



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

A Message from Pastor Paul Forrey ~

Grace and peace to all of you, in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. As I write this message, we have just begun to resume sanctuary services following the second COVID-related shut down of in-person activities at the church. I pray, as more of us reach the front of the queue and receive a vaccination, we will soon be able to resume more in-person activities and enjoy the opportunity to share in rich fellowship and fun experiences together! And I pray that we will not need to consider another period in which we must close our Sunday worship services in the sanctuary; our experience of that rollercoaster ride of open–close–open again is really difficult for all of us.

I express my thanks to everyone who has helped make our service or devotional videos possible, especially those who have been working faithfully to plan and record music for us to enjoy. Their work has made it possible for us to enjoy rich special music in worship as some play live instruments along with recordings that including our choir's voices.

We also thank every one of our leadership teams who have never ceased to meet and plan ministries together. At this point, many of us groan at the thought of another videoconference meeting, but we've known that it is important for us to continue our work so we fire up Webex or Zoom again and get moving.

In 2020 we were unable to enjoy in-person gatherings for most of Lent and Holy Week. I pray every day that we will be able to come together for that sacred season of the year in 2021! This year, Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. For the Sundays in Lent this year we will share in a message series that explores some of the diverse voices in scripture that lift us up and advance us along our spiritual journeys.

Hear the Voices of Scripture

- Hear the Voice of Jesus: *"Let your light shine!"* Matthew 5:13-16
- Hear the Voice of Abraham: *"Let there be no strife between you and me."* Genesis 13:8-12
- Hear the Voice of Joseph: *"You planned something bad for me, but God produced something good from it."* Genesis 50:15-21
- Hear the Voice of Moses: *"Don't be afraid; see the salvation God will accomplish for you."* Exodus 14:10-14
- Hear the Voice of Saul: *"Remember to put God first."* 1 Samuel 31:1-7
- Hear the Voice of Esther: *"Don't miss your moment!"* Esther 4:15-17

WHITE GIFT PROGRAM

Congratulations, St. Paul's Congregation!! Your generosity and hard work made our annual White Gift Program a success even during a pandemic. Unfortunately, the event had to be launched right around the time we had to shut down in-person services in November, which left the Mission Team with some challenges.

The Mission Team discussed many options for distributing the wish lists and shopping for gifts and food. Apparently, the plan was a good one. Our church was able to provide gifts, household supplies, and food for 10 local families. There were 33 children among these families.

Thank you to those of you who purchased gifts or sent monetary donations to help buy gifts. Your generosity is amazing! Thank you to the "elves" who did extra shopping to buy gifts for the children. We were able to provide each of the 33 children with several gifts. We also purchased art supplies and some games for each family. Thank you to the St. Phillip School community who donated money to buy each child on our list a pair of pajamas, and a special thank you to their principal Jennifer Twehues, who personally shopped for those pajamas!

Since the school children were not having in-person classes, the canned food drive wasn't as successful as usual. Logan Probst, the Family Resource Coordinator at Cline and Crossroads Elementary Schools, was able to provide us with a box of non-perishable foods for each family. Many members of our congregation donated more non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, paper products, personal care items, and even face masks. Because of your generosity, each family received several boxes of non-perishable food and supplies.

Thank you to the team of "elves" who went grocery shopping the day before the distribution so that each family would have fresh food items for the holiday. We were able to give each of the ten families a ham, milk, eggs, butter, bread, fresh fruits and vegetables.

It is quite a task organizing the gifts and preparing everything so it's ready for the families to pick up. Thank you to everyone who helped with the organization and distribution of the gifts and food.

Thank you to everyone who had a part in making our White Gift Program a big success. The pandemic made it a challenge, but St. Paul's made it happen!

A Message from the Worship Team
LET'S STAY CONNECTED... PASS THE PEACE!

Among the varied qualities that make our congregation precious to us is the mutual care and affection we share with one another. We seek ways to intertwine our lives, hopes, dreams, and passions. We share our joys and our concerns with each other—we rejoice together; we weep together, and we lift up God's presence with all of us.

