

THE CHIMES

St. Paul United Church of Christ

Oak Harbor, Ohio

December, 2020



DATES TO REMEMBER

December 1 – Advent Conspiracy begins @6pm (Zoom)

December 3 – Covid Candlelight Vigil, 6:30pm

December 6 – Congregational Meeting Following Service

December 21 – Blue Christmas Worship Service, 6:30pm

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service (4:30pm, 7:30pm)

TWILIGHT REFLECTIONS

The season of Advent is much like a church in transition. Like the season Advent, we find ourselves waiting in hope and anticipation as the Search Committee continues the extensive work of preparing a profile, interviewing candidates, and issuing a call to the next permanent pastor. It is a time of waiting. As I think about the four candles of Advent that are lit each week, breaking through the darkness, and revealing God with us, I am thinking of the good work we are doing in spite of the pandemic that keeps us alert, vigilant, and often apart. The season of Advent reminds us that even though we are waiting, we are not passively waiting for the Son of God, but we are actively pursuing the promise of the light of Christ. At St. Paul UCC, this is our state too – actively waiting for the promise that is yet to come. Where is the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love in this time of waiting? Where is God revealing God's promise of God with us in this time of waiting? Let me share some ways in which St. Paul is actively waiting in these times.

Hope is that sentiment that believes that every day is filled with possibilities for something new or something better. The Search Committee is meeting weekly to put together the profile. Nine faithful people doing their best to communicate data and narrative to tell our story. The Council is working on your behalf to keep you informed of changes due to COVID-19 and stepping up to the administrative responsibilities that need to be in place so that the work of the congregation can move as smoothly as possible from week to week.

Providing a degree of **peace** for our spirits in times of transition and separation has been the reason that the pastors continue to provide regular avenues for devotions that we hope bring some degree of comfort to you. The Council, staff and pastors have created a protocol and set of expectations for times of worship that are intended to keep us safe when we are able to gather. A Blue Christmas Worship Service and several prayer vigils are being planned in this season to bring some healing and unity to our brokenness and our scattered existence.

TWILIGHT REFLECTIONS, continued

Despite COVID-19, our teams are meeting and planning events and opportunities that are intended to bring us **joy**, even when we cannot be together in the way we used to be. The Congregational Life planned a successful and quite delicious ham dinner in November and there is some conversation that some additional 'curb-side' pick-up dinners will be coming soon. The Stewardship and Mission team is inviting members to join them in providing a joyful Christmas for families in our community through our Angel Tree and our Cheer Baskets. The Christian Education team continues to plan virtual events that bring our children, youth, and families together. Each opportunity are ways to bring us joy.

Love is something that has been a big part of the community of faith over the generations. We have a visitation team that has been doing their best to stay in touch with our shut-ins and embodying the love of this community. Cards, greetings, and telephone calls are an important part of the ministry of many within our congregation who faithfully stay in touch, sharing the love. We have coordinated calling teams to stay in touch with our members as best as we are able, once again embodying love for our members and friends. Yes, even as we are in a time of transition, our congregation is actively waiting, strengthening our faith community, and building one another up. Like the twilight, when much of the light of the day is gone or yet to be revealed, we actively wait for the darkness to pass and the new day to begin. This is God's way. This is our way. May we continue to think and act creatively in this time of change.

Anticipating each new day!

Pastor Dan

SPECIAL SERVICES PLANNED

Sunday, December 13, Service of Carols and Reflections

During this service, we will enjoy the history behind some of our carols and our pastors will share a short reflection on some of our most favorite and meaningful carols. Join us as we celebrate this season with the Carols of Christmas.

Sunday, December 20, Children's Christmas Pageant

In this long-held tradition of planning a Christmas pageant, we have set this Sunday aside to remember the Christmas story through the eyes of our children. Join us as we remember the Christmas story with our children.

Christmas Eve Services

Given the importance of keeping our numbers at a minimum, the Worship and Music Team with the pastors will provide two similar services on Christmas Eve. The first service will be at 4:30pm and the second service will begin with special Christmas music at 7:15pm and worship will begin at 7:30pm. Please watch for more details as we decide the best way to monitor the number of people who will be worshiping with us at any given time.

OHIO GOVERNOR'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Ottawa County children from birth up to their 5th birthday, regardless of family income, can be provided with a new book each month at NO COST to the parent or provider. Studies have shown that improving early literacy leads to better education and training, improved employment outcomes, less poverty, and reduced crime. The books, which are mailed directly to each child, are selected by a panel of early childhood literacy experts. To enroll a child in Imagination Library in Ottawa County, visit <https://www.unitedwaytoledo.org/take-action/united-way-in-ottawa-county/> and click on the "Register Now" tab. (made possible by United Way of Greater Toledo/Ottawa County)

COVID CANDLELIGHT VIGIL THROUGHOUT ADVENT

The daily statistics of Americans testing positive for COVID-19 continues to climb throughout our nation, our state, and our county. At the time of this writing, Ohio tested 7,853 people on one day (November 15th), and in Ottawa County, we are averaging 24 positive tests every day. Besides wearing masks, avoiding meeting with more than a couple of people, and practicing social distancing, many are wondering if there is more, we can do. In conversation with one of our members Pastor Dan and Pastor Scott will lead three short weekly candlelight vigils in our parking lot on Thursday evenings beginning at 6:30pm. We are planning the evening vigils, beginning Thursday December 3rd and continuing through December 17th. We will gather in the parking lot for prayer, singing, and community reflections on the candles of hope, peace, and joy. Our planned vigils will pray for God's intervention, grace, and comfort in these dark and anxious days. Please come dressed for the weather. Should the weather become intolerable or dangerous, we will hold our vigil in the Fellowship Hall.

