

Rodger Kiepe, Designated Pastor
Office: 573-486-5525
Cell Phone: 573-619-9692
E-Mail: rodgerkiepe@gmail.com

Web page: hermannucc.com

Fay Scheible, Secretary/Bookkeeper
Office: 573-486-5525
FAX: 573-486-2536
E-Mail: stpaulucc1@centurytel.net

ST PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sharing God's love by serving others



PO Box 352, 136 W First Street, Hermann, MO 65041

December 2017/January 2018

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

After the shooting at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, TX on November 5th a prominent Southern Baptist stated, "The attack targeted more than a single congregation, it was an assault on Christianity itself." But statistics and the facts surrounding this tragedy don't bear this claim out. Most attacks at houses of worship aren't about religion according to a recent CNN report. This article claims that nearly half (48%) of the shooters were affiliated with church and nearly a quarter (23%) of the others involved "intimate partners" who were. Devin Patrick Kelly, the shooter in Sutherland Springs, had texted threats to his mother-in-law, who was a regular at worship services at First Baptist where he opened fire. Freeman Martin, the Regional Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety said, "This wasn't over religious beliefs, there was a domestic situation going on with the family and in-laws.

So who are the shooters in these church killings? As mentioned above, 71% of the perpetrators are either affiliated with the church themselves or have people close to them who are. Another 17% were those who felt rejected by the church or had been made to feel unwelcomed. The remaining 12% were mentally ill according to the article and the data of Carl Chenn, a renowned church security consultant who has collected data on more than 1600 "deadly force" incidents in houses of worship since 1999.

In response to this we must first of all be aware. This kind of behavior is a reality in our society. Violent people do have easy access to guns and it is violent people with guns that have killed all of the innocent people in houses of worship. This is the world that we live in and it isn't likely to change soon.

Secondly, we need to take precautions. It can happen in any size community. Sutherland Springs has been described as a small, tight knit, community where people know their neighbors and are not afraid to leave their doors unlocked at night. Sound familiar? I am pleased to say that our Council here at St. Paul has been proactive and for the last several months has been working on emergency plans and procedures that include what to do in case of an intruder. It would be irresponsible not to take such precautions but we must also be careful not to over react. We do not want situations like the one in Knoxville, Tenn. where a man **accidentally** shot himself and his wife. According to a U.S.A. Today article, it happened while elder members of First United Methodist Church in Tellico Plains were cleaning up after enjoying a luncheon held to celebrate Thanksgiving. "They began talking about guns in churches," according to Tellico Plains Police Chief Russ Parks. He went on to say, "A man in his 80s pulled out a .380 caliber Ruger handgun and said, "I carry my handgun everywhere". He removed the magazine, cleared the chamber, and showed the gun to some of the men in the church. He put the magazine back in, apparently loaded a round in the chamber, and returned the gun to its holster. Somebody else walked up and said, "Can I see it?" He pulled it back out and said, "With this loaded indicator, I can tell that it's not loaded." He pulled the trigger. "Evidently he just forgot that he re-chambered the weapon," police said. The gun was lying on its side on a table. The bullet sliced the palm of the man's upward-facing hand, then entered the left side of his wife's abdomen and exited the right side. Both were taken to the hospital and treated for non-life threatening injuries.

We must never forget that we are called to be peace-makers and ambassadors for Christ. We are people of faith not fear. And it is our duty to be an open and welcoming faith community. It was a shocking statistic to me that 17% of the shooters in church killings were those

who felt rejected or unwelcomed by the church. ***We can easily avoid making people feel rejected or unwelcomed!***

So in spite of living in dangerous and violent times, we must continue to be a people of faith and love, welcoming all and sharing with all - the Gospel, which is the ultimate source of salvation and security.

Peace, Rodger

TIME AND TALENT SHEETS

The Time and Talent Sheets for the 2018 year are included in this mailing and will be available on the tables near the church entrances. Please remember to return them to the church office or place them in the boxes on the tables by December 17.

These sheets are very helpful to the council for choosing the 2018 committees at their January meeting. It is also helpful for the office staff to have a list of persons willing to help with various details throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who is willing to help in any way.

SNOW CANCELLATIONS

The Council decided there needed to be a way to reach out to the congregation in case snow and ice would make it necessary to cancel worship service on a Sunday morning. They will contact Fox 2 News and KPLR and have it scrolled across the bottom of their broadcast along with whatever other cancellations they may have. So if you are wondering about worship service, please check there.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

The children and youth of the Sunday School will present their annual Christmas program on Sunday, December 3 at the 10:15 a.m. service. This program includes a presentation by the Sunday School classes of a "Hanging of the Greens" event. Special offering envelopes will be available that morning for the benefit of the Every Child's Hope in St. Louis. Please make your check payable to St. Paul UCC with the notation that the gift is for ECH.

The Sunday school classes will be in recess December 24 and 31. They will resume January 7.

