



**August 2020  
Newsletter**

Rev. Paul Forrey,  
Pastor

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at St. Paul's Church!

*A Message from Rev. Paul Forrey*

So far, our Sunday services have been going well since we reopened on June 21. I want to thank everyone who helped make that possible, particularly the Church Council and a few other volunteers who worked diligently to devise best practices to ensure our safety as much as possible while we are together. I thank those who have volunteered to help on Sunday mornings by serving as usher, liturgist, or musical performer. I've really been enjoying performances by our Bell Choir, and thank Mindy for inviting me to join in the July 19 performance of "Noah and the Ark."

Most importantly, I thank everyone who has followed our guidelines on Sunday mornings by wearing a face covering and maintaining proper physical distance. Every strategy to avoid spreading illness—and to avoid facing the need to cease services again—is worth it!

"The number one thing a mask can do is protect the health and the life of yourself and those around you," Governor Beshear said on July 9. "It can make sure we don't lose more people than we should, it can keep our cases down, and it can help us to continue to reopen our economy." It seems that so much in our society today has become politicized, including wearing face masks during a pandemic. Something I miss about our culture in the past is the general consensus that science is real.

According to health experts, wearing face coverings not only protects others, it also lowers the infection risk for those wearing masks by 65%. Governor Beshear also pointed to analysis from Goldman Sachs showing that if everyone in America was required to wear face coverings in public, it could save the U.S. economy from losing 5% of the Gross Domestic Product.

Some of us may feel that wearing face coverings in church constitutes a violation of personal freedoms. I believe that if Jesus were physically with us in church during this pandemic, he would wear a face covering and would urge us to do the same, not only to protect ourselves but one another. I, too, consider the choice about wearing a face covering to be a matter of freedom. In fact, I am thankful for and celebrate the fact that *we are free to love our neighbor by choosing to wear a face covering!*

Patricia and I pray that God continues to bless each of us with good health and bless our congregation with vitality as we serve our community and world in Christ's name.

## *A Message from the Board of Christian Education*

### **2020 Vacation Bible School**

VBS Our first ever virtual VBS, *Upside Down and Inside Out on Main Street-Where Jesus Makes a Difference Every Day*, started the week of June 14 and continued through the week of July 12. Families received packets filled with supplies for lessons, activities and a weekly mission to go with the parable of the week. Evelyn, Amity, Grant, Alex and Reid posted videos of stories and lessons on the VBS Facebook page. Melinda and Connie posted the songs with some help from Greyson and Kynslee. Families posted pictures and videos of the children doing the activities at home. Thank you to everyone who participated!

### **Sunday School Classes**

We will not hold Sunday School classes for at least the remainder of the summer. The Board of Christian Education will continue meeting to devise plans to stay in touch with our congregation's young people and help them continue to grow in their faith until we can safely meet again in person. *To assist us in our planning, we would like to hear from parents about how you would like for St. Paul's Sunday School to help continue the growth of your children's faith formation.*

We will continue to provide engaging Children's Chat messages via video each week. Generally, the Children's Chat video is posted to the [church Facebook Page](#) and to the [church website](#) by Saturday morning. We thank everyone who has participated by filming yourselves offering a message for the children; young people benefit from hearing the thoughts of diverse people in our congregation! *We'd like to ask for more volunteers; we can provide assistance in filming techniques and Pastor Paul will finalize the video for publication.* Please contact [Claudia Chalk](#) or [Pastor Paul](#) to talk about your interest in leading Children's Chats.

### **We would like to congratulate our class of 2020 graduates:**

- Ben Dietz from Campbell County High School. Ben will continue his studies at Gateway College.
- Brianna Harrell from Northern Kentucky University.
- Ava Winstel from Highlands High School. Ava will be going to Morehead in the fall.



### **LAWN FETE SUMMER SOCIAL CANCELLED**

While the Lawn Fete has been a long-standing and much-loved tradition at St. Paul's, Council decided at the July meeting that our desire to continue this tradition this year was outweighed by the risks, especially as COVID cases continue to spike in Kentucky.

