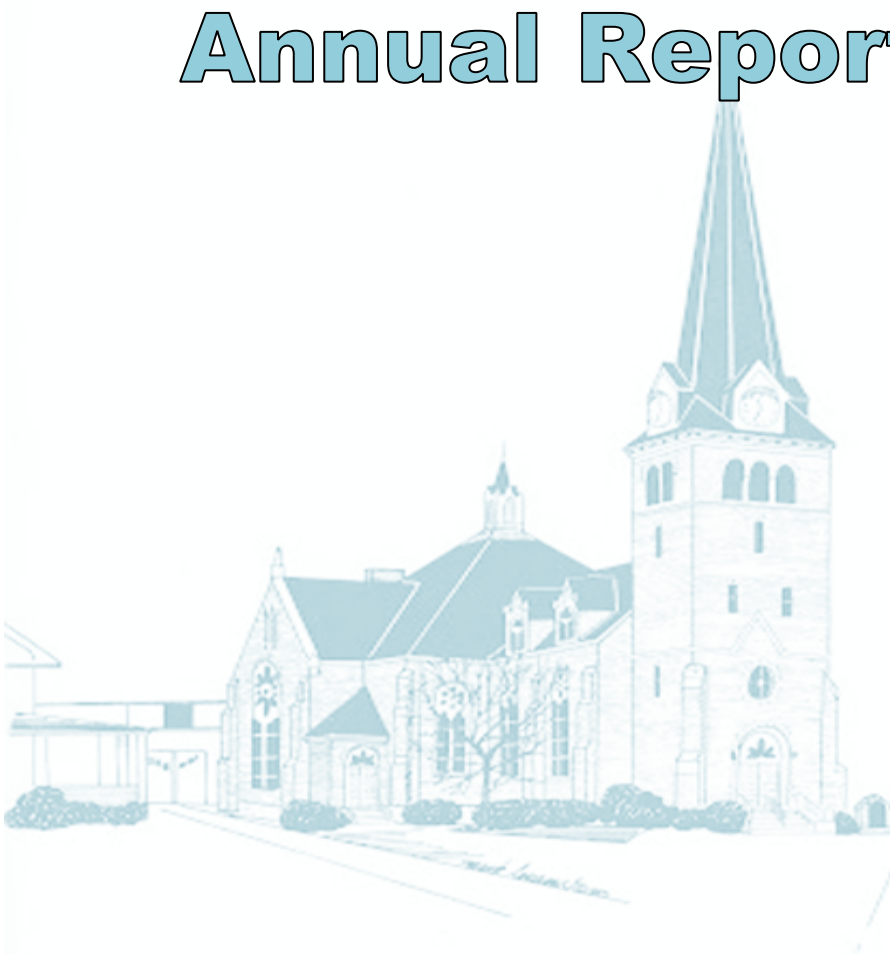


agree to differ
unite to serve
resolve to love

St. Paul Congregational Meeting Annual Report



February 26, 2023

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A Proposed Agenda For

The Meeting of the Congregation
of St. Paul United Church of Christ
New Bremen, Ohio
Sunday, February 26, 2023

1. Call to Order – Myra Hanenkratt, President
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Minutes of Congregational Meetings February 27, 2022 and December 4, 2022
4. Reports of Rev. Becky Erb Strang, Senior Pastor, Dr. Jeffery R Paul, Lay Minister of Visitation, Abby Bushman, Ministry Assistant and Roland Dicke, 2022 President of St. Paul United Church of Christ.
5. Financial Reports
6. Individual reports for consideration or discussion
7. Other Business
 - A.
 - B.
8. Adjournment

St. Paul UCC Congregational Meeting February 27th, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Roland Dicke. The following items were up for discussion during the meeting.

- **Approval of Agenda.** Tom Quellhorst made a motion to approve and Karen Voress seconded the motion.
- **Minutes of Congregational meeting February 28th, 2021, and December 5th 2021:** Myra Hanenkratt made a motion to approve and Lisa Weigandt seconded the motion.
- **Reports of Rev. Becky Erb Strang, Senior Pastor, Anna L Hoelscher, Lay Minister of Visitation, Abby Bushman, Ministry Assistant, and Roland Dicke, 2021 President of St. Paul United Church of Christ, along with Financial Reports:** Deb Klein made a motion to approve the reports and John Mohrman seconded the motion.
- **Individual reports for consideration for discussion :**
- **Other Business:** None

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a motion by Emily Willrath and was seconded by Neal Voress

St. Paul UCC Congregational Meeting December 4th, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Roland Dicke. The following items were up for discussion during the meeting.

