

July 27, 2020

Dear Friends,

COVID-19 has put most everyone in a state of transition. In every arena of our lives we have had to learn new ways of doing things. This includes how we learn, worship and conduct business electronically. It also includes being present in new ways with our loved ones as we practice social distancing and self-isolation. I believe we at St. Paul UCC have made many of those adjustments while still struggling to find new ways to be the church. Sadly, I believe these months of uncertainty are not over.

Our congregation's Transition Team met last week, and we questioned how best to proceed with the traditional tasks of interim work. We also asked how and if we really can assess our current life as a congregation when so much is in flux both in our church and our society. We decided that this isn't the time for in-person listening sessions or even all-church surveys. We will continue to meet as a Transition Team until we believe we can move forward. In the meantime, we know that questions and concerns abound. Members of the Transition Team as well as myself welcome your questions and your thoughts.

It has been over seven months since I began my ministry as St. Paul UCC's "designated transition minister." This relationship is different from the traditional "interim minister" in, that after a prescribed period of time, I can stay on as St. Paul UCC's "settled pastor" if that is agreeable to both pastor and congregation. But first, we were to spend this time of transition reflecting on our current life as a church and envisioning our next steps as a congregation. What this specifically called for was a revisiting of the New Beginnings process which this congregation undertook five years ago. That program gave some new direction to St. Paul UCC's ministry and mission. On the next page of this newsletter, you will find a summary of our New Beginnings process. I would invite you to read that summary as you reflect on things we have achieved as a congregation and what our next steps as a congregation might be.

During these challenging times, I do feel blessed to be with you all. In so many ways I see this congregation and our membership reaching out in love to one another and to this community. I appreciate the journey we are on and ask you to join me in prayer that God will continue to walk with us into a future of promise.

Blessings,
Pastor Kurt

Members of the Transition Team: Sammi Boedges, Dawn Grosse, Gordon Heck, Maureen Heck, Dale Maune and Keely Uthlaut

NEW BEGINNINGS PROGRAM

As we continue this time of transition in the life of St. Paul, it is appropriate to look back at what was done (accomplished) with the New Beginnings program. We were given the opportunity to look back at our history and heritage and commit to a process that could lead us into the future.

In 2016, you will remember that the congregation was divided into 10 groups, each composed of 20 members. A team leader hosted weekly meetings. The groups were introduced to the information gathered by Hope Partnership. The purpose was to take a look at the congregation's current context and condition and our place within the community. Each week a new area of discussion was introduced. The topics were centered on our history, our current state and our hopes for the future.

There were discussions, disagreements, consensus, many post-it notes and graphs. All of this information from every group was compiled and presented to the committee of leaders for analysis. The goal was to determine what the people in our congregation are deeply passionate about, how to be the best at what we do and what resources are available to ensure that the ministry is sustainable. From all this information, St. Paul's decided our focus should be "Sharing God's love by serving others". A strategic plan was developed to move forward to implement the mission. The following goals were established:

- Educate the congregation on the vision and mission statements
- Create a plan for medical emergencies /fire /intruders
- Develop increase in outreach to youth and younger members
- Develop more communication between members
- Active participation within the community in areas of need

There has been steady work toward reaching the established goals but there is much more to be done. As we face these difficult times of the Corvid pandemic, let us all find ways to reach out within our congregation and the community as the need for God's presence and grace is great.

Hilltop Herald

August - September 2020

UPDATE FROM GHANA: COMING BACK HOME

By Larry Colvin, June 15, 2020

In mid-March, Debbie and I spent three days in Accra, Ghana's largest city and capital.

Primarily we went to renew our residency and work permits for another year. We took the time to purchase books at our favorite bookstore and do our regular shopping which we do every four to six weeks. While there, we saw the signs of change looming. The taxi drivers wore masks. Restaurants offered hand sanitizer. The mall required the washing of hands before entering and a large sign giving information about Covid-19 was present. Even our hotel required a temperature check upon registration. During our three-hour trek back to Peki, President Nana Akufo-Addo spoke to the nation.

Upon returning home, we learned that life, as in many places around the world, had changed. Those changes included the closing of all schools and places of worship. It now meant that I would not be teaching or preaching. (I have been able to keep in contact with the administration and a few students via internet.) Now I found myself at home.

