

HERALD

St. Paul United Church of Christ
202 E. Main
Carlinville, IL 62626
Rev. Katrina Palan, Intentional Interim
Office: 217-854-4046
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January 2021

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Somehow, the year has passed by rapidly. I guess as I look back, it seemed slow at the time, but I cannot believe that somehow, I am almost at a year of being here with you. I feel as though I have just started. Usually by now, I have met with most of the congregation and have a good idea of the direction that the congregation is headed. The same old story is that because of COVID-19, everything is delayed. We have been able to have worship, confirmation, move through an entire church calendar year, but it seems surreal.

I want to thank the transition team for all of its hard work in helping us to move forward. They are doing an incredible job for your congregation. I give you much credit for choosing these people to work on your behalf. I would also like to thank the worship team, and the "production team" of Leland Smith, Joan, and Chris Hamman and Elner Ivers for being here each week to help get the worship services out to you each week. I could not have done this alone. I also want to give a shout out to the twelve or so worship leaders who have come in each week to help make the service special. Finally, thanks all who provided special music so that we could have local music in our service. This has been the place in the service where I am able to worship. I have loved the variety of talents and voices that have been shared.

Where do we move from now? It is in this time of transition, between the pastors so to speak, that we have the opportunity to ready the church for a new pastor, mission, vision, and focus. *I would ask that you work with the transition team, whose job it is to help move the congregation through the five focus points of heritage, mission, leadership, connections, and future.* Once again, because of COVID-19, this process has slowed down a bit. It is harder to get people together to get their stories and input. All of this is important to get accomplished

because it helps the congregation have a better outcome and a better match in the new pastor search. When the transition team gets to the end of their process, they will let the council know that it is time to form a search team. The way things are moving now, it looks like that may not be for at least January 2022. We will know more as the year unfolds.

Please continue to pray for the transition team as they do the work of the church.

Another question is how do we have the annual meeting if we cannot meet in person? At the council meeting it was decided that we would **mail out the annual reports by the 15th of January.** You will also get this with a **card** to send in, drop by, mail, email, or carrier pigeon it to the church with your vote for the new council members and the new persons for the committees. We will have a **zoom annual meeting on Sunday January 31st at 11:30.** Please make sure that your email is current and, in the church, so we can send you the email link. If you do not have email, you can send in any questions to the reports we send you. Please make sure to put your name on the cards or communications so we can validate your votes or questions. Zoom is the way that the conference and many others are using to have meetings. This can work for us. *If you have any questions about zoom, please contact me to get you set up in advance of the meeting. We can get through this together.*

Shalom,

Pastor Katrina



NEWS & Notes

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual reports for all Committees are **due** in the office no later than **January 4th**. All reports should be emailed to stpaulucc@nwcable.net. The annual report will be mailed on January 15th. Included in this mailing will be a **postcard** for you to **vote for the budget, committee members and Council members**. You will need to mark yes or no for each of these categories. You must sign your vote for verification if your card is not signed it will not be counted. **The postcards need to be returned to the office no later than January 25th**, and may be mailed, dropped in the prayer box, dropped off at the office, or you may email your vote to the above email address. If you have any questions, please call the office at 217-854-4046.

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The **Annual Meeting** of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, **January 31st** as a **Zoom meeting at 11:30am**. The purpose of the meeting will be to approve the proposed budget of 2021 and to vote on committee and new council members. Please make sure the office has your **current email**, so you get the zoom link. If you need help with zoom, contact the office.

CHRISTMAS CRADLE

The 2020 Christmas Cradle is pretty much all wrapped up and it was successful! We bought toys for **28 spree siblings**. Thank you to Elner for wrapping them! We donated **\$500 to Safe Families** The Angel Tree provided **27 children** with Christmas and **winter coats**. All this and we should have money left to order nuts next year. **Thank you for your generosity**. We can be proud to have such a success in a year like 2020.
Thanks again, Nancy Smith

SENIOR YOUTH NEWS

Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions and for the safety of all, the Sr. Youth were not able to meet in December for their annual Christmas Party and White Elephant gift exchange. Looking at 2021 we will be working on ways to continue our meetings, even though they cannot be in person. We pray for health and peace during this uncertain time, and look forward to seeing you all again soon!! We miss you all, and Happy New Year!
Donna, Amy, and Joan

ORGAN FUND UPDATE

In response to an appeal of November 23, 2020 as of December 14, 2020; **22 members** have already made donations totaling **\$5770.00** toward the new organ. In addition, two of the challenge thresholds have been met and this will result in another \$1500.00 being donated. When 18 more donations are received, we will obtain the other challenge gift of \$500.00.

Mr. Dial plans to be here during very late December or early January to start installation of the new organ.

The Organ committee is extremely grateful for all the help given by each and every member for donations already made and those no doubt forthcoming. It is wonderful to see our church accomplish so much with so many involved.
Thank you, The Organ Committee

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Account	
Income	\$11,334.00
Expenses	15,581.21
Balance	-3,947.21

Organ Fund income	\$5,770.00
Air conditioner income	0.00

Liabilities

Organ:	25,227.97
Air Conditioner	3,918.72



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

Those impacted by COVID-19

Family of Don Eichen

Audrey Rosentreter

A peaceful transition at the White House

Transition Team as they work on clarifying vision and mission of St Paul's church

Shut-ins

Kathleen Gillespie

Margaret Bloom

Jean Beal

Andrew & Norma Schroeder

Jean Klaus

Marilyn Best

Norma Hammann

Alice McGeachy- Linda (Ed) Leefers' Mom

Ongoing concerns

Audrey Rosentreter

Cheyenne Pence Holder

Vonda Young

Becky Murray- Pastor Katrina's cousin

Vickey Jabahr-Swires

Elsa Wiemerslage

Jim Gillespie III

Rick Lohnes

Jim Killam

Rhonda Stout

Nancy Madsen - Kris Lohnes' sister-in-law

Our mission for January is Hitz Home.

