



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 ~

Recently I expressed this point in a number of sermons that I've preached: *the stories that we read in scripture are not merely stories about what God did in people's lives centuries ago; they are stories about what God is doing in our lives now.* Some of us read the Bible primarily on the surface, or literal, level and are concerned only with questions about plotting: Who did what, when, and where?

The Bible itself encourages a different kind of reading and line of questioning, though. When the writers of later books in the Bible explore questions about earlier writings, they are concerned more about the meaning of events rather than the details. In other words, the question the Bible seems to drive us to ask is not so much "*What, precisely, happened and who did what?*" but rather "*Why did this event happen and what does it mean for us today?*"

The events of Holy Week grant us the opportunity to practice this art of interpretational reading of scripture. The treasured scripture stories associated with these important dates in the church calendar do much more than tell us what happened at the end of Jesus' life; these stories teach us something important about what God is doing in our lives today.

- The stories of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem invite us to follow Christ who is our Lord and Sovereign as he rides to confront the injustices of the powers and principalities of the world then and now.
- The stories of the conflict, betrayal, and denial that Jesus faced during Holy Week remind us that we face momentous opposition when we confront injustice and oppression in our world, but also that God is with us.
- The stories of Jesus' resurrection remind us that no power, not even the power of death itself, is stronger than the power of love and mercy. We experience resurrections throughout our lives! Whether we've been brought back from the desolation of addiction or have been renewed following the death of a loved one, we know what it's like to experience new life when it seems like the former life is gone.

Dear friends in Christ, may God bless and uphold us and our congregation in the time to come. May we open our imagination to the rich life that our treasured stories in scripture invite us to realize!

Wednesday Faith Formation Group Video Series

Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture

Beginning Wednesday April 14

Walter Brueggemann, one of America's leading Old Testament scholars and theologians (and a UCC minister), takes us on a wild ride through the poetic prophecy of the Hebrew Scripture, identifying cultural contexts, and putting a framework to Israel's history that draws our attention to the prophetic voice that confronts social and spiritual issues in that history. Bruggeman then draws connections between Israel's sociological, economic, and spiritual history and that of America today, moving us to consider the prophetic role of the church in our time.

Session 1: Moses, Pharaoh, the Prophets and Us

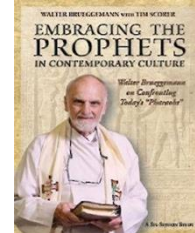
Session 2: The Prophets as Uncredentialed Purveyors of Covenant

Session 3: Moral Coherence in a World of Power, Money and Violence

Session 4: The Shrill Rhetoric that Breaks Denial

Session 5: The Grief of Loss as Divine Judgment

Session 6: The Promissory Language that Breaks Despair



Missions Team Update: The Alexandria Police Dept. Area Referral Connection

Northern Kentucky has a lot of organizations in place to help people in need of food, clothing, shelter, and healthcare services. Unfortunately, sometimes the need for help is greater than the available resources. What happens then?

That's where the Alexandria Police Department's (APD) Area Referral Connection (ARC) comes in. APD's Chief of Police found that about 70% of the calls the department received weren't about crimes, but were social service related. Lead by social workers Cassie Hensley, MSW and Kelly Pompilio, MSW, the ARC team focuses on supporting the everyday needs of our community which in turn will strengthen and empower the citizens who reside here.

It can be a struggle to get resources to families. Whether it's food, clothing, a place to spend the night or treatment for mental health issues or substance abuse, ARC steps in when all other avenues have been exhausted.

Funded by donations from businesses and churches throughout Alexandria, ARC uses this money to meet the needs of people throughout our community. ARC also provides case management services, taking care of more than just the immediate needs of our citizens.

Here are a few examples of how ARC is helping to make a difference in our community by providing the following emergency measures:

- Provide police officers with food and gas gift cards to help people in need when they are on patrol.
- Help those who are homeless and need somewhere to sleep for a night, especially when it's rainy or cold.
- Provide those living in tent cities with food, clothing and hygiene products.
- Help those who are addicted to drugs get the treatment they need.
- Help seniors acquire much-needed healthcare items, like lift chairs.

One ARC success story—and there are a lot of them—helped an Alexandria man turn his life around. The APD had received several calls about a suspicious man walking around the city. Social workers engaged with the man and discovered that he had suffered a traumatic brain injury (which was never diagnosed before). This injury was making it hard for him to keep up with his home or to keep a job. With ARC's help the man was able to not only get the healthcare he needed, but also become a contributing member of our community, volunteering at the Care Mission and eventually getting a job there.

In the hopes of all of us returning to a "new normal" this year, ARC is looking ahead with ambitions to have a youth recreation center where young people can go after school to play games, do homework, get tutoring, and be safe. They are also sponsoring a Story Walk at the Alexandria Community Park, featuring "Positive Ninja." Children are invited to participate in activities located below the pages of the book as they walk through the park. Another project in the works is the "Hidden in Plain Sight" project which educates parents and caretakers on the hidden dangers of teen substance use.