- **Opening the meeting:** Motion was made by John Gilberg and seconded by Jim Mullins. Motion was passed
- **2023 Council Member:** Motion was made by Connie Friemering to accept the members and seconded by Cresta Ritter. Motion was passed
- **2023 Explanation of New Constitutional Change:** Constitutional changes under Article V. Administration:
 - 6. Council members and officers shall be ~~elected~~ **approved** at the Congregational Meeting held in December and installed on the first Sunday in January.
 - 7. The terms of the offices shall be three years for the Trustees. ~~and two years for all the others.~~ **Two years for Recording Secretary and Treasurer. Elders and Deacons-one year as junior and one year as senior. Vice President (one year and)**

will assume the duties of President for the second year of their term. Elections shall be held each year in order to fill vacancies.

Constitutional change was passed by paper ballot.

- **2023 Budget (presented by Myra Hanenkratt):** The budget was reviewed. Changes: increase in operating expenses and 3% raise in staff salaries. Motion was made by Carol Wilson to accept and seconded by Lynda Ranly. Budget was passed by paper ballot
- **Destroying of votes by paper ballot:** Motion was made by Lloyd Schroer and seconded by Neal Voress

Other Business: John Gilberg asked the question regarding a Search Committee for new pastor search. Myra Hanenkratt explained that one will be formed.

Pastor Becky thanked Roland Dicke for his service as Congregational President.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a motion by Lynda Ranly and was seconded by Joyce Gilberg

Senior Pastor

Love God & Love Neighbors. St. Paul Church in 2022 sought to do exactly that through our many and varied ministries.

We continue to offer worship both online and in person. In September, we added Saturday worship in the chapel on communion weekends. Between Deacons, ushers, Elders, musicians and liturgists, worship is vibrant and relevant.

Our outreach to others is strong. Dr. Jeff Paul began as our new Lay Minister of Visitation. We welcomed SALT Interns Elyssa Mullins and Eli Schmitmeyer along with Bryan Trego to our summer staff. I bring communion to those who are unable to come to worship. Our Art Camp Festival entertained and fed hundreds of children and adults in our wider community. Our Blessing Pantry has seen a sharp uptick in guests as food prices have soared.

Children and youth ministries continue to thrive. Sunday School's lessons mirror the scriptures we follow in worship. Our youth groups are currently working through a character-based curriculum. Confirmants and their mentors are growing in their love for God through Jesus.

Our staff is currently undergoing some significant changes. Barb Holdren resigned as our Bookkeeper and Office Administrator. We are also seeking to fill positions for Groundskeeper, Sanctuary Custodian, Music Director, Bell Director, Chancel Choir Director, and Technology Director. A huge heart-felt thank you to Mike Holdren, Greg Hainline, and Jim Strang. Deb Klein, Office Assistant, has also recently resigned.

I thank Dennis Hainline for keeping the education building clean and sanitized. Janet Eilerman counts your financial donations, keeping both records and confidences. John Mohrman's expertise has saved St. Paul Church thousands of dollars in maintenance bills. Abby Bushman's passion for children, youth, and pastoral care is changing lives within our congregation. In 2022 we welcomed Arianne Henry to St. Paul as our worship organist.

I, too, am part of staff transitions. After nearly 14 years of serving as your Senior Pastor and after 29 years of ordained ministry, I am retiring at the end of May. My last Sunday in worship with you is May 21. I thank you for your support and prayers throughout these years of ministry. Together, we have flung open our doors and hearts to the community to share God's love.

Thank you!

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Ministry Assistant

It is with great excitement and joy that we can look back and see what God has done in the Youth Ministry at St. Paul Church this past year. Despite the challenges that the pandemic continues to bring, we praise God for His faithfulness and grace, as we saw opportunities for the youth to serve in-person and be together through fellowship. Our youth group and Sunday School youth have enjoyed many Children's Worship, Christmas Program and sermons together as well as small group discussion and prayers.

Along with our youth Preschool to High School leading worship, Rev. Becky has taught our youth special songs in sign language each Sunday morning during Sunday School. Students were very excited about the ministry of learning sign language and connecting it to their favorite hymns during worship. Thank you to Speedway Lanes, Bolly's and New Bremen Coffee Company for generously feeding our youth breakfast on special Sunday morning occasions and Wednesday evenings for Youth Group. We are blessed to have such a supportive community!

