



St. Paul's Church



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Where God is still speaking

February 2023
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!





Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday; Time to reflect and share our thanks, for this is the time that we remember the greatest sacrifice.

A Message from Pastor Paul Forrey

This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 22. We will honor this religious ceremony with a service at 7:00pm. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40-day church season of Lent.

Historically, Lent is a period of personal reflection and penitence.

During the moving Ash Wednesday ceremony, the ashes—from which Ash Wednesday gets its name—were placed on the foreheads of the faithful with the words from Genesis: *“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”* While this service was widely used after the seventh century, there is evidence that such a service originated in the sixth century and was at first confined to people doing penance for grave sin. Clergy would comfort and encourage penitents by submitting themselves to the same public contrition.

Today the Ash Wednesday service is used for all people to reconnect our need for Christ and the forgiveness that Christ offers. Very often the service provides periods of extended silence for personal prayers and reflection. The point is not merely that we apologize to God for the sins we have committed, but that we recommit ourselves to transformed living. As mortal humans, we sin. We fall short of the lives to which God calls us. That's the penitence part. But in Christ, we have been raised up into new people, reconnected with the divine within, so Christ empowers us to live in new ways, freed from the sinfulness and temptations that previously held us captive. The Ash Wednesday service offers us the opportunity to publicly make that commitment to transformed living.

I hope you will join us for the Ash Wednesday Service on February 22!



The Gospel of John

During the season of Lent, we will progress through the Gospel of John. John's gospel is unique among the four New Testament accounts of Jesus' life. Many of the stories that appear in Matthew, Mark, and Luke do not appear in John. John includes quite a few stories that do not appear in the other gospels. Where the first three gospels are primarily concerned with the Kingdom of God that Jesus inaugurates, John is primarily concerned with who Jesus is—the light and love of God—and what our active belief in Christ achieves for us.

We will explore the major themes in John's gospel through our series, and each week I will ask you to read portions of the book for the following Sunday. My hope is that this series will move each of us into a deeper reflection into who Jesus is *for us*, and what his continuing presence achieves in our lives.

Snow Cancellation Guideline

Per a Church Council decision several years ago, anytime Campbell County is in a Level 2 or higher snow emergency, all church activities including worship are cancelled.

We will send out notifications, but please remember this guideline.

THANK YOU

The Worship Team would like to thank everyone who helped make our church extra beautiful during the Christmas Season. Special thanks to Karey Thomas and her crew for decorating the sanctuary. Also, thanks to the Monday Men for their willingness to help move everything.

We also say a big thank you to Pastor Paul, Melinda, Mindy, the choir, and all the musicians for all their hard work and preparation during Advent and Christmas.

I would like to thank everyone who sent me Christmas cards. Your thoughtfulness and well wishes were really appreciated. I loved hearing from so many of you.

Sincerely,
Jackie Baker

Thanks to everyone who sent Christmas cards at Christmas time and those who wrote cheerful notes and wishes. Also thanks for the candy and trinkets.

Love,
Wilma Smith

JOKE OF THE MONTH

After graphically telling the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was brutally beaten, robbed, and left for dead, Mrs. Martin asked her Sunday school class, "If you saw a person lying beside the road all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

A thoughtful little Maggie broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. On Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, Mary is often pictured in art as riding on what animal?
2. To whom did a heavenly host of angels announce the birth of Jesus?
3. From what direction did the Wise Men come to see the baby Jesus?
4. What was the name of the place where Jesus was taken to be crucified?
5. According to the Gospel of John, what were the last words spoken by Jesus?
6. Who was known as a man with great patience?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU:

1. Why did you become a member of St. Paul's?

Mike and I did get married here, but that didn't mean I was automatically going to become a member. I looked up what the UCC was about, and I really liked the UCC's history and what they stood for. All of that information and the fact that the congregation here is so friendly and supportive made me want to join St. Paul's.

2. What is the worst job you ever had?

Working at a convenience store (remember King Kwik?) To save money they would only have one employee in the store, so I'd scramble to stock milk in between customers.

3. Where did you meet your spouse?

At our NKU alumni biology group meetings and activities.

4. Tell us something you wish you were better at doing?

Navigation – if it weren't for the GPS on my phone, I'd be lost most of the time!

5. What gives your life meaning?

My family, church family, friends, working on meaningful projects with like-minded people, teaching, spending time with former colleagues, growing a garden.