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## August Birthdays

02	Owen Pohlman	18	Mike Ballinger	20	Wyatt Pohlman
05	Evelyn Kiefer	18	Jackie Thomas	23	Alex Enyart
06	Jim Webb	18	Karey Thomas	29	Mark Vogt
09	Eola Barrett	20	Lori Davis	31	Wilma Smith
12	Marion Gosney	20	Anna Olson		

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## August Anniversaries

25 Bobby & Kim Bowling

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### A message from our Stewardship Committee

We have missed our church family, during this trying time of "sheltering at home" due to COVID19. We miss the hugs, smiles, conversation and compassion felt in the face to face interactions.

Recently we were able to resume services by following the state mandated safety guidelines. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and made preparations for our return to worship. This took many planning sessions, training, ordering/pick up of supplies, cleaning and communication to get the sanctuary ready so our Congregation could safely meet again for worship.

Pastor Paul, Patricia, Melinda and others have done a great job of producing devotionals for all of us at home and for those in the community who may find us on Facebook. Many thanks to them as well as to our Bell Choir, those singing and those providing our children service. We appreciate them sharing their many talents! Seeing everyone on video is the next best thing to being there in person and may be the normal for many of us for a while.

When thinking of Stewardship for St. Paul's church and our community (both local and at large), consider all the blessings we have been given. Those blessings not only include our financial resources but also our natural and learned talents. When shared, we get back much more than we give. Therefore, following Christ and striving to make a positive impact on others is being good stewards and living Christ's mission at St. Paul's.

St. Paul's would not be able to sustain the needs of the church and our mission without the continued support of our members. We are doing God's work and need to continue being good stewards.

Thank you to everyone for their continued support of the church by giving their offerings. It is great to see how everyone has stepped up for the church during this crisis. This shows that we are loyal, see the value of the church in our lives, and are a family that support one another. We are a faithful and

generous congregation! I am proud to say I belong to St. Paul's UCC. What the stewardship committee and the church need now is to continue all the support that has been shown in the past four months.

In this crisis our church could have faltered but it did not because of each of you.  
Thank you!

**Romans 12: 6-8 – “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”**

St. Paul's UCC, Alexandria, KY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—May 26, 2020

PRESENT (via WEBEX ): President- Daryl Knauer, Vice President-Charlene Rogers, Financial Secretary-Jeff Enyart, Treasurer-Sandy Smith, Recording Secretary-Debbie Yeager, C.E.-Claudia Chalk, Trustees-Sally McNichols, Stewardship-Cammy Burling, Missions-Sarah Lester, Worship-Fred Losey, Pastor Paul Forrey, and Technical Support-Craig McAlpin.

Daryl opened the meeting and led us in a prayer.

- 1) SECRETARY'S REPORT---Sally McNichols made a motion to approve the minutes from the council meeting held on May 11, 2020 that were posted on OneDrive. Sandy Smith seconded and the motion carried.
- 2) FINANCIAL CHECK—Sandy reported that there is \$30,999.76 in the checking account. She did payroll and paid a few bills and expects that there will be \$22,000 plus in the account at the end of the month. Jeff reported that giving for the year and for the month of May has been better than last year. There have been some substantial individual gifts. Charlene Rogers made a motion to pay the bills for the month and Cammy Burling seconded. Motion carried.
- 3) TRUSTEES- Sally reported the following:
  - Sanitizer dispensers are on back order. We have some bottles that we can use until the wall units come in.
  - There was a water issue on the first level recently. The sump pump was replaced.
- 4) WORSHIP AND MUSIC—Fred reported that we will need to have someone on hand to supervise the ushers who will have specific duties when we resume in-person services. Sarah volunteered to fill this role.
- 5) PASTOR'S REPORT—Paul reported on the results of the Breeze survey. There were 58 surveys returned. It looks like we will need 2 services and people will be assigned which service to attend based on their responses.
- 6) SAFELY RETURN TO IN-PERSON SERVICES--Topics discussed included the duties of the ushers, marking the pews to keep social distancing, and proper signage. Opening on June 21 or waiting until July was discussed. Daryl made a motion that a few members of Council including himself, Sarah, Paul, Charlene and any other member who wants to attend meet before the next Council meeting to create the necessary plan for ushers to use to guide people safely to and from sanctuary and that the next Council meeting be held on Monday, June 8 in the sanctuary to do a trial run of these safety measures. Cammy Burling seconded the motion and the motion carried.

