



THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL

August 2018

Inside this Issue:

Minister's Message	1-2
Council Minutes	3-5
Gifts to the Church	6
News & Updates	6-11
SPY News	10-11
Mission Partner News	12
Scout News	12
Birthdays	13
Remember in Prayer	114
Calendar	15

Ponderings From The Pastor

INVESTING IN GOD'S FUTURE: CAREFUL WHAT YOU HOPE FOR

Hope. /hōp/ Noun: 1. a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen; an optimistic state of mind that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes with respect to events and circumstances in one's life or the world at large; 2. archaic--a feeling of trust. [Hmmm—hope is “archaic”???...as in trusting God? Explains a lot about our culture today, I think...]
Verb: “expect with confidence” and “to cherish a desire with anticipation”

As we prepare soon to have significant, open, honest, intentional conversations (and they need to be *all* of these things) about the future of St. Paul UCC, reflect on this question:

WHAT DO YOU HOPE FOR?

...for our church...for our neighborhood...for yourself?

What “certain thing” do you most desire to happen?

What “positive outcomes” do you really expect?

How optimistic is your state of mind?

Further, reflect on these sayings about HOPE, from a number of eclectic sources...

- “Hope springs eternal in the human breast...” — Alexander Pope
- “Never deprive someone of hope; it might be all they have.” — H. Jackson Brown, Jr.
- “Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.” — Albert Einstein
- “I find hope in the darkest of days, and focus in the brightest. I do not judge the universe.” - Dalai Lama
- ‘Hope’ is the thing with feathers - That perches in the soul - And sings the tune without the words - And never stops - at all ... — Emily Dickinson
- “Hope is the dream of a waking man.” — Aristotle
- “We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.” — Martin Luther King, Jr.
- “Hope is a tiny light for a new big start.” — Bapi
- Lastly, this little gem (Hebrews 11.1): “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Now, reflect on this quote, (by Alan Hirsch, writing the Foreword of Will Mancini’s God Dreams: 12 Vision Templates for Finding and Focusing Your Church's Future)...

Stephen Covey, in *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, talks about what he calls “first and second creations.” The first creation must take place at the level of vision before it can take place at the level of actual realization. The second creation must follow the first, or it cannot be done. Covey incorporates this aspect under the overall habit of what he calls ***beginning with the end in mind***. The end, insofar as it is in the future, can only be accessed by an exercise of the vision

**For an electronic
version of
THE EPISTLE,
please visit our
website at:
www.stpaulnch.com**

*St. Paul United
Church of Christ
6997 Hamilton Ave.
Cincinnati, OH
45231*

Ph. 513-931-2205

Fax 513-931-2206

Email:

office@stpaulnch.com

Website:

www.stpaulnch.com

Worship Opportunities

Sundays:

9:50 AM Traditional

Worship in Sanctuary

Sunday School

Ponderings From The Pastor (continued)

and imagination—by that God-given ability to dream up the world we want to live in and the organization we wish to lead.

As I reflect on these things, it seems to me that HOPE is *really important!* Vital. Fundamental. Essential, for a desired future. And not only that—*HOPE helps create that desired future.* It helps us “dream up the world we want to live in” and give shape to the “organization we wish to lead.” And don’t think “dreaming up” here means some pie-in-the-sky fantasy—it doesn’t mean that at all. For the church it means that GOD’S FUTURE wants to reach back into OUR NOW and start to pull us forward. It means that what you—what we—need to HOPE FOR should be big...audacious...ambitious...breath-taking...INSPIRING!

Finally, reflect on this—your hope can *never* be big or audacious or inspiring if your God is a mean, old-fashioned, tribal, judgmental, “jealous” God...a God who is chiefly a warrior, and a homophobic, misogynistic, blood-seeking, vengeful, wrath-filled and wrath-based tyrant—i.e., a FEARFUL God. Remember: your IMAGE of God is the bedrock on which your hope (and therefore your dream for the future and the “world we want to live in”) is BUILT!