COFFEE HOUR

Parents are invited to come to the basement every Sunday morning from 9:00 to 10:00 during Sunday school for refreshments and fellowship. It's a great way to catch up, relax and get to know each other!

YOUTHFEST

Pastor Rodger along with seven youth and adults traveled to Sedalia for the annual Festival of Sharing Youthfest on Saturday, October 21. They joined many groups from other churches and organizations to promote and support projects and programs that respond to hunger, poverty and injustice in the world. They volunteered to pack beans, rice and potatoes, check Church World Service kits, sort seeds, and to help with distributions. They also

delivered the paper products that were donated by St. Paul congregation.

Attending the Youthfest were Colten Elsenraat, Jill Jacob, Becky Mayberry Zoe Schaefer, Colter, Emmett and Ellen Scheible and Pastor Kiepe.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Sunday, Dec. 3: 9:00 – Sunday School/Confirmation; 10:15 – Sunday School presentation of "Hanging of the Greens" and Advent service; 4:00 - Advent Workshop and meal.

Friday & Saturday, Dec. 8 & 9: 10:00-6:00 – Ministerial Alliance Bell Ringers at Save A Lot

Sunday, Dec. 10: 9:00 – Sunday School/Confirmation; 10:15 – Worship and Handbell Concert

**Monday, Dec. 11: 1:00-6:00 – Red Cross Blood Drive
Thursday, December 14: 12:30 p.m.—Women's Fellowship Christmas Luncheon; Program by Rev. Constance Tanis; Gift Exchange. All women of the church are invited.**

**Dec. 17: 9:00 a.m. — Sunday School/Confirmation
10:15 a.m.—Worship and Choir Concert**

**Dec. 24: 10:15 a.m.—Worship service (No Sunday School)
7:30 p.m. – Candlelight Worship service w/communion**

**Dec. 31: No Sunday School/Confirmation
10:15 a.m.—Worship service**

Jan. 14: 11:30 a.m. — Annual meeting

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The special Thanksgiving service was hosted by St. George Catholic Church on Sunday, November 19 beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Rev. Ron Stair delivering the message and was sponsored by Hermann Area Ministerial Alliance. The offering was directed to the Ministerial Alliance to be used to help provide assistance for community welfare needs as well as transient aid.

ST PAUL UCC MEN'S CLUB

Don't forget the first Saturday of each month you can bring your children to church for supper, games, movies, and fun so that you can spend a couple of hours out for dinner with friends and/or family.

The next date is December 2nd, 5-7pm. Last month (November) we had 11 children and look forward to even more. Take advantage of this offer! Questions?? Call Bob Kirchhofer 486-2943.

The men's club meets at The Hermann Diner at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast on the first Saturday of each month. All men are invited to join them.

HANDBELL CHOIR and CHANCEL RINGERS

Another year of ringing will be coming to a close as the ringers present Christmas music at the 10:15 service on December 10. The year 2017 has seen several changes for our group of ringers. Due to health issues, two ringers (Marcia Bucher and Steve Beckmann) have not been ringing this fall. Nancy Kirchhofer has been temporarily filling one of the vacant spots.

Seven of our ringers recently attended a workshop on sight-reading and honing the ringing techniques. This workshop was conducted by John Benke, a well-known organist, composer and director of a nationally recognized bell ensemble.

On November 25th the three annual Starkenburg concerts which include our bell choir, Barry Bierwirth, Allison Grzeskowiak, Keely Uthlaut and Kampbell Hemeyer were well attended and well received by capacity crowds.

The Handbell Choir will again hold a Trivia Night in February or early March to raise funds for bell maintenance, music and educational activities, as these costs are never funded by the church's general funds. In June of 2018 the Area 8 Handbell Conference will again be attended by members of our choir, and a majority of the cost for this learning experience will be paid for by the bell choir fund.

As in the past 12 years, the Handbell Choir and Chancel Ringers will be providing preludes and meditation music the 4th Sunday of each month from January through June and September through December of 2018. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to continuing to add to your worship experience at St. Paul UCC.

Ruth Hulsey

CHOIR NEWS

"The Lord is my strength and my song"

Thank you to the Riverside Singers, Nancy Fagerness, Ruth Hulsey, LaNette Kotthoff, Marilyn Loehnig, Dawn Maune, Jim Oncken, Craig Schannuth and accompanist, Lois Kruse, for an inspiring Gospel Concert on November 12 which benefited the Hermann Area Ministerial Alliance. Your hard work and talent are very much appreciated by all who attended.

The Senior Choir is preparing for the Advent season beginning with "The Hanging of the Greens" service at 10:15 on December 3; the annual Christmas Concert, "Candles and Carols" by Mark Hayes, on December 17 at 10:15; and special music at the 7:30 Christmas Eve service on December 24.

The Riverside Singers will provide special music for the 10:15 service on December 24.