My life, for the present, consists of reading the books we bought in March. (How fortunate was that?) One day Debbie asked, "When was the last time you did so much reading for pleasure and not reading to prepare to preach or teach?" In reality I cannot remember but I now find many hours filled with reading a blessing. Watching re-runs of re-runs offered by our limited number of television channels, news on BBC, and playing cards and table games with Debbie have also become part of changed life. I have set up a course in the house where sixteen laps is equal to one mile and

encourage myself to make 48 laps during the day. I enjoy the quietness that has settled upon Peki since gatherings of more than ten are not permitted. While missing the chatter and singing of the children going to and from school, it is pleasant to hear the chickens, goats, and the gentle rains.

Debbie and I have had to make several other changes since we are unable to shop in Accra. Toilet paper is in plentiful supply, additional items are not. In Peki, we are unable to purchase dairy products or fresh meat. Coffee, tea, and other provisions are available but often not the brands we prefer or at much higher cost. We are limited to purchasing only locally grown fruits and vegetables. I may never again want to see tomatoes, eggplants, okra, or green peppers. On the other hand, we are discovering several varieties of rice, legumes, and grains. Debbie has become excellent at creating "new" dishes. (We have switched roles. In the US, I did most of the cooking. I admit to being a kitchen snob and our kitchen is not up to my standards.)

Some days, the heat, limited interaction and activity take their toll. I want to be with my students. I want to travel beyond Peki. I want a pork chop with a baked potato. These are only wants in a time of flux. Life in Ghana, as around the world, has changed. Some of our wants and joys may return others, may not. We know life, as always, continues and changes. Our trust continues in the God of life, to bring life anew and refreshed.

Larry and Debbie Colvin serve with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana. Their appointment is made possible by our gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

TIME CHANGE FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

Beginning in September, worship services will begin at 10:15 a.m. Office hours are 9:00 – noon, Monday-Friday. Also, we are continuing to record the Sunday services. We are sending out a link via e-mail on Sunday and posting on our website.

We are in need of a volunteer to assist in recording the services.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Day will be coming up soon. Details to follow.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Christian Education Committee will be meeting August 30 to develop our Christian Education Program for the fall. Details to follow.

No matter your age – we have a place for you!



News of Our New Missouri Mid-south Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Damien Lake

Rev. Damien Lake has served three churches as a settled pastor and two congregations as an Interim Minister and worked with churches as a coach, helping them through the search and call process, as well as working with new church starts. He has helped churches revitalize their ministry in the local community and remains committed to helping churches grow, to rethink church and to continue to focus on the Still Speaking Voice of God. Damien has a strong dedication to serving God and The Church, a deep faith that is always growing and expanding in new directions, and believes in the importance of answering the call of God to stand up for social justice, to help those who are hurting and to Be The Church.

CAMP MOVAL T-SHIRTS

We are so excited to share with you a way that your members can support Camp MoVal this summer! As you know, we had to cancel our in-person summer camp due to COVID-19. To help offset the loss that Camp MoVal is enduring we are launching a t-shirt fundraiser to raise money. Our goal is to sell 2,000 t-shirts! We cannot do it with your help!

Each shirt is \$25 with \$20.00 proceeds coming back to Camp MoVal. These shirts are beautifully

designed by a former camper who became a former staff member who still volunteers at camp! The shirts can be purchased online at this link: <https://camp-moval.square.site/?fbclid=IwAR1XJo8hNY-1EXoPPLiKGLghLefghc9WUOxSRHcRE-KLiDjW6aDZ-7jWkbg>, or you can contact the camp office via phone or email to place an order.

We are accepting cash, check or credit card and will offer shipping, delivery (for large orders) or at camp pick up! Please share this information with your campers, their families, and all members of your congregation. Camp MoVal is a sacred place to so many people and we are blessed to have this opportunity to share a little bit of camp with everyone!

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me!

Blessings,

Beckie Nay

Camp MoVal Guest Services Coordinator
636.583.2730

BLOOD DRIVE

There will be a blood drive on Wednesday, August 5, at St. George School, in the gymnasium. Appointments are strongly encouraged during this time of social distancing. All presenting donors will receive a free commemorative St. Louis Cardinals Blood Drive T-shirt.

AFTER SCHOOL BEARCATS

After School Bearcats program will be suspended until further notice. It is with concern for our volunteers and the children that we have made this decision. It is our intention to continue the program at a later date. We will be following the decisions of Gasconade County R1 School District which will influence the time we feel we can resume.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that have made this a successful program.

Nancy Kirchhofer

Lit n Latte Book Club

Book Club will meet August 10th at 10:00 in Fellowship Hall at St. Paul UCC. We will discuss *Follow the River* by Thom, watch the movie and have lunch together. Bring a sack lunch and I will provide coffee and water.