The coronavirus pandemic and the need to follow recommendations concerning physical distancing have made it difficult for us to express our shared love which has always been so dependent upon our coming together in person. Over the next months many of us will receive vaccinations and we look forward to that coming time when we may come together as a congregation and express our love for one another in ways that we treasure. In the meantime, the Worship leadership team encourages us to find every creative ways to offer one another the best of our love and concern.

We ask *every member* to reach out to someone in the congregation with a phone call, a card, a text, or an email. We're calling this a "virtual passing of the peace." The passing of the peace is an ancient ritual through which we acknowledge God's love and God's call to live in harmony and grace, and is one of our traditions that we miss most about our normal worship service. We hope that our virtual passing of God's peace can become a *weekly practice for all of us*. In this way we will stay connected until we can all meet together again.

Please pass the peace to someone in the congregation today!



Kids -
look for a new Lenten Activity from your Sunday School teachers!
At the beginning of Lent, we'll drop off a basket of activities for the 40 days leading up to Easter.
More details to come later 😊
We miss you!

Thanks to all families who created the scenes for our on-line Christmas skit! It was inspiring to see the kids act out each part and tell the Christmas story in this new way. Special thanks to Pastor Paul for splicing all the pieces together for the complete video! Also, it did our hearts good to see the kids during the Christmas party! Thanks for trying new activities with us!



History Corner

In the spring of 1845 Rev. H. Kroh was sent by the Mission Board of the Reformed Church in the U.S. to begin work in Cincinnati. Seven persons organized the First German Reformed Church in a small church on Vine St. between 4th and 5th.



The following German Protestant Churches started in Northern Kentucky:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 4/26/1847 | St. John's First German Protestant Evangelical Protestant Evangelical, Dayton St., Newport, KY |
| 5/17/1847 | St. Paul German Protestant, 11th & Banklick, Covington, KY |
| 1847 | St. Johns German Protestant Church of Tug Fork, KY |
| 1850 | St. Pauls German Protestant Church of Alexandria, KY |
| 4/27/1862 | Grace German Reformed Church, Lockwood & Willard, Covington, KY |
| 12/27/1862 | St. Paul German Protestant of Newport, KY |
| 9/4/1867 | St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, Licking Pike Campbell Co. KY |
| 1872 | St. Johns German Protestant of Pools Creek, Campbell Co. KY |
| 1894 | St. Marks German Lutheran, Newport, KY |
| 11/4/1906 | Christ Evangelical Church, Fort Thomas, KY |

February Birthdays

Feb. 1	Carl Schuchter	19	Leah McDonald
2	Helen McAlpin	21	Dennis Zimmerman
10	Barb Fausz	22	Robin Stacey
10	Grant Kukla	23	Sherry Bihl
15	Mindy Connell	23	Colleen Losey
15	Michael Pohlman	26	Julie Behymer
16	Richard Barton	26	Josie Meyer
16	Fred Losey	26	Kenneth Racke
17	Donna Mader		

Serving in February

Liturgist

Ushers

Feb. 7 9:00 am Evelyn Dietz
10:30 am Debbie Fowee

Feb. 7 9:00 am Patricia Ross & Gary Sperry
10:30 am Roger & Kathy VonStrohe

Feb. 14 9:00 am Debbie Yeager
10:30 am Charlene Rogers

Feb. 14 9:00 am Wanda Hornsby & Jim Miller
10:30 am Pat Schuchter & Lee Walz

Feb. 21 9:00 am Patricia Ross
10:30 am Roger VonStrohe

Feb. 21 9:00 am Margaret Perry & Gary Sperry
10:30 am Sally McNichols & Everett Harrison

