



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

## A Message from the Church Council

Dear St. Paul's Family,

**At a virtual meeting on Monday evening, Council made the very difficult decision to cancel in-person services from November 29 through December 6.** Council will meet again after the 6th to consider what our next steps should be.

There were many important factors to consider. Members of our congregation have tested positive for the disease. Governor Beshear has recommended that in-person worship be suspended for 4 weeks. The Heartland Conference of the UCC has recommended that churches cancel in-person worship for the remainder of the year.

Council was reluctant to close for that period of time right now, especially as we are going into Advent season. We are trying to weigh the benefits of being able to worship together during this much-loved time in the church calendar against the potential risk to the health and safety of the congregation.

**We welcome your input.** It is our hope that before December 6 that you will reach out to me (dbknauer@yahoo.com), Pastor Paul (rev.pesf@gmail.com) or anyone on Council to share your thoughts on in-person services.

In the meantime, stay safe, keep washing those hands and practicing social distancing.

Peace to you and your loved ones,  
Daryl Knauer  
Council President

The Church Council is considering several options for us to hold our 2020 Annual Meeting.  
*More information will be communicated soon.*

## A Message from Pastor Paul and Patricia

Blessings and grace to you, in the name of God's Anointed One whom God sent at Christmas! The Advent and Christmas season is often a fast-past, exciting time in the church. Advent marks a vital thematic period in the church year. The excitement and anticipation that swells in our hearts as we prepare for Christmas reminds us of the Christian yearning for the consummation of God's promises sometime in the future. During Advent we recall the history of God's people and reflect on how the promises of God in the Old Testament were fulfilled in Jesus. Doing so gives us a powerful context for the present. Today we can reflect on the past works of God and begin to understand what God's deeds mean to us now and for our own future. *What promises of God do we long to be fulfilled?*

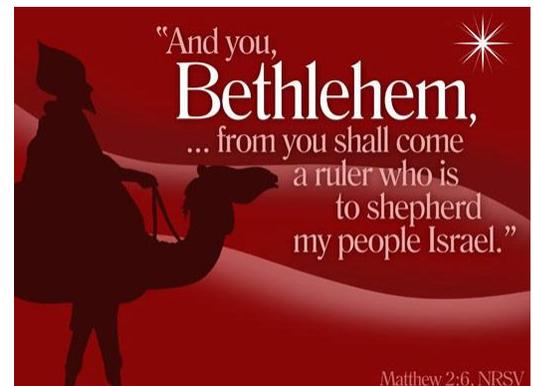
And yet, we must reflect upon and express that excitement and anticipation during a period of profound uncertainty, even uncertainty about whether we can gather for worship on Christmas Eve. Patricia and I encourage all of us, as we will do together, to strive for that depth of spiritual practice that refuses to let the profound themes of this season—including hope and active anticipation—fail us because we face national and global trauma. Now more than ever, we must trust in God's promises for the future!

This Advent, more than any the past, we are forced to meditate upon the themes of the

Praise to our God who loves us and comes to us in Christ!

Advent candles in the privacy of our homes. I will offer some reflections upon the themes of each candle throughout the season; I will do so in messages if we can resume services in December or through video devotionals if we cannot resume services. The focus of these messages will be ways that we can live out those themes—hope, peace, joy, and love—throughout the week. Please think of these seasonal themes not so much as concepts that we include in worship each year but as vital spiritual practices that, with long-term, committed action, help us grow into the followers of Jesus we intend for ourselves and allow the light of Christ to envelop us more fully.

Patricia and I pray that the new year will bring you and our congregation immense blessings! January inaugurates a new year in the life of our congregation. January is named after the god Janus who in Roman mythology is the god of beginnings or transitions. Janus was usually depicted as having two faces; one face looks to the past and the other face to the future. This is an inspiring metaphor for our congregation! In 2021 we look back to the adaptive changes we made in 2020 due to the pandemic, and we also look to the future trusting that God's continuing presence will open avenues to new ministries that empower people in our community to live abundantly and peacefully.