BLUE CHRISTMAS: A SERVICE OF WHOLENESS & HEALING

The Advent Words, '**comfort, comfort my people, says God**', from the prophet Isaiah are particularly poignant in these COVID days and in a political and social time when grief, anger, and fear continue to dominate our emotions. In addition, perhaps you are grieving the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness, or are experiencing the loss of a job. All these concerns impact our spirits at a time when Christmas celebrations imply happiness, joy, laughter, and family gatherings. All of this has been compromised in these days and we are feeling broken and powerless. Given such a difficult time in our world today, Pastor Scott and Pastor Dan will provide an additional service in this season of Advent. On Monday, December 21st, we will offer an opportunity for members to join us for a service of wholeness and healing in our Sanctuary. Our Blue Christmas service will begin at 6:30pm and we will include an opportunity for prayers of healing.

ADVENT BOOK STUDY: ADVENT CONSPIRACY

Back by popular demand, this year's Advent Book Study will be Advent Conspiracy. This countercultural book helps Christians get back to the meaning of Christmas as Jesus embodies. Expensive gifts, credit card debt, overbooked calendars, and physical exhaustion- these things have nothing to do with the true meaning of Christmas. Instead we are offered an opportunity to draw closer to being a follower of Jesus. Advent Conspiracy will have five virtual book study sessions on Zoom following the themes of: Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, and Love All.

We hope as a church family to support the ministries of Light House Sober Living and Cherry Street Mission by providing joy and hope.

Please let Pastor Scott know if you are interested in Advent Conspiracy.

MISSION & STEWARDSHIP – CURRENT PROJECTS

The Mission and Stewardship Team is doing Christmas time a little different this year. We have decided not to participate in Operation Christmas Child. The number of lives we have changed over the years through shoeboxes filled with love has been wonderful. This year, we will still have the Christmas Cheer Baskets (red and green tag trees) for 6 families in the BCS School District but we are adding an Angel Tree (circle ornaments on a tree). The angel tree will be to adopt a local family for Christmas. If you want to participate but need a tag picked from the trees for you, please call the church office. The Angel Tree went up November 1st and the Christmas Cheer Baskets tree went up on November 15th. The tags will have instructions on them when items need to be returned. Let's get ready to spread Christmas Cheer from St. Paul UCC.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – DECEMBER 6

Council has set Sunday, December 6, as the date of our next Congregational Meeting. At this meeting, the budget for 2021 will be approved and new Council members will be elected. Plans for this meeting are as follows:

1. The 2021 Budget and Council member nomination information is included on the website and in November's issue of The Chimes. Nominees are: Lynn DeTray, Cindy Harder, John O'Neill, Becky Tong, and Dave Witt.
 - a. If you have any questions regarding the budget, please contact Fred Schnoor.
 - b. If you have any questions regarding the nominations, please contact Brad Hemminger.
2. If we are still having in person worship on December 6, the meeting will be held at the conclusion of the service. If you are not worshipping in the sanctuary, you may listen to the meeting in the parking lot. The meeting will be not be videotaped or livestreamed.
 - a. Voting will occur in the sanctuary and in the parking lot at the conclusion of the service until 11:30.
3. If we are unable to have in person worship on December 6, the meeting will be called to order at the conclusion of the service for the purpose of balloting. Voting will occur in the parking lot at the conclusion of the service until 11:30.

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN PEN OR PENCIL TO USE FOR VOTING

If you have any questions, feel free to contact any member of Church Council.

Church Council

ABEND GUILD

Greetings members of Abend Guild! It seems like so long since we have seen one another! And who knows how long this may go on yet!

Your officers have talked and we suggest holding onto our funds (which we usually share in December) until our membership can meet and discuss how we would like to gift these. It may even be next December before we share our funds, but there's no hurry.

We sincerely hope all of you are staying healthy, washing your hands often, and wearing your masks.

We wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving. However we spend the holiday, we have much to be thankful for!

We also wish you a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year, bearing in mind all of God's many blessings we receive each and every day, but especially the gift of His son, Jesus, who will see us through this very trying time of our lives.