Feb. 28 9:00 am Claudia Chalk
10:30 am Kathy VonStrohe

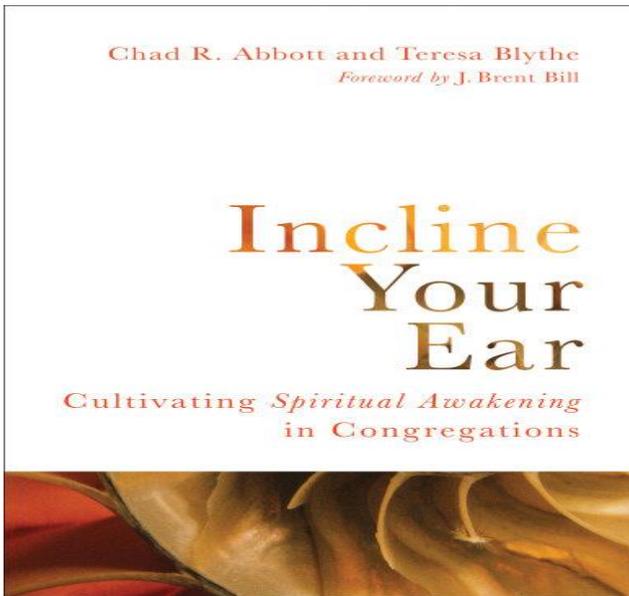
Feb. 28 9:00 am Patricia Ross & Wanda Hornsby
10:30 am Sarah Lester & Debbie Fowee

THANK YOU

I just want to say thank you for all the blessings you have given my family, for the strength you gave me after the fire to start and try again and thank you to all the people in the church that made life more meaningful. God bless you all, Nona & Glenn Harrell

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The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, author of *Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World*



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Cultivating Spiritual Awakening in Congregations

Incline Your Ear: Cultivating Spiritual Awakening in Congregations

introduces faith communities and individuals to the centuries-old practice of spiritual direction. Authors Chad R. Abbot and Teresa Blythe explore ways to become more aware of the presence of the Holy, deepen our relationship with God, discern where God is leading, share our spiritual gifts, and evaluate these fruits of the Spirit. Readers will find new ways to be in love with God and listen to the Spirit.

Chad R. Abbott is a conference minister in the United Church of Christ in Indiana and Kentucky. Having served congregations in both the United Methodist and United Church of Christ traditions, he is a pastor at heart, passionate about local churches, pastors, and spirituality. The author of two books, he is a trained labyrinth facilitator, spiritual director, and storyteller.

Teresa Blythe is a spiritual director, writer, conference keynote speaker, and experienced leader of spirituality circles and small groups in the Christian tradition. An author of multiple books and articles, she received her master of divinity and spiritual direction training at San Francisco Theological Seminary and has facilitated group spiritual direction in a variety of projects.

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PRESENT: President- Daryl Knauer, Vice President-Charlene Rogers, Financial Secretary-Jeff Enyart, Recording Secretary-Debbie Yeager, C.E.-Claudia Chalk, Missions-Sarah Lester, Stewardship-Cammy Burling, Worship/Ministry-Fred Losey, Trustees-Sally McNichols, and Pastor Paul Forrey.

Daryl opened the meeting and said a prayer for a pandemic, and Council members recited the Council Covenant.

COVID Update: Paul updated Council on members and staff who have tested positive. After a discussion, Sally McNichols made a motion that the Yoga group and AA group can meet in the Fellowship Hall as long as they are following the protocol set by Council. Cammy Burling seconded and the motion carried.

