



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



# St. Paul's Church

**"The Light" Newsletter  
February 2020 Edition**

A Message from Pastor Paul Forrey ~



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which falls this year on February 26. We will commemorate the beginning of Lent with a moving Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00pm. The service will offer us opportunities to reflect upon our need for personal and congregational transformation. We will conclude the service by remembering Jesus in the sacrament of Holy Communion and receiving Christ's gifts through the sacrament.

Our message series for Lent this year will feature readings from the book of Joshua. At the start of the book, Moses and the Israelites have left Egypt and then spent forty years journeying in and out of the wilderness—a time of learning to trust God implicitly and to know themselves fully. Years later, as the Israelites gaze across the Jordan River to the promised land, Moses is now gone, and Joshua assumes leadership. The book of Joshua then recounts the story of the conquest of Palestine.

The book contains long sections that make for difficult reading. A large chunk of the book contains stories about violence planned and directed by God. Other sections contain details about how the land is divided up among the Israelite tribes and families. We'll mention these sections, but not focus on them. Instead we will focus on the major themes of the book—trusting God and following where God leads into a new land. As we talk about how this theme is developed through narratives in the book, we'll consider how these themes connect with our experience today. Whether we are exploring new directions for our personal or professional lives or are exploring new directions for our church's ministries, we know what it's like to take steps into the future trusting God to lead us.



*Stepping into God's Future*

A Message Series on the Book of Joshua

# THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone for the beautiful service you had to celebrate Stu's life. The church was beautifully decorated and the music was breathtaking. I'm sure Stu was looking down smiling remembering being right there singing with everyone.

Also thank you for the chicken dinner and feeding our family and friends. It is such a great feeling to be a part of this church family.

Lots of love, The Stormer Family

# THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for the sympathy cards and the get well cards for Stu. I would like to especially thank Kathy VonStohe, Pat Schuchter and Janice Painter for all of their cards.

Margie Stormer

# THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for the Christmas cards and all the other cards sent during the month.      Betty Bihl

Betty BihL

## THANK YOU

Thanks to all the carolers who visited my home on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. It was an uplifting experience. Also thanks for the Christmas cards, cookies, candy, etc. All was a great gift.

Merry Christmas and thanks, Wilma Smith

## THANK YOU

## To Friends and Family at St. Paul's UCC:

You have done it again! Your kindness has once again touched my heart and soul. The "Christmas Bag" was marvelous. All the cards and notes, the cookies and candies, the book of puzzles, and the beautiful Snoopy handmade personalized card from someone in the children's group---What can I say---It was all lovely and much appreciated. May you have many blessings in our new year.

Love, joy, and much laughter, Donna Mader

## THANK YOU MESSAGES FROM THE WHITE GIFT FAMILIES:

Thanks to you all. Our Christmas this year is going to be brighter. God bless you all! Thank you from the bottom of my heart! Thank you so much for your kindness.

Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year!

## THANK YOU

First of all thank you all. May God richly bless you all. I am 69 years old and raising 3 children, one is 7 years old, my girl is 10 years old and my oldest boy is 12 years old. My babies' parents lost their way by using drugs. Their mom died last year on Dec. 3, 2018 so each child has a different dad.

My finances are very tight so you have made their lives very happy and me also because now there are presents under the tree for them.

There are not words to say thank you for being God's angels.

## THANK YOU

Thank you so much. I have been out of work because of knee surgery so this means a lot to me. You guys are appreciated from me and my family. I have been through a hard time with the knee surgery. I have been working so thank you so much for helping me and my family.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## THANK YOU

Dear St. Paul's Church,

I want to thank you for the help with this Christmas season. Words cannot express how grateful I am with getting help for my two boys. We've had our set backs this year. It's been really hard but were working through it. I can't wait to see my boys open up their gift and dig into their food on Christmas. Seeing the smile on your kids face is the greatest gift God has made.

Merry Christmas!

## THANK YOU

Dear St. Paul's UCC Church and Family Resource Center,

It meant more than you know for all the gifts and food you gave us for Christmas.

God Bless You!

## THANK YOU

Dear St. Paul's UCC Church and Family Resource Center,

We want to thank you for your holiday assistance to our family.

The gifts for the children and food came at such a desperate time in our lives.

The children were so excited for Christmas and we were able to celebrate and show them that there are gracious people who helped to make this holiday "extra" special.

We feel so blessed and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Our deepest appreciation and love,

P.S. The ham was delicious!

## **THANK YOU**

Dear Charlene and all at St. Paul's who helped the "White Gift" mission,

Thank you! Families who I refer to you are blessed by the generosity and care of this church. What a wonderful job you do to help local families whose Christmas was so uncertain. Thank you for being a rock in our community!