Being responsible for the community funds that fuel this program isn't taken lightly. Each month the ARC team provides an advisory committee with a monthly report of everything donated to the program, resources that were used, and detailed documentation about the efforts made to connect people with other organizations, before using ARC funds.

St. Paul's UCC Supports ARC

As followers of Christ, God is giving us the opportunity to provide our assistance to this organization that makes such a difference in the lives of people in our community. St. Paul's UCC Missions Team is looking forward to making a donation to ARC. Currently ARC can only receive donations from businesses and churches within the community, no personal donations. If you would like to support the work that this team is doing, we invite you to make a donation to St. Paul's and put on the note line: ARC fund. We'll make sure that ARC gets it.

We are also looking forward to partnering with this organization to help provide not only monetary support, but also our congregation's talents in a variety of ways in the coming year. If possible later in the year, we are looking to have members of the team speak to our congregation and tell us more about how they are making our world a better place, for all.

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Apr.	1	Janie Haddix	Apr.	7	Rob & Jayelynn Weinel
	3	Mitchel Haddix			4 years
	3	Logan Hayslette			
	3	Ava Rose Losey			
	7	Betty Bihl			
	10	Dorothy Gosney			
	10	Melinda Schamer			
	13	Scott Dawson			
	14	Linda Krebs			
	15	Austin Jones			
	16	Jim Fausz			
	17	Jean Baker			
	17	Sue Hatfield			
	17	Anna Wheeler			
	18	Kathy VonStrohe			
	23	Alex Kukla			
	23	Patricia Ross			
	23	Beekee Hayslette			
	29	Diana Mote			

Serving in April

Liturgist

Apr. 1 Maundy Thursday

Apr. 4 9:00 am Evelyn Dietz
10:30 am Kathy VonStrohe

Apr. 11 9:00 am Debbie Yeager
10:30 am Debbie Fowee

Apr. 18 9:00 am Patricia Ross
10:30 am Roger VonStrohe

Apr. 25 9:00 am Evelyn Dietz
10:30 am Connie Ballinger

Ushers

Apr. 1 7:00 pm Roger & Kathy VonStrohe

Apr. 4 9:00 am Margaret Perry and Jim Miller
10:30 am Sarah Lester and Connie Ballinger

Apr. 11 9:00 am Patricia Ross and Gary Sperry
10:30 am Roger & Kathy VonStrohe

Apr. 18 9:00 am Jim Miller and Wanda Hornsby
10:30 am Everett Harrison and Connie B.

Apr. 25 9:00 am Margaret Perry and Patricia Ross
10:30 am Debbie Fowee and Sally McNichols

History Corner



School Use

During the 1953 and 1969 school years, public school classes were held in St. Paul's basement due to overcrowding at Alexandria Elementary.

Newsletter Deadline

We would love to have your articles for the newsletter. Please submit articles to the office. The deadline for the April newsletter is April 19th.

Dear Christmas Elves,

This year, we were able to provide caregivers of 105 kids, ages 0-18, with Holiday Assistance. Without your generous support, Christmas would not of been quite as magical. For that, I cannot thank you enough.

With tremendous gratitude,
Mrs. Logan Probst, FRC Coordinator Crossroads and Cline Elementary Schools

Family Fun Night

Outside and distanced in family groups!

Friday April 16th 7pm

*Minute to Win It Games

*Snacks

*Movie at dusk (8:15) *How to Train Your Dragon*



Rain date: 4/23

Bring camp chairs and blankets if you have them! Some chairs will be available.

All families welcome!

YOGA starts again!

Wednesday, April 14
5:30 - 6:15 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Why YOGA?



Improve your flexibility, balance, and strength.

Stretch and move to an eclectic sound track

Enjoy time with friends. Make new friends

Worried about getting up and down - we have chair versions of all exercises.

See you on April 14. Dress in comfortable clothing.

Cost \$5.00

PRESENT: President- Charlene Rogers, Vice President-Claudia Chalk, Financial Secretary-Jeff Enyart, Treasurer-Sandy Smith, Recording Secretary-Debbie Yeager, C.E.-Amity Kukla, Missions-Sarah Lester, Stewardship-Cammy Burling, Worship/Ministry-Connie Ballinger, Trustees-Roger Von Strohe, Tech Support-Craig McAlpin, and Pastor Paul Forrey.

Charlene opened the meeting and said a prayer, and Council members recited the Council Covenant. Charlene expressed her goals for the year. She reminded members to post their reports in a timely fashion and read the reports before each meeting. Her immediate goal is to get the congregation re-engaged.

COVID Update: After a discussion, Roger Von Strohe made a motion to return to in-person services at 9 and 10:30 AM on Sunday, January 17, 2021. Connie Ballinger seconded and the motion carried. Roger will speak at the beginning of services on January 17 to remind the congregation of the safety measures. Paul expressed appreciation to Council for their consideration of his and Patricia's comfort level regarding returning to in-person services. Sarah asked if the yoga class would be allowed to meet in the Fellowship Hall. Roger Von Strohe made a motion that yoga and AA groups be allowed to meet in the Fellowship Hall. Cammy Burling seconded and the motion carried. Groups will be reminded of the safety protocol.

