

ST PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Sharing God's love by serving others

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The Hilltop Herald

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

The season of Lent is a time in the Christian calendar that is traditionally marked by fasting, prayer, meditation, and penance for the faithful. It is also a time when it is customary to give up something you enjoy such as, meat, chocolate, soda, or alcohol. Eleanora Oeschlager, who was the oldest living member of the Wurstjaegers at the time of her death, took great delight in re-telling the Wurstjaeger's practice of giving up dancing during Lent. People give up many different things for this season. But the other day I came across an unusual story of a man giving up food. Del Hall, of Ohio, claims to be following the example of the 17th Century monks in Bavaria. "Those monks, being master brewers, decided they would take a popular style of beer in Germany, bock beer, make it extra hearty and that it would be their 'liquid bread'", Hall said. Those monks, used only the "doppelbock liquid bread" to sustain them through the 46 days of Lent. Hall is attempting to follow that practice and even has a blog you can follow if you are interested in seeing how all of this turns out for him.

Now please don't misunderstand, I am not recommending this practice. In fact, I am not so sure giving up anything for Lent is all that important. What I do think, is that Lent provides an opportunity for us to draw nearer to God. The most meaningful ways I have found for accomplishing that are through the disciplines of day long fasts, confession, prayer, meditation, charity and kindness to others, and penance. When I use the word penance, I don't mean flagellation and other such self-inflicted punishments that have been associated with it. What I have in mind is simply what AA calls, "Making restitution to others for the harm you have done to them". Such

disciplines are helpful for me to prepare for the celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday morning. They also help me experience the spiritual resurrection which comes when I realize forgiveness and restoration to community.

So, my hope is that you too will find spiritual practices that are meaningful for you during Lent. Practices that will enable you to not only celebrate *the resurrection* on Easter morning but also experience a spiritual resurrection of your own. Even if those practices include giving up food and finding your nourishment only in "Liquid Bread"!

Blessings,
Rodger

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the congregation was held March 10, 2019 following the worship service.

The various reports for 2019 were presented for review, along with the minutes for the previous Annual Meeting. Mike Mueller, chairman of the Budget Committee, presented the 2019 budget.

Shirley Kunz, chairperson for the Audit Committee presented their report.

The schedule of special services and communion services were set for 2019 and approved by a voice vote.

The nominees for the Church Council and Christian Education were elected by acclamation.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Those who were elected to the new council for 2019 include: Dale Maune, Carol Paubel, and Megan Boedges. These three persons join the continuing members, which include Nancy Kirchhofer, Keely Uthlaut, Mark Leech, Sharen Speckhals, Michael Grosse, Jill Jacob, Kenny Kunz

and Susan Nichols. They met March 11 to appoint the committee chairs for 2019.

Mark Leech was elected president, Keely Uthlaut remains as vice-president, Sharen Speckhals remains the treasurer, and Susan Nichols remains as secretary.

Those whose terms ended in January were Ruth Hulsey, Ervin Rehmert, Tom Rethemeyer and Maggie Stiegman.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The church council chose the following persons to be the chairpersons of the various committees. Some of the other positions remain to be chosen.

Anniversary – Susan Nichols
Bluff Trimming – Jeff Scheible
Budget – Mike Mueller
Communion – Mary Leeper
Easter Breakfast – Dawn Sanderlin & Cheri Fricke
Evangelism – Sharen Speckhals
Family Life – Darren Schutt
Flower Bed – Maureen Heck
Historical – Lois Kruse & Susan Nichols
New Beginnings – Maureen Heck
Pastor/Parish – Sharen Speckhals
Personnel Review – Mark Leech
Property Maintenance – Kenny Kunz
Snow Removal – Darren Schutt
Sound System – Gordon Heck
Student Loan – Nancy Kirchhofer
Transportation – Scott Jacob
Youth Planning – Gigi Mueller

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

Jill Jacob and Shannon Berkemeyer have agreed to continue to serve as Sunday School co-superintendents for another year.

