



St. Paul's Happenings

A Publication of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Manheim

September 2023

Making a Difference Through the Love of Christ – to Know God, Love God & Serve God

Signs of Change by Karen Brandt, Council President

The leaves are just starting to show signs of change. As their bright green color fades, it seems they are going to start falling almost as quickly as they change. I love summer affectionately and part of me longs to whisper to the tree "Hold on a little longer. Come on; you got this. Think green!" But graciously the tree listens to its Maker rather than my foolish whispers. In order to flourish in the new season, the tree must let go of its decayed leaves. They have performed well for the term, but their time has drawn to a close.

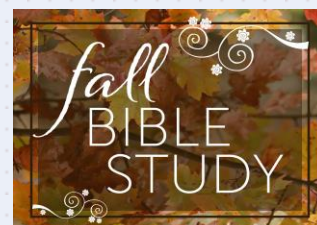
Autumn is a wonderful time to observe nature. As I watch the changing leaves, I am reminded that they display an important lesson for all of us to follow suit in a way. Just as the trees don't stubbornly hold on to their dead leaves, so we shouldn't hold on to any unnecessary weight in our lives. When we long to enter a new season, the old can easily inhibit the new if we allow it. God's Word reminds us to: Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:31-32 NIV)

What are you holding on to that is preventing a freshness to the season ahead? Could it be that the decayed leaves are piling up and your heart needs to discard them for good? If so, why not reach out to the Lord in prayer? He longs to hear from you. Ask Him to shine light on any thoughts, circumstances, habits or other "decayed leaves" you might be clinging to. As you watch the leaves change and fall this season, my prayer is that you are reminded to let go of anything that would hinder a fresh relationship with God.

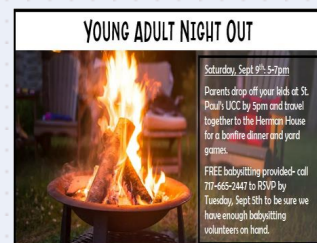
Autumn Blessings,
Karen Brandt, Council President



INSIDE this issue



Page 3



Page 3



Page 3

VISIT US ONLINE AT

StPaulsuccManheim.org

Back to School – Sunday School!

An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, September 10 @ 10:45 am in Fellowship Hall for anyone who wishes to volunteer in the nursery.

Beginning in October, the nursery will be staffed by volunteers on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month. Children will begin in church with their families and following the Children's Sermon in worship, will then move to the nursery for a time of a brief Sunday School lesson and play time.

Curriculum is provided by the church and is tailored to younger

pages, crafts, snack, and a Bible lesson – this will be a flexible learning time depending on the ages of the children in attendance.

Nursery volunteers are required to have up to date background clearances – if you need help completing your clearances, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447.

And thank you to all who have agreed to volunteer as a nursery volunteer – you truly are making a difference in our youngest believers to grow in their faith!

Fall Bible Study

We'll study 1 & 2 Peter & Jude on Wednesday evenings @ 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall starting September 6 which will encourage and enable us to live with discernment in these end times.

Peter extends to us some of the "precious and magnificent promises" that God has given us to help us triumph in times of trouble. Jude helps us to "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints."

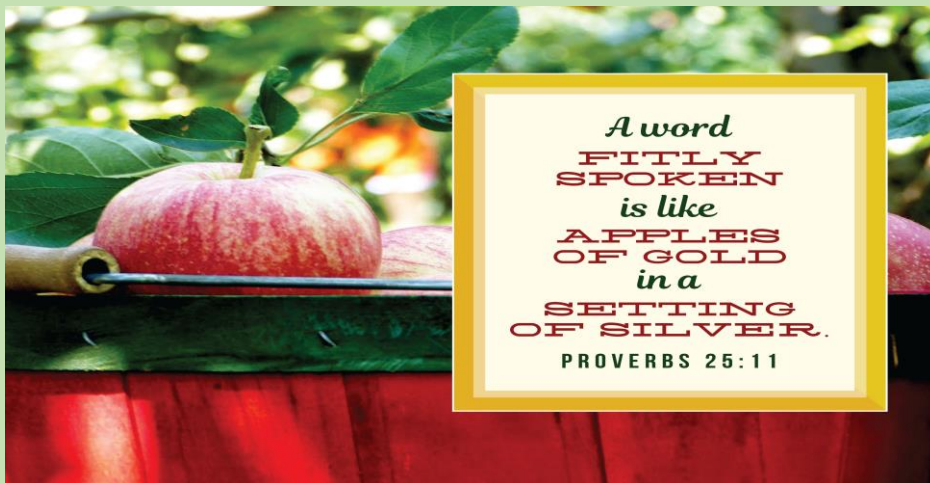
What are we to do when sorrow and suffering make life seem unfair? How can we distinguish between truth and error? How can we keep our faith pure? What do we need to know about false teachers, ungodly men, and mockers? These are just some of the questions we'll be discussing during the study – join us!