We look forward to when we can meet again and enjoy the fellowship which is on hold for now. Until then, we wish you God's richest blessings! And please know you remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Lois, Carol & Kimm

NOISY OFFERING FOR DECEMBER

In December, Noisy Offerings will be in support of Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS, which continues its long-time ministry and mission to the residents of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Back Bay has historic and strong ties to the Heartland (former Ohio) Conference UCC and the Northwest Ohio Association.

Thank you to those who support our Noisy Offerings. During November, our spare change went to support International Health Partners in Tanzania as they continue to improve healthcare for children and families.

SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

Greetings from the Search Team. The team conducted our "kick off" meeting with Rev Dan Busch. This covered some of the big picture items about the process and some of what to expect. For this search we will be using the new format developed by the UCC. If anyone is interested the template and other information can be found at www.ucc.org/ministers_search-and-call.

The search team continues to meet weekly and we are activity working on the Church Profile. We will be reaching out to the members of our Church Family for some information needed to populate the profile. As we are pushing to get this profile assembled, we are reaching out in many ways and are asking for a short response time.

Take Care and see you in Church.

Nate Barron

CHRISTMAS EVE SPECIAL MUSIC SIGN-UP

As we are getting ready for the Advent/Christmas season, we are calling on any volunteers who would like to present special music prior to either the 4:30 service or the 7:30 service. If you are interested, please contact Beth Witt via cell phone at 419-334-5513 or email at dbwitt73@gmail.com or complete the sign-up form and return it to Beth Witt. Thanking you in advance for sharing your special musical talents with our congregation!

Christmas Eve Special Music Signups

4:30	7:30	Name	Song Title

DEAREST ST. PAUL UCC FAMILY & FRIENDS,

As the holidays approach, we ask that you remember our Pastors in your holiday prayers and gift-giving. As in the past, there are accounts set up for each Pastor at Commodore Perry Federal Credit Union in both Oak Harbor and Port Clinton. Please reference Pastor Scott's account number: 16439, or Pastor Dan's account number: 19521, when taking your monetary gift directly to the credit union.

In the event that physically going to the credit union is an issue, I would like to offer you the options of mailing your gift to the church, or putting it in a white envelope and placing it in the offering plate during Sunday service. The offering is also collected from those worshipping in the parking lot. Please indicate that your gift is for Pastor Scott or Pastor Dan. I will document your gift and deposit it for you at the credit union. I will always have another council member present when counting and documenting these Christmas gifts.

Thursday, December 17th, 2020 is the last day to make a deposit. Your gifts collectively will be presented to the Pastors on Christmas Eve, on behalf of the St. Paul United Church of Christ family.

Thank you in advance and God bless you,

Karen Dages and the Church Council



COOKIES NEEDED FOR SHUT-INS

We are hoping to spread Christmas joy to our shut-ins with baskets filled with cookies and fruit. We need your help with supplying a total of seven dozen baked Christmas cookies. Please drop off cookies in the church lobby between Wednesday, Dec. 9th and Friday, Dec. 11th.

SEARCH TEAM QUESTIONNAIRE

The Search Team is currently working on gathering information as we work on searching for our next pastor. The information we are gathering will be used to help us create our Church Profile, which will let prospective pastors know about what is important to St. Paul and about who we are. You can complete the questionnaire by filling out the questionnaire found at the link below. We have also emailing the link out to members. Hard copies will be available in the church.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdVEzysNMzZN53zpUHScZpdkZ05ZShl-kjv1G0o6cQtQkoCcxg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

Please return/complete the Questionnaire by Sunday December 13th. You can either drop off your paper form during church or during office hours, mail it back to the church or email it to Katie Myerholtz at kate2784@aol.com.

The Search Team thanks you for your help!



St Paul UCC Church Service & Event Guidelines

Yellow Level 1	Public Emergency: active exposure and spread.
In Person Service with transmission to parking lot	Limited Pre-approved activities

Orange Level 2	Public Emergency: increased exposure and spread. Exercise high degree of caution.
In Person Service with transmission to parking lot	Very limited pre-approved activities

Red Level 3	Public Emergency: very high exposure and spread. Limit activities as much as possible.
In Person Service with transmission to parking lot No Sunday School or other activities	No other activities

Purple Level 4	Public Emergency: severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services.
Virtual Only	No other activities

Virtual service can be done at anytime in addition to the in person or transmitted to parking lot services.

Updated November 9, 2020

From the Ottawa County Health Department

A person identified as a close contact will be asked to quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure to the positive individual. A close contact is defined as a person that had close contact (within 6 feet) of the infected individual, did not have on a facial covering, and had more than 15 minutes of exposure to the infected individual. Contacts of a contact do not need to quarantine until the contact they had contact with becomes symptomatic.

State of
Ohio Public
Emergency
County
Levels

St Paul UCC
Service &
Event
Guidance

LOCAL AND WIDER CHURCH ONLINE RESOURCES...

