

# St. Paul's Church

of the United Church of Christ



**"The Light" Newsletter  
February 2018 Edition**



# From the Interim

## Newsletter Feb 2018

### Lent 2018

In the Christian Century – an article caught my eye about a professor at University of Pennsylvania requires in his class called “Living Deliberately- monks, saints and contemplative life” are for a whole month the practices of an ascetic. The practices involve the body and sexuality, communication, food and appearance. They also have to journal every half hour while awake. His goal is having students not only understand what monks do and understand why they do it and the difference it makes. I share this as a way to start thinking what you planning to do differently during the 40 days of Lent. I have never found these disciplines easy to maintain nor easy to complete for the whole 40 days. St. Gregory of Nyssa – reminds us “Sin is the failure to Grow” - so we begin a season to grow – what is your plan?



### Lent 2018 Transform(ing)

verb (used with object)

1.

to change in form, appearance, or structure; metamorphose.

2.

to change in condition, nature, or character; convert.

3.

to change into another substance; transmute.

verb (used without object)

4.

to undergo a change in form, appearance, or character; become transformed.



## Sermon Series

### **Spirituality and the Twelve Steps**

Using Richard Rohr's book Breathing Underwater as a foundation and other sources Pastor Houston will lead our thoughts and how the 12 steps is a spiritual tool to help in your own personal transformation. In Diana Butler Bass's book, A people's history of Christianity. She talks about the power of the 12-step movement and she quotes a 12 stepper "The deepest and most important spiritual lessons I ever learned came from a circle of drunks, fighting desperately not to drink today, whom I initially viewed as low-life, losers, and who ultimately came to be for me the oracles of God. The Twelve steps in no way diminished my appreciation for the gospel of Jesus Christ – quite the contrary- I am more convinced than ever of the reality of the gospel story." Page 297

## **Communion during Lent to Easter**

To mark this season – we will begin our journey with an Ash Wednesday service and part of that service will be communion. We will not have communion on Sunday, March 4 – since this falls during our Lenten season. We will have communion on Maundy Thursday (Mar. 29) to remember when Jesus gave the gift of communion to us. And then on Easter morning we will have communion as a celebration of the resurrection. Please contact the Interim minister if you would like to have communion during the season if you are not able to attend the services.

## **CHURCH TIDBITS**



### **THANK YOU:**

**I would like to thank everyone for the cards and phone calls that I have received. It is such a nice feeling to have so many caring people at St. Paul's Church. I really appreciate it.**

**Betty Bihl**

### **Dear Friends of St. Paul's:**

**Thanks to the wonderful folks that came to Atria to sing Christmas Carols. We were appreciative. Many commented how great you all were to give of your time. Merry Christmas to you all.**

**Teddy Fausz**

## THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE RACETRACK PROGRAM!

Thank you for your very generous, ongoing support of our Racetrack outreach program, which provides basic necessities to help approximately 200 low-income individuals who work seasonally (and live on-site) at Turfway Park. Shortly before Christmas we delivered enough food and clothing (hats, gloves, socks, sweatshirts, hoodies, coats, jeans, pillows and blankets) to fill two cars to capacity! All are much-needed and appreciated, especially in this cold weather.

### **WHITE GIFT THANK YOUS:**

**Members of St. Paul UCC Church, thank you so much for your generosity. This will really help my family! It means so much to us. Merry Christmas!**

**Thank you again! Ashley**

**Dear St. Paul's UCC Church,**

**I just wanted to say thank you so much for helping me and my family this year. It has been a hard year for me. I lost my mom on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> this year and I gained custody of my niece and nephew on May 4<sup>th</sup> of this year. I'm glad to have this help and it's very much appreciated. My kids will have an awesome Christmas. God bless the people of St. Paul's UCC Church.**

**Thanks so much for an enjoyable holiday this year!**

**Julia and family**

**Dear St. Paul's UCC Church,**

**Thank you so much for the help this Christmas. I really appreciate it from the bottom of my heart. This has helped so much. Thank you again for helping give my children a great Christmas.**