Evelyn Dietz

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR MARCH

February 16th

TRIVIA ANSWERS

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1. A donkey | 2. Shepherds | 3. The east |
| 4. Golgotha | 5. "It is finished." | 6. Job |

Faith in Action Team February Update

Big Hearts Make a Big Deal to Families in Need

Thanks to everyone who supported our White Gift program  in December. Your huge hearts  made quite an impact on the 11 families (30 children) who were recipients of the gifts and food for the holiday. In fact, along with these tangible items, many families asked for prayers from the “elves” that helped load up boxes and cars.

- One mother, from the largest family with 9 children, cried when she saw how much we had collected for her and her kids. We made it all fit into the minivan and shared hugs as she thanked us over and over.
- Another grandmother who is taking care of her grandchildren, couldn’t believe our generosity, and asked for prayers for herself regarding an upcoming medical procedure.
- The family that Pastor Paul and Patricia delivered presents to on Christmas morning were astounded by all the gifts. The young boys were so grateful for the gifts of shoes and clothing, and the mother thanked our congregation for thinking of her and her family during this hard time.

From buying gifts and making donations to our “shopper elves” to sorting, boxing, and distributing all these items, a lot goes in to making Christmas bright for our community’s children. It’s just one of the ways that our church keeps “Christ” in “Christmas.” 

Continuing the Promise



The Faith in Action team has launched a new mission project for the new year. Thanks to a grant we received from The United Church of Christ, we are blessed to help those families who have completed the residential Family Promise program, with Continuing the Promise .

While in Family Promise, families are visited every day by volunteers who bring a meal , spend time with the family, listen and provide support. Each family knows that there are teams of people from many churches not only providing meals but cheering them on as they move through the program. After completing the program, families find themselves alone in low-income housing . Continuing the Promise supports families on their way to stability after experiencing homelessness.

Ways for St. Paul’s to support families:

- Monthly phone calls and visits
- Cards
- Gift cards for food
- Gas cards
- School supplies, fees, sports & club fees
- Quarters for laundry
- Monthly gifts of detergents, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, toilet paper

For February, we’re **collecting recipes from congregation members** that are affordable and family friendly. Please send your recipes to either Evelyn Dietz (eedietz@aol.com) or Patricia Ross (prrf1212@gmail.com) or you can print them out and give them to us on Sundays during the month. We would love to have several recipes we can share with these families. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

Family Promise is Thursday Feb 2

Soup Kitchen is Saturday Feb 11

Upcoming Events from your Faith Formation Team

February 12 - Superbowl Backpack Program Collection



one!

February 25 2-4pm (Board) Game Day!

Bring your favorite board games or learn a new
Snacks provided



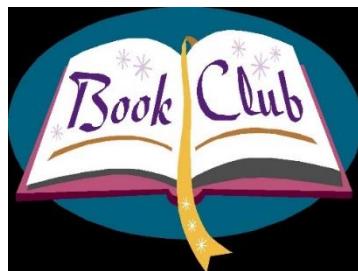
Save the Dates:

March 12 Movie Night for Adults & teens



Spring Book Club

Mondays March 6 & 20, April 3 & 17, 6:30 in the Parish House



What is the Backpack Program?

The Backpack Program provides weekend food for Campbell County students who may go hungry on the weekends when they are not in school.

Every school in the Campbell County School District has churches supporting this program. We all take turns to make sure these kids (who are carefully chosen by the school's Family Resource Center Coordinator) are fed each weekend.



St. Paul's UCC has provided food for Campbell Ridge Elementary students each May since 2011!

We collect donations each Superbowl Sunday by "voting" who will win the Superbowl with our donations.

The goal is to provide kid-friendly, easy-to-make breakfast, lunch, and snack items for each Saturday and Sunday.

Last year we were able to put 9 food items in each “backpack” for the weekend and spent \$957.18 on 256 “backpacks” of food.

St. Paul’s youth and kids will pack up the food on Sunday morning April 30 and a member of the Faith Formation Team will deliver the food to Campbell Ridge. This is a chance for our kids to help other kids in our area.



Donations will be collected February 12 at the beginning of worship.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting this program since 2011.

