



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

September 2021
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!

Confirmation in the Life of the Church

A Message from Pastor Paul Forrey

September 2021 marks the beginning of a new confirmation class. Five young men will embark on the confirmation journey of learning and discovery this year. I ask all us to reflect on both the history of confirmation and how it is best lived out in the life of the church today.

The earliest generations of Christians were baptized as adults. Catechesis—education and faith formation—was offered as a preparation for baptism when people would affirm their faith. Over the centuries as infant baptism became widely practiced, catechesis was offered to young adults to prepare them to confirm the commitments made for them at their baptism so they could then take their place as full members of the church.

Confirmation has taken many forms. Many of us experienced confirmation as a long (and sometimes grueling) experience during which we were required to memorize information. Some may have been required to provide the correct answers certain questions of faith and doctrine. Others experienced confirmation as a mentorship during which adult church members guided young people into church membership.

Confirmation continues to evolve today. Let's think of the confirmation experience five young people will begin this month as a journey that began long ago and will continue beyond Confirmation Sunday next summer. We are guiding these learners to see themselves and their lives in terms of discipleship. Discipleship is a life-long journey during which we enter into the larger story of all that God has been and is doing in the world. Rarely is there ever one "correct answer" along that journey; God prefers to walk with us into the mysteries of human life and into the mysteries of God's life.

Young people in confirmation this year will learn about the Bible, God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and about the church and our sacred practices. Memorizing information is not the primary goal, however. We are more concerned that our young people come to understand themselves as vital participants in the grand story of what God is up to in the world today and in the grand story of what God is doing in and through our congregation. All that we will teach them will provide them with resources to nurture their relationship with God and with the church that lives in Christ's name. Our focus is lead them to *learn about* God so that they can *know God personally* and lead our church into future expressions of God's power and presence.

Please pray regularly for Camren, Greyson, Jack, Jackson, and Logan in the time to come. Offer them the gift of your Christian companionship and mentorship. Share with them your

faith experiences, and validate theirs. Invite them to participate actively in the work of your leadership team. Recognize and honor the gifts they are already sharing with us. Welcome them as they take on new ministries in the life of our church.

We thank God for our congregation's young people and for the gifts that they share with us.

Announcements

A thank you note from the Campbell County Middle School

Dear Church!

Greetings from Campbell County Middle School. I wanted to say a BIG thank you for the backpacks and ear buds. That's all we needed to complete the needs of 30 students.

May the Lord bless you for generous hearts.

Respectfully,
Tonya Slone, Youth Service Center

THANK YOU

Dear members of St. Paul's UCC,

I want to thank you all for the love you showed my niece, Linda Krebs while she was sick. I was able to talk to her when she was in the hospital and she told me how much she appreciated all the prayers, cards and notes she was receiving from her friends at St. Paul's. Once again, thanks,

Aunt Evelyn Kiefer

THANK YOU

Dear friends of St. Pauls,

Thanks for all the wonderful cards I received for my 80th birthday. Thanks also to those who came to my surprise party.

God has really blessed me with a wonderful and caring church family.

Love,
Evelyn Kiefer

THANK YOU

Dear Friends;

Thank you all for acknowledging your concerns, prayers and offering of help to us. Your kind thoughts and prayers are truly appreciated. I am not going to mention each of you by name for you know your thoughts and offerings of kindness to us. The Lord also cherishes the activities of Rev. Paul as well as those who are members of our church.

It is not certain that Marion will be restored to complete or much better wellness. God bless each one of you for your thoughtfulness, kindness, prayers and remembrance of us in days gone by.