Nancy Kirchhofer, 486.2943

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will not meet in September. The officers surveyed members and a majority did not feel comfortable meeting yet! The officers will re-evaluate and make a decision on future monthly meetings!

Rummage Sale:

The Women's Fellowship annual rummage sale will be held August 20th (8-6), August 21th (8-6) and August 22th (8-12). Items may be brought to Fellowship Hall beginning on August 9th and ending on August 17th. We are in need of clothing, linens, household items (practical and decorative), toys, furniture and any other items for which you no longer have a 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. Thank you for your great support in the past and we look forward to receiving your donations.

We will be practicing social distancing and masks will be required.

Thank you for your great support in the past and we look forward to receiving your donations.

CHOIR NEWS

"Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing to the Lord all the earth"

Unfortunately because of Covid-19, the choir or the Riverside Singers have been unable to practice together since March, nor has the congregation been able to sing hymns. This is sad and disappointing, as music is an integral part of the worship service. Hopefully by fall the music department will be able to resume normal rehearsals and will be back in the Choir Loft and part of the Worship Service. In the meantime, myself and Ruth Hulsey, soloists, and the Bell Ensemble will continue to do our best to bring music to the Worship services.

Stay safe, healthy, and always "Keep A Song In Your Heart"

LaNette Kotthoff

HANDBELL ADJUSTMENTS FOR COVID-19

Greetings from the handbell quintet...Colter, Marilyn, Nancy, Dawn and Ruth.

As the pandemic continues and our lives have not, for the most part, returned to the 'old normal', we continue to make adjustments when we are ringing. When the handbell quintet provided music

for the 4th Sunday worship services during May, June and July, our health and safety and yours were of utmost importance. Ringing bells wearing masks and reading music through fogged up glasses is somewhat of a challenge, but worth the extra effort.

Hopefully, this fall or winter we will SAFELY be able to resume full choir practices, but for now we must comply with CDC guidelines of social distancing and wearing of face coverings. Pastor Connie Tanis said it very well in her letter to the editor in the July 22nd Advertiser Courier. It's worth reading.

Stay safe and healthy!

Ruth Hulsey, director (573-252-4653)

Jim Oncken, conductor

PIANIST/ORGANIST WANTED

Do you or someone you know love to play the piano or organ? We need someone on Sunday mornings for an hour. Please call the church office for more details 573-486-5525.

HERMANN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Trent Anderson, son of Todd and Maranda Anderson, graduated with many athletic awards and scholarships.

Brian Rector, son of Darren and Rebecca Rector, graduated with A+ Recognition and perfect attendance.

Jeremy Schluss, graduated with the A+ recognition and as Outstanding Art Student.

MONTHLY CUP OFFERING

The church council voted to designate a benevolence each month for the "Cup Offering" Any money placed in the cup located in the center of the offering plate will be forwarded to the benevolence for that month. Following is a list of the benevolences chosen so far this year, along with the balances collected each month:

January	Casa	\$173.28
February	Hermann Food Pantry	\$230.62
March	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$362.17
April	Scouts	\$38.45
May	Camp Mo-Val	\$270.00
June	Colvin's Mission to Ghana	\$165.00
Total		\$1,074.53

MISSION CUP FOR AUGUST

Our mission cup for August will again support the Hermann Schools Back to School Supply Fund.

UPPER ROOM

The July/August issue of The Upper Room is available on the tables as well as a PDF file. Please call the church office if you would like the PDF copy e-mailed to you.

MID-YEAR FINANCIAL UPDATE

The annual budget for 2020 is \$216,248.00. As of June 30, we have collected \$82,973.21 which equals 38% of the budget. We spent \$100,744.56 which equals 47%.

The Pony Express estimate total for the year was \$164,119.00. We have received 51% of that amount.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support St. Paul United Church of Christ especially in these trying times.

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE

<u>6/7</u>	<u>6/14</u>	<u>6/21</u>	<u>6/28</u>
46	46	37	45

<u>7/5</u>	<u>7/12</u>	<u>7/19</u>	<u>7/26</u>
40	65	43	42

NEW MEMBERS

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of St. Paul UCC, please call the church office at 486-5525 or talk to the pastor and a date will be set up to receive you into our church family.

SAMARITAN OUTREACH

The phone number for Samaritan Outreach (under the direction of the Hermann Area Ministerial Alliance) is 573-569-2082. If anyone is in need of financial aid, please call this number. The fifth Sunday of any month is designated for special offering envelopes for this benevolence; however donations will be accepted at any time.