During the summer we fed 350+ friends at our Annual Art Camp Street Festival, went swimming with friends, fishing together, bowling on hot days, played sand volleyball, splashed at the splash-pad and took many park adventures. The junior high and high school youth group enjoyed a fall outing at VanDemark Farm in Sidney and a Christmas Dinner together at Do Good Restaurant in Osgood.

Each month we have sent out holiday cards and or postcards to folk in our congregation, nursing home and homebound folk. It is always nice to get a card in the mail signed by the youth of St. Paul Church. This year we reached a goal to send out over 100 Christmas cards too!

As well as preparing lessons, activities and games, I coordinated and lead the Fall Mom to Mom Sale at St. Paul Church, recruited, trained and lead volunteer groups for community meals as well as preparing items from the Blessing Pantry for families in need. There are always many ways to share your gifts and talents with youth programming at St. Paul Church. We would like to say "Thank You!" for volunteering with love and support from all of the Youth! We have had a blessed, healthy and Happy Year!

Abby Bushman-Ministry Assistant

"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

Lay Minister of Visitation

I was hired at the beginning of September 2022 for the Lay Minister of Visitation position. I want to thank Rev. Becky, Roland Dicke and Myra Hanenkratt for hiring me for this position in the church. I look forward to serving the members of St. Paul UCC in this capacity and consider this an important responsibility to care for our members.

Over the past four months that I have held this position I have sent out monthly greeting and Christmas cards, participated in the monthly worship services at Elmwood, called and texted members who needed support during a health concern or surgery and have made home visits with Rev. Becky. From September through November, I also participated in a class offered by the Northwest Ohio Association Heartland Conference Lay School of Religion's "Caring Ministry" course. I also sent out prayer requests to our prayer chain members.

In 2023, I look forward to serving St. Paul UCC members in this capacity. If you desire a visitation or would like to submit a prayer request, you can call or text me at 419-305-0584.

Dr. Jeffrey Paul-Lay Minister of Visitation

President

This is the last item of business I need to do, write my President's Report. It has been a long four years, but a very learning four years. This last year we saw changes like any other year. Things broke and got fixed. New items were bought. Probably the biggest news item was Pastor Becky's retirement. I wish her well. Thanks to all the people that helped throughout the year. I wish Myra the best.

Roland Dicke-Council President

Stewardship

2023-Pledge Information as of 1/1/23

47 Pledge cards returned-\$120,739.00 pledged

2022-Pledge Information as of 12/30/21

52 pledge cards returned-\$109,120.00 pledged

2021-Pledge Information as of 1/9/21

39 pledge cards returned-\$72,920.00 pledged

2020-Pledge Information as of 1/13/2020

74 pledge cards returned-\$127,040.00 pledged

2019-Pledge information as of 1/14/19

68 pledge cards returned-\$130,026.00 pledged

2018-Pledge information as of 1/8/18

68 pledge cards returned-\$133,980.00 pledged

Comparative: Pledge cards returned 2023 to 2022 saw a decrease of 5. 2022 to 2021 saw an increase of 13. 2021 to 2020 saw a decrease of 35. 2020 to 2019 saw an increase of 6. 2019 to 2018 was equal. Pledge amount 2023 to 2022 saw an increase of \$13,419.00. 2022 to 2021 saw an increase of \$36,200.00. 2021 to 2020 saw a decrease of \$54,090. 2020 to 2019 saw a decrease of \$2,986.00. 2019 to 2018 saw a decrease of \$3,954.00.

Janet Eilerman-Financial Secretary

Treasurer/Financial

I have enjoyed getting to know the council members and giving my time to such a worthwhile organization. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve St. Paul's community and God as the Treasurer.

We ended 2022, \$6,669.39 below budget. We did have significant costs increases for the natural gas and electric, as well as the internet for both the church and parsonage. The postage expenses exceeded the budget by \$2621.61. The council collaborated in November to finalize the annual budget for 2023. A detailed analysis was done to compose the most reasonable budget that the council could create based on historical income and expenses. The proposed budget was presented to the congregation for approval. I participated in the Finance Team's meeting with our Edward Jones representative.

The St. Paul's church continues to be blessed by so many caring and generous congregation members. May God continue to bless and guide our decisions.

