



The Herald



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Robesonia, PA

August 2020



Summer Worship Hours

During the month of August, we are still on our summer worship schedule. There is no Sunday school. Worship is at **9:30am**. Worship will continue to be live steamed and Zoomed. There will be **NO** in-person worship this month. Children's bulletins and children's sermons will be offered throughout the summer. When we do return to meeting in person, we will offer junior worship on the second and third Sundays of the month (where the elementary age youth are dismissed to the downstairs Sunday school area after the children's sermon for more in-depth age-relevant learning of the day's scriptures).



Zooming with the Leadership

Sunday, August 9, 2020

The Consistory has been meeting about twice a month during this pandemic to continually respond to the changes in our county, community, and world. We have been trying to communicate through the *E-Newsletter* and *The Herald* with you, our fellow members and friends. We want to give you an opportunity to talk with us, as well. On Sunday, August 9, after worship, we will leave the Zoom on and running, and the Pastor and members of the Consistory will be available to respond to questions that you might have. You can simply log on to the Zoom during and/or after worship to participate in that time of conversation.

Robesonia Community Blood Drive

The Miller-Keystone Community Blood Bank held a blood drive on Saturday, June 20th at St. Paul's UCC in the Miller Fellowship Hall. Everything went very smoothly. A total of 24 pints of blood were collected. THANK YOU to all our donors and volunteer helpers!

The next Robesonia Community Blood Bank event will be held on Labor Day, September 7, 2020 during the Robesonia Borough Labor Day Car Show from 9:00am - 2:00pm. Please make an appointment by calling 1-800-223-6667 or schedule online at www.giveapint.org.



Knoebels - Cancelled

We were scheduled to worship at Knoebels Amusement Park on Sunday, August 16. Due to the pandemic we are cancelling the trip to Knoebels. The cancellation is out of a desire to keep people safe, and from a response of people not feeling comfortable going to an amusement park in general during the pandemic.



Worship Schedule

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August 2020

Sunday, August 2nd
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Love Feast
Worship
Live-streaming at 9:30am

Sunday, August 9th
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship
Live-streaming at 9:30am

Sunday, August 16th
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Worship
Live-streaming at 9:30am

Sunday, August 23rd
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship
Live-streaming at 9:30am

Sunday, August 30th
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship
Live-streaming at 9:30am



September 2020

Sunday, September 6th
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship
Live-streaming at 10:30am

Sunday, September 13th
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship
Live-streaming at 10:30am

Sunday, September 20th
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship
Live-streaming at 10:30am

Sunday, September 27th
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship
Live-streaming at 10:30am



Weekly at St. Paul's UCC: (Once social distancing has ended)

Adult Faith Classes & Sunday School (*All Ages*) - Sundays at 9:15am

(*not during summer months*)

Worship - Sundays at 10:30am; 9:30am during Summer months (*June, July, August*)

(*Nursery for 0-8 year olds - weekly; & Jr. Worship on 2nd & 3rd Sundays*)

Youth Group - 2nd & Last Thursday from 6:00-7:00pm

Secretarial Office Hours - Tues, Wed, Thurs from 11:00am to 3:00pm

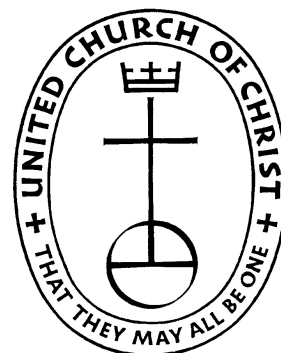
Choir Rehearsal - Thursday at 6:00pm (*Not June - August*)

Bell Choir Rehearsal - Thursday at 7:05pm (*Not June - August*)

Girl Scouts - Tuesdays at 6:30pm (every other week)

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Wednesdays at 7:00pm

AA & Alanon - Fridays at 7:00pm



Pastor's Corner



“For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.”

~ *The Apostle Paul (Galatians 3: 26-29)*

“I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.”

~ *The Apostle Paul (Ephesians 4: 1-6)*

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

~ *Jesus (John 13:34-35)*

Love Feast

On Sunday, August 2, during our 9:30am worship service, we will be sharing in an a two thousand year-old feast, in a new way – virtually.

Instead of a communion service for August, we will be sharing in a slightly different Christian meal, known as a Love Feast (sometimes known as The Agapé Feast, Love-Feast, or Lovefeast). A Love Feast is meal shared during a Christian worship service, but is not to be confused with the sacrament of Holy Communion. As such, bread cubes, wafers, wine, and grape juice are generally not used during a Love Feast, so as not to confuse this meal with Holy Communion. As you will read below, the Love Feast meal has become a revitalized rite in Christian churches during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like Communion, the Love Feast involves a simple food and a simple drink. However, unlike Communion, the food and drink are not consecrated by an ordained minister prior consuming them. In a Love Feast, the portions are also bigger, as well. Generally a coffee mug and a full pastry are used, rather than a cube of bread and a half ounce of wine.

For the August 2 live stream worship service, you should have food and drink for the worship service. Both the food and the drink is your choice, but should be something common and simple. Examples of food include: a pastry, doughnut, pancake, French toast, biscuit, muffin, cookie, cracker, dinner roll, or sticky bun. Examples of drink include: water, coffee, tea, orange juice, or lemonade.

(Please note, due to technical limitations, there will be NO Zoom on that Sunday).

History and Meaning of the Love Feast

In Greek (the primary language of the original New Testament writings), there are multiple words which translate into the English word “love.” Each Greek word for love has a different meaning (such as friendship-love, romantic-love, charitable-love). Agapé is the Greek word for the self-sacrificing love of Christ for the sake of others. For Jesus, and therefore for us, “No one has greater love (*agapé*) than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13).

We read that ten days after Jesus’ ascension, the Holy Spirit was imparted on the day of Pentecost (50 days after Easter).

Following Pentecost, Christians gathered for fellowship, sharing a meal, and prayer. In the book of Jude we read that the early Christians shared in lovefeasts (Jude 1:12).

The Love Feast demonstrates our desire to be in fellowship with one another as equal children of God (Galatians 3: 26-29). We *all* need to eat and drink – in a divided world, that is something that all humans share in common, which unites us. In some churches, where Love Feasts are more regularly practiced, they serve the drink in coffee mugs that have 2 or 3 handles (rather than the usual one handled coffee mug) to help symbolize the uniting fellowship of this meal, as the mugs are passed down the pews. Generally during a Love Feast worship service there are extra hymns and choir anthems, and lay witnessing and testimonials rather than a sermon.

The modern use of the Love Feast as a part of worship began on August 13, 1727 in Germany in a Moravian Church, and then spread throughout that denomination to others. In the early American settlements congregations were often served the sacraments by an occasional visit of a traveling pastor, and therefore the Love Feast became a common alternative to communion in early America for those times when no pastor was available to consecrate the communion elements. The use of the Love Feast has become increasingly practiced during the COVID-19 pandemic as alternative meal to communion, as a way to share in a meal of community with God and with one another, through virtual electronic means, without the need to have consecrated bread and wine/grape juice.