And—since God is “bigger” than all our thoughts, words, books (even the Bible), sermons, doctrines, creeds, churches, denominations, politics, cultures, and nations added together—*all that we have are partial, incomplete* images of God. We see (says our namesake, St. Paul) only in a mirror, dimly. So *fearful* images of God breed only *non-hope* and “same-ol’ same-ol’” future visions which are imprisoned in the past and tainted by hate, by prejudice and racism, by xenophobia (fear of “aliens”, outsiders--foreigners), and every other life-draining, life-denying “ism” and phobia you care to name (*phobia*: extreme or irrational fear or dislike of a specified thing or group).

This is why Dr. King advises us to “*never lose infinite hope.*” Infinite hope is holy, God-breathed hope. It is Jesus-hope, cross-bearing hope, death-denying hope, hate-killing hope. **Jesus shows us the truest, best image of God: LOVE.** Jesus shows us the “face of God”—the God of Everything, the great Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer...“God of Grace and God of Glory”...not the phobia-gods of our nightmares, but the God “in whom we live and move and have our being” (Paul, again)...the God Who IS Love—Perfect Love—Who “casts out all fear” (John), and Who “gave us not a spirit of fearfulness, but of power and love and discipline” (Timothy).

This is the God of our BEST dreams, the most solid bedrock on which to build a future...the only God to Whom Jesus points and manifests...the most inspiring God to define and give shape to our hope! This is the God from which “hope springs eternal,” perching in our souls, singing tunes without words and never stopping at all!

SHALOM,
Pastor Barry



FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Paul-United-Church-of-Christ-NCH/451020504934791>.

In Loving Memory and Honor **GIFTS TO THE CHURCH**

IN MEMORY OF Jean Schmadel

Sharon Morel

IN HONOR OF Banker's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Alice Blum

Carol Chalfin

Lois & Dick Manifold

Jo Miller

News and Updates

The next Council meeting is Monday,
August 20, 2018 7:00 PM.

OHIO CONFERENCE/SONKA UCC VISION TEAM

On Sunday, July 1st, Pastor Barry, Pastor Joan, and Carol Schroer went to a Ohio Conference and SONKA combined meeting for a restructuring proposal.

The Vision Team has put together a restructuring proposal with a new proposed structure and implementation plan.

This new structure's aspiration is a new wider church structure in Ohio, Northern Kentucky, and West Virginia.

There are many more details on this process in a report that Carol Schroer has prepared. Her full report is available on the kiosk table in the Narthex.

Thank you very much Carol for preparing this report for the Congregation!

SEPTEMBER EPISTLE DEADLINE

The Epistle deadline for the September edition is Wednesday, August 22, 2018. Please submit the information either by email to Anne or drop it in the Epistle box in the main office. There is also a folder in the blue mailbox outside the office.



PLEASE HELP US with LIGHTS AND DOORS

On several occurrences lately, we have found an outside door unlocked. Please be sure to check doors before you leave, especially if you are the last one out.

Please do your diligence to make sure that the lights are off in the building when you leave.

Thank you





The “New Beginnings” Corner

*Keeping YOU Up To Date on our
Church-Wide Vision Process!*

WATCH HERE in each month's “Epistle” for Updates and Information

MEET OUR ASSESSOR/FACILITATOR! : The Rev. Doug Pfeiffer



Doug has over 35 years of experience serving churches and church-related agencies. His ministry experience spans a wide array of positions, from associate pastor, to pastor, senior pastor, college chaplain, college instructor, and college counselor, as well as positions on regional (middle judicatory) staff.

He has served in Texas, Florida, Missouri, Nebraska, and Iowa, and is currently the senior pastor at First Christian Church of Adel, Iowa. Doug also has served on and led regional and national teams focused on local church transformation, youth ministry, and new church start ministry. He is a published author and has contributed articles and led workshops on organizational dynamics and change. He has also coached several congregations in revitalization and transformational processes.