- Church website: www.stpauluccoh.org.
- Facebook: search for "St. Paul UCC (Oak Harbor)"
- Northwest Ohio Association UCC website: www.nwoa.org
- Ohio Conference UCC website: www.ocucc.org
- United Church of Christ website: www.ucc.org

ST. PAUL UCC LEADERSHIP

Pastoral Staff

Interim Pastor	Rev. Daniel Sather
Associate Pastor	Rev. Scott Cunningham

Support Staff

Office Manager	Carol Pennington
Financial Secretary	Cindy Dixon
Custodian	Duane Jess

Church Council Members and Ministry Teams

Keith Green –President	Fred Schnoor – Finance
Brad Hemminger – Vice Pres.	John Crosser – Worship & Music
Denise DeTray – Treasurer	Karen Dages–Pastor-Parish Relations
Sandy Shearon – Secretary	Ted Harder – Evangelism
Craig Collins – Christian Education & Family Ministries	
Cindy Harder – Congregational Life & Fellowship	
Christina Barron – Mission and Stewardship	
Lucas Jess – Trustees	

A THOUGHT FOR THE FUTURE

When making financial decisions for the future, please consider how much can be accomplished by St. Paul Church in general and by our estate funds in particular because of the generous gifts left to the congregation through Wills and Trusts. The future support of St. Paul UCC and its capital projects and mission work draws upon gifts such as these. Please remember to keep St. Paul UCC and its future ministries in your prayers and plans. If you need more information or would like to confidentially discuss how you can provide long-term support for your church, please contact Pastor Dan or Pastor Scott.

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY CHIMES, 9AM MONDAY, DEC. 21ST

The deadline for the January issue of The Chimes is 9am Monday, December 21st. Assembly and mailing is tentatively scheduled for 9am Wednesday, December 30th. Particularly if you are a regular contributor, please consider submitting your material earlier so as to allow for an increased amount of work to be done in this time period. Thank you.

DEADLINE FOR 2020 ANNUAL REPORT & DIRECTORY

The deadline for the 2020 Annual Report & Directory is 9am Thursday, December 31st. If you have made a change to your phone, address, email or members of your household, please let the office know in advance of this time. If you are in charge of a team, please schedule such that your report is in by this time as well. Early submissions, particularly those which must be retyped or edited, are especially appreciated. If all goes according to plan, these reports will be available to you on Sunday, January 17.

**Upcoming
DEADLINES**

2020 BUDGET**2021 BUDGET****SENIOR PASTOR**

SALARY	\$ 53,899.00	\$ 53,899.00
HOUSING	\$ 16,170.00	\$ 16,170.00
HEALTH/DENTAL	\$ 12,769.00	\$ 12,769.00
PENSION	\$ 15,170.00	\$ 15,170.00
MILEAGE	\$ 1,051.00	\$ 1,051.00
PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
MINISTER CELL EXPENSE		\$ 5,000.00
LIFE INSURANCE/DISABILITY	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
<u>SENIOR PASTOR TOTAL</u>	\$ 102,559.00	\$ 109,059.00

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

SALARY	\$ 36,720.00	\$ 36,720.00
HOUSING	\$ -	\$ -
HEALTH/DENTAL	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
PENSION	\$ 5,141.00	\$ 6,610.00
LIFE INSURANCE/DISABILITY	\$ 651.00	\$ 651.00
MILEAGE	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
BUSINESS/MTG EXPENSE	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
BOOKS/CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
<u>ASSOCIATE PASTOR TOTAL</u>	\$ 59,912.00	\$ 61,381.00

EMPLOYEE SALARIES

ORGANIST	\$ 4,760.00	\$ 4,760.00
CHOIR DIRECTOR	\$ 4,296.00	\$ 4,296.00
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 2,250.00
CUSTODIAN	\$ 14,566.00	\$ 14,566.00
SUMMER INTERN	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
OFFICE SECRETARY	\$ 10,353.00	\$ 10,353.00
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	\$ 5,468.00	\$ 5,468.00
<u>EMPLOYEE SALARY TOTAL</u>	\$ 42,193.00	\$ 42,193.00

UTILITIES

GAS	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 9,000.00
ELECTRIC/WATER/SEWER	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 10,500.00
TELEPHONE	\$ 2,050.00	\$ 2,050.00
CELL PHONE	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
REFUSE REMOVAL	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,200.00
<u>UTILITIES TOTAL</u>	\$ 24,050.00	\$ 24,050.00

TAXES

REAL ESTATE	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,715.00
WORKER'S COMP	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
PAYROLL TAXES	\$ 5,700.00	\$ 5,700.00
<u>TAXES TOTAL</u>	\$ 8,800.00	\$ 9,315.00