As we are social distant in our daily living, challenged by struggles that are dividing us as humanity, and physically separated on Sundays, my hope is that this ancient meal celebrated by the first Christians and by some of the first Christian settlers of our nation, may help unite us in spirit with our Lord God and with one another.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Ben Motz

Spiritual Care

Homebound Visitation Coordinator - Sheri Rowe / Weekly Visitation Coordinator - Terry Pastor
Spiritual Council Chairperson - The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

Visitation Care Team

*Are any among you sick?
They should call for the elders of the church
and have them pray over them.... (James 5:14a,b)*

To contact the Visitation Care Team with a visitation request or to share information about a potential care need, call the church office at 610-621-5770 or email the Visitation Care Team Coordinator directly at CareTeam@spruce.org.

The Visitation Care Team and the Pastor together provide the pastoral care for those in need within our church. On the weeks when Pastor Ben is away (such as for vacation or at a conference), the Visitation Care Team provides the primary pastoral care for members.

Each homebound/shut-in member of St. Paul's UCC also has an Elder designated to them for spiritual care throughout the year.

Thank you to our Elders and Visitations Care Team members for answering God's call to provide spiritual care over the flock of St. Paul's UCC.



I Have an Address Update

If you have a permanent or temporary (college, extended vacation, snow birds, etc.) change of address, please give this information to the church office.

Name: _____

New Address: Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: ____ - ____ - ____ Email: _____

Individual ____ or All of household ____

Permanent ____ or Temporary: From: ____/____/____ To: ____/____/____

TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS



Worship

Worship Chairperson - Lynelle Heimbach
Minister of Music - Rev. Robert Masenheimer Decorating Chairperson - Liz Brunner

Sharing God's Hope

How have you been experiencing God's hope in the midst of this pandemic? How have you been experiencing God's hope in other times of your life?

We are looking for video submissions of you sharing a brief message or story of God's hope from your own personal experience. You can use your cell phone, computer, or other smart device, and save an mp4 recording. You can then contact the Pastor or the office, for information about how to upload your video. We will then (if it is appropriate) include your video as a part of our online worship service, enabling you to share God's hope with others.

The video needs to have a focus on how God was at work (and be about God's hope, light, love, encouragement, etc); be appropriate for a G-rated audience; be brief (not more than 5-ish minutes, and they can be less than one minute); and saved in a format which we can use (ideally mp4).

If you have questions about what may or may not be appropriate, about how you are wording your story to include how God was/is at work, or any other questions, please contact Pastor Ben at PastorMotz@sprucc.org or 610-621-5770 or Worship Committee Chairperson, Lynelle Heimbach at 610-693-6775.



Devotionals on the Website

To connect with God every day our website has several [daily devotion links](#) that you may access or sign up to receive.

We would also like to point out that if you would like a time of devotion through [music](#), the Rev. Robert Masenheimer (Pastor Bob) has recorded music for your use at home. Pastor Bob has recently added even more Sunday school music for our youth. To access this music and the accompanying lyrics click on the above "music" link which will take you to our website. Thank you Pastor Bob!!



Home Touch

The Home Touch is a weekly mailing sent to our homebound and shut-in members. It includes prayers, stories, and activities geared toward older adults.

If you would like to be put on Home Touch email list, please contact the church office at office@sprucc.org. You can subscribe/unsubscribe at any time by contacting the church office. Our homebound and shut-in members receive the weekly Home Touch via the postal mail.

Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud. – Maya Angelou



Phone Stream & Playback

Beginning Sunday, August 2, 2020

We are continually seeking new ways to connect more and more people in a living relationship with our loving God, even (and especially) in the midst of a pandemic.

We are trying a new pilot program feature for the month of August to connect people to God through our worship service, which is calling in to the church by telephone.

You can call us at our toll free number **1-888-649-5770** on Sunday at 9:30am and listen to the worship service live using a landline or cell phone. (No internet, smartphone, tablet, or computer is necessary - this works with a standard corded phone, even with a rotary phone). We realize that not everyone has internet access, computer, or smart device, and we hope this phone service will enable more people to participate.

You also have the option for the church to automatically call you when the live stream worship begins (rather than you calling the church); which you can sign up for at the above toll free number, or by contacting the church office and we can add you to the call list.

Beginning in August, worship services will automatically be added to our telephone playback list. If you couldn't join us live on Sunday, you can listen to a playback of the worship service on Monday, or later in the week, or even the following week.

If you know of someone who does not have internet access and perhaps would like to participate in worship via telephone, please let them know of this feature. They of course will not be able to receive this email to learn about this feature, and they need someone like you to let them know.

There is no fee to the caller for using this service. This is made possible through the members' regular tithes and offerings.

This is a new pilot program for us beginning in August. If you have any questions, difficulties, or issues, please let us know by calling the office at 610-621-5770. If this works well and enough people like using this feature, we will continue it beyond August.



Donated Tables

The tables in the Miller Fellowship Hall have been rearranged to facilitate social distancing. Thank you to Sara Motz for helping her dad with the measuring and rearranging.

A donation was made by a member of St. Paul's UCC for additional round tables for the fellowship hall. These were donated to help make it possible to fit a few more people into the hall while keeping at a social distance. They are able to be placed where there is not enough social distancing space for the rectangular tables, thus enabling more seating in the hall, while still following social distancing guidelines.

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"I might be a workaholic. Sometimes I sprinkle toner on my toast instead of cinnamon."

No Outdoor Worship in August Maybe September

The Consistory, Worship Committee, and Pastor have been meeting to continually readdress the question of when can we meet in-person and how. One of the options we have been considering is worshipping in-person outdoors. After much conversation and prayer, we have decided that we will *not* be having an outdoor or indoor in-person worship in August.

The following are just the primary highlights for what has been a lot of conversation and consideration...

When polling the congregation, the interest of meeting indoors in-person is currently very low. The logistics of keeping everyone safe would be very challenging, especially with safety guidelines changing every other week. The participation in the online worship service remains high (higher than last summer's in-person worship services). Unlike restaurants that have been moving their tables and chairs to maximize seating while maintaining social distancing, we cannot easily move our pews (which are attached to the floor).

We have not yet found a good venue for holding an outdoor in-person worship service. The rules at different locations keep changing, or are simply not allowing outside groups. We had considered worshipping in the parking lot (marking off every other parking spacing for people to set up lawn chairs). Our concerns with doing so in August is the heat: there is only a small section of our parking lot that has any shade (too small for social distancing). If worshipping while sitting in a car, we are worried that people will overheat, or engines will be running with the AC turned on and windows rolled up (which means not being able to hear the worship service, only the sound of cars).

