

Herald

St. Paul United Church of Christ

202 E. Main

Carlinville, IL 62626

Rev. Katrina Palan, Intentional Interim

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May 2021

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I am typing this article, turning my head to the window, I look outside the window to see the snow falling. Oh my gosh, how is that possible. I really thought we were headed into spring. The early spring trees and bushes are in full bloom. Daffodils and Hyacinths have already come and gone. Tulips are blooming, peonies are budding. Everyone has already cut their grass a time or two. I have had my heat off and my windows open. What in the world is going on? This is not the way I planned spring to be.

Isn't that the issue? Nothing has gone the way we have planned it for some time now, well over a year, as a matter of fact. Perhaps it is hubris on our parts to think that we have all of life planned out, that it should go just as we think that it will. Isn't that what happened to the disciples almost 2,000 years ago. They had a plan. Jesus was going to rise up, overthrow the Romans and establish David's kingdom in Israel, just the way it had been established in their history. They were going to be the might nation of Israel, once again. But things didn't go the way the disciples planned, not by a long shot. They missed the point that the realm of God was not a military realm but was really a spiritual realm.

Are we missing that same issue today? Have we become so complacent in our lives that we truly believe that our world and everything in it should be just the way WE want it to be? Are we forgetting that God's plan for us is to establish us as a spiritual people, not a superpower or a super church? As we study the teachings of Jesus, we have to admit that Jesus challenges us today just as Jesus challenged the "church" of his day. We have gotten so out of touch with God and the plan that God has for our community of faith, that we do not know who we are anymore. We have no idea what the mission and vision of St. Paul's church is. We just come to church (when it is convenient, and we have no other more important plans to do) to get worship done in an hour, to see others and to be seen. Are we missing the signs of God all around us?

We want comfort, we want everything to "go back" to the way it was. I understand that. It is in times of uncertainty that we are the most uncomfortable. We always want to know what is going on. Living by faith is difficult and trying. We want routine, we want control of our lives, "Masters of our own fate, captains of our own soul" as William Earnest Henley wrote in his poem, *Invictus*. We have come to believe that this is our RIGHT.

Nothing could be further than the truth. The reality is that, like Job, we have absolutely no control over the things that happen in our lives. To think that we do is an illusion. We only have control over our responses to the things that happen in our lives. We were created for relationship with the creator of the universe. God created us, not that we created God. We have allowed ourselves to get far away from right relationship with God as we insist on having things done "our way". Sometimes, I think God looks down on us and laughs because we think we are bigger than God. Truly, we should be seeking God's kingdom, not trying to establish our own.

Finally, from the writings of the apostle, Paul, Colossians 3: 12-17 ~ *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Pastor Katrina



The **Senior Youth** is back to in person meetings! All safety and social distancing guidelines are being followed. Stay tuned for details on our upcoming **May 26th** meeting! Any youth currently in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us. We would love to have you be part of our group!
Donna, Amy, and Joan

The **Jr. Youth** group will meet on Wednesday, **May 5th at 6:00 p.m.** This will be our last meeting before we break for the summer. We hope that all the kids are able to join us.

The Jr. & Sr. youth will be having a **drive thru pork cookout** on Friday, **May 28th** from 11-1 at the church. Anyone interesting in donating bottles of water or helping in any way, please get in touch with Donna Sanson at 854-8598, or leave your name and number with Linda, at the office and Donna will get back to you. We were planning on donating to the organ fund, but I'm sure we can find another project that we can help support.



Good news! As of this month, Summer Camp is back on at DuBois Center. We should be getting camp brochures very soon. There are camps for everyone! Family Camp for all ages; as well as camp for kids from 1st to 12th grade. You can find more information at <https://duboiscenter.org/> Remember, that we offer camp scholarships, for info on the scholarships contact Heather Haley or the church office.

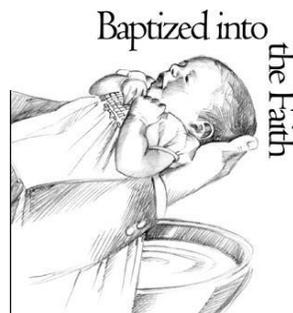
Hayley Elliott, Acting Director of Outdoor Ministry will be at St. Paul's UCC on Sunday, May 23rd to talk about camp.



Ruthie Grace Whittington was born April 7, 2021; she weighed 7lb 11oz and was 20 ¼" long. Her parents are Grant & Madi Whittington, maternal grandparents are Chris & Betsey Rogers. Congratulations on the addition to your family!



We are looking for a wedding coordinator! Nancy Smith, our current wedding coordinator is retiring. She will train the new coordinator. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact the office 217-854-4046 or Nancy at 217-854-2435



Caroline Ann Hammann was baptized Saturday, April 10, 2021 by Pastor Katrina on the family farm. Her parents are Brandon & Rebecca Hammann, paternal grandparents are Albert & Sheila Hammann, paternal great-grandmother is Mary Hammann



MISSION PARTNER

We support over 2,000 individuals and families each year in Southern Illinois. While we receive funding from various government sources to support our work, it doesn't cover many of the expenses required to give special assistance or even little holiday surprises to the youth and family we serve.

