

HERALD



St. Paul's: Loving God While Serving Our Neighbors.

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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June 2022

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Yeah, Summer is here. I am not sure why, but this winter and spring have seemed to drag on. A couple of weeks ago, I was still wearing flannel shirts and longing for warmth. We got a few days of sun, then the rains and a cool front went through, putting us back in cool weather. I don't usually complain about spring, but this one seems to have lingered. Of course, that means that the spring flowers have had a longer time to stick around before the heat of the day causes them to bloom and be finished.

As you know, I am all about nature and celebrating it. I love to see the little "surprises" (like the carpet of mini violets this spring), and to hunt down the birds, critters and colors that God has for us. What I have longed for is longer days, a little bit of warmth so I can open my windows, clear skies so I can enjoy having an outdoor fire, and clear days in which to walk my dog. I just feel like I've been indoors too much. Of course, you know. I will be complaining about the heat in a couple of weeks and longing for a little cooler weather.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 tell us: *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."*

The writer of Ecclesiastes is letting us know that everything has a purpose and a place in time. We should not get ahead of what we are experiencing. We need to stay in the moment and enjoy what life is

offering to us. When we spend too much time thinking about what is wrong and what we look

forward to, we miss the small things that God is showing us right now.

Our lives can get so busy that we do not take the time to look for God in our lives every day. All we do, sometimes, is complain about what is wrong and what we want changed. If we take the time to stop and look at the small violets, instead of saying, wow, that is a mess. There is supposed to be grass there instead of the gift of violets, we can miss the beauty of nature that God has sent to bless us.

As we look at the Ecclesiastes text, we acknowledge that there is a shadow side to every situation on earth. Yes, we love birth, planting, healing, building, laughing, gathering, embracing, dancing, searching, keeping, mending, loving and making peace. The shadow side to this is dying, uprooting, killing, tearing down, weeping, mourning, scattering, embracing, giving up, tearing, being silent, throwing away, tearing, being silent, hating, and warring. The only way I know to distinguish between the two is to be in direct contact with the creator who knows all things. If we listen for God to lead us into the times that we should be in, we will be in sync with all of creation. This June, I would encourage you to be in contact daily with the creator through prayer, Bible reading and study, and worship to discern what time it is that we are called to live out. Consider the others in the community of faith to see how you can help them to be the people of God that they need to be. It is when we are all seeking the path that God has for us that we can be the community of faith we are called to be. Shalom,

Pastor Katrina



MONTHLY MISSIONS

Your Mission & Outreach Committee has provided two missions for you to support during June – Strengthen the Church, both a national and regional conference ministry, and Church World Service, an international program.

First, Strengthen the Church. Donated funds in 2020 were split 50/50 between the National workings of our denomination and our Illinois South Conference. Grants were available for a variety of uses. National funds were used mainly for technology help during the pandemic to allow churches to improve their ability to provide worship services and have meetings virtually and for churches to start a variety of other programs to help their congregations and their communities.

The Illinois South Conference used their portion of Strengthen the Church funds to expand their ability to provide workshops, seminars, trainings, and a variety of other opportunities for local congregations by improving their technology base. These funds are also used for pastor's retreats and other programs that benefit both the pastors and their congregations.

Giving to Strengthen the Church allows us to be recognized as a "5 for 5" church in our Conference by supporting Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, and the Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross).

Our *second mission for June is Church World Service*. Their mission is simply stated – “build a world where there is enough for all.” And they are working toward this goal – seeing gardens flourish in barren lands to provide food for families and neighborhoods, immigrants finding new homes and opportunities after fleeing violence or climate change, homes standing through the worst disasters, bringing water sources to seemingly waterless areas, teaching people how to build greenhouses to grow their food more efficiently – then they teach others the same skills.

In addition to helping people around the world, Church World Service is also busy in the United States helping rebuild after floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, and other disasters.

Our support would help purchase clean-up kits – cleaning supplies, disinfectant, etc. – items that are really needed by our neighbors after storms and disasters. Or it would purchase hygiene kits – basic items like soap, washcloth, toothpaste, and toothbrush, etc., also items that are really needed if your home were blown apart or washed down the river. It would provide grant funds for Rosemary who cares for her grandson in Haiti. Rosemary used these funds to make more bread and garden produce to sell to support the two of them. Our support would help Thao in Vietnam who uses grant funds to buy chickens, who lay eggs – some to eat, some to sell, some even for hatching! She also shares her knowledge with other people in the village – so helping one family often helps multiple families!

Please share what you can to help folks in our denomination help others through Strengthen the Church. And share what you can to help people in the United States and around the world become more self-sufficient and less hungry through Church World Service. Thank you!!



Sunday School is over for this school year. We will begin back up with a Sunday School Kickoff on September 11th, 2022, at 9am. There will be a potluck held following worship on that day. Sunday School will be every Sunday from 9am-9:45am for the 2022-2023 school year.

The **Jr. Youth Group** will be taking a break for the summer. They will resume meeting in the Fall.

YGSC: We will be working with the youth groups on a drive thru Pork Cookout on Friday, June 24th, 11-1 p.m. It will once again be located at the church. All volunteers are welcome or if you would like to donate bottled water, it would be very much appreciated! The Youth Groups are thankful and blessed with all of the support from our church family!



Vacation Bible School will be *July 24th- July 28th*. The time will be from 6-8pm and we will have a camping theme. We need volunteers to help with activities and to cook a meal each night. We could also use camping props (i.e., small tents, sleeping bags, lanterns, etc.) We will post a list of volunteers and items needed in June.

