

ST PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Sharing God's love by serving others

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

The Hilltop Herald

Rodger Kiepe, Designated Pastor
Email: rodgerkiepe@gmail.com
Cell: 573-619-9692

Web page: hermannucc.com
FAX: 573-486-2536

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

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

With all of the sickness, death, and tragedy our community and congregation has faced in recent weeks I have been thinking about God's will and why bad things happen to good people. There is a little book entitled The Will of God which was written by Leslie Weatherhead back in 1944.

While it is not within the scope of this article to present a full explanation of his thesis, I do think it is important to at least give an outline of it and make a few remarks that I hope will be helpful. Weatherhead contends that the will of God is seen in three manifestations. They are:

- The intentional will of God
- The circumstantial will of God
- And the ultimate will of God

The intentional will of God is quite simply that humanity would follow the dictates of justice and righteousness. By that I mean to say that we seek to treat others fairly and walk uprightly before God; doing the things that reflect love and what is necessary to remain in a healthy relationship with both God and neighbor. As Jesus and others have noted, the whole law can be summarized in just two commandments: love God and treat others as you desire to be treated.

However, we all know that sin and evil has spoiled efforts to live this way and maintain those relationships. This leads to the circumstantial will of God. Most pointedly, we can see this come into play with the death of Jesus. Was it the intentional will of God that Jesus die on

the cross? No. It was God's will that people listen to what Jesus taught us, repent, and follow. But the circumstances of humanity preferring darkness over light, sin rather than righteousness, crucified the holy One. It was God's circumstantial will that Jesus faced the shame and horror of the crucifixion rather than run away or fight against it.

All of this brings us to the ultimate will of God which cannot be finally defeated by sin and evil. When the Roman Empire and those who collaborated with Rome executed Jesus; one would naturally think that would have been the end of the story. But it wasn't the end. Rome's "No" to Jesus was defeated by God's "Yes" in the resurrection. The Roman Empire has long ceased to exist but the spirit of Jesus is still alive and well! It is easy to become discouraged as we continue to battle the evil and insanity of this world but God's ultimate will for humanity and the world will eventually be realized. Maybe not in my lifetime or yours, but eventually evil will be completely destroyed. As John the seer wrote so long ago, "Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things and I will be their God and they will be my children. But as for the cowardly, the faithless the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.'" (Rev. 21:6-8) Amen, Come, Lord Jesus.

Sincerely,
Rodger

NEWS FROM THE HANDBELL CHOIR AND CHANCEL RINGERS

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Trivia Night, sponsored by and benefitting the Handbell Choir, was a huge success. Thank you so much to all who attended and donated to the Handbell Choir Fund. Also, thanks to all bell choir members who assisted in any way and to Darren Schutt for setting up the tables and cleaning up.

The handbell choir is winding down its rehearsals for the spring. We will be presenting the meditation music the fourth Sundays of both April and May at the 10:15 services. Starting at the end of May, those who will be attending the June Conference in Omaha will rehearse weekly, with the full choir rehearsing monthly, during the summer.

Summer rehearsals will focus on the music that has been selected for the annual concert at Starkenburg in late November. The bell choir already has begun practicing new music for that special Christmas program and the program here at St. Paul in December. This year, there will again be participation by guest instrumentalists and vocalists.

A recent acquisition for the bell choir was a large bass bell. Marilyn Loehnig and Colter Scheible will usually be ringing that bell weighing well over 10 pounds. Lower bass bells add a rich tone to musical numbers which feature the mellow tones of the low bells.

The bell choir appreciates the assistance of those who help in transporting bells and equipment to and from the practice room in the basement on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in ringing or assisting the handbell choir in any way, you may contact Ruth Hulsey at 573-252-4653 or hulsey.ruth@gmail.com.

Ruth Hulsey
Handbell Director

AFTER SCHOOL BEARCATS

The After School Bearcats program has been going strong this semester. We started up again shortly after Christmas break and will hold our last Wednesday session of the year on April 11th. This semester we have had 18 kids enrolled from kindergarten through 7th grade. Every Wednesday we have provided them with an enrichment activity of some type. This semester's offerings were rhythm training, art, and Scenic Regional Library led a few sessions with yoga and book reading. One of the best things about our program is that the kids are paired up with an adult and they sit down and tackle homework together. I want to give a special thank you to all of the volunteers that have made this such a successful program this year. We plan to start back up again in the fall. If you would like to help in any way, contact Christina Menke at 720-231-3193.



SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

The Women's Fellowship annual spring rummage sale will be held on April 26 & 27 from 8:00-6:00 and April 28 from 8:00-12:00. Items may be brought to the Fellowship Hall beginning on April 15 and ending on April 24. We are in need of clothing, linens, household items (practical and decorative), toys, furniture and any other items you no longer need. The proceeds from the sale are used to provide funding for giving within our community, our wider church organization and the general fund of St. Paul UCC. Thank you for your great support in the past and we look forward to receiving your donations again.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

St. Paul Women's Fellowship will have their next meeting Thursday, April 12. They will join the Morrison Women's Fellowship. All women of the church are invited to join.

