

St. Paul UCC Council Meeting
April 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Matt Ranly in attendance were Pastor Ken, Mike Holdren, Jenn Snider, John Mohrman, Tim Nevels, Shelly Zeller, Tom Brandewie, Marlene Ahlers, Janet Eilerman, Brenda Siefring, Abby Bushman, Ryan Link, and Mimi Messick.

Opening Scripture and Prayer was given by Pastor Ken.

Old Business:

1. Trustees Update:
 - keypad update: North and East door quotes presented
 - Council vote taken for installation of said keypads: measure passed with unanimous yes vote
 - Project of the Year: Parsonage Phase 2 is almost complete
2. Technology update: need to update ProPresenter
3. Personnel Team
 - we need to create a Personnel Handbook with job descriptions included

Secretary's Report: Secretary's Report was reviewed and approved by Shelly Zeller, and seconded by Mike Holdren, minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was reviewed with a motion to accept by Mimi Messick, and Tim Nevels seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Team Reports

Discipleship: no report

Finance: no report

Budget: no report

Stewardship: no report

Deacon's Report: no report

Elder's Report: no report

Blessing Pantry: no report

Trustees Report: Lindsay Quellhorst

1. Still finishing up parsonage renovations. Drywall has been repaired and painting is complete. New light covers were installed in the upstairs hallway. Flooring has been ordered and will be installed as soon as they get the materials and labor together. An electrician has been called to get lighting in the living room.
2. Working on gathering community garden volunteers.
3. Sanctuary bathroom renovation quotes will be gathered very soon so we move forward with that.
4. Been working closely with John on things around the church as well.

Lindsay Quellhorst, Tim Nevels, Tom Brandewie-trustees

Worship:

The Worship Team met on April 21, 2024. Members in attendance were: Rev. Ken Locke, Myra Hanenkratt, Arianne Henry, Gary Wehmeyer, Mike Holdren, John Mohrman, Jeff Paul, Bev Plattner, Ann Kuhn, and June Oaks.

June Oaks opened the meeting by reading a devotion and offering a prayer.

Old business, included discussions of the services of Holy Week and Easter services. What worked, what didn't – what should we keep for future years, etc.

An ongoing discussion has been the weekly bulletin for services. It was decided to go back to the smaller, booklet style bulletin starting May 4th and May 5th, 2024. The booklet style bulletin will have the music for the songs and hymns printed in it, in order, in the back of the bulletin.

It was also decided to continue with seating at the round tables for the May 4, 2024, Saturday evening service.

New business included baptisms, with Myra Hanenkraft volunteering to put the Baptism certificates and gift together in a gift bag for the newly baptized. It was also decided that a member of the worship team will find an alternate pastor for leading a service when the current pastor is unable to. Myra Hanenkraft and Mike Holdren will be on a committee to have a contact card printed up, placed in the pews and made available at the doors, in the near future.

Rev. Ken Locke provided the closing prayer for the meeting, where we prayed for friends, baptisms, graduates, and Rev. Locke added a personal thank you for each member of the worship committee.

The next worship committee meeting will take place on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 11:30 AM in the assembly room, with Ann Kuhn providing the opening devotion and prayer for the meeting.

Worship Team Minutes were submitted by June Oaks.

Next Worship Team Meeting: May 19th

Mission: will meet June 1, 2024

Staff Reports:

Maintenance Report: John Mohrmon

Working with the maintenance trainee and the trustees.

Performed weekly and monthly preventive maintenance checks.

Since we have new outside door keys I got with police Chief Skinner and we checked on the Knox box. The Knox box holds important keys for emergency services and is located on the outside wall where the police and fire departments have a key to get into the box in case of emergencies. We put in a new key for it all the outside doors, a fob for the electronic locks in a few other keys. Some keys I know are out dated and need new keys. I am reviewing what other keys should go in there and will get back with Chief Skinner and we will bring everything up to date. Emergency services are the only ones who have a key to this box.

Installed new lights in the upstairs hallway of the parsonage.

Called NuWave Technologies in because the west door program was not keeping the proper time, and therefor timed openings for the door were not right. They worked on it and it has been staying on time.

We had another false alarm in the fires system. The same sensor went off as the last time we had one and we had NuWave Technologies check it. They clean it and said if it happens again they will likely replaced the sensor.

Replaced leaking pop off valve on boiler number four.

Other small things taken care of as needed.

John Mohrman

Maintenance Technician

Ministry Assistant's Report: Abby Bushman

The spring sports are in full swing, we have concluded our Wednesday night youth group and now we prepare for summer! Thank you to all who helped prepare dinner this year for our youth. We are grateful for your donation! What a blessing it was to celebrate our 2024 graduates! If your graduate has not received their gift, please stop by the church office. We also recognized our dedicated youth and youth leaders during worship May 5th. These individuals are an absolute blessing to have in our church family! We finished the year with an ice cream and cinnamon roll party to continue to roll with Jesus with our Prayer Boxes!

Next up; sweet summertime which always brings up childhood memories of swimming, watching clouds, enjoying popsicles and ice cream, chasing fireflies, bike rides, cookouts with your family. There is so much to do! This summer make a bucket list of great summery ideas you will want to make sure to do before the summer is over! It's meant to be inspirational. Search Summer Bucket Lists online, print it out and tack the list up on your fridge. Then make note of what you've done or what your favorite activity so far! Some of the ideas on a bucket list will become memories your kids cherish all the way through their own adulthood.