This year we are happy to welcome the beautiful voices of our teenage singers, Hannah and Brooke Grosse, Maggie Kotthoff, Tess Schannuth and Gracie Winkelmann to the choir loft. They, too, will be presenting special music during the Christmas season.

After a short break the choir will resume the end of January,

A special thank you to the Senior Choir, Riverside Singers and Young Women. I feel very blessed to have the opportunity of working with these dedicated and talented singers.

"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of God's Music is the greatest treasure in the world." Martin Luther.

CHOIR CANTATA

During the 10:15 a.m. church service on Sunday, December 17, the Senior Choir will present, "Candles and

Carols", a Christmas Cantata arranged by Mark Hayes and Pamela Martin.

Advent is a holy season of expectant waiting and preparation for the birth of Christ. It is also a journey from darkness to light.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelled in a land of darkness, upon them has light shined." (Isaiah 9:2)

"Candles and Carols" is a candlelight advent journey that celebrates, through beautiful Christmas carols and narration, traditional themes of hope, peace, joy and love, culminating in the birth of Christ.

LaNette Kotthoff

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The Red Cross Blood Drive will be at St. Paul in the Fellowship Hall on Dec. 11 from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Please mark the date on your calendar and help meet their quota of 35 units. They will also be collecting red blood cells and plasma.

To schedule an appointment visit redcrossblood.org:
Sponsor Code: StPaulUCCHermann.

Baked goods are needed to serve the donors. If you are available to help all five hours or just a few hours on that date, please let Gigi Mueller or the church office know.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship would like to thank all who donated to the Hermann Area Food Drive. We collected 1867 items of food. We would also like to thank all who donated to ECH (Every Child's Hope). Gifts will be delivered to the Children's Home on December 1. The Women would like you to join their December mission: Community Christmas Program. There is information in the newsletter about this program as well suggestions on gift tags on the Christmas trees in the church.

All women are invited to the Women's Fellowship Christmas luncheon on Thursday, December 14 at 12:30 p.m. Rev. Constance Tanis will have our program after lunch and the ladies will have a gift exchange. Ladies whose last names begin with A-P should bring a salad, and ladies whose last names begin with R-W should bring cookies. The gift exchange will be a small gift \$3-\$5.

The Women's Fellowship's Christmas greeting is that each of us may have the gift of FAITH, the blessing of HOPE, and the PEACE of His LOVE at Christmas and always.

Sharen Speckhals, President

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Evangelism Committee and several other volunteers have completed the most recent church directory.

A big thank you to Linda Heck who did much of the computer and technical work! There are still some directories in the back of church if you have not received yours. There are also some extras. If you would like one for a family member or someone who did not have their photo taken, you may purchase one for \$3. Contact the church office.

We will continue to organize greeters and work to provide resources and opportunities for Evangelism at St. Paul.

Our committee will work with other committees and church council on two important celebrations at St. Paul church. On

November 4, 2018, St. Paul Church will have a homecoming celebration and on November 3, 2019, St. Paul UCC will celebrate its 175th anniversary. Mark your calendars. More information to follow soon! We will need help in planning these celebrations. Please consider joining us in the planning of these celebrations!

Sharen Speckhals, Chairperson

GIFTS

Memorial Fund

In memory of Curtis Bohl
In memory of Mildred Wright
In memory of Janet Lieneke

HERMANN MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE BELL RINGERS

The Hermann Ministerial Alliance is once again asking the community churches to take turns being responsible for operating the Ministerial kettle in December. 100% of the money collected stays in the community to support those people who need help with food, gas, etc. A sign-up sheet is available on the table in back of the sanctuary for Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8 and Dec. 9 at the Hermann Save A Lot store, if you are available any of those dates. Thanks.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Church Council has set the date for the annual meeting for January 14 following the 10:15 a.m. worship service. January 21 will be the backup date in case of inclement weather. The budget for 2018 will be presented for approval as well as a review of the financial status of the church.

ANNUAL REPORTS

The printed reports from the various organizations and committees as well as all the financial reports will need to be ready for the council's review by Sunday, January 7. This means all reports from the various groups will need to be in the office by January 3.

END OF YEAR GIFTS

It is necessary to close St. Paul UCC books by 2:00 p.m. on January 2 in order to make the deposit before the banks close. This will ensure that your gift will be recorded in 2017. Any gifts received after that time will be recorded in 2018.

WEDDINGS

Katherine Beach and Dustin Hoener were united in marriage October 28 at St. Paul UCC with Rev. Mark Sheets presiding. The couple resides in Washington.

Kylee Bushman and Jacob Murphy were united in marriage November 25 at St. Paul UCC. Jacob is the son of Jim & Janet Murphy. The couple resides in Fenton. Rodger Kiepe officiated at the service.

BAPTISM

Maverick Lane Hopkins was baptized at St. Paul UCC on October 15, 2017 at the 10:15 service. He is the son of Donelle Moore and Lannie Hopkins. Godparents are Corinne Tilly and Dustin Haney.