WOMEN'S SUNDAY

Women's Sunday will be observed on April 15 at the 10:15 service with Stacy Algren as the guest speaker.

YOUTH SUNDAY

Youth Sunday was observed at St. Paul UCC on March 18. Instrumentalists included Ben Berkemeyer, Cody Bruckerhof, Lydia Mayberry, Clara Scheible, Colter Scheible, Emmett Scheible, Mason Scheible; Soloist was Zoe Schafer; Readers included Katie Menke, Kale Bickmeyer, Sammi Boedges, Michaela Grannemann, Holly Heldt, Peyton Schafer, Clara Scheible, Shelby Schutt, Ben Berkemeyer, and Emmett Scheible Children's Message was led by Peyton Schafer; Skit participants were Ben Berkemeyer, Kale Bickmeyer, Madison Dixon, Colten Elsenraat, Michaela Grannemann, Holly Heldt, Woody Heldt, Katie Menke, Brian Rector, Zoe Schafer, Colter Scheible, Emmett Scheible, Shelby Schutt; Singers were Mason Scheible, Emmett Scheible, Cody Bruckerhof, Katie Menke, Shelby Schutt, Lydia Mayberry and Holly Heldt accompanied by Colter Scheible on the tuba.

Special thanks to Bob & Nancy Kirchhofer, Sharen Speckhals, Brian & Amy Grannemann and all the Sunday School teachers for helping, working on and planning of this service.

BOOK CLUB

Lit n' Latte Book Club will meet at Miss Clara's at 10:00 a.m. on April 9. The book title is "The Girl in Hyacinth Blue" by Vreeland. Questions call Nancy Kirchhofer 486-2943.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation service will be held on Sunday, May 20. Colten Elsenraat, Hannah Grosse, Woodrow Heldt, and Zoe Schafer will receive the rite of confirmation at this time. They have been meeting every Sunday morning with Pastor Rodger since September of 2017

WEDDING

Congratulations to Ashley Hawkins and Joshua Vance who were married at St. Paul UCC on March 31, 2018 with Pastor Rodger officiating.

The couple will make their home near Hermann. The groom is serving in the military.

BAPTISM

Rev. Ken Beckmann baptized his newest grandchild, Claudia Kay Beckmann, at St. Paul UCC Sunday, April 1 following Easter service. Claudia was born March 3 at Hannibal to Cortney and Bryan Beckmann of Kirksville.

COFFEE HOUR

Everyone is invited to come to the basement every Sunday morning from 9:00-10:00 for refreshments and fellowship. It is a great way to catch up, relax and get to know each other!

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club meets the first Saturday of each month at 8:00 for breakfast at The Hermann Diner. Also, on the first Saturday at 5:00 parents may drop their children off and enjoy an evening out and return at 7:00 to pick them up. This gives the parents an opportunity for no cost babysitters and a couple of hours of 'freedom' from their kids. Please see Bob Kirchofer for details.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE-HOMECOMING

St. Paul will host a Homecoming Weekend on September 22-23, 2018. Plans include a church picnic at the Amphitheater on Saturday, September 22 and a homecoming worship service on Sunday, September 23 at St. Paul. More details to come soon!

St. Paul will be celebrating its 175th anniversary throughout 2019, with a special weekend celebration on November 2 & 3. The Evangelism committee and church are gathering addresses of persons confirmed at St. Paul, former members, and pastors for these events. Please share addresses of your family members with the church office at P.O. Box 352, Hermann, MO 65041 or members of the evangelism committee.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee would like to express our gratitude for all who participated in St. Paul UCC's first Pony Express Run. The membership was divided into 14 train routes, with each headed by a Trail Boss. Because of the great cooperation, the saddlebags were taken to 132 households over a two-week period. When the church secretary tabulated the giving units, there was a total of \$169,244. This is a great start toward the approved 2018 budget of \$205,077. Again, thank you to all who took part in any way. The financial support of our church is the key to growing the mission of St. Paul.

EASTERN ASSOCIATION QUILT SHOW

The Eastern Association will hold its annual quilt show at St. Paul in Hermann on May 5. The invitation is for anyone who has a quilt to bring it in and we will drape them over the backs of the pews. We have history cards to be filled out if you want to tell the story of your quilt. It will start at 9:00 and go to 12:30. It will be open to the public and other area churches to come view the quilts.

There will be refreshments before the show, and a light lunch afterward. There will be quilt expert, Holly Bone, on hand,

and for a fee, she will appraise quilts for anyone who is interested. You can contact Gigi Mueller with any questions at 486-3523.

