

Herald

St. Paul United Church of Christ
202 E. Main
Carlinville, IL 62626
Rev. Katrina Palan, Intentional Interim
Office: 217-854-4046
E-mail: stpaulucc@nwcable.net

November 2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is the month that has my most favorite holiday, Thanksgiving. Funny thing, this is the least commercialized holiday that we have, so it gets the least attention, even though it is one of the most important for us. Why is this one important? As we look back at our history in America. This was a time set aside for the first people who came to America to colonize it. They had been through all kinds of hardships getting here. Then they had to establish homes, gardens and gather food for the coming winter. It is at this time of year, we can look back at the harvest. We can see all the jars of food or in the freezer that we have “put up” for the coming winter. This is a time of abundance.

What do we do with this abundance? We can thank the creator who watches over us. This is a special time of family gathering. This is a time of looking back at the gifts and the blessings God has given us. I know that 2020 has been a difficult year with the Coronavirus, being “masked”, having to quarantine, and the many other changes that a pandemic brings. Heck, we don’t even know if we are out of the woods yet. We can dwell on this and moan about all the things that have changed in our lives, or we can look for the blessings that have happened during this time. We choose to live by counting our blessings or our losses.

I want to share some of my blessings with you. First of all, I moved to Carlinville, IL to be with the St Paul’s United Church of Christ. Even though this year has turned out to be radically different than I expected, I have been blessed with the presence of many good people. I have enjoyed getting to know many of you. I look forward to us being in a position of having much more fellowship as we move out of this time of pandemic.

In this last month, despite family death, my son’s deployments and moving away from my kids, I have been able to visit, in person, with all 11 of my

grandchildren in the last month. This has been a tremendous blessing for me. Being with family is important. I hope that you have been able to do so also. If not, perhaps this month would be a time to try to visit one another.

I have been blessed with continued good health. I have been blessed with financial stability. I have been blessed to be able to share more, this year, than others because of that. I have been blessed to have new friends and to reconnect with some old friends. I have been able to have access to fresh fruits and vegetables for the first time in about five years. I am blessed to be serving in a rural community. I have been blessed to have nine youth attend confirmation class. I have been blessed to do a wedding. I have been honored to serve at three funerals. I have been blessed to have a good home to live in here. Blessings surround me. It is just a matter of looking for them and counting them.

What are the blessings in your life? I leave you with two different scriptures. Ephesians 5:18b-20 “Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” And from 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Shalom,

Pastor Katrina



ALL SAINTS DAY

All Saints day is **November 1st**. During Worship, we will take time to light a candle in remembrance of those members who have died this past year. We invite you and your family to join us for this special service.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Council is looking for names from the congregation to **serve on the Nominating Committee**. Please think of people that you feel would be a good fit for this committee and submit them to Pastor Katrina at stpaulpastorucc@gmail.com or the church office at stpaulucc@nwcable.net You may also call your names in to the office 854-4046. The **deadline for submitting names is Tuesday November 10th**.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Sr. Youth group will meet November 18 at 4:30pm in Fellowship Hall.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Youth Groups and Sunday School kids will be having a different kind of Christmas program this year. We are excited to announce that we are going to have a **“drive by” live Nativity scene**. The kids will be dressed in costumes and we hope to have some live animals too!

Mark your calendar for **December 6th** and plan to drive by between 5 & 7pm.

Watch for more info in the December newsletter. The youth group kids will be contacted by their leaders with further information.

If your kids are not in one of the Youth groups and they want to participate, please call the office at 854-4046.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Bell Ringing will be Friday, December 4th and Saturday December 19 from 10am-6pm at Walmart. Call Darlene Barkley to get on the schedule. 217-556-7621



CHRISTMAS CRADLE UPDATE

Angels will be ready **for pick upon Sunday, November 15th**. The unwrapped gifts need to be **back** by Sunday, **December 6th**.

Anyone wanting an angel can **call the office** and we can mail the angel to you or tell you the information over the phone. We can also text or email the information from the angel to you. The angel gifts are for the younger siblings of the Shopping Spree kids.