In his spare time, Doug trains for triathlons and enjoys biking, reading books, swimming, watching movies, running, journaling, hiking, kayaking, and nordic and alpine skiing. He and his wife Debbie enjoy life together, their family, and their two dogs in Adel, Iowa.

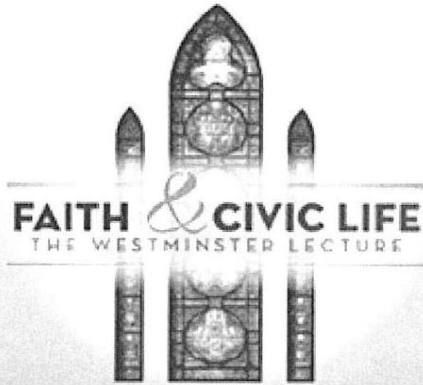
MARK YOU CALENDARS!!

The date for the first part of New Beginnings—our on-site assessment visit—has been set! It will be on **Thursday, September, 13**. That evening members of the congregation who are interested in the future of the church are invited to meet Doug, and share in an **Appreciative Inquiry session at 7 PM** (up to 30 people can be accommodated – watch for more information).

WHAT IS APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY? Appreciative Inquiry (AI) was pioneered in the 1980s by David Cooperrider and Suresh Srivastva, two professors at the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University. Leaders around the world are increasingly using an appreciative approach to bring about collaborative and strengths-based change in thousands of profit and nonprofit organizations and communities in more than 100 countries. Appreciative Inquiry is a way of being and seeing. It is both a worldview and a **process for facilitating positive change in human systems**, e.g., organizations, groups, and communities. Its assumption is simple: **Every human system has something that works right—things that give it life when it is vital, effective, and successful. AI begins by identifying this positive core and connecting to it in ways that heighten energy, sharpen vision, and inspire action for change.** As AI consultant Bernard J. Mohr says, “Problems get replaced with innovation as conversations increasingly shift toward uncovering the organization’s (or group’s, or community’s) positive core.” -- *from The Center for Appreciative Inquiry*

A RARE OPPORTUNITY!!

Come and hear one of the most influential, leading voices for social justice on the Church today! Contact Pastor Barry if you are interested in attending this unique event!



Westminster

Lecture on Faith & Civic Life

Friday, September 28, 7:30 p.m.

Community Panel Saturday, September 29, 9:30 a.m.

Coffee and Doughnut Fellowship at 8:30 a.m. prior to Community Panel

Join us Friday, September 28, 2018, when The Reverend Jim Wallis will present Westminster Presbyterian Church's first annual Lecture on Faith & Civic Life. The event begins at 7:30 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 125 N. Wilkinson St., Dayton, Ohio.

A panel, composed of area faith and civic leaders, will share the stage with Mr. Wallis the following morning, Saturday, September 29, at 9:30 a.m., also at Westminster.

Jim Wallis is president and founder of Sojourners in Washington, DC, a non-profit faith-based organization, network, and movement whose mission statement calls for "putting faith into action for social justice." Wallis is a bestselling author, public theologian, national preacher, social activist, and international commentator on ethics and public life. Two of his more recent books, *The (Un)Common Good*, and *America's Original Sin*, will form the basis for the Friday night lecture and Saturday morning panel discussion.



The Reverend Jim Wallis will present Westminster Presbyterian Church's first annual Lecture on Faith & Civic Life.

Community Panel Members:

- Don Vermillion, former Montgomery County Administrator, now with the University of Dayton
- Deborah A. Feldman, President and CEO of Dayton Children's Hospital
- The Reverend Dr. William E. Harris, pastor of New Believers Christian Fellowship Network and President, Dayton Public Schools Board of Education
- Samina Ahmed, Chairperson, Human Relations Board of Springfield, Ohio, and member of the Global Education and Peace Network

From The Nurture Team

Samaritan Purse ("Shoe Box") Project

We will once again be filling shoe boxes for needy children overseas. The shoe boxes are filled and wrapped in November so they can be shipped for the children to receive at Christmas. Last year we filled 36 shoe boxes and would like to match that again this year. In order to do this WE NEED YOUR HELP by donating items from the list below or by making a monetary donation and we will do the shopping. Monetary donations can also help to cover the shipping costs. Empty shoe boxes are also needed to fill!

