



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



# St. Paul's Church

"The Light" Newsletter  
October 2019 Edition

## Toward a New Future

This fall the Wednesday Night Discussion Group enjoyed conversation inspired by a video series titled, “Painting the Stars.” The series was produced in order to generate new dialogue between scientific knowledge and religious wisdom; at every point the series attempts to avoid binary categories such as “right or wrong,” “good or bad” and instead point to bridge-building categories such as “both-and.” The scientific story and the faith story each contribute to our understanding of who we are and how we relate to the universe we inhabit.

All dimensions of our lives, including biology, culture, economics, and religion are perpetually evolving. We discussed ways that the Christian faith, from the biblical eras through today, has always been evolving, changing, and adapting.

The series closed by prompting us to consider next steps on the evolutionary journey for the Christian church. In response to 50 years of declining religious participation in North America and Europe, Christian churches and denominations have been exploring new outer forms—changes in worship practices, musical styles, church architecture and furnishings—and asking fundamental questions about the core role and mission of the church.

Our group considered ways that our own congregation has evolved over our long history, and we imagined further steps along our evolutionary journey.

- ✓ We commended those young people around the world standing up for environmental and social justice, and we talked about seeking ways to empower and equip young people in our own community who speak up for causes important to them. We have a great deal to learn from younger generations!
- ✓ We discussed the commitment to inclusivity in our own denomination, and affirmed the biblical call to welcome the stranger and the “other” into the life of the church. The

church must be a safe place for people to discover who they are and who they are becoming as children of God.

- ✓ Many in our group recognized that in our increasingly interconnected and multicultural world, Christians have an opportunity to meet people from other religious traditions to learn about them and their religious values.
- ✓ We affirmed the important role of small groups in the life of the church to develop relational intimacy far deeper than we can achieve on Sunday mornings alone.
- ✓ We recognized that in an evolving system, challenges represent opportunities to grow, adapt, and discover new forms of life and vitality.

We hope that all members of St. Paul's UCC will join in the conversation about what new life God is calling the church to embrace. Jesus talked about the "new wine" that God is bringing into the world, urging followers to remember that new wine calls for new wine skins. What "new wine" is God creating in our midst, and what new wineskins must we create in order to participate in that new thing God is doing?

Beginning October 9, the Wednesday Evening Discussion Group will read and discuss a book by Richard Rohr titled, *"The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation."* In this book, Rohr uses the Trinity—Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit—as a model to inspire new thinking about how we understand and participate in community with ourselves and with one another. Please join us!

#### History from the St. Paul's Archives

##### At the **January 19, 1964** Annual Meeting:

The Pastor's Report was given by Rev. Bartholomew detailing the Worship Services conducted and other Ministerial functions performed during 1963. He also very firmly stated his position as a "servant of God and a servant of all men, regardless of race, creed, or ethnic background."

A letter was read by Rev. Bartholomew from Rev. Ben Herbster reminding us of action taken by the General Synod, United Church of Christ, urging all churches to declare themselves as "open churches" without regard to race, class or ethnic background.

## THOSE WHO SERVE IN OCTOBER

### Liturgist

Oct. 6 Amity Kukla  
13 Roger VonStrohe  
20 Debbie Yeager  
27 Daryl Knauer

### Coffee

Oct. 6 Patricia Ross  
13 The Hayslettes  
20 Tim Ash  
27 Debbie Yeager

### Acolyte

Oct. 6 Mitchel Haddix  
13 Shae Weinel  
20 Greyson Ballinger  
27 Kynslee Ballinger

