



St. Paul United Church of Christ



THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL

October 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

VISION CHECK-UP

I got new glasses a few months back...trifocals (I am officially old!). I was surprised my vision had not changed too much since my last vision check-up, but it did change some. As far as our human eyes are concerned (for most of us anyway), vision changes over time are inevitable. As far as human social institutions (including the Church) are concerned, changes of vision are not inevitable—they may be sorely needed, even critical for adaptability and survival—but they are not inevitable. For an institution to grow and remain relevant to its purpose (to renew and strengthen its purpose) a change of vision must be chosen...it must be intentional. Here at SPUCC we intentionally chose to do the New Beginnings process starting in 2018. We chose to do a vision check-up for our church. It took over a year, and last fall we launched into a time of embracing a new “future story.” As a much-needed reminder, here are the key pieces of that new story...

Our VISION STATEMENT – ABC: Accept, Bless, Connect

To Accept: welcome, include, and embrace with open arms

To Bless: love, affirm, serve, and enrich

To Connect: unifying, networking, bridging, binding

Our MISSION STATEMENT: *Accept* all into our fellowship with the love of God!

Bless all through service as Christ commands!

Connect with our neighbors in meaningful, relevant ways!

Our CORE VALUES: Spirituality, Mission Love, Community

Late last fall, we invited members of the Vision Team and the church Council to begin a strategic planning process...to start “putting wheels” on our future story and make our new vision/mission start to come alive. It was a small group, but we did get started, with the first task being to identify and prioritize all the steps we need to take, and all the ministries we need to let go of or to begin (or revamp and improve).

Then, 2020 rolled around. This important, difficult, and time-consuming work came to a grinding halt, for numerous reasons, both pandemic-related and otherwise (internal conflict, major changes in the Nursery School—which is now the Early Learning Center—and of course, the Covid-19 “lockdown”). Late this summer, the SPUCC Council and Executive Team took up the task of strategic planning again, knowing we must push forward without dwelling on the past, working with what we have. We jump started strategic planning, trusting in both God and the congregation to come through with birthing our future story: trusting God to guide us and empower us, and the congregation to grow spiritually and in depth of discipleship...all so that we can hear and respond to what God is doing!

Of course, we have lots more work to do...A copy of the work on the strategic planning process—as it currently stands—is available posted on the bulletin board in the Café. The current phase of this process is reviewing and updating all of our church policies, our teams and committees, (and ultimately our by-laws), so that we are practicing good stewardship of our current resources, but

Ponderings From The Pastor (continued)

also enabling our new vision/mission...to make sure that we are really trying to make it a reality.

To that end, we ask for help. We need volunteers to step up in these areas: Sunday School, SPY leaders (especially adult males!), Greeters and Ushers, Worship leaders, special music for worship, and interim leaders (until next June) for the Finance team, the Worship team, the Care/Mission team, and a forthcoming Communications and Technology team. Help in other areas will be needed too, as our strategic planning deepens and unfolds. And, even if you cannot help in any of these areas, you can do two important things right now for our future story: first, we must ALL choose again our vision check-up. We have to TRUST the vision and TRUST God...and let go of the past and embrace the future as it unfolds. So much is unpredictable right now that we HAVE to trust God's vision—that God will bless our vision check-up! With all the anxiety and uncertainty and shifting ground everywhere we look these days, faithful disciples will trust that God will use this time for renewal and rebirth...after all, RESURRECTION is a thing with God! It's not the end of the world but the birth of a new one.

Second, pray a lot more—for God to deepen you and your personal discipleship, to guide our leaders with clarity and certainty, and to grant us all increased hope and inspiration...even (especially!) in a time when those feel like they are in short supply. They are not. Not really...but it takes a reliance on God's vision to discern that... and faith enough to trust that God is still at work and always has been in giving us a new future story!

Pushing Forward, in Trust and in Love, *Pastor Barry*

In Loving Memory

In Memory of Eleanor Reed

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Erma Amrein | Carol & Mike Chalfin | Brenda & John Hacker | Mary Heineke |
| Dot Kahle | Jacqueline Moreland | Judy & Gerald Pecora | Ellie & Brad Preslar |
| Bonnie & Steve Rogers | Jane & Wayne Schleutker | Marlene Sheward | Joanna & Thomas Urbanek |
| Linda Woods | | Leslie, Linda & Al Wooten | |

In Memory of Charlotte McCauley

Carol & Mike Chalfin

SCOUTING NEWS

Scouts have begun to re-gather for meetings and are definitely keeping the distance. They have been working on some team building games and finishing up requirements.