EMMAUS QUILT AUCTION

There will be an Emmaus Quilt Auction on May 21 from 1:00-4:00 at Parkway UCC in St. Louis. Join us for the first ever Emmaus Homes Quilt Auction! Come browse and bid on an array of beautiful handmade quilts for a wonderful cause! In addition to the quilt auction, there will be plenty of silent auction items from St. Louis area businesses up for grabs as well as Emmaus Wine to sample. Light appetizers and drinks will also be available. This event is open to the public and free of charge to attend!

All proceeds from the auctions will help to support the over 275 adults with developmental disabilities throughout the metro area that Emmaus is privileged to serve. Emmaus strives to be the provider of choice in the region by offering fulfilling life experiences and care to each person we support.

We are still accepting quilt donations until May 5th! If you, your church, or group would like to donate a quilt of any size, please contact Tim at ryantim@emmaushomes.org or 636-534-5200 to arrange drop off or pick up. All donations are greatly appreciated and welcomed!

EASTERN ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Eastern Association of the Missouri Mid-South UCC Conference will hold its spring meeting at Camp MoVal on Saturday, April 21 FROM 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. If you would like to attend the Association meeting, registration forms will be available in the church office.

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

The church office would like to have information on all of our graduates since last summer. This includes high school, technical school, nursing school, college and graduate school. This includes the degree or certificate received and the major field it was awarded for, and future employment or plans.

Please call the church office with that information as soon as possible. This information will be printed in a bulletin on May 6.

Following the worship service there will be a carry-in lunch for the congregation to honor the graduates

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY

Christian Education Sunday will be observed on Mother's Day, May 13 at the 10:15 a.m. service. The Sunday School students will be participating in the service that morning. They will be practicing during Sunday School for several weeks prior to that service.



Attendance recognitions will be presented during this service and special music will be presented by several of the classes. If your child cannot be here, please let LaNette or the Sunday School teachers know.

That also means May 13 will be the last Sunday for regular classes for children and youth until after Labor Day. The adult class will continue their sessions throughout the summer as they have in past years.

SAVE YOUR BOX TOPS

There is a box located on the table next to the church office for box tops which are being collected by the Hermann schools as a fundraiser. This includes the little red box top label from General Mills, Campbells, Kleenex, Betty Crocker, Nestle, Green Giant, Cottonelle, Ziploc and various other brand products. Each Box Tops coupon is worth 10¢ to our school. For more information, go to boxtops4education.com.

CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING

The Missouri Mid-South Conference Annual Gathering will be held June 7-9 at the Holiday Inn in Columbia. Be sure to register by May 15 for early bird pricing.

MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY

Veterans who have passed away since May, 2017 will be added to the list of those in the area to be included in the memorial booklet to be issued on Sunday, May 27 at the 10:15 a.m. service. This special recognition was started several years ago with the help of the Hermann VFW Post and other individuals.

If you know of a veteran who has been buried in the Hermann area this past year, please be sure that the office receives the name, branch of military service, the particular war served, the rank of the person, the place of burial and the birth and death years.

The list has been limited to those who have been buried in the Hermann and surrounding areas (Big Spring, Rhineland, Berger, Gasconade, Morrison, etc.).

BIRTHDAYS

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

- 1-Brian Grannemann
- 3-Sharon Leech
- 8-Merlin Cramer, Frank Struttman, Jr.
- 10-Erich Loehnig, Austin Stone
- 14-Travis Schulte
- 15- Ashley Rethemeyer, Jeffrey Schaefer
- 16-Terry Loehnig, Diane Witthaus
- 17-Earl Huxol, Jill Jacob, Madalynn Wolk, Brooke Witthaus
- 18-Josie Erling
- 19-Jayson Hollrah, Leona Meyer, Spencer Puchta
- 20-Joshua Foust, Nadine Ulrich
- 21-Dianne Kottwitz
- 24-Rachel Hunley
- 25-Melvin Berkemeyer, Lisa Heying
- 30-Martin Crowe, Ralph Grannemann Jr.

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

- 2-Shelby Ruediger
- 5-Linda Blackwood
- 6-Mark Leech
- 7- Julaine Cabot, Chelten Hasty, Marjorie Greene
- 8-Joe Hart
- 9-Peggy Hammer, Melvin Jacob, John Koch
- 10-Barbara Humburg

- 11-Billy Cramer, Janet Murphy
- 12-Doug Smith
- 14-Amanda Schaefer
- 15-Carol Kunz
- 16-Nichole Landolt
- 17-Delvine Engelkemeyer
- 19-Maureen Heck, Ashten Huff, Elizabeth Kelsey
- 20-Bill Rogers
- 23-Joe Faes, Betty Reinhardt
- 26-Laverne Fredrick, Leslie Horstmann, Theresa Isaak
- 27-Ashlee Kiderlen, Dawn Maune
- 30-Kyle Crowe, Jeremy Schluss
- 31-Elaine Lalk

50+ ANNIVERSARIES

Melvin and Shirley Jacob were married April 4, 1964 and will celebrate their 54th anniversary this year. Willard & LaNette Kotthoff were married April 25, 1964 and will celebrate their 54th anniversary this year.