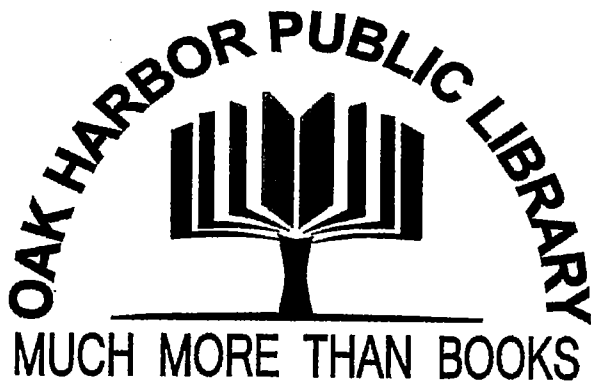
OTHER EXPENSES

CHURCH INSURANCE	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 13,700.00
JANITOR SUPPLIES	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
OFFICE EXPENSES	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
COPY MACHINE	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
POSTAGE	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00
MUSIC & CHOIR	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,700.00
SUNDAY SCHOOL	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
WORSHIP SERVICE SUPPLIES	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,300.00
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
EMERGENCY RELIEF	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
GUEST SPEAKERS	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
KITCHEN/FOOD/FELLOWSHIP	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
PARSONAGE EXPENSES	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
ELECTRONIC GIVING CHARGES	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
KITCHEN EQUIPMENT	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
<u>OTHER EXPENSES TOTAL</u>	\$ 53,500.00	\$ 51,900.00

<u>GRAND TOTALS</u>	\$ 291,014.00	\$ 297,898.00
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BENEVOLENCE GOALS

OCWM	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
CUE	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
GRACE COMMUNITY CENTER	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
<u>TOTAL BENEVOLENCE GOALS</u>	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00



Coffee and a Book!

December 9th

Wednesday Morning

At 11 PM Via Zoom

call 419-898-7001 to register

Pick up "Lost December" by Richard Paul Evans to read and discuss



Follow us on Facebook and YouTube!

See: Miss Chris Reads

Ask a Librarian

Feature Fridays

Trivia and Must Reads

Holiday skits



Library Hours

Monday thru Thursday 9:30 till 6:00

Friday 9:30 till 5:00

Saturday 9:00 till Noon

Closed December 24th & 25th

December 31st closing at 5

All children must be accompanied by adults. Masks required in library.



Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

Please send us pictures of you in your UGLY Christmas Sweater!

Send pictures to
ohplmedia@seolibraries.org

Include your name and phone number please. Oak Harbor Mayor Quinton Babcock will be our judge for the ugliest Christmas sweater.

The Winner will receive a \$10

Oak Harbor Chamber Gift Certificate. Contest runs November 28 to December 20, 2020.



4th Tuesday

Book Club

Tuesday,

December 22nd

at 6 PM.

Via Zoom

call 419-898-7001

to register

"Darling Rose Gold" by S Wrobel



NOVEMBER WORSHIP ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS

Date	Service	Attendance	Offering
October 18	Worship	♥47	♥\$▲
October 25	Worship	♥♥26	♥♥ \$4520
November 1	Worship	20	*† \$
November 8	Worship	26	*†† \$10,404
November 15	Worship	60	††† \$2873
November 22	Worship	35	†††† \$▲
November 29	Worship	▲	†††††\$▲
Averages (Nov.)	Worship	▶ 35	▶ \$4426
♥Plus \$ - Benevolence	†† Plus \$553 - Benevolence;	†††† ▲	▲ -
♥♥Plus \$192 - Benevolence;	\$100 - Neighbors in Need	††††† ▲	unavailable at time of printing
\$150 - Neighbors in Need	††† Plus \$145 - Benevolence		▶ Not incl. ♥, ♥♥, ▲
*† Plus \$ - Benevolence			

2020 Year-to-Date Budget (through Nov. 15th): \$251,865

2020 Year-to-Date Offering (through Nov. 15th): \$209,740 est.

*(October electronic offerings of \$5525 were added to 2020 General Fund total;
plus \$440- Benevolence; \$85 - Christian Ed.; \$205 - Youth Fellowship)*

(*November 1 and November 8 were counted together)

CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday in December to:

- 2 Jan Willoughby, Bruce Schultz
- 3 Colton Moore, Avery Traver
- 5 Carolyn Bahnsen
- 6 Kathy Gaines, Lauren Hill
- 7 Margie Winters, Jeanna Hiltabidel,
Anna Markley, Jan Harder
- 8 Christina Barron
- 12 Caitlin Jess, Jeanne Gloor
- 13 Alyssa Pierson, Steve Tomor
- 14 Penny Brossia, Mary Luecht
- 16 Madilynn Wagner, Cara Witkowski
- 18 Kayli Ray, Kay Ewing, Maddison Gottberg
- 20 Colt Petersen, Jim Dornbusch
- 21 Madison Rife
- 23 Cobi Brough
- 24 Elyse Hablitzel
- 26 Caitlin Conrad
- 27 Joel Witkowski, Eva Marie Morris, Dave Hessel
- 28 Lia Ricci, Dennis Kersten
- 29 Abby Swope, Julie Vance

Happy Anniversary in December to:

- 7 Tom & Carolyn Witt
- 12 Ken & Lois Pfaff
- 15 Ashleigh & Matthew Heishman
- 18 John & Betty Deitzel
- 24 Ed & Cindy Dixon
- 31 George & Nadine Thompson

Should you be listed here? If your special date does not appear, it is only because we are not aware of it. Please contact the church office to let us know! (Please also advise us of any errors...)