If you know of a potential outdoor venue for an in-person worship service, please contact the Worship Committee or Consistory for our consideration. The Consistory will again be considering options for September during their August meeting. We *might* offer an in-person outdoor worship service in September. As recommendations and guidelines are continually changing, we are continually re-evaluating. We want to create meaningful worship, while enabling you to do so as safely as possible.

One of the primary reasons we would like to have an in-person worship service is to be in supportive fellowship with one another. The Consistory is directing the Fellowship Committee to develop and offer fellowship opportunities to the congregation to help meet this need, so that we need not be as reliant on in-person worship to create adult fellowship. Our youth group has been meeting in socially distant ways for fellowship, prayer, conversation, games, and fun. We hope that can help serve as model for what we could potentially with groups, as adults, as well. If you have suggestions for adult fellowship, please contact the Fellowship Committee (Steve Miller, chair; and Geneva Aulenbach, vice chair).



More About the Love Feast

For those who would like a little more history and background about the Love Feast, the following articles are from the Moravian Church and the United Methodist Church.

The Lovefeast

(From a Moravian Perspective)

The holding of lovefeasts, after the practice of the Apostolic Church, has come to be one of the outstanding customs of the Moravian Church and has proved to be a real means of grace. Members of other denominations are attracted to Moravian lovefeasts in large numbers, and thus the spirit of fellowship is greatly advanced.

Lovefeasts originated in the first gathering of Christians after Pentecost. The early believers met and broke bread together, thereby signifying their union and equality. These meals of the church family were associated with the celebration of the Lord's Supper, which followed them. They were called agape, from the Greek word for love, that is for the highest type of spiritual love. Gradually the agape lost its devotional character, and toward the end of the fourth century the Church gave it up. The lovefeast of Apostolic times was resuscitated in its original simplicity by the Moravian Church in 1727. After the memorable celebration of the holy communion on August 13, seven groups of the participants continued to talk over the great spiritual blessing which they had experienced and were reluctant to separate and return to their own homes for the noonday meal. Count Zinzendorf, sensing the situation, sent them food from his manor house, and each group partook together, continuing in prayer, religious conversation, and the singing of hymns. This incident reminded Zinzendorf of the primitive agape, and the idea was fostered until lovefeasts became a custom in Moravian life. They were introduced wherever new settlements were founded and so came to America. Wherever its fullest liturgical development exists, the lovefeast is a service of solemn dignity, in which the finest Moravian Church hymns and stately music may be heard, but without any surrender of its central idea.

Because of its attraction for visitors, persons sometimes come to a lovefeast out of curiosity, perhaps amused at the idea of "eating in church." It is interesting to see such a person yield to the spirit of devotion which pervades the service and change in a very few moments from visitor to reverent member of the service. This never fails when the congregation is itself full of the spirit of reverence and Christian love.

The lovefeast is primarily a song service, opened with prayer. Often there is no address; the hymns in the ode, or order of service, furnish the subject matter for devotional thoughts. If many visitors are present, the presiding minister often says a few words, explaining the purpose of the service, just before the congregation partakes of the bun and coffee, or whatever is served. On special occasions an address may be added, giving opportunity to remind the congregation of the history of the anniversary or the deeper import of the day.

There is no rule as to the food to be offered, except that it be very simple and easily distributed. The drink may be coffee, tea, or lemonade, fully prepared in advance, so that it may be served very quietly and without interruption of the singing. Usually mugs are used, which may be passed from hand to hand along a pew from a tray brought along the aisle. A slightly sweetened bun, which can be served in baskets passed along the pews, is a convenient form of bread. Usually men handle the trays of mugs, and women the baskets of buns. While the congregation partakes, the choir sings an anthem. Later the mugs are quietly gathered and removed. The food served is not consecrated, as in the communion. Children and members of any denomination may partake.

There are many services during the year at which a lovefeast is appropriate, such as the festivals of the church year, the anniversary days of the Moravian Church, the anniversary day of a congregation, a missionary occasion, any day in fact on which there is a desire to stress the headship of the Lord and the oneness and fellowship of His followers.

— An Excerpt from Customs & Practices of the Moravian Church by Adelaide L. Fries; updated 2003 by C. Daniel Crews & Richard Starbuck. © 2003, Interprovincial Board of Communication, Moravian Church in America



The Love Feast

(From an United Methodist Perspective)

The Love Feast, or Agape Meal, is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expressing the koinonia (community, sharing, fellowship) enjoyed by the family of Christ.

Although its origins in the early church are closely interconnected with the origins of the Lord's Supper, the two services became quite distinct and should not be confused with each other. While the Lord's Supper has been practically universal among Christians throughout church history, the Love Feast has appeared only at certain times and among certain denominations.

The modern history of the Love Feast began when Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians in Germany introduced a service of sharing food, prayer, religious conversation, and hymns in 1727. John Wesley first experienced it among the Moravians in Savannah, Georgia, ten years later. His diary notes: "After evening prayers, we joined with the Germans in one of their love-feasts. It was begun and ended with thanksgiving and prayer, and celebrated in so decent and solemn a manner as a Christian of the apostolic age would have allowed to be worthy of Christ."

It quickly became a feature of the Evangelical Revival and a regular part of Methodist society meetings in Great Britain and throughout the English-speaking world. As Methodists immigrated to North America they made Love Feasts an important part of early American Methodism.

While Love Feasts became less frequent in the years that followed, they continued to be held in some places; and in recent years the Love Feast has been revived. Love Feasts have often been held at Annual Conferences and Charge Conferences, where persons may report on what God has been doing in their lives and on the hope and trust they place in God for the future. The Love Feast is also an important part of the practice of Covenant Discipleship groups. Christmas, New Year's Eve or Day, the weekdays of Holy Week, and the Day of Pentecost are also fitting occasions for a Love Feast. A Love Feast may also be held during a congregational supper.

The Love Feast has often been held on occasions when the celebration of the Lord's Supper would be inappropriate—where there is no one present authorized to administer the Sacrament, when persons of different denominations are present who do not feel free to take Holy Communion together, when there is a desire for a service more informal and spontaneous than the communion ritual, or at a full meal or some other setting to which it would be difficult to adapt the Lord's Supper.

The Love Feast is most naturally held around a table or with persons seated in a circle; but it is possible to hold it with persons seated in rows. A church sanctuary, fellowship hall, or home is an appropriate location.

One of the advantages of the Love Feast is that any Christian may conduct it. Congregational participation and leadership are usually extensive and important, especially involving children.

Testimonies and praise are the focal point in most Love Feasts. Testimonies may include personal witness to God's grace or accounts of what God has been doing in the lives of others. Praise may take the form of hymns, songs, choruses, or spoken exclamations and may vary from the relative formality of an opening and closing hymn to spontaneous calling out of requests and singing as the Spirit moves. Sometimes the leader guides those present alternating spontaneous singing and sharing in free and familiar conversation for as long as the Spirit moves. Wesley counseled that all the above be done decently and in order.

