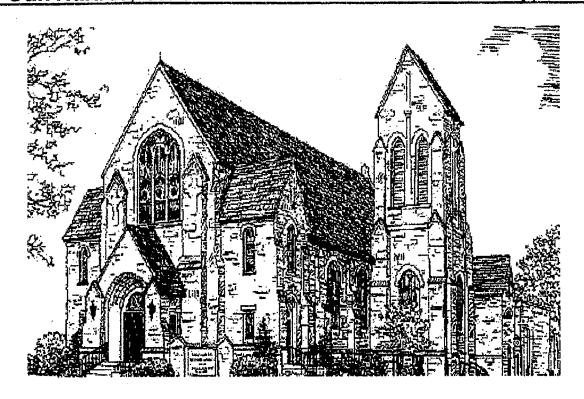
THE CHIMES

St. Paul United Church of Christ
Oak Harbor, Ohio January, 2021



DATES TO REMEMBER

January 3 – Installation Service for Church Council Members January 10 –Return to Nazareth January 24 – Congregational Meeting

TWILIGHT REFLECTIONS

"When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins..." Howard Thurman

I know that for many of us our Christmas gatherings were not like they have been. This was true in our home too. We did miss gathering the family together for gift sharing, good food, much laughter, and family photos. It did not happen this year, but even so, I found myself on a different journey than planning for Christmas morning with family. Instead of the countless hours of preparation for family gatherings, I found myself focusing more intentionally on the spiritual side of this season – the reason we have this day to begin with. It was freeing. It was inspiring and although I do not believe I would want this to be the case every year, for this time it was the right way to allow Christmas to be Christmas for me.

As always, I am grateful for the music, scriptures, and traditions of Advent. I have read my daily Advent devotionals and participated in candlelight vigils. With members from St. John Lutheran Church, I participated in the Advent Conspiracy, and participated in special services for the season. Each opportunity, each experience fed my spirit in these days. After the joy and wonder of Christmas is past and we find ourselves in a New Year, the question on our hearts is what we shall do with this New Year. As I write this article, the snow is gently falling and the words from the hymn, "In the Bleak Midwinter" is playing through my head. "What can I offer poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise one, I would do my part; but what can I offer: all my heart." So, begins the work of Christmas. It begins with our heart.

As we leave Christmas 2020 behind and cross the threshold from one year to the next, we have an opportunity to tap into the richness of the past Advent season, the joy of Christmas day, and the promise of a New Year to renew our own commitment to the work and ministry of our church. It begins with an offering – an offering of our heart to Baby Jesus. As you begin this New Year, I would invite you to consider ways you can renew your involvement in the ministry of our church. Whether it is serving on a committee, delivering flowers, changing paraments on the altar, making a commitment to learning more about our Bible, helping with Sunday School, youth ministry, or volunteering in the food pantry, you are continuing the work of Christmas. For St. Paul U.C.C., this will be an important year and it is my hope that together we can continue to be a presence in this community, a shelter from the storms of life, and a faithful witness to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. What can we give? We can give him our hearts.

Blessings in the New Year.

Pastor Dan Sather

PRAYER LIST UPDATES

We're happy to put the names of people you care about on the Prayer List but we often do not hear when it is appropriate to remove them. Please notify us if there is someone listed who no longer needs to be included. Thank you!

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

While we certainly support and encourage shopping locally, we are aware that there are some, especially those members who do not live or work in the Oak Harbor community, who shop at Kroger. If interested in participating in this program, please sign into your Kroger account online and designate St. Paul United Church of Christ, Oak Harbor, as your designated recipient. Kroger will provide a check to St Paul UCC quarterly representing a percentage of your shopping dollars. *Please note* that this designation needs to be renewed annually – *if your purchases are going to St. Paul UCC, it will be noted on the bottom of your receipt.* If you need assistance with this, please contact the church office.

GUIDELINES FOR WEATHER CANCELLATIONS AT SPUCC

Ottawa County Level 1 – Worship and church activities will be held as usual – use common sense and precaution.