## White Gift Program Update

The year 2020 has been a challenge to say the least. As you read in the November Newsletter, we want to continue our White Gift Program this year. The Mission Team will need your help to make this annual event a success.

The Family Resource Coordinator from Crossroads Elementary and Cline Elementary has provided us with information for ten families in our community who need help with providing Christmas for their families this year. Among these families, there are 33 children that we are trying to provide with gifts.

Because we are not having in-person services at least through Sunday, Dec. 6, we need to be creative in how we get the gifts. Below are two ways you can help brighten a child's Christmas morning this year.

### Be your own shopper

If you wish to purchase a gift or gifts, that would be great! Here's what you need to do:

1. Call **Debbie Yeager** at **859-630-0072** or email her at [dayeager627@gmail.com](mailto:dayeager627@gmail.com) and she will let you know what gifts are needed. **Please contact Debbie by Sunday, Dec. 6** if you want to purchase a gift.
2. Once purchased, please **wrap the gift and put a note on it regarding the Family Letter (A,B,C ...)** and the child's info (**Boy, 7 or Girl, 12**). It would also help if you **put your name on the piece of paper** to help us ensure all children receive the right gift.
3. **Deliver the gift, wrapped and labeled, to the church office by Thursday, Dec. 17.** You can deliver your presents to the church office which will be open Monday thru Thursday from 10 AM to 4 PM.

### Have the elves do the shopping

If you can't do your own shopping, but you want to participate in this event, you can make a monetary donation. We have elves who have volunteered to do the shopping for you!

1. You can **mail a check to the church office or drop off your donation** at the office Monday through Thursday from 10 AM to 4 PM.
2. Make sure that you indicate that your donation is for the **White Gift Program on the note section** of your check.
3. Monetary donations must be **received by Sunday, Dec. 13.**

Thanks in advance for your help with this important event!

### Important Dates:

**12/6** last day get a child's gift wish from Debbie

**12/13** last day to make a monetary donation so the elves can shop for you

**12/17** last day to drop off all wrapped and labeled gifts to the church office

## A Thank You Message from the Stewardship Team

Thank you for your generous giving to the mission and ministries of our church in 2020! Your selfless giving of time, talents, and financial resources equips our church to witness to Christ's new realm on earth. Our giving is an expression of our thanksgiving and praise for God; it comes from a worshipful heart that recognizes all we have as a gift from God. Stewardship is one of the primary ways Christ calls us to live and work together as a congregation.

Over the last month we have heard messages from Charlene, Debbie, and Martha Anne during which they shared their love of contributing the abundance of their resources to our congregation, and encouraged us to continue in our shared work. We heard from Sarah, Claudia, and Sally who highlighted ways that we express our love of neighbor, love of children, and love of creation. Cammy and Jeff shared a message about the vital contribution that our generosity makes to our faith community. We are sure that these messages inspired you as they did us!

2020 has been a challenging year for us as individuals, families, and a congregation. The spread of Covid-19 has impacted our personal lives, work lives, and daily routines. We praise God that through all of this uncertainty, our commitment and contribution to the work of our congregation has remained strong. Because of you, we are fulfilling our mission statement:

*"St Paul's Church shares the good news of Jesus Christ by worshiping God, serving others, nurturing one another in faith, fellowship and welcoming all persons with love."*

We are convinced that 2021 will be a blessed year for our congregation! We trust in God's faithfulness to move us to faithfully expand the influence of our ministries within and beyond our congregation. Inspired by God's faithfulness, and inspired by the messages shared by Charlene, Debbie, Martha Anne, Sarah, Claudia, Sally, Cammy, and Jeff, we can look forward to a fruitful upcoming year. As we thank you for your diverse support to our congregation's mission, we encourage all of us to envision the opportunities if we increase our contributions!

*"And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good stewards of God's diverse gifts" (1 Peter 4:10).*

Blessings to you and to our congregation,

St. Paul's Church Stewardship Team

## From the Missions Team

### 6 Ways to Stay Safe at Home and Volunteer to Help Brighton Center

As we end a most unconventional year and begin a new one filled with hope, the Mission's Committee invites our church family to reflect on the impact we have had on families in our community, those in need in the Greater Cincinnati area, and people around our country and the world. We also want to introduce you to a new opportunity to share your time, talents, and treasures for 2021.