BOX TOPS AND LABELS

Please save your box tops and labels for the Hermann Schools. This includes the little red box top label from Betty Crocker, General Mills and various other brand products, Campbell's labels and Best Choice UPC codes. There is a box on the table near the office.

FOOD PANTRY

Members of St. Paul Church are asked to bring food items for the community food pantry and place them near the church office. Monetary gifts are also welcome. For August: desserts, paper towels, bathroom tissue; and for September: sugar, shortening and margarine. Please place perishable gifts in the refrigerator in the fellowship hall kitchen with a note it is for the food pantry. Monetary gifts are welcome.

VILLAGE MARKET RECEIPTS

Please save your receipts from Village Market and place them in the boxes on the tables. The church will receive a 1% rebate for them. In July we received a check in the amount of \$241.20 from Village Market for these receipts. In January we received \$186.88.

PRAYER LIST— *Please keep the following*

persons in your prayers: Angie Scheidegger, Elizabeth Klemme, Bob Soetebier, Lyndon Ruediger, Carol Collins, Rose Faes, Donna Erfling, Linda Busch, Tim Hackmann, Mary Korman, Kate Engemann, Ann Graham, Georgia Rohlfing, Kenny Black, Jim Oncken, Marilyn Rethemeyer, Sharon Elliott, Jim & Marilyn Buchholz, Thelma Kattelman, Maldon Schneider, Tierra Schlitt, Mary Fritz and a dear friend with bone cancer.

FUNERAL

Our sympathy to the family of **Anna M. "Amy" Williams** who passed away June 18 at Hermann Hospital. Amy was born December 24, 1926 at Morrison. She was an active member of St. Paul UCC, Hermann, where she was a member of Women's Fellowship, the Quilting Guild and many other activities.

She is survived by two daughters, Vicki Huff and husband Steve; and Leanne Williams; two grandchildren; three great-grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Don and four sisters.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Our sympathy to the family of **Larry Von Behren**, who passed away June 18 in St. Louis County. Larry was born October 11, 1943 and was confirmed at St. Paul UCC, Hermann.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; a son David and wife Linda; grandchildren and great-

grandchildren.

A memorial service was held June 20 at Toedtmann & Grosse Funeral home with Rev. Blaufuss officiating. Burial was at Swiss Evangelical Cemetery.

Our sympathy to the family of **Jack Greene**, who passed away June 24 at the age of 95.

Jack was born March 21, 1925 in Hamilton, MO.

He joined the U.S. Army in 1943 where he was called in action as part of the Battle of the Bulge as well as many other events. Much of his war efforts were documented through his own photography which he later gifted to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

He helped manage Greene's Department Store after the war. He was active in many groups in Hermann.

On Sept. 7 1947 he was married to Marjorie Greene who survives at their home. They had four children, three of whom survive including Meredith & husband David Gnaegy, Jonelle and husband Dennis Loehnig and Melodie and husband Kevin Kelley; a daughter-in-law Mary Smith; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Janice and a son Richard.

A memorial service was held at Sherry House Deck at Stone Hill Winery on July 3 with Rev. Blaufuss officiating. Interment with military honors was at Loutre Island Cemetery.

OUR SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to Kurt and Mary Schaller Blaufuss and family on the passing of Mary's father, Rev. E. John Schaller.

NURSING HOMES & SHUT-INS

Following is a list of our members and friends who are residents of Victorian Place, Frene Valley of Hermann Stonebridge and a list of others who may enjoy a visit, a call or a card. If you know of someone living at home, in a care facility, or a caregiver who needs a church member to call or visit, please contact the church office so that we can reach out to them. The Nurturing Committee; Church office 486-5525.

VICTORIAN PLACE (1120 Village Lane)

Maynard Anderson 486-3173
Janet Mueller 486-5857

Truman Eikermann 486-1006
Thelma Kattelmann 486-5650
LaVerne Wagner 486-2282
Georgia Jordan

FRENE VALLEY FALLS

Gladys Hauser

FRENE VALLEY OF HERMANN STONEBRIDGE

Sally Confer, Forrest Koeller, Viola Koeller,
Homer Roney Jr., Delores Smith

HOME VISITS

James Boedges (Margie), 29 Winter park Lane,
Rhineland, 252-4362
Carol (Grannemann) Collins, 31467 State Hwy Y,
Jonesburg, 636-488-3166
June Faerber, 411 Stark Blvd., Hermann, 486-3684
Joe Hart (Janet), 117 Hwy K, Rhineland,
573-252-4766
Betty Held, 1954 Sand Plant Rd, 486-5243
Earl & Dolores Huxol, 524 W 8th St., 486-2455
Darrell & Betty Reinhardt, 30091 State Hwy. 94,
486-2469
Frank Struttman (Mary) 208 Main St., McKittrick
486-2904.