FUNERAL SERVICES

Mildred Wright passed away October 8 at Frene Valley of Hermann Stonebridge at the age of 96. She was born in Henrietta, MO on Feb. 12, 1921, a daughter of Albert & Ida Wholt. She was married to Raymond Wright on December 21, 1946 in Gasconade. She was a member of St. Paul UCC and the Women's Fellowship. Funeral service was held October 12 at Toedtman & Grosse Funeral Home. She is survived by many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and friends. Burial was at Oak Haven Memorial Gardens.

Funeral service was held at Toedtman & Grosse Funeral Home on October 31, for Roy Cramer, who passed away October 27 at Mercy Hospital in Washington. Burial was at Oak Haven Memorial Gardens.

Eva Witthaus was born in Hermann on July 26, 1941 to Frank & Mary Bauer. She passed away October 30, 2017 at Frene Valley of Hermann Stonebridge. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arvil. She is survived by four children, Michal Witthaus & wife Denise, Marcia Giesler and husband Matt, Mark Witthaus & wife Kendra, and Margaret Hahne & husband Dave, by seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

Funeral service was held November 9 at Toedtman & Grosse Funeral Home for Janet Lieneke. Janet was born September 22, 1924, a daughter of Walter and Caroline Whertvine and passed away November 5, 2017 at Frene Valley of Hermann Stonebridge. She was a member of St. Paul UCC. She was the widow of Alfred "Speedy" Lieneke. She is survived by two daughters, Cheri Hagan and husband Brian and Karen Lieneke; a brother George Whertvine and wife June; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held at Toedtman & Grosse Funeral Home for Dorothy Gaertner on November 26. Mrs. Gaertner was born October 10, 1924 to Alvin & Frances Schannuth and passed away November 21 at Parkside Manor in Columbia. She was preceded in death by her husband, Walter, by a son-in-law, Walter Shoupe; three sisters, Marie Edler, Alma Humburg, Anna Mae Lenger; and a brother, Alvin Schannuth. She is survived by five daughters, Lee Paige, Shirley Ovcina and husband Safet, Norma Shoupe, Bonnie Harvey & husband Jack and Kathy Price and husband Russell; by eight grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Rev. Kiepe officiated at all the above services.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to Carol Paubel and family on the passing of her mother, Flora Whitaker and her uncle, Bob Whitaker, recently.

Our sympathy to the Jeff Schaefer family on the passing of his uncle, Bill Liliensiek.

Our sympathy to Charlotte Struttman and family on the passing of her grandmother, Theoda Pohlmann.

Our sympathy to Gladys Hauser on the passing of her sister, Marlene Parker.

Our sympathy to Jim Schulte and family on the passing of his step-brother, John Findlay.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

Special offering envelopes have been included in this newsletter (those being mailed) to receive extra gifts to benefit the Current Fund. These extra gifts will help meet the budget which was approved at the last annual meeting and help to make sure we are able to meet our end-of-year obligations. For those of you receiving the newsletter by email, envelopes will be available on the tables at church.

Thank you for these special Christmas gifts.

CHRISTMAS FUND (Veterans of the Cross)

There are also envelopes on the tables for the 2017 Christmas Fund (formerly Veterans of the Cross).

The mission of the Christmas Fund is to provide assistance dollars in situations of critical need, while preserving the dignity of those who receive the aid. The goal is to raise money for the vital ministries of Pension Supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift checks to lower-income retirees during 2017.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The boxes of church offering envelopes for 2018 will be on the table in the narthex in December. The Sunday School offering envelopes will be in the class rooms.

If you are not using offering envelopes at the present time but would like to receive a box, please let the office know.

VILLAGE MARKET REBATE

Please continue to save your receipts from Village Market and place them in the boxes on the tables. The church will receive a 1% rebate for them. A total of \$558.44 was received for the year of 2017 to date. Thank you to everyone who turns in their Village Market receipts and to Maureen Heck for handling the details and turning them in to the store.

HERMANN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

Community Christmas is a program that was started to help less fortunate families in the Hermann community. This year there are two options. One is to adopt a family and buy gifts for them. The second is to donate toys towards Community Christmas and the parents will be allowed to come and choose gifts. Please help us make Christmas a reality for less fortunate families. Please drop off the gifts or monetary donations at the church and the school social worker will pick them up. **The due date for these donations is December 14. For more info call Bartow Malloy at 573-294-6242 or Dawn Grosse at 486-5425.**

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS/MEMORIALS

The time is near to receive the list of memorial gifts and poinsettias (or other flowers) for use during the Christmas services on December 17 at 10:15 a.m. and on December 24 at 10:15 and 7:30 p.m. The flowers need to be brought to the church by 12:00 noon on Friday, December 15. We will need the following information no later than December 13 so the Christmas Memorial List can be compiled:

I (We) plan to place a poinsettia (or other flower in church for the Christmas altar in memory (in honor) of

I (We) plan to give a cash gift as a memorial for

The gift will be presented by:

PRAYER CHAIN

Please keep the following persons in your prayers: Lorene Beckmann, Jim Schulte, Angie Scheidegger, Elizabeth Klemme, Bob Soetebier, Dolores Smith, Carol Kallmeyer, Gene Schaefer, Michelle Mueller, Ed Moody, Eloise Sturkey, Marcia Bucher, Lyndon Ruediger, Shirley Waddle, Brandi Wendleton, Joe Hart, Geneva Brink, Donnie Mueller, Carol Collins, Nadine Ulrich

LIT 'n LATTE BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting is at 10:00 on December 11 at the home of Nancy Kirchhofer. We are reading *The Christmas Train* by Baldacci. We will also be deciding 'reads' for the new year. If interested call Nancy at 486-2943. (Please RSVP for the Dec. meeting.) Come prepared with an appetite for brunch and a list of books. Our regular meeting day is the second Monday of every month at 10:00am at Miss Clara's. All members and friends are welcome.

SAMARITAN OUTREACH OFFERING

The fifth Sunday of each month has been designated to Samaritan Outreach Program. Envelopes are included in your bulletin on those Sunday mornings if you wish to make a donation. These gifts go directly to the Samaritan Outreach Program and do not stay with St. Paul UCC and thus are not recorded by St. Paul UCC.

FOOD PANTRY

Members of St. Paul Church are asked to bring canned meats, pasta and dried staples in the month of December and desserts, paper towels and bathroom tissue for the month of January for the Hermann Community Food Pantry.

Boxes are located near the church office and will be picked up by a member of the Food Pantry committee for distribution to the needy. Monetary gifts are also welcome.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthday greetings are extended to the following members of our church family who will celebrate birthdays in December.

- 1 — Tim Puchta
- 2 — Colter Scheible, Emmett Scheible
- 3—Shirley Kunz

- 4—Shannon Berkemeyer, Ervin Rehmert
- 6—Doris Grannemann, Melissa Schaumberg
- 8—Geneva Brink
- 9—Jocelyn Kreftmeyer
- 10—Gabrielle Gleeson, Parker Puchta,
Lyndon Ruediger
- 11—Carol Danuser, Shane Sutton
- 12—Jason Eikermann, Emily Kunz
- 13—Braden Hart
- 14—Dawn Page
- 15—Jacob Murphy, Jayme Murphy
- 16—Alyssa Schirmer
- 18—Harvey Lalk, Ralph Uthlaut
- 19 – Cullen Horstmann
- 20—Kara Huges, Tim Schaumberg
- 21—Mary Wesselschmidt
- 24—Ed Bickmeyer, Harvey Cramer,
Marilyn Rethemeyer, Amy Williams
- 28—Marilyn Koenig, Dale Maune, Annette Witthaus,
Josh Witthaus

- 12 – Ralph & Carol Uthlaut
 - 14 – Gary & Linda Blackwood
 - 20 – James & Marjorie Boedges
 - 23 – Jim & Betty Held
 - 28 – Don & Cathy Foust
 - 30 – Tim & Rebecca Cramer
- The following members of our church family will be celebrating their anniversaries in January.
- 1—James & Sharon Hoerstkamp
 - 6—Ehren & Lindsay Oncken
 - 7—Harvey & Dolores Cramer

VOLUNTARY BENEVOLENCES INCOME

As of Nov. 24, 2017 the following organizations have received voluntary directed benevolences:

One Great Hour of Share	\$ 600.00
Every Child’s Hope	\$ 208.00
Food Pantry	\$1,269.00
Neighborhood Houses	\$ 98.00
Neighbors In Need	\$202.00
School	\$ 47.00
Emmaus Homes	\$ 480.00
Camp MoVal	\$ 219.00
CWS/Blankets	\$ 513.00
Conference	\$ 120.00
Riverbluff Industries	\$ 340.00
Back Pack Program	\$1,065.00
Hurricanes	\$1,590.00
Perryville	\$ 602.00
Eden Scholarship	\$ 450.00
CASA	\$ 50.00
Samaritan Outreach	<u>\$ 327.00</u>
Total	\$8,180.00

TOTENFEST SERVICE

Totenfest Service was observed November 5, 2017 at St. Paul UCC. A celebration of life was held in memory of all those who passed away in 2017.