Prayer is vital to a Love Feast. A fixed form of prayer may be used, especially something like the Lord's Prayer or Be present at our table, Lord, that is familiar to the people. Spontaneous prayer requests and prayers may come from the people.

Scripture is also important. There may be scripture readings, or persons may quote Scripture spontaneously as the Spirit moves. There may be a sermon, an exhortation, or an address; but it should be informal and consist of the leader's adding personal witness to what spontaneously comes from the congregation.

Most Love Feasts include the sharing of food. It is customary not to use communion bread, wine, or grape juice because to do so might confuse the Love Feast with the Lord's Supper. The bread may be a loaf of ordinary bread, crackers, rolls, or a sweet bread baked especially for this service. If a loaf of bread, it may be broken in two or more pieces and then passed from hand to hand as each person breaks off a piece. Crackers, rolls, or slices of bread may be passed in a basket. The beverage has usually been water, but other beverages such as lemonade, tea, or coffee have been used. Early Methodists commonly passed a loving cup with two handles from person to person, but later the water was served in individual glasses. The food is served quietly without interrupting the service.

The Love Feast may also be followed by a full meal, in which case persons or families may bring dishes of food for all to share. During the meal there may be informal conversation in Christian fellowship, or the leader may direct the conversation by suggesting matters of mutual concern, or there may be spontaneous witnessing and praise. If there is food left over, it may be taken as an expression of love to persons not present.

– Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church (2014); umcdiscipleship.org.



Cartoons for Church Newsletters

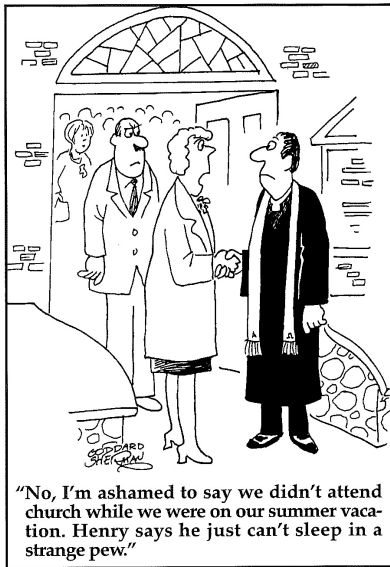
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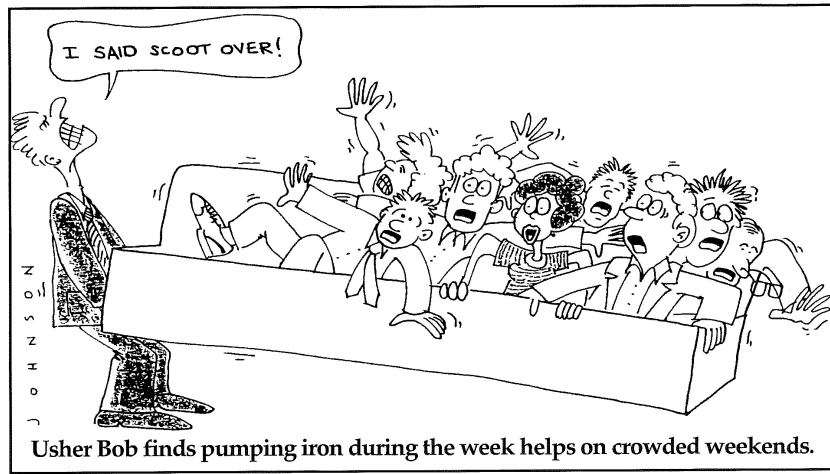
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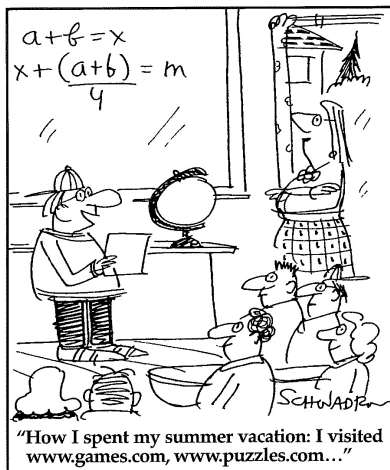
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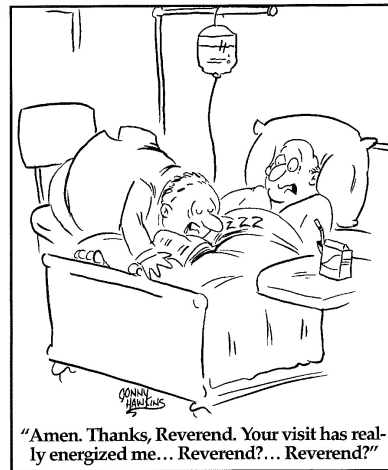
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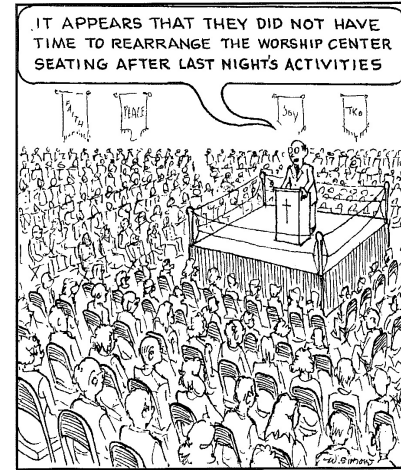
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Stewardship

Head Deacon - Geri Gammel



Electronic Giving



For many, online giving can be more convenient, safer, and cheaper than mailing a check or bringing cash to worship. Electronic giving refers to using a credit card or direct transfer from a savings or checking account, so you need not write a check or use cash. There are two ways to sign up for electronic giving.

The first is to go to the church's website at www.sprucc.org; click on the green "Online Giving" button, located on the right hand column; this will take you to our secure financial website; follow the instructions for setting up a recurring payment for whatever date works well for you. If you need to change your amount, frequency, or method, log on to the website and make those changes yourself.

The second way is to again go to our website at www.sprucc.org; click on the "Donate" tab just below the pictures at the top of the screen; click on the "Electronic Contribution Form" link found under "Two Ways to Contribute Electronically"; print and then fill out the form; mail it to Terry Pastor, Financial Secretary, at the church address: 301 West Penn Avenue, Robeson, PA 19551. She will enter your information electronically for you.



May Special Offering Thank You!

Again, the response for May's Special offering for Conrad Weiser Food Pantry was great. So far, we have collected \$185 to help our neighbors in their time of need! Thank you to everyone who was able to give to this ministry! For those of you who haven't had the time to send your offering envelopes to the church yet, please do!

August Special Offering & Reminder

Here we are in the dog-days of summer and we are looking to fund the AC & Utilities. You may ask why we have to give to this account this year as the church has not been opened. Well, the church still has people who work in the building and we have recently opened the doors for AA to resume their weekly meetings. The lights still need to work, the toilets still need to flush and we can't ask Pastor Ben or Geri to work without a little bit of AC. As was noted in February, the utilities run approximately \$600/month, so your extra donation helps offset this rather large expense. Thank you for anything you can give!

