



St. Paul United Church of Christ

THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL

September 2020



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

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Worship Opportunities

Sundays:

9:15 AM - Sunday
School

10:30 AM Traditional
Worship in Sanctuary

Rally Day 2020!, September 13 "RALLY AND RE-GATHER!"



CALLING ALL MEMBERS AND LEARNERS OF ST. PAUL UCC! Mark SEPTEMBER 13 on your calendars – this is the day (tentative) we plan to **REGATHER**



for both Worship and Sunday School! According to the Ohio Public Health Advisory System, Hamilton Co. has gone down from Level 3 (Red) to Level 2 (Orange), and other areas around us are improving slowly. Though things could still change as schools reopen, for now we are planning to come back together on 9/13 – we will keep you all posted by phone, email, and online as we draw closer to Rally Day. **WE ARE ALSO changing our Sunday schedule a little: Sunday School will start at 9:30 AM, and WORSHIP will move to 10:30 AM.** This allows several important changes—a new Sunday morning Adult class (starts in October); it lets our teachers and youth attend worship with their families (and older youth to help out more with worship); and our youth will not have to miss classes to have a youth function. So...plan on **RALLYING BACK to SPUCC** on September 13! We will have Holy Communion AND a BOX LUNCH to take out for everyone in attendance!

SERVICE

In a recent edition of "SONKA News" (the weekly online update from our regional UCC office in Dayton) our Designated Association Minister, the Rev. Carl Robinson writes: *"I have been working with congregations around SONKA who are finding these times incredibly difficult and stressful. People are, understandably, afraid and confused about what the future may hold for our churches. In some cases, those anxieties are being expressed in organizational changes. The Association leadership understands and feels that stress. None of us knows what the future might hold for our churches, our pastors, or our denomination. We urge patience and courage in the struggle to be the church in communities and neighborhoods throughout Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky."* I don't know about you, but this really hits home for me...especially the part that says *"none of us knows what the future might hold for our churches, our pastors, or our denomination."* Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, churches around the country, including SPUCC, have been enduring difficult, painful, long-term change and stress as our culture shifts and changes—and often doing very poorly at handling it all. And it's gotten worse.

Another of our Association Ministers in the Heartland (formerly Ohio) Conference, the Rev. Nayiri Karjian, (General Minister, Living Water Association) suggests that questions like *"When do we reopen?"* should be changed to a quest to discover what God is calling us to do today so we can learn, grow, serve by

Ponderings From The Pastor (continued)

directing our energy and curiosity to viruses we can do something about (e.g. racism, inequality, etc.).

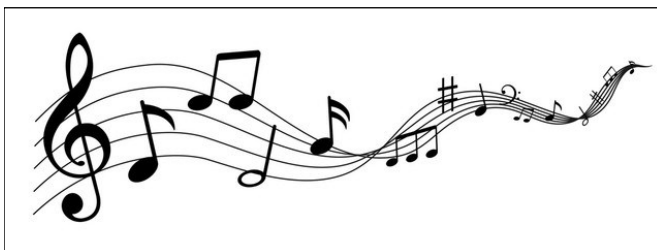
Carl and Nayiri are both correct; we cannot be certain of the future, so we need to ask different questions. Covid-19 has caused all of us to give up a lot involuntarily. But, what if we reframe what we have given up—change how we see it? The root meaning of *sacrifice* (in Latin, *sacrificium*) means to make something holy or sacred by offering it up to God. So maybe the best questions for our own wellbeing, our own faith, and the health and long-term wellbeing of our church, are questions like these: HOW CAN I OFFER MYSELF TO GOD RIGHT NOW, in this strange time we are in? What can I voluntarily give up? And of the things I have “lost,” what can I let go of permanently (or at least indefinitely) for God? Perhaps if we start to ask questions like these then at least some of what we have had to give up in this pandemic can be redeemed, and used for good by God (Romans 8.28).

So much is unknown and indefinite these days. But we can know and definitely trust this: that our current time, our church, and our culture can be stronger and become more unified through self-sacrifice ...through other-oriented compassion and service. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! That's how the “kingdom of heaven” grows, and spreads, and changes the world for the better...and, WE grow with it!

Through Christ's Indwelling Love -- Pastor Barry.

MUSIC PROGRAM UPDATES

As the worship experience responds to COVID, we are suspending the choir program until further notice. I will continue to provide live music in the safest manner feasible as the worship service is redesigned for COVID. I thank everyone for your support during this difficult time!



FACEBOOK PAGE

We started a new Facebook Page. Here is the new link!

