

May 2021 Hilltop Herald

THE SEASON OF TRINITY – BEGINNING MAY 23

The longest season of the church year begins on the day of Pentecost. It is known as the season of Pentecost or Trinity. The color is green ... the color of growth. This color reminds us that the story of God's love for the world is a continued story ever growing and ever unfolding. And it's a story which in ways scatters the church like seed in the earth. The church's mission sends the followers of Jesus in all directions.

The season of Trinity is also known as Ordinary Time. There are no big church holidays between Pentecost and the beginning of Advent. As such, the season of Trinity reminds us that not all is celebration and excitement in our lives. Most of our lives consist not of birthdays and holidays but days when we get up for work, cook the evening meal or have homework to do. Week after week we gather for worship amid our ordinary lives to hear what extraordinary word Christ is speaking to his church.

But before we arrive at the day Pentecost, we continue to celebrate Eastertide for most of May. And we will have some very special days including Mother's Day (May 9), the last Sunday of Sunday School before our summer break (May 16) and Ascension Day (May 13). It is also a very special month for our graduating high school Seniors! So there is plenty to celebrate this May. I hope you can join us for worship and other activities either in-person or online as we mark these special days.

Blessings,
Pastor Kurt

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKETS

St. Paul UCC will observe Blanket Sunday on May 9 this year. Special envelopes will be available on the tables and are included in this newsletter. 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 cost only \$10 but can be a vital and powerful resource for someone needing a little support, warmth and encouragement.

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Worship Services in June, July and August, will begin at 9:00 a.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

The newly elected council officers for 2021 include Steve Lenger, President; Chris Heldt, Vice-President; Carol Paubel, Treasurer; and Krystal Witthaus, Secretary.

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 (or e-mail) the church office with that information as soon as possible. This information will be printed in a bulletin on May 23.

Graduates will be recognized at the worship service on May 23. Details to follow.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

St. Paul’s Women Fellowship met on Thursday, April 15. Sixteen women were present for a devotional by Pastor Kurt and a program/discussion led by Maureen Heck. It was wonderful to be together again.

Women’s Fellowship will attend National Day of Prayer at the First Christian Church in Hermann on May 6 at noon. The Women of St. Paul church have been invited to attend a virtual tour of the Holy Land at United Methodist Church in Hermann on June 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. (Details to be posted as well as a signup sheet or RSVP to Sharen Speckhals). The Women’s Fellowship is planning a Rummage Sale in June. (Details to follow soon).

LIT n’ LATTE BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting is May 10th, 10:00am. We will read and discuss " The Orphan Train” by Christina Baker Kline. The meeting will be in the adult Sunday School room at St. Paul UCC. All are welcome. If interested, contact the church office or Nancy Kirchhofer 486-2943.

HERMANN FFA NEWS

Congratulations to the Hermann FFA Farm Management Team! They received 1st place at State and will proceed to the National Contest. This is an incredible honor. Team members are our own Samantha Boedges and Allison Boedges, as well as Lucas Eldringhoff and Ben Engemann. The National Contest is held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

MISSION CUP

The mission cup for May will benefit Vacation Bible School Activities.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE					WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	
	4/4	4/11	4/18	4/25		
Pre-Kindergarten – 1st	1	2	1	2	4/1	38 (Maundy Thursday)
2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th Grades	4	3	3	2	4/4	74 (6:30 Easter)
5 th , 6 th & 7 th Grades	6	5	1	4	4/4	52 (10:15 Easter)
Adult Class	0	6	5	3	4/11	42
Staff	1	1	1	1	4/18	50
Total	12	17	11	12	4/25	50

ST. PAUL MAIL

Please be sure to send your mail to the church to **P.O. Box 352**, rather than our street address. The post office will **not** deliver to the street address.

BENEVOLENCES INCOME

As of April 30, the following organizations have received directed benevolences:

One Great Hour of Sharing	857.01
Emmaus Homes	11.00
Back Pack Program	250.00
Riverbluff Industries	440.00
Camp MoVal	146.00
Samaritan Outreach	772.00
Hermann Food Pantry	565.00
Mission Cup-Medical Staff	<u>145.01</u>
Total	\$3186.02

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday, 9 am to noon and other hours as arranged.