Benjamin and Thelma Kattelmann were married May 5, 1951 and are celebrating their 67th anniversary this year.

Ronald & Jeanne Fredrick were married May 12, 1962 and are celebrating their 56th anniversary this year.

John and Nancy Bartel were married May 18, 1952 and are celebrating their 66th anniversary this year.

Elwood and Helen Wesselschmidt were married May 26, 1957 and are celebrating their 61st anniversary this year.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following members of our church family who will celebrate anniversaries in the month of April.

- 4 – Melvin & Shirley Jacob
- 8 – Erwin & Jane Rehmert
- 12 – Dan & April Wilson
- 25 – Willard & LaNette Kotthoff
- 29 – Don & Lois Kruse
- Kenneth & Betty Oelschlaeger

Congratulations to the following members of our church family who will celebrate anniversaries in the month of May.

- 3 – Mark & Mary Goth
- Richard & Ellen Schaumberg
- 5 – Ben & Thelma Kattelmann
- John & Shelly Abbott
- Steve & Kelly Hanger
- 6 – Shane & Jenna Schaefer
- Mike & Donna Struttman
- 7 – Martin & Kim Crowe
- 9 – Eric & Susan Nichols
- 12 – Ronald & Jeannie Fredrick
- 13 – Don & Aimee Viehmann
- 14 – Mark & Margaret Stiegman
- 18 – John & Nancy Bartel
- 23 – Mike & Gigi Mueller
- 26 – Jesse & Ashley Nickles
- Elwood & Helen Wesselschmidt
- Robert & Lisa Winkelmann
- 28 – Cody & Ashten Huff

WORSHIP SERVICE

<u>2/4</u>	<u>2/18</u>	<u>2/25</u>	<u>3/4</u>	<u>3/11</u>	<u>3/18</u>	<u>3/25</u>
96	124	113	112	86	139	135

Ash Wednesday service attendance was 35.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

	<u>2/4</u>	<u>2/18</u>	<u>2/25</u>	<u>3/4</u>	<u>3/11</u>	<u>3/18</u>	<u>3/25</u>
Pre-School.	3	4	6	4	2	4	6
1 st -2 nd Gr.	6	8	5	8	6	9	12
3 rd -4 th Gr.	6	6	7	5	4	6	9
5 th -6 th Gr.	3	4	4	4	3	4	3
7 th & 8 th Gr.	4	9	9	9	7	11	3
Conf.	4	4	4	4	5	4	4
Senior High	5	4	4	--	4	-	-
Adult Class	11	6	11	8	7	7	7
Staff	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	43	46	51	51	39	46	45

BANNER CLASS

The Banner Class in February was the Senior High Class and for March it was the Confirmation Class.

FOOD PANTRY

Members of St. Paul UCC are asked to bring food items for the community food pantry and place them in the boxes located near the church office. For April: breakfast foods, crackers, peanut butter. For May they are asking for canned meat, pasta and dried staples. Monetary gifts are also welcome.

NURSING HOMES MINISTRY

Pastor Rodger provides worship service to the residents of Frene Valley and Victorian Place the first Sunday of every month. He would appreciate anyone who is able to accompany him both on the piano and to help lead the music and help with these services.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKETS

St. Paul UCC will observe Blanket Sunday on May 13 this year. There are special envelopes enclosed with this newsletter and will be available on the tables. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). God has blessed us with so much, and we have much to share. The congregation can share this love by providing CWS Blankets to those in need. Each blanket costs only \$10 but can be a vital and powerful resource for someone needing a little support, warmth and encouragement.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following persons in your prayers: Lorene Beckmann, Jim Schulte, Angie Scheidegger, Elizabeth Klemme, Bob Soetebier, Dolores Smith, Gene Schaefer, Michelle Mueller, Ed Moody, Eloise Sturkey, Marcia Buckner, Lyndon Ruediger, Shirley Waddle, Joe Hart, Geneva Brink, Carol Collins, Nadine Ulrich, Bob & Mary Fritz, Jim Held, Amy Williams, Rev. Constance Tanis, Alex Gooch, Donnie Mueller, Marilyn Rethemeyer, the family of Ed Bickmeyer, Brian & Amy Grannemann & Family, Mark Bickmeyer

FUNERAL SERVICES

Funeral service was held February March 3 at Toedtman & Grosse Funeral Home for Marilyn Rohlfing who passed away February 25 at Provision Living in Columbia. Mrs. Rohlfing was born December 25, 1930 to Walter and Edna Keller at Stolpe.