In January of 2021, we're launching a new mission opportunity: Brighton Center. Brighton Center creates opportunities for individuals and families throughout our area to reach self-sufficiency through family support services, education, employment, and leadership by providing critical programs and services that help the community grow and thrive.

During the pandemic they have remained committed to serving the community and have adapted how they provide services. This also includes adapting their volunteer opportunities. That's why they created Safe-at-Home Volunteer Opportunities to support a variety of their programs.

Below are 6 safe-at-home projects you can do while staying at home or even in small (physically distanced) groups. We are also looking for volunteers to manage these projects, such as scheduling deliveries, coordinating collections, and providing updates to the Missions Committee.

#### **1. Make Fleece Bow-Tie Blankets for Every Child Succeeds (ECS) Program**

These fleece blankets are given to infants and young children ages 0-5 years old. Preferred sizes are: 2'X4', 3'X4' or 4'X4' and they can be in any color or themed material. We would collect these at the church and have someone deliver to Brighton Center in Newport. The center will deliver them to families.

Here is a YouTube instructional video about how to make fleece bow-tie blankets.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rQ89wbLOZ8>

#### **2. Create Lesson Plans/Activities for Child Care Center Classrooms**

Preschool lesson plans and activities can be homemade or printed with 20 of each bagged separately. For those who would like to participate but aren't sure how to create a lesson plan, Evelyn Dietz can use your help to cut out and assemble activities that she will print. We will collect these at the church and someone can deliver them to the Center. If you're interested in participating, contact Evelyn at [eedietz@aol.com](mailto:eedietz@aol.com) or Amity Kukla at [amity.kukla@yahoo.com](mailto:amity.kukla@yahoo.com) for more information.

#### **3. Create a "Read a Book" Video for Early Childhood Education**

Make a video of yourself reading a book to toddlers and young children. This is a two-fold project, because we can make copies of these as DVDs to share with local day cares. If you're interested in this project, let Patricia Ross know and she or Paul will send you video-making instructions.

#### **4. Make Cards or Letters of Encouragement**

These cards are for children/youth participating in Early Childhood Education and Youth Services programs, Center for Employment Training trainees, women living at the Women's Recovery Center, and seniors living at one of the three Independent Living Facilities. You can either make, buy, or color cards and envelopes. If you would like to write a note of encouragement in the cards that is appreciated, or you can leave them blank for the staff to write a note. We can collect these at the church and someone can deliver them to the Center.

#### **5. Build Hygiene Kits**

The hygiene kits are distributed to individuals and families when they request assistance with food. These kits include shampoo, bar soap, deodorant, and toothpaste. Donations can be individual items or complete kits put into plastic bags.

#### **6. Make CDC-Regulated Cloth Masks**

This pandemic isn't going away soon enough and there's always a need for adult and child-size masks. Here are instructions from the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-make-cloth-face-covering.html>

The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone in our congregation for everything you do to help God's people. We may be a small church, but we sure make a BIG difference. If you have any questions regarding these projects, please contact Patricia Ross at [prrf1212@gmail.com](mailto:prrf1212@gmail.com).

## December Birthdays

<b>Dec. 1</b>	<b>Cameron McDonald</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Amanda Pohlman</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Jessica McDonald</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Sandy Smith</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Kayla McDonald</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Curt McNichols</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Susan Voelker</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Fay Racke</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Shawn Hayslette</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Wanda Hornsby</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Gary Sperry</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Samuel Edington</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Tom Wheeler</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Benjamin Dietz</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Craig McAlpin</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Jackie Poynter</b>

## December Anniversaries

<b>Dec. 7</b>	<b>Fred &amp; Lilla Losey</b>	<b>52 years</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Paul Forrey and Patricia Ross</b>	<b>8 years</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Roger &amp; Kathy VonStrohe</b>	<b>51 years</b>