SAVE THE DATE

Part of St. Paul UCC's 175 Anniversary celebration, will be a Picnic/Birthday Celebration at the Clara Eitmann Messmer Amphitheater on Saturday, September 21, 3-8:00 p.m. The picnic will feature food, drinks, pie, and homemade ice cream. There will be entertainment for all groups.

The Loehnig Band featuring the Loehnigs and Onckens from our congregation will play; and Friends of Aaron, featuring Hermann High school alum Aaron Bounds and other band directors including Ben Sachs, current Hermann High School band director will also play. There will be a bounce house and games for children. St. Paul UCC wants to celebrate with the community and other churches. Please invite family and friends!

CHOIR NEWS

On Easter Sunday, during the 10:15 service, the Sr. Choir will present the Easter Cantata "Come Touch the Robe", by Pepper Choplin.

From year to year, we tell the stories of Jesus in a variety of ways. But until we truly encounter the Lord of healing, of glory and authority, of humility, and of victory, we remain unmoved and unchanged. It is that Christ-- as He showed Himself to be---who we encounter in "Come, Touch The Robe".

This work uses the simple garment Jesus wore as a thematic device to recount the interaction of several people who were with Jesus during His last days on earth. Each encounter brings to light a different aspect of His identity. To a suffering woman, His robe conveyed divine healing. On the mountaintop, the robe shone and filled the disciple's eyes with His glory and authority. When Jesus laid His garment aside in the upper room, it displayed His humility as a servant as He washed the feet of each disciple. At the tomb, the grave clothes He left behind help us experience His resurrection and the victory over death.

Through these personal, touching moments our hearts are fully prepared to meet Jesus in an intimate way. It is a meeting that moves and changes; and allows us to experience the healing, the glory, and the power of Christ, and rejoice in the stirring celebration of the resurrection of the Lamb of God.

We hope that you will join us Easter Sunday at 10:15.

CHURCH OFFICE EMPLOYEE



Mary Binkholder has recently joined our staff, assisting Fay in the church office. She spent most of her career (32 years) at the Callaway Nuclear Plant, while also completing her Bachelor of Science degree in Management. Mary and her husband Rick have two sons, Ryan and Daniel, and two grandchildren Henry and Berkeley. Fay and Mary will be sharing the church office duties, taking turns covering the office.

NEWS FROM THE HANDBELL CHOIR AND CHANCEL RINGERS

THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Trivia night sponsored by and benefiting the handbell choir was a huge success. Thank you so much to all who attended and donated to the 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 a.m. service. This fall, handbell music will be included in the special services commemorating the 175th Anniversary of our church. Summer rehearsals will focus on the music that has been selected for the anniversary services, the annual concert at Starkenburg which as in past years is the Saturday after Thanksgiving, and the December Christmas concert here at St. Paul, which will be in combination with the vocal choir and groups from our church.

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 and for concerts. If you are interested in ringing or assisting the handbell choir in any way, please contact any choir member, or Ruth Hulsey at 573-252-4653 or hulsey.ruth@gmail.com.

AFTER SCHOOL BEARCATS

The After School Bearcats program at St. Paul is winding down for this school year. Our last day of tutoring will be April 10th. We have had a lot of fun tutoring, mentoring, playing games, and participating in enrichment activities. This year's enrichment activities have included art, rhythm--using buckets and maori sticks, library programs with story-time and yoga; and also some DIY snack days. This year added more kids to our program for a total of 21 kids enrolled.

I would like to give a big shout-out to all of the volunteers that make this program possible. There are so many of you that help out with food preparation, enrichment activities, tutoring, and walking to meet the bus and braving the big hill. I hope that you feel valued. If you would like to volunteer in any way for next year, contact Christina Menke at 720-231-3193 by calling or texting.

HONDURAS MISSION

Hi, my name is Brooke Grosse and I attend the University of Missouri. Through Mizzou I was able to join an organization called Global Brigades. This organization sends students to other countries to help build sustainable communities. In May, I, along with 18 other students, will be going to Honduras on a Medical/Dental trip. We will be bringing along with us hundreds of travel sized shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and floss. The mission cup would help to cover the cost of those items so that we can reach as many people as possible! Any little donation would be greatly appreciated!"