Marion & Dorothy Gosney

Fall Book Club

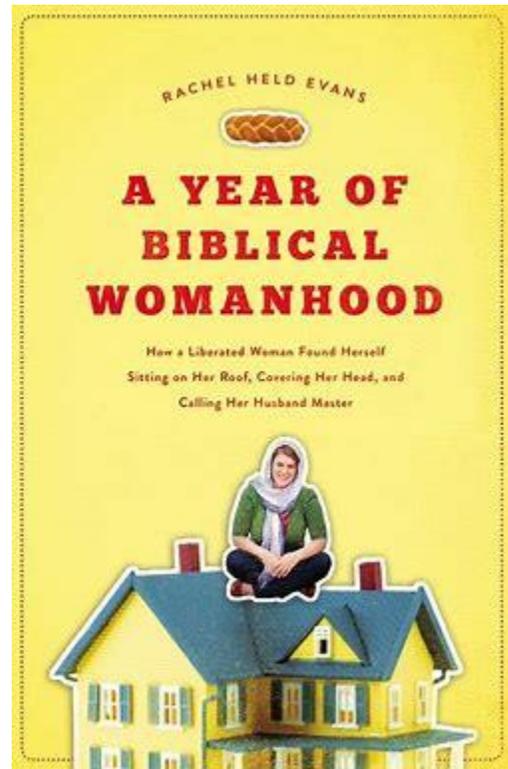
Where: conference room in Parish House

When: Mondays 7pm

October 4 & 18

November 1 & 15

Questions: amity.kukla@yahoo.com



From St. Paul's Faith in Action Team

Backpacks for Back to School

The Faith in Action Team want to thank all of you for your support of Campbell County Middle School! Because of your generosity, we were able to purchase 30 backpacks and 50 earbuds for students at CCMS—just in time for the start of school!

The Youth Service Center Coordinator was thrilled to fill them with other donated supplies and get them to the kids who need them most. As so many people have said before, “We may be a little church, but we make a big difference.”



September Focus: Caring for All Creation

In September we see the beginning of leaves changing color, the mornings and evenings become a bit cooler and pumpkin-spice everything remind us of the awe-inspiring beauty of creation all around us. This is the perfect time to reflect on all God's creation and pray with a grateful heart. So, what better way to kick off the new season than with World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on September 1.

The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation offers individuals communities an opportunity to:

- Reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation
- Thank God for the wonderful handiwork entrusted in our care
- Ask God to help us protect creation as well as forgiveness for the harm we have caused to all God's creation— people, the environment, animals

We Can All Prevent Suicide



September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. During this month, mental health advocates, prevention organizations, survivors, allies, and community members unite to promote suicide prevention awareness. Understanding the issues concerning suicide and mental health is an important way to take part in suicide prevention, help others in crisis, and change the conversation around suicide.

Suicide is not inevitable for anyone. By starting the conversation, providing support, and directing help to those who need it, we can prevent suicides and save lives. What better way to care for creation than helping those who feel all is lost. Learn more about the [risk factors and warning signs](#).

If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, you or they can call the **NAMI Northern Kentucky HelpLine** at **(859) 392-1730** Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. or call the **Suicide Prevention Lifeline** at **(800) 273-TALK or (800) SUICIDE** Anytime 24/7.

Let's Fill the Bowl

Another way you can help care for creation is to provide help for those who take care of animals. The past 18 months have been especially hard for animal shelters. From people being unable to care for their furry friends due to illness, financial struggles, or having to move somewhere pets aren't allowed to those animals left behind after their human passes away, many once beloved pets find themselves in the care of shelters. As part of the call to care for creation, the Faith in Action team invites you to Fill the Bowl in support of the [Campbell County Animal Shelter](#).

During the month, you can bring in your donations to **church on Sunday morning (place them under the table with the bulletins) or drop off your donations in the church office Mon-Thurs 10a – 4p.**



Below is the shelter's Donation Request List. Right now, they especially need **dog toys of all sizes and cat litter**.

