

St. Paul UCC Council Meeting

November 11th, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Myra Hanenkraat in attendance were Pastor Ken, Tom Brandewie, Matt Ranly, June Oaks, Tim Nevels, John Mohrman, Lindsay Quellhorst, Lynda Ranly, Shelly Zeller, Elyssa Mullins, Bryan Trego Mimi Messick, Abby Bushman, Brenda Siefring, and Ryan Link.

Opening Scripture and Prayer was given by Pastor Ken.

New Business:

1. December Council meeting 12/12/2023 will begin at 6:00 with dinner for the Council members. Regular Council to follow at 7:00.
2. Council Candidates:
 - President: Matt Ranly
 - Vice President: Mike Holdren
 - Treasurer: Brenda Siefring
 - still need:** Junior Elder
Junior Deacon
Youth Representative
3. Church website video completed by Tracy and Elise Oldiges
4. Door Lock Report:
 - New Wave (Coldwater) quoted \$3500 to put in an electronic lock system on the west doors.
 - Myra Hanenkraat, custodians, and maintenance will have the app access
 - motion to accept New Wave offer made by Tom Brandewie, seconded by Bryan Trego, motion carried
5. New Maintenance Apprentice to John Mohrman: Ryan Link has started in this position.

Secretary's Report: Secretary's Report was reviewed and approved by Lindsay Quellhorst and seconded by Tim Nevels, 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: Christmas Market December 18th

Finance: will meet December 14th

Budget: motion to approve new Budget for 2024 by Lynda Ranly, seconded by Tom Brandewie, motion carried

Stewardship: November 19th wraps up Stewardship Drive, meeting November 21st

Deacon's Report: The coffee with friends seems to be going well before, during, and after church service. Thank you to all the ushers for helping, and following through with the changes that were initiated with the service. Together, the people are the church!

Elder's Report: No Report

Blessing Pantry: 60+: 18 18-59: 113 0-17: 86 Total visits: 60 Total served: 217

Trustees Report: Have been helping John Mohrman with maintenance

Worship:

Attendees: Pastor Ken Locke, Connie O'Neal, Patty Ruckman, Arianne Henry, June Oaks, John Mohrman, Gary Wehmeyer, Diane Gilberg, Bev Plattner, Ann Kuhn and Abby Bushman. Bev Plattner opened the meeting with a devotional and prayer.

Old Business:

10/29/23 – Trick or Treat at the parsonage. Abby Bushman made 100 treat bags for the children that included days and times of our Youth Programs. We distributed those 100 bags, plus additional candy to the trick or treaters. The parsonage porch was decorated and the Mullins/Nevels families joined us for the event.

11/12/23 – Veterans Day was observed with recognition of those who served from each branch of the service being honored. In addition, the youth put on an excellent program singing songs to honor the vets and passing out cards.

11/26/23 – Advent Decorations. Sanctuary will be decorated by the first Sunday in Advent. Darlene Gilberg is in charge of assembling the decorating team. Notice asking for volunteers will be placed in the bulletin announcements. May finish up with pizza afterwards. Keith May and Ben Bergman will set up the outside Nativity and set up the

poinsettias and their care. Bill and Cindy Young have donated a set of three angels to replace the broken one from the Nativity set.

12/3/23 – First Sunday in Advent. We will have the congregational meeting to vote in the 2024 council members and budget. “O Come Emmanuel” will be our opening song. With a new verse added each week through Christmas Eve.

The

readings for the confirmation families to read and lighting of the advent candles each week have been written.

12/17/23 – Christmas Caroling. Carolers will meet in the assembly room at 1:30 PM to be assigned a caroling route and provided with a caroling program with the carols chosen. Refreshments will be served after around 3:30PM.

Blue Christmas Service – This event will be organized by Gilberg/Hartwig Funeral Home. Participating churches this year are Holy Redeemer, Faith Alliance and St. Paul UCC. Gilberg/Hartwig will conduct the meeting to plan the event.

12/24/23 – Christmas Eve Services – The usual Sunday morning service will be conducted. In addition, the open house service between five and seven PM is scheduled. The hymns and scripture readings have been selected. Communion will be offered each half hour. Will need volunteers to help set up pew candles after the morning service. We have Advent Candle lighters for the five and eleven o'clock services.

New Business:

2/14/24 – Ash Wednesday. Find palms for the confirmands to burn the Wednesday before. Service is at 7 PM.

Confirmands and students attend. Services will be in the Sanctuary with hymns, scripture, homily and imposition of ashes. Lights dimmed as imposition happens. Return to “old” Gloria, Doxology? Yes. No refreshments after worship other than water as observation of lent. Give though to worship team members or others writing the Wednesday devotionals during Lent.