Those remembered included:

- Elmer Allemann, Jan. 4, 1920-Jan. 5, 2017**
- Anna Mae Lenger, April 8, 1921-Jan. 12, 2017**
- Hazel Mueller, Dec. 28, 1920 - March 31, 2017**
- Charles Brown, Nov. 23, 1944 - April 8, 2017**
- Patricia Anderson, May 28, 1933 - April 16, 2017**
- Helen Vieth, Sept. 2, 1929 - May 26, 2017**
- Judith White, June 15, 1940 – Aug. 5, 2017**
- Bessie Schuch, Jan. 23, 1917 – Aug. 6, 2017**
- Liz Lassen, Dec. 15, 1942—Sept. 7, 2017**
- Mildred Wright, Feb. 12, 1921 – Oct. 8, 2017**
- Bill Liliensiek, Nov. 28, 1937 – Oct. 17, 2017**
- Flora Whitaker, Nov. 30, 1928—Oct. 19, 2017**
- Bob Whitaker, Dec. 2, 1939—Oct. 19, 2017**
- Roy Cramer, July 17, 1931 - Oct. 27, 2017**
- Eva Witthaus, July 26, 1941 – Oct. 30, 2017**

Our condolences to all these families.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Stone Hill Winery for providing wine and grape juice for communion throughout the year.
Thank you to Sharen Speckhals for filling pew pockets.

Birthdays greetings are extended to the following members of our church family who will celebrate birthdays in January.

- 1—Holly Brethorst, Drake Fredrick, Jenna Schaefer
- 2—Diane Lause
- 3—Dawn Grosse, Chad Schneider
- 7—Dolores Smith
- 9—Dortha Coulter
- 10—Ruth Hulsey, Brian Rector
- 11—Beverly Englert
- 12—Walter Schluss
- 14—Donald Foust, Dolores Huxol, Mat Rogers,
Charlotte Struttman, Jack Wendleton
- 16—Rose Eldringhoff, Dorothy Horstmann
- 19—Duane Bierwirth, Robert Winkelmann
- 20—Lorene Beckmann, Chesney Fries
- 22—Dorie Draper, Tom Rethemeyer
- 23—Barbara Schutt
- 25— Janet Rector
- 26—Carol Grannemann-Collins
- 27—Jim Hoerstkamp
- 29—Madison Schneider
- 31—William Tilly

50+ ANNIVERSARIES

Frank and Mary Struttman were married December 3, 1960 and are celebrating their 57th anniversary. Ralph and Carol Uthlaut were married December 12, 1953 and will celebrate their 64th anniversary. Gary & Linda Blackwood were married December 14, 1966 and will celebrate their 51st anniversary. Jim and Betty Held were married December 23, 1955 and will celebrate their 62nd anniversary. Congratulations to all.

ANNIVERSARIES

The following members of our church family will be celebrating their anniversaries in December:

- 3 – Frank & Mary Struttman Jr.

Thank you to Helen Wesselschmidt and Marcella Huxel for delivering copies of the bulletin to our nursing home residents and for sending greeting cards throughout the year.

Thank you to Ruth Hulsey, Nancy Kirchhofer, and Margie Greene for substituting at the organ recently.

Thank you to Maureen Heck, Lois Mochel and Jane & Kenny Meyer for lawn care.

Thank you to Mary Leeper for preparing the communion trays.

Thanks to Darren Schutt for handling various maintenance items and for mowing the lawn.

Thank you to Sharen Speckhals for delivering the gifts to Every Child's Hope Christmas Store.

Thank you to LaNette Kotthoff and Darren Schutt for building security throughout the year

Thank you to all the volunteer drivers of the van and personal cars to pick up parishioners for worship services.

Thank you to Maureen Heck for handling the details for the Village Market rebate program and to everyone for turning in their receipts.

Thank you to Shirley Kunz, Anne Althaus and Mary Leeper for helping in the office throughout the year.

Thank you to the Women's Fellowship for handling details for the recent Community Food Collection and to Maureen Heck for arranging the items and to everyone who helped pack it all up for delivery to the local food pantry.

Thank you to Becky Mayberry, Gordon Heck and James Hoerstkamp for handling the sound system for weddings

Thank you to everyone who loaded the church bulletin on the projection system and to everyone who has handled it on Sunday mornings.

Thanks to everyone who served as liturgists throughout the year.

Thank you to Nancy Kirchhofer for arranging for Fellowship Hour on Sunday mornings and others for helping with the refreshments.

Thank you to all who served as greeters and ushers throughout the year

Thank you to Mona Schaefer for the altar flowers which she has arranged for the different seasons of the year.

Thank you to Nancy Kirchhofer for watering the flowers in the sanctuary.

Thank you to James Hoerstkamp for making holders for the altar flower vases.

Thank you to Barb Schutt for delivering some altar flowers to the nursing homes recently.

THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear St. Paul Friends:

Thank you for your contribution to the Hermann Food Pantry Fund, a component fund of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks.

Also thank you for your contribution to the Children's Backpack Fund.

Community Foundation of the Hermann Area, Inc.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your donation of Christmas gifts to Every Child's Hope. This generous gift allows us to help the children, youth and families we serve have hope for a better future.

Also, on behalf of all of us at ECH, thank you for supporting our kids going back to school! Because of your \$208.00 gift, we are able to go the extra step to help the young people we serve navigate not only their issues of abuse, neglect and homelessness, but also catch up with their education and stay in school.