Holy Communion

- ◆ The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, September 3, 2023.
- ◆ A Communion Service will be held at Pleasant View Retirement Community on **Wednesday, September 20 @ 1:30 pm in Hoffer Auditorium.**

September Scripture Readings



Sunday, September 3, Pentecost 14: Jeremiah 15:15-21/Psalm 26:1-8/ Romans 12:9-21/St. Matthew 16:21-28

Sunday, September 10, Pentecost 15: Ezekiel 33:7-11/Psalm 119:33-40/ Romans 13:8-14/St. Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday, September 17, Pentecost 16: Genesis 50:15-21/Psalm 103:1-13/ Romans 14:1-12/St. Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday, September 24, Pentecost 17: Jonah 3:10-4:11/Psalm 145:1-8/ Philippians 1:21-30/St. Matthew 20:1-16

Fall Happenings @ St. Paul's UCC

1st Thursday:

St. Paul's will once again participate in 1st Thursday on September 7 & October 5 from 5-8 pm.

We'll have a game for the kids with prizes and a cool drink of water for you and your dog too!

And in October, we'll hold a Blessing of the Animals during 1st Thursday as well.

Young Adult Night Out

Young Adults are invited to a night out on Saturday, September 9 from 5-7 pm @ The Herman House, 2951 Newport Road, Manheim.

Parents, drop off your kids at St. Paul's UCC by 5 pm and travel together to the Herman House for a bonfire and yard games. FREE babysitting will be provided – call 717.665.2447 or text 717.314.4792 to RSVP by Tuesday, September 5 to be sure enough babysitting volunteers are on hand.

FREE Community Breakfast

Our FREE Community Breakfast will be held on Saturday, September 16 from 8:30-10 am in Fellowship Hall. Takeouts are available as well.

The gang will be serving Baked Oatmeal with fruit, drink, and

Pastor Bill's charm!

We served 47 meals in August which is wonderful and saw new faces too!

Thank you so much for your support each month.

If you'd like to help out, contact Sandy Bareford at 717.341.5931 or by email at sandybareford@gmail.com.

Fellowship Breakfast

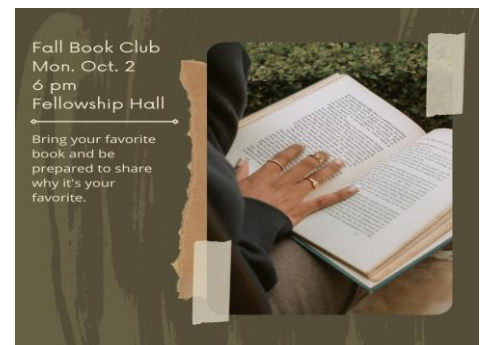
Come on out to Kountry Kitchen Family Restaurant, 944 Lebanon Road, Manheim and meet your friends from St. Paul's for breakfast on Thursday, September 28 @ 8:30 am.

Please RSVP to Claire Reed at 717.951.4325 by Monday, September 25 if you plan to attend.

Book Club

Book Club will meet next on Monday, October 2 @ 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite book and come prepared to share why it is your favorite! Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Then in early 2024, we'll read "Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther" by Roland Bainton.



Fall Fest – Sunday, September 17



Save the date – Sunday, September 17 from 4-6 pm for St. Paul's Annual Fall Fest in the church parking lot – in case of rain, to be held in Fellowship Hall.

Once again, we'll partner with Teen Central to host lots of cool Fall games, crafts, fun & food!

Cookie decorating, Minute to Win It Games, Photo Booth, Hot Dogs, Ice Cream are just a few of the attractions for Fall Fest!

Come out, bring family and friends, for a free night of fun!

Women's Fellowship

The summer went by fast and September is quickly approaching. We have been enjoying our meetings in a relaxed way with lunch at The Shack during the summer months.

Now we are ready to get back to business. Get ready for our Sub Sale – we'll be taking orders on Sundays, September 3, 10 & 17 with pick-up date of Thursday, September 28 from 1:30-5 pm at the church. Price is \$6 each (same as last year).