Communion Set-up: Oct. 6 - Sally McNichols

### Ushers:

Oct. 6 10:30 Asbury Turner, Jim Miller,  
Cameron McDonald and Debbie Fowee

Oct. 13 10:30 Leah McDonald and Sue Hatfield

Oct. 20 10:30 Marion & Dorothy Gosney

Oct. 27 10:30 Shawn Hayslette & Pat Schuchter

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

## **October**

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

|           |                         |           |                                     |
|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>5</b>  | <b>Carrie Bihl</b>      | <b>5</b>  | <b>Delbert &amp; Margaret Perry</b> |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Brianna Harrell</b>  |           | <b>56 years</b>                     |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Lilla Losey</b>      |           |                                     |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Andrew McNichols</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>Kevin &amp; Claudia Chalk</b>    |
| <b>15</b> | <b>Cameron Losey</b>    |           | <b>32 years</b>                     |
| <b>18</b> | <b>Scott Fryman</b>     |           |                                     |
| <b>19</b> | <b>Judy Munninghoff</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>Jason &amp; Sarah Edington</b>   |
| <b>20</b> | <b>Lauren Boehm</b>     |           | <b>16 years</b>                     |
| <b>20</b> | <b>Audrey Thomas</b>    |           |                                     |
| <b>21</b> | <b>Jonathan Fausz</b>   | <b>26</b> | <b>Roland &amp; Patricia Wright</b> |
| <b>23</b> | <b>Samantha Thomas</b>  |           | <b>55 years</b>                     |
| <b>26</b> | <b>Claudia Chalk</b>    |           |                                     |
| <b>29</b> | <b>Sarah Kempheus</b>   | <b>26</b> | <b>Dave &amp; Cammy Burling</b>     |
| <b>30</b> | <b>Janet Van Nevel</b>  |           | <b>6 years</b>                      |
|           |                         | <b>28</b> | <b>H. McAlpin &amp; B. Fausz</b>    |
|           |                         |           | <b>5 years</b>                      |
|           |                         | <b>30</b> | <b>Jeff &amp; Julie Enyart</b>      |
|           |                         |           | <b>14 years</b>                     |



St. Paul's UCC, Alexandria, KY

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—August 13, 2019

PRESENT: President-Connie Ballinger, Vice President-Daryl Knauer, Recording Secretary-Debbie Yeager, Treasurer-Sandy Smith, Trustees- Sally McNichols, C.E.-Claudia Chalk, Missions-Sarah Lester, Worship-Fred Losey, Stewardship-Jayelynn Weinel, and Pastor Paul Forrey.

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

- 1) SECRETARY'S REPORT---Minutes from the July meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Sally McNichols and seconded by Sandy Smith. Motion carried.
- 2) TREASURER'S REPORT—July 2019 Expense and Temporary Accounts were reviewed. Motion to accept reports and pay bills was made by Claudia Chalk and seconded by Fred Losey. Motion carried. Sandy reported that the profit from the Summer Social stands at \$736.27 as of now. We received notice from the UCC that the cost for bulletin covers is going up twenty-five cents per 100.
- 3) PASTOR'S REPORT---Pastor Paul reported the following:
  - On July 15 he officiated at the funeral service for Fred Riley at the Alexandria Funeral Home, followed by a graveside service. On August 10, he participated in a memorial service for Ellis Lang. He expressed gratitude to the members of the congregation who helped prepare the church and the bereavement lunch.
  - He is grateful for the opportunity to participate in the UCC clergy group on Thursday mornings. This group is an excellent resource. The group is planning a pulpit exchange for Sept. 22, Sept. 29, and Oct. 6. He will only participate one week. The sermon theme for the series is Living Confidently. There will be a picnic for the participating churches at Highland Hills Park on Oct. 6.
  - Along with other pastors from the group, he signed an open letter to the City of Dayton, KY affirming an ordinance extending protections to LGBTQ persons assuring fair treatment and opportunities. He did not include the name of the

church he serves since he did not have the opportunity to discuss this with the congregation and put it to a vote.

- A discussion of the church's mission statement with the Wednesday night study group posed the question--How can we better spread the good news about what God is doing at St. Paul's? He had the following suggestions for us:

- 1) Committees and ministry teams should do all that they can to spread the good news about what God is doing through the work of our congregation. Committees should make sure to get the word out through the newsletter and extend invitations to participate.
- 2) We need to be aware of the need for exposure in the community.
- 3) We need to form a membership group to increase Sunday attendance and increase fellowship activities. Connie suggested also contacting in-active members.