Lynda Ranly-Council Treasurer

The Contribution/Reimbursement Fund is an in and out account such as Altar Flowers, Easter Lilies, Poinsettias, etc. The Designated/Undesignated Gift Fund is money given to the church as a gift. Financial Reports included: 2023 Approved Budget, 2022-Yearend Operating Expense Fund, Yearend Building Maintenance & Property Care Fund, Yearend All Fund Activity Report,

St. Paul UCC 2023 Operating Expense Fund Approved Budget				
Acct Name	2022 approved	2023 approved	variance	
Sr Pastor Salary	68,257	68,257	-	
Sr Pastor Stipend in lue of Insurance	10,000	10,000	-	The stipend of \$10000 replaces health insurance. Health insurance currently provided by spouse's employer. If St. Paul provides insurance the \$10000 will be forfeited to offset that cost.
Total Salary	78,257	78,257	-	
Sr Pastor Pension-14% of Salary/Housing*(housing 30% of salary)	14,234	14,234	-	
Sr Pastor Disability/Life-1.5% of Salary/Housing*	1,700	1,716	16	
Sr Pastor Cell Phone Stipend	600	600	-	
Sr Pastor Cont Ed	1,000	1,000	-	
Sr Pastor Business Ex	1,000	1,000	-	
Sub Total	96,791	96,807	16	
Visitation Ministry	2,910	4,680	1,770	
Office Administrator	31,946	32,904	958	All positions except Visitation Ministry and Music Dept given 3% raise
Ministry Assistant	15,600	16,068	468	
Administrative Assistant	7,800	8,034	234	
Financial Secretary	5,589	5,757	168	
Technology Director	3,600	3,708	108	
Technology Assistant		1,200	1,200	
Music Dir-\$16/wk changed to \$20 * 52wk	819	1,040	221	
Organist-\$125/srv changed to \$130/srv 62 srv	9,801	8,060	(1,741)	
Chancel Choir Director-\$30/srv&rehear each-90 srv/rehear	2,310	2,700	390	
Bell Choir Dir-\$30/srv&rehear each-24 srv/rehear	1,050	720	(330)	
Choir's Accompanist \$30/rehear-75 rehear		2,250	2,250	
Saturday Accompanist-\$75/srv	1,050	900	(150)	
Ed. Bldg Custodian	14,387	14,819	432	
Sanctuary Custodian	8,351	8,602	251	
Lawn Care	3,321	3,421	100	
Maintenance	9,771	10,064	293	
Staff Substitution	5,400	5,400	-	
SALT Project	2,500	5,000	2,500	2 positions in 2023
Sub Total	126,205	135,326	9,121	

Acct Name	2022 approved	2023 proposed	variance	
Telephone-Church	700	700	-	
Staff Cell Phone Reimburse	1,500	1,500	-	
Staff -Nonclergy Disability/Life Ins-1.5% Slry	479	494	15	
Staff-Nonclergy Retirement	3,150	3,290	140	
Internet	2,200	2,200	-	
Natural Gas-Church	7,500	11,000	3,500	
Natural Gas-Parsonage	1,000	1,500	500	
Electric-Church & Parsonage	8,000	11,000	3,000	
Trash-Dumpster	1,000	1,200	200	
Worship Materials&Supplies	4,000	4,000	-	
Pastoral Care	1,000	1,000	-	
Music	300	300	-	
Delegate Expense	100	100	-	
Membership Dues	550	550	-	
Stewardship Materials-give env/online fees	2,500	2,000	(500)	
Church Growth & Development	3,500	4,000	500	
Postage	6,500	8,000	1,500	
Shipping	400	400	-	
Fuel Surcharge		400	400	
Travel/Mileage	8,000	8,000	-	
Payroll Services	1,300	1,500	200	
Office Supplies	8,000	9,000	1,000	
Technology/Support		2,000	2,000	
Custodial Supplies	2,000	2,200	200	
Office Equip Maint	12,000	12,000	-	
Misc. Expense	800	800	-	
Sunday School/Youth Programming	2,500	2,500	-	
Confirmation	1,200	1,200	-	
Bible Expense	500	500	-	
Camperships	-		-	
Salt Programs	300	300	-	
FICA Taxes(employer)	15,000	18,000	3,000	
Workers Comp	1,000	1,000	-	
Build & Property Ins (\$3676 quarterly)	14,000	14,000	-	
Real Estate Tax	4,000	4,000	-	
Sub-total	114,979	130,634	15,655	
Total w/o endowment income	337,975	362,767		
Transfer-Sr Pastor endow	8,400	10,200	1,800	Monies into Budget
Transfer-Youth Pastor endow	14,400	22,000	7,600	from Interest on Endow
Trans-Visitation Minister endow	2,910	4,680	1,770	not Principal
Sub-total	25,710	36,880	11,170	
Total w/endowment income	312,324	325,887		
\$ higher than previous year w/endow income	-16921	13,563		
\$ higher than previous year w/o endow income	(35,214)	24,792		
%change over previous year w/endow	-5.14%	4.34%		
% change over previous year w/o endow	-10.68%	7.34%		