GOLDEN WEDDING RECOGNITION

The Family Life Committee will again be sponsoring the Golden Anniversary Celebration October 4. More details will be provided later in the bulletin and on our website.

50+ ANNIVERSARIES

Earl and Dolores Huxol were married August 20, 1950; Joe and Janet Hart were married August 20, 1960; Jack & Pat Wendleton were married August 21, 1964; Joe and Rose Faes were married August 27, 1950.

Darrell and Betty Reinhardt were married September 25, 1954; Wayne & Maureen Heck were married September 2, 1967 Congratulations to all these couples!

ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following members of our church family who are celebrating anniversaries in the month of August.

2 - Michael & Dawn Grosse
5 - Chad & Charlotte Struttman
7 - Howard & Barbara Schutt

- 11 - Gordon & Linda Heck
Glenn & Debbie Brethorst
- 14 - James & Susan Elder
Jerry & Rhonda Scheible
- 15 - Kenneth & Carol Kunz
Rodger & Mindy Kiepe
- 20 - Earl & Dolores Huxol
Joe & Janet Hart
- 21 - Jack & Pat Wendleton
- 23 - James & Janet Murphy
- 27 - Joe & Rose Faes, John & Nicole Koch,
John & Diane Lause
- 30 - James & Megan Boedges
Merlin & JoAnn Cramer

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

- 2 - Wayne & Maureen Heck
- 3 - Robert & Diane Kottwitz
Doug & Debbie Smith
- 8 - Corey & Theresa Isaak
- 9 - Bill & Lolly Rogers
- 10 - Kurt & Janelle Bickmeyer
James & Manda Rucker
- 12 - Darren & Rebecca Rector
Scott & Diane Witthaus
- 13 - Shawn & Rebekah Mayberry
- 16 - Jason & Melissa Eikermann,
Jesse & Krystal Witthaus
- 20 - Larry & Sharon Fredrick
Shannon & Dawn Pfautsch
- 21 - Keith & Wanda Ruediger
- 23 - Craig & Kate Schannuth
- 25 - Darrell & Betty Reinhardt
- 28 - Thomas & Andrea Held
- 29 - Matt & Jennifer Rogers
Ben & Sara Williams

BIRTHDAYS

Birthday greetings are extended to the following members of our church family who are celebrating birthdays in August.

- 1 - Gigi Mueller, Jerry Scheible,
Sharen Speckhals
- 2 - Robert Bohl, Bart Toedtmann
- 5 - Rob Schwartz
- 7 - John Lause, Lolly Rogers
- 9 - Scott Witthaus
- 11 - Marjorie Boedges, Justin Pfautsch
- 12 - Darren Rector

- 13 - Brooke Schaefer
- 14 - James Murphy
- 16 - Stephen Hasty, Jocelyn Schluss,
Seth Witthaus
- 17 - Jill Bacon
- 18 - Steve Beckmann
- 20 - Zoe Schafer
- 21 - Chery Fricke
- 23 - Carol Schluss
- 28 - Peyton Schaefer
- 29 - Jeff Scheible
- 30 - JoAnn Lenger, Marvin Vogt
Gilbert Witthaus
- 31 - Julie Ruediger, Ernst Uthlaut

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

- 1 - Kenneth Kunz, Carissa Rethemeyer,
Summer Witthaus
- 2 - Connie Tanis, Donald Watson
- 5 - James Boedges, Jared Stiegman
- 6 - Kenneth Meyer
- 7 - Anne Althaus, Larry Leech
Kent Sherrow; Lucas Blaufuss
- 8 - Sharon Fredrick, Gene Johnston,
Jane Rehmert, Chantele Watson
- 12 - Matt Wesselschmidt
- 13 - Julie Kopp
- 15 - Teresa Grotewiel, Amanda Korman,
James Rucker
- 16 - Staci Elsenraat, Lois Mochel,
Jeffrey Mueller
- 18 - Gary Blackwood
- 19 - Megan Boedges
- 20 - Kelly Brethorst, Carol Uthlaut, Kurt
Blaufuss
- 21 - Shirley Tilly
- 23 - Grant Ruediger
- 24 - Wayne Heck
- 26 - James Elder
- 27 - Rodney Mochel, Shannon Pfautsch,
Mary Struttman
- 28 - Jesse Witthaus
- 29 - June Faerber

MEMORIALS

Current Fund

- In memory of Amy Williams
- In memory of Eric Hampton
- In memory of Ben Kattelman

Memorial Gifts

Landscaping

Organ Fund

In Memory of Jack Greene

Choir Fund

In Memory of Jack Greene

Bequest Fund

Carl & Eunice Ploeger Estate

CONGRATULATIONS

Rev. Constance Tanis celebrated her 30th ordination anniversary in May, 1990. Rev. Tanis is serving Bethany UCC as a part-time supply pastor. Congratulations.