4) TRUSTEES' REPORT--- Sally reported the following:

- The primary Sunday School classroom is being used as the "lab" room as the remodeling of the lower level progresses.
- There were some issues with the telephones due to a recent storm. The modem in the Parish House has been replaced. Routers and WIFI routers will be replaced.
- The 2 sanctuary doors facing Jefferson St. are being repaired.
- The parking lot repaving project should start Monday, Aug.19.

5) CHRISTIAN EDUCATION---Claudia reported the following:

- 20 people attended the Florence Freedom game.
- Aug. 18 will be Celebration Sunday. We will honor the students, teachers, especially Charlene Rogers who is retiring from teaching the Confirmation class. There will be speakers to inform the congregation of educational opportunities. There will be cake and punch afterwards.

- Acolyte training was held on August 11.
  - We need more people to volunteer to teach Sunday School.
  - We need a file cabinet that locks to store the safe church forms.
- 6) MISSIONS COMMITTEE---Sarah reported the following:
- HONK is Saturday, Aug. 17.
  - Family Promise is Aug. 20-21.
  - Isaiah Ministry is Aug. 31.
  - We are gathering new girls' and women's underwear for a special need at CCMS Resource Center.
  - Mission trip for 2020 is still up in the air. We are considering a trip with First Presbyterian of Ft. Thomas or looking into an emergency related trip.
- 7) WORSHIP COMMITTEE---Fred reported the following:
- Currently reworking the visitor bags. The church brochure is being redone and new UCC brochures are being ordered.
  - Carespring Ministry will begin again on Sept. 15 at 2:30. Evelyn Kiefer is the contact person.
  - Usher training will occur soon. Connie will send the document used last training to Fred and Paul.
  - There has been an on-going discussion about having assigned greeters. The committee members and ushers will continue to greet visitors.
- 8) STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE---Jayelynn reported the following:
- July giving---\$9885.00
  - Jeff, Sandy, and Jayelynn will be meeting monthly to explore ways of making it more efficient to give monetary donations to the church.
- 9) VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT---No report
- 10) PRESIDENT'S REPORT---Connie reported the following:
- Unfinished Business
- Council job descriptions are due in September.
  - The Summer Social was successful fellowship.
  - A group of ladies from the church have requested to meet once a month for fellowship.



NEW BUSINESS—Connie reminded committee chairs that their budgets for 2020 are due by the October 2019 meeting. Jeff needs to have time to prepare the budget for the Congregation to approve at the December Congregational Meeting. Next Council Meeting is Sept. 10, 2019 at 7 PM in the Parish Conference Room. Jayelynn Weinel motioned to adjourn; Sandy Smith seconded. Motion carried. Meeting ended with Council reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Yeager, Recording Secretary



# **SATURDAY, NOV. 2ND**

# **2019 SONKA FALL**

# **GATHERING**

We would like to invite you to the 2019 SONKA Fall Gathering! We will have greetings from the new Ohio Conference Vice Moderator Tom Hathaway. Find out what is going on throughout our association. Connect and enjoy a day of fellowship.

Early registration is \$25. MID & Retired Ministers \$10  
Prices increase to \$30/\$15 respectively on 10/23. Sign-in begins at 8:30 a.m.