St. Paul United Church of Christ - New Bremen OH

Treasurer's Report as of December 2022 for Operating Fund

Account Name	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Budget Remaining	Previous YTD
Beginning Balance	\$0.00			\$0.00
<i>Income</i>				
Contributions-General Fund	285353.14			272698.82
Rent - Nursery School	3250.00			3000.00
Rent - Misc. Building	410.00			125.00
Contributions-Sunday School	221.05			470.03
Contributions-Misc	6.00			0.00
Stewardship	550.00			580.00
Postage/Stamps	200.00			0.00
Office Supplies	161.00			210.00
Easter Offering	2456.77			1266.59
Thanksgiving Offering	274.00			660.00
Christmas Envelope	2655.00			1889.66
Kick Off Gift	2895.00			0.00
Advent Gift	3450.00			0.00
Interest check acct	71.49			22.87
Sr Minister Endow Trans	8400.00	8400.00	0.00	7200.00
Visit Ministry Endow Trans	1560.00			2772.00
Youth Ministry Endow Trans	14400.00	14400.00	0.00	15700.00
Payroll Protect Loan	2141.16			5117.35
Total Income	\$328,454.61	\$22,800.00	\$0.00	\$311,712.32
<i>Expense</i>				
Sr Pastor Base Salary	78257.04	78257.00	(0.04)	68796.48
Sr Pastor Insurance	0.00			7574.91
Sr Pastor Pension	14242.79	14243.00	0.21	12343.03
Sr Pastor Disability/Life	1716.04	1750.00	33.96	1394.59
Sr Pastor Cell Phone Stipend	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00
Sr Pastor Continuing Ed	(960.00)	1000.00	1960.00	1871.30
Sr Pastor Business Ex	293.39	1000.00	706.61	305.70
Assoc Pastor Base Salary	0.00			5665.00
Assoc Pastor Housing	0.00			1666.64
Assoc Pastor Pension	0.00			6101.12
Assoc Pastor Insurance	0.00			5054.37
Assoc Pastor Cell Phone Stipend	0.00			100.00
Organist Salary	6580.00	9801.00	3221.00	10004.00
Music Director	852.00	819.00	(33.00)	530.00
Chancel Choir Director	1480.00	2310.00	830.00	275.00
Chancel Choir Accompanist	1030.00	0.00	(1030.00)	975.00
Saturday Accomp /Song Lead	200.00	1050.00	850.00	0.00
Visitation Ministry Salary	1560.00			2772.00
Bell Choir Director Salary	300.00	1050.00	750.00	150.00
Technology Director	3600.00	3600.00	0.00	3125.00
Technology Assistant	1100.00			0.00

Office Administrator	31945.92	31946.00	0.08	30425.04
Ministry Assistant	15600.00	15600.00	0.00	10335.00
Administrative Assistant	7475.00	7800.00	325.00	1750.00
Financial Secretary Salary	5589.00	5589.00	0.00	5322.96
Ed. Bldg Custodian Salary	14387.04	14387.00	(0.04)	13271.16
Sanctuary Custodian Salary	8351.04	8351.00	(0.04)	7953.12
Lawn Care Salary	3320.94	3321.00	0.06	0.00
Maintenace Salary	9771.12	9771.00	(0.12)	0.00
Staff Substitution	4035.00	5400.00	1365.00	2803.75
SALT Salary	2500.00	2500.00	0.00	2500.00
Telephone-Church	648.63	700.00	51.37	642.44
Staff Cell Phone Reimburse	1500.00	1500.00	0.00	1050.00
Staff-Nonclergy Disability/Life	477.38	479.00	1.62	456.48
Staff-Nonclergy Retirement	3150.00	3150.00	0.00	3000.00
Natural Gas-Church	10212.15	7500.00	(2712.15)	8290.53
Internet Service	2159.40	2200.00	40.60	1849.40
Natural Gas-Parsonage	1454.36	1000.00	(454.36)	993.93
Electric Church/Parsonage	10001.58	8000.00	(2001.58)	8409.88
Trash-dumpster	1032.91	1000.00	(32.91)	946.91
Worship Materials & Supply	4340.15	4000.00	(340.15)	3866.42
Pastoral Care	778.93	1000.00	221.07	1035.55
Music	160.25	300.00	139.75	0.00
Delegate's Expense	15.00	100.00	85.00	0.00
Membership Dues	400.00	550.00	150.00	550.00
Stewardship Materials Exp.	2234.33	2500.00	265.67	2272.49
Church Growth & Develop	3671.71	3500.00	(171.71)	3691.20
Postage	9121.61	6500.00	(2621.61)	6730.58
Shipping	275.99	400.00	124.01	361.45
Fuel Surcharge	212.06			0.00
Mileage/Travel	4351.10	8000.00	3648.90	4201.33
Payroll Preparation	1648.00	1300.00	(348.00)	1419.48
Office Supplies	9016.92	8000.00	(1016.92)	7699.11
Custodial Supplies	1841.80	2000.00	158.20	1579.26
Covid-19 Expenses	149.90			100.39
Office Equipment Maint	11491.25	12000.00	508.75	10653.63
Miscellaneous Expenses	594.95	800.00	205.05	858.95
Building & Property Insurance	11402.00	14000.00	2598.00	16612.00
Sunday School/Youth Program	2193.16	2500.00	306.84	2026.17
Bible Expense	315.72	500.00	184.28	386.34
SALT Programs	135.75	300.00	164.25	136.93
Real Estate Taxes	3361.94	4000.00	638.06	3457.56
FICA Taxes (Employer)	15281.20	15000.00	(281.20)	13124.45
Worker's Compensation	556.00	1000.00	444.00	631.00
Confirmation Expenses	442.16	1200.00	757.84	1013.29
Total Expense	\$328,454.61	\$335,124.00	\$9,691.35	\$311,712.32
Difference	\$0.00			\$0.00