NOTE: The council voted to have the mission cup designated to this mission for the month of April.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

The St. Paul women's fellowship Rummage Sale will be May 2, 3, and 4. As you are doing spring cleaning, save items for the sale. Items will be accepted in the church basement after Sunday, April 21.

This sale takes many people to be successful. If you are willing to help, please contact Sharen Speckhals, 486-2474 or contact the church office.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

St. Paul Women's Fellowship will have their next meeting Thursday, April 11. All women of the church are invited to join. They will meet Thursday, May 3, at 12:00 p.m. for World Day of Prayer, followed by lunch.

WOMEN'S SUNDAY

Women's Sunday will be observed on April 14 at the 10:15 service.

BOOK CLUB

The April 8th book title is *Commonwealth*, by Anne Patchett. The book for May 13 is *Crossing to Safety*, by Wallace Stegner. We are still meeting at Miss Clara's at 10:00 on the second Monday of each month. All are welcome. Nancy Kirchofer 486-2943.

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 a.m. for breakfast at The Hermann Diner. All men of the congregation are welcome.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee would like to express our gratitude for all who participated in St. Paul UCC's Pony Express Run. The membership was divided into train routes, with each headed by a Trail Boss. When the church secretary tabulated the giving units, there was a total of \$173,402. This is a great start toward the approved 2019 budget of \$222,052.04. 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.

EMMAUS QUILT AUCTION

There will be an Emmaus Quilt Auction on October 6 from noon to 5:00 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Washington. Food, silent auction and kids' activities start at noon and the quilt auction will begin at 3:00. Come browse and bid on an array of beautiful handmade quilts for

a wonderful cause!

Emmaus strives to be the provider of choice in the region by offering fulfilling life experiences and care to each person we support.

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 5.

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 19 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 19 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 6-8 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia. Registration opens March 1, 2019; deadline May 15, 2019. Be sure to register by May 15 for early bird pricing. Please contact the church office if you are available to attend.

MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY

Veterans who have passed away since May, 2018 will be added to the list of those in the area to be included in the memorial booklet to be issued on Sunday, May 26 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., Trent Anderson
- 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 Erlfling
- 19-Jayson Hollrah, Leona Meyer, Spencer Puchta
- 20-Joshua Foust, Nadine Ulrich
- 21-Dianne Kottwitz
- 22-April Wilson
- 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, Nathan Oncken
- 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

19-Maureen Heck, Ashten Huff, Elizabeth Kelsey
 20-Bill Rogers
 23-Joe Faes, Betty Reinhardt
 24 – Wiff Kotthoff
 26-Laverne Fredrick, Theresa Isaak
 27-Ashlee Kiderlen, Dawn Maune, Dale Maune
 30-Kyle Crowe, Jeremy Schluss
 31-Elaine Lalk

50+ ANNIVERSARIES

Melvin and Shirley Jacob were married April 4, 1964 and will celebrate their 55th anniversary this year. Willard & LaNette Kotthoff were married April 25, 1964 and will celebrate their 55th anniversary this year.

Benjamin and Thelma Kattelmann were married May 5, 1951 and are celebrating their 68th anniversary this year.

Ronald & Jeanne Fredrick were married May 12, 1962 and are celebrating their 57th anniversary this year.