70th ORDINATION OF REV. ARMIN KLEMME

In June, the Missouri Mid-South Conference celebrated the 70th ordination of the Rev. Armin Klemme, who served throughout the Missouri Mid-South Conference, with the \$70 for 70 Challenge as a way to show appreciation for the ministries of Armin and Norma Klemme.

Total contributions to date: \$2,940.00

The opportunity to give is not over! You can write a check to the Missouri Mid-South Conference in Re. Klemme's honor. Thank you!

THANK YOU LETTERS

Thank you for your generous gift, it means a lot to me. I appreciate your kindness and support. I am looking forward to attending UMSL in the fall. Thank you so much for the support through the years, and for the gift and clip!

With Love, Trent Anderson

Thank you so very much,

It's a perfect time to thank you for the nice things that you do, and a perfect time to let you know you're thought the world of, too.

Laura Bossaller,

Cub Scout Pack 216

Friends at St. Paul,

Thank you for the gift to Eden Seminary in memory of my father. Your support and friendship means so much in this time of grief and always.

Blessings, Mary & Kurt Schaller Blaufuss

A NOTE OF THANKS

Many thanks from my family and me for the all the kind expressions of sympathy after Jack's death. I appreciate all the cards, calls, memorials and other kindnesses that were so appreciated from my church family. May God bless each of you!

Margie Greene

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$235 to the CWS Blankets program. As families and communities around the world recover from emergencies and struggle in the face of unprecedented challenges, you are standing with them. Now more than ever, we are so grateful for your generous support.

Your contribution provides warmth, comfort and hope to neighbors near and far. It provides a tangible reminder to migrant families that they are not alone as they seek safety. It wraps refugees in warmth as they arrive in the United States to build a new future. It provides comfort to our neighbors who have lost homes or are struggling in the face of extreme challenges. Around the world, your support means relief and hope.

Because of you, Church World Service is able to respond when disasters occur and support is needed. Thanks to your compassion, we can—and will—change lives.

Sincerely,

Rev. John L. McCullough

President and CEO Church World Service.

THANK YOU

To the Ploeger Family Estate for their generous bequest gift.

To Maureen Heck, Jane Meyer and Lois Mochel for maintaining flower beds and to everyone else who has worked with the flower beds.

To Mary Leeper for changing altar cloths.

Thanks to Darren Schutt and Kenny Kunz for handling many maintenance details.

To everyone who has served as liturgist for worship services especially the Confirmation students.

To everyone who works with the projections system, both loading the information before service and projecting the information during worship service.

To Mary and Lucas Blaufuss who recorded and downloaded the worship services.

To LaNette Kotthoff, Ruth Hulsey, Mary Schaller Blaufuss for playing the organ and piano for worship services and providing special music.

To Dawn Maune, Rebekah Mayberry, Marilyn Loehnig, Nancy Fagerness and the Handbell Quintet for special music.

To Rev. Blaufuss for setting up a new Facebook page after our old one was no longer working. The new address is St. Paul UCC Hermann, Missouri.

CALENDAR

Sunday, August 2

9:00 Worship Service w/communion

10:00 Confirmation Class

Sunday, August 9

9:00 Worship Service

10:00 Confirmation Class

Begin accepting Rummage Sale items (until August 17)

Monday, August 10

10:00 Book Club Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, August 11

7:30 Council meeting

Sunday, August 16

9:00 Worship Service

10:00 Confirmation Class

Thursday, August 20-Saturday, August 22

Rummage Sale in Church Basement

August 20, 8-6

August 21, 8-6

August 22, 8-12

Sunday, August 23

9:00 Worship Service

Sunday, August 30

9:00 Worship Service

10:00 Christian Education Committee

Sunday, September 6

10:15 Worship Service w/communion

Tuesday, September 8

7:30 Council Meeting

Sunday, September 13

10:15 Worship Service

Sunday, September 20

10:15 Worship Service

Sunday, September 27

10:15 Worship Service

St. Paul United Church of Christ Council Minutes – 7:30 PM, May 12, 2020 via Zoom

Members present were Pastor Blaufuss, Susan Nichols, Jill Jacob, Kenny Kunz, Megan Boedges, Carol Paubel, Dale Maune, Mike Grosse, Ed Knehans, Chris Heldt, and Steve Lenger.

