

St. Paul UCC Council Meeting
March 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Matt Ranly in attendance were Pastor Ken, Mike Holdren, June Oaks, John Mohrman, Tim Nevels, Tom Brandewie, Marlene Ahlers, Janet Eilerman, Terri Nevels, Lindsay Quellhorst, Gavin Quellhorst, and Mimi Messick.

Opening Scripture and Prayer was given by Pastor Ken.

Announcements:

Monica Wiess thank you.

New Business:

1. NWOA Annual Meeting: April 27
 - we can send 4 people to represent St. Paul
2. Garden Project Leader: looking to fill this
3. Confirmand pictures taken by Jeff Paul
 - 5x7 for each confirmand will be paid for by the church
 - 8x10 for church display will also be paid for by church
4. New Pastor Search:
 - Pastor David Voll and his wife Janise
 - Came and visited the church and parsonage on March 1, 2024 Search committee and Council were able to meet them at that time as well.
 - We will offer him the position as an Intentional Interim with a 7 month contract with 6 month extensions
 - Motion granted

Old Business:

1. Trustees Update:
 - keypads installed, locks will be changes; look for a message regarding lock change & PIN pad activation
 - Project of the Year: Parsonage Phase 2 kitchen flooring, front room lighting, laundry room door, and other incidentals
2. Music Director position is still open
3. Leaded window panels in parsonage update: a shelf will be built to display these

Secretary's Report: Secretary's Report was reviewed and approved by Lindsay Quellhorst, and seconded by Tom Brandewie, minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was reviewed with a motion to accept by Tom Brandewie, and Lindsay Quellhorst seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Team Reports

Discipleship: no report

Finance: no report

Budget: no report

Stewardship: Janet Eilerman spoke to the confirmands and explained offering

Deacon's Report:

The months of February and March have been busy for the ushers at St. Paul UCC. In February, there were four Sunday services, with one of those being the annual Congregational Meeting, and the Ash Wednesday service which all required three ushers for each service. For the Congregational Meeting, the ushers passed out the ballots, collected the ballots and counted the ballots. There have been two Saturday evening services, one each in February and March. The senior deacon has taken the

responsibility of serving and operating the monitors for the Saturday services, until more ushers are trained. In March, there are five Sundays with each service requiring three ushers. Easter is March 31, with two services, 7 AM and 10:15 AM, plus Maundy Thursday on Thursday, March 28, and Good Friday, on Friday, March 29. Each service will require three ushers. An usher schedule has been made out for the entire year, with each of the extra holiday services having a volunteer sign up sheet, all located on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

For the season of Lent, we have stopped offering coffee and treats, and only supply water for our parishioners. We will resume with coffee and treats on April 7, 2024, because there is a breakfast offered between the Easter Services, located in the assembly room.

We are always looking for more ushers to help out with our church services. We are still looking for a Junior Deacon, so if you feel that you are this person, please contact June Oaks, Matt Ranley or the church office. Thank you, report submitted by June Oaks, Senior Deacon.

Elder's Report: offered two types of bread at March communion

Blessing Pantry: 31 visits, 101 individuals

Trustees Report: Lindsay Quellhorst

1. We met with Lock Keyers out of St. Marys and went over all the doors that will get new locks. He will start as soon as we let him know we are ready. Waiting for the other electronic door system to be installed.

a. Someone brought up a good point....if our goal is to not have many keys out there and most will get a pin # to enter, whoever unlocks the church doors on Sunday will need a key.

Suggestions on where to keep the key or do we give that person a key?

2. All pins have been entered into the system that I have. I am sure I am missing some groups that use the church. Please let me know if you can think of anyone. To enter your pin to get into the building you will need to type it in this way:

a. *pin, *pin, then # example: *1234*1234#

3. Several of us met at the parsonage to discuss updates. We came up with a list of things we thought were most important (floors, lighting, laundry door).

4. Someone mentioned that there is not a railing on the east side of the church. We may need to add one to be more accessible.

Lindsay Quellhorst, Tim Nevels, Tom Brandewie-trustees

Worship: June Oaks

Attendees: Rev. Ken Locke, Diane Bushman, Bev Plattner, John Mohrman, Gary Wehmeyer, Abby Bushman, June Oaks, Matt Ranly, Mike Holdren, Myra Hanenkratt, Jeff Paul. Patty Ruckman, Lisa Weigandt

Constructive review of the Ash Wednesday Service. Generally, it went well. Certainly, the novelty was appreciated. Some feedback was, the act of actually burning our sins was helpful. Next time we need to possibly spread out the chairs more, have something non-flammable into which to put our flaming paper, turn off the lights After service has started, have a few fire-extinguishers ready, investigate ways to make the light dimmer but still light enough to read the bulletin.

