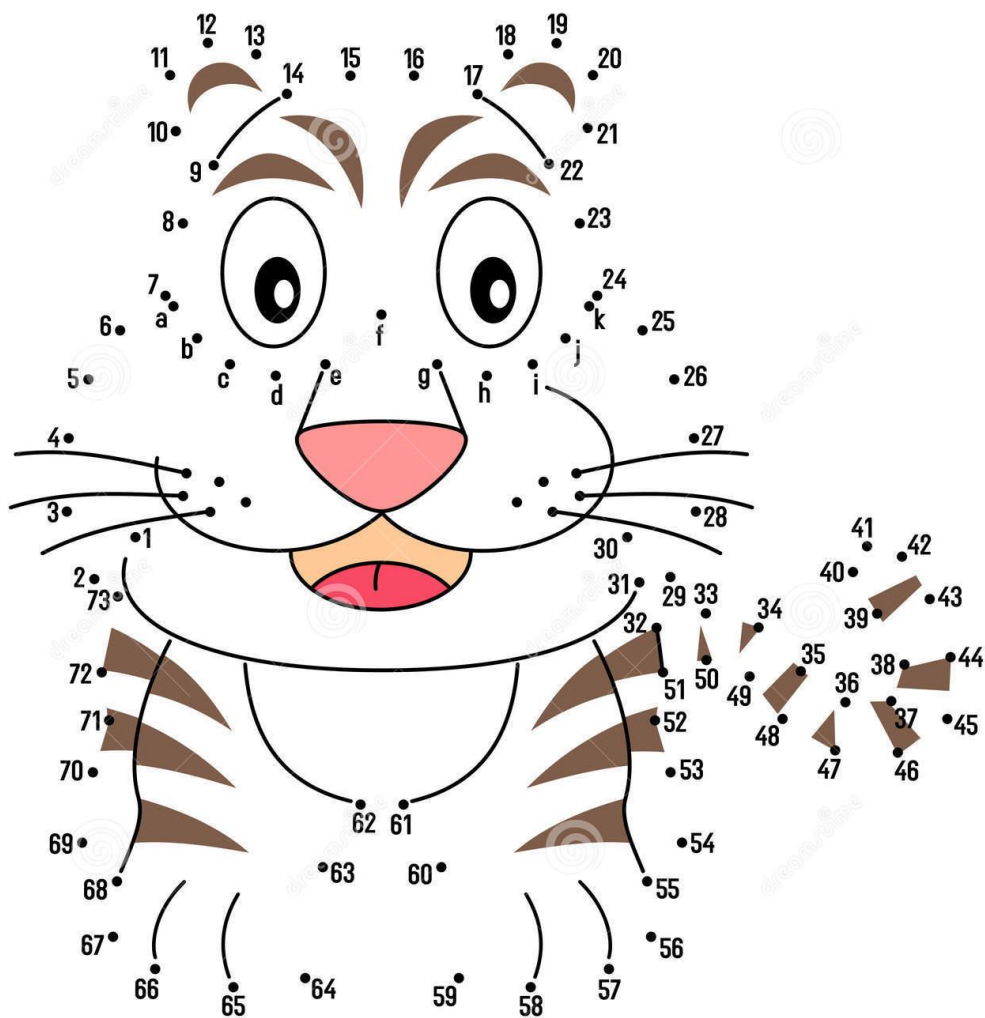
October 19: Religionless Christianity
October 26: Come and Die