The date coincides with our next meeting to be held on Thursday, September 28 @ 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

We have also confirmed the date of Saturday, November 4 for the Turkey/Veteran's Dinner, which will again be a take-out dinner. More details for this event to come later.



We have had a number of changes in the lives of some of our folks here at St. Paul's and we don't want to forget about these happenings, so keep remembering our folks with telephone calls, cards, prayers and visits when possible. Let them know we care!

In His Love,
June Y. Smith &
Dottie Drumheller

Our Church Directory is Now Online!

St. Paul's pictorial church directory is now available online. To view the online directory, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now." Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple App store in iTunes, Google Play store and the Amazon Fire App store. Simply search for Instant Church Directory to get the download.

You will need to use your email address as listed in church records to create a login for the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

Need a hard copy, help or have questions? Please contact Pam Herman at 717.665.2447.



Music @ St. Paul's

Chancel Choir: The good news is that two more people have expressed interest in singing one of the harmony parts. The present issue is finding two more people to sing the soprano or melody line of music to move forward with choir. If that can happen within the next two weeks, the choir will resume its twice a month performances beginning the fourth Sunday in September. Contact any choir member, the organist or the director. Singers are always welcomed to sing any of the other parts including some men's voices.

Bell Choir: For those of you who came to the Massed Choir Ring, thank you for supporting us. For those who rang with us, both those were our regulars and those outside St. Paul's congregation, my deepest thanks and appreciation. Those who didn't come to hear us, you missed an excellent program.

Bell Rehearsals will begin on Thursday, September 14 @ 7 pm. Come join us! For more information, contact Jim Hoffman at 717.898.8452. No experience is necessary – we will teach you.

Thank you!

Jim Hoffman, Bell Choir Director

(See additional thank you note to the Bell Choir on Page 9)

Missions

The September Mission of the Month is St. Paul's Mission Team.

St. Paul's Mission Team once again traveled to Clairvaux Farms/Deep Roots this past June to work on several projects to benefit families in need of housing in Earleville, MD. (At right is Ed Kopp at work @ Clairvaux Farm's barn.)

Several team members also assisted with the Manheim Project in late July as well.

Please use your September special envelope to support the work of our Mission Team.

Food Pantry Update

The Manheim Central Food Pantry mission statement is "to help alleviate hunger by increasing access to food for people in the Manheim Central School District at no cost and in a caring, respectful manner.

The Pantry is a member of the Central PA Food Bank and a ministry of the Manheim Ministerium and is run by a volunteer board who serve as pantry managers as well. New volunteers are always welcome for days the pantry is in operation. The pantry serves as a supplemental food program to families and individuals in need residing in the school district.

Since the Covid 19 pandemic the number of families and individuals using the pantry services has greatly increased while access to some of the food items distributed by the pantry has decreased. Each month the pantry provides the churches of the Manheim Ministerium with a list of current needs. Churches and others throughout the community have been generous with what they donate (food and monetarily) to the pantry.



Besides the items listed as needed every month the pantry accepts fresh produce on days it is in operation. This summer has provided a bounty of fresh tomatoes, corn, cucumbers, squash, zucchini, peaches and much more! Clients and staff are grateful for this additional food source.

The pantry serves an average of 465 individuals (145 households) each month. Days of operation are the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Mondays and Thursdays (staff is there 9-11 on these days and serves clients 11-1) and the 3rd Thursday evening (5-7). Those wishing to drop off donations can do so at the pantry during these times. For non-perishable items there is a drop off box located on the front porch and can be accessed at any time. Address is 334 W. Gramby Street. The pantry office is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9-2 and is located in Salem United Methodist Church, 140 N. Penn Street. 717-664-1097.

Current pantry needs are:

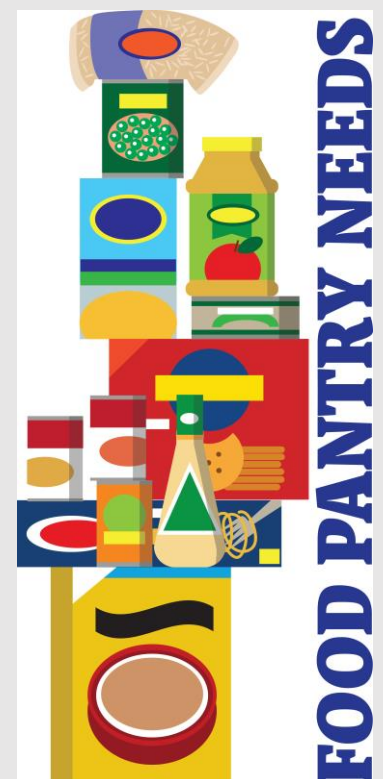
- Canned potatoes
- spam,
- boxes (no bags) of rice
- dry pasta
- canned pasta
- rice/pasta sides
- Helpers including tuna,
- applesauce.