SAMARITAN OUTREACH

Anyone who is in need of assistance may call Samaritan Outreach at 573-569-2082. It operates under the direction of the Hermann Area Ministerial Alliance. The 5th Sunday offering of each month is designated for Samaritan Outreach.

NURSING HOME & SHUT-INS

St. Paul members and friends who are residents of Victorian Place, Frene Valley of Hermann Stonebridge, and other shut-ins may enjoy 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 (2120 Village Lane)

Janet Mueller	573-486-5857
Georgia Jordan	573-680-7687
Thelma Kattelmann	573-486-5650
LaVerne Wagner-Suite 1314	573-486-2282

FRENE VALLEY OF HERMANN STONEBRIDGE

Sally Confer, Forrest Koeller, Homer Roney Jr., Delores Smith, and Charlene Haid

HOME BOUND

Frank Struttmann (Mary), 208 Main St., McKittrick, MO 486-2904
Carol (Grannemann) Collins, 31467 State, Hwy. Y, Jonesburg, MO 636-488-3166
Delores Huxol, 524 West 8th St., Hermann 486-2455
Darrell & Betty Reinhardt, 30091 State Hwy. 94, Hermann 486-2469
June Faerber, 411 Stark Blvd., Hermann. 486-3684

NEW MEMBERS

Anyone interested in becoming a member of St. Paul UCC is asked to please call the church office at 486-5525 or speak with the pastor so a date can be set up to receive you into our church family.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following persons in your prayers: Angie Scheidegger, Elizabeth Klemme, Bob Soetebier, Lyndon Ruediger, Carol Collins, Rose Faes, Donna Erfling, Mary Korman, Kate Engemann, Kenny Black, Marilyn Rethemeyer, Sharon Elliott, Jim & Marilyn Buchholz, Thelma Kattelmann, Mary Fritz, Robert Buesking, Skylar Favor, Maura Winkelmann, Marty Crowe, Marilyn Overkamp, staff and residents of area nursing homes and Victorian Place, the staff & students at Hermann Schools.

SYMPATHIES

Our sympathy to LaVerne Schweerkotting on the recent passing of her brother-in-law Kenny Meyer.

MEMORIALS

Current Fund

In memory of Joyce Hauser
Jeff & Ellen Scheible
In memory of Truman Eikermann
Maynard Anderson

EASTER MEMORIALS

Memorial Fund

In memory of Edmund Bickmeyer
Scott and Diane Witthaus

ON-LINE GIVING

On-line giving can make a big difference at St. Paul Church UCC as COVID-19 remains a concern. We still need your financial support to continue our ministry. We prayerfully invite you to use eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet to set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Recurring donations can be set up for weekly or monthly donations.

- Consistency: Your support will allow us to continue important ministries and to help our community.
- Convenience: You provide your support in the comfort and safety of your home.
- Cost-Effective: This reduces printing and mailing costs, and is better for our environment! We can use this saved money to further our ministries in the community.

Make a Donation or Access your account at:

<https://giving.congregationsoft.com/app/giving/st136101>.

There are links on St.PaulUCCHermannMissouri Facebook page and on our website www.hermannucc.com.

There are currently 2 options to pay (credit card or automatic debit—ACH). The church is charged a fee for each transaction, which is minimal; **however, the use of ACH results in the lowest fee.** If you have any questions about how to make a donation, please call the church office.

STUDENT LOANS

Student loan application forms will be mailed in May to 2021 Hermann High graduates and to eligible college students (members of St. Paul Church). Approximately \$80,000 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 did not receive one, please call the church office and we will send one.

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship committee would like to mention a feature of the new tax law that could be of benefit to those who have attained age 72, who hold investments that are subject to RMD's (required minimum distributions) from IRA accounts. The account owner may direct the distribution check to an exempt charity, avoiding federal and state taxes, rather than receiving the required RMD check themselves. To be tax exempt, the distribution must be made payable directly to a qualified charity or church.