Serving in February

Liturgist

Feb. 5 Roger VonStrohe
12 Debbie Fowee
19 Amity Kukla
22 Claudia Chalk
26 Evelyn Dietz

Usher

Feb. 5 Everett Harrison, Dorothy Gosney, and Shawn & Logan Hayslette
12 Jim Miller and Margaret Perry
19 Gary Sperry and Sarah Lester
22 Debbie Fowee and Sue Hatfield
26 Everett Harrison & Dorothy Gosney

Coffee

Feb. 5 Cammy Burling
12 Julie Enyart
19 Barb Fausz and Helen McAlpin
26 Debbie Yeager

Communion Set-up

Feb. 5 Debbie Yeager and Sue Hatfield
22 Sally McNichols and Mindy Connell



Feb. 1 Carl Schuchter
2 Helen McAlpin
10 Barb Fausz
10 Grant Kukla
15 Mindy Connell
15 Michael Pohlman
16 Richard Barton
16 Fred Losey
17 Donna Mader

Feb. 19 Leah McDonald
21 Dennis Zimmerman
22 Robin Stacey
23 Sherry Bihl
23 Colleen Losey
26 Julie Behymer
26 Josie Meyer
26 Ken Racke

PRESENT: President - Claudia Chalk; Financial Secretary – Jeff Enyart; Recording Secretary – Janet Van Nevel; Faith Formation – Evelyn Dietz; Faith In Action – Sarah Lester; Worship/Ministry – Debbie Yeager; Development – Cammy Burling; Pastor – Paul Forrey; Incoming Recording Secretary – Julie Behymer.

Council met in the Parish House with a meal. Claudia called meeting to order. Paul let the group in prayer. Council recited the Council Covenant. Claudia welcomed Julie Behymer to Council as the incoming Recording Secretary.

1. RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT: Motion made by Cammy and 2nd by Julie to approve November 2022 Council Meeting Minutes as presented.
2. TREASURER'S REPORT: Claudia reported for Sandy. The current checking balance is \$41,443.98 with \$11,315.03 in outstanding checks for an available balance of \$30,128.95. The balance in the temporary account at Truist Bank is \$200.10. Renovation expenses through November were \$40,168.66. Renovation checks issued in December to date total \$12,391.31 for an annual total of \$52,560.02. Sandy needs to know where to send the checks for the Christian Appalachian Project (\$700) and Heartland Conference (\$815) donations. Sarah will send her the information. Motion made by Evelyn and seconded by Debbie to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Motion passed.
3. FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Claudia thanked Jeff for his 12 years on Council. Jeff reported November was a good month for donations (\$14,182). YYD giving was \$144,613. December is typically a good month. Forecast for annual giving to be \$161K to \$165K; forecasted operating expenses are \$180K to \$187K; projected shortfall is \$19K to \$26K. 2023 budget was approved by congregation on 12/11/22. Giving statements are planned to be available on 1/15/23. Jeff and Janet met regarding the transition of Financial Secretary responsibilities.
4. APPROVAL OF TEAMS' WRITTEN REPORTS: There were no questions regarding the Teams' written reports. Debbie motioned to approve the written reports as posted and Sarah seconded. Motion approved.
5. FAITH IN ACTION: Sarah reported the White Gift pickup for the families is Thursday, December 22nd from 4:00 – 6:00. Gift sorting will be Monday, the 19th at 2:00 pm, kids will be here on 12/22 at 9:00 am to sort the food. Every family will receive gifts, food and household supplies. Canned food was collected through a drive at Cline Elementary.
6. FAITH FORMATION: Evelyn reported they will get together in January to plan out the year.
7. DEVELOPMENT – Cammy reported the “Thank You” letter to go along with the giving statements has been updated.
8. PRESIDENTS REPORT: Claudia would like to schedule a Council Retreat to plan for 2023. She would like each committee to “Tell Their Story”. Retreat scheduled for February 11th at 9:30 am at Charlene Rogers’. Breakfast will be served.
9. Next council meeting is Tuesday, January 10th at 7:00 pm by Zoom.

Cammy motioned to adjourn, Jeff seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Van Nevel

AVENGERS WORD SEARCH

J	Q	J	N	J	W	K	X	D	L	E	I	H	S	H
F	V	K	N	G	P	A	N	W	C	M	K	L	V	E
A	M	B	E	M	X	Y	W	K	I	I	Q	G	E	S
Z	L	R	O	H	T	U	A	B	H	V	R	O	L	W
A	V	E	N	G	E	R	S	N	X	U	L	F	L	N
V	F	P	N	G	A	Z	P	K	E	G	R	E	H	Z
C	A	P	T	A	I	N	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	C
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V	O	F	C	F	A	P	G	M	I	Y	Z	E	E	T
V	R	U	V	A	G	E	O	F	U	L	T	R	O	N
K	I	R	K	L	U	H	E	H	T	C	L	D	J	V
Y	N	Y	C	V	B	Y	R	T	T	A	T	E	O	H

Avengers

Thor

Loki

Nick Fury

S.H.I.E.L.D.

Iron Man

Captain America

The Hulk

Black Widow

Hawkeye

Age of Ultron

SuperHero