Hitz Home is a not-for-profit ministry of the United Church of Christ that has been providing healthcare services to the elderly since 1952. Our home is conveniently located just four miles east of Route 4, in the quiet, charming town of Alhambra, IL with medical facilities close by.

Our mission is to be a caring community, reflecting faith-based values, within which residents' rights are respected and fulfilled. We are on a journey to provide our residents with choices, options, and a sense of achievement each day.

We've built our home around the needs of the residents and encourage them to make decisions that impact the quality of their lives.

Hitz Home Rehab and Skilled nursing facility is a faith-based, non-profit home located in Alhambra, Illinois. We offer a complete range of care including Rehabilitation and short- and long-term skilled nursing care.

Our goal is to make you feel at home. You may bring personal decor from home and decorate any way you would like. Our facility is clean, inviting, and friendly.

When you stay with us, we welcome you as part of our family.

Thank you in advance for your generous donations!

Transition Team Update

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

The Transition Team is currently studying our church's heritage. This is the first of five focus points as outlined in the *Stages and Focus Points for Intentional Interim Ministry*, which we are following.

As we study our heritage, the Transition Team is asking for feedback about St. Paul's UCC from every member of the congregation. **Our goal is to make sure everyone has an opportunity to openly share their joys and concerns.** Small conversation groups are being offered to provide members the opportunity to give their feedback. These groups are set up with a maximum of six church members along with two Transition Team members. Topics are provided to generate discussion. To encourage free expression and provide confidentiality, names of participants are not associated with their responses. The responses from all listening sessions will eventually be compiled by topic and reviewed by the Transition Team to find common themes.

We would love to hear from you! We are in the process of contacting members to schedule a listening session. **If you have not heard from us, please feel free to reach out to any of the members on the Team!** Due to the recent Covid-related restrictions that limit in-person meetings, groups will meet by Zoom, telephone, or other potential formats. We will also be developing a paper questionnaire for situations where we can't otherwise meet with congregation members.

We currently offer **conversation group meetings on Wednesday evenings, Saturday mornings, and Sunday evenings.** If you are unable to attend during one of these times, please let us know and we will schedule a time that works for you! Please consider participating in a session and providing input. **Each and every member's feedback is important to us!**

Our January meeting schedule is as follows:

Every Sunday at 5:30pm

Every Wednesday at 7:00pm

Every Saturday at 9:00am

Have questions? Contact us!!!!

The Transition Team can be contacted by:

Email-- [TRANSITION
TEAMStPaulUCC@gmail.com](mailto:TRANSITIONTEAMStPaulUCC@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

With God's guidance and your continued prayers and support, the Transition Team is truly blessed and will continue to move forward toward the completion of our assigned task.

Peace and blessings,

Transition Team members: Rich, Heather, Leland, Wanda, Eric, and Joan

JANUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 2 Carol Witham
 - 3 Linda (Mrs. Von) Leefers
 - 4 Ian Costello
Mackenzie Harris
David L Hammann
Dash Sanson
 - 5 Marilyn Best
 - 6 Rebecca Hammann
 - 7 Ken Bennett
Pam Smalter
Robert Wiggins
 - 9 Sheila Hammann
Mitchell Armour
Gail Petri
 - 10 Alan Kaburick
Michelle Stratton
 - 11 Jaime Sexton
Geneva Armour
Jay Trump
 - 12 Emma Griffith
Daisy Valdivieso
 - 13 Ethan Hammann
Hallee Kaburick
 - 14 Howard Rutherford
Emmy Haley
 - 15 Connie Steele
 - 17 Sandy Owens
Donna Sanson
Wanda Dixon
 - 18 Steve Mosby
Amy Jamieson
 - 19 Robin Walker
Judy Thoron
 - 20 Andrew Williams
 - 21 Tiffany Darr
 - 22 Kaleb Stults
Lea Hudson
Ariya Darr
 - 23 Gene Gahr
Steve Dixon
 - 24 Doug Eichen
 - 25 Ethan Dixon
Meghan Allen
 - 26 James Kaburick
Norma Schroeder
Margaret Bloome
 - 27 Samuel Wiese
 - 28 Elise Ratcliff
- St. Paul United Church of Christ

- Kylia Emery
- 29 Blake Hammann
Katie Jabahr
Joe Konneker
- 30 Deana Rogers
Sally Rauzi
- 31 Quinn Steiner
Ian Davis
Joe Miller

Anniversaries

- 1 Robert & Crystal Wiese
- 10 James & Carol Kaburick
- 29 Curt & Vickey Swires



Hat & Mitten Tree

We are going to continue to *collect hats and mittens/gloves through January*. Please drop your donations off at the church office no later **than February 4th**. All donated hats, mittens and gloves will be donated to the Carlinville Schools.



Please make sure the office has your current email address. **If you plan on attending the Annual meeting via Zoom**, it is important that we have your most recent email. **If you are unsure** if we have your correct email, send a quick email the office at stpaulucc@nwcable.net so we can verify. Thank you.

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
Debra 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
Church Office: stpaulucc@nwcable.net
Transition Team: TRANSITION_TEAMStpaulUCC@gmail.com
Finance Committee: finances.stpaulucc@gmail.com