- 1) SECRETARY'S REPORT—Sarah Lester made a motion to approve the minutes from the October Council meeting as posted on OneDrive. Jeff Enyart seconded and the motion carried.
- 2) TREASURER'S REPORT—Sandy's report was posted on OneDrive. A motion was made to accept the report and pay the bills. Motion carried.
- 3) FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT-Jeff reported:
 - Giving for the first two weeks of November is up from 2019. Our outlook for the year is promising.
 - Information is ready for the audit on Saturday, Nov. 14.
 - Jeff shared the budget draft for 2021with Council. He reviewed each committee's budget and answered questions. He will email the final draft to Council members.
- 4) TECH REPORT-Craig had nothing to report.
- 5) PASTOR'S REPORT-- Paul reported:
 - Our Facebook page continues to generate significantly greater engagement with our videos than the Church website.
 - Committee chairs should submit the full list of names for their 2021 team to Paul and Darlene by Thursday, Dec. 3. Chairperson should be identified.
 - Newsletter items should be sent in to Paul and Darlene by mid-November.
 - The Church has received an award from our local Girl Scout troop.
 - Paul is working with Craig to find an inexpensive Windows product that would make the post-production of creating the video version of the service easier for more people to learn this process.
- 6) CE BOARD—Claudia reported:
 - Wednesday night class continues to go well.
 - Amity Kukla and Evelyn Dietz will serve as co-chairs for 2021.
 - A Sunday School survey for parents was sent out via Breeze. Five of eleven surveys were returned. Four out of the five said they would return if safety protocol were observed. This is on hold due to the current upswing in COVID cases in the county.
 - Work continues on the virtual Christmas play.
- 7) MISSION—Sarah reported:
 - Family Promise is working on a schedule for 2021.
 - The White Gift Program is moving forward. We will sponsor 10-12 families.
 - After the first of the year, we will move forward with opportunities to help Brighton Center.
 - Members were updated on the on-going Constitution revisions.
- 8) STEWARDSHIP—Cammy reported:
 - The final Stewardship letter will be mailed next Monday or Tuesday.
 - Paul will represent the Stewardship Team at the next meeting of each Team to discuss the Your Church, Our Future Program.

9) TRUSTEES—Sally reported:

- Craig has spoken to the Trustees about the need for a camera that could be used to record the services rather than using phones.
- Boy Scout items will be thrown out soon, if not claimed.

10) WORSHIP/MINISTRY—Fred reported that their meeting was postponed until the 23rd. Advent and Christmas services will be discussed at this meeting.

11) VICE-PRESIDENT---Charlene reported:

- A vacation policy is being developed and will be ready to present to Council at the December meeting.
- The Investment Committee will meet on Saturday, Nov. 14.

12) PRESIDENT’S REPORT—Daryl reported:

- He is working on a letter to be sent to the congregation regarding the Annual Meeting.
- We may meet early for the December meeting if we are able to share a meal.

The next meeting will be held on December 8 in the Fellowship Hall at 7 PM. The meeting was adjourned and Council prayed the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Yeager, Recording Secretary

St. Paul’s UCC, Alexandria, KY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—November 23, 2020

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

Daryl opened the meeting. Paul said a prayer, and Council members recited the Council Covenant.

COVID Update: A discussion was held regarding the current rise in COVID cases. Daryl reminded Council that he had emailed UCC recommendations regarding holding in-person services for Council to review. After a lengthy discussion, Cammy Burling made a motion that we not hold in-person services for the next two Sundays (11/29 and 12/6) and then meet again December 8 to revisit the situation. Jeff Enyart seconded and the motion carried.

Council also agreed that outside groups (AA and yoga) will be informed that they may not use the church for the rest of the year. Music can continue to be recorded following safety protocol.

BUDGET Update: Jeff presented a modification of the approved 2021 budget that involved a line regarding mowing. The modification reduces the budget from \$192,569 to \$191,686. Jeff motioned that Council accept the new budget with this modification. Cammy seconded this and the motion carried.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Daryl is working on options for holding the Congregational Meeting and getting the budget approved if we cannot hold an in-person meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Yeager, Recording Secretary

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

Daryl opened the meeting and said a prayer, and Council members recited the Council Covenant.

COVID Update: Daryl gave members a chance to update Council on current COVID news.