PALM SUNDAY

On Palm Sunday, the ushers will ensure palms are handed out. Confirmands, teachers and mentors will all process in during the opening hymn and be seated near the front. Sanctuary Custodian will ensure the kneeler is in place. I will speak to Shelly about it.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday will have 3 washing stations and 3 communion stations. Dianne Gilberg will be the champion in arranging this service. Diane will communicate with the communion preparers (elders) that we will need 3 stations, 6 people total? The Iona prayer used is from the ECC Worship Sunday March 15, 2015- Lent 4 Iona Community

liturgy of prayers ... web search ecc-bachum.de .

GOOD FRIDAY

Lisa Weigandt and Jeff Paul will ask the confirmands to be the readers/candle snuffers/stuff removers on Good Friday. If some of the confirmands will not be there, they will find alternates.

Items will be removed from the chancel in the following order: Metal cross, Bible and Bible stand, 2 candle sticks, lectern parament, pulpit parament, communion table parament. Someone will need to make sure that the plastic covering and extra crosses are removed from the table before the service starts.

EASTER SUNDAY

On Easter Sunday – Lisa Weigandt will be responsible for wrangling those bringing the items back into the sanctuary during the opening hymn. Items for the chancel will be taken into the sanctuary in the reverse order of Good Friday.

Reverse Order: Communion table parament, pulpit parament, lectern parament, 2 candle sticks, Bible and Bible stand, Metal Cross.

Things to think about: someone will need to help put the plastic back on the communion table. Perhaps the liturgist can be standing by. Flame needs to be available since the candles may well blow out. Be sure the people placing paraments on the lectern and pulpit know how they are to be attached. Someone will need to be ready to bring up the lights

Jeff Paul will do the same thing for the 10:15 service.

Easter Sunday Brunch will run from 8:15 - 9:45. Free-will offering.

Profits go to the Blessing Pantry.

Next Worship Team Meeting: April 21, 2024, 11:30AM

Devotions and Prayer: June Oaks

Mission:

The St. Paul UCC mission team met on March 3, 2024. Those in attendance were John Gilberg, Rev. Ken Locke and June Oaks. A devotion was read by June Oaks. The team discussed the topics for the next several months of mission projects. One Great Hour of Sharing is in March. There will be a Pentecost paper drive in April to collect paper products and office supplies that our church uses for day to day operations, throughout our facility. Some suggestions for donations are, but not limited to these: Reams of paper for the computer, stamps, envelopes, craft supplies for the Sunday School and Serendipity Preschool, such as: construction paper, coloring books, crayons, markers, glue sticks, scissors, pencils, pens, colored pencils, pipe cleaners, google eyes, feathers, felt, craft sticks (popsicle sticks,) cotton balls, etc. Paper goods that could be used throughout our building and in The Blessing Pantry, such as: paper towels, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, boxes of facial tissues, hand/face wipes, Clorox wipes, cleaning supplies, etc. The list goes on and on! Monetary donations are ALWAYS welcomed! As these products are donated, we will be stacking them in front of the altar in the sanctuary! Then on Pentecost, which is May 19, the donations will be blessed.

The mission project for May is Crossroads in Fort Wayne, and for the month of June is New Bremen Backpacks, which will only be monetary donations. Thank you for supporting our St. Paul UCC missions.

The meeting ended with The Lord's Prayer. The next Mission Team meeting will be held on June 9, 2024, at 11:30 in the assembly room. If you would like to come to the meeting to see what the Mission Team is all about, please join us, all are welcome!

Mission Team minutes submitted by June Oaks.

Staff Reports:

Maintenance Report: John Mohrmon

Working with the maintenance trainee and the trustees.

Performed weekly and monthly preventive maintenance checks.

Council has approved a programmable locking system for the east educational building entrance the same as we have on the west entrance. The west door is completely ready to use. We have run some wires for the east door and NuWave Technologies should be installing it soon. Lindsay Quelhorst is working on getting pin numbers assigned to all who need access and other details. After completion of the east door locking system, we will activate the new system. Installed a transition strip between the hard floor and the hallway carpeting in the east entrance of the educational building. Carpet fraying. Replaced fixture in parsonage for the overhead light in the west bay. Installed fold up coat hangers on the wall opposite the preschool room. Cleaned the drain for kitchen island sinks. Repaired portable basketball hoop. Other small things taken care of as needed.