- Blankets (no sheets, pillows or pillowcases)
- Bath Towels
- Cat/Dog Treats
- Purina Dog/Puppy Chow
- Purina Cat/Kitten Chow
- Dawn (ORIGINAL)
- Cat Litter
- Fluffy Bath Rugs
- Cat/Dog Toys (no socks or rags)
- Collars and Leashes
- Clorox Disinfectant Wipes
- Paper Towels
- Raw Hides and Pig Ears
- Lysol Disinfectant Spray
- Pet Shampoo and Conditioner
- Nail Clippers
- Hoof Picks
- Plastic or Rubber Curry Combs
- Dandy Brush
- Leather or Nylon Horse Halters
- Horse Lead Rope

Serving in September

Liturgist

Sept. 5 10:00 am Charlene Rogers

Sept. 12 10:00 am Debbie Fowee

Sept. 19 10:00 am Kathy VonStrohe

Sept. 26 10:00 am Roger VonStrohe

Coffee

Sept. 5 9:00am Patricia Ross & Paul Forrey

Sept. 12 9:00am Debbie Yeager

Sept. 19 9:00am Patricia Ross & Paul Forrey

Sept. 26 9:00am Shawn & Beekee

Ushers

Sept. 5 10:00 am Debbie Fowee, Sarah Lester, Roger & Kathy VonStrohe

Sept. 12 10:00 am S. McNichols and Sue Hatfield

Sept. 19 10:00 am E. Harrison and C. Ballinger

Sept. 26 10:00 am Wanda Hornsby and Jim Miller

Teachers

Sept. 5 Claudia Chalk and Amity Kukla

Sept. 12 Sarah Lester and Debbie Yeager

Sept. 19 Paula Pompilio and Evelyn Dietz

Sept. 26 Amity Kukla and Claudia Chalk

Communion Set-up: Sept. 5

Debbie Yeager and Sue Hatfield

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sept.	1	Kathy Miller	Sept.	12	Lewis & Mindy Connell 42 years
	2	Lyndsee Ballinger		18	Tom & Jeanne Greiser 50 years
	2	Don Hatfield		18	Danny & Robin Stacey 44 years
	4	Carol Jean Baker		20	Marion & Dorothy Gosney 63 years
	6	Kim Bowling		20	Jim & Karey Thomas 17 years
	7	Diane Weber		22	Michael & Janet VanNevel 30 years
	9	Robert Weinel			
	10	Dave Burling			
	12	Jack Thomas			
	12	Bill Thomas			
	17	Eric Bihl			
	17	Margaret Perry			
	18	Connie Ballinger			
	18	Pat Harrison			
	19	Larry Boehm			
	19	Asbury Turner			
	20	Martha Anne Schmidt			
	20	Karen Zimmerman			
	21	Larry Giesmann			
	22	Sarah Edington			
	24	Charlene Rogers			
	24	Jocelyn Meyer			
	27	Mark Schamer			
	27	Brenda Steelman			
	27	Lexi Nicholson			
	29	Danielle Rooney			
	30	Debbie Fowee			

(Development)-Cammy Burling, Worship/Ministry-Melinda Schamer, Trustees-Roger Von Strohe, Tech Support-Craig McAlpin, Pastor Paul Forrey.