RMDs required from other investments such as 401(k) or 403(b) accounts do not qualify for this tax exemption. However, this same benefit can be obtained by transferring the desired RMD amount from these accounts to an IRA before December 31 of the year before the RMD is required.

So, for those over 72 with investment accounts, this new tax provision can be a major advantage to church members. And, this exemption is not limited to the required minimum—more can be distributed if desired.

For more information, a call to your tax advisor or financial institution is advised.

50+ ANNIVERSARIES

Ronald and Jeannie Fredrick were married May 12, 1962 and will celebrate their 59th anniversary this year; John and Nancy Bartel were married May 18, 1952, and will celebrate their 69th anniversary this year.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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
 - 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

BIRTHDAYS

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

2-Shelby (Ruediger) Gradel	15-Carol Kunz
5-Linda Blackwood, Nathan Oncken	16-Nichole Landolt
6-Mark Leech	19-Maureen Heck, Ashten Huff, Elizabeth Kelsey
7- Julaine Cabot, Chelten Hasty, Marjorie Greene	20-Bill Rogers
8-Joe Hart	23-Joe Faes, Betty Reinhardt
9-Melvin Jacob, John Koch	26-Laverne Fredrick, Theresa Isaak
11-Billy Cramer, Janet Murphy	27-Ashlee Kiderlen, Dawn Maune
12-Doug Smith	30-Kyle Crowe, Jeremy Schluss
14-Amanda Schaefer	31-Elaine Lalk

FOOD PANTRY

St. Paul UCC members are asked to bring food items for the community food pantry and place them near the church office. Requests for May are canned meats, pasta, and dried staples. Monetary gifts are always welcome.

VILLAGE MARKET RECEIPTS

Please save your receipts from Village Market and place them in the boxes on the tables. The church receives a 1% rebate for them.

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.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Darren Schutt for various maintenance and custodial work and for sanitizing the building and clearing the steps and sidewalks of snow and ice.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the projection system, loading the information and displaying it for worship services.

Thank you to Carol Paubel, Mary Schaller Blaufuss, and others for recording the services.

Thank you to Jeff and Ellen Scheible for providing flowers for the altar.

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

Thank you to everyone who provides music every Sunday, including Ruth Hulsey, LaNette Kotthoff, Dawn Maune, Becky Mayberry, Craig Schannuth and the Riverside Singers, and the Handbell Ensemble.

THANK YOU LETTERS

To the members of St. Paul UCC,

Thank you for your 2020 contribution of \$14,250 for support of Our Church's Wider Mission, Changing Lives.

John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President, United Church of Christ

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

St. Paul United Church of Christ Council Minutes – 6:30 PM, March 9, 2021

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

1. Pastor Blaufuss led the Council in prayer.
2. The floor was open for comments from Council or members of the congregation.
3. Dale Maune made a motion to approve the agenda for the March 9 meeting. Ed Knehans seconded the motion and the motion carried.
4. Minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting were reviewed. A correction was suggested to Agenda Item 8.G. New Business – Endowment Policy. Matt Wagner's name was misspelled. After review, Ed Knehans made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Dale Maune seconded the motion and the motion carried.
5. The February financial reports were reviewed.
6. The payment of bills was reviewed and approved.
7. Old Business:
 - A. Transition Committee – Pastor Blaufuss reported that this committee will be meeting this month. He said questions will be posed regarding how best to transition ourselves as we emerge from this last year of COVID.
Student Aid Committee – Council was informed that Nancy Kirchhofer has requested to be removed from this committee.
Maintenance Committee – Council was informed that this committee is still needing bids for exterior painting of the church building.
Endowment Committee (Discussed also included Agenda Item 7.B)– President Kunz reported that this committee met via Zoom with Matt Wagner with United Church Funds in order to discuss his recommendations regarding investment possibilities. Council was informed that St. Paul received a 12.87% return on its United Church Funds in 2020. Currently we have \$28,429.27 in the endowment fund. Council discussed adding money from various estate funds to the endowment fund and investing the money into the United Church Funds instead of investing locally in money market accounts. After discussion, Dale Maune made a motion to combine the Ploeger, Hauser, and Koeller estate funds into the endowment fund for a total of \$238,293.86 and invest this money with United Church Funds. In addition, the Van Funds of \$19,457.61 will be moved to United Church Funds. Carol Paubel seconded the motion and the motion carried.
 - B. See Agenda Item 7.B.
 - C. Council was informed that \$1000 in grants has been received of which \$449.81 was used to reimburse Pastor Blaufuss for video supplies. Council also requested that office staff check into purchasing new hearing aid supplies for congregation members to use during worship services.
 - D. Council was informed that to date \$4565.00 has been received via on-line giving.
 - E. Council was informed that Linda Heck continues to work on updates to the church's website
 - F. Council was informed that Barb Schutt will be retiring from teaching Sunday School after 47 years of service.
 - G. Council discussed the upcoming congregational meeting on March 14. Currently, Shawn Mayberry, Ernst Uthlaut and Krystal Witthaus have been nominated as new Council