In addition, the pantry distributes diapers and personal care items as they are received.

Thank you for your continued, generous support of the food pantry!

- Carolyn Peters

Of special note: Non-perishable foods may be dropped off at the church as well, down at the Food Pantry display near the water fountain on the first floor. Please use the shopping basket for your donations. Any items donated through the church will be taken to the pantry.



Council Highlights

Church Council met on Tuesday, July 18 @ 7 pm. Please note these highlights are shared before the minutes are approved by council at their next meeting, when corrections to details may occur.

Correction to June Minutes:

- Endowment increased by \$28,000 (not \$28).
- Under Capital, total giving was down \$5,500 (not plate cash).

Memorial Gifts & Endowment: Funds are up \$40,000 year to date, \$12,000 for June. An additional \$10,000 withdrawal was made in June.

Treasurer's Report:

Benevolence: \$845 was received for June's mission, Strengthen the Church.

Operating: Current income is on budget.

Capital: Memorial Garden doors have been painted and will be installed sometime this fall.

Overall: \$6,200 behind last year in giving year to date.

Pastor's Report: June Smith is to be honored in July; interest in choir is increasing; 1st & 3rd Sundays in October will feature Nursery Care.



Committee Reports – see written New Voices report.

Old Business: David Miron presented info on Holy Cow including next steps, etc. For more details, see the minutes posted throughout the church.

New Business: None

Open Discussion: It was noted that the minutes printed in this article are not yet approved. A disclaimer will be included in future postings.

Next meeting date is Tuesday, September 19, 2023 @ 7 pm with Spiritual Council to meet @ 6:30 pm.

Council packets are posted:

- On the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall
- In the 2nd floor hallway
- In the church office for your review.



70 Years for June Smith!

In July, St. Paul's celebrated 70 years of June Smith's organ ministry during worship and afterwards in Fellowship Hall.

June has been a faithful organist at St. Paul's since becoming an assistant organist in 1953 at the age of 18. She later became the church's full-time organist in 1972.

A member of St. Paul's since the age of 5, June has played thousands of hymns during her time at the church, estimating she has also performed at more than 150 weddings and another 150 funerals during her tenure, including the funerals of her mother, husband, sister and brother.

June's ministry has spanned three different UCC songbooks while playing at a couple different locations at the front of St. Paul's Sanctuary.

"To me, I feel blessed to do this at St. Paul's," June said. "It's never been about the money – it's about the service."

Thanks June! We are so blessed by you and your ministry!

Nursery News



St. Paul's UCC has a beautiful nursery available during worship for anyone with children. It is a safe environment for kids and the service is livestreamed to the tv in the nursery as well.

Beginning October 1, the Nursery will be staffed on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month and there will be learning opportunities available to the kids in attendance as well. These lessons will be tailored to each child's age group.

An informational meeting for potential Nursery volunteers will be held on Sunday, September 10 @ 10:45 am in Fellowship Hall and you're invited!

September 2023

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

					1	2
3 9:00am Sub Sale 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	4 Labor Day - Office Closed 	5	6 6:30pm Bible Study	7 5:00pm 1st Thursday 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran	8	9 5:00pm Young Adult Night Out
10 9:00am Sub Sale 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 10:45am Nursery Volunteer Meeting	11	12	13 6:30pm Bible Study	14 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran	15	16 8:30am FREE Community Breakfast
17 Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Sub Sale 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 4:00pm Fall Fest 	18	19 6:15pm Spiritual Council 7:00pm Church Council	20 6:30pm Bible Study	21 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	22	23 
24 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	25	26	27 6:30pm Bible Study	28 8:30am Fellowship Breakfast @ Kountry Kitchen 1:30pm Women's Fellowship 1:30pm Sub Pick-Up 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	29	30 

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Worship Attendance

7/2 - 114 7/9 - 97
7/16 - 89 7/23 - 175
7/30 - 84 8/6 - 106
8/13 - 103 8/20 - 95

Attendance = in person & online

Christian Symbols



Cross on the Rock: The rock is often used as a symbol of the Lord, our strength and firm foundation. A cross rising from the rock echoes many Bible verses that proclaim Christ as the rock of salvation; for example, "He alone is my rock and my salvation ..." (Psalm 62:2, ESV).