Charlene opened the meeting with a prayer and Council recited the Council Covenant.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) SECRETARY'S REPORT— Cammy Burling made a motion to accept the May Council meeting minutes as posted to OneDrive. Claudia seconded and the motion carried.
- 2) TREASURER'S REPORT—Jeff Enyart moved to accept the report as posted on OneDrive and pay the bills. Melinda Schamer seconded and the motion carried.
- 3) FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT-Jeff reported:
 - June 6, 2021 giving summary--\$4,036.17 (operating budget) and \$7,000.00 (media system).
 - Breeze update: An option has been added for the donor to cover the transaction fee.
 - Shared 3 year comparison to date graph
 - A line for media system donations can be added to Breeze.
 - Capital Projects Update: Shared a bar graph showing the donations vs investment fund for media system. Also using volunteers will keep the cost down on the lower-level renovations.
- 4) TECH REPORT-Craig reported that Sandy Smith needs a new laptop in order to continue doing her job as treasurer. The cost would be \$450.00. After a discussion, it was determined that this is an emergency situation. Jeff made a motion to purchase a new laptop for Sandy. Cammy Burling seconded and the motion carried. Craig will try to rebuild the old computer so that it can be used for other purposes.
- 5) PASTOR'S REPORT-- Paul urged us all to remember our priority discussed to re-engage our congregation which was discussed in January. At some point we need to grow our congregation but coming out of the pandemic, it is important to reach out to our members who have not come back to services.
- 6) CE BOARD (Faith Formation)—Amity reported:
 - A talent show is planned for Friday, July 16. Kona Ice truck will be there before the show.
 - Children's Chats are still being recorded. They need volunteers.
- 7) MISSION (Faith in Action)—Sarah reported:
 - The team is still waiting for volunteer opportunities to open up after the pandemic.
 - There is a receptacle in church for the empty pill bottles.
- 8) STEWARDSHIP (Development Ministry)—Cammy reported:
 - The Snappy Tomato Pizza fundraiser made \$268.00. They are looking at other fundraising opportunities.
 - They are going to provide a flyer and an envelope at church services for donations for the media system.
 - They continue to plan for the Your Church Our Future event. Hoping to have that event in the fall.
- 9) TRUSTEES—Roger reported:
 - The radiator in the choir room has been repaired. During the repairs, they noticed that it's falling off the wall in the restroom and library. It's been secured and won't have to be replaced at this time.
 - Air conditioning and furnace in the parish house has finally come to the point where it needs to be replaced.
 - Roger contacted ICB to tell them the media system project has been approved. He asked them about a timeline. It looks like we are looking at 6-8 to start the project at best. We will be asked to make a \$5,000.00 deposit, with a larger payment to cover cost of the materials after they are delivered.
 - He suggests we add a category to the budget (in the future) to cover administrative costs.
- 10) WORSHIP/MINISTRY—Melinda reported:
 - The team has been discussing when we can return to one service, when COVID restrictions can be lifted and when we can resume passing communion plates.
 - After a discussion of these items, Melinda made a motion to return to one service at 10:00 beginning on July 4, 2021. Claudia seconded and the motion carried.
 - Melinda made a motion that masks and physical distancing no longer be required at services, but masks are strongly recommended for unvaccinated people and those with immunodeficiencies. Claudia seconded and the motion carried.
- 11) VICE-PRESIDENT---Claudia reported that Melinda will be on vacation on June 27. Mindy Connell has agreed to sub and also subbed on May 23. A discussion was held on paying her to sub. Sandy will check on the amount and who is responsible for signing the purchase request.
- 12) PRESIDENT'S REPORT—No report.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1) Sandy received a letter from Washington UCC asking us to send our quarterly donation directly to them instead of going through SONKA. There has been a transition in bookkeeping at SONKA and our donation was delayed. Paul will contact SONKA to get clarity.
- 2) Cammy Burling made a motion that we support the Fair Board by making a \$100.00 Friend of the Fair donation. Sarah seconded and the motion carried. This cost will be absorbed by the Development Team.
- 3) Sarah asked for Council's approval for the Wednesday night yoga class to advertise in a new Alexandria magazine. Council agreed.

Our next meeting will be held on July 13, 2021 at 7:00 via Zoom. 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—July 13, 2021

PRESENT: President- Charlene Rogers, Vice President-Claudia Chalk, Financial Secretary-Jeff Enyart, Recording Secretary and Worship/Ministry-Debbie Yeager, C.E. (Faith Formation) -Amity Kukla, Stewardship (Development)-Cammy Burling, Trustees-Sally McNichols, Tech Support-Craig McAlpin, Pastor Paul Forrey.