We currently have one Scout that just finished his Eagle project, one working on his Eagle project, and one Crew member who will be completing her Summit Project the end of this month. The Summit Award is the equivalent of an Eagle project and is the highest award for a Venturer. Lots of service hours for all the projects is great work for all our scouts.

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>

ST. PAUL EARLY LEARNING CENTER

If you hear giggles and the pitter patter of busy feet, it is probably the children from our preschool! Even though we have only been in session for a few weeks, friendships are forming and we are discovering new things daily.

Our cookie dough fundraiser kicked off September 21 and will end October 9 at midnight.

The cookie dough will be delivered the week of November 2. Please see the enclosed flyer and consider supporting our school.

This month, we will spotlight Mrs. Birdsong and Ms. J. These ladies work together teaching one class of three year olds and one class of four year olds. Mrs. Birdsong is the busy mom of 5 children. Mrs. Birdsong is so excited to be back at school. She is hoping that school remains open for the entire school year. Ms.J has quite a history here at St. Paul. Not only did her brother and son attend school here, but Ms. J is also a graduate from our preschool. She is eager to see each child's creativity bloom this year.



Judy Staudigel and Staff

FROM THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

First I hope you all are well and safe. I think we all aware of the “19” that has thrown us all into a day to day turmoil. I wanted to bring you up to date on our Endowment Funds.

The first four months covering January, February, March and April. Church Endowment Fund in January was \$171,437.67 and it was \$164,235.51 in April. This was a loss of \$7202.16. The Church Vocational Fund in January was \$49,507.04 and in April it was \$47,946.11 a loss of \$1560.93 Our loss for the first four months was \$8763.09. However, even with a loss in the first four months we had a gain of \$1002.00.

In the last four months of our progress May, June, July and August, Church Endowment Fund in May was \$167,728.37. In August it was \$175,404.15 this was a gain of \$7675.78 for four months. The Church Vocation Fund in May was \$48,895.16 in August and it was \$50,984.62. This was a gain of \$2089.52. Our total gain for these four months was \$9765.30.

I am sure you all remember how the Stock Market reacts during an election year in that everyone of the stock investors are guessing as to what is going to happen. As usual if you follow the Stock Market as I do, it has ups and downs daily. We in general are holding our own at this point in time. I sincerely hope God Willing we will go back to a somewhat normal life soon. To all please stay Safe and Healthy.

Jan Apro
Endowment Committee Chairman

News and Updates

**NOVEMBER
EPISTLE
DEADLINE**



The Epistle deadline for the November edition is Wednesday, Oct. 21, 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.

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.



10/1 Robert Combs
 10/2 Ruth Meissner
 10/3 Jenny Frost-Cornish
 10/6 Judith Lewis-Combs

10/9 Cheryl Bordenkircher
 10/11 Lilly Bierkan
 10/12 Carolyn Push
 10/14 Dave Schleutker

10/19 Evan Heitman
 10/22 Joe Jester
 10/25 Dick Manifold
 10/30 Scott Leist



11/1 Patrick Woods
 11/2 Logan Bierkan
 11/4 William Mayer
 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

Please Continue to Remember in Prayer:

Our servicemen and women
 Peggy Adams
 Chad Willcocks
 Kathy Aker
 John Allen
 Alice Graber
 Tony Mancini
 Gay D. Smith
 Rev. Virginia Duffy
 Barbara Williamson
 Elaine Sloan
 Nancy Lanza
 James Stokes
 Howard Seaman

Lindsay Pitcher
 June Ward
 Kim Caudell
 Clara Kemplin
 Rhonda Lahmann
 Owen Erickson
 Marlene Sheward
 Bodde Scudder
 Bob Harbaum
 Greg Rice
 Barb Nuckols
 Jesse McIlhaney
 Ann Way
 Carol Schroer

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

Please Continue to Remember in Prayer our HomeBound:

Bob Dickman
 John & Melitta Marx
 Gay Steinhauer

Doris Dunn
 Ruth Meissner
 Anne Timme


Mary Heineke
 Albert Mueller
 Sharon Wagner

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

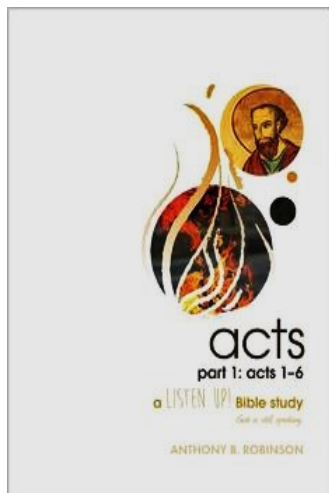
October 2020

THE EPISTLE

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Sunday Sch 9:30 am World Communion Sunday Worship 10:30 am	5 Scouts 6:30 pm	6 SPELCL- pictures Community Dinner 5-6:30 pm	7 SPELCL- pictures OPS Mtg 6 pm	8	9 AA - 8 pm	10 AA - 8 pm
11 Sunday Sch 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am	12 Scouts 6:30 pm	13 Community Dinner 5-6:30 pm	14 Exec. Mtg 5:30 pm	15	16 AA - 8 pm	17 AA - 8 pm
18 Sunday Sch 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Children's Sabbath Sunday Worship 10:30 am	19 Head Start -No Sch Nurture Mtg 5:30 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Council Mtg 7 pm	20 Community Dinner 5-6:30 pm	21 Epistle Articles Due	22 Head Start -No Sch	23 Head Start -No Sch	24
25 Sunday Sch 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am	26 Scouts 6:30 pm	27 SPELCL - 3's Halloween Community Dinner 5-6:30 pm	28	29 SPELCL - Pre-K Halloween	30 SPELCL - 4's Halloween AA - 8 pm	31  Happy Halloween AA - 8 pm

DEEPENING OUR FAITH! – NEW ADULT STUDIES COMING SOON



***LISTEN UP! - The Book of Acts (Part One) -
A God Is Still Speaking Bible Study***
**BEGINNING OCTOBER 11 Through November 15,
9:30 AM in The Cafe**

What's LISTEN UP! Bible Study, and why is it unique? God's word is alive. God will always have something new to say to us. That's why the purpose of the LISTEN UP! Bible Study series is not simply learning information about the Bible. It is hearing God speak. There is a difference. In these Bible studies, you will be encouraged to listen: listen to the Bible, listen to your own questions and responses, and listen to the honest sharing among participants in your study group. Trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit, we believe that in that mix of biblical text, personal engagement, and honest speaking and listening, God's word may be heard, speaking words of challenge and words of comfort. This 3-part LISTEN UP! Bible Study, covers the whole book of Acts. **PART ONE will run from October 11 through November 15 from 9:30 to 10:15 AM**, meeting in The Café. Accessible, informative, and thought-provoking, Acts encourages creative thinking about the

Bible. **SIGN-UP SHEETS** are located in the Narthex and in the Café.

COST: \$6.95 -- You can DROP YOUR PAYMENT in the Offering Plate or MAIL to the Church OFFICE:
St. Paul UCC – 6997 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati 45231

Bible Study Opportunities

COMING IN NOVEMBER FOR ADVENT:

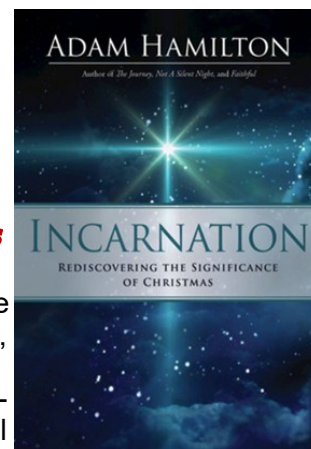
INCARNATION, Rediscovering The Significance Of Christmas Be Transformed this Advent Season! -- 11/29 thru 12/20

His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh.

In Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas, best-selling author Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth.

This Advent season church families will come together to remember what's important. In the face of uncertainty and conflict, Christians reclaim the Christ Child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness. Now more than ever, we invite you to reflect upon the significance of the Christ-child for our lives and world today! Incarnation is a standalone book, but works beautifully as a four-week Bible study experience perfect for all age groups during the Advent season. **SIGN-UP SHEETS** are located in the Narthex and in the Café.

COST: \$13.50. You can DROP YOUR PAYMENT in the Offering Plate or MAIL to the Church OFFICE:
St. Paul UCC – 6997 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati 45231 (Let us know if you need help with the cost).



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.