Kriste Swanson  
FRC Coordinator  
Cline & Crossroads Elementary Schools

## **PULL CAN TAB UPDATE**

Dear friends and family at St. Paul's UCC

Hooray! You will be sending a total (so far) of 28,000 can tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in the first week of March. Those 28,000 are packaged in 7 zip lock gallon bags that each hold 4,000 tabs....and there may be an eighth bag once February is over! Thank you!

P.S. You might pitch the empty coffee cans and the two gallon milk bottles on the kitchen counter. Obviously their owners don't want them back.

Happy Winter to all of you - Donna Mader

February 2, 2020

## **Super Bowl Collection for the Backpack Program**

Vote for the winner by contributing to the food collection fund for local kids!



Then join us on April 26<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall, starting at 9:30 am to pack up the food! All food goes directly to the kids at Campbell County Schools.

## WHITE GIFT 2019

We had another wonderful year for the White Gift Program. This year we served ten families with 14 boys and 14 girls with gifts and food and two other families (from the high school resource coordinator) with three children with food and gifts. Four other families received food only. We were also able to provide canned goods for our soup kitchen closet, for the Bread of Life Food Pantry at St. John's Lutheran Church on Tug Fork Road, and for our friends at Turfway Park Raceway. With the help of the children from Crossroads and Cline bringing in food items for their Thanksgiving Food Drive, with the Family Resource Coordinator for both schools, Krikstse Swanson, providing us with families in need, with the St. Vincent DePaul Society providing a few extra gifts, and with our congregation providing gifts, supplemental foods, and financial donations, we were able to provide a very nice Christmas for all of these folks.

Because it is such a huge undertaking for our church, many people work to accomplish several tasks from October to December, some serving in many areas. Kriste selects the families for us; the teachers and students at Crossroads and Cline provide much of the food; a group of our members pick up those food and sort them; several members collect boxes for the foods and gifts; several members set up tables for the food and gifts; members buy perishable foods and other items to supplement areas; members check off the gifts and wrap the extra gifts; another group of members fill the boxes with food and gifts; and members also help the families load their cars with many boxes for Christmas.

And so, a huge Thank You to every person who took a part in one or several of these areas. Job well done! God is smiling!!

Charlene Rogers and Mindy Connell

**FEBRUARY**  
**Birthdays and Anniversaries**

1	Carl Schuchter	11	Gary & Wanda Mulligan
2	Helen McAlpin		26 years
10	Barb Fausz		
10	Grant Kukla		
10	Dakota Schweitzer		
12	Tanner Clos		
12	Taylor Clos		
14	Allison Steelman		
14	Sarah Steelman		
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		
26	Julie Behymer		
26	Josie Meyer		
26	Kenneth Racke		
28	Keith Behymer		
28	Connie Gunning		
28	Stefan Steelman		



## THOSE WHO SERVE IN FEBRUARY

### Liturgist

Feb. 2 Debbie Fowee  
9 Roger VonStrohe  
16 Debbie Yeager  
23 Amity Kukla  
26 Roger VonStrohe

### Coffee

Feb. 2 Tim Ash  
9 Debbie Yeager  
16 Patricia Ross  
23 Tim Ash

### Acolyte

Feb. 2 Kynslee Ballinger  
9 Shae Weinel  
16 Mitchel Haddix  
23 Greyson Ballinger  
26 Kynslee Ballinger

Communion Set-up: Feb. 2 - Mindy Connell &  
Audrey Thomas  
Feb. 26 - Marian & Dorothy Gosney

### Ushers:

Feb. 2 10:30 Asbury Turner, Jim Miller,  
Cameron McDonald and Gary Sperry

Feb. 9 10:30 Marion & Dorothy Gosney

Feb. 16 10:30 Ron Sperry and Leah McDonald

Feb. 23 10:30 Pat Schuchter and Lee Walz

Feb. 26 7:00 Jim Miller and Debbie Fowee

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

St. Paul's UCC, Alexandria, KY  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—Nov. 12, 2019

PRESENT: President- Connie Ballinger, Vice President-Daryl Knauer, Financial Secretary-Jeff Enyart, Recording Secretary-Debbie Yeager, Treasurer-Sandy Smith, Trustees-Sally McNichols, C.E.-Claudia Chalk, Pastor Paul Forrey, and Craig McAlpin.

Connie opened the meeting and Pastor Paul led us in prayer. Council recited the Council Covenant.