If you are interested in volunteering, or if you have questions, please contact Heather Haley, Chair of Christian Ed, or the church office.

Thank You!

The "Donut Sunday" fellowship committee would like to thank everyone who helped and those that attended this past season. We're taking a short break, from donuts, for the summer. We will be helping out with some different fellowship activities, watch the church calendar! We will welcome everyone back in the fall for "Donut Sunday"!!

Thank you to all who helped with the **Blood Drive** as sponsored by the Carlinville Area Hospital Auxiliary on May 4th. This was held at the Carlinville Elks Club. St Paul UCC volunteers served refreshments and drinks in the "canteen area." A number of church members donated cookies and several helped with the set up/take down and serving duties. The Blood Drive had 41 people giving blood (several from St Paul's UCC). Thanks to all the helpers and to those giving blood.



Make plans now to attend the "Mystery Dinner" **Saturday, June 25** in Fellowship Hall. Tickets may be purchased after worship through June 12th. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. They will also be available in the office starting June 13th, *ticket sales end June 19th. No tickets will be available at the door.* Doors open at 5:30pm, dinner served at 6pm.

The purpose of this dinner is to have lots of fun!! Please see Nancy Smith or Paula Lapp for more information or to purchase your ticket.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Current Concerns:

Joyce Vanderpoel-Lari Vanderpoel's mother in law, Dean Holliday; Sr. Betty Jo Meyers-Austin Carter's grandmother; Bob Bergeron - Linda Leefers' uncle; Grandma Patricia; Noelle Kaufmann- friend of Pastor Katrina; Elsa Weimerslage; Fred Emery; and Lynda Power. Those who are struggling with health issues. Those who are struggling with mental health issues.

We lift up all who are weary and oppressed, that they might find a world of peace and justice. Transition Team as they continue to work on helping the church heal in this time of transition. The Church Council and other leaders in the congregation.

Shut ins: Jean Beal, Margaret Bloome, Norma Hammann, Jean Klaus, Alice McGeachy, Mary Jo Oye, Andrew Schroeder, Gerda Strobe

Wider Church Leadership

Rev. Shana Johnson-ISC Conference Minister
Rev. Dr. John Doerhauer GMP-UCC

Special Congregational meeting.

On June 5th, we are calling a special congregational meeting to discuss approval of expenditures as provided by the building and maintenance committee. This meeting will provide financial options and a prioritized list of projects will be provided.



Transition Team

Transition Team update:

The Transition Team met as a group Wednesday, May 18th to continue the transition process. Eric Ratcliff and his committee members presented St. Paul's UCC Personnel Manual final draft to the Church Council for approval. The Church Council approved the personnel manual and it will be put on the ballot for approval by the members at the Semi-Annual meeting in July. The Constitution & By Laws committee has submitted the final draft to the Church Council for review and questions. It will be discussed at the upcoming Church Council meeting in June. The Transition Team will meet to continue working on the transition process.



Eli Ratcliff graduated from Carlinville High School. He plans to attend SIUC in the Fall to get his Civil Engineering degree. His parents are Eric & Amy Ratcliff.



- 1 Javonne Harbaugh
Aladin Helmy
- 2 Devan Little
Patti Hudson
Leslie Tipps
- 3 Jonathon Gillespie
- 5 Kegan Witham
Max Rogers
- 7 Alexa Bradley
Paige Roberts
- 10 Leanne Gahr
- 11 Lari Vanderpoel
Matt Killam
Jason Allen
- 12 Britton Mitchell
Piper Rives
- 13 Tammie Hammann
- 14 Adam Banister
- 17 Ben Rogers
- 18 Aaron Kaburick
Kelsey Morse
- 19 Jerel Loveless
Luca Leefers
- 20 Jordan Probst
Mike Lackman
- 21 Larry Kaburick
Aly Hammann
Julia Beardslee
- 22 Jennifer Whitlock
- 23 Ed Griffel
Marilyn Loveless
Jeff Klaus
Elijah Osborne
- 24 Grayson Armour
- 26 Jill Rulon
Sara Klaus
Tim Dixon
- 27 Jeff Hammann
Bill Steele
- 28 Bryce Hammann
- 29 Susan Bennett
- 30 Jeana Hammann
Hannah Webb
Aurora Darr



- 4 Ernie & Debbie Costello
Bill & Mary Mack
Tyson & Haena Probst
- 6 Louis & Jennifer Whitlock
Ken & Sue Bennett
- 9 Jim & Sandy Johnson
- 11 Rick & Becca Griffith
- 12 Dan & Mary Kay Berry
- 14 Tom & Kim Barber
- 20 Grant & Madi Whittington
- 24 Eric & Amy Ratcliff
- 26 Glenn & Wanda Hammann
Clint & Marissa Mitchell
- 27 Robert & Teresa Klaus
Jason & Meghan Allen
- 28 Matt & Gretchen Killam
- 29 Roger & Fran Goodman
Matt & Nikki Schuette
- 30 Jack & Gail Sanson

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Church Staff

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

Church Council Officers

Darlene Barkley-President
Blake Hammann-Secretary

Office Hours: 8:00 am – 1:00 pm Monday through Thursday

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Finance Committee: finance.stpaulucc@gmail.com
Council President: spucccp@gmail.com
Council Secretary: spucccs@gmail.com
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