The following are items needed to fill the shoe boxes: **NEW UPDATED LIST**

Doll	Bandages	Small Manual Pencil Sharpener	Underwear
Stuffed Animal	Sunglasses	Colored Pencils	Socks
Harmonica or Kazoo	Small Cars, Trucks	Pencil Case	Flip-flops
Hairbrush	Jump Ropes	Crayons and Markers	Hats
Toothbrush	Yo-yo	Pens	Scarf
Washcloths	Hacky Sack Balls	Coloring Books, Puzzles	Mittens
Packaged Bar Soap	Water Bottle	Plastic Dinosaurs	Hair bows/barrettes
Small Tote Bags	Small Purses	Pencils	Watercolor paints
Paintbrushes	Canvas/Paper	Playdough w/ plastic cookie cutters	Slinky
Small etch a sketch	Flashligh w/batteries	Compact Mirror	Blank Index Cards
Safety Scissors	Rulers/Protractors	Chalkboard/ chalk	Binoculars
Small Frisbee	Small Kites	Bead Jewelry/Bead Kit	Sewing Kit
Fabric, 1-2 yards	Ribbon	Gardening Kit, Gloves, Hand Tools	Building Blocks
Playing Cards	Marbles	Tool Kits (Plastic too)	Tennis Ball
Baseball/ Mitt	Bandana	Bright Colored Rope/Twine	Fishing Kit

Soccer Ball with Manual Air Pump or Kickball w/ pump– this is a *favorite* for both boys *and* girls! Last year we found that Wal-Mart had THE BEST price on soccer balls & air pumps.

Items that we cannot send include candy, toothpaste, gum, used items, war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures, chocolate or food of any kind, drink mixes, liquids or lotions, glass or aerosol containers.

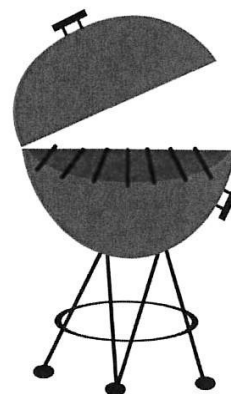
It may seem early to be thinking about this, but if we get an early start, we can take advantage of sales or other bargains over the next few months! NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY SCHOOL SUPPLIES. All the Back to school prices are great for making your dollar go even farther.

Please consider helping with this important mission of St Paul UCC. Items for the shoe boxes and monetary donations (clearly earmarked "for Samaritan Purse Project") can be brought to the church office. Monetary donations can also be placed in the offering plate. Please let Anne Zimmer or Linda Woods know if you would like to help fill the shoe boxes in November – it's a lot of fun! As always, we greatly appreciate the generous support of our St Paul family!



Join us for the
Annual Cluster Two Picnic!

CLUSTER 2
First UCC St. John
Matthew St. Luke
St. Paul OBR Truth Destiny
Trinity Hill St. Peter St. Paul Immanuel
Pilgrim SJW St. Paul INCH
Fleming Road



Sunday, August 19, 2018

Noon-3:00 pm

- "Potluck" Lunch at Noon
- Salad, Vegetable, or Casserole to Share
- Meat, Desserts, and Drinks Provided

Games for all ages!

Devotion at 2:30 pm

Come Join the Fun and Fellowship!