St. Paul United Church of Christ - New Bremen OH
Treasurer's Report as of December 2022 for BMPCF

Account Name	YTD Balance	Previous YTD
Beginning Balance	\$36,648.59	\$73,644.37
Income		
Contributions-BMPCF	51858.00	49408.50
Maintenace income/change value	(4664.85)	5289.96
Total Income	\$47,193.15	\$54,698.46
Expense		
Lawn Care Salary (moved to operating fund)	0.00	3162.95
Maintenace Salary (moved to operating fund)	0.00	9306.00
New Lawn Equipment	3499.00	0.00
Lawn Equipment Maintenance	249.06	409.84
Parsonage Expenses	3646.95	0.00
Building/Property Expenses	10620.81	66761.70
BPCF/ Building Maintenance	7536.92	12968.66
Piano Expenses	730.00	900.00
Property Maintenance	540.22	634.84
Elevator Maintenace	98.25	98.25
Total Expense	\$26,921.21	\$81,773.29
Difference	\$56,920.53	\$46,569.54

St. Paul United Church of Christ - New Bremen OH
Consolidated Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2022

Friday, January 27, 2023

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Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
Art Camp Fund	425.00	3,750.00	3,158.07	0.00	1,016.93
Blessing Pantry Fund	0.00	20,639.00	14,428.89	29,161.12	35,371.23
Building Maintenance & Property Care Fund	36,648.59	47,193.15	26,921.21	0.00	56,920.53
Contribution/Reimbursement Misc.	0.00	5,738.75	5,613.91	0.00	124.84
Discipleship	4,223.33	3,741.00	2,015.60	0.00	5,948.73
El Salvador	600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	0.00
Funeral Lunch	1,962.82	100.00	298.76	0.00	1,764.06
Holiday's Decoration Fund Balance	2,694.00	395.00	0.00	0.00	3,089.00
Local Aid Fund	41,379.94	24,746.70	26,968.03	(29,161.12)	9,997.49
Ministry Education Fund	31,663.33	(2,818.15)	100.00	2,543.83	31,289.01
Missions Fund	79.00	16,705.50	16,784.50	0.00	0.00
OCWM	259.00	23,559.00	23,818.00	0.00	0.00
Operating Expense Fund	0.00	326,313.45	328,454.61	2,141.16	0.00
Orchard	2,793.99	0.00	75.00	0.00	2,718.99
Organ Maintenance	0.00	2,445.00	2,125.00	0.00	320.00
Playground Fund	972.95	633.16	640.00	0.00	966.11
Project of the Year Fund	0.00	15,673.00	15,673.00	0.00	0.00
Property Self Insurance Fund	5,877.32	1,897.49	0.00	0.00	7,774.81
Senior Minister Endowment Fund	204,276.84	(13,439.09)	8,400.00	0.00	182,437.75
St. Paul Memorial Fund	37,895.27	7,772.10	766.53	(720.00)	44,180.84
Stained Glass Windows	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
Undesignated/Designated Gifts Fund	78,539.48	42,327.93	48,323.50	(3,964.99)	68,578.92
Visitation Ministry-Kuck Endow	188,672.93	(7,501.82)	1,560.00	0.00	179,611.11
Women's Service Group	222.73	583.00	220.59	0.00	585.14
Youth Activity Balance	3,327.90	1,197.00	1,816.59	0.00	2,708.31
Youth Ministry Fund	777,824.69	(95,999.98)	14,400.00	0.00	667,424.71
Total	\$1,420,359.11	\$425,651.19	\$543,161.79	\$0.00	\$1,302,848.51