As a reminder, June's special offering was for VBS and we are still set to offer a program in conjunction with St. Daniel's. If you haven't donated to VBS yet, please send your envelope to the church. Anything that is received will be GREATLY appreciated!



Financial Guidelines

New financial guidelines are due to go into effect. A section of the guidelines states that those who count the money collected on Sundays must be in teams of at least two people. Those two people should not live in the same household, unless there is a third person on the team. Also, the counters must count the money at church. **We are in need of counters once social distancing restrictions are lifted.** Please contact the church office if you are interested or have any questions.

So What's Up?

So, here we are, smack-dab in the middle of, historically, the worst financial time of the year for any church.....oh, yes.....and then there's the pandemic.....

What's going to happen? When is the church going to open for in-person services? Will I be able to sit in my favorite pew again? I just want a hug!!!

The consistory is still meeting (and more than normal) right now and we wrestle with the issues regarding a safe-reopening vs. the continued spread of COVID-19 at each meeting. We feel you! We understand you! And we are you! We want to see everyone again just as you do, but we also don't want to be the ones that allow even one of you to become sick or worse. We will be making the decision on re-opening for fall at our next consistory meeting and will, hopefully, have good news for you in time for September. If that doesn't happen, we will continue to keep you informed as to when we can expect to return. So, continue to watch via the Live-Stream or on Zoom!

In the mean time, back to the worst financial time of the year for any church.....Overall, we've done fairly well as a church in our continued giving while the church has been closed. You have been either giving electronically or sending your envelopes in and the church has been able to meet our expenses even in this difficult time. However, we have also received \$15,000 from the federal government in the form of a PPP loan (which will be forgiven as soon as we are able to submit the documentation) to help in meeting our expenses which has also been a big part of continuing to keep us in the positive. With those funds used, it is now the time to fill up those 'missed' or unused envelopes and send them in to the church. If we all do whatever we can to help, the church will be able to continue to operate. Please, even if you are not able to give what you normally do, use those August envelopes to keep the lights on at the church! Anything that you can do is GREATLY appreciated!



Online and Mailed Contributions

Although we are no longer passing the plate on Sunday mornings, we are still receiving offerings. The best way for you to make a contribution during this pandemic is through our secure online contribution option found on our website. By making a donation this way, our counting teams do not need to physically handle those contributions, making the online contributions safer for them during this pandemic.

Yes, you can certainly mail in contributions to the church building: St. Paul's UCC, 301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551. If you have questions about how to make electronic or paper contributions, please contact the Financial Secretary, Terry Pastor at 610-693-5024.

We realize that some of you have been furloughed and some of you are completely out of work, as such it is especially important for the rest of us as members to regularly contribute and to prayerfully consider an additional contribution to help for those who currently do not have an income and therefore perhaps cannot contribute.

As always (even before the pandemic), whether you are here in person or not, for the sake of the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ and the ability for our church to carry out that mission and ministry, each member needs to be regularly, prayerfully, and generously giving to Christ's church in proportion to what God has given them, in response to God's grace and blessings in our lives.



What's Up Doc?

The time is always right to do what is right.

– Martin Luther King Jr.



Treasurers Corner July 2020

As I write this, the Phillies are playing baseball. That is one few the few “normal” summer things happening in these strange and difficult times. However, even baseball is far from normal, with empty stadiums and fake crowd noise. Not much seems normal anymore. That fits the church as well. I want to share with you how we are doing financially during these challenging days. First, you should know that the church applied for one of the PPP loans that was offered by the Small Business Administration. Although we missed on that opportunity in the first round, we were approved in the second release of funds. In early May, we received two and a half months of funds that were used for salaries and utilities. Those funds were a great boost to our financial standing. Although the money was received as a loan, we should be qualifying for the loan to be forgiven once final rules are released by the SBA. During the summer, normally, attendance at church is lower than the rest of the year. That can make offerings smaller as well. With church services being held only by live-stream, offerings have been smaller than needed. If you have been giving through automatic withdrawals or have been sending your offerings to the church, I thank you. That has been a great help. Even though the building has not been open for worship, the work of the church has continued. And we still have to pay our bills. If you have not been contributing, I ask that you prayerfully consider doing so. St. Paul’s is an important part of the lives of our members and of our local community. Your support will help to keep the church’s ministries alive for everyone.

As always, if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me by phone or email. I can be reached at 484-794-1181 or jhenning1@verizon.net.

Jon Henning - Treasurer

Some Unique Facts About Animals

- The heart of a shrimp is located in its head.
- A snail can sleep for three years.
- The fingerprints of a koala are so indistinguishable from humans that they have on occasion been confused at a crime scene.
- Slugs have four noses.
- Elephants are the only animal that can’t jump.
- It takes a sloth two weeks to digest its food.
- A cow gives nearly 200,000 glasses of milk in a lifetime.
- Bats always turn left when leaving a cave.
- Giraffes have no vocal chords.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- Around 50 percent of orangutans have fractured bones, due to falling out of trees on a regular basis.



Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 253

Matt 10:21-33

Disciples in Training

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

AFRAID	BROTHER
APART	CHILDREN
BETRAY	DAYLIGHT
BODY	DESTROY
CALLED	DISOWN
CITIES	GROUND
FATHER	HEAVEN
FINISH	HIDDEN
HAIRS	MASTER
HOUSE	MEMBERS
ISRAEL	NUMBERED
PENNY	PARENTS
REBEL	PROCLAIM
ROOFS	RATHER
SAVED	SERVANT
STANDS	SPARROWS
TRUTH	STUDENT
WORTH	TEACHER

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

MORE PUZZLES AT: <http://biblewordgames.com> COPYRIGHT 2016 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Christian Education

Christian Education Chairperson - [Elsa Wertz](#)

Safe Conduct Coordinator - Elsa Wertz

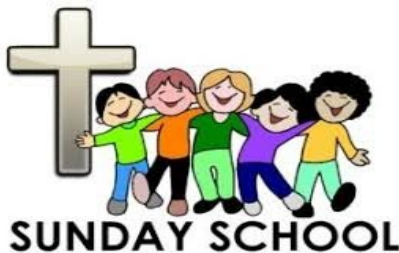


Vacation Bible School (VBS)

A community in-person VBS with the theme “*Love One Another*” is planned for Sunday, August 2, Tuesday, August 4, and Thursday, August 6 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at St. Daniel’s Lutheran Church. A lot of thoughtful discussions were had about the health safety to the participants and leaders, so it will not be the VBS we are used to. All participants **MUST** pre-register online. After they register a copy of safety protocol will be mailed to the participants and they must agree to follow the procedures. Class sizes are reduced. The activities planned will be Bible stories, crafts, music (no singing), and a take home snack. The churches that are working together to provide this opportunity are St. Daniel’s Lutheran Church, St. Paul’s UCC, and Zion UCC. Registration link can be found on the church’s [website](#) and Facebook pages.