St. Peter and St. Paul UCC

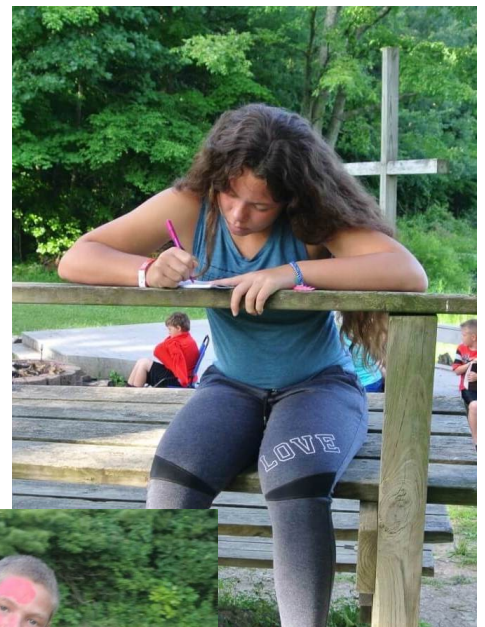
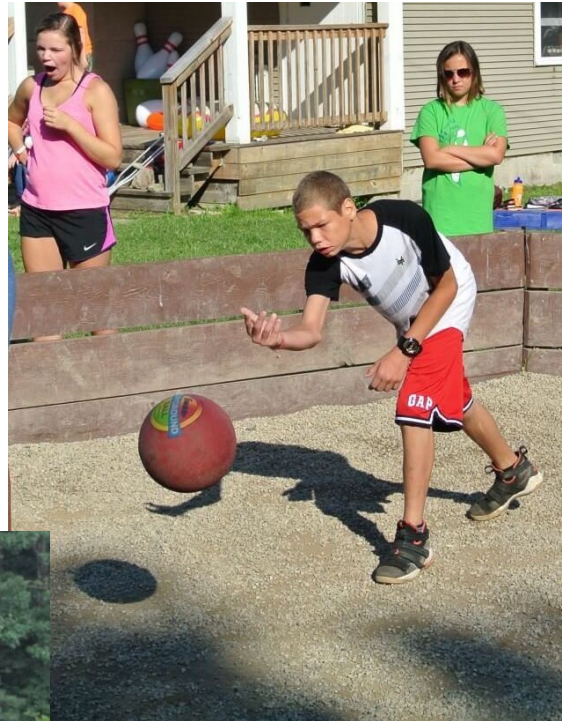
3001 Queen City Avenue,
at Ferguson Road
Cincinnati, OH 45238