If you prefer to make a **donation** instead of shopping that would be appreciated too, since we also help Safe Families and WIC at Christmas.

Please call Nancy with any questions 854-2435 or 217-204-3212.



Everyone is invited to join the Worship Committee get the Church ready for the season of Advent. Anyone wanting to help *hang lights, greens, decorate trees etc.* is invited to stay *after Worship* on **Sunday, November 22nd**, Nancy Smith will be providing Taco Soup. Any questions; please call the church office, or Nancy Smith at 854-2435

NOVEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Michael Barber
3 Tyler Siegel
6 Amanda Kaburick
Lillian Wise
Brad Haley
9 Rich McClain
10 Nichole Eichen
12 Steve Kaburick
14 Katie Thomas
Brian Mitchell
Connie Schroeder
15 JP Roberts
16 Elner Ivers
17 Brad Lohnes
18 Craig Siegel
Allison Groves
Jim Vanderpoel
19 Margaret Tetzlaff
Tyler Leefers
23 Roger Goodman
25 Quincy Harding
26 Mary Jo Oye
27 Kevin Groves
28 Kirby Bates
John Lapp

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Michael & Dawn Ann Raftis
6 William & Beverly Klaus
7 Bill & Peggy Yudinsky
12 Bob & Donna Konneker
14 Larry & Pat Kaburick
16 Jim & Wanda Dixon
17 Todd & Martha Armour
Wade & Becky Stults
24 Kevin & Beth Groves
26 Mark & Elner Ivers
Mark & Heather Lohnes-Kanllakan



**DON'T
FORGET
TO VOTE**

Remember to vote on November 3rd. **The office will be closed on Election Day.**



Calling all Christmas Cookie Bakers. We will be fixing a meal for the kids that are participating in the Live Nativity on December 6th. We would love to have **Christmas cookies for the kids** to go along with their hot chocolate.

So, when you make your Christmas cookies, we would appreciate it if you could bake an extra dozen or two for the kids. ***You may drop them off anytime the week of December 1st*** or bring them to church with you on the 6th. If you have any questions, please call the office at 854-4046.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SPREE

The Children's Christmas Spree will take place ***December 11, 12, 13.***

Donations of \$140 will sponsor a child, but contributions of any amount are welcome and appreciated. Donations may be send directly to CNB Bank & Trust PO Box 350 Attn: Angie LeVora. Checks should be marked payable to the "Children's Shopping Spree".

They need *volunteer adult shoppers* to purchase clothing and gifts for each child since this year volunteers will be shopping FOR a child not WITH them. A "drive-thru" pick up of each child's list and shipping envelope will be provided at the Federated Church parking lot. Purchases will then be delivered to the child's home or back to the church for distribution.

Questions may be directed to and volunteers may register by calling Mary Beasley (217-854-2410), Mary Loveless (217-825-3626) or Martha Young at (217-854-9769)





Wider Church Leadership

Rev. Shana Johnson- Illinois South
Conference Minister

Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer – General Minister
and President of the United Church of Christ

Current Concerns

Nancy Smith
Cagney, friend of Quincy, lung issues
Rhonda Stout
Nancy M.
Nancy Madsen - Kris Lohnes' sister in law
Transition Team as they work on clarifying vision and
mission of St Paul's church
People affected by fires in Macoupin County,
Colorado, and California
Aaron Palan - deployed

Shut-ins

Kathleen Gillespie
Margaret Bloom
Jean Beal
Andrew & Norma Schroeder
Jean Klaus
Marilyn Best
Norma Hammann

Ongoing concerns

Audrey Rosentreter-Joan Hammann's Mom
Cheyenne Pence Holder (Ryann Hammann's sister in
law)
Vonda Young
Becky Murray- Pastor Katrina's cousin
Vickey Jabahr-Swires
Elsa Wiemerslage - Leukemia
Jim Gillespie III
Rick Lohnes
Jim Killam

The **Mission for November** is the **Macoupin Military Support Group (MMSG)**. The MMSG sends boxes to Macoupin Military persons each month.

They meet on the *2nd Tuesday* of each month at #40 Carlinville Plaza at 6pm to pack boxes, meeting follows at 7pm, all are welcome.