Covid and Christian Education

As of now, many discussions, social distant meetings, the state of COVID (numbers going up or down, what color we’re in - red, yellow, green etc.) have made planning for Christian Education a challenge. That includes Sunday school, young and adult, Bible study, Mind, Body, and Spirit, Youth Group, and confirmation class. As decisions are made about any of these we will put the information on the website and include it in updated printed materials. I know that we will welcome any suggestions that you hear about from other congregations that seem to be working, or people who are able to video and offer their help that way to this group. In the meantime, stay healthy and be well.



Sunday School Resources for the Youth

If you have not already looked at the Sunday school material available for our youth on our website, please take a look. Although the material there is for our youngsters, adults may also find the videos interesting. Each week Geri looks online at the different resources that are available and tries to find material that is appropriate for each week’s scripture lessons. She includes various fun activities to enhance the lessons. If you have children, grandchildren, or great grandchildren, try to steer them to our [website](#).



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Confirmation Class

Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 6:00pm



We do not know what the state of things will be this coming September as it relates to COVID-19 and social distancing. As such our first confirmation class of the year will tentatively be on Sunday, September 13 at 6:00pm. Pastor Ben has been completing this semester's confirmation class through Zoom; we might need to have classes virtually this coming school year, as well.

If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office at office@sprucc.org or 610-621-5770, so we can be sure to be in contact with you regarding schedules and potential change in format of this class. If you are interested, and if the tentative date/time does not work in your schedule, please contact the church office, so we can take those scheduling conflicts into consideration when planning the days and times of the classes.

Both interested youth and their parents/guardians should attend this first class. To ensure that we have enough materials for the first class, please pre-register by **Sunday, August 16, 2020** by contacting the church office at office@sprucc.org or 610-621-5770.

Confirmation is a Rite within the church, which is the affirmation of the vows made during the Sacrament of Baptism.

The path to confirmation, involves participating in the confirmation classes. During these classes we learn about the confirmation/baptismal vows, God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, prayer, basic theological principals of our faith, mission and outreach, the history of the church from the first disciples to modern day, and more.

These classes are for both baptized and unbaptized teens and young adults who are interested in becoming members of St. Paul's UCC.

The recommended starting age for the confirmation program is 8th grade. Youth as young as 7th grade are welcome to participate. Older teens and young adults, who have not yet completed a confirmation program, are also very welcome to participate. This is a two year program, so it is highly recommended that interested teenagers start by or before 11th grade. As a class, we meet just during the school year (not over the summer) about twice a month for about an hour and a half.

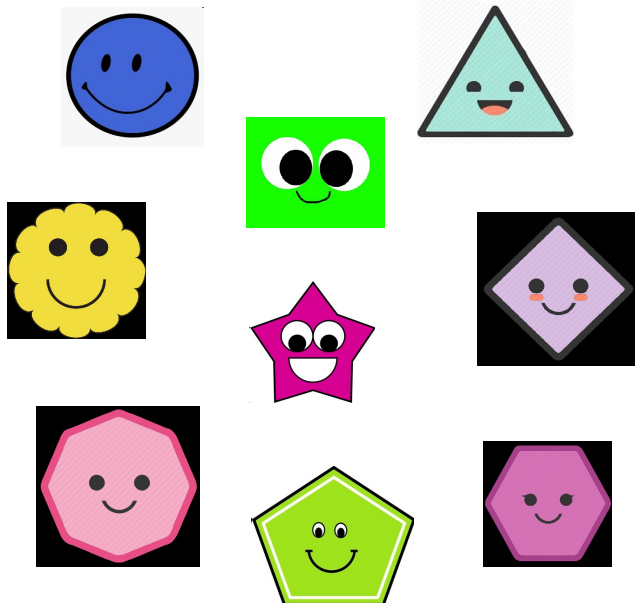
Youth Group

Christian Education Chairperson - [Elsa Wertz](#)

Consistory Liaison - Geri Gammel

What makes you different makes you

beautiful.



Youth Group Meetings

We are continuing with our Youth Group meetings in-person while following social distancing guidelines on the second and last Thursday of the month at 6:00pm. We usually meet outdoors in the church parking lot. You should bring your own lawn chair. Changes and updates are sent by email through our regular "Youth Group E-mail Updates." If you would like to be added to that email list, please contact the church office at office@sprucc.org. Social distancing guidelines for youth group meetings can also be found on the "Recent & Upcoming Events" page (included in the article about the upcoming youth group meeting) on our website at www.sprucc.org.



Mission Fellowship Outreach

Mission, Fellowship, & Fund-raiser Chairperson - Steve Miller

Soup & Such

Meal served from 4:00-6:00pm

Soup & Such is St. Paul's soup kitchen, where anyone and everyone can come and receive a free meal. It is usually held once a month on the last Thursday. It coincides with the Conrad Weiser Food Pantry and St. Paul's Clothing Closet.

Since April, Soup & Such has been a drive-thru event. People follow a designated route to the back doors of the church. Once they stop, volunteers wearing masks and gloves approach the car and give them their food. Drivers are asked to stay in their cars. Drivers are then instructed on how to exit the parking lot and the area. The drive-thru takes place between 4:00 & 6:00pm, or until the food is gone. The next meal is scheduled for August 27.

If you would like to help with the meal, or if you would like to help direct traffic, or distribute the food bags to the cars, please contact Steve Miller at 717-507-0756 or call the church office at 610-621-5770.



St. Paul's Clothing Closet

from 4:00-6:00pm

St. Paul's Clothing Closet is normally held once a month on the last Thursday of the month just like Soup & Such. With this ministry families may receive a free bag of clothing per child. Due to the virus, the Clothing Closet has been **closed**.

HOWEVER, children continue to grow and funds may still be diminished, **SO** if you or someone you know is in need of clothing, please contact the church office at 610-621-5770. The church will contact Robin Henning who is willing to come in and open the Clothing Closet for those who need clothing.

If you have clean, gently used children's clothing that you would like to donate to the Clothing Closet, please put it in a plastic bag and leave it under the shelter of the roof by the double doors on Pearl Street. You will see a sign on the door. Thank you!



21st Century Christian Women

Meetings are held the third Monday of each month

The 21st Century Christian Women's Group is open to all women of the church. Meetings and activities are currently suspended, but as soon as possible we will return to our activities. Please watch your emails for any updates. Stay well and safe until we again meet.

Thank you

Soup & Such Helpers and Donors!!

To have a soup kitchen each month is no easy task. Much planning and prep go into each meal. Food to be purchased, prepared, cooked, packaged, assembled, and distributed. It's something that cannot be done by the seat of your pants.

Thank you Steve Miller for heading up this large task. Thank you to all of our helpers that consist of mainly Saint Paul's members, but also some that are good friends of the church. Thank you to our donors: Brooke Polityka who has been supplying us with donations from Pepperidge Farm, Saint Francis deSales Church who have been giving us prepackaged desserts, and the anonymous donors who have contributed \$60 to Soup & Such.