She is survived by step-children, Marilyn Roche of Columbia, Debra Maxwell of Springfield, and Tom Rohlfing of Overland Park, Kansas; by a sister, Myrdell Lancaster of Clear Spring, Maryland; by a sister-in-law, Norella Keller of Washington; by eight grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren and many other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Velten; by a brother, Marvin Keller.

Burial was at St. John's Cemetery, Stolpe. Rev. Darrell Deeker officiated at this service.

Funeral service was held March 3 at Toedtman & Grosse Funeral Home for William Tilly, who passed away February 27 at Hermann Area Hospital. Mr. Tilly was born in Stolpe on January 31, 1929. He was a veteran of the Korean War. He was a member of St. Paul UCC.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley; two sons, Kenneth of Hermann and Gary and wife Carrie of Peoria, Illinois; by grandchildren, Corinne of Sarasota, Florida, Jay of Columbia and Eric of Peoria, Illinois, and many other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Virginia Brethorst, and a grandson, Brian Tilly.

Burial was at Oak Haven Cemetery. Rev. Kiepe officiated at this service.

Funeral service was held March 22 at St. Paul UCC for Blake Grannemann. Blake is survived by his parents Brian & Amy Grannemann, three brothers, Nathan & wife Katherine, Nicholas & wife Kristy, & Gary Grannemann; a sister Michaela Grannemann; grandparents, Wayne & Doris Grannemann & Donna Buesking; by two nephews and God sons, William & Robert Grannemann; two nieces, Lyla & Kamina Grannemann; girlfriend Elissa Thurman; many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Rev Kiepe officiated at the service. Burial was at Loutre Island Cemetery, McKittrick.

Funeral service was held at St. Paul UCC March 26 for Ed Bickmeyer, who passed away March 23 at New Florence Care Center. Mr. Bickmeyer was born at Stolpe on December 24, 1930. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor, two sons, Mark & fiancé Joann Dobson of Hermnn and Kurt & wife Janelle of Hermann; by a daughter, Diane Witthaus & husband Sco of Rogersville; by three sisters, LaVerta Schulte of Overland Park, KS, Norella Keller of Washington, and Elladean Van Booven & husband Denis of O'Fallon, by a brother, Norbert Bickmeyer & wife Betty of O'Fallon, a sister-in-law Ruth Bickmeyer of Hermann; eight grandchildren, Jill Bacon & husband Danny; Seth Witthaus, Joshua Bickmeyer & wife Jessica, Austin Bickmeyer, Shelby Bickmeyer, and Dalton, Korinna and Kale Bickmeyer, by two step-grandchildren, Desiree & Evelyn Dobson, by three great grandchildren, Braxton & Maddux Bacon, and Rylinn Bickmeyer, and one step-great grandchild Kayden Dobson.

Burial was at St. John's Cemetery at Stolpe. Rev. Kiepe officiated at this service.

Our sympathy to the families of all the above listed people.

SYMPATHY .

Our sympathy to Jack & Pat Wendleton on the death of their daughter-in-law, Brandi Wendleton.

Our sympathy to Dan Bohl & family on the passing of his brother, Kenneth, recently.

Our sympathy to Gladys Schulte & family on the passing of her aunt, Lorene Black, recently.

MEMORIALS

Current Fund & Choir Fund

In memory of William Tilly

STUDENT LOANS

Student loan application forms will be mailed in April to 2018 Hermann High graduates and to eligible college students (members of St. Paul Church). Approximately \$117,000 is on loan to our students at this time. If the loans are repaid on schedule following graduation, they are interest-free.

Student loans are made possible by a special fund that was set up a number of years ago, with the interest from these invested funds being made available for student loans. Since that time, smaller estate monies or special memorial gifts have been added to the invested portion of the funds, to enhance the portion that is available to our students.

If you or someone you know would like an application form and do not receive one, please call the church office and we will send one.

THANK YOU LETTER

A special thank you to Pastor Rodger and the church members and friends who helped me move into assisted living at Victorian Place. Also, many thanks for the visits and moral support from UCC members and friends during my stay in Swing Bed at Hermann Hospital.

Andy Anderson

THANK YOU

Thank you to Richard and Mona Schaefer for arranging and donating the altar flowers and to Mona for changing altar cloths as needed.

Thanks to everyone for providing special music during worship service.

Thank you to Ralph Grannemann for delivering the food pantry items.

Thank you to Darren Schutt for various maintenance projects.

Thank you to Anne Althausser and Mary Leeper for helping with office details.

Thank you to everyone who served as liturgist and acolytes.

Thanks to Georgia Jordan for accompanying the pastor for nursing homes ministry and to everyone else who helped with the services.

Thanks to the Chery Fricke and Dawn Page and the Easter Breakfast Committee for handling all the details for the breakfast.