John and Nancy Bartel were married May 18, 1952 and are celebrating their 67th 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
- Robert & Lisa Winkelmann
- 28 – Cody & Ashten Huff

WORSHIP SERVICE

1/27	2/3	2/17	2/24	3/10	3/17	3/24
102	103	75	96	105	92	105

Ash Wednesday service attendance was 45.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

	1/27	2/3	2/17	2/24	3/10	3/17	3/24
Pre-School.	5	4	4	4	4	4	3
1 st -2 nd Gr.	5	6	5	5	4	7	4
3 rd -4 th Gr.	5	2	5	6	3	3	4
5 th -6 th Gr.	7	5	5	4	4	5	4
7 th & 8 th Gr.	9	5	8	6	7	8	6
Conf.	5	6	6	5	5	4	8
Senior High	2	--	--	--	--	2	--
Adult Class	7	6	7	9	8	10	10
Staff	<u>1</u>						
Total	46	35	44	40	36	44	39

VILLAGE MARKET REBATE

We received a check from Village Market for \$298.73 for their 1% rebate program. Thank you to everyone who saved and turned in their receipts.

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 Victorian Place the first Sunday of every month at 3:00 p.m.. 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 12 this year. Special envelopes 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, Angie Scheidegger, Elizabeth Klemme, Bob Soetebier, Gene Schaefer, Marcia Bucher, Lyndon Ruediger, Carol Collins, Jim Held, Marilyn

Rethemeyer, Steve Beckmann, Viola Koeller, Maura Winkelmann, Georgia Ann Rohlfing, Dillon Stiers, Carol Paubel, Walt Willimann, Toni Backs, Margie Greene, Casey Gleeson, Kennedy Crowe, Fred Brandenburg, Forrest Koeller, Rodney Schaefer.

FUNERAL SERVICES

Funeral service was held February 12 at Toedtman & Grosse Funeral Home for Gregory A. Leeper, who passed away February 6 at his home. Mr. Leeper was born in Gasconade, on July 25, 1949. He was a Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War.

He is survived by his wife Mary; two children, Tara Zaugg & husband Justin of Clinton, Missouri; and Jed & wife Erica of Salem, Oregon; by 6 grandchildren, 2 brothers and a sister; and other sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held February 6 at Toedtman & Grosse Funeral Home for Dorothy Marie Horstmann. She was a member of St. Paul UCC. Dorothy is survived by a daughter, Kathy Horstmann of Pahrump, Nevada; a son, Dennis Horstmann & wife Mary of Hermann; a grandson Daniel & wife Lani; two granddaughters, Carrie McClelland & husband James; and Crystal Schollmeyer & husband Nick; by great grandchildren, Drake, Grant, Claire, Lila, Chelsi, Elijah, Jack, Carly and Hank; and by many nieces, nephews, and their children. Rev. Kiepe officiated at the service. Burial was at St. James Cemetery, Stony Hill, Missouri.

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

MEMORIALS

Choir Fund

In memory of Greg Leeper

Current Fund

In memory of Dorothy Horstmann

Endowment Fund

In memory of Greg Leeper and Helen Wesselschmidt

STUDENT LOANS

Student loan application forms will be mailed in April to 2019 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

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 and Kenny Kunz for various maintenance projects.

Thank you to Anne Althaus, Sharon Kunz, 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 Victorian Place and to everyone else who helped with the services.

Thank you to Marcella Knehans 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 Gordon Heck for his work on the sound system and Carillon.

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

THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Rev. Kiepe:

Thank you so much for your generous gift (\$15,000) to Our Church's Wider Mission in 2018. Because of you, we equipped 137 Conference Churches to be Building Courageous Relationships with resources on worship, social justice, youth, conflict resolution, and ministry preparations. Thank you! May God's Love guide us in 2019.

Blessings

Ginny Brown Daniels

Missouri Mid-South Conference

Dear St. Paul UCC Friends:

Thank you for your donation to Blue & White Night. Including your donation of \$161.77, we raised \$33,400.74 for the Gasconade County R1 School.

The Blue & White Night Committee

EASTER SCHEDULE

Good Friday, April 19-7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 21-6:30 a.m.

8:00 a.m. – Easter Breakfast

(Menu: eggs, pancakes, biscuits & gravy, sausage, hash browns & drinks)

St. Paul UCC Fellowship Hall

10:15 a.m.-Easter Worship Service with Communion at St. Paul UCC

“Come Touch the Robe” by Pepper Choplin
Music provided by the Senior Choir

EASTER FLOWERS/MEMORIALS

The church office needs to be notified if you plan to present memorial flowers for the Easter Sunday services (or to present cash memorials), so they may be included in the special printed bulletin insert. We need this information by Wednesday, April 17 and the flowers need to be brought to the church by 12:00 noon Friday, April 19.