- 1) SECRETARY'S REPORT—Claudia Chalk made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2020 Council meeting as posted on OneDrive. Sandy Smith 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 \$18,064.02 and the balance in the temporary account is \$19,698.68. Cammy Burling made a motion to accept the report and pay the bills. Jeff Enyart seconded and the motion carried.
- 3) FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT-Jeff reported:
 - The use of Breeze for donations was better than expected for 2020. He expects it to be used more in 2021.
 - The budget shortfall for 2020 was less than expected.
 - Projects for 2021 include using Breeze more and creating a chart of accounts.
- 4) TECH REPORT-Craig reported that he is now handling the post-production of the worship videos and children's chats.
- 5) PASTOR'S REPORT-- Paul reported:
 - He is extremely appreciative of Craig's help with video post-production.
 - He thanked everyone who helped make the Christmas Eve caroling event a success, particularly Melinda Schamer, Mindy Connell, the Bell Choir, and members of the Choir.
 - Roger Von Strohe, Charlene Rogers, Sarah Lester, and Jeff Enyart have agreed to work on the task force that will oversee the revision work on the Constitution. Each leadership team is responsible for drafting their section of the document. Sarah and Paul will work with teams to offer assistance.
 - He is working with the Stewardship Team in planning the "Your Church, Our Future" event for later this year. Each leadership team will be asked to develop at least one question pertaining to their ministry that small groups will discuss.
- 6) CE BOARD—Amity reported:
 - The virtual Christmas skit was a success as was the virtual Christmas party. From now on for virtual parties, they will send the link to all families, even those who don't RSVP.
 - There is a need for more volunteers to record Children's Chats.
 - The team is preparing for Lenten activities. Each family will receive a basket with 40 task cards containing a challenge or reflection for each day. For each Sunday during Lent, there will be a large egg with a Bible verse and chocolates. Families will be asked to record a video of a reflection on that verse. This will replace children's chats during Lent.
 - They are considering holding a book study using Zoom.
 - Amity and Evelyn will be looking at the Sunday School rooms to see what they need.
 - Wednesday night group is starting back up.
- 7) MISSION—Sarah reported:
 - Several mission opportunities have been on hold during the pandemic. Family Promise is hoping to be able to receive families in March.
 - The team will discuss ways to help Brighton Center in the future.
 - Sarah praised our congregation for their generosity, particularly for their aid to the Harrell family after their house fire and the success of the White Gift Program. Our congregation helped 10 families with a total of 33 children this Christmas.

- 8) STEWARDSHIP—Cammy reported:
- The team is continuing to make plans for the Your Church, Our Future event.
 - Constitution revisions will be discussed at the next meeting.
- 9) TRUSTEES—Roger reported:
- The sound system is over 25 years old and needs to be replaced.
 - A question regarding the status of the lower level remodeling project was posed. Jeff answered financial questions and Roger answered logistic questions about the on-going project. Eventually, this discussion was tabled until next meeting.
- 10) WORSHIP/MINISTRY—Connie reported:
- The team is grateful to the music ministry for all the work they've put into our worship videos and the Christmas Eve caroling service.
 - They are discussing ways to have communion safely. We have purchased individual communion elements.
 - There is a need to recruit and train ushers and sound board operators.
 - Lent and Easter will be discussed at the February meeting.
 - There will be an article in the next newsletter reminding the congregation to "pass the peace virtually."
- 11) VICE-PRESIDENT---Claudia reported:
- Claudia presented staff vacation policies. After a discussion, Cammy Burling motioned that we amend the policies, changing the wording from "Council must approve it" to "Council will be notified, and approve both. The motion carried.
 - Claudia presented a staff sick leave policy. After much discussion, the policy was sent back to the Staff Parish Relations Team for clarification.
 - The Endowment Committee met in January via Zoom with the Morgan Stanley representative. The current value of the portfolio is \$568,000 including \$121,000 in cash and equivalents. There were no withdrawals in 2020. The committee made the decision to invest \$10,000 per month for the months of January, February, and March in the Vanguard VIG fund. Fred Losey, the committee's authorized contact with Morgan Stanley, will get information to share with the congregation about legacy giving and Required Minimum Distribution charitable giving.
- 12) PRESIDENT'S REPORT—Charlene reported:
- The Membership Team has been working to update the membership list. Letters were sent to members who have been inactive. After receiving responses, they have updated the membership roster to active and inactive. Connie Ballinger made a motion that we change the status of the membership list received from the Membership Team. Sarah Lester seconded and the motion carried.
 - Melinda Schamer has accepted another part time job. She may need a form filled out stating that she has worked at least 125 days with children. Council agreed to provide this document if it is necessary.

The next meeting will be held on March 9, 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