SEPTEMBER
Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1 | Kathy Miller | 5 | Don & Brenda Nelson |
| 2 | Don Hatfield | | 35 years |
| 3 | Kristopher Chalk | 9 | Roger & Ann Windgassen |
| 4 | Carol Jean Baker | | 54 years |
| 4 | Greg Geiman | 12 | Lewis & Mindy Connell |
| 7 | Diane Weber | | 37 years |
| 10 | Dave Burling | 18 | Tom & Jeanne Greiser |
| 12 | Lisa Pfeiffer | | 44 years |
| 12 | Jack Thomas | 18 | Danny & Robin Stacey |
| 17 | Eric Bihl | | 39 years |
| 17 | Margaret Perry | 20 | Marion & Dorothy Gosney |
| 18 | Connie Ballinger | | 58 years |
| 19 | Lawrence Boehm | 20 | Rick & Connie Gunning |
| 19 | Asbury Turner | | 35 years |
| 20 | Martha Anne Schmidt | 20 | Jim & Karey Thomas |
| 20 | Kevin Stormer | | 12 years |
| 20 | Karen Zimmerman | 22 | Michael & Janet Van Nevel |
| 21 | Larry Giesmann | | 25 years |
| 21 | Teresa Knauer | 25 | Michael & Mariann Smith |
| 22 | Sarah Edington | | 33 years |
| 22 | Jessica Miller | 25 | Dennis & Carol Valerius |
| 23 | Doug VonStrohe | | 11 years |
| 24 | Charlene Rogers | | |
| 24 | Michael Turner | | |
| 26 | Jocelyn Meyer | | |
| 27 | Lisa Burns | | |
| 27 | Lexi Nicholson | | |
| 27 | Brenda Steelman | | |
| 29 | Cindy Turner | | |
| 29 | Linda Velton | | |
| 30 | Debbie Fowee | | |



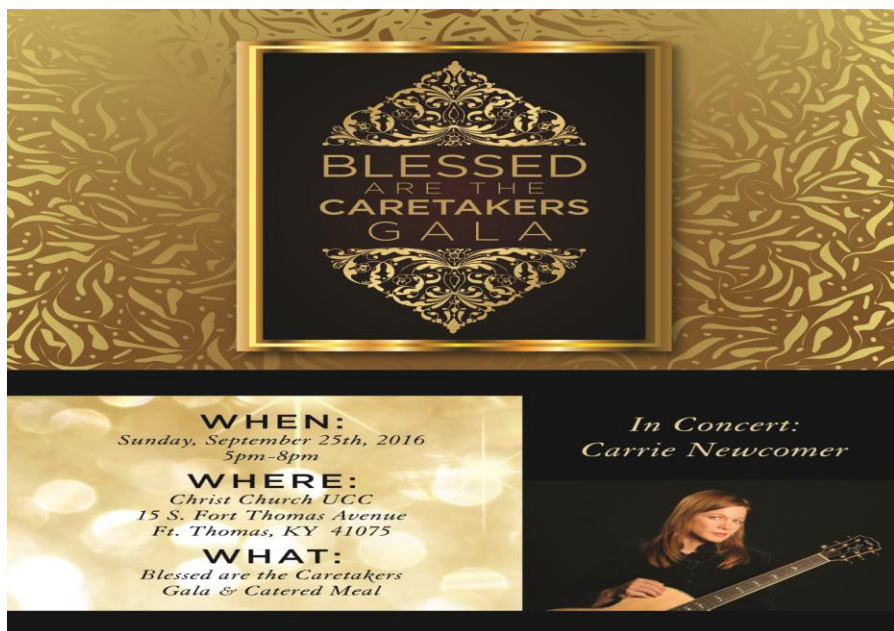




Second Sunday Feast



On Sunday, September 11th we will continue our tradition of the Second Sunday Feast immediately following worship. This will be a potluck luncheon shared by all members of the congregation. If you would like to bring a side dish, main dish, or a dessert to share with others, come get to know newer members, enjoy laughs with friends, and share some of your best recipes with one another. Each month we will always meet down in the fellowship hall for a potluck feast on the Second Sunday. See you then!



WHEN:

*Sunday, September 25th, 2016
5pm-8pm*

WHERE:

*Christ Church UCC
15 S. Fort Thomas Avenue
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075*

WHAT:

*Blessed are the Caretakers
Gala & Catered Meal*

*In Concert:
Carrie Newcomer*



The United Church of Christ congregations of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky invite those who are caretakers in our churches to the inaugural *Blessed Are the Caretakers Gala* celebrating and honoring those who care for their loved ones. We invite you to a catered meal and a world class musical performance by Carrie Newcomer. If you care for a parent, disabled child, ill spouse, or a friend, we invite you to call to get your ticket for this event now. There is no cost for either the meal or the concert to those who call for a ticket. All tickets are on a first come basis until we are sold out. For tickets call St. Paul's UCC in Alexandria, KY at 859-635-9394 or e-mail Darlene@stpaulsalexandria.org. Should you have any questions about whether you fit the criteria or if you are not a caretaker but would like to volunteer to serve the night of the event, please speak with your pastor.

St. Paul's Church

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Alexandria, KY 41001
Phone: (859) 635-9394