Charlene opened the meeting with a prayer.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) SECRETARY'S REPORT— Sally McNichols made a motion to accept the June Council meeting minutes as posted to OneDrive. Claudia seconded and the motion carried.
- 2) TREASURER'S REPORT— Temporary account=\$19,699.65; Checking account=\$25,406.59; Media system donations=\$15,228.18; Eagle Scout project=\$412. Cammy Burling moved to accept the report and pay the bills. Jeff Enyart seconded and the motion carried.
- 3) FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT-Jeff reported:
 - July giving for first 2 Sundays---\$6,769.14 (operating budget) and \$9,884.14 (total)
 - June 2021 below average but with total giving up.
 - Operating budget giving is up 2.2 percent.
 - There has been phenomenal support for the Media System.
 - Capital Projects Update: By using more volunteer labor, we hope to keep the cost of the first floor renovation down.
- 4) TECH REPORT-Craig reported that he is working on setting up Sandy's laptop. He also added a page about the labyrinth to the church's website.
- 5) PASTOR'S REPORT-- Paul emphasized his gratitude to the leadership teams for their continued efforts to re-engage the congregation. This needs to remain our top priority this year.
- 6) CE (Faith Formation)
 - The talent show is planned for Friday, July 16. Rain date is Saturday, July 24.
 - There have been a few more people volunteer to be aides for Sunday School.
 - Children's Chats are still being recorded. They need volunteers. Claudia asked church leaders to consider doing a children's chat.
- 7) MISSION (Faith in Action)—Paul reported:
 - The team is developing relationships with new partner organizations.
 - The response to the team's efforts during Mental Health Month was very positive. The team is working on more projects year-round to bring awareness to the congregation.
 - Charlene mentioned that members will be serving at the soup kitchen on Sat., July 17.
- 8) STEWARDSHIP (Development Ministry)—Cammy reported:
 - They consolidated envelope numbers and eliminated 40.
 - They continue to plan for the Your Church Our Future event. They need questions from other leadership teams by August 1.
- 9) TRUSTEES—Sally reported:
 - The ceiling is being replaced in the large Sunday School room.

- They have been power-washing the buildings. There is a section in the back of the church that does not get sun and is too high for the trustees to get to, so it may need to be done by professionals.
 - The rose bushes by the parish house are diseased and need to be removed. Sally will plant something else.
 - They are getting bids on replacing the HVAC unit in the Parish House.
 - A window in the large classroom needs to be replaced. This will cost around \$300 and will be part of the renovation.
- Charlene brought up a conversation she's had with Roger about Coffee Hour. After a discussion Council agreed to have coffee in the library at 9:15. We will add donuts on August 1.

10) WORSHIP/MINISTRY—Debbie reported:

- We will return to passing the communion plates as of Sunday, Aug. 1.
- We would like to recruit some new members for our team.

11) VICE-PRESIDENT---Claudia reported that she will meet with Ben to discuss the best way to set up the tables in Fellowship Hall for Sunday School.

12) PRESIDENT'S REPORT—Charlene said that she has been asked if we are going to do a new pictorial directory. After a discussion, it was determined that we will not. We will encourage people to make better use of Breeze. Charlene and Craig will work on an article for the next newsletter and a printed page of directions to help people access Breeze. There is an updated non-pictorial directory in the back of church.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Postage will be going up on Aug. 1. After a discussion, it was decided to just have Darlene continue to buy a roll of stamps when needed.
- Charlene and Claudia will form a nominating committee to fill the positions of Vice President and Recording Secretary for next year. The leadership teams will provide a list of their members to the nominating committee.
- We will have a Recruitment Sunday during the service on Sunday, August, 29. Each team will make a 5-minute presentation explaining the functions of their team and the advantages to being an active part of their work. Team members will be available after the service to answer questions. Claudia will get refreshments for after the service.

Our next meeting will be held on August 10, 2021 at 7:00 via Zoom. Sally McNichols motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Enyart seconded and the motion carried. Council prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Yeager, Recording Secretary



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