St. Paul Youth

SPY and Church Camp







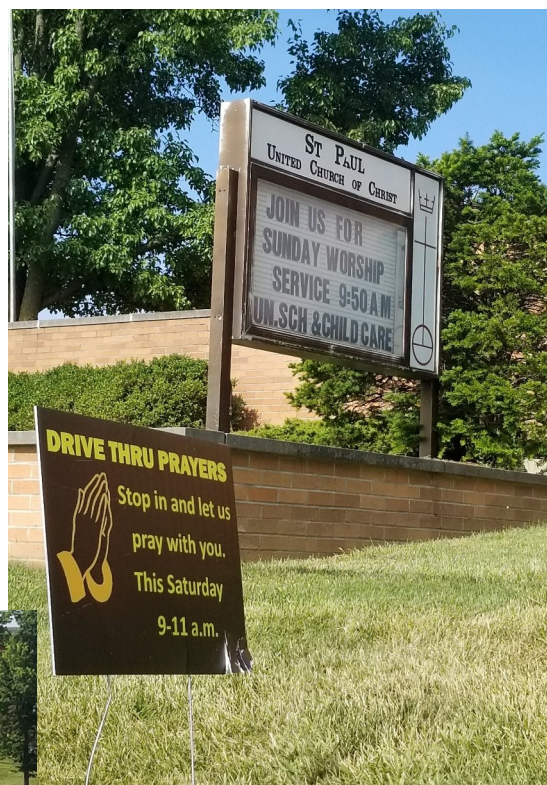
SOMETHING NEW COMING TO ST. PAUL

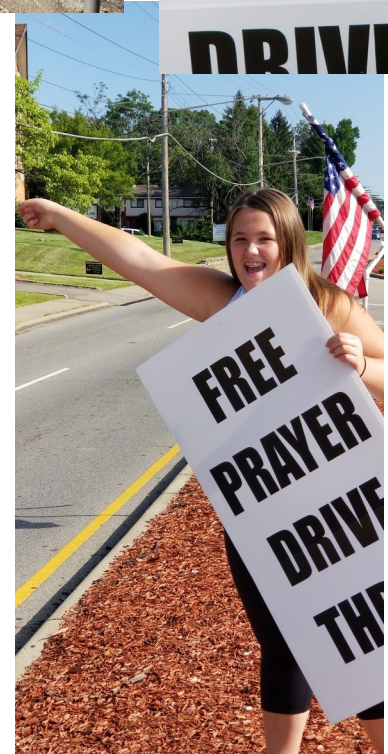
There was a new kind of prayer that came to St. Paul this summer. The first two Saturdays went well. August 25, we will be hosting our last “drive through” prayer, that is scheduled for the summer, for our neighbors and members in need, in our parking lot.

ST. PAUL YOUTH

How will this work, you ask? From 9-11 am, we will set up stations in our top lot and invite anyone, neighbor or member, drivers or walkers, to come into the parking lot and receive a prayer. We know that people drive by our beautiful church everyday and wonder if God can hear them. We will give them a chance to know that “God is listening” and so are we.

If you would like to help, we would love your help. There will be lots of things for you to help with setting up, praying, guiding and closing down. Let us reach out to all God’s children and open our doors and parking lot to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ. For more information see Pastor Barry or Pastor Joan.





Mission Partner News

MT. HEALTHY PANTRY NEEDS

Deoderant, Bar Soap
Tooth Paste, Shampoo
Toilet Paper, Tooth Brushes

Canned Fruit, Cereal

You can bring items to the main office and we will be sure to get it delivered.

Venture Crew 150 Car Wash

Saturday, August 18th, the Venture Crew will be having a Car Wash from 10 AM to 2 PM. All donations are accepted.

Please come and support the Venture Crew and let them give your vehicle a bath!

Thanks,
Crew 150



Community Fundraiser Event Friends, Food, and Fundraising To Support

Mt Healthy Alliance Inc. Food Pantry

3rd week of each month

Mon-Sat 6am to 3pm

Thurs 6am to 8pm



We'll earn 10% of sales when you present this flyer at

9894 Colerain Avenue (in Central Plaza
next door to A Sweet Life Cupcakes and
Crafts)

Flyer must accompany check donation

Please do not share the flyer with other guests at the restaurant



SCOUTING NEWS

The Pack, Troop, and Venture Crew shared a family picnic here at the church at the end of July. We grilled burgers and hotdogs and everyone brought a dish to share or desserts. We had a great time.

The Pack is beginning to plan their upcoming year. Girls are invited into the Cub Program this year. For those wondering, they will be working on the same program and the boys, but they will be in separate groups. The leaders are looking forward to this new change in the Cub program.

The boys in the Troop earned over 50 merit badges at camp this past June. They are currently working on finishing any partial merit badges and rank advancements for our upcoming Court of Honor.

The Crew had a fantastic time on their trip. We are still gathering photos from everyone to post a few here in the Epistle. Next month for sure! Since our trip, we have welcomed 4 new members into the Crew. They have begun to do some planning for upcoming day trips and weekends.



8/4 Don Beresford	8/16 Patricia Yung	8/26 Heather Page
8/5 Kristin Leist	8/19 Joyce Seesing	8/27 Skip Zimmer
Vicky Ritz	8/21 Don Dumford	8/28 Bonnie Reed
8/7 Brayden Spyers	8/22 Travis Johnson	8/30 Ruth Hoeweler
8/12 Madison Dermody	Will Maier	Tommie Jenkins
8/14 Charles Brown	8/23 Deborah Beresford	
Kyle Davis	Shirley Brown	
8/15 Robert Kelsey	Melitta Marx	
Kelley Woods	8/24 Victoria Smith	



9/1 Matthew Cooper	9/17 Rebekah Tholking	9/23 Howard Page
9/2 Dawn Page	9/19 Stephenie Fassnacht	9/25 Matthew Allen
9/3 Jessika Combs	9/20 Joan Allen	9/27 David Holmes
9/8 John Allen	9/21 Lynn Kluesener	Robert Reed
9/9 Brayden Bierkan	9/22 Darwin Yung	9/30 Jo Miller
9/15 Davis Allen		
Mary Lou Heiden		