**Thank you, Lakeisha**

## THOSE WHO SERVE IN FEBRUARY

### Liturgist

Feb. 4 Roger VonStrohe  
11 Karey Thomas  
14 Amity Kukla  
18 Marion Gosney  
25 Debbie Fowee

### Coffee

Feb. 4 D. Yeager & J. Baker  
11 Dave & Cammy Burling  
18 Tim Ash  
25 D. Yeager & J. Baker

### Acolyte

Feb. 4 Shae Weinel  
11 Greyson Ballinger  
14 Shae Weinel  
18 Greyson Ballinger  
25 Shae Weinel

Communion Set-up: Feb. 4 – Marion & Dorothy Gosney  
Feb. 14 – Barb Fausz & Helen McAlpin

### Ushers:

Feb. 4 10:30 Asbury Turner, Jim Miller,  
Gary Sperry and Rick Carr

Feb. 11 10:30 Debbie Fowee and Sue Hatfield

Feb. 14 7:00 Lee Walz and Pat Schuchter

Feb. 18 10:30 Cameron McDonald & Leah McDonald

Feb. 25 10:30 Marion & Dorothy Gosney

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

CWS thank you" Church World Service helps with disaster relief around the world. Our \$1,115 donation helped with relief efforts of the 2017 Hurricanes.

Thank you for your recent Church offering gift of \$1,115 - to CWS.

Your gift provides comfort to neighbors in need both near and far.

We appreciate the generosity!

In peace.

Heather Weisior, CWS

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## PLEASE JOIN ST. PAUL'S MISSION OUTREACH IN 2018!

There are a lot of opportunities to be involved in throughout the year...

Family Promise of N.Ky. - faith-based organization that provides shelter, meals, transportation and case management services to homeless families. St. Paul's support dates in 2018 are: February 6, April 10, June 19, August 21, October 16, December 18 at St. Joseph Parish in Cold Spring. St. Paul's provides an evening van driver pick up from Day Center (4:30 pm); dinner/dinner-evening hosts (5-8 pm); overnight hosts (8 pm - 6:30 am); morning van driver to Day Center (6:30 am) Contact Sarah Lester at 859-635-5803 or [lesters@fuse.net](mailto:lesters@fuse.net)

Soup Kitchen - Help prepare food for Tender Mercies meals here in our church kitchen at 9:00 a.m. on the 3rd Saturday of each month. January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15. For more information, please contact Gary Sperry [GMSperry59@gmail.com](mailto:GMSperry59@gmail.com)

Isaiah House Ministries Outreach - Volunteer to help distribute food for those in need the last Saturday of each month: January 27, February 24, March 31, April 28, May 26, June 30, July 28, August 25, September 29, October 27, November 24, December 29. Meet in the church parking lot to leave at 7:45 a.m. to carpool to St. Elizabeth - Covington parking lot to sign in and help with distributions. If you are interested in joining us, please let us know a week before so we can let them know how many of us will be helping! Contact Teresa Knauer [knauerteresa@gmail.com](mailto:knauerteresa@gmail.com)

Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky (HONK) - Quarterly work dates for 2018 are: February 17, May 19, August 18, November 17. Come join us in helping rehab homes to give opportunities for home ownership to low income families. All skill levels are welcomed! Please let us know a week before if you are interested in joining us. Contact Daryl Knauer [dbknauer@yahoo.com](mailto:dbknauer@yahoo.com)

Mission Trip - Summer 2018. Watch for details. For more information, contact Daryl Knauer [dbknauer@yahoo.com](mailto:dbknauer@yahoo.com)

White Gifts - Volunteer and donation opportunities to help local families in need over the Christmas holiday. Watch for details beginning in November. Charlene Rogers [sophjazzsam@gmail.com](mailto:sophjazzsam@gmail.com)

Also, donations are always welcome! Collection bins are in Fellowship Hall --

> Backpack Program collections from Sunday Schools support this program. Contact Evelyn Deitz [eedietz@aol.com](mailto:eedietz@aol.com)

> NKU Fuel October collections continue periodically throughout 2018. Watch for details.