ONE-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN 2020 – DECEMBER

DECEMBER

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Hosea 7-8	Ps. 137	Luke 24
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Hosea 9-10	Prov. 20	Matthew 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<i>Reflect on God as Giver</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Hosea 11-12	Ps. 128	Matt. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Hosea 13-14	Prov. 21	Matt. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Joel	Psalms 139	Matt. 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Amos 1-3	Prov. 22	Matt. 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Amos 4-5	Ps. 140	Matt. 6
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Amos 6-7	Prov. 23	Matt. 7-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<i>Reflect on God as King of Kings</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Amos 8-9	Ps. 141	Matt. 9
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Obadiah	Prov. 24	Matt. 10
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Jonah 1-2	Ps. 142	Matt. 11
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Jonah 3-4	Prov. 25	Matt. 12
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Micah 1-3	Ps. 143	Matt. 13
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Micah 4-5	Prov. 26	Matt. 14
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	<i>Reflect on God as Savior</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Micah 6-7	Ps. 144	Matt. 15
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Nahum	Prov. 27	Matt. 16
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Habakkuk	Ps. 145	Matt. 17
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Zephaniah	Prov. 28	Matt. 18
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Haggai	Ps. 146	Matt. 19
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Zech. 1-3	Prov. 29	Matt. 20
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	<i>Reflect on God as Emmanuel</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Zech. 4-6	Ps. 147	Matt. 21
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Zech. 7-8	Prov. 30	Matt. 22
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Zech. 9-10	Ps. 148	Matt. 23
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Zech. 11-12	Prov. 31:1-9	Matt. 24-25
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Zech. 13-14	Ps. 149	Matt. 25-26
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Malachi 1-2	Prov. 31:10-31	Matt. 26-27
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Malachi 3-4	Ps. 150	Matt. 28

CHRISTIAN BOOK CORNER – DECEMBER 2020

"THE CHRISTMAS BOX" BY RICHARD PAUL EVANS



This month's selection is a longtime personal favorite of mine. It tells the timeless story of a parent's undying love for their children no matter what their age. Evans wrote this book as a private expression of love for his two young daughters, Jenna and Allyson, so he could fully express the depth of his love for them.

As he began to write, he was amazed at the inspiration that flowed into his mind and heart. He completed the moving story of a widow and the young family who comes to live with her in less than six weeks. What began as a tale for two little girls became a message of miracles, hope, and healing for people throughout the world.

Beth Witt

BCS FOOD PANTRY SUGGESTED MONTHLY DONATIONS-DEC.

- Hand Soap
- Dish Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Pasta
- White Rice or flavored rice
- Jelly/Jam
- Canned Chili
- Canned Beef Stew

SCHEDULE OF DECEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Dec. 6	Organist Acolyte Head Usher Altar Flowers (delivery)	Beth Witt Olivia DeTray Karen Dages Debbie Green
Dec. 13	Organist Acolyte Head Usher Altar Flowers (delivery)	Sue Tomor Billy Zunk Karen Dages Debbie Green
Dec. 20	Organist Acolyte Head Usher Altar Flowers (delivery)	Bonnie Daniels Wyatt Siefke Karen Dages Debbie Green
Dec. 24	Organist Acolyte Head Usher Altar Flowers (delivery)	Sue Tomor (4:30pm); Beth Witt (7pm) Serenity Krehmke (4:30pm); Noah Jess (7pm) Karen Dages Debbie Green
Dec. 27	Organist Acolyte Head Usher Altar Flowers (delivery)	Bonnie Daniels Jocelyn Rollheiser Karen Dages Debbie Green

Church Council Minutes

Monday, November 9, 2020

Council Members Present: Christina Barron, Fred Schnoor, Karen Dages, Lucas Jess, Brad Hemminger, Denise DeTray, Sandy Shearon, Keith Green, Cindy Harder, Craig Collins, John Crosser, Pastor Scott & Pastor Dan. Nathan Barron, (Search Team). Ted Harder was absent.

Council President Keith Green called the meeting to order.

Search Team: Nathan then gave Council the Search Team update. Keith asked Nathan to be prepared to give the update during Sunday Service & to have an update in the December Chimes. Denise DeTray read the devotional & shared an opening prayer.

Secretaries Minutes: Minutes from the October council meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report as of 11/9/20

Checking Account Balance	\$42,396.87
Current Income	\$19,058.50
Current Month Expense	\$35,421.19
Current Month Benevolence Income	\$1,272.00
Current Month Benevolence Expenses	\$4,998.50
Year to Date Income	\$286,660.59
Year to Date Restricted Endowment Fund Income	\$45,352.89
Year to Date Expense	\$246,859.01
Year to Date Benevolence Income	\$21,770.02
Year to Date Benevolence Expenses	\$15,980.42

Treasurer's report was placed on file.

Trustees: The team met October 8th to review the Angle Parking Project with a DGI rep. Tom Witt is looking into an air ionizer. APEX has been contracted for parking lot snow plowing. The sidewalks will be handled by several volunteers.