Ottawa County Level 2 – All non-worship activities before and after worship are cancelled – this means no choir practices, Sunday School, church dinners or meetings that may be scheduled, etc. The worship service will be held for those who choose to attend and feel they can travel safely.

Ottawa County Level 3 - No worship service or church-related activities.

DEC. 6TH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - VOTING RESULTS

We congratulate Dave Witt, Becky Tong, Lynn DeTray, and Cindy Harder for their election to serve on Council. We are planning to install and commission during the Sunday, January 3rd service. We gratefully thank our outgoing Council members Brad Hemminger, Fred Schnoor and Karen Dages for their dedicated service and leadership.

The budget for 2021 was also passed and we thank the Congregation for their support. We are looking forward to the coming year. Council will be having their reorganizational meeting on Monday, January 4.

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY CHIMES, 9AM WED., JAN. 20TH

The deadline for the February issue of The Chimes is 9am Wednesday, January 20th. Assembly and mailing is tentatively scheduled for 9am Wednesday, January 27th.



THANK YOU TO DONNA IHDE AND MARK for delivering the nice Fruit Basket and cookies to our home. How nice. We miss seeing everyone. Appreciate so much how members work together to make this congregation function in this hard time.

Darrell and Mary Floro

CHRISTIAN BOOK CORNER – JANUARY 2021 "LOST DECEMBER" by RICHARD PAUL EVANS



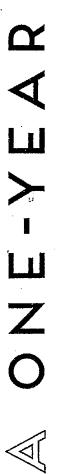
This month's book "Lost December" by Richard Paul Evans is a great read to start off the New Year! The author shares a modern-day, Christmas-themed retelling of the story of the prodigal son. "It has been said that the greatest hope in our lives is just a second chance to do what we should have done right in the first place. This is the story of my second chance."

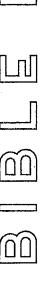
When Luke Crisp graduates from business school, his father, CEO and cofounder of Fortune 500 Crisp's Copy Centers, is ready to share some good news: he wants to turn the family business over to his son. But Luke has other plans. Taking control of his trust fund, Luke leaves home to pursue a life of reckless indulgence.

But when his funds run out, so do his friends. Humbled, alone, and too ashamed to ask his father for help, Luke secretly takes a lowly job at one of his father's copy centers. There he falls in love with a struggling single mother and begins to understand the greatest source of personal joy. This is an amazing story of tragedy and redemption!

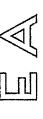
Beth Witt



















year. We've created a reading plan that includes three passages each day (one from the Old Testament, one from the Poetical Books, and one from the New Testament) and time for reflecting on an aspect of Start the New Year strong by committing to reading through the entirety of Scripture over the coming God's character on every Sunday. Print this plan out, fold it in half, and keep it tucked into your Bible for easy reference as you spend time reading and reflecting every day. Check the box once you've completed that day's reading to help you stay on track. By dividing the Bible into 365 daily readings, your goal of reading the Bible in a year can easily be accomplished. Enjoy spending intentional time with the Word of God this year!

For additional Bible reading plans, download the Bible Study Tools app or visit biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan

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	JANUARY	M				K W	
	Reflect on God as Creator	eator		10	Ex. 25-26	Ps. 14	
0.2	Gen. 1-4	Ps. 1	Matt. 1	0.2	Ex. 27-28	Prov. 14	Matt. 24
03	Gen. 5-9	Prov. 1	Matt. 2	3	Ex. 29-30	Ps. 15	
4	Gen. 10-14	Ps. 2		4	Ex. 31-32	Prov. 15	Matt. 26
□ 5	Gen, 15-18	Prov. 2	Matt. 4	□ 5 Re	Reflect on God as Loi	rd of All	
9	Gen. 19-22	Ps, 3	Matt. 5	9 🗆	Ex. 33-34	Ps. 16	Matt. 27
7 0	Gen. 23-25	Prov. 3	Matt. 6	10	Ex. 35-36	Prov. 16	Matt. 28
8 🗆	Reflect on God as Healer	aler		8 🗆	Ex. 37-38	Ps. 17	Mark 1
	Gen. 26-27	Ps. 4	Matt. 7	6 🗆	Ex. 39-40	Prov. 17	Mark 2
10	Gen. 28-31	Prov. 4	Matt. 8	010	Lev. 1-3	Ps. 18	Mark 3-4
	Gen. 32-34	Ps. 5	Matt. 9	1 11	Lev. 4-5	Prov. 18	Mark 5
_ 12	Gen. 35-37	Prov. 5	Matt. 10	□ 12 Re	l as (Counselor	
13	Gen. 38-42	Ps. 6	Matt. 11	□ 13	Lev. 6-7	Ps. 19	Mark 6
14	Gen. 43-44	Prov. 6	Matt. 12	0 14	Lev. 8-10	Prov. 19	Mark 7
-	Reflect on God as Provider	ovider		15	Lev. 11-12	Ps. 20	Mark 8
	Gen. 45-47	Ps. 7	Matt. 13	□ 16	Lev. 13-15	Prov. 20	Mark 9
17	Gen. 48-50	Prov. 7	Matt. 14	117	Lev. 16-17	Ps. 21	Mark 10
18	Ex. 1-2	Ps. 8	Matt. 15	18	Lev. 18-20	Prov. 21	Mark 11
1 19	Ex. 3-4	Prov. 8	Matt. 16		Reflect on God as Fa	Faithful	•
1 20	EX. 5-6	Ps. 9	Matt. 17	□ 20	Lev. 21-22	Ps. 22	Mark 12
0 21	Ex. 7-8	Prov. 9	Matt. 18	0 21	Lev. 23-25	Prov. 22	Mark 13
	d as h	Umighty		0.22	Lev. 26-27	Ps. 23	Mark 14
	Ex. 9-10	Ps. 10	Matt. 19	□ 23	Num. 1-3	Prov. 23	Mark 15
□ 24	Ex. 11-12	Prov. 10	Matt. 20	□ 24	Num. 4-6	Ps. 24	
□ 25	Ex. 13-14	Ps. 11	Matt. 21	□ 25	Num. 7-9	Prov. 24	Luke 1
□ 26	Ex. 15-16	Prov. 11	Matt. 22		Reflect on God as Authol	thor	•
0.27	Ex. 17-18	Ps. 12	Matt. 23	□ 27	Num. 10-12	Ps. 25	Luke 2
□ 28	Ex. 19-20	Prov. 12	Matt. 24	□ 28	Num. 13-15	Prov. 25	Luke 3
□ 29 /	Reflect on God as Alpha and Omeg	oha and Omega	,	-			
□ 30	Ex. 21-22	Ps. 13	Matt. 25				
□31	Ex. 23-24	Prov. 13	Matt. 26				



PLEASE JOIN US FOR "RETURN TO NAZARETH"

The story of Christmas continues at St. Paul United Church of Christ! On Sunday, January 10th, the congregation will have an opportunity to journey with shepherds and kings from the humble stable where Jesus was born to the celebration and affirmation of Jesus Christ. Come to St. Paul UCC on Sunday, January 10th and be a part of the journey. Our experience will begin at 7 p.m. Through live interaction with shepherds, kings, and the Holy Family, we'll experience the continuing story of Christmas. The event will begin in the alley, continue to Flat Iron Park, and conclude in our sanctuary. Our team, Pastor Scott Cunningham, Pastor Dan Sather, Sandy Shearon, Denise DeTray, and Karen Dages are planning a safe, fun filled and enjoyable evening. Please join us.

