



THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL

October/November 2019

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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

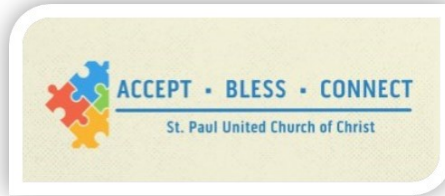
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Worship Opportunities

Sundays:

9:50 AM Traditional
Worship in Sanctuary
Sunday School

CARETAKERS OF THE WAY



We humans leave traces of connection and community wherever we go. The British naturalist Robert MacFarlane has written *“that once you begin to notice them, you see that the landscape is still webbed with paths and footpaths Pilgrim paths, green roads, drove roads, corpse roads, trods, leys, dykes, drongs, sarns, snickets –say the names of paths out loud and at speed and they become a poem or rite – holloways, bostles, shutes, driftways, lichways, ridings, halterpaths, cartways, carneys, causeways, herepaths.”*
-- Robert MacFarlane, *The Old Ways*, p. 13

Faith too is a path of connection, but unless the way is practiced it disappears like an unused path. Stewardship is a main practice that generates and regenerates the path—the way—of faith.

Stewardship is less about sharpening our pencils and more about sharpening our tools for trail maintenance, equipping ourselves to be caretakers of the path which connects us to our Creator, and helps guide our steps along a path of hope, joy, and generosity. MacFarlane reports that in the 19th century, small sickles were hung on stiles or posts wherever the trails or paths originated which connected neighboring towns and villages. Walkers would pick up the sickle or hook, and then would lop off obstructing branches as they walked the path.

Then, they would leave the ‘hook’ on the stile or post at the other end of the path, so a traveler going in the opposite direction could do the same. This shared caretaking of the path benefited each individual walker, but also both the larger communities.



The early Christian movement was amongst itself—as well as to its persecutors—as the WAY (Acts 9). The life of faith is a way of being human, a way of interpreting, a way of practicing—a path(way) of living. As we journey towards the reign of God, we are following in the tracks of others, pathways walked and taught by Jesus himself, paths as ancient as Abraham and Sarah. Today we are not just signposts pointing the way; we are the caretakers, the stewards of that way.

As we ponder “Stewardship Sunday,” and what we are able to give to help clear and maintain the path of

MISSION at St. Paul UCC for another year, we are all invited to come and recommit anew to the Way of Jesus.



Ponderings From The Pastor (continued)

And, we are called to think anew about the image of God we present to the world around us—what do our lives show others about Jesus, about our faith...about the WAY we live?

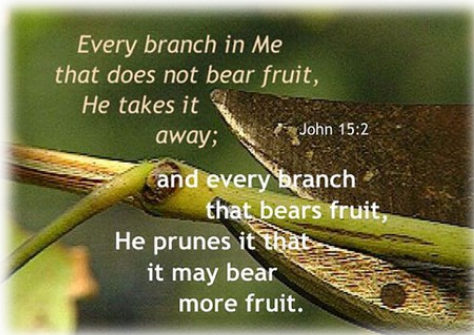
In his book, *Free of Charge*, Miroslav Volf writes that there are two irresistible false images of God that we run between: God the negotiator and Santa Claus God. Instead of the image of God as a purposeful and generous giver, the negotiator God can be cruelly disappointingly...or the Santa Claus God becomes our self-absorption writ large. Neither image, negotiator or Santa Claus, challenges or calls us to imitate the joy and the goodness of God the Giver. Neither reflects the WAY of Jesus.

When we allow God's gifts to flow through us we emulate God the giver. But when we emulate God the negotiator, we move from an economy of generosity to an economy of extraction—of taking: how can we cut the best deal? We bargain with God, as if grace can be bought (like just about everything else). And, when we emulate Santa Claus God, our benevolence shrinks into insatiable desires and unaccountable behaviors... because we cannot be bothered to be involved.

Again, when we allow God's gifts to flow through us we emulate God the giver. We GROW. We put ourselves on a path, on the way, of joy and generosity. Our spirits are enlarged! We are participants in something larger and greater than us.

Our lives show the image we have of God. And they show the WAY we choose to live.

God's giving began before us and will continue long after us. We are invited to participate in this generosity of spirit and love...to walk the way of finding our true selves—we are "made to love". Our sharing reflects the generosity of the Initial Giver who set grace in motion and keeps it moving.



Our lives show the image we have of God. And they show the WAY we choose to live.

Quoting a favorite old hymn, let us resolve just to "take a closer walk" on the pathway of Jesus—the way of love, compassion and generosity!

Our lives show the image we have of God. And they show the WAY we choose to live.

So pick up your pruning hook, and start clearing YOUR path for a closer walk with Greatest Giver.



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10

**Pick up YOUR 2020 Stewardship packet
on Sunday, November 3, in the Narthex!**

In Loving Memory

In Memory of Mary Lou Heiden

Elaine Sloan

In Memory of Lucille Walters

Erma Amrein	Nola & Jan Apro
Alice Blum	Carol Chalfin
Dot Kahle	Lois & Dick Manifold
A & J Mastrullo	Marlene Sheward

Elaine Sloan

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

In Memory of Samuel Brown, Jr.