## January Birthdays

<b>1</b>	<b>Mike VanNevel</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Roland Wright</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Margie Stormer</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Jim Thomas</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Kevin Chalk</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Ava Christine Winstel</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Julie Enyart</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Matthew Losey</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Ginny Lickert Combs</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Andrew Saunders</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Jackie Baker</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Annette Boehm</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Paul Forrey</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Zachary Dietz</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Roger Windgassen</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Delbert Perry</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Ruth Beck</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Lance Munninghoff</b>

## January Anniversaries

<b>14</b>	<b>Ken &amp; Fay Racke</b>	<b>34 years</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Michael &amp; Amanda Pohlman</b>	<b>11 years</b>

## SERVING IN DECEMBER

### Liturgist

Dec. 13 9:00 am Evelyn Dietz  
10:30 am Charlene Rogers

Dec. 20 9:00 am Debbie Yeager  
10:30 am Kathy VonStrohe

Dec. 24 3:00 pm Patricia Ross  
5:00 pm Sarah Lester

Dec. 27 9:00 am Claudia Chalk  
10:30 am Roger VonStrohe

### Ushers

Dec. 13 9:00 am Wanda Hornsby & Jim Miller  
10:30 am Sarah Lester & Everett Harrison

Dec. 20 9:00 am Margaret Perry & Patricia Ross  
10:30 am Pat Schuchter & Lee Walz

Dec. 24 3:00 pm Gary Sperry & Wanda Hornsby  
5:00 pm Roger & Kathy VonStrohe

Dec. 27 9:00 am Jim Miller & Margaret Perry  
10:30 am Sarah Lester & Debbie Fowee

## SERVING IN JANUARY

### Liturgist

Jan. 3 9:00 am Evelyn Dietz  
10:30 am Debbie Fowee

Jan. 10 9:00 am Debbie Yeager  
10:30 am Charlene Rogers

Jan. 17 9:00 am Patricia Ross  
10:30 am Roger VonStrohe

Jan. 24 9:00 am Claudia Chalk  
10:30 am Kathy VonStrohe

Jan. 31 9:00 am Evelyn Dietz  
10:30 am Sarah Lester

### Ushers

Jan. 3 9:00 am Patricia Ross & Gary Sperry  
10:30 am Roger & Kathy VonStrohe

Jan. 10 9:00 am Wanda Hornsby & Jim Miller  
10:30 am Lee Walz & Sue Hatfield

Jan. 17 9:00 am Margaret Perry & Gary Sperry  
10:30 am Sally McNichols & Everett Harrison

Jan. 24 9:00 am Patricia Ross & Wanda Hornsby  
10:30 am Pat Schuchter & Sarah Lester

Jan. 31 9:00 am Jim Miller & Margaret Perry  
10:30 am Roger & Kathy VonStrohe

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, Tech Support-Craig McAlpin, and Pastor Paul Forrey. Daryl opened the meeting and said a prayer for a pandemic, and Council members recited the Council Covenant.