## 7) OTHER BUSINESS:

- Charlene Rogers made a motion to remove Julie Weber, who has moved, from the church roster. Jeff Enyart seconded and the motion carried.
- After a discussion, it was decided that committee meetings can be held in the Fellowship Hall after in-person services begin. Committees may also continue to meet virtually.

The next meeting will be held on June 8 at 7 PM in the sanctuary. The meeting was adjourned. Council recited the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Yeager, Recording Secretary

St. Paul's UCC, Alexandria, KY      COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—June 8, 2020

PRESENT: President- Daryl Knauer, Vice President-Charlene Rogers, Financial Secretary-Jeff Enyart, Treasurer-Sandy Smith, Recording Secretary-Debbie Yeager, C.E.-Claudia Chalk, Trustees-Sally McNichols, Missions-Sarah Lester, Worship- Fred Losey, and Pastor Paul Forrey. Roger Von Strohe attended to help with the entrance protocol.

Before the business meeting began, the Council gathered in the front of the church to run through the procedure that will be used to enter the church for services. After the meeting, we were dismissed using the protocol that will be used to dismiss the congregation. Then Daryl opened the meeting and Paul led us in a prayer.

After a discussion of the safety procedures to be used when we begin in-person services, Charlene Rogers made a motion that we begin in-person services on June 21, 2020. Claudia Chalk seconded and the motioned carried unanimously. Council also gave their approval for the Soup Kitchen food to be warmed at church if necessary this month as long as social distancing is practiced and the participants wear masks.

- 8) SECRETARY'S REPORT---Jeff Enyart made a motion to approve the minutes from the council meeting held on May 26, 2020 that were posted on OneDrive. Sally McNichols seconded and the motion carried.
- 9) FINANCIAL CHECK—Sandy sent Council members an email with the current amounts in the accounts. Jeff is pleased with the number of people using Breeze. Sally McNichols made a motion to pay the bills. Claudia Chalk seconded and the motion carried.
- 10) TRUSTEES- Sally reported the following:
  - Monday Men would like to finish the "trial" room in the lower level. This should cost around \$500. Council gave their approval.
  - Sally asked for an update on the Boy Scouts. There is a trailer on the property by the white house that is becoming an eyesore. Fred said the trailer contains items used by the church (like tents, etc). He also said there is some money in a checking account. He mentioned that he can research to see if that can be donated to needy Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.
  - Sally asked if anyone had access to a drone, which would make checking the gutters safer.
- 11) WORSHIP AND MUSIC—Fred reported that Melinda is working on ways to add music to our services.
- 12) CE BOARD—Claudia reported that VBS, a virtual model, will begin the week of the 14<sup>th</sup> and run for 5 weeks. They have 9 signed up so far and are hoping to have more people sign up.
- 13) MISSION—Sarah reported the following:

- Family Promise is still in the first phase of re-opening. They are putting families in hotels and giving them food vouchers.
  - Evelyn Dietz received information about a family with 7 children who are having major car issues. The Committee is exploring ways to help.
  - HONK has carpentry positions open.
  - Isaiah House Ministries will be distributing food the last Saturday of the month.
- 14) PASTOR'S REPORT—Paul reported the Wednesday night group is going strong. The Church is far from shut down. Claudia thanked Paul for his help with planning VBS and adding the Children's Chat to the on-line service each week.
- 15) OTHER BUSINESS:
- Opening up the church for other groups to use will be discussed at the July meeting.
  - Offering an outside service will be discussed at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on July 14 in the Fellowship Hall at 7 PM. The meeting was adjourned and Council prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Yeager, Recording Secretary