Safety and Security: Brad informed Council that the team is working on re-keying the church doors & establishing a sign out/distribution plan to keep better track of the keys. The team should have a cost estimate for the next Council meeting.

Congregational Life and Fellowship: The Team has sold 104 Veteran's Dinners thus far.

Pastor-Parish Relations: The team will meet Nov. 23rd.

Evangelism: The increased calls to members has not yet started but call lists are prepared.

Christian Education & Family Ministries and Youth Fellowship: Virtual Sunday School lessons packs available on demand for families. They will be sending out a weekly Sunday School message.

Mission and Stewardship: The Angel Tree is up in the Elevator Lobby. The Holiday Basket tree will be up soon. They will have another meeting next week.

Finance Team: The Team met & will be using the Conference guidelines. The budget is being converted into electronic format by Cindy Dixon for ease of future updates & information transfer. The Budget is approved to be sent out once prepared & voted on at the Congregational meeting.

Worship and Music: The team is meeting November 11 to discuss Advent services.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Scott reported that the Food Pantry will be assembling 150 Thanksgiving Meals, he will have Youth assist.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor Dan reviewed his Monthly activity report with Council. He indicated plans are in the works for a Virtual Children's Christmas Pageant.

Old Business:

Technology update: Keith handed out two quotes for lapel mics. After discussing the quotes, Keith has several questions to get answered & then will distribute the information to Council for a virtual vote. The Technology Team will consist of Pastor Scott, Doug Beck, John Crosser & Craig Collins with one more to seat. The team needs to establish a scope of work, new uses/purchases, a 5-year plan and inventory review.

Greenhouse for Food Pantry: Council needs a formal proposal. There is a "Go Fund Me" account on Facebook for this & we (St. Paul) have many questions yet. Pastor Scott to check into the interest level from St. John's membership, locating this at their location, etc.

Food Pantry 501C3 update: Pastor Dan stated that the Attorney is still finalizing the 501(c)(3) Non-Profit registration. This should be completed in the very near future.

Membership Roll Review: There was much discussion on timing, goals & fact finding. It was decided that at the current time we will reach out to our in-active members to re-engage them. Pastor Dan will work with the Evangelism team on this.

December Congregational Meeting: Keith shared a handout with the process to be followed for voting after the December 9th service & the letter to be sent & included in the Chimes. Council agreed with the proposal & letter.

Compensation Request: The Vision Team brought their recommendation to Council for no additional compensation per the request submitted at the October Council meeting. Craig Collins made a motion to accept the recommendation. Fred Schnoor gave the second. The motion passed by a majority vote.

New Business:

Service & Event Guidelines: Craig Collins asked to revisit the Safety & Security Chart/Guidelines when the County is under 'Red'; other churches in & around Oak Harbor have stayed with in-person services & our In-Person Covid Protocols have proven to be manageable & the members in attendance have indicated that they do feel safe & distanced. Many council members have been approached about opening the services for attendance. After much discussion & deliberation a motion was made by Craig & 2nd by Brad to update the Red column to include In-Person services starting Sunday, November 15, 2020. Sunday School classes & use of the church will stay as is (closed). The motion carried by a majority vote. On behalf of the Safety & Security Team, Brad asked that process for Release After Services be reviewed before the end of each service and that coats be taken to the pews. This change will be communicated to the Membership via an Email blast & printed in the Chimes.

Advent: The Worship & Music team needs to meet before these plans can be rolled out.

Food Pantry Board of Directors: The Board of Directors need to hold their organizational meeting to establish/update the Constitution, By-Laws of the BCS Food Pantry, enlist more volunteers and secure assistance from other area/interested churches/people. The Board includes Marty Barron, Fred Schnoor, Pastor Scott, Sandy Shearon and Sharon Park- chair person.

2021 Meeting Dates: Council agreed as follows: Installation of Officers will be held during the January 3rd service. January 11th will be the Reorganizational Meeting for Council & January 24th will be the Annual Congregational Meeting after services.

Brad expressed the joy he experienced while serving on Council. He has served with 4 Pastors & 25 Council Members. Council Thanked Brad for the kind sentiment & great work while serving.

The next regular meeting will be December 7, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m. with Karen Dages having devotional. Karen will be Head Usher for December services.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Shearon



I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE who called, visited, delivered flowers and meals during my recovery. I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful church family. Thank you from the bottom of my heart –

Cindy Dixon

OUR “CARRYOUT HAM DINNER” was a huge success. We sold 108 dinners. A big thank you to the confirmands who ran the carryout along with the guidance of Pastor Dan and Pastor Scott. And a huge thank you to Suzi Crosser, Jan Harder and Bob Steinmiller who prepared the meal. Looking forward to our next dinner.