In memory or honor of

Flower _____ Cash Gift _____

Presented by

St. Paul United Church of Christ Council Minutes-January 14, 2019

Members present were Pastor Kiepe, Mike Grosse, Maggie Stiegman, Ken Kunz, Mark Leech, Jill Jacob, Tom Rethemeyer, and Sharen Speckhals. Not present were Nancy Kirchhofer, Ruth Hulsey, Keely Uthlout, Ervin Rehmert and Susan Nichols.

Pastor Kiepe led the council in prayer.

Minutes of the December 10, 2018 council meeting were read. Jill Jacob a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2018 council meeting and seconded by Mike Grosse. Motion approved.

The council reviewed the December financial report.

Pastor Kiepe shared the Pastor’s report. Pastor Kiepe recommended that council consider a challenge to raise \$175,000 in endowment funds to celebrate St. Paul UCC’s 175th anniversary. A donor tree would display a list of names of those who have made major donations in the past as well as those establishing named endowments in the future. Mark Leech moved to raise \$175,000 in endowment funds and display a “Donor Tree” in observance of St. Paul’s 175th anniversary. Ken Kunz seconded the motion and it was approved.

Old Business:

Sharen Speckhals moved to give \$50 to Grape Country Cluster as requested by Jack Wendleton. Jill Jacob seconded the motion and the council approved the motion.

The council reviewed a long list of maintenance items presented by Darren Schutt and the property maintenance committee. It was recommended that the council get bids on roof repair. Mark Leech moved to have Affordable Plumbing replace two toilets in the women’s restroom in the basement. Tom Rethemeyer seconded the motion and it was approved.

New Business:

Mark Leech moved to set Pastor Kiepe’s 2019 housing allowance at \$1000 per month, \$12,000 per year. Ken Kunz seconded the motion and it was approved.

The council discussed the 175th Anniversary Committee and added Mike Mueller to that committee.

The date for the annual Congregation meeting will be March 3 after church.

Mark Leech, Tom Rethemeyer, Maggie Stiegman, and Sharen Speckhals will serve communion at the February 3 service.

The next meeting will be Monday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharen Speckhals

St. Paul United Church of Christ Council Minutes – February 11, 2019

Members present were Pastor Kiepe, Mike Grosse, Maggie Stiegman, Susan Nichols, Kenny Kunz, Ruth Hulsey, Nancy Kirchhofer, Jill Jacob, Keely Uthlout, Ervin Rehmert and Mark Leech. Not present were Tom Rethemeyer and Sharen Speckhals.

Pastor Kiepe led the Council in prayer.

President Stiegman opened the floor for items of discussion by members of the congregation or council members.

Mike Mueller, Chair of the Budget Committee, appeared before the Council to discuss the 2019 budget. He pointed out that in 2018 our income exceeded budgeted expenses by 10% and exceeded actual expenses by 15%. He said that in the last six years, income lagged behind budgeted expenses by 10%-20%. The budgeted expenses for 2019 are planned to be \$222,052.04 which includes taking a 4% draw on UCF

funds – approximately \$20,000. After discussion Jill Jacob made a motion to accept the 2019 budget. Kenny Kunz seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council inquired about whether new hymnals have been ordered. President Stiegman said she thought samples had been received, but wasn't sure if a product had been selected.

The Council members were reminded that it had been decided in previous years that the person serving as Council Vice-President would become Council President the following year. Vice-President Keely Uthlaut informed the Council that she will be unable to serve as President in 2019 and suggested that Mark Leech receive the nomination. Mark Leech said he would accept the nomination; however, he didn't feel he could also serve as a Co-Chair of the 175th Anniversary Committee. He informed the Council that Lois Kruse has agreed to serve as Co-Chair of the Anniversary Committee along with Susan Nichols.