1. Have a picnic.
2. Watch a sunset at the beach.
3. Fly a kite.
4. Camp in the backyard.
5. Stargaze.
6. Play tag with friends.
7. Run through sprinklers.
8. Make popsicles.
9. Plant flowers or vegetables.
10. Go berry picking.
11. Make and sell lemonade on your front lawn.
12. Have an underwater tea party in the pool.
13. Paint pet rocks.
14. Ride your bike from sunrise to sunset.
15. Watch fireworks.
16. Go across the lawn on a Slip and Slide for hours.
17. Learn how to skip a rock.
18. Go for a lazy canoeing, kayaking, or tubing adventure.
19. Swing at the park until you are out of breath with giggles.
20. Have a water-balloon fight.
21. Go mini-golfing.
22. Get ice cream.
23. Make sidewalk-chalk masterpieces.
24. Learn how to whistle through a blade of grass.
25. Play in the rain.
26. Catch fireflies in a jar.
27. Collect seashells.
28. Make tie-dye creations.
29. Wash cars by hand.
30. Blow bubbles.
31. Build a sand castle at the beach.
32. Eat watermelon slices that look like smiles.
33. Have a watermelon-seed-spitting contest.
34. Roast marshmallows over a real fire and make s'mores.
35. Play Marco Polo in the pool.
36. Go on a nature walk.
37. Make ice cream in a bag.
38. Make wishes on dandelions.
39. Watch a movie outdoors.
40. Have a picnic together.

Peace and Blessings, Abby

*SAVE THE DATE *

June 9 – Tommy John Concert, New Bremen Crown Pavilion, 6:30 pm

June 16 – Carrie'd Away Concert, Minster Machine Centennial Park, 6:30 pm

June 28-29 – New Knoxville Independence Day Celebration, New Knoxville Park

July 7 – Tom John Concert, Minster Machine Centennial Park, 6:30 pm

July 14 – Walt Schmitmeyer Concert, New Bremen Crown Pavilion, 6:30 pm

July 26-27 – Fireman's Picnic, New Bremen Crown Pavilion

July 28-August 3 – Auglaize County Fair

August 4 – Taylor Swift Long Live Concert, Minster Machine Centennial Park, 6:30 pm

August 11 – AC Swing Concert, New Bremen Crown Pavilion, 6:30 pm

August 16-18 – Bremenfest, New Bremen Crown Pavilion

September 27-28 – New Bremen Pumpkinfest, New Bremen Crown Pavilion

October 4-6 – Minster Oktoberfest, Minster

Lay Minister Report:

I had five prayer requests over the month of April

- Called, emailed and texted 10 people on my list for pastoral care
- Two home visitations
- I designed, printed, and mailed 44 cards. I printed the confirmation group photo. I thought people would like to see our confirmands.
- I did not participate in the Elmwood Assisted Living church service due to my basement flooding concerns at home that day.

Pastor Ken's Report:

Sermons 4

Visits 12

Baptisms 2

Worship Team

Men's Group 2

Coffee Shop hours 4

Elmwood Service

NWOA Annual Meeting

Community of Practice

Since we last met, I experienced God's grace in you allowing me to have a Sunday off to attend my friend's funeral in Nashville. Elizabeth and I recently received a lovely note from his widow, thanking us for being there in person. Thank you for empowering me to make that gift to my friend's family.

I am excited about learning what is next for me and what is next for you.

When I was at the Association Annual meeting recently, I met some people who know your incoming pastor. They say that he is absolutely wonderful and that they are envious of St Paul.

A few items I wish to offer in parting.

Thank you for being so kind and gracious to me. I have enjoyed getting to know you as individuals and as a congregation. You have much to be proud of and you are doing good ministry.

If I were to be your settled pastor, a few things I would seriously consider are:

Education Building: the hallways need a LOT of touch-up paint. They have been used hard and it shows.

There are broken places in the concrete ramp from the office door to the side entrance to the sanctuary. We talked about getting them fixed months ago but so far there has been no action that I can see.

-Motion to accept all Reports made by Brenda Siefring, seconded by Mike Holdren, motion approved

New Business:

1. Bee infestation:
 - called Buckeye Exterminators: temporary fix
 - reputable Bee Keeper will be called
 - motion made to accept the cost of a bee keeper made by Mimi Messick, seconded by Mike Holdren, motion carried
2. Church kitchen use by church members only, no outside use

- Council voted unanimously to accept this motion
- 3. Sanctuary Welcome Table/Shelving unit
 - would like to replace the current round tables with something more aesthetically pleasing
 - Council voted unanimously to accept this motion
- 4. Church Education Building clean up
 - items will be placed on the stage
 - staff and volunteers will work together to do this clean up
- 5. A gas powered string trimmer has been purchased for lawn care.
- 6. Pastor David Voll
 - Welcome Reception for after his first church service on June 9 in the sanctuary
 - Jenn Snider will create a Welcome/Onboarding folder for him
 - parsonage will be deep cleaned prior to his move in date

Announcements: Next meeting – June 11, 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