- 1) SECRETARY'S REPORT—Cammy Burling made a motion to approve the minutes from the September Council meeting as posted on OneDrive. Charlene Rogers seconded and the motion carried.
- 2) TREASURER'S REPORT—Sandy's report was posted on OneDrive. She reported a balance of \$21, 639.55 in the checking account and \$18,169.96 in the temporary account. Sarah Lester made a motion to accept the report and pay the bills. Jeff Enyart seconded and the motion carried.
- 3) FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT
  - Jeff requested budgets from committees who had not yet submitted them. He will send a complete first draft of the budget to Council members before the November meeting. He requested Covid and non-Covid budgets.
  - He reported that for the first time this year we were behind last year's giving in September, but October is looking promising. Our projected total giving for 2020 is \$165,000.
  - Everything is ready for an audit sampling on Nov. 14.
- 4) TECH REPORT-Craig had nothing to report.
- 5) PASTOR'S REPORT-- Paul reported:
  - The numbers for September's in-person services and video viewers were presented. The Facebook page generates significantly greater engagement than the videos posted on the church's website. We will continue to post videos to both platforms.
  - During the October 11 services, Patricia will turn the video camera on the congregation so that those in attendance can share greetings and to provide evidence of safety measures we undertake. Perhaps this will encourage people to attend in-person services.
  - The SONKA Fall Gathering will be held virtually on Saturday, Nov.7. Anyone else can register on-line to attend.
  - Paul and Patricia will be away on vacation from Sunday, November 15 (after the service) through Sunday, November 22. Daryl will deliver a message at the Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> services. Paul will arrange for pastoral care while they are away.
- 6) CE BOARD—Claudia reported:
  - Wednesday night class continues to go well.
  - Family Movie Night was a success.
  - A Sunday School survey for parents will be sent out next week via Breeze. They will call and email those who don't respond to the survey.
  - They are developing a virtual Christmas Play, but Christmas around the World will be postponed until 2021.
  - Their budget changes included moving the Backpack Program to the Mission Team and adding money for remote faith formation events.
- 7) MISSION—Sarah reported:
  - Some existing outreach activities are on hold or progressing in a way that we are not comfortable with.
  - Money was collected to help Brianna Harrell's family after they lost everything in a recent fire.
  - They provided a meal for the family that is currently in Family Promise.
  - Working with Brighton Center to create activities that people can do at home.
  - We're not sure how the White Gift program will work this year. We'll discuss this at our October meeting.
  - The team is working on a new mission statement.
- 8) STEWARDSHIP—Cammy reported:
  - Members of the congregation will speak on Stewardship in October.
  - On October 25, the Mission Committee will speak on the Love of Neighbor. On November 1, Pastor Paul and Sally McNichols will speak on the Love of Creation. On November 8, the Christian Ed Board will speak on the Love of Children. On November 15, Jeff Enyart and Cammy Burling will give the final presentation on stewardship with a focus on financial support.
  - Cammy asked if Craig could meet with individuals who need help with making on-line donations.

- The Your Church, Our Future event is still in the planning stage and hopefully will be held in early spring of 2021.

9) TRUSTEES—Fred reported that they are making progress in getting rid of the Boy Scout items.

10) WORSHIP/MINISTRY—Fred reported:

- On All Saints Sunday we will have 2 large candles for the deceased members but no individual candles to light.
- Council approved the committee's request to resume communion using individual communion elements. We will try to have communion on All Saints Day if the elements arrive by then.
- An additional wireless mic and stand has been ordered. This will be purchased with money that is still available from the Robert Schmidt memorials. We would like to have one more wireless mic. We will check on funds in other memorial accounts or add it to the committee's budget.
- There has been a request to have a modified coffee hour between services. After a discussion of safety protocol, Council agreed to continue with our current policy of no coffee hour.

11) VICE-PRESIDENT---Charlene reported:

- Staff Evaluations were completed in September by the Evaluation Team. All evaluations have been signed and entered into OneDrive.
- Jeanne Greiser has agreed to chair the Evaluation Team. The Vice President will serve on the team and report to Council.
- Claudia Chalk has agreed to run for Vice President of Council for 2021 in the upcoming election.
- It is recommended that a Nomination Team be established in the future to find people to run for offices and various teams of the Council.
- The Investment Committee will meet on November 14 for an audit. They will meet with the representative from Morgan Stanley on December 10. Jeff suggested adding a discussion of a Legacy/Estate Giving Program to the agenda on December 10.

12) PRESIDENT'S REPORT—Daryl reported:

- Daryl asked Council members to let him know if they would like to be on the ad hoc committee being set up to rework the Constitution. Pastor Paul, Charlene, and Sarah have agreed to serve at this time.
- Daryl has developed a list of questions for committees to use when they are working on their section of the Constitution. This will help with consistency and make the ad hoc committee's work go more smoothly.

OLD BUSINESS: The Congregational Meeting will proceed as planned on December 13.

The next meeting will be held on November 10 in the Fellowship Hall at 7 PM. The meeting was adjourned and Council prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Yeager, Recording Secretary