> Pill Bottles are collected to improve healthcare quality in developing countries.

> Plastic Grocery Bags are used to make waterproof blankets for the homeless

> Printer Ink Used Cartridges are recycled for funding the Pastor's Discretionary Fund

> Racetrack Clothing Donations are collected throughout the year for those who work and live at the racetrack. Contact Mindy Connell 859-635-3340 or [mindyconnell@gmail.com](mailto:mindyconnell@gmail.com)

> Ronald McDonald House donations of travel size toiletries, personal care items, booboo buddies and journals. For more information contact Kathy VonStrohe [vonstrohe@fuse.net](mailto:vonstrohe@fuse.net)

+ Also for Ronald McDonald House: Pop Can Tabs can be left in the kitchen for Donna Mader

## FEBRUARY

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	Carl Schuchter	11	Gary & Wanda Mulligan
2	Helen McAlpin		24 years
6	Jessica Coplen		
10	Barb Fausz		
10	Dakota Schweitzer		
12	Tanner Clos		
12	Taylor Clos		
14	Allison Steelman		
14	Sarah Steelman		
15	Patty Buecker		
15	Mindy Connell		
15	Michael Pohlman		
16	Richard Barton		
16	Abigail Davis		
16	Fred Losey		
17	Donna Mader		
19	Leah McDonald		
21	Dennis Zimmerman		
22	Robin Stacey		
23	Sherry Bihl		
23	Colleen Losey		
24	Don Nelson		
26	Julie Behymer		
26	Josie Meyer		
26	Kenneth Racke		
28	Keith Behymer		
28	Connie Gunning		
28	Stefan Steelman		



Anniversaries  
and Birthdays

## WHITE GIFT 2017 – A STELLAR YEAR

A stellar year; yes, a star-spangled goal, met! It is unbelievable what can be done with our White Gift Program. Of course, it takes the Thanksgiving Food Drive at Crossroads and Cline Elementary schools, our whole congregation, and pajamas and toys from the St. Vincent DePaul Society to do it. But, the number of people we help is huge.

This year Kriste Swanson, the Family Resource Center Coordinator of both schools, provided us with thirteen families to help, and two members of our congregation brought us two more families. So we provided gifts for twelve families and food for fifteen families totaling forty-nine children. I think that might be a record. And, with all of the food we get from the two schools plus donations from several of our members, we send food to the Bread of Life Food Pantry at St. John's Lutheran Church on Tug Fork Road, to the winter residents at Turfway Park Raceway, and to our own soup kitchen pantry. Who knows how many individuals we truly provide food for through the holidays and beyond. To provide gifts for thirty-seven children, we must thank the thirty-nine families from our congregation who picked up those little symbols from the front pew and the St. Vincent DePaul Society at St. Phillips Church for pajamas and toys as well.

Because it is such a huge undertaking for our church, it is impossible to thank every individual who provides food, money, gifts, and time; some doing more than one of these things. This program begins in late October/early November and ends the night the families pick up their gifts and food. Several teams of people work many hours to do this:

Kriste, at the schools, selecting families for us, and teachers and student working to collect food  
a team of our members who pick up all of the food collected  
a group of people collecting boxes to house the food and gifts  
our folks setting up tables and arranging them to hold the food and gifts and putting them all  
back  
a team to sort the kinds of food and other items into groups  
a team to buy perishable foods and add to areas in which we need just a little more  
a team to check off the gifts and wrap extra gifts  
a team to distribute the food and gifts to the boxes for each family  
a team to help families load the food and gifts in their cars  
folks to provide a letter of invitation to St. Paul's for each family  
a team to write Thank You's

And so, Thank You to every person who took a part in one or several of these areas. Job well done! We helped a lot of people enjoy Christmas in 2017 just a little more. God is smiling, St Paul's.

Charlene Rogers

# St. Paul's Church

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