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Paul-UCC-North-College-Hill-OH-116458329993166>

Nursery School

The teachers at St. Paul Nursery School have been busy preparing for the new school year! We have a terrific staff and we would like everyone to get to know them. This month we will introduce you to two of our teachers. Angie and Sam are a dynamic duo who team teach one 3 year old class and two 4 year old classes. You will find these two women in the classroom 5 days a week! Angie (left) is the mother of five beautiful children. Angie enjoys spending time with family, camping, and fishing. She is looking forward to getting to know her new students and watching them learn new and exciting things! Sam (right) is the mother of two red-headed children, 3 dogs, 3 cats, and a fish. Sam says she feels as if most days she is running a zoo! Sam is looking forward to seeing how much her students grow this year. She enjoys documenting this growth by taking pictures and sharing those with the families!



Judy Staudigel and Staff

The name for our nursery school will soon be changing to
“St. Paul Early Learning Center” !

SCOUTING NEWS

All of our Scouts have been very busy working on advancement requirements and merit badges. We will be having our first Court of Honor very soon and it will be Zoom style. (Hoping we can do in person, but with parents, it makes for too many people to gather together right now.) Look for pictures from our Zoom Court of Honor next month.



The Scouts and their leaders helped with the tree removal and all the individual signs in the front of church. The new digital sign is now more visible from both directions!

News and Updates

OCTOBER EPISTLE DEADLINE



The Epistle deadline for the October edition is Wednesday, Sep. 16, 2020. 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.

ONLINE GIVING IS NOW AVAILABLE

During this rough time of Covid-19, the Council thought it would be best to move forward in implementing online giving.

Here is the link to online giving

<https://ca4b2388.churchtrac.com/give>

Once in the system, you can input your envelope number and it records directly to your record. If you have questions, please let us know.

COMMUNITY DINNER

Our weekly community dinners will resume as CARRY OUT only.
 Tuesday's 5:00-6:30 PM

It will be carry out for awhile until we are allowed to have bigger groups of people indoors. Stay tuned for updates.



9/22 Darwin Yung



Stan Wernz
Charleigh Waltz and parents
Barb Bruewer
Barb Brewer
Kostas Vasiliou
Harper Manning
Scott Ober
Deborah Ehler
Larry Estes
Cathy Criswell
Lin Theders
Rebecca Horning
Mike Lennett
Rick Davis

Mary Heineke
Albert Mueller
Sharon Wagner

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THE EPISTLE

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SPELC- St. Paul Early Learning Center		1 Community Dinner Carry Out 5-6:30 PM	2 SPELC- Parent Orientation 6 pm	3 SPELC Parent Orientation 8:30 am & 6 pm	4 SPELC - No School AA - 8 PM FH	5 AA - 8 PM FH
6	7 Labor Day Office Closed Mindful Mondays 12:30 PM Facebook Scouts 6:30 PM Online Meeting	8 SPELC Begins Community Dinner Carry Out 5-6:30 PM	9	10	11 AA - 8 PM FH	12 AA - 8 PM FH
13 Rally Day Re- Gathering Sunday School 9:30 am - 10:15 am Service 10:30 am SPY Meal	14 Mindful Mondays 12:30 PM Facebook Scouts 6:30 PM Online Meeting	15 Community Dinner Carry Out 5-6:30 PM	16 Exec Mtg 5:30 pm	17	18 Staff Mtg. 9:00 am AA - 8 PM FH	19 AA - 8 PM FH
20	21 Mindful Mondays 12:30 PM Face- book Nurture 5:30 pm Scouts 6:30 PM Online Meeting Council Mtg 7 pm	22 Community Dinner Carry Out 5-6:30 PM	23 Epistle Articles Due PRC Mtg 6:30 pm	24	25 AA - 8 PM FH	26 AA - 8 PM FH
27	28 Mindful Mondays 12:30 PM Facebook Scouts 6:30 PM Online Meeting	29 Community Dinner Carry Out 5-6:30 PM	30			

Thank You

Pastor Barry & Anne,

thank you so much for allowing Girl Scouts of Western Ohio to use the church parking lot to promote our summer programming and hand out activity kits to the community. We were able to serve over 15 girls in the Mt. Healthy, North College Hill, and College Hill areas over the summer! Thank you so much again for your generosity!

Sincerely,

Kristen Woods

Cheryl Mark

Ashley Patton



Thank you to the following people who had a hand in helping to remove the trees and to clean up landscaping on the property. Our new digital sign is much more visible!

Tom and Vickie Bryant, Kim and Bill Ferry, Joan Allen, Linda Woods, Cheryl & Barry Bordenkircher, and Rick Davis.
Scouts: Emmaus Dosa, Dalton Hickerson, Thomas Campbell, Brayden Drinnen, Nick and Eric Thomas, John Campbell, Christy & Brian Drinnen, Rick Enderle, Coleman Waford and Anne Zimmer.