- 1) SECRETARY'S REPORT---Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Jeff Enyart and seconded by Daryl Knauer. Motion carried.
- 2) TREASURER'S REPORT—October 2019 Expense and Temporary Accounts were reviewed. Motion to accept reports and pay bills was made by Claudia Chalk and seconded by Jeff Enyart. Motion carried.
- 3) PASTOR'S REPORT---Pastor Paul reported the following:
  - The Breeze Church Management System has been activated. Council members have been sent an email inviting us to create our login. Paul and Sandy Smith successfully set up the online giving. There will be a link to our online giving page on our website. Gifts that come to us online will be electronically transferred to our account. Paul has tested the online donation capability of the system, and it works very easily. Thanks to Craig McAlpin for all his hard work ensuring the accuracy (as best we can) of our membership Excel spreadsheet that was uploaded to the system. After a discussion on how to best get the information about using this system to the congregation, we decided to provide written directions and to offer some sessions after some church services after December.
  - Paul thanked everyone who helped with Stu Stormer's funeral and bereavement luncheon.
  - Paul also expressed appreciation for his great Installation Service on Nov. 10.
  - The Ohio Conference has been renamed "The Heartland Conference." Restructuring is underway to streamline current judicatory levels.
  - Paul will be on vacation Dec. 25-Jan. 1.
- 4) TRUSTEES' REPORT--- Sally reported the following:
  - A new snowblower has been purchased.

- The dead holly bush in front of the church has been pulled out. It will be replaced in the spring.
- Lower level renovation seems to be at a standstill. It was suggested that an easel with the plans on it should be placed in the Fellowship Hall.
- The flag in front of the church needs to be replaced. They are looking for an American made 5x8 flag. Sandy suggested they contact the DAV.
- Craig and Carl are still working on the installation of the doorbell at the Parish House.
- Trustees are considering removing part of the front pew on the pulpit side to reduce congestion.

5) CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—Claudia reported the following:

- Movie night was Nov. 3. Twenty-one people attended. Next movie night will be in the spring.
- BOCE discussed the condition of the pre-school Sunday School room. Arrangements have been made so that that room will not be used during the construction.
- Caroling and soup lunch will be Dec. 8. Caroling will begin at 2. Lunch served from 11:45-2:00.
- Patricia Ross and BOCE are planning an event called Christmas around the World on Dec. 14. This event is for preschoolers thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Children's Christmas skit will be Dec. 15. The children will practice during Sunday School and after worship.
- We will have a king's cake on Epiphany Sunday.
- In keeping with our 5-year plan, the board discussed the need for a Christian Education Director. They will continue the discussion at their January retreat.
- They are looking at their information on the church's webpage. Paul is helping with writing new information. There will be a parental permission slip supplied before pictures of the children are posted.

6) MISSIONS COMMITTEE---Daryl reported the following:

- Family Promise—The schedule for 2020 has been tentatively set and shared with host churches. It will soon be released to support churches.
- Next volunteer date for HONK is 11/16.
- The next Isaiah Ministry date is 11/30.
- White Gifts--Charlene will request 10-12 families and gifts will be collected on 12/15.
- Race Track—Mindy will request men's warm clothing.
- Mission Trip 2020 destination is still being discussed
- Budget—Paul shared a letter from SONKA requesting that churches consider increasing their support for the

minister training/support, missions and social justice programs of OCWM, which are in jeopardy from underfunding. After a lengthy discussion, the committee is adding \$400.00 to its 2020 budget for OCWM support.

- St John's Food Pantry—Sarah is checking on their current needs.

7) WORSHIP COMMITTEE---No report:

- Connie thanked the committee for their extra work preparing for Paul's Installation.

8) STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE—No report. October offering \$10,774. Connie thanked Jeff for keeping council informed weekly.

9) VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT---Daryl reported the following:

- The annual review with staff is on-going.
- Charlene Rogers has accepted the nomination for Council Vice-President.

10) PRESIDENT'S REPORT—Connie reported the following:

New Business:

- Annual Congregational Meeting will be Dec. 15 right after service.
- Committees should have their annual reports to Darlene and copied to Connie by Dec. 2.
- After thanking committees for their submitted budgets, Jeff presented the 2020 budget draft to council. After a discussion, Sandy Smith made a motion to approve the budget as presented by Jeff. Daryl Knauer seconded the motion. Motion carried. Copies of the approved budget will be made available to the congregation by Dec. 1.
- Paul requested that we provide a light supper after the Queen City Bell concert on Dec. 1.

Next Council Meeting is Dec 10, 2019 at 6 PM. This will include dinner. The location is TBD. Sally McNichols made a motion to adjourn and Jeff Enyart seconded. Motion carried. Meeting ended with Council reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Yeager, Recording Secretary

St. Paul's UCC, Alexandria, KY  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—Dec. 10, 2019

PRESENT: President- Connie Ballinger, Vice President-Daryl Knauer, Financial Secretary-Jeff Enyart, Recording Secretary-Debbie Yeager, Trustees-Sally McNichols, C.E.-Claudia Chalk, Worship and Ministry—Fred Losey, Pastor Paul Forrey, Guests—Patricia Ross and Charlene Rogers.