DECEMBER WORSHIP ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS

Date	Service	Attendance	Offering
November 22	Worship	♥ 35	♥ \$3395
November 29	Worship	** 48	∀∀ \$3186
December 6	Worship	87	† \$4713
December 13	Worship	57	†† \$5749
December 20	Worship	48	††† \$9551
December 24	Worship-4:30	31	***\$
December 24	Worship-7:30	69	∜ *\$ ∧
December 27	Worship	28	††††\$ ▲
Averages (Dec.)	Worship	▶55	▶\$6,671
♥Plus \$55 - Benevolence ♥♥Plus \$100 - Benevolence; \$ - Neighbors in Need	†† Plus \$312 – Benevolence; \$100 – Christmas Fund ††† Plus \$174 – Benevolence;	*** - A †††† - A	▲- unavailable at time of printing Not incl. ♥,
† Plus \$409 – Benevolence	\$100 – Christmas Fund		

2020 Year-to-Date Budget (through Dec. 20th): \$285.447 2020 Year-to-Date Offering (through Dec. 20th): \$238,969 est.

(November electronic offerings of \$6030 were added to 2020 General Fund total; plus \$435 – Benevolence; \$70 – Christian Ed.; \$165 – Youth Fellowship)
-Christmas Eve Loose Offerings go to the Christmas Fund-

SCHEDULE OF JANUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Jan. 3 Organist Beth Witt Acolyte Madison Smith Head Usher Keith Green Altar Flowers (delivery) Karen Dages Jan. 10 Organist Sue Tomor Acolyte Sophia Zunk Keith Green Head Usher Altar Flowers (delivery) Karen Dages Organist Jan. 17 **Bonnie Daniels** Acolyte Katie Collins Head Usher Keith Green Altar Flowers (delivery) Karen Dages Jan. 24 Organist **Beth Witt** Acolyte Chloe Kelley Head Usher Keith Green Altar Flowers (delivery) Karen Dages Jan. 31 Organist Sue Tomor Acolyte ⁻ Kora Perkins Head Usher Keith Green

Altar Flowers (delivery) Karen Dages

CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birt	hday in January to:
1 .	Heather DeTray, Mark Ihde
2	Serenity Krehmke
3	Kelsey Ray, Lynn Harder
4	Gerald Whipple, Kaylee Barron,
	Mike Bennett, Laura Briggs
6	Steve Weirich
7	Cindy Harder
8	Cathy Smarkel
10	Rick Spangler, Jordan Torres, William Ritter
11	Pam Fredrick
12	Clifford DeTray
13	Cole Palmer
14	lan Renwand, Lois Harder
16	Lisa Orman Hossler, Ed Dixon
17	Ellen Petcovic
20	Mya Huether
21	Travis Wagner, Cynthia Jess, Angie Lowe
22	Bobbi Beck, Carol Mylander, James Shattuck
23	Travis Meek
24	Janis Gyde
25	Chance Kelley
	Elva Herbert, Lois Pfaff, Jonathan Hillman
29	Jessica Thompson
30	Linda Harmon, Kristen Cunningham
31	Scott Renz

Happy Anniversary in January to:

- 10 Brenda & Troy Silveous
- 14 Amy & Jay Traver

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...)

Church Council Minutes

Monday, December 7, 2020 Virtual

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

Search Team: Nathan gave Council the Search Team update. He asked that we invite Marie to the January Council meeting for her input with the website & team use.

Memorial Fund: Deb Green presented Council with an expenditure request from The Donna Gyde Memorial Fund. The website costs for 2020 are \$470.00. Fred Schnoor made the motion. Karen gave the 2nd. Motion passed. Kathleen Winters resigned from the Team & was the Treasurer. Linda Sandrock volunteered to step in as Treasurer.

Karen Dages then read the devotional & shared an opening prayer.

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

Treasurer's Report as of 12/3/20

• •	
Checking Account Balance	\$60,093.45
Current Income	\$30,452.86
Current Month Expense	\$15,980.01
Current Month Benevolence Income	\$1,460.00
Current Month Benevolence Expenses	\$0.00
Year to Date Income	\$272,934.70
Year to Date Restricted Endowment Fund Income	\$89,531.64
Year to Date Expense	\$262,839.02
Year to Date Benevolence Income	\$23,230.02
Year to Date Benevolence Expenses	\$15,980.42
•	

Treasurer's report was placed on file.

Trustees: Patrick Winters turned in his resignation.