Following is a small sample of items you can donate for the boxes: beef jerky, shaving gel, crossword/sudoku books, gum, Chapstick bar soap, shampoo etc.; all travel or small sizes, soldiers carry these items with them. For a *complete list* you can contact the office at 854-4046, or the MMSG at macoupinmsg@gmail.com . It now costs \$17.35 to send each box, so monetary donations are always welcome.

Please drop off your donations at the church during office hours. You may mail your donations to the church at 202 E Main Carlinville, please mark Macoupin Military in the memo section of your check. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

As a *show of thanks* during November, we will be collecting items each week of November to be placed in a Thanksgiving Cornucopia to be given to the Food Pantry on Nov. 30th. Items most needed are **beef stew, cereal (hot & cold), peanut butter, canned spaghetti/Ravioli, pancake mix and syrup.**

Food can be dropped off at the **office 8:30-12:30 Mon-Thursday** or **brought to the church on Sunday.**

St. Paul United Church of Christ
202 E. Main
Carlinville IL 62626
Sunday Worship 10:00 am.
Sunday School 10 am.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #155



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Staff

Rev. Katrina Palan – Intentional Interim Minister
Linda Leefers – Church Secretary
Kathy Witt – Treasurer
Brian Mitchell – Financial Secretary
Elner Ivers – Organist
Debbie Costello – Choir Director
Norma Mitchell – Custodian

Church Council Officers

Jerry Eiffert – President
Katie Cervi – Vice President
Kristina Wise – Secretary

Office Hours: 8:30 am. – 12:30 pm. Monday through Thursday

Email:

Pastor Katrina: stpaulpastorucc@gmail.com

Linda: stpaulucc@nwcable.net

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

The Transition Team continues to meet on Wednesday nights to clarify the identity, vision, and mission of St. Paul United Church of Christ.

Presently the Team is discussing Heritage which is the first stage of Clarifying the Identity, Mission and Vision of our church on the Stages and Focus Points brochure found on the colored sheet in the October Newsletter. As we delve into the history and traditions of St. Paul UCC; conversations with church members, Carl Kasten's book WE ARE ST. PAUL'S, and church documents will all be necessary to show us where we were, where we are, and where we hope to be. The team is developing data collection methods for obtaining this information.

Making sure that everyone has an opportunity to honestly and openly share their joys and concerns of St. Paul United Church of Christ is very important to this Team. Every opinion matters. Let us hear from you.

The Transition Team can be contacted by:

email TTStPaulUCC@gmail.com Checked regularly by Eric Ratcliff

regular mail—St. Paul UCC Transition Team, 202 East Main, Carlinville, IL 62626

phone/text --Leave a message which will be returned as soon as possible

Eric—217-556-8806

Heather—217-371-1888

Joan—217-825-9244

Leland—217-971-4044

Rich—217-556-2640

Wanda—217-825-9290

On October 23rd team members will be attending Illinois South Conference workshops via Zoom format. The workshops Re-formation of the Church and Engaging the Youth will be beneficial to our church work. We look forward to hearing new ideas and implementing them at St. Paul UCC.

With the love of God and all of your prayers and support, The Transition Team is truly blessed and will continue to move forward toward the completion of their assigned task.

The Transition Team wants to hear from the congregation of St. Paul's UCC.

Throughout the month of November, the Transition Team will be offering several options to meet in small Conversation Groups with members of the Transition Team.

The meeting will last approximately 30-60 minutes. Social distancing guidelines will be followed.

The following dates and times are scheduled:

-
- Sunday, November 1st - after church, starting at approximately 11:15am
- Sunday, November 8th - after church, starting at approximately 11:15am
- Saturday November 7th – meeting times at 7:30 am, 8:30 am, 9:30 am and 10:30am
- Wednesday, November 18th - meeting times at 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm

Children will not be included within the meetings, but they will be allowed to remain within the building and are encouraged to bring something to help keep them occupied. The older youth will have the opportunity to contribute their input at the Senior Youth meeting and at the Confirmation class on Wednesday, November 18th. Please feel free to call the office to sign up for your preferred Conversation Group meeting time.