We could not reach out to the hundreds of people that have come to us for a meal if you hadn't stepped up to the plate. Good job and thanks!



Men's Fellowship Group

Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month

The Men's Fellowship Group normally meets every month on the second Saturday at 8:30am at the Heidelberg Restaurant in Robesonia. Unfortunately, they have not been able to meet due to the Corona virus and do **NOT** plan to meet in the month of August. However, time does not stop and decisions must be made. The Men's Group has decided **NOT** to have the Car Show this summer. They will plan to have it in August 2021. The Versammlung meal usually held in October has also been **cancelled**.

Other news: Unfortunately the large side-by-side refrigerator in the kitchen has died after 12 years. The Men and Women Groups will be buying a new one for the church. We hope to see all the men of the church once we can again meet.



Evangelism

Evangelism Chairperson - Robin Henning



Insta-Encouragement

Throughout this period of social distancing, Sara has been adding pictures to our church's Instagram account. You can find photos in memory of Rev. Miller, pictures of church activities, and encouraging photos and drawings submitted by our youth.

You do not need your own Instagram account to simply view the posted pictures, you can view them through your regular internet browser (Google, Explorer, Firefox, etc).

To view the pictures posted so far, use the following address:

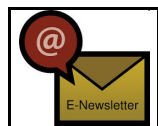
https://www.instagram.com/st.paulsucc_robsonia/.

There is also an icon link to our Instagram account on our church's website.

If you do have Instagram or are thinking about setting up your own Instagram account, we would like to invite you to "follow us" on our new Instagram account.

E-Newsletter

Are you receiving the *St. Paul's UCC E-Newsletter* by email? During this pandemic, the *E-Newsletter* and the webpage have been the primary ways in which we have been striving to communicate with the congregation. You do not need to be a member to be on the *E-Newsletter* mail list - all are welcome. It is free. You can unsubscribe at any time. If



you are not currently receiving the *E-Newsletter*, please contact the church office at office@sprucc.org to begin receiving it.

Evangelism News

Thank you to everyone who has been helping with the Sunday morning worship services. Your efforts are greatly appreciated during the pandemic. It is good to be able to see our fellow church members, even if it is from a distance.

We are continuing to put inspirational messages on the marquee in front of the church. If there is a message or thought you would like to see displayed, please call the church and give us your suggestion.

Thank you to Pastor Ben for providing the reusable grocery bags to distribute communion and for the gift of the cloth face masks included in the bags. These masks are to be distributed to members, friends, and patrons of Soup & Such. Please make sure to wear your face mask when out and about. Also, thank you to all of the folks who helped to pack and deliver the communion bags. A pretty big job in itself.

We are in the process of making welcome packets for new residents in Robeson. It will include municipal information, menus from local eateries, school information and publications from St. Paul's. If you know someone who just moved into the area, please let us know and we will get a welcome packet to them.

Looking forward to cooler weather, the committee is planning on having a St. Paul's sweatshirt sale. We are in the process of designing a logo that will be embroidered onto the sweatshirt. We hope to have all the details worked out for the September edition of the newsletter. Please be on the lookout for an order form.

Even though we are not able to physically be together during this time, we want you to know that you are thought about often and it will be a joyous time when we can all be together again. Stay safe and be well.

Property

Property Chairperson - Michael Pastor
Consistory Trustee - Dale Mentzer

Property Committee Report

An update of some of the things that have been done at church:

- Lines have been painted in the parking lot.
- The trimming of all the shrubbery around the church and parsonage is done.
- The ceiling tile in the church vestibule was damaged when the air conditioner above it did not drain properly. The clog in the drainage pipe has been cleared and the tile has dried out. Instead of replacing the ceiling tile, it will be repaired.
- Dale replaced all the air conditioner filters.
- The large refrigerator in the kitchen was replaced with a brand new one. It is comparable in size. It should be easier to keep clean (stainless steel interior), be more energy efficient, and it cost less than what it would have cost to fix the old refrigerator.
- The Property Committee will work on the Ash trees that are slowly dying.

Again thank you to Michael Pastor, Dale Mentzer, Carl Unger, Steve Miller, Mark Moyer, Jon Henning, and Harry Reazor for keeping the church and property looking GREAT, and functioning properly! We take pride in St. Paul's and it shows.



Consistory

Consistory President - Sheri Rowe / Consistory Vice President - Kirk Aulenbach
Consistory Secretary - Geri Gammel

HIGHLIGHTS

Consistory Highlights

During June and July, Consistory met twice in June, and twice in July. Meetings were held via Zoom and in-person in the Fellowship Hall. Some highlights include:

Evangelism - The Father's Day microfiber cloths were well received. The message on the sign in front of the church changes every few weeks; suggestions are always welcome. Robin has finished gathering information to be placed in the Welcome Packet, to be given to new residents of Robesonia. The Committee is working on a church logo to be embroidered on sweatshirts, that will be offered for sale in the fall.

Christian Education - The Youth Group continues to meet twice a month, but now in-person in the parking lot (instead of via Zoom). Difficult at the moment to make concrete decisions about Sunday school in the fall, but most likely the youth will meet in person in the Miller Fellowship Hall. Jon Henning will query the Sunday school adults and find out how they feel about meeting for class come September. Suggestions for Bible or book studies are welcomed.

Worship & Music - A small crew of people continue to come to church on Sundays to live-stream the worship service. Pastor Bob has provided devotional music that has been uploaded onto the church's website for all to enjoy. Worship will continue to be live-streamed during the month of August. A Love Feast during the Worship Service is planned for August 2. The Committee is looking into the option of phone-streaming the service. This type of streaming gives people without internet access the ability to listen to the worship service with their phone (any type of phone) either during the actual service or at another time when the listening might be more convenient. They can listen for free; there is no fee for them.

Mission/Fellowship - Drive-thru Soup & Such meals continue. Meals served: April over 100 meals, May about 70 meals, June about 135, July around 115. They had about 10 volunteers helping in June & July. Brooke Polityka has been getting us donations from Pepperidge Farm, St. Francis deSales Church has been supplying us with prepackaged desserts, and we have received anonymous donations totaling \$60 over the past two months. **Thank you to all of these people!** The next drive-thru will be on Thursday, August 27th.

Property - See the above report.

The next Consistory Meeting will be Tuesday, August 11 at 7:00pm.

General Announcements

Congratulations!

On July 20, 2020 Lenna Rose was born to Natalie and Jason Hainley. She weighed in at 6 lbs. 10 oz. Congratulations to the family!!



Correspondence

Near the beginning of July the church office received a beautiful handmade thank you card from Jean Beidler (the card was made by her daughter-in-law, Julie Beidler). It read as follows:

To all the St. Paul's people that signed my birthday card. I look at all the familiar names, and then think of the many that are no longer with us. And all the ladies that helped make our famous ShoFly pies. One time we made 300!