Safety and Security: Lake Erie Lock & Key provided a quote for rekeying the outer doors to the Team which Brad presented to Council. Council asked Brad & team to obtain a quote from the Oak Harbor Hardware. Fred made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to & including \$400 for the rekeying. Lucas seconded. Motion passed.

Congregational Life and Fellowship: The Team has sold 108 meals. There were 12 Veteran meals that an anonymous donor paid for. After expenses there will be \$818.71 profit being donated to the Angle Parking project.

Pastor-Parish Relations: The Pastors have completed their NW Ohio Association Reviews.

Evangelism: Ted is reviewing the Membership list.

Christian Education & Family Ministries and Youth Fellowship: The team is developing a Social Media Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt for families. The C.E. Virtual Christmas Pageant is set for December 20th, This team is looking for more team members.

Mission and Stewardship: Seven Holiday Cheer Baskets/meals will be packed & delivered. All the Angel tree gifts are in. Becky Tong is joining the team.

Finance Team: The Budget was approved by the Congregation.

Worship and Music: The Advent & Christmas Eve schedule has been set. The organ & piano will be tuned soon. The next team meeting is January 19th.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Scott reviewed his monthly activity report. St Paul & St. John youth packed 120 meals for Thanksgiving. To further the progress of the 501(c)3, the Temporary Board will meet Friday to establish the new Director & other Board officials. He will also be stepping down as the Head Gardener. Pastor Scott shared the information he received from Spectrum & Amplex for internet upgrades for the Education Wing & Sanctuary. Council asked for some clarification & to have the Technology Team bring a recommendation to the board for the upgrade.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor Dan shared the Prayer list with Council & reviewed his Monthly activity report with Council. He also informed council that it has been requested by Sandy Shearon to remove her son, William Shearon from the membership rolls. He resides in Arizona. Janet & Larry Lickert also requested to be removed from the membership rolls. Brad made a motion to accept the removal of William Shearon & to regretfully accept the removal of Janet & Larry Lickert. Ted Harder gave the 2nd. Motion carried. The Evangelism Team is to address membership removal requests.

Old Business:

• **Technology update:** The Technology Team held an organizational meeting on December 14th. They found some historical information pertaining to the original sound system installation/quote. Keith presented two quotes to council for a new Pastor lapel mic. Karen Dages made a motion to accept the Phillips quote. Brad Hemminger seconded. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Custodian Coverage: Lucas Jess will follow up with Duane Jess, Larry Worthington & Doug Beck for a back up plan & schedule.
- December Congregational Meeting Voting Results: Dave Witt, Cindy Harder, Lynn DeTray & Becky Tong are the newly elected Council Members. Keith also thanked the Council members that will be leaving Council at the end of the year (Brad Hemminger, Fred Schnoor & Karen Dages) for their contributions to the teams & the Church as a whole.
- Covid Policy Intent/Interpretation:
 - Mask Mandate posted additional signage on entry doors.
 - Wipe down of the organ/piano keys between Special Music/Players John to check with organists on process for & products to use for this.
- Drive Through Version of the Walk to Bethlehem & the Living Nativity: It was decided that
 there wasn't enough time to effectively plan such an event. An Epiphany event in January
 2021 will be researched & planned. Pastor Dan, Sandy Shearon, Denise DeTray & Karen
 Dages will spearhead the team & planning.
- 2021 Meeting Dates: Due to the publishing of the Annual Report & Chimes we need to move the First Council meeting for 2021 back to January 4, 2021. Keith asked Council members to review the 2021 calendar & propose any other changes at the first meeting.
- Christmas Eve Offering: Pastor Dan asked where these monies were to be deposited. Council agreed the loose change offering will go to the Veterans of the Cross Christmas Fund. The envelope offerings will go into General Fund.
- Christmas Eve Services: Pastor Scott & the Technology Team are to prepare the Large Social Hall for possible attendance overflow seating. This may include a slideshow for viewing during service & use of the Abend Guild sound equipment.