1. Pastor Blaufuss led the Council in prayer.
2. The floor was open for comments from Council or members of the congregation.
3. Chris Heldt made a motion to approve the agenda for the May 12 meeting. Megan Boedges seconded the motion and the motion carried.
4. The following agenda items were considered:
 - A. Minutes of the April 14, 2020 meeting were reviewed. After review, Chris Heldt made a motion to approve the minutes. Megan Boedges seconded the motion and the motion carried.
 - B. The March financial reports were reviewed. Office staff had provided Council with an income and expense comparison between April 2019 and April 2020. The amount of offerings continues to be slightly lower; however, many members of the congregation have been mailing offerings to the church office. It is hoped that offerings will increase when in-person services resume. Council asked that a Giving Statement update be provided at a future meeting. After discussion, Carol Paubel made a motion to approve the reports. Dale Maune seconded the motion and the motion carried.
5. Old Business:
 - A. Council discussed the continuation of St Paul's donation to Global Mission for Ghana. Pastor Blaufuss said he had followed up on our support of UCC/DOC missionaries, Larry and Debbie Colvin. He recommended that we continue to support the Colvins and work towards forging a stronger and more supportive relationship which will benefit both the Colvins and our congregation. It was suggested that the Colvins provide Pastor Blaufuss with a written report of the work they are doing, which he could then relay to the congregation
 - B. Chair Kunz said he had followed up with office staff regarding the formation of the various church committees. Everyone is under the assumption that the committee chairs have chosen their teams, however, they are probably waiting to meet until the pandemic has eased.

- C. Council discussed the After-School Bearcats program. Nancy Kirchhofer and Sharen Speckhals have been working on finding a director for the program.

6. New Business:

- A. Council discussed the Mission Cup donations for the month of June. After discussion, it was decided to give the June Mission Cup donations to Larry and Debbie Colvin, the UCC/DOC missionaries working in Ghana.
- B. The income/expense update was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- C. Chair Kunz provided an update on the Paycheck Protection Program loan for which the church has applied. This loan assists small businesses and certain non-profits in covering payroll, utilities and other costs. Originally, we had requested \$24,000, however, after reviewing our expenses, it was decided that we only needed \$17,032. We have received word that we were approved for the loan. This loan will require that we keep very accurate records of how the money is being used and our payroll must remain the same for the next three months. Fay has attended a webinar regarding the recordkeeping and will continue to stay on top of the process. Council thanked Fay and Mary as well as First Bank for the great jobs they did working on this loan.
- D. Council discussed the coverage of the church office. Pastor Blaufuss will be in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays each week. Fay and Mary will cover Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. After discussion, Carol Paubel made a motion that starting June 1, office hours will be 8:30 AM – Noon every day and will be posted so that all are aware. Chris Heldt seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- E. Council discussed safety precautions for when St. Paul resumes in-person church services on June 7. Pastor Blaufuss had previously shared information from other congregations regarding reopening procedures. A list of worship guidelines was drafted which included social distancing the sanctuary, the use of face masks, the placement of offering plates, an orderly exit, the availability of hand sanitizers at all doors, order of worship projected on the wall, the removal of Bibles and Hymnals from the pews, sanitary packages of Communion elements, the continuation of live stream of the services, no congregational singing, children remaining in pews during children’s sermon, and encouraging at-risk people to stay at home. A suggestion was made to contact the Gasconade County Health Department to find out if the pew cushions could be sanitized or if it would be better to remove the cushions. Pastor Blaufuss said he would send a letter to the congregation informing them of the necessary precautions.

7. Pastor’s Report:

Pastor Blaufuss shared his report with Council.

He said that Mary Binkholder asked him to check with Council concerning the counting of collection money. She has been counting the offerings alone since stay-at-home orders went into effect. She wanted to know if this is alright and if she could continue this process without a second counter. Currently, over 90% of the offerings are in the form of a check. Council agreed that Mary could continue counting the money on her own.