Sincerely, Michael P. Brennan, CEO, Every Child's Hope

NURSING & RETIREMENT HOME RESIDENTS

A number of our members and friends are residents of an area nursing home facility and would appreciate a visit or card especially during this Christmas season.

Frene Valley Health Center: Dorothy Haeffner, Dorothy Horstmann, Leona Meyer, Carl & Eunice Ploeger, Lorene Beckmann, Vernon Brinkmann, Viola Koeller, Mildred Brandt.

Frene Valley Falls: Mrs. Gladys Hauser,

Victorian Manor: Truman & Pearlina Eikermann, Ben & Thelma Kattelmann, Janet Mueller

The Waterford, 601 Universe Blvd. Room 213, Juno Beach, FL 33408: Eloise Sturkey

WORSHIP SERVICE

10/1	10/8	10/15	10/22	10/29	11/5	11/12	11/19	11/26
123	125	122	113	113	108	105	123	130

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

	10/1	10/8	10/15	10/22	10/29
Nursery	3	5	7	4	5
1 st -2 nd Grade	8	8	10	9	9
3 rd -4 th Grade	5	6	6	6	2
5 th -6 th Grade	4	4	4	5	2
7 th -8 th Grade	7	5	8	7	4
Confirmation	2	5	4	5	5
Senior High	--	--	4	--	4
Adult Class	7	11	11	5	6
Staff	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	37	45	55	42	38

	11/5	11/12	11/19	11/26
Nursery.	6	4	5	4
1 st -2 nd Grade	11	8	10	9
3 rd -4 th Grade	6	5	5	9
5 th -6 th Grade	6	4	5	4
7 th -8 th Grade	11	7	8	6
Confirmation	5	4	5	5
Senior High	--	3		4
Adult Class	8	8	9	11
Staff	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	51	44	48	53

BANNER CLASS

The banner class for October & November is the Confirmation Class.



PLANNED GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

from United Church Funds (UCF)

for the United Church of Christ (UCC)

WILLS AND BEQUESTS provide a simple way to make a gift that will keep on giving after your lifetime. Without a Will, or other provision such as a living trust, state law will decide how your assets will be distributed upon your death. The state's plan may not be in accordance with your wishes, and may not distribute as much of your estate as possible to heirs, church or charity.

A UCF **GIFT ANNUITY** (\$1,000 minimum) is a contract whereby you transfer assets such as cash or appreciated securities to UCF in return for age- based, lifetime annual payments of a fixed amount. You are entitled to a charitable contribution deduction in the year you make the gift if you itemize your tax return, and part of your annual payment may be tax free. If you transfer appreciated securities to fund your gift, you may have significant capital gains tax savings.

The UCF POOLED INCOME FUND (\$2,000 minimum) pools your contribution with others into a large fund, net income of which is distributed to you based upon your share of the fund. You are entitled to a charitable contribution deduction in the year you make the gift if you itemize your tax return. If you transfer appreciated securities to fund your **WHAT IS A PLANNED GIFT?** capital gains tax savings.

WHAT IS A PLANNED GIFT?

A Planned Gift is one you make during your lifetime, but which benefits a charitable organization after your death. You may designate your congregation, association, or conference; UCC-related college, seminary, or health and human services institution; or a UCC national ministry as the recipient of your gift.

The most common Planned Gift is a bequest; other types of Planned Gifts may provide:

- An attractive income for life with no management responsibilities.
- Income for a surviving loved one.
- A charitable tax deduction, if you itemize.
- Tax savings on long term capital gains.
- Financial support for future ministry in the many settings of the UCC.

With **CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS** (\$50,000 minimum), you transfer cash, securities or other property into an irrevocable trust and receive lifetime income. A **Unitrust** pays *flexible* income, based on 5% of the trust's fair market value as determined annually. You are entitled to a charitable tax deduction if you itemize, and you can realize capital gains tax savings if you fund your gift with appreciated securities.

Gifts of **LIFE INSURANCE** offer opportunities to make substantial charitable contributions. If you have a policy which is no longer needed for family protection, you may simply name a UCC-related entity as the beneficiary. To receive a tax deduction, transfer *ownership* of the policy to the charity; if the policy is not paid up, and you continue to pay the premiums, you receive a tax deduction for each premium payment made to the charity. You can also make a gift by purchasing a new policy, or using insurance for asset replacement.

An **IRA** can be a wise asset to use for a charitable bequest, as individual heirs may be heavily taxed on distributions received by inheritance. During your lifetime, you may use Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) to fund a life-income gift; the distribution will be a taxable event, but you will be entitled to a charitable tax deduction if you itemize. For **outright gifts only** (can't be used to fund a life-income gift), the IRA Charitable Rollover legislation is now permanent: donor must be age 70 ½ or older, gift of \$100,000 or less, counts toward RMD, gift *must* be transferred from IRA **direct** to charity, no deduction but distribution is tax-free.

