

St. Paul UCC Council Meeting

November 8th, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Roland Dicke with council members including Myra Hanenkratt, Tom Brandewie, Amy Opperman, Lynda Ranly, Diane Gilberg, John Mohrman, Lindsey Quellhorst, Abby Bushman, Barb Holdren, and Becky Strang.

Secretary's Report: Secretary's Report was reviewed and approved by Diane Gilberg and 2nd by Tom Brandewie, minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report as of August was reviewed with a motion to accept by Amy Opperman and Lindsey Quellhorst seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Team Reports

Discipleship: Meets again in January 2023.

Worship: Will continue Saturday services once a month

Finance: No Report

Budget: Budget was approved

Stewardship: On going

Deacon's Report: No Report

Elder's Report: No Report

Trustees Report: No Report

Staff Reports:

Maintenance Report: Performed weekly and monthly preventive maintenance checks. Checked hearing assist units. Replaced some batteries and adjusted the system control for better performance of the receivers. Performed yearly heating systems checks. Showed Tom Brandewie what needs to be done. Replaced air filters in forced air system in the sanctuary. Roesner Energy came and did fall boilers inspection and startup. Powerhead for the heater valve in the church office needed replaced. Changed clocks back to standard time. The educational building west entrance doors threshold was razing up in the center. Doors would not always close properly on their own. Leveled concrete below the threshold. Other small things taken care of as needed.

Abby's Report: "Be joyful always; pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 Together we choose to focus on this verse because it doesn't say, "give thanks for all circumstances," but "in all circumstances." When we choose to have an attitude of gratitude, keeping our focus on Jesus, the outcome is His joy that fills us no matter what surrounds us!

This time of year is all about appreciating the joy and thankfulness we share in life, as our youth have created cards for our Veterans and will be sending Thanksgiving cards to the homebound folks. We are thankful for a loving group of youth here at St. Paul Church who fill our hearts with joy each week!

On October 12th, 30 Junior High and High School youth and adults enjoyed a fall outing together at VanDemark Farms. Thank you to those adults who helped transport our youth as they were forever grateful for the fellowship and activities provided that evening. There will not be youth programming on Wednesday, November 23rd, December 21st, 28th and January 4th. If you are able to provide a meal for the youth, please contact *Mimi Messick (937-477-6724)* to choose which Wednesday evening best fits your schedule.

On Sunday, October 16th our Sunday School youth lead their first Children's Worship and what a fantastic job reading the scripture, giving the sermon and signing the songs they provided for all to hear! Be sure to catch them in action again for the Christmas Program being presented on Sunday, December 11th, as well as February 19th and April 16th. There will not be Sunday school on November 27th.

This holiday season, we challenge you to take time to think about the little moments in your life that make it all worthwhile. Although there may be times when it is hard for us to remember the joy, keeping a list of gratitude might help lift your spirits. Here is a few of the joys our youth are most thankful for: a home cooked meal, a soft blanket straight from the dryer, sunshine after days of rain, snuggles with a furry friend, an empty sink cleared of dishes, a hug from a friend, laughing so hard you cry and sleeping in on Saturday mornings.

Happy Thanksgiving from our family dinner table to yours! From, the St. Paul Youth

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, November 20th – Family Bowling & Pizza at Speedway Lanes 11:30-1:30 pm Please call the church office to let us know how many bowlers in your family can join us! All ages welcome to join for fellowship and laughter
- Sunday, December 11th – Children's Christmas Worship at 10:15 a.m.
- Wednesday, December 14th - Youth Group Christmas Outing Dinner at Do Good 6:00 pm
- Saturday, December 24th- Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm. – 7:00 pm.
- Sunday, December 25th – Christmas Day Service at 10:15 a.m.

Lay Minister Report:

Attended two classes of the Northwest Ohio Association Lay School of Religion "Caring Ministry" course. This course is held every other Tuesday from 6:30-9:30pm and will go through mid-November. The class is by Zoom.

Participated in the service at Elmwood Assisted Living

Mailed 31 greeting cards –This month I made my own cards and incorporated my photography and photos to make it more interesting and personal along with a personal hand-written note inside
Two home visitations with Rev. Becky One phone call
My plan for November is to follow up with phone calls to those that received a card and to schedule visitations if they desire

Pastor Becky's Report:

Worship

November 13. Stewardship Sunday
November 27. First Sunday of Advent
December 3 & 4. Second Weekend of Advent. Holy Communion. Congregational
Meeting on Sunday at the end of worship.
December 11. Children's Christmas Worship
December 18. Service of Lessons and Carols
December 21. Blue Christmas Service at 7:00 p.m.
December 24. Christmas Eve Open House 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion worship 11:00 p.m.
December 25. Christmas morning worship.
January 7 & 8. Sacrament of Holy Communion. Installation of Council Members

***Worship Team decided to continue to offer Saturday worship services on Communion weekends only.**

Confirmation going very well. We have three students. Jeff Paul, Shelly Smart, and Lisa Weigandt teach on a rotating basis. Lisa Weigandt has a team of folk to organize St. Paul's 190th Anniversary celebrations for 2023. Justine Homan is our Nursery Champion. Nursery is now staffed during worship services. Art Camp Festival 2023 will be Thursday June 8 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Theme: Happy Birthday, St. Paul! Jim and I have contracted covid19 twice in 2022—the second time was exponentially worse. I will be masking in public settings. Vacation 2022 (6 weeks' vacation; 6 weekends per year)
Jan 27-February 1. Six days; one Sunday April 20-25. 6 days; one Sunday
October 14-October 22. 8 days; one Sunday December 27-January 5 (10 days; one Sunday)
Vacation 2023 (6 weeks' vacation; 6 weekends per year)
March 9-14. Six days; one Sunday

I am a facilitator for the Heartland Conference's Excellence in Ministry Program.

Pastoral Care Documentation (September 12-October 10)

Hospital: 5 Notes Written: 13 Continuing Ed: 1 Nursing Home Visits: 16 Office Visits: 13 Home Visits: 5
Phone Calls: 23 Funerals: 2 Baptism: 1 Coffee Shop Attendees: 7 Home Communion: 24 Wedding: 0
Nursing Home Worship: 0 First Communion: 0

Old Business

One Call: Work in progress

Memorial Gift Signage: This was discussed and the group could not find a good way to move forward with this request at this time.

New Business

OCWM Pledge: Motion was made to stay with the same pledge as last year by Myra Hanenkratt and seconded by Lindsey Quellhorst, motion passed.

Lima Pipe Organ Contract: Motion made by Diane Gilberg to accept the year contract and was seconded by Lynda Ranly.

Church Windows Software Update/Support Renewal: Motion was made to accept the year contract by Amy Opperman and seconded by Tom Brandewie, motion passed.

New Bremen Emergency Squad Donation: Motion was made by Lindsey Quellhorst to make our normal donation and Diane Gilberg seconded, motion passed.

Licensures – Bryan Trego & Dr. Jeff Paul: We are looking into getting these two gentleman licensures to allow them to use their gifts and skills fully.

2023 Operating Fund Budget: A motion was made by Lynda Ranly to approve the 2023 proposed budget and was seconded by Amy Opperman, motion passed.

President/Vice President Term-Constitution Change: Motion was made by Lindsey Quellhorst to accept the change in terms to the constitution and was seconded by Lynda Ranly, motion passed.

Pastor Becky's Retirement Letter: Pastor Becky has submitted her retirement letter to the council this evening. With a very heavy heart a motion was made by Tom Brandewie to accept her letter and was seconded by Amy Opperman, motion passed.

Announcements: Next meeting – December 13th @ 7:00 p.m.

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