Ruth Phillips

In Memory of Helen Mason

Alice Blum	Carol Chalfin
Dorothy & Don Dumford	Dorothy Kahle
Lois & Dick Manifold	Linda Woods



DECEMBER EPISTLE DEADLINE

The Epistle deadline for the November edition is Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019. 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.



GLOBAL SPIRITUALITY A Fall Adult Education Experience!

Join Pastor Barry on **Tuesdays at 7:30 PM** (Nov. 5 thru Dec. 10) for **"Global Spirituality: A Look at the World's Major Religions."** As the holidays approach, a number of significant "HOLY" days—not just Christmas!—show up on the fall and winter calendar each year, for several major world religions. We'll look at our Christian "cousins" including Judaism and Islam, but also "eastern" religions (Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism) and others. This will be an informative and enriching experience, open to all ages sixteen and above (meet in Fellowship Hall). Plan to come and join us for a new spin on "Happy Holidays!"



ALUMINUM CANS FOR SHOES

We are still collecting aluminum cans for shoes for the kids at North College Hill Elementary School. The can has been relocated to the right of the main office door. It is a big green can with wheels on it and a sign. Please save your cans and bring them to church!

THE PRAYER CHAIN NEEDS HELPERS

Our church prayer chain is in need of helpers who would be willing to help pray for those on the St. Paul prayer list. If you are interested and are willing to help pray, please let the office know or contact Ruth Hoeweler. Ruth would enjoy hearing from folks and could use some help.

Barton Joan,
Thank you so much for the service for my mother at the funeral home and grave. Your spiritual help was very much appreciated. Thanks to all the church members who attended. St. Paul United Church of Christ was so very important to my parents for 75+ years.

During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us.... Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered

Carole Ealing
Daughter of
Lucille Walters

Mo Fassnacht & Care Team -
Thank you for donating funds to Kindergarten for backpack containers. The containers help the students keep all of their belongings in one space. The containers all help keep our room clear and organized by keeping coats and backpacks off the floor.

you made my day!

Sincerely
Heather Bishop
North College Hill Elementary





In September, over 100 coats were dropped off at the church. Between the North College Hill Business Association and a private donation of \$175.00, church members purchased over 20 coats. They have also been collecting socks, scarves, hats and gloves.

The mission team began on October 7th giving coats away during the weekly Community Dinners. To date, 51 adult coats and 18 children's coats have been given away.

The Care/Mission Team and St. Paul UCC is excited about the project and reaching out to the local community as there is a great need right here in our neighborhood.

Thank you everyone for helping. Coats, gloves, scarves, hats, and socks can be dropped off until January 31, 2019.



Heuston Woods Camping Trip



Meeting of the Minds



It's too cold to get Up!



Breakfast Cook! Yum!



Game time at park



Late night party at campsite!



Vicki and John Hancock getting phone connection



Kim was 1st Place Winner of the Decorating Contest! Congrats!

Special thanks to Kim Ferry for organizing our annual camping trip to Heuston Woods. Lots of games, food, laughter and togetherness.

SPY all dressed up and no where to HAUNT!





If you have ever wondered what the SPY does with funds, this fall we did a lot of beautification of the courtyard and the front of the church. With the aid of Vickie Bryant, we have been able to make some major updates to the area with mulch, lots of weed pulling and the addition of plants and a tree.

We will be dedicating this tree in "Honor of Pater & Erma Amrein" on Sunday, November 3, 2019. This will take place on Memorial Sunday after worship.

SPY wants to thank everyone for their support of our breakfast's. Please join us on the 3rd Sunday of each month for an awesome breakfast.



SCOUTING NEWS

The Cubbies are having a great time so far this year. They have been busy working on their advancement requirements.



The Girl Troop has been busy working on their advancements as well. They are almost to First Class Scout. They should be finished by the end of October. They have been learning lots of skills, like knots and lashings, first aid, map and compass reading, orienteering, the proper way to build and light fires, Leave No Trace skills and many more things. The girls are very motivated to keep completing their requirements.

The Boy Troop has also been busy with advancements. They have also been busy organizing all their camping gear and trying to determine if there is any additional gear that is needed.

The Crew has been busy planning a trip to Mammoth Cave. They also invited the boy troop and girl troop to attend this outing with them. They have looked at several different tours and determined 2 tours they would like to do while there. Hiking around the area is also on the agenda between the tours for additional things to do.

Nursery School

The preschoolers are learning about Native Americans and the story of the First Thanksgiving. They are getting ready for Donuts with Dad this month as well. The children are bringing their Dad's to school the week of November 11-15 to have a donut with their dad and some fun time in the classroom with them.

Thanks to all who bought cookie dough. We sold 704 boxes and made a profit of \$5068.00.

In the spirit of the approaching holiday, perhaps we should all take a moment to reflect and say that long overdue phrase we use each day with our children before their snack.

