

## July 2021 Hilltop Herald

Dear Friends,

One of the joys of serving St. Paul UCC is the view from my office window. It's the best view I have had at any of the churches I have served. I hope you also appreciate the beauty of looking out over the Missouri River and seeing the green hills which stretch to the horizon. And we are not alone in that. Every day I am in the office I observe at least one person or group of people who stop and enjoy the view. During these summer months that number swells considerably.

I love to sit on our church steps facing north and watching the river flow by. There are the occasional birds flying high on the blowing breezes. Some days I have watched thunderstorms develop in the distance. On other days I see rainbows or sunsets of intense beauty. Silence often overtakes me as I sit in awe of God's good gift of creation. Such moments lend themselves to quiet meditation and prayer in which I find refreshment for my soul. I always seem to come away refreshed. I hope you also find such places where your spirit is revived.

We know, however, that busy schedules and life's many responsibilities often prevent us from finding the time to seek out such opportunities for renewal. Perhaps it is at those moments that we especially need to slow down and make time to get in touch with and taste those deep waters which refresh us.

Summer hopefully provides us with such moments. Life's pace slows down for many. Vacations can give us a chance to "get-away" from daily routines and responsibilities. Visits to or from relatives and friends can renew relationships which are special to us. Hopefully summer gives us opportunities to play. And to rest. And to hopefully reconnect with God.

I pray that each of you might find days of rest and renewal this summer. I hope you can find time to sit and watch the Missouri River go by or to travel to that special place where you find inspiration. And please don't forget the rest and renewal which Sunday worship can provide us. All these things together can strengthen our lives of faith and our work as Christ's people.

Restfully yours,  
Pastor Kurt

P.S. As I wrote these thoughts on a slow Monday afternoon, seven people stopped outside my window and enjoyed the view from St. Paul Hill.

## THE STORY OF DAVID

King David is one of the towering figures in the scriptures of our faith. Beginning life as a tender of sheep, David will one day ascend the throne of Israel as king. His story is found in First and Second Samuel in the Hebrew scriptures. During worship this summer, St. Paul UCC will be remembering this story. Each Sunday's sermon will focus on some aspect of David's life. Here are the scripture passages for July and August.

July 11 II Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 David becomes king of a united Israel

June 18 II Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 David dances before the Ark of the Covenant

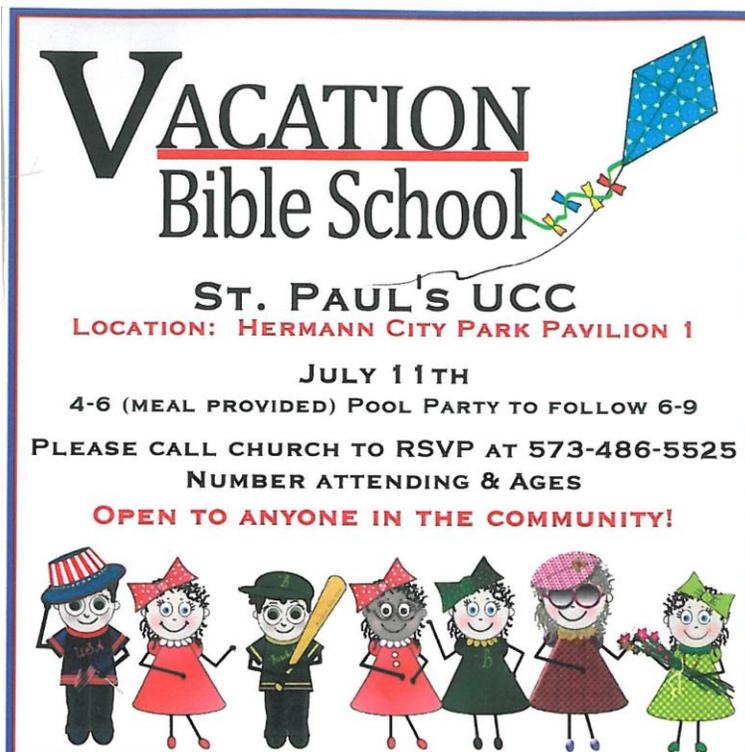
August 1 II Samuel 7:1-14a God's covenant with David

August 8 II Samuel 11 and 12: selected verses David and Bathsheba

August 15 II Samuel 18: selected verses The story of Absalom

August 22 I Kings 2:1-4, 10-12 The death of David

The first three Sundays above, we will see King David at the height of his glory. The last three Sundays tell stories of scandal and heartbreak in the life of David.



## CHURCH PICNIC – JULY 4

St. Paul UCC will be serving meals at the Riverfront on July 4 from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The menu is fried chicken, pork patties, bratwurst, potato salad and slaw. If you are available to help that afternoon, please let Dale Maune know. 636-432-6296

## CONFIRMATION CLASS 2021-2022

Anyone interested in signing up for Confirmation Class this coming year should notify the church office.

## NEW MEMBERS IN AUGUST

St. Paul UCC will be taking in new members in August. If you are interested in joining our congregation or know someone who might be interested, please let Pastor Kurt know.

## SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

*Sunday Worship Services will begin at 9:00 a.m. in June, July and August.* This was decided at the annual meeting in March. Sunday School classes are cancelled for the summer.

## **AFTER SCHOOL BEARCATS**

After School Bearcats is a tutoring and mentoring program that targets students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade that can benefit from additional assistance. The program was in its third year when it was suspended due to Covid-19. We want to resume this program in September of 2021. Without a doubt, it was a rewarding experience for all those involved. There was positive feedback from students, parents, grandparents, caregivers and volunteers.

The entire program is dependent upon volunteers. Our past volunteers have come from all walks of life and churches within our area. The number of children we can serve will be dependent upon the number of volunteers. If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering to tutor, mentor, assist with crafts, art or music, prepare lunches, please call the church office (573-486-5525) or contact Sharen Speckhals.

Sharen: 573-486-2474 (Home)

Sharen: 573-220-0965 (Text)

Sharenspeckhals2011@hotmail.com

## **MISSION CUP**

### **The mission cup for July will benefit the Special Mission Offering of the Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC**

We are gathering conference-wide to help relieve medical debt, identified as the #1 cause of personal bankruptcy in the U.S. We are focusing on poverty in Springdale, AR, Memphis, and the area around Shannondale, where our outdoor ministry site is located.

To date, \$11,208 has been donated for this purpose. The minimum amount required for purchase of medical debt is \$15,000, leaving us a goal of \$3,792. We can turn \$15,000 in cash into up to \$1.5 million in medical debt relief. So, on average, whatever you donate has 100x the impact. People will receive a letter that their debt is gone. No Taxes. No penalties. Just like that, they are free of medical debt.

## **STUDENT LOANS**

Student loan applications were mailed to 2021 Hermann High graduates and to eligible college students (members of St. Paul UCC).

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 did not receive one, please call the church office as soon as possible and we will send one.**

## **MEMORIAL BOOKLETS**

Memorial booklets listing all deceased veterans from this area who are buried in local cemeteries have been updated and are available on the tables in the sanctuary. If there are any corrections or additions to this listing, or if anyone wants a copy of this booklet, please call the church office.

**LIT n' LATTE BOOK CLUB**

The book club will be reading and discussing *The Language of Flowers*, written by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. A book kit has been ordered at the library and Nancy will send an email when the books have arrived. We will meet on **Wednesday**, July 14th at Miss Clara's. Call or email Miss Clara's to make reservations if you wish to have the meal.

Our meeting in August will again be on the second Wednesday.

Nancy Kirchhofer, 486-2943

**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.

**WORSHIP  
ATTENDANCE**

6/6	54
6/13	47
6/20	58
6/27	53

**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 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offering of each month is designated for Samaritan Outreach.

**BENEVOLENCES INCOME**

As of June 20, the following organizations have received directed benevolences:

One Great Hour of Sharing	877.01
CWS Blankets	325.00
Emmaus Homes	136.00
Back Pack Program	265.00
Riverbluff Industries	440.00
Camp MoVal	146.00
Samaritan Outreach	847.00
Hermann Food Pantry	615.00
VBS Activities	267.00
Conference	85.00
Birthright	86.00
Mission Cup-Medical Staff	<u>145.01</u>
Total	\$4234.02

**GIFTS**

***Bequests Fund***

For repair/replacement of garbage disposal in kitchen.

Brad & Chery Fricke

**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 July are bar soap, cleaning products, and hygiene products. Monetary gifts are always welcome.

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

The church office will be open on Mondays - Fridays, 9 am to noon and other hours as arranged by appointment.

## **NEW HYMNALS:**

If you would like to donate to help cover the costs of the new Chalice hymnals, any donations would be appreciated. Also, you may dedicate a hymnal in honor or memory of a loved one(s). Please let the office know how many you would like and a small inscription will be placed inside the front cover. The cost of the new hymnal is \$25.00.

In honor or memory of:

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**Presented by:**

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## **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 Sharlene Haid.

## **HOME BOUND**

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

## **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, Marty Crowe, Wayne Grannemann, Moe Peters and Kelly Hanger, staff and residents of area nursing homes and assisted living, and anyone who has been affected in anyway by Covid-19.

## 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](http://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.

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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

8-Jason & Summer Witthaus  
11-Jordan & Lauren Dickerson  
14-Gene & Nancy Johnston  
18-Brian & Amy Grannemann  
20-Brad & Chery Fricke  
22-Ernst & Keeley Uthlaut  
23-Mark & Marilyn Koenig  
27-Bart & Kris Toedtman

Congratulations to all.