Trustee & Maintenance

The trustees and maintenance technician have done numerous things to help maintain the physical aspect of the church property. Professionals did some larger items. The most noteworthy are mentioned below.

On December 31 we lost gas pressure that lead to the replacement of underground gas lines which were replaced in January. The natural gas supply to the sanctuary went bad. Everything from the street to the sanctuary needed replacing. The regulator to the kitchen gas supply in the educational building also needed replacing.

Lima Organ tracked down the source of a bad odor coming from the organ council for a while. They cut a hole in the floor below the organ bench and above the basement ceiling. They found a decomposing possum. Odor is now gone.

Torrence Sound Equipment Company installed a new state of the art sound system and new speakers in the sanctuary.

New LED lights and ceiling fans in the chapel and assembly room installed by New Knoxville Supply in memory of Mildred Browder by Sue and Jerry Maxson.

Large cracking of brickwork on north side of sanctuary repaired.

For more details, see monthly council maintenance reports.

John Mohrman- Building Maintenance Technician

Kirk Dicke-Head Trustee

Technology

There have been several technology initiatives at church over the past several years:

- We continue to fine tune our sound and video streaming equipment in the sanctuary and chapel. We regularly see all sorts of folks joining our Sunday services remotely, broadening the reach of our extravagant welcome.
- We hope you find the TV monitors sanctuary beneficial. They are there to display text from our worship order as well as to share photo and video content to supplement the message. Please provide us feedback on size of text, colors, fonts, content, etc.
- We have upgraded the sound system in the sanctuary. You should experience a cleaner, crisper, and more enjoyable listening experience.
- The video conference system in one of our classrooms continues to be used to host such things as bible studies with both on-site and remote attendees. This is another way we can reach more people.
- Our church computer network continues to grow. It now supports close to 30 devices in both the education building and the sanctuary. Some re-cabling work is planned for this spring.
- Continue to watch for announcements on the Herman Street digital sign.

We are always looking for tech savvy folks to help us. If you are interested in doing so, there's plenty of opportunity. Please contact the church office if you're interested in being part of the tech team.

I've been your technical coordinator for most of the time Becky and I been with you. I've enjoyed sharing my talents with the church. Thank you.

– Jim Strang.

Senior Deacon

The new deacon/usher procedures from 2021 remained in place for 2022. Bulletins, offering plates and communion materials continued to be placed on the center and side tables in the sanctuary. Tracy Oldiges and June Oaks served as Senior and Junior Deacon, respectively. The Senior Deacon coordinated the scheduling of ushers for the entire year. The Senior and Junior Deacons were members of Church Council and the Worship committee. A large volunteer pool of twenty-four (24) deacons/ushers fill the required three (3) spots for each Sunday Service. Saturday services started back up in September, taking place on the first Saturday of the month.

Thank you to everyone that volunteered their time to be an usher this past year. We are always looking for additional volunteers so if you are interested in being on the list, please contact the church office. Thank you to Brice Schmitmeyer for a smooth transition into my role as Senior Deacon. June Oaks will be the Senior Deacon for 2023. Elyssa Mullins will be the Junior Deacon for 2023.

Tracy Oldiges-Senior Deacon

Senior Elder Report

It was a pleasure to serve St. Paul United Church of Christ as the Junior and Senior Elder over the past two years. It was also rewarding to help with baptisms and communion services. The communion for 2022 was distributed with disposable cups. Home communion was also delivered by the elders and many other volunteers. In September, 2022 the Saturday services resumed once a month, the first Saturday of each month with communion. The Elders attended monthly church council meetings. In addition, also met quarterly with the Worship Team to help with the worship service schedules throughout the year. In January, 2022, Bryan Trego became our Junior Elder and is currently our Senior Elder in 2023.

-Diane Gilberg

Music Department

Changes in our Music Staff:

Becky Quellhorst and Jack Hansbrough passed away this past year. They and the musical talent they shared with us here at St. Paul will be missed.