Minutes of the January 14, 2019 Council meeting were discussed. Council suggested a few revisions to the minutes. After discussion, the minutes were approved on motion made by Keely Uthlaut and seconded by Mike Grosse. Motion carried.

Fay Scheible had reported to Council that she believed she would need an additional computer program in order to complete the year-end reports for the annual meeting. It was suggested that a member of the Council talk to the company that sold us the financial software to see if this issue could be resolved. President Stiegman said she would talk to Fay and then call the software company. Council also reviewed the 2018 financial reports that Fay had prepared.

Pastor Kiepe shared the Pastor's Report with the Council.

Old Business: The Knox Box has been delivered and will soon be installed on the church building. The box will contain keys to both the church building as well as the parsonage.

Council was informed that the results from the Time and Talent Sheets will be available in March.

Council was reminded that the issue regarding the replacement of some of the air conditioner units had been tabled until a later date. The plan is to discuss again in March and get quotes from the three HVAC businesses in Hermann.

Council was informed that the Property Maintenance Committee and the Snow Removal Committee will be used in 2019 and Kenny Kunz will be chairing those committees. Kenny Kunz reported that, as was discussed at last month's meeting, he had gotten roof repair estimates from two companies – Moritz Roofing and Groteweil Roofing. Kenny discussed the estimates with the Council. The estimates included the cost of removing and replacing the rubber roof above the Sunday School rooms; removing the old vents and replacing them with new ones; and adding an ice guard. After discussion, Mark Leech made a motion to accept the Groteweil Roofing estimate, however, Mike Groteweil is to stay in contact with Kenny Kunz in case additional repairs are required. Keely Uthlaut seconded the motion and the motion carried. Kenny also reported that he will be getting bids on lawn care for the upcoming year. He said he would put an advertisement in the Advertiser-Courier. President Stiegman said she would talk to Fay about adding the request for lawn care to the worship bulletin.

Council was informed that the new accounting program being used includes a Giving program which allows people to log in to their account to make a donation on line or by credit card.

Council was informed that three resumes have been received and two inquiries have been made regarding the office assistant position.

Hermann Families in Action has asked if St. Paul would make a \$100 donation for After-Prom and Project Graduation as had been done for the past several years. Nancy Kirchofer made a motion to donate \$100. Susan Nichols seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Fay Scheible had asked if once the 2019 budget is approved, would it be retroactive from January 1, and if so, would the payroll have to be adjusted. The Council agreed that it would be retroactive.

Council was informed that Affordable Plumbing had replaced two toilets and a bill for \$621 had been submitted. Payment for this bill should come from the Project Property Account.

New Business: Council reviewed the agenda for the 2019 Annual Meeting to be held on March 3, 2019. Several changes were suggested and President Stiegman said she would share those with Fay.

Mark Leech said the Personnel Committee had met with Pastor Kiepe to go over his year-end evaluation. The Committee informed Pastor Kiepe that they were very satisfied with the work he has done for the church. Pastor Kiepe signed the document and President Stiegman will have the signed copy scanned and emailed to the other Council members.

Mark Leech and Susan Nichols updated the Council on the status of the 175th Anniversary Committee. One meeting has been held and another is planned for February 12. The Committee has come up with several ideas to make this anniversary very special. Mark Leech informed the Council that he will be gone the entire month of March.

Council members discussed upcoming events.

President Stiegman asked for volunteers to serve communion at the March 3 worship service. Mike Grosse, Susan Nichols, Kenny Kunz and Nancy Kirchofer agreed to serve communion.

President Stiegman asked for volunteers to serve communion at the Ash Wednesday service on March 6. Susan Nichols, Nancy Kirchofer, Jill Jacob and Maggie Stiegman agreed to serve communion. If Jill Jacob is unable to attend, Keely Uthlaut said she would serve.

The next meeting of the council is scheduled for 6:30 PM, March 11, 2019.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Nichols, Secretary

Have you remembered the church in your will?