

St. Paul UCC Council Meeting

June 13, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Myra Hanenkrafft with council members including, Tom Brandewie, Matt Ranly, Lynda Ranly, Bryan Trego, Tim Nevels, John Mohrman, Lindsay Quellhorst, Kathy Topp, Mimi Messick, and Rev. Locke.

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

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

Team Reports

Discipleship: No report

Worship: Met in April, and will call another meeting to include Pastor Locke and his ideas, thoughts, and suggestions.

Finance: Met in April with Travis Elsass

Budget: No Report

Stewardship: No Report

Deacon's Report: Ushers established for the last half of the year.

Elder's Report: New communion is going well.

Trustees Report: Helped the Maintenance Team with side yard clean up.

Mission Team:

The Mission Team held a meeting on 6/4/2023, and welcomed Rev. Ken Locke as one of our team members. June Oaks read several thank you letters received from some of the recipients of past monthly mission projects from 2022 and the first six months of 2023.

In August of 2022, St. Paul UCC in New Bremen, received a thank you letter for donating \$1,288.00 to the Back to School ministry at Washington United Church of Christ, in Cincinnati, OH!

In December of 2022, St. Paul UCC in New Bremen, received a thank you letter for donating \$2,759.00, plus toys and clothes, to the Gifts to the Manger at Washington United Church of Christ, in Cincinnati, OH. They were able to serve 93 families representing 370 children, with the help of our generous donations!

In March of 2023, St. Paul UCC in New Bremen, received a thank you letter for donating \$819.00 to Church World Services (CWS) Blankets program!

Thank you for your continuing support to St. Paul UCC Missions. If anyone is interested in joining the Mission Team please contact June (Hertenstein) Oaks at 513-222-3810 or junemoaks2@gmail.com. Thank you.

Blessing Pantry:

Families: 55

60+: 17

18-59: 92

0-17: 82

Total: 191

Staff Reports:

Maintenance Report:

-Performed weekly and monthly preventive maintenance checks.

-Patched holes in the floor of the unisex restroom with concrete patch left after upgrading to handicapped accessibility.

-Had New Knoxville Supply work on the pastor's office AC unit. Took parts from the zoom room AC to make it work. They will get new parts and replace them in the zoom room AC.

-Since there are no longer dogs in the fenced in area by the parsonage the area will be leveled and receded. Tom Brandewie, Tim Nevels and I removed small trees from the fence and several bushes in preparation for this.

-Other small things taken care of as needed.

Abby's Report:

"Only God's Spirit gives new life. The Spirit is like the wind that blows wherever it wants to. You can hear the wind, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going" (John 3:8)

Our Spirit is like the wind. You can't see the wind, but you know it is there because you see the leaves, trees and grass moving. God works in the same way, I have reached out to many volunteers, youth leaders, youth and seniors to congratulate and thank them for their hard work this past year. Your efforts are much like the Spirit in the wind, we know that you will always be with us near and far and for that we want to say Thank you again! I have coordinated volunteers to spread mulch around the church. It looks wonderful! Thank You to everyone who helped out! I am gathering material for the youth this summer, planning

the upcoming school year, preparing Homecoming Sunday celebration activities and I will meet with the youth leaders to gather ideas and discuss what the fall activities may look like.

Mark your calendars to join us this summer, as always all are welcome! Blessings, Abby

Thursday, June 8 th – Art Camp Street Festival at St. Paul Community Park 5 pm – 8 pm

Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Bouncy House, Petting Zoo, Mini Golf, K-9 Officer and more!

Wednesday, June 14 th – Fellowship, Fishing, Sun and Swimming 9 am – 11 am

All are welcome to the Knost Residence: 1585 Cardo Road, Fort Loramie, OH 45845

Tuesday, June 20 th – New Bremen Library presents Jeff Nicholas the Cartoonist Artist 1 pm

Let's learn to draw together as cartoonist Jeff completes his show with fun stories and a special step by step draw-along for artists of all ages!

Thursday, June 22 nd – New Bremen Library LOVE/KIND Dot Art 1pm – 3 pm

Join in the fun to make a painting with the words Love or Kind. All are welcome. Every Thursday at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm, join friends for story-time at the library too!

Tuesday, June 27 th – New Bremen Library “Talewise Science Heroes” Show 1 pm – 2pm

Join an action-packed story, two unlikely heroes work together to save their own town from a super-polluting mastermind! This show is for all ages!