Thank you to Marcella Huxel for continuing to deliver worship bulletins to our residents in the nursing homes every week.

Thank you to Mary Leeper for preparing the trays for communion.

Thank you to Bonnie Oncken for cleaning the choir robes.
Thank you to Gordon Heck for his work on the sound system.

Thank you to Becky Mayberry for handling the sound system for a wedding.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Bell Choir Trivia Fundraiser.

Thank you to Gigi Mueller for taking several youth to a movie in Washington.

Thank you to Shelly Brandenburg for coordinating a care team for Rev. Constance Tanis, who fell on the ice recently.

THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Rev. Kiepe:

I'm writing on behalf of the Missouri Mid-South Conference Council to thank you for your congregation's support of Our Churches Wider Mission. Contributions in 2017 exceeded expectations for the first time in many years. We are deeply grateful for the confidence and commitment your church's gifts represent. OCWM gifts are used for Conference and National Ministries. Our Conference retains 80% of all contributions; of that amount, nearly 15% is earmarked for our camps. Your giving supports the search and call process for all conference churches, benefits conference youth; provides a stimulating and spiritual Conference Annual Gathering and much more! Please let your members know how much we appreciate their generosity.

Grace and Peace

Missouri Mid-South Conference

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your contribution to the Hermann Food Pantry Fund, a component of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks... Gifts from donors nourish children and families, advance community projects, create legacies to support future generations and send students to college who may not otherwise be able to go....

Sincerely, Brian Fogle, President

NOTE: An amount of \$1385.00 was sent to the Pantry for the year 2017 and a total of \$1065.00 was sent to the Hermann Back Pack Program.

Dear Emmaus Homes Friends:

Thank you for your gift of \$200.00 to Emmaus. It is a true testament of the St. Paul congregation's generosity and dedication to making our world a better place. I enjoyed the opportunity to share an Emmaus update with you and the bell choir ALWAYS enjoys performing for our church family.

Sincerely,

Lisa A Key, Chief Development Officer

NOTE: This gift was an honorarium for Mrs. Key's worship service at St. Paul on February 4.

Dear St. Paul UCC Friends:

Thank you so much for completing your 2017 OCWM pledge to the conference. Because of your gift, I was able to worship with 46 churches in 2017!

May God's love be generous in our ministry together!

Blessings,

Ginny Brown-Daniels

Dear St. Paul UCC,

Thank you for your hospitality over the last year. This has been a great partnership and we couldn't be happier!

CASA representatives,
Glenda, Lynn, Sarah and Augie

Greetings Congregation of St. Paul UCC, Hermann:

Because of your church's generosity, the Eastern Association was able to do some incredible ministry in partnership with you! In 2017 our Members in Discernment were supported, which means you are helping to shape our church's present and future leaders. Our Committee on ministry was able to do the important work they are called to do, which has both large and small impacts on our Association's individual and collective ministry. Our Program Committee, Evangelism Committee, Stewardship Committee and Mission and Social Concerns Committee were able to deepen the conversations we have about what it means to

be the Church and what we are called to be and do.

Edward Wilson, Member of EA Stewardship Committee

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your thoughtful support of Neighborhood Houses! Your donation of \$98 is greatly appreciated.

We have four programs that fulfill our mission: UP at Caroline Mission serving nearly 90 children, ages 6 weeks to 5 years; UP After School and UP Enrichment Camps that encompasses before- and after-school services in 18 locations plus summer camp at various locations; Girls' Moving UP, and Up at Magnificent Creations, are both teen programs that support high school completion and joy readiness skills. With all of these programs combined, we serve more than 1200 children every week!

Warmest Regards,
Ellen Reed-Fox
Vice President of Development

St. Paul United Church of Christ Council Minutes – January 22, 2018

Members present were Pastor Kiepe, Nancy Kirchhofer, Mark Leech, Maggie Stiegman, Jill Jacob, Tom Rethemeyer, Ruth Hulsey, Ervin Rehmert, Keely Uthlaut, Sharen Speckhals, Mike Grosse, Kenny Kunz, and Susan Nichols. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Kiepe.

Past Council President Darren Schutt appeared before the Council to share a list of items that had been discussed by the previous Council but which still remained open. He also reported on current property maintenance issues.

The first order of business for the Council was the appointment of officers for 2018. Mark Leech nominated Maggie Stiegman for President. Nancy Kirchhofer seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ruth Hulsey nominated Keely Uthlaut for Vice-President. Mark Leech seconded the motion. Motion carried. Nancy Kirchhofer nominated Jill Jacob for Secretary. She declined. Sharen Speckhals nominated Susan Nichols for Secretary. Nancy Kirchhofer seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sharen Speckhals volunteered to remain as Treasurer.