**Saturday, Nov. 2**  
**9 AM – 1 PM**  
**Sign-in at 8:30 AM**

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**Faith United**  
**Church of Christ**  
**6886 Salem Road**  
**Cincinnati, OH**

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**Inspiration and**  
**Celebration**

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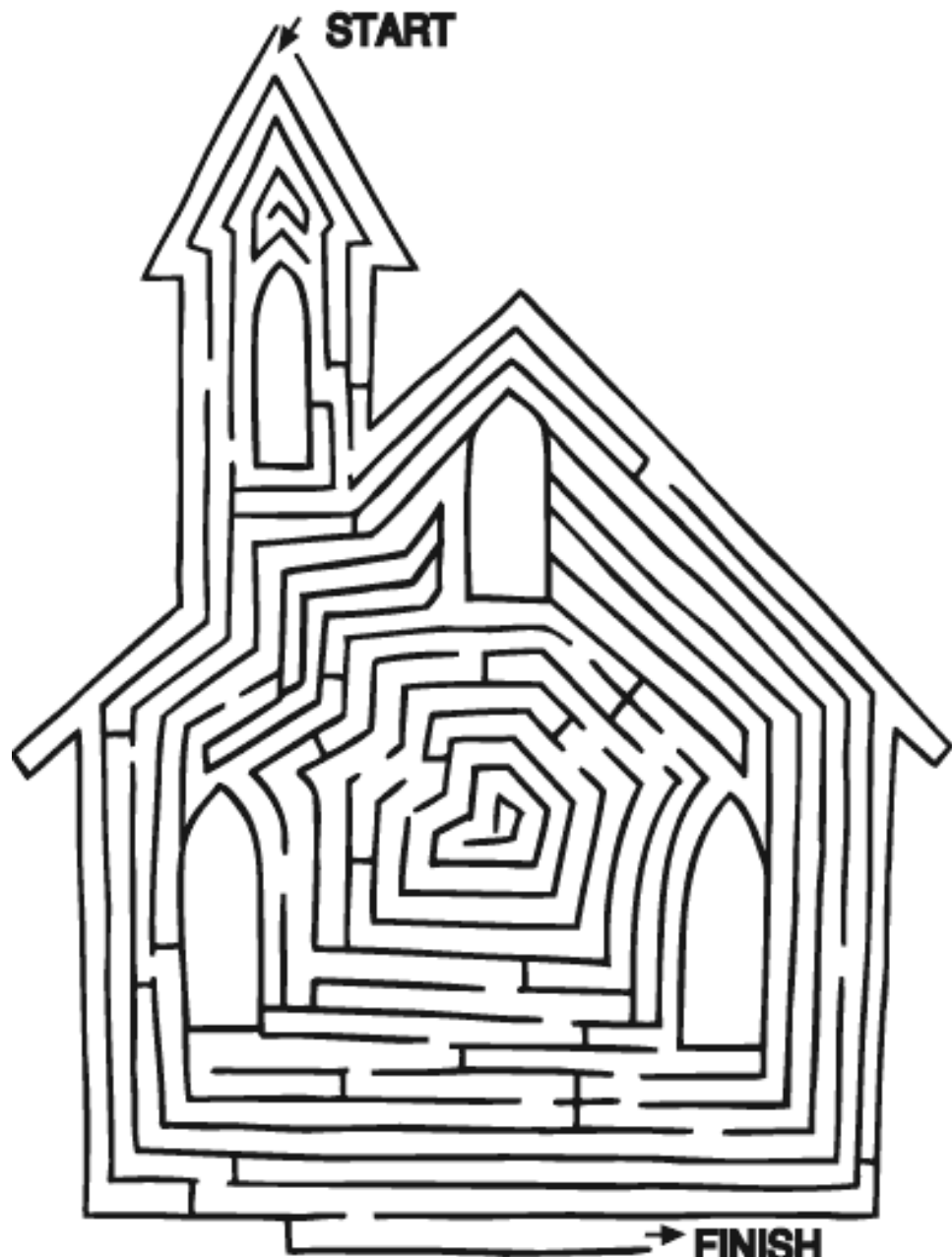
**Business Meeting**

**REGISTER AT THE**  
**SONKA WEBSITE!**

Click 'SONKA News' on the  
homepage and look for  
the 2019 SONKA Fall  
Gathering

[www.sonkaucc.org](http://www.sonkaucc.org)

**START**



**FINISH**

# St. Paul's Church

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