Wednesday, June 28 th – Miniature Golf at K.C. Geiger Park, St. Mary's 10:30 am – 11:30 am

\$1 per child, \$2 per adult. Enjoy fellowship, golfing, bring a lunch to enjoy at the park

Monday, July 10 th – New Bremen Library presents Indiana Wildlife 4 pm – 5 pm

Catch the Indiana WILD as they share wildlife facts and introduce animals ambassadors too

Tuesday, August 1 st Auglaize Co. Fair Kids Day, 12pm- 4 pm. All are welcome! Arts, crafts, yard games, face painting, prizes, Mike Hemmelgarn: comedy juggler and ventriloquist.

Sunday, September 10 th – Homecoming Sunday, 190 th Anniversary Celebration 10 am worship

Rev. David Long-Higgins, Heartland Conference Minister, preaching

Lay Minister Report:

- Participated in the monthly service at Elmwood Assisted Living.
- Designed, printed, wrote notes and mailed 52 cards to those on my pastoral care list
- 1 nursing home visitation to Otterbein in St. Mary's
- 1 hospital visitation to St. Rita's in Lima
- Text and email prayer concerns to the prayer chain five times over the past month.
- I have taken numerous emails and texts for prayer requests and numerous follow-up emails and texts
- Called, emailed and texted 9 people on my list for pastoral care

Pastor Locke's Report:

Sunday Service – 1

Saturday Service – 1

Elmwood Service – 1

Monday Coffee - 1

Pastoral Visits – 2

Watched the required film on Childhood Sexual Abuse Prevention and took the required test. 92%, 23/25.

I have seen God in the graciousness and kindness so many people have shown me.

I am looking forward to getting to know you all better. I hope that by the time we meet next I will have had the pleasure of some one-on-one time with each of you. As well as getting to know you a bit, I would like to know what you believe are the greatest challenges ahead of us. (EXCEPT more people in the pews. That's a given.)

Barring any strenuous objection, I would like to begin sending out a weekly email, probably Wednesdays, that would include a short devotional, important announcements for the immediate future, and links to the previous Sunday's sermon and worship service.

I know it's early, but I would like to go ahead and schedule vacation time. September 4-10 (September is my birth month and when I schedule my annual doctor appointments), October 16-29 (my wife and I have a timeshare in Maggie Valley, NC. These are our weeks to use it.)

How can I be of help/assistance to you? Per the terms of my contract, I will be working with you through the Interim Developmental Tasks of:

A – Coming to terms with our history

B – Discerning the congregation's purpose and identity

C – Supporting leadership change and development

D – Reaffirming and strengthening our denominational links

E – Committing to new leadership and new ministry.

I am used to doing this through the structured process of the Congregational Mission Study which leads to the Ministry Information Form (Congregational Profile). That doesn't seem to be appropriate in this instance. Another option is to take a less formal approach by serving as a facilitator in your own introspection.

Are there any areas you would like me to specifically delve into? Thoughts on how you would want me to do so? From what I gathered in the interview process and subsequently, items A, B & D seem to be in good shape. Items C & E might merit closer scrutiny, especially in the area of professional boundaries.

Please let me know, if not now then when we meet individually.

My sincere thanks to each of you for your ministries.

God's peace to all,

Pastor Ken.

Old Business

Church Pictorial Directory update from Kathy Topp:

Kathy Topp is taking care of details and info work

Jeff Paul is the photographer, and will be scheduling another date or two for members to sign up to have pictures taken.

Licensures Update: Bryan Treo and Dr. Jeff Paul will be reaching out to Rev. Dan Busch to see what their next steps are regarding their licensures. They are currently able to officiate weddings and funerals, but not perform baptisms or communion.

Sidney Lawn and Landscaping: will level and reseed parsonage side yard for \$1683.

Council voted unanimously to approve.

New Business

Church Membership List Update: Kathy Topp presented

-suggested going through the current church membership list to see who is still a current member or who has left the church, and how do we handle this?

-Pastor Ken made these suggestions: someone would go through our records to determine who has not been in contact with the church in the past 12 months, make contact with them with a pastoral letter asking if they wish to continue membership with St. Paul. We would need to abide by the church constitution by-laws when doing this.

-contact Janet Eilerman regarding contributing members

-Leah Gilberg will provide a list of members

Pastor Becky:

-read a thank you card to congregation which will be put into the bulletin as well

-Pastor Becky is a Heartland Conference delegate sponsor

-Council to give \$100 to offset Pastor Becky's expenses

Lynda Ranly motioned to accept, Bryan Trego seconded, motion carried

Locking up the Sanctuary and Educational Building: John Mohrman will look into programmable locks that connect to wifi and work with a code or key fobs.

Announcements: Next meeting – July 11th @ 7:00 p.m.

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

Mimi Messick, Secretary

Myra Hanenkratt, President