When I saw the name "Georgianna" I remember when her mom brought her to my house, as a baby. Don't tell me, that made me feel "old". Can't forget my dear friend, Rev. George. I thought he would bury me.

As always,
Jean Beidler

Employment Opportunity

Recently the church office received an email from Dieffenbach's Potato Chips, Inc. They are a locally owned business since 1964 that strives to create truly enjoyable snacks. They are finding it hard to locate and retain production workers during these unprecedented times. If you know of someone who is looking for employment, please have them contact:

Betty Church
Human Resources Assistant/Recruiter
Dieffenbach's Potato Chips, Inc.
51 Host Road
Womelsdorf, PA 19567
Phone - 610-589-2385 x112
Fax - 610-743-8663
Email - bchurch@dieffenbachs.com



Ordination

In addition, as the economy and municipalities begin to open, Dieffenbach's will again be looking for volunteer opportunities for their employees. They ask us to keep them in mind for future partnership projects.

Newsletter Sponsorship

If you would like to sponsor the newsletter, please contact the church office. The price is very reasonable - \$25. Thank you!



On September 6, 2020 at 3:00pm, Jayme Christine Babczak will be ordained into Christian Ministry at Immanuel United Church of Christ, Shillington, PA. The Covenant Association and the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference invite you to attend, via online viewing, the ordination. The live stream may be accessed via - Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/immanueluccpa/> YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5SbTSQZBZHB0yZ_ujFzVg

Holy Communion will be celebrated as part of this worship service. Those participating via live-stream are invited to have Bread of Life and Cup of Blessing elements prepared so we can share in the sacred meal together.

Message from the Conference Minister

Dear PSEC Friends,



What a Spring this has been. The presence of the corona virus pandemic has required more of us in learning new skills and ways of doing ministry than anyone can remember. Many churches that never imagined online worship have plunged in and are experiencing greater attendance than ever before. Some churches for whom online worship could not be achieved are working at it and engaging in intensive ways of caring for their community. We wrestle now with how to re-gather in-person paying attention to complex guidance that guards the well-being of the most vulnerable among us. There is still much more work to do.

The pain of worship adaptation has been compounded by the recent murder of George Floyd and too many other black lives that pulls back the veil of racism endemic to our communities and our country. Our pastors have taken part in peaceful protests, letter-writing campaigns, and small group conversations to increase race consciousness. There is still much more work to do.

If you're feeling overwhelmed, afraid, or angry I get it and I can assure you that you are not alone.

Even with all the challenge and change, some very important things remain: the abiding love of God, the connections of friendship and prayer within your congregation and our Conference, our shared witness to end racism and bigotry in all its forms and our commitment to Christian outreach to neighbors near and far.

I've been deeply encouraged by the creativity and ingenuity I've witnessed across the Conference and your living testimony to Paul's words to the church in Rome, "that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit." (Romans 5:3-4)

Our Conference Staff and leaders are living out of that Spirit and into new ways to, "be the link that connects our churches' various and diverse ministries both locally and globally." Over the last ten weeks we have:

- Shared \$1000 with every Conference congregation from a "rainy day fund" stewarded effectively since the closing of Camp Mensch Mill and the Church House. We have been amazed and inspired at the many ways those funds have been used to make a difference locally and globally.
- Hosted weekly Conference Zoom meetings to help congregations make decisions related to virtual worship and church life and the safe care of people and buildings during the pandemic.
- Connected around the issue of racism in Zoom calls and a new Conference-wide book study, "Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race" by Debby Irving.
- Offered application assistance to churches who made application to the Payroll Protection Program.
- Worked with the Cornerstone Fund to create new, low interest loans for congregations needing additional financial support.
- Continued to offer training events for clergy and lay leaders via Zoom conferencing.

I want to thank you for your commitment to Our Churches Wider Mission which makes these things possible. But there is so much more and you can see that here . I know how important it is to keep cash close to home in these very uncertain times. But your support is critical to our capacity to support others. If you find yourself able to make an additional gift beyond what you normally give or to continue your usual contributions, know that your donation is deeply felt and lasting.

Many people and pastors in our communities face personal economic challenges because of the pandemic. Please reach out to me if you need support. The Conference Consistory created an Emergency Fund so that we can help each other through this time, and I want to put that to work for you.

Together, we can support each other through this difficult time. We can answer God's call to mission and ministry. We can be spiritually united even when socially distant.

With prayers for your ministry,
Rev. Bill Worley

2020 Outreach Mission & Ministry Support

Thank you for your contributions for the many special mission and ministry outreach efforts of the church throughout 2020. Your gifts enabled St. Paul's United Church of Christ to extend practical and spiritual support for the needs of many in need throughout the past year, granting us the ability to share God's love and hope with our world. Thank you.

The following lists some of the totals of the gifts given this year, as of the end of May 2020.

A. UCC "Five for Five" Offerings

Below are the contributions made in 2020:

\$2982.00 for Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). This is the UCC's basic wider mission offering. Our pledged goal was \$6500.00 for 2020. Without your support of this offering, we would not have the resources to bring churches together to work as one, to be able to organize disaster relief aid, to be able to develop Christian education and worship resources, to be able to have a search and call process to match pastors and churches, to be able to work together as one church to better meet the needs of the widows and orphans, and so much, much more. In your weekly offering envelope, funds designated as "Christian Mission" go to support OCWM. Thank you.

\$ 235.00 for One Great Hour of Sharing
\$ 5.00 for Neighbors in Need
\$ 20.00 for Strengthen the Church
\$ 5.00 for Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross)
\$ 0.00 for All Saints Day Offering

B. \$ 0.00 UCC Pennsylvania Southeast Conference

C. \$ 0.00 UCC Related Ministries and Institutions
\$ 50.00 for Lancaster Theological Seminary

D. \$ 0.00 UCC Relief Efforts and Special Appeals

E. Ecumenical Outreach, Mission, and Relief Aids

\$ 0.00 for Blankets of Hope through Church World Service (CWS). CWS is a global ecumenical ministry supported by the UCC. Your support of CWS Blankets helps to provide relief aid and comfort in many communities hit by disasters here in the U.S. and throughout the world.

F. Local Outreach, Mission, and Support

\$ 0.00 for Bethany Activity Fund
\$ 0.00 for Bethany Children Home Fund (Knoebels)
\$ 0.00 for the Conrad Weiser Food Pantry to help provide relief from hunger in our local area.
\$ 0.00 for Phoebe Berks
\$1044.00 for Soup & Such
\$ 0.00 for Weekend Backpack Program (Angel Tree)
\$ 0.00 for the Western Berks Free Medical Clinic.
\$ 0.00 for Western Berks Shepherding.

\$4341.00 Combined Year-to-Date total contributions for local, national, and global mission outreach.

Thank you for your contributions!!

St. Paul's Mission Statement:

**We are called by the Spirit to
live and share the love of God
through joyful service
and fellowship in Christ.**