Arianne Henry has joined us as our primary bell and chancel choir accompanist. She along with Connie O'Neill provide piano and organ music for our Sunday services. Jim Strang will be retiring as Music Director this May.

Scheduling Changes:

- The Chancel and Bell choirs are back to rehearsing Wednesdays 7pm most every week.
- Special Music: We offer the opportunity for folks to share their musical talent one or two Sundays each month. If you or someone you know would like the opportunity to do so, please contact the church office.

Bell Choir: Our Bell Choir to less than half a dozen. Please consider joining us. We try to meet two times a month and perform once a month. Please contact the church office if you'd like to join us.

Chancel Choir: The same holds true for our Chancel Choir – our membership is down. Please consider joining us. We meet most Wednesday evenings 7pm and Sunday mornings (when we sing) at 9:15am. Please contact the church office if you'd like to join us.

I've been your Music Director off and on during the time Becky and I have been with you. I've enjoyed sharing my talents with the church. Thank you.
Peace. – Jim Strang

Worship Team Report

The Worship Team met approximately quarterly in 2022 to prepare for upcoming worship services and liturgical seasons. The Worship Team consists of all members of the music staff, the Elders, Deacons and Council President and Vice President as well as other interested members. All are welcome to join this dynamic Team.

Submitted by Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Mission Team

Giving to the 2022 monthly missions was still on par for what they have been in the past years. St. Paul members should be proud that they can still worship on line, in person, and also be good stewards with their money by supporting missions and the church budget through generous giving to St. Paul Church.

In 2023, the Mission Team is still active and will sponsor suggested missions for this year.

THANK YOU, ST. PAUL MEMBERS, FOR YOUR CHEERFUL GIVING!

The missions supported by St. Paul members included the following missions and amount collected:

January, CWS Blankets Plus-\$1,270.00

February, Back Bay Mission-\$1347.00

March, UCC One Great Hour of Sharing-\$900.00

April, Temples Hills Camp-\$1,558.00

May, Crossroads-\$711.00

June, UCC Strengthen the Church-\$941.00

July, Backpack Plus Program(local) & Camp Washington back to school-\$2,646.00

August, Blessing Pantry-\$1,000.00

September, Local Aid -\$1,500.00

October, UCC Neighbors in Need-\$930.00

November, Camp Washington gifts for children-\$2,759.00 plus physical gifts

December, UCC Christmas Fund-\$1,143.50

Called to Care Team

The Called to Care Team coordinated the Maundy Thursday Healing Service in 2022—as they have in past years.

Prayer Chain

The St. Paul UCC Prayer Chain works through an email and text format to spread prayer joys and concerns to its members. If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, please email or text Prayer Chain Champion, Dr. Jeff Paul at jrpaul@nktelco.net or 419-305-0584

Discipleship Team

The Discipleship Team went through a “Reboot” in 2022. We now have Ministry Champions for many of the social, mission, and ministry activities at St. Paul Church. The Discipleship Team is now a meeting of these Champions to check in and get support & encouragement.

Women's Service Group

The Women's Service Group met monthly in 2022 except for the summer months. The following activities were done at their regularly scheduled meetings. They had a Soup & Movie meeting, Bible Study, made gifts and delivered them to Nursing Home members, Put school supplies in school bags which were sewed by some of our members and by other members of the congregation for Church World Service, Had a Tour of “We Can Too” in St Marys, Had a work day in Pandora sorting and cleaning eye glasses, Had Lunch at ‘Do Good’ in Osgood and Wrapped Christmas gifts and delivered to Shut In members of the church. We also sent Sympathy cards to members who lost a loved one. It was good to have monthly meetings again as in 2020 and 2021 we were all struggling with COVID and meetings were either canceled or rescheduled. Anyone

interest in our monthly activities is welcome to attend either as a member or as a guest for all or any one of the meetings. We always have a notice in the bulletin before each meeting and a number to call if interested.

Bev Plattner

Church Record Book

The following totals are taken from the Church Record Book for the calendar year 2022:

Membership

Membership 1/1/2022	780
Members Gained-Transfers & Renewals	3
Members Gained-Confirmation Class	6
Members Lost-Transfers, Etc	9
Members Lost-Deaths	<u>14</u>
Membership 12/31/2022	766

Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths

Baptisms	19
Marriages	4
Deaths-Members*	14
Deaths-Non-Members*	8

*These totals are for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022. They should not be confused with the totals given for All Saints.