## BIRTHDAYS

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

1-Andy Anderson	13-Wesley Heying
2-Makena Mayberry	14-Leon LaBoube
3-Brad Fricke, Donald Groppe, John Bartel	17- Barbara Groppe
4-Lynn Roetemeyer	18-LaVerne Wagner, Margaret Stiegman, Tiera Walkenbach
5-Gladys Schulte, Elizabeth Klemme	19-Don Althaus, Susan Nichols
6-Dylan Pfautsch, Kristopher Kunz	20-Doug Graue, Lisa Schulte
7-Carroll LaBoube	26-Wilmer Erfling
8-John Bohl	28-Michael Mueller
9-Kim Crowe, Kate Schannuth, Todd Anderson, Colten Elsenraat	29-Nancy Wright

10-Shelly Abbott

30-Glenn Brethorst, Richard Schaumberg,  
Michael Struttman

11-Wayne Grannemann, Mary Leeper,  
Susan Elder

31-Keith Ruediger, Shawn Mayberry

12-LaDonna Ottinger, Corrine Tilly,  
Manda Rucker; Collin Marinaccio

### **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, 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](http://boxtops4education.com).

*Campbells is no longer accepting labels for education. Box Tops and Best Choice continue to benefit schools and are collected in a box on the table outside the church office .*

### **CASA RAFFLE**

Raffle tickets to benefit CASA are on sale now, with early bird drawings on July 1! Cash prize drawings of \$2019 and \$1900 will be on August 8. Help youth in foster care right here in Hermann by contacting Ellen Scheible for tickets. 573-486-3242

### **SYMPATHY**

Our sympathy to Barb Groppe on the recent passing of her mother, Olinda Wilmsmeyer.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to Darren Schutt for various maintenance and custodial work and for sanitizing the building and for mowing the lawn.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the recent Women's Fellowship rummage sale.

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 Sharen Speckhals for being a liturgist.

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, the Riverside Singers, and Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss.

Thanks to Dale Maune for working on the garbage disposal in the kitchen.

### **THANK YOU LETTERS**

St. Paul UCC,

Thank you very much for your donation of \$250.00 towards the backpack program. I greatly appreciate your continual support of our efforts locally. Hermann is a great community to live and work because of people like you.

Thank you. Dawn Grosse.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

### St. Paul United Church of Christ Council Minutes – May 10, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Members present: Pastor Blaufuss, Carol Paubel (via Zoom), Chris Heldt, Dale Maune, Ed Knehans, Ernst Uthlaut, Krystal Witthaus (via Zoom), Shawn Mayberry, 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. Steve Lenger discussed the stain on the ceiling of the sanctuary. Council decided they would like a roofer to look at it. Shawn Mayberry would like to remove shrubs from the front of the parsonage. Dale Maune made a motion to allow Shawn to remove the shrubs and Ed Knehans seconded the motion. The motion carried.
3. The May Agenda was approved.
4. Minutes of the April 13, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Dale Maune made a motion to approve the minutes and Ed Knehans seconded the motion and the motion carried.
5. The April financial reports were reviewed. Carol Paubel made a motion to approve the reports and Krystal Witthaus seconded the motion and the motion carried.
6. The payment of bills was reviewed and approved.
7. Pastor Blaufuss shared his report with the council. He gave an update on the Transition Team. He will be giving the Invocation at the Baccalaureate Service on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Pastor's ordained ministerial standing is now official and held with the Eastern Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference. He will be attending workshops to keep his standing up to date. He requested vacation on June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was also discussion of the sanctuary carpet. Council suggested to get bids on replacing the carpet. Pastor Blaufuss shared the other activities that he was involved in this past month.
8. Old Business
  - A. Follow up on various committees – Most if not all chairpersons were contacted.
  - B. Money transfer – the money has been transferred.
  - C. Conference Grant – This is still in progress, but the lapel mikes are in
  - D. Sunday School teacher retirement–The chicken dinner is set for May 16, 2021.
9. New Business
  - A. Mission Cup for June – Birthright
  - B. Ushers for June – Dale Maune; July – Chris Heldt; August – Steve Lenger
  - C. Pastor's Contract – Dale Maune made a motion to extend the contract for 3 months. Shawn Mayberry seconded the motion and the motion carried. This will be reviewed again in August.
  - D. Bridal shower – Council agreed that this was ok.
  - E. Masks – Krystal Witthaus made a motion to allow for masks to now be optional. Dale Maune seconded the motion and the motion carried. Council would still expect for social distancing to be maintained. It seems that having the hymnals back has been well received.
10. Council reviewed upcoming events.
11. There being no further business, Dale Maune motioned to adjourn the meeting with Ed Knehans seconding the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned approximately 8:40 p.m.
12. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Krystal Witthaus, Secretary

## July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 9:00 Worship Services w/communion 10:00-5:00 St. Paul UCC meal at Riverfront 1:00 Services at Frene Valley 2:00 Services at Victorian Place	<b>5</b> 5:00 & 6:00 Scouts	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:00 Worship Services 10:00 Pastor/Parish Comm. 10:00 Shower in basement VBS 4:00 at Park followed by Pool Party at 7:00	<b>12</b> 5:30 Church Council	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00 Book Club at Miss Clara's	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00 Worship Services	<b>19</b> 5:00 & 6:00 Scouts	<b>20</b> 9:00 Quilters 5:00 Scouts	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 Worship Services 10:00 Student Loan Committee Meeting	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>