Gigi Mueller appeared before the Council to discuss the possibility of holding a quilt show in the Church Sanctuary from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM on April 14, 2018. While attending the Eastern Association Conference, she had been asked if St. Paul would take a turn holding the quilt show. It was held in Washington last year and in Owensville the year before. This would also include a light breakfast as well as lunch for approximately 45 people. Council checked the calendar and found that Fellowship Hall was already reserved for that date. Ms. Mueller said she would talk with the person who had the reservation to determine if it would work to hold both events on that date. Sharen Speckhals made a motion that the quilt show be held on that date if the rooms could be worked out. Susan Nichols seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor Kiepe reported on the annual meeting held on January 14, 2018. He said the meeting was well attended and there was a good discussion on several topics. Sharen Speckhals said that the Christian Education issue needs to be a goal throughout the year. Mike Grosse asked if the annual meeting needed to be held at that time each year. It would be helpful if the congregation could receive copies of the report a week before the annual meeting in order to review it. Church Secretary Fay Scheible has indicated that she needs time to get the report out after year end. The constitution states that the annual meeting should be held in the month of January. President Stiegman said it was also important to hold a Council meeting in January in order to appoint committees. Another suggestion was made to change the church's fiscal year from calendar year to something else like July thru June or October thru September. There was concern expressed about making a change to the fiscal year and it was suggested that the Council get input from the Budget Committee. This item will need to be discussed again during the upcoming year. President Stiegman asked the Council members for their preference in setting the monthly meeting date. After discussion the Council agreed to meet the second Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. Mike Grosse asked if the time of the meeting could be changed if needed. President Stiegman said it's not mandatory that the meeting start at 6:30, so it can be changed if necessary. The next meeting of the Council will be held at 6:30 PM, February 12, 2018.

The Council reviewed the committees and appointed chairs and members where applicable. Council members that were assigned committees will need to have the Committee Chair names to Fay Scheible by Friday, January 26, 2018. Pastor Kiepe suggested holding a meeting after a Sunday church service with all the members of all the committees and include a carry-in

meal. The Council agreed and March 11, 2018 was chosen as the date for the meeting. This date should be included in the newsletter as well as announced during a church service along with an explanation of the reason for the meeting.

The Council discussed the dates of Pastor Kiepe's upcoming vacation. The members were informed that Darren Schutt has agreed to unlock and lock the doors on February 4. Connie Tanis has agreed to serve communion and do the liturgy that Sunday. Guests from the Emmaus Home will be performing at the service. A motion was made and seconded to provide pizzas for lunch for the guests from the Emmaus Home. Motion carried.

President Stiegman asked for volunteers to usher on Sunday, February 4 (including communion). The following council members agreed to serve as ushers that day – Nancy Kirchhofer, Susan Nichols, Mark Leech and Maggie Stiegman.

President Stiegman asked for volunteers to usher for the Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 PM, February 14 (including communion). The following council members agreed to serve as ushers that evening – Sharen Speckhals, Mike Grosse, Jill Jacob, and Maggie Stiegman.

It was requested that a reminder be emailed to council members that are ushering during communion services. Susan Nichols agreed to send out reminder notices.

President Stiegman reminded the council that new members will be installed at the Sunday, January 28, 2018 service.

Sharen Speckhals said the Evangelism Committee has been discussing a homecoming celebration for fall 2018. It was suggested that this be held at either the Amphitheatre or City Rotunda on a Saturday in September and take the place of the traditional church picnic. A special worship service would be held on the Sunday after the Saturday reunion. Discussion on this topic will continue at the February meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Nichols, Secretary

St. Paul United Church of Christ Council Minutes – February 12, 2018

Members present were Pastor Kiepe, Mark Leech, Keely Uthlaut, Jill Jacob, Sharen Speckhals, Kenny Kunz, Ervin Rehmert, Nancy Kirchhofer, Ruth Hulsey, Susan Nichols, Maggie Stiegman. Not present: Tom Rethemeyer and Mike Grosse. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Kiepe.

President Stiegman opened the floor for council members to discuss any concerns or issues. Nancy Kirchhofer mentioned that Fox 2 news had announced the cancellation of the February 11 church service. However, the cancellation only said "St. Paul UCC". She asked if "Hermann" could be added to the name of the church so it would be clearer to members of the congregation. President Stiegman said she would contact the Fox 2 station to see if changes can be made.

Jill Jacob said she appreciated receiving the cancellation message on Saturday. She was then able to notify the Sunday School teachers.

Minutes of the January 22, 2018 meeting were approved on motion made by Nancy Kirchhofer and seconded by Keely Uthlaut. Motion carried.

President Stiegman shared with council members the financial reports for January 2018. It was pointed out that there were increases in the United Church Funds (UCF) in the Bequest & Designated Funds and Student Aid Funds. An email from UCF concerning the recent stock market plunge was shared with members. Matt Wagner, Senior Executive of Business Development, UCF will be present at the March 12 meeting of the council to further explain the financial report.