members. President Kunz suggested appointing tellers at the meeting in case other nominations are made and a vote needs to be taken. Also new members of the Christian Education Committee will be announced.

- H. Council reviewed the 2020 Annual Report which will be provided to the congregation at the congregational meeting. There were a couple corrections made to the 2021 schedule of special services. A Maundy Thursday worship service will be held on April 1 instead of a Good Friday worship service on April 2. Also worship services in June, July and August will begin at 9:00 AM rather than 10:15 AM

8. New Business:

- A. Council discussed the Mission Cup donations for the month of April. After discussion, Dale Maune made a motion to give the April donations toward the One Great Hour of Sharing. Steve Lenger seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- B. Council discussed ushers for upcoming services. Ed Knehans volunteered to usher for the March 21 service and Steve Lenger agreed to March 28. Dale Maune will usher at the Easter sunrise service on April 4 and Susan Nichols will take care of the regular Easter service. Steve Lenger will usher at the April 11 service.
- C. Council discussed advertising in the Hermann Visitor Magazine which is published quarterly. After discussion, Carol Paubel made a motion for St. Paul to advertise quarterly in the Visitor Magazine at a cost of \$85 per advertisement. Ed Knehans seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- D. Council discussed a date for the new Council members to hold their first meeting. They decided to keep the current schedule of the second Tuesday of the month, which means the new Council will meet at 7:30 PM on April 13.
- E. Council discussed a date for installation of new Council members. After discussion, it was decided that new Council members will be installed at the April 11 worship service.

9. Pastor Blaufuss shared his pastor's report with Council. He said the healing of his broken ankle is going well. He will be resuming his regular office hours of Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to noon in the next week. He is continuing to post the Lenten devotional daily on Facebook. He said he has received both doses of the COVID vaccination and has resumed his monthly chapel services at Frene Valley and Victorian Place. He has received a request to conduct a small wedding in October. After discussion, Council agreed to this wedding service. He reported on other activities he has been involved in and also thanked the Council members who are completing their service – Ken Kunz, Mike Grosse, Jill Jacob and Susan Nichols.

10. Council reviewed upcoming events. In addition, Council asked office staff to check into a membership with Zoom so future meetings could be held online if necessary.

11. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

12. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Nichols, Secretary

MAY CALENDAR

◀ Apr 2021		May 2021					Jun 2021 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1	
2 9:00 Sunday School; 10:15 Worship Service w/communion 1:00 Services Frene Valley 2:00 Services Victorian Place	3 5:00 & 6:00 Scouts	4	5 4:00 Bell Ensemble 6:00 Riverside Singers	6	7	8	
9 9:00 Sunday School; 10:15 Worship Service	10 10:00 Book Club 7:30 Church Council	11	12 4:00 Bell Ensemble 6:00 Riverside Singers	13	14	15	
16 9:00 Sunday School; 10:15 Worship Service Christin Ed Sunday	17 5:00 & 6:00 Scouts	18 9:00 Quilters 5:00 Scouts	19 4:00 Bell Ensemble 6:00 Riverside Singers	20 5:00 Scouts	21	22	
23 10:15 Worship Service 11:00 Christian Ed meeting	24	25	26 6:00 Riverside Singers	27	28	29	
30 9:00 Sunday School; 10:15 Worship Service	31						