- 1) SECRETARY'S REPORT—Sally McNichols made a motion to approve the minutes from both the November 10 and 23 Council meetings as posted on OneDrive. Cammy Burling seconded and the motion carried.
- 2) TREASURER'S REPORT—Sandy's report was posted on OneDrive. She also reported that the current balance in the checking account is \$19,234.84 and the balance in the temporary account is \$18,170.26. Cammy Burling made a motion to accept the report and pay the bills. Claudia Chalk seconded and the motion carried.
- 3) FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT-Jeff reported:
 - Clarified the amount deposited on December 6, which included \$3,812.00 withholding refund from payroll tax from 2018.
 - Projected income for 2020 looks to be in the \$150,000 range.
 - All 2020 donations will be deposited by December 30.
- 4) TECH REPORT-Craig reported that he is working with Paul to learn video editing.
- 5) PASTOR'S REPORT-- Paul reported:
 - Our services or devotional videos are still being viewed more on Facebook than via the webpage.
 - Paul thanked Melinda, the choir, musicians, and bell choir for their willingness to go above and beyond to provide music during this time.
 - Craig has purchased Corel VideoStudio and has been learning how to do video postproduction. Paul is immensely thankful for help with the video ministry.
 - Committees need to send in annual reports ASAP.
 - Paul and Patricia will be on vacation from December 25-January 1. He will provide a devotional video for December 27.
- 6) CE BOARD—Claudia reported:
 - Wednesday night class is on hiatus.
 - There will be a virtual Christmas party for the Sunday School children on December 20 @ 2:00.
 - Work continues on the virtual Christmas play.
 - Children's Chat videos will be continued.
 - Revision of the Constitution and adding new members will be discussed next year.
- 7) MISSION—Sarah reported:
 - The White Gift Program is moving forward. We are providing food for 10 families and buying gifts for 33 children.
 - The team is preparing for an overwhelming need in the new year.
 - Family Promise is currently helping 10 families who have been in the program but now have housing.

- 8) STEWARDSHIP—Cammy reported:
- November meeting was focused on the budget and the creation of dropdown selection menu for donations in Breeze.
 - Annual Report will be turned in very soon.
- 9) TRUSTEES—Sally reported:
- On behalf of the Trustees, Sally entertained a motion that we accept the city's recommendation regarding splitting the alley between the white house and the adjacent property. Charlene Rogers seconded and the motion carried. Daryl will sign the letter, have it notarized for return to the city.
 - Olympic snow removal contract is the same this year as last.
 - Annual Report will be in by December 9.
- 10) WORSHIP/MINISTRY—Fred reported that this committee has not been able to meet. Karen Zimmerman and Marion Gosney will not serve on this committee in 2021. Connie Ballinger and Mindy Connell will serve on the committee in 2021. Debbie Yeager will serve as chairperson.
- 11) VICE-PRESIDENT---Charlene reported:
- In an effort to reduce the amount of paper passed on to the next VP, Charlene has been able to throw away some papers and reduced two binders down to one. Much of the information was already stored on OneDrive. She will work with Craig to scan necessary Investment Committee documents.
 - Claudia has been given a list of VP duties and examples of documents she might see.
 - Jeanne Greiser will chair the Parish Staff Evaluation Team.
 - Charlene made a motion that Council approve the Vacation Policy for Staff. Sally McNichols seconded and the motion carried.
 - Daryl asked if the Investment Fund total should be mentioned at each Council meeting. It is provided in a folder on OneDrive.
- 12) PRESIDENT'S REPORT—Daryl reported:
- Committee Annual reports need to be in ASAP.
 - The Constitutional revision project has been tabled until 2021. Roger VonStrohe will serve on this committee.
 - A discussion was held regarding the feasibility of beginning in-person services at this time. Also, the possibility of meeting outdoors on Christmas Eve for caroling was discussed. Cammy Burling made a motion to suspend in-person services until further notice, with the exception of a caroling event on Christmas Eve. Charlene Rogers seconded and the motion carried.
 - A discussion was held regarding the best way to conduct the business of the Annual Congregational Meeting. Daryl proposed providing the congregation with the budget and the slate of officers via mail and email. There will be an opportunity for people to send in questions. Jeff/Daryl can provide answers through a email. A timeline was discussed
 - Daryl thanked the Council for their support during his term and Council members thanked him for his leadership, especially during this unprecedented time.

The next meeting will be held on January 12, 2021, at 7 PM. The meeting was adjourned and Council prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Yeager, Recording Secretary



St. Paul's Church
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Where God is still speaking