Next Meeting – Monday, January 4, 2021 – 6:30pm Devotions: Keith Green (Head Usher for January) Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Shearon



I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO EVERYONE for their thoughts, prayers, and cards all throughout 2020. From the passing of my Dad, to dealings with my cancer, to COVID concerns and many other family health issues, it has been a very long year! My faith has been tested so many times this year, but I have always had the comfort of knowing my amazing Church family was and continues to pray for us! Thank you to Pastors Dan and Scott and the entire Church Council for their support and understanding of my need to resign. It was a horribly difficult decision, but I knew that the upcoming search for a settled pastor required a President who could focus on and provide a tremendous amount of time, energy and coordination. Given all that had and was happening in our lives I knew I would be letting my fellow council members and church family down and I just couldn't do that. Thank you to Keith Green for jumping into the President position! You're doing a GREAT job! Thank you Cindy Harder for stepping onto Council to fill that 12th position. I'm excited you are back! We are blessed to have such a loving and supportive Church family and hope we can see you all again soon!

Blessings and prayers for a healthy and happy 2021!!

Nadine Thompson and Family



THANK YOU for the Christmas Fruit Baskets with cookies that were delivered by Sue Harsha. Thank you also to Dave and Beth Witt for the nice dinner.

Marilyn Ferrer and Linda Siefke

IT IS WITH A HEART OF GRATITUDE THAT I SAY THANK YOU to all who have shared cards and gifts with me. Even amid this hard time, I have enjoyed serving as your interim pastor and have been grateful for the time that we've been able to be together. As we enter this New Year, I wish all of you a safe and healthy New Year. Thank you for your kindness and your thoughtfulness. It has been appreciated.

With Gratitude, Pastor Dan Sather

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK Dave & Beth Witt for the delicious meal they made for me. Also, thank you to Karen Dages for the delicious fruit basket and cookies. I thank God every day for my wonderful church family.

Doris Paul

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK Dave & Beth Witt for the delicious meal they made us. Also, special thanks to Karen Dages for delivering the meal and the fruit basket and cookies to us. We are so thankful to be a part of a wonderful, caring church family. Thank you so much. And thank you so much for all the get well cards.

Jim & Sue Betcher



Melt crayons to show how the body of Christ works together.



- Crayons
- Metal baking sheet
- Adult help
- Metal gingerbread man cookie cutter

What you do:

- 1. Remove labels and break crayons into 1-inch pieces.
- 2. Scatter pieces on the baking sheet, about two layers thick.
- 3. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees until melted. Allow to cool 15 minutes.
- 4. When melted crayons are the consistency of playdough, press the cookie cutter through them (while still on pan).
- 5. Cool the pan in freezer for 15 minutes until crayons are hardened.
- 6. Remove from pan and break apart the shapes.



WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church — the body of Christ — is to work together for God's purposes.

Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part's number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.

0 5 8 3	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
	$\frac{6}{9} \frac{2}{5} \frac{1}{5} \frac{1}{1}$

Now if the	should say, "Because I am not a	, l do
not belong to th	e," And if the should sa	y, "Because
l am not an	, I do not belong to the," it w	ould not for
that reason s	stop being part of the If the whole	16
were an _	, where would the sense of hearing be	? If the
whole	were an $\frac{13}{13}$, where would the sense	of smell
be? /	As it is, there are many parts, but one	· ·
	1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV	

Answer: body = 16, eye = 11, ear = 13, hand = 17, foot = 20

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

Office Phones: (419) 898-0852; Fax (419) 754-2101

Carol Pennington, Office Manager

Office e-mail: office@stpauluccoh.org

Rev. Dan Sather, Interim Pastor, pastordan@stpauluccoh.org, 812-483-9656

Rev. Scott Cunningham, Assoc. Pastor scottcunningham34@gmail.com, 815-354-2803

(home/cell)





Life the cold of snow in the time of haevest is a faithful messengee to those who send him.

PROVERBS 25:13

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 165 Toussaint Street Oak Harbor Ohio 43449-1313 NON-PROFIT ORG. U. S. POSTAGE PAID OAK HARBOR, OH

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