Kathy Steinmiller & The Congregational Life & Fellowship Team

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION to our St. Paul UCC Fall Dinner held on November 11th. Thanks to Pastor Dan, Pastor Scott, Carol Pennington, Rhonda O'Neill, Kathy Steinmiller for helping me with selling tickets; to Kathy and Bob Steinmiller, Jan Harder and Sue Crosser for our meal and prep work; to Jack Barron, Nicholas Heishman and Will Hartlaub for being our carryout runners supervised by Pastor Dan and Pastor Scott. I am incredibly grateful for and humbled by your efforts, and want you all to know that your work has not gone unnoticed.

God Bless!

Cindy Harder

Congregational Life & Fellowship Team Leader



I WOULD LIKE TO THANK Pastor Scott and Kristen for their ENORMOUS amount of time and effort in making online worship possible during this pandemic. Scott used his technology skills to record the service, and did daily online devotionals. Kristen edited the service, putting in the prayers and song lyrics, and then both spent time to upload the service onto social media. They both have helped the church by recommending new equipment that now allows us to show the service live. Many members of the congregation have told me how grateful they are to have worship available during this time! I would hope that all members show their appreciation to Pastor Scott and Kristen, for all of their time, by giving generously to their holiday account.

Karen Dages

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK PASTOR DAN for his time and efforts in making worship possible during these past months. Many members have told me how much they appreciate online worship, but also being able to be back in church as well. He advocated a return to church. He helped research guidelines that the UCC and other churches were doing, so Council could consider how to worship again in our sanctuary. During the early difficult pandemic days, Pastor Dan was still able to do some uplifting devotionals. He is also keeping our search for a new settled pastor on track. Thanks for all you are doing, Pastor Dan!

Karen Dages

DEADLINE: 9:00AM, FRI., DECEMBER 4TH!

**PLEASE FILL OUT THIS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP DECORATE THE
SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24TH**

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Please detach this page and put in offering plate or mail or leave in box outside office with payment (made payable to St. Paul UCC)

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

(circle one)

Order \$9.00 pot (small): _____ **(number)**

Order \$15.50 pot (large): _____ **(number)**

Amount enclosed: _____ **(check/money order/cash)**

DEDICATION: _____

(CIRCLE ONE)

I WILL PICK UP

PLEASE DELIVER TO SHUT-IN

If you wish to pick up your poinsettia, it will be available after the last Christmas Eve service.

LET IT snow!

Create a winter wonderland with this fun craft.



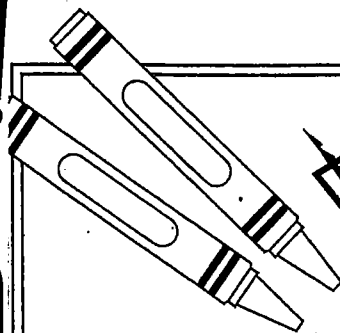
What you need:

- Glass jar with lid but no label
- Laminated photo (that will fit in the jar)
- Small plastic Christmas trinkets
- Hot or waterproof glue
- Container with spout
- 1 cup distilled water
- 3 tsp. glycerin
- Glitter



What you do:

1. Unscrew lid and flip jar upside down. Glue the photo and trinkets to the inside of the lid, standing upright.
2. In a container, mix water and glycerin. Pour the mixture into the jar, leaving space at the top.
3. Spoon in some glitter.
4. When glue is dry, attach the decorated lid tightly. Shake the jar to see "snow" swirl and settle.

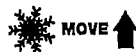


PUZZLE

WHITE AS SNOW

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.



PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
for	give	come	together	around	after
self	into	settle	eternal	thanks	forgive
God	LORD	says	without	Christ	warmth
love	sins	scarlet	other	light	praise
red	star	white	snow	winter	peace



"_____ now, let us _____ the matter," _____ the
 _____. "Though your _____ are like _____,
 they shall be as _____ as _____"

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

Answer: Path 3; come, settle, says, LORD, sins, scarlet, white, snow

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to noon, Monday to Friday (please call in advance)

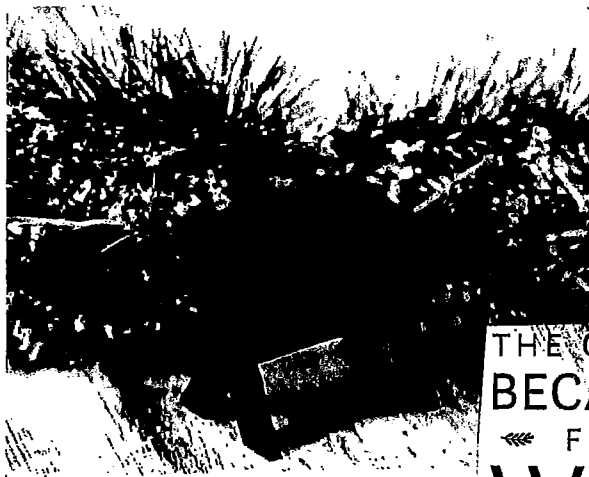
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THE CHILD GREW AND
BECAME STRONG,
FILLED WITH
WISDOM,
AND THE FAVOR OF GOD
WAS UPON HIM.

Luke 2:40



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