Please Continue to Remember in Prayer:

Nan Grow
Our servicemen and women
Peggy Adams
Payson Davis
Chad Willcocks
Melody Hoff
Katie Morgan
Kathy Aker
Ginny DuPriest
Debbie DuPriest
Will Maier
David Smith
Erma Amrein
Mike Mathauer
John Allen
Jack Frost
Karon Jackson
Randy Schwartz
Gay Steinhauer
Mike Cornish
Norma Carrier

Alice Graber
Makayla Borg
Doug Mossman
Don Beresford
Tony Mancini
Vicki Celenza
Helen Mason
Richard Wittaker
Tom Kondo
Stephanie Collins
Jessica Obert
Paul LaMott
Gay D. Smith
Tyler Hardin
Rick Manifold
Rev. Virginia Duffy
Ruth Meissner
Kluesener Niece
Barbara Williamson
Skip Zimmer

Melissa Holmes
Mike Chalfin
Elaine Sloan
Steve Rogers
Nancy Lanza
Bob Berkley
Bonnie Rogers
Rebecca Horning
Mae Scott
The Schmadel Family
Barb Walbrun
Alberta Hahn
James Stokes
Tommy Moorehead
The Collins Family
Howard Seaman
Jack Lawler
Lindsay Pitcher
Carl Summe

Please keep the office informed on the status of those you have placed on the prayer list.

Please Continue to Remember in Prayer our HomeBound:

Geraldine Cooper
Marian Faller
Albert Mueller
Anne Timme
Lucille Walters



Bob Dickman
Mary Lou Heiden
Joyce Seesing
Dolores Ungerbuehler

Gladys Elsasser
Charlotte McCauley
Dot Sunnenberg
Sharon Wagner

*If you would like to add
someone to the prayer
list, please call the office.*



August 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Standing Dates: Mondays: FH = Fellowship Hall NS = Nursery School Crafty Critters - 10 AM Scouts: 6:30 - 9:00 PM Tuesday: Community Dinner 5:00 PM weekly Fridays/Saturdays: AA Meeting 8 PM			1	2	3	4 Longest Yard Sale Clovernook Center using Parking lots
5 Communion	6	7	8	9 SPY Camping Trip @ Kluesener Farm 	10	11
12	13	14	15 Executive Team Mtg. 5:00 PM	16 Staff Meeting 8 am Disciple Study Group 7 pm	17	18 Crew 150 Car Wash 10 am - 2 pm 
19	20 Nurture Mtg. 5:30 pm Council Mtg. 7 pm	21	22 Epistle Articles Due	23 Disciple Study Group 7 pm	24	25 SPY Pool Party Drive Thru Prayer 9 - 11 am
26 Choir Rehearsal Begins	27	28 NS Orientation 6:30 pm Sanctuary	29 NS Orientation 6:30 pm Sanctuary	30 NS Pre-K Orientation 9:15 am Disciple Study Group 7 pm	31	

St. Paul United Church of Christ
6997 Hamilton Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45231



THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL

St. Paul United Church of Christ
6997 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231
Phone: (513) 931-2205
Fax: (513) 931-2206
Website: www.stpaulinch.com
Email: office@stpaulinch.com
Office Hours 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Monday - Wednesday
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Thursday - Friday

Nursery School Staff: Karen A. Rieinan, Director
Susan Ehrhardt, Amy Miller, Angela Oaks, and Jenny Birdsong

Church Staff:
Rev. Barry Bordenkircher, Sr. Minister
Joan Allen, Lay Minister
Rick Tallarigo, Organist/Interim Music Director
Anne Zimmer, Office Administrator
Jim Maybury, Sexton
Anne Zimmer, Treasurer

Parish Nurses: Vicki Celenza, R.N.,
Coordinator
Roxanne Reed, R.N.