8. Council reviewed upcoming events:

Sunday, June 7, 9:00 AM – In-person worship service with communion

Tuesday, June 9, 7:30 PM – In-person Council meeting

9. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

10. The meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Nichols, Secretary

St. Paul United Church of Christ Council Minutes – 7:30 PM, June 9, 2020

Members present in person were Pastor Blaufuss, Susan Nichols, Jill Jacob, Kenny Kunz, Megan Boedges, Carol Paubel, Dale Maune, Mike Grosse, Ed Knehans, Chris Heldt, and Steve Lenger.

1. Pastor Blaufuss led the Council in prayer.

2. The floor was open for comments from Council or members of the congregation.

Council members commented that the in-person church service on June 7 went very well. A few changes may need to be made for future services including how congregants are released from the sanctuary. Also it will be the ushers’ responsibility to strategically seat congregants in roped off pews if additional seating is necessary.

Council also discussed continuing the ability to view the service on-line. If this practice continues, it will be necessary to upgrade the technology needed for optimal viewing. Pastor Blaufuss said we will need to come up with something before his son Lucas leaves at the end of July as he is the current “videographer”.

3. Carol Paubel made a motion to approve the agenda for the June 9 meeting. Dale Maune seconded the motion and the motion carried.

4. The following agenda items were considered:

- A. Minutes of the May 12, 2020 meeting were reviewed. After review, Dale Maune made a motion to approve the minutes. Mike Grosse seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- B. The May financial reports were reviewed. After discussion, Dale Maune made a motion to approve the reports. Carol Paubel seconded the motion and the motion carried.

5. Old Business:

- A. Council discussed the various committees and that some of those committees have been meeting.
- B. Council continued the discussion of safety precautions being taken in order to conduct in-person church services. Pastor Blaufuss shared information from the UCC Insurance Board regarding COVID-19 liability. He stressed that if we continue to follow our plan, we will be functioning in good faith. Mike Grosse said someone has offered to donate masks, gloves, etc. to the church. After discussion, President Kunz said he would check with the office to check on our supply and determine our need. He will then work with Mike to acquire the additional supplies.
- C. Council discussed the After-School Bearcats program including liability issues related to COVID-19. The previous tutors will be contacted to see if they would be still be able to work with this program. It is hoped there will be more information to share at the July Council meeting.
- D. President Kunz gave Council an updated on the PPP loan. Fay Scheible will be participating in a webinar regarding the payback requirements. She will continue to carefully document the use of the funds.
- E. Council was informed that the new office hours of 8 AM – Noon, Monday through Friday have been posted. Fay and Mary have been working out the office coverage.
- F. Council was informed that there has been no response to ads posted for a substitute organist/pianist. Currently LaNette Kotthoff and Ruth Hulsey have been coordinating the music for Sunday services. LaNette's goal is to purchase a system which would be used to program the piano. Pastor Blaufuss said he will talk with LaNette and the Music Committee to get their ideas.

6. New Business:

- A. Council discussed the Mission Cup donations for the month of July. After discussion, it was decided to give the July Mission Cup donations to the "Back to School Supply Fund".
- B. Dale Maune informed Council that he had attended a meeting regarding the 4th of July activities in the City of Hermann. He said there will be no vendors allowed at the riverfront this year because of COVID-19. As this is one of our biggest fundraisers, Dale suggested we have a fall dinner to take its place. There is a possibility we could use the VFW hall for the dinner. He will keep Council updated on the progress of this fundraiser.

7. Pastor's Report:

Pastor Blaufuss shared his report with Council.

There was a glitch with Facebook before the June 7 church service. For some reason the church's Facebook was removed. Susan Lenger is investigating the problem and hopefully will be able to come up with a remedy. In the meantime the services will be posted to YouTube.

He asked Council to consider on-line giving. Mary Binkholder said she would start researching the process but would like a Council member to help her with this. After discussion, Chris Heldt volunteered to help Mary and Linda Heck with the on-line giving concept.

He said he has finished writing his devotional series on the church's stained-glass and would like to eventually put them together in booklet form.

He said he plans to reconvene Confirmation classes during the later summer months and would like to see Confirmation Day celebrated in September.

8. Council reviewed upcoming events:

Sunday, July 5, 9:00 AM – In-person worship service with communion (we will be using prepackaged elements)

2:00 PM – Service at Frene Valley Nursing Home

3:00 PM – Service at Victorian Place

(As these facilities are not yet allowing visitors, Pastor Blausfuss said he would try to get the elements to them ahead of time so they can participate using the on-line service.)

Tuesday, July 14, 7:30 PM – In-person Council meeting

9 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

10 The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Nichols, Secretary