Connie opened the meeting and Council recited the Council Covenant.

- 1) SECRETARY'S REPORT---Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. After a correction to the date of the Race Track collection, a motion to accept the minutes as corrected was made by Sally McNichols and seconded by Claudia Chalk. Motion carried.
- 2) TREASURER'S REPORT—November 2019 Expense and Temporary Accounts were reviewed. Motion to accept reports and pay bills was made by Fred Losey and seconded by Jeff Enyart. Motion carried.
- 3) PASTOR'S REPORT:
  - Paul shared the membership information that will appear in the 2019 Annual Report for discussion and approval. He is working to develop a Membership Team in 2020 that will review the list of members we believe are inactive and make a recommendation to Council. Jeff will enter the attendance count each week in 2020.
  - Paul is pleased with what he discerns to be the increasing energy in the congregation. Attendance seems to be up at events.
  - Paul thanked the Council for their support this year.
- 4) TRUSTEES' REPORT--- Sally reported the following:
  - Carpets and pews will be spot cleaned.
  - Work on the renovation of the lower level should increase after the first of the year.
  - Trustees are considering meeting every other month after lunch on Mondays.
- 5) CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—Claudia reported the following:
  - Pastor Paul revamped the wording for the CE webpage. We still need pictures of all of our classes.
  - Caroling was Sunday, Dec.8. Lunch was served after church until the carolers left. Over 20 people participated.

- Christmas Around the World is Dec. 14. We are expecting up to 20 children.
- The children's Christmas skit is Sunday, Dec. 15. Cookies will be passed out after church.
- We will be having parents sign a Photo Permission Slip before putting children's pictures on the website.
- No Sunday School on Dec. 22 so the children and teachers can hear the cantata.
- There will be a King's cake and punch on Jan. 5.
- Our retreat will be held on Jan. 11.

6) MISSIONS COMMITTEE---Daryl reported the following:

- Family Promise---The first scheduled hosting of 2020 will be Feb. 4. Remaining dates will be in March, May, August, October, and December. Furniture needs for families successfully moving out of the program will be shared with the congregation through Constant Contact.
- One person volunteered for HONK on 11/16.
- Family Resource Center---Evelyn reported that there are approximately 3,000 homeless young people in N KY schools. She will check with the school to see if we can be of assistance in addressing the needs of this growing population.
- The next Isaiah Ministry date is 12/14.
- White Gifts---Food will be picked up from the schools on 12/7, and gifts will be collected on 12/15.
- Christmas Fund---The committee will share information with the congregation about this special giving opportunity, which supports retired UCC ministers who are struggling financially. After a discussion a motion was made by Sally McNichols to use our Christmas Eve collection to support this mission. Fred Losey seconded and the motion carried.
- Race Track---Mindy collected new or gently used cold weather gear for these seasonal workers.
- Mission Trip 2020---Daryl expressed an interest in volunteering locally next summer, helping with the facility needs at Washington UCC.
- WE received thank you letters recognizing our congregation's on-going support of Washington UCC's after -school program and the national church's Our Church's Wider Mission program.

7) WORSHIP Committee—Debbie reported for the committee:

- We will try a different brand of GF bread for communion. It was suggested that the cubes be cut smaller.
- There was a problem with the candles fitting the candle holders for the pew ends. We will try to find 8" candles before Christmas Eve.
- We have plenty of candles and cupholders for Christmas Eve.
- Pastor Paul will be on vacation from Dec. 25 to Jan. 1. Plans are being made to cover the service on Dec. 29.

8) STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE—November offering \$13,193.

9) VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT---Daryl reported the following:

- Staff-Parish Team—The team met with Darlene, Ben, and Melinda for their annual review. Meetings went well.
- Investment Committee—The committee is meeting with David Kopser, our Morgan Stanley representative, on Dec. 12 for our annual year-end financial performance review.
- Ben will be taking off 12/27-12/31. Daryl will take care of putting the trash cans on the curb.
- Daryl expressed gratitude to Charlene Rogers for accepting the nomination for vice-president of council.
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10) PRESIDENT'S REPORT—Connie reported the following:

New Business:

- For IRS purposes, Jeff Enyart made a motion to designate a housing allowance of \$13,265 for Pastor Paul Forrey. Daryl Knauer seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- Cammy Burling will lead the Stewardship Committee.
- Connie thanked the Council for their work and support during her two years as Council President.

Next Council Meeting is Jan. 25, 2020 at 10 AM in the Parish House. Daryl Knauer made a motion to adjourn and Sally McNichols seconded. Motion carried. Meeting ended with Council reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Yeager, Recording Secretary