*“ Bless our friends, Bless our food,
Bless our families forever”.*

Karen Rieman and Staff



10/1 Robert Combs
10/2 Ruth Meissner
10/6 Judith Lewis-Combs
10/9 Cheryl Bordenkircher

10/11 Lilliana Bierkan
10/12 Carolyn Push
10/14 Davis Schleutker
10/19 Evan Heitman

10/22 Joe Jester
10/25 Dick Manifold
10/28 Judy Boyce
10/30 Scott Leist



11/1 Patrick Woods
11/2 Logan Bierkan
11/4 Bill Mayer
11/5 Bruce Banker
11/8 Jeremy Overholts

11/9 Margaret Maybury
11/12 Mike Bartholomew
11/13 Chelsey Davis
11/14 Laura Bierkan
11/15 Dot Kahle
11/19 Steve Fassnacht

11/19 Albert Mueller
11/21 Margie Fassnacht
11/24 Jim Gorsler
Amber Hancock
11/25 Gerald Stegman
11/30 Adele Yung



12/6 Melissa Homes
Debra Nungester
12/11 Steve Rogers
Trecy Webb
12/14 Lynda Stagman

12/15 Carol Jensen
12/17 Charlotte McCauley
12/18 Janet Lerch
12/20 Cheryl Bartholomew
12/23 Terry DuPriest

12/26 Jesse McIlhaney
12/29 Lois Bates
12/29 Louise Pitcher
12/30 Vickie Bryant
12/30 Brian Tobergta

Please Continue to Remember in Prayer:

Our servicemen and women	Lindsay Pitcher	Roy Push
Peggy Adams	June Ward	Carol Schroer
Chad Willcocks	Kim Caudell	Stan Wernz
Melody Hoff	Clara Kemplin	Baby Charleigh Waltz and parents
Kathy Aker	Rhonda Lahmann	Richard Boyce
John Allen	Joann Ernst	Barb Bruewer
Alice Graber	Owen Erickson	Barb Brewer
Don Beresford	Marlene Sheward	The Mason/Lighthall Family
Tony Mancini	Justin Nuckols	Kostas Vasiliou
Gay D. Smith	Will Maier	Rodney O'Connor
Rev. Virginia Duffy	Bodde Scudder	Harper Manning
Barbara Williamson	Susan, friend of Linda Woods	Scott Ober
Skip Zimmer	Bob Harbaum	Jennifer Nibouar
Elaine Sloan	Greg Rice	Deborah Ehler
Nancy Lanza	Barb Nuckols	Larry Estes
Barb Walbrun	Norma Carrier	Cathy Criswell
James Stokes	Melitta Marx	Paul Kluesener
Tommy Moorehead	Jesse McIlhaney	
Howard Seaman	Bruce Banker	
	Anne Haire	
	Ann Way	

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	Bob Dickman	Doris Dunn
Mary Heineke	Chris Hoeweller	Charlotte McCauley
Ruth Meissner	Albert Mueller	Herman Schleuter
Gay Steinhauer	Dot Sunnenberg	Anne Timme




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



October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20 Children's Sabbath SPY Breakfast	21 Nurture Mtg. 5:30 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Council Mtg. 7 pm	22 Community Dinner 5:30 pm	23 Epistle Articles Due Dine to Donate Krimmers All Day	24	25 AA 8 pm	26 AA 8 pm
27	28 Scouts 6:30 pm	29 NS 3's Halloween Party Community Dinner 5:30 pm	30 NS 4's/Pre-K Halloween Party Brownie Mtg 6:30 pm	31 Pre-K Halloween Show 11:00 am		

November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 AA 8 pm	2 AA 8 pm
3 Memorial Sunday Communion Daylight Savings Time Ends 	4 Scouts 6:30 pm	5 Election Day  NS No School Community Dinner 5 pm	6	7	8 AA 8 pm	9 AA 8 pm
10 Stewardship Sunday Special Congregation Meeting after Worship	11 Scouts 6:30 pm	12 NS 3's Donuts w/Dad 9 AM Community Dinner 5 pm	13 Exec Team Mtg 5:30 pm Brownie Mtg 6:30 pm	14 NS Pre-K Donuts w/ Dad 9 am Strategic Plan Team Mtg 6:30 pm	15 NS 4's Donuts w/ Dad 9 am AA 8 pm	16 AA 8 pm
17	18 Nurture Mtg. 5:30 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Council Mtg. 7 pm	19 Community Dinner 5 pm	20 Epistle Articles Due	21 Staff Mtg. 9 am Cluster 2 Mtg. 7 pm	22 AA 8 pm	23 SPY Pet/Family Pictures 10 am - 1pm AA 8 pm
24 Ingathering Food Decorate Church After Worship	25 Scouts 6:30 pm	26 Community Dinner 5 pm	27 NS No School Head Start Program No School	28 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed 	29 Office Closed SPY Lock-In 6:30 pm - 10 am AA 8 pm	30 AA 8 pm

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Phone: (513) 931-2205
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Website: www.stpaulinch.com
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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. Riemann, Director
Susan Ehrhardt, Amy Miller, Angela Oaks, Jenny Birdsong,
Samantha Weisman, and Megan Jungkunz.

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

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