While reviewing the financial report, several members asked about \$2400 shown as income to the Current Fund Checking Account. President Stiegman said she would ask Fay Scheible where this amount came from.

The January financial reports were approved with the exception of the open question for Fay Scheible on motion made by Ervin Rehmert and seconded by Nancy Kirchhofer. Motion carried.

Pastor Kiepe shared with council members the Pastor's Report for December 5, 2017 - January 11, 2018.

Old Business:

Members were provided updated job descriptions for all paid church staff. It was suggested that President Stiegman discuss lawn care with Custodian Darren Schutt. It was also suggested that references to the Music Committee be removed from the descriptions for Music Director and Church Organist because that committee is no longer in use. A question was asked about who has the responsibility for getting a substitute organist when Lois is unable to perform that duty. President Stiegman said she would ask Fay Scheible about this and, depending on Fay's answer, the job description for Church Organist may need to be revised. At the next meeting council will discuss future plans for the Church Organist. After discussion, the job descriptions were approved with the exception of pending amendments dependent on answers to questions on motion made by Sharen Speckhals and seconded by Ervin Rehmert. Motion carried.

President Stiegman informed the members that the purchase of a new copy machine for the church office has been placed on hold.

Members discussed preliminary suggestions for changes to the Church Constitution and By-Laws. After discussion it was decided that a committee should be formed to further discuss possible changes. The committee will consist of Maggie Stiegman, Keely Uthlaut, Darren Schutt and Linda Heck. A committee report will be made at the next council meeting.

Members were reminded that a committee planning meeting and carry-in lunch has been scheduled for 11:15 AM on March 11 (immediately following the church service). This meeting is for all church committees to share their purpose and goals and to make sure all members of the congregation feel welcomed into any of the committees they would like to join. Council members will provide main dishes and we will ask other attendees to bring side dishes or desserts. Sharen Speckhals is working on a purpose and goal sheet for each committee to fill out.

Gigi Mueller is still working with the Eastern Association Conference to come up with an alternate date for their quilt show as the Fellowship Hall is already booked for April 14, 2018.

Sharen Speckhals gave an update on planning by the Evangelism Committee for the September homecoming event. The City Park Rotunda is booked every weekend except Labor Day weekend. The Amphitheatre is open on September 22 so it has been decided to hold the event at that location. A contract must be filled out in order to book the Amphitheatre so Sharen is working with Susan Lenger to get that completed. She will also check on specific insurance requirements. This event will need to involve several church committees – Food/Dinner Committee, Family Life Committee and Evangelism Committee. A worship service will follow on Sunday, September 23.

Members asked Pastor Kiepe to provide a report on the Pony Express Estimate of Giving campaign.

New Business:

The Nimble Thimbles Quilt Guild has requested the use of Fellowship Hall because they have outgrown their current space. They would still meet the third Wednesday of each month from 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM. The request was approved on motion made by Nancy Kirchhofer and seconded by Mark Leech. Motion carried.

Rose Faes has requested to join St. Paul United Church of Christ but is unable to travel due to health issues. Rose and her husband Joe live in Sun City West, Arizona and she is currently a member of Desert Garden UCC. Joe has been a member of St. Paul since 1955. We could ask Desert Garden UCC for a letter of transfer for Rose. The request to transfer membership was approved on motion made by Mark Leech and seconded by Ruth Hulsey. Motion carried.

Red Cross has requested a blood drive date of December 17. The request was approved on motion made by Nancy Kirchhofer and seconded by Ruth Hulsey. Motion carried.

Susan Lenger has requested the use of Fellowship Hall for a baby shower for her daughter on April 14, 2018. The request was approved on motion of Nancy Kirchhofer and seconded by Mark Leech. Motion carried.

Jayne Murphy and Brian Lewallen have requested a wedding date of August 11. Jayne is a member of St. Paul. The request was approved on motion of Nancy Kirchhofer and seconded by Keely Uthlaut. Motion carried.

President Stiegman shared information with members regarding intruder training through ALICE, a training institute for active shooter situations. The program is designed specifically for houses of worship. A live webinar could be hosted and would need a minimum of 25 people to participate. Pastor Kiepe said he would talk with the ministerial alliance. It was also suggested that we contact other UCC congregations to determine interest in attending. Pastor Kiepe said he would also contact the individual responsible for organizing the training about the use of the church sanctuary for the training.

President Stiegman asked for volunteers to serve as ushers on Sunday, March 4. The following members agreed to serve that day – Ervin Rehmert, Maggie Stiegman, Sharen Speckhals, and Susan Nichols.

The next meeting of the council is scheduled for 6:30 PM, March 12, 2018.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Sharen Speckhals and seconded by Ervin Rehmert. Motion carried.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Nichols, Secretary