Requests for Prayer

For prayer requests, please contact Joan Hess at 717.665.4705. Our homebound members will remain on the list permanently as a reminder to keep these individuals wrapped in prayer and to remember them with cards, phone calls, and visits.

Susan Gates	Nancy Gibble	Bev Hockenberry	Jere Hoffman	Kenneth Hontz
Maybelle Martin	Jane Moyle	Richard Moyle & Linda Shoemaker		
Glen & Delores Mumma	Terry Myers	Andre Ressler	Bob & Joanna Schreiber	Michael Shelley
Julia Shreiner	Eric Smeltz	Phyllis Smeltz	Linda Coe*	Lamar Dourte*
Rachel Martin*	In the Military: Jessie Dutt		Bible2School Kids	Teen Central Kids

Thank You Notes

St. Paul's Family,

You are amazing! Thanks for your calls, cards and prayers upon the loss of my sister Betty Gwynn.

Also for the concern of the devastation of my daughter, Donna's home.

Your prayers and concerns were greatly appreciated.

God's Richest Blessings to All!

Claire Reed

To our dear friends at St. Paul's UCC,
We were delighted that you decided once again to send an amazing group of people to spend several days with us here at the Deep Roots Homeless Shelter in Earleville, MD.

Thank you for sending your team to us as we cherish their visit and all that was accomplished during their time with us. When I asked our families what they will remember about your group, I was touched to hear that they really enjoyed the Bible stories and special activities and games you shared with them. We were also awestruck by the number of projects you completed!

But most importantly, you connected with the children and their parents, sharing the love of Jesus with your words and actions. We sincerely thank you for your time, hard work, and donations you have given to our community in 2023.

Jessica Stone, Deep Roots, Inc.

Thank you to St. Paul's!

Those words just don't seem adequate!!! You have honored me in so many ways, by letting me be of service to the Lord in your midst.

For the last 70 years we have shared many ministries: weddings, baptisms, funerals, countless choir rehearsals, cantatas, children's programs, a change of pastors, youth leaders, seminarians and I could go on and on.

The way you honored me with the framed Certificate of Recognition, the beautiful cake, flowers, and a multitude of cards, well wishes, and personal gifts has been overwhelming and humbling. My sincerest thanks to each of you. I pray that I will be able to continue first and foremost to serve our Lord and Savior and St. Paul's according to His Will.

Love in the Lord,
June Smith

Just a quick note to say thank you to all those who sent a get-well card, a caring note, prayers, or called to check up on me following my recent surgery. And thanks to Ron Forry, Gretchen Miller, Cheri Long, Ed Kopp, Jerry Stehman & John Fantom for keeping our gardens beautiful this summer! Great job! – Pam Herman

I wish to thank pastor Bill Long for the many visits to me at the hospital and at Pleasant View Rehab, after my recent surgery. His encouraging and caring words and prayers gave me new hope and strength. My heart is filled with gratitude.

I also thank all my friends at St. Paul's for the many cards and phone calls. Your thoughtful words and prayers lifted my spirits.

I am most grateful for all the support and kindness everyone has shown me.

Blessings and Love to all,
Inge Mountz



A Special Thank You Note



Dear Jim & the Handbell Ringers:

Thank you for all the ringing you did and continue to do each year for the Handbell Choir Rehearsal and Performance. What a wonderful experience for you, the performers, and the audience. Your enthusiasm really shows!

Thank you very much, Jim and Ringers. (Next year, we'll try to have another 'good weather' day!)

With Love & Thanksgiving,
The Bible Festival Board Members



Creator of the stars

The stars and sky testify to God's amazing power and creativity.

Directions: Use the clues and Bible passages to fill in the blanks. Then transfer the circled letters (in order) to the spaces below to complete a verse of praise.

God determines this and calls each star by name. (Psalm 147:4)

○ _ _ _ _ _

The heavens are the work of God's what? (Psalm 8:3)

_ _ _ _ _

What does God bring out one by one? (Isaiah 40:26)

_ _ _ _ _

God made two great lights to do this. (Genesis 1:16)

○ _ _ _ _

God promised Abraham this would be like the stars. (Genesis 15:5)

_ _ _ _ _

The sun, moon and stars have this. (1 Corinthians 15:41)

_ _ _ _ _

The lights in the sky serve as what? (Genesis 1:14)

_ _ _ _ _

The heave__s declare the __lory __f __od;
the ski__s __roc__aim the wo__k of his ha__ds.