We have a wealth of resources available to assist you in establishing a Planned Giving program in your church!

For more information, contact Lynne Hansen/Associate for Legacy Gifts at UCC/Cleveland by phone at (216) 736-2171 or by e-mail at HANSENL@UCC.ORG or Milly Hernandez at United Church Funds/New York at (212) 729-2616 or milly.hernandez@Ucfunds.org.

4121/2017

St Paul United Church of Christ - Council Minutes - September 12, 2017

Members present were: Pastor Kiepe, Linda Heck, Nancy Kirchhofer, Mark Leech, Becky Mayberry, Ervin Rehmert, Tom Rethemeyer, Darren Schutt, Maggie Stiegman, Keely Uthlaut. Not present: Ruth Hulsey, Susan Lenger and Sharen Speckhals.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Kiepe.

Nancy Kirchhofer asked that Council members bring desserts for the Mission Fair lunch at noon on September 24.

Minutes of the August meeting were approved on motion made by Nancy Kirchhofer and seconded by Keely Uthlaut. Motion carried.

The August Financial Report was tabled for clarification on motion made by Maggie Stiegman and seconded by Becky Mayberry. Motion carried.

Pastor Kiepe gave his monthly report.

- He will check on a meal to be held with the upcoming planned giving seminar.
- There are 4 confirmands this year.
- Pastor Kiepe has created a budget request form for committees to fill out, which he hopes to have returned by October 1. Committees will be asked what they plan to accomplish with these funds.
- Saddle bags will be disseminated on November 5.

Old Business:

The Minister's Personnel Description was approved as presented on motion by Mark Leech and seconded by Nancy Kirchhofer. Interviews are to be done by the personnel committee with additional input from others as needed.

Darren Schutt is working with our insurance providers to clarify costs of covering special events, including After School Bearcats.

Motion was made to approve the Safe Sanctuary Guide by Keely Uthlaut and seconded by Mark Leech. Motion carried.

New Business:

Motion was made by Mark Leech to approve the Scout request for a lock-in in Fellowship Hall on Friday and Saturday, January 26-27. The motion was seconded by Tom Rethemeyer. Motion carried

A request by Natalie Shultz and Joshua Kuhn for a wedding on May 26, 2018 was approved on motion by Maggie Stiegman and seconded by Becky Mayberry. Motion carried.

Letters of appreciation have been sent to:

- Dennis Barks for his donation of office supplies and a copy machine
- Elmer and Lillian Allemann's family for the Allemann's estate gift
- Helen Wesselschmidt for her outreach work with shut-ins

Ushers for October communion will be Tom Rethemeyer, Ervin Rehmert, Keely Uthlaut and Mark Leech.

The next council meeting will be Monday, October 2 at 6:30 pm. Nancy Kirchhofer will serve in Linda Heck's absence.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Nancy Kirchhofer and seconded by Maggie Stiegman. Motion carried.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Heck, Secretary

St. Paul United Church of Christ Council Minutes - October 2, 2017

Members present were: Rodger Kiepe, Susan Lenger, Ervin Rehmert, Tom Rethemeyer, Maggie Stiegman, Mark Leech, Ruth Hulsey, Keely Uthlaut, Becky Mayberry, Sharen Speckhals, Darren Schutt, Nancy Kirchhofer. Not present: Linda Heck

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Kiepe.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved on motion made by Susan Lenger and seconded by Ervin Rehmert. Motion carried.

The Financial Report was approved on motion made by Ervin Rehmert and seconded by Maggie Stiegman. Motion carried.

Pastor Kiepe gave his monthly report.

Old Business

Mark Leech reported job descriptions are complete except After School Bearcats coordinator.

The Directory is complete except proofing.

Discussion regarding a new copy machine. Our copy machine is obsolete so unable to purchase parts as needed. Jose Bugarin left proposals in the office. We will make inquiries and get at least three bids before deciding on a copy machine.

Nancy reported After School Bearcats going good. We are up to 18 students and Christina Menke is recommending three additional weeks next semester.

Stewardship: A. Planned Giving seminar dinner is planned for October 22 with a guest speaker. Women's Fellowship will serve the meal. B. November 5 is the kick-off breakfast for Pony Express program. Pastor Kiepe asked all council members to take a route.

Safe Sanctuary Policy is completed with recommended changes.

New Business

Pastor Kiepe asked all council members to be Trail Bosses for the Pony Express Estimate of Giving campaign.

We were reminded the terms of four council members will expire in January.

The budget committee will be meeting later this month.

Fay will be on vacation from October 9-14.

Ushers for November 5 are Maggie, Sharen, Nancy and Darren

Next council meeting will be Monday, November 6, 6:30.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Keely Uthlaut and seconded by Becky Mayberry. Motion carried.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Kirchhofer for Linda Heck, Secretary