Here are just some of the things donor gifts help fund:

- Holiday gifts for foster care children
- Extracurricular activity fees for youth
- Transportation costs for foster parents
- Emergency assistance for foster families in crisis
- Clothing, personal hygiene items, and safe shelter for a trafficking survivor

At the Hoyleton Campus, every youth receives individual therapy, life skills training, access to ongoing education, and the opportunity to develop social skills with their peers through various settings including community projects, participant sports, and recreational activities.

Our residential treatment team's main goal is to help children and youth transition to living with their family or traditional foster care setting.

Steps in developing a traditional transition plan include:

- Create behavioral stabilization goals that can be managed in a family setting
- Help them regulate their emotions and rely on adults for help
- Improve coping skills
- Help them discuss and work through their trauma with therapy assistance
- Prepare the caregiver on ways to support the youth .

Please make your donations to St. Paul UCC and note Hoyleton on your check. Thank you in advance for your generous donations!

CARLINVILLE FOOD PANTRY

FOOD ON THE FIRST: Our congregation collects donations for the Carlinville Food Pantry on the first Sunday of each month.

This month the needs are for **Health care items:** soap/ liquid & bar, shampoo & conditioner, toothbrushes & toothpaste and body wash.

Your generous donations are always appreciated. Please call Darlene Barkley if you have any questions about the Food Pantry.



The Finance committee is working on a second revision to the Finance Policy. Committee has made a motion to hire the accounting firm Scheffel and Boyle to conduct an audit of the St. Paul's financial records. This will be presented to Church Council for approval. There are several banking accounts still open at different banks in town. Some of these accounts have been difficult to get service on and are looking into consolidating these accounts to one local bank.



Current Concerns:

Health issues: Lynda Power; Darlene Barkley, Nancy Smith, Alice McGeachy (surgery).

For the safety of our farmers who are trying to get fields ready and planted.

Those who are struggling with health issues.

Those who are struggling with the economic impact of COVID-19

Those who are struggling with mental health issues

We lift up all who are weary and oppressed, that they might find people and communities around them that are nurturing, strengthening, and freeing.

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

Shut-ins: Jean Beal, Margaret Bloome. Kathleen Gillespie, Norma Hammann, Jean Klaus, Alice McGeachy, Andrew Schroeder, Gerda Strophe

Wider Church Leadership

Rev. Shana Johnson-ISC Conference Minister

Rev. Dr. John Doerhauser GMP-UCC



- 1 Becky Stults
Brendon Mosby
- 2 Jim Dixon
- 4 Eric Ratcliff
- 5 Bob Hammann
Sara Owens
Brock Lohnes
McKenzie Michaelis
- 9 LaVern Slightom
- 10 Brady Jamieson
Harper Hammann
- 13 Nancy Smith
- 16 Jacob Brown
- 20 Kendall Hammann
Matthew Slightom
Stacey Steiner
- 21 Courtney Emery
Chase Thomas
- 22 Rick Walker
Kayden Wells
- 23 Fran Goodman
- 24 Jeanne Slightom
- 25 Richard Reiher
- 26 Von Leefers
- 27 Greg Armour
Kate Harding
- 28 Jimmy Gillespie
Joan Hammann
- 30 Ginger Whitworth
Brandon Swarringin
Tony Wiggins
- 31 Josh Slightom
Ed Leefers
Jim Stilwell
Gavin Hammann
Griffin Hammann

- 8 Chris & Joan Hammann
- 12 Tim & Tammy Pearson
- 14 Ron & Margye Morse
Cyndee & John Goodman
- 16 John & Judy Thoron
- 20 Chad & Tabitha Rives
- 22 Curtis & Kate Eichen
- 24 Greg & Jodi Griffel
- 25 Jerry & Karen Eichen
- 26 Austin & Melinda Barnard
David & Jeanne Slightom
Ed & Linda Leefers
Kenny & Amanda Witt
- 28 Val & Karen Leefers

Worship Committee Report

The worship committee met on April 8th. They are planning the following events:

May 9 – celebrating Mother’s Day. There will be a surprise for each woman in attendance.

May 23 – Pentecost Sunday (about 1978th Birthday Party for Church)

June 6th – Graduate Recognition. Please get your information to the church office as soon as possible.

June 13th – potential organ dedication Sunday (more details coming).

We are looking for someone who wants to train to be the next wedding coordinator. Please contact Nancy Smith or the church office if you are interested.

We are also looking for people to prepare communion once a month. Training available.

Please contact the church office for more information.

Since we are back in church on Sundays, we are re-instituting the **Greeters** at the main door. The following is the **schedule for this month**:

- 5/6 – Sr. Youth Group 5/9 - Council members
- 5/16 - Choir members
- 5/23 – Building and Maintenance committee
- 5/30 – Men’s Fellowship

Nancy Smith,
Worship Chairperson

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

May 

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 Thomas - Vice President
Lari Vanderpoel- Secretary

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

Email: Pastor Katrina: stpauuccpastor@gmail.com

Church Office: stpaulucc@nwcable.net

Transition Team: ttstpaulucc@gmail.com

Finance Committee: finance.stpaulucc@gmail.com

Online giving: <https://stpaulucccarlinville.360unite.com/home>