PSALM 19:1, NIV

Answer: number, fingers, host, govern, offspring, splendor, signs; The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1, NIV



Make a sunflower, which turns its head to follow the sun.

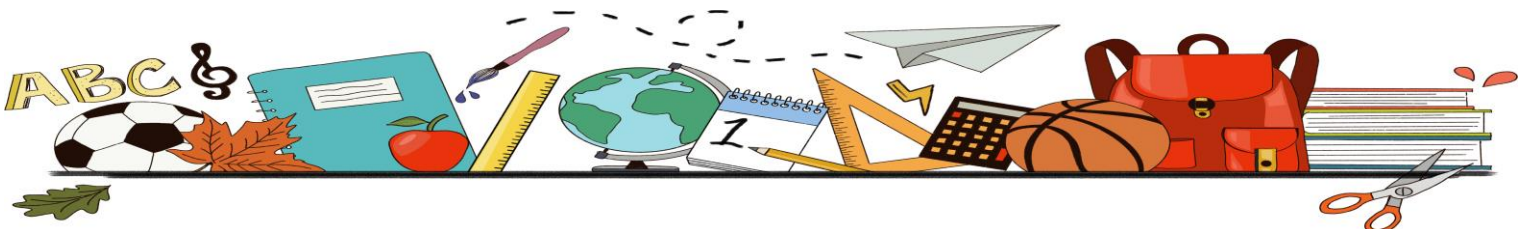
What you need:

- Paper plate
- Yellow marker
- Scissors
- Yarn (black and brown)



What you do:

1. Color the entire plate yellow.
2. Around the edge, cut out an odd number of triangles. Evenly space the cuts to form flower petals.
3. Poke a hole in the plate's center. String black yarn through the hole and over one triangle cut. Tie a knot at the back of the plate.
4. Continue looping yarn through the hole and over the remaining cuts. Secure the end. The flower should look like a wagon wheel with black spokes.
5. Tie the brown yarn to a black "spoke." Weave the brown yarn over and under the spokes in a circle. Continue until the sunflower has a large center. Then tie the end.
6. Display your craft as a reminder to follow the Son, Jesus!





Fall Fest Donations Needed

Your help is needed to make Fall Fest a successful event for our neighboring families to come out and enjoy fun, food, games, and crafts. Donations needed include: Pumpkins of all sizes for decorations, hot dogs, hot dog buns, 24 count of 8 oz water bottles. Volunteers are needed as well – please contact Pam Herman at 717.665.2447/stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net to help out!

Fall Fest is held on Sunday, September 17, 2023 from 4-6 pm @ St. Paul's UCC.

Prayer as a Place for Play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to “set down [her] frantic internal voices” and “lean back into stillness.” But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream: “My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He’s gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I’ve been asking far too much of him.”

Andrew’s dream was a revelation: “Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage,” she writes. “We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play.”

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it’s safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God’s secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.

—based on “Happy Camel” by Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew <https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Communication Deadlines

St. Paul’s Happenings is printed monthly except for the July/August and the December/January combined issues. The deadline to submit articles is the 3rd Sunday of the month before publication. **The October Issue deadline is Sunday, September 17, 2023.** Bulletin announcements are due to the church office by Wednesday mornings @ 8 am. Thank you for respecting the deadlines and making our newsletter a great read for all!



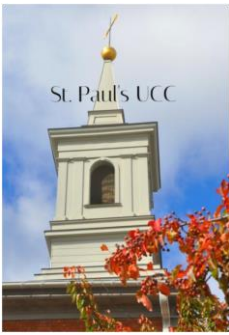
St. Paul’s Staff & Leaders

Staff:

Pastor – The Rev. Bill Long
Church Administrator – Pam Herman
Organist – June Smith
Chancel Choir Director – John Degler
Bell Choir Director – Jim Hoffman
Praise Team Coordinator – Steve Smith
Custodian – Mark Lowe
Kitchen Managers – Sandy Bareford & Jerry Weller

Council:

Ministers – All Church Members
Karen Brandt – President
Lynn Brewer
Rick Conley – Vice President
Ron Forry – Assistant Treasurer
Mike Givler - Secretary
David Ludwig
Gretchen Miller – Treasurer
Non-voting Ex-Officio Member by Position:
The Rev. Bill Long, Pastor



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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**As this long,
warm month
draws to a close,**
I'm both grateful
for the rejuvenating
summer and eager
for fall's new
energy.

**Thank you
for seasons,**
Lord.