Ministry Assistant's Report: Abby Bushman

Youth Ministry Assistant Council Report March 12, 2024

Do you know what a beautiful sight is right before your eyes? Our St. Paul Youth Group members gathered together for Ash Wednesday service filling the auditorium with family and friends. Next up, we are excited to go bowling with the congregation Sunday, March 17 th from 11:30 am -1:30 pm at Speedway Lanes in New Bremen! Be sure to save the dates listed below for your family to join us again in the future! Soon we will be sending out Easter postcards to our homebound and nursing home folks to bring them joy with inspiring Easter messages of hope, happiness and warm springtime wishes! As we look ahead, would you be willing to pray for our youth ministry throughout the year? Or willing to be a sub for when a teacher is unable to make it to Sunday School /youth group? If you would be interested in getting more involved with the Youth of St. Paul Church, please reach out to us at 419-629-2502!

These forty days of Lent are a time to slow down, to lean upon the plow and wonder at the world around us with amazing, hope-filled hearts as we reflect on the cross and Christ's path to get there. Our path may be filled with potholes, however as we journey through Lent, don't rush things. Pause. Take your time. Listen for God's whispered, promised Alleluia. It will come very soon!

Sending Peace, Love and Hope to you and your family, Abby

Save the Date for Upcoming Youth Events:

Statement of Faith; Sunday, March 17 th at 10:15 am worship.

Fellowship and Bowling for All Ages Sunday, March 17 th , 11:30 am – 1:30 pm; Speedway Lanes, New Bremen Bowling Alley. All are welcome for Pizza and Bowling!

Last Day of Youth Group, Wednesday, March 20 th , at 6:00 pm

Palm Sunday, Rite of Confirmation; Sunday March 24 th , at 10:15 am

Maundy Thursday Service; Thursday, March 28 th , at 7:00 pm.

Good Friday Service; Friday, March 29 th , at 7:00 pm

Easter Worship; Sunday, March 31 st , at 7:00 am and 10:15 am.

Easter Brunch; Sunday, March 31 st , after sunrise service until 9:45 am- Assembly Room

Sunday School~ Easter Celebration 9 am – 10 am

Senior Recognition; Sunday, April 21 st , at 10:15 am worship

Last Day of Sunday School, Sunday May 5 th , at 9:00 am

Teacher and Youth Leader Recognition; Sunday, May 5 th at 10:15 am worship

Dayton Dragons Baseball Game / Fellowship, Fishing and Swimming / A Day at Putt- Putt Golf, KC

Geiger Miniature Golf Course / A Day at Camp Clay Aqua Park & Splash Pad (details to come)

Auglaize County Fair; July 28 th – August 3 rd

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

Lay Minister Report: Jeff Paul

- I had one prayer request over the month of February
- Called, emailed and texted 9 people on my list for pastoral care
- Two home visitations
- Designed, printed and mailed 15 cards to those on my pastoral care list
- Participated in the Elmwood Assisted Living church service
- Met with Bev Plattner to update and coordinate our pastoral care lists

Pastor Ken's Report:

Sermons 4

Visits 17

Hospital Visits 1

Baptism 1

Adult Sunday School 3

Saturday Night Service 1

Coffee Shop Hours 4

Confirmation Class 2

Lead Women's Bible Study

Ash Wednesday Service

Elmwood Worship Service

Worship Team Meeting

Personnel Team Meeting

Finance Team Meeting

Mission Team Meeting

Men's Group 1

Association Community of Practice Presentation 1

Since we last met, I have experienced God in two distinct ways. First, John and Joyce Gilberg have made it their mission to introduce me to our shut-ins, at-home, nursing home residents. I have enjoyed visiting with the folks to whom they have introduced me and visiting with John & Joyce on our trips there and back again.

Second, I recently attended an ordination at the First United Presbyterian Church of Bellefontaine, where I was the interim pastor 5 years ago. I was touched by how many people spoke to me with affection and grace.

I am looking forward to Holy Week and all that it entails.

I am exceedingly disappointed by the low attendance at my Lenten Adult Sunday School classes.

-Motion to accept made by Marlene Ahlers, seconded by June Oaks, motion approved

Announcements: Next meeting – April 9, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Mimi Messick, Secretary

Matt Ranly, President