Other Services – Maundy Thursday 3/28/24, Good Friday 7PM services. Good Friday carries out paraments at close of service.

Throughout Lent confirmands give Faith Statements and are confirmed on Palm Sunday

3/31/24 - Easter Sunday, we have two services, one at Sunrise (7AM) and one at usual worship time 10:15AM. Sunrise Start in darkness, bring in paraments and cross. Maybe start Easter Sunday Breakfast by Senior High Youth Group.

Next meeting Sunday, December 17 th at 11:30AM in the assembly room. Pastor Ken will bring devotional and prayers. We will have updates on Christmas Eve services and caroling.

Something to think about – Chapels focus inward not outward. Churches are pointed outward. What can we do to bring people in? What can we do to be more open? Suggestion, take out the back pews and add round tables and an open area more welcoming to young families. Tables could be moved out of this area in the event of a church funeral to allow a larger area for the casket and for people to comfortably be near.

Mission:

The mission team met on 10/15/2023. Members present were John Gilberg, Joyce Gilberg, Rev. Ken Locke and June Oaks. The meditation and prayer were read by June Oaks. Monthly mission assignments, and the project of the year, which is the Cancer Association of Auglaize County were discussed for the remainder of 2023. Mission ideas for 2024 were tabled until next month's meeting. The meeting was adjourned, and the next mission team meeting will be held on November 5, 2023 in the assembly room, following the worship service by 11:30 AM.

Constitution and By-Laws Revision:

-Congregational meeting will be the first Sunday of Advent

-Personnel Team consists of Senior Pastor, Council President, 2 members of congregation

-motion to accept made by Lindsay Quellhorst, seconded by Lynda Ranly, motion approved

Staff Reports:

Maintenance Report:

- Performed weekly and monthly preventive maintenance checks.
- Roesner Energy was here and performed fall startup of boilers. The blower motor assembly on boiler number four needed replaced.
- The church has hired a maintenance helper to learn about the maintenance here. I will be working with him about all the aspects of maintenance at St. Paul.
- Painted handicap parking spots on Franklin Street and yellow stripes in south parking lot.
- Set clocks to standard time.

- Other small things taken care of as needed.

John Mohrman

Abby's Report:

Youth Ministry Assistant Report: November 14, 2023

Thanksgiving is one of those times that usually sneaks up on everyone. This year has been a blessing and a reminder, preparing us for a time of thankfulness even in the midst of the busy-ness of life. Thank you to our volunteers who made the following events a success; New Bremen's Halloween, Mom to Mom Sale and the Veteran's Day Program. There were 100 treat bags passed out to families for Halloween and even more thanks to Terri Mullins when baskets became low! We hosted 28 mothers as sellers at the mom-to-mom sale utilizing both the assembly room, chapel and auditorium. Donations from the sale are being dropped off at Rustic Hope, Family Life Center of Auglaize County, Agape, Camp Washington and the Blessing Pantry. Lastly, the Veteran's Day Program the Sunday School youth presented to Thank our Veterans sure made our hearts proud to be an American!

I have been reminded of the things in my own life that I am thankful for. It's been a sweet "centering" of my life on the abundance rather than the lack. Because of this special time each week, I believe I'm better prepared to truly live out Paul's instructions to the

Thessalonians: "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

I hope you will join us for our upcoming events, especially the Children's Christmas Worship, Sunday, December 10th at 10:15 am. We hope it prepares your heart, like it has mine, to truly offer thanks to the Giver of all good things!

In Christ,

Abby Bushman

Thanksgiving Break; No Youth, Wednesday, November 22nd

Thanksgiving Break; No Sunday School, Sunday, November 26th

Children's Christmas Worship; Sunday, December 10th at 10:15 am

Youth Group Christmas Caroling; Wednesday, December 13th

St. Paul Sunday School Christmas Celebration, Sunday, December 17th at 9:00 am

St. Paul Family Christmas Caroling; Sunday, December 17th at 1:30pm

Youth Group Do Good Restaurant Christmas Dinner; Wednesday, December 20th

Sunday School & Youth Group Christmas Break- December 24th – January 6th

Christmas Eve Worship; Sunday, December 24th at 10:15 am

Christmas Eve Open House; Sunday, December 24th from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service; December 24th at 11:00 pm

Sunday School Resumes; Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 9:00 am

SPLASH, Youth Group & Confirmation Resumes; Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Ash Wednesday Service; Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Easter Worship; Sunday, March 31, 2024

Lay Minister Report:

- No prayer chain requests

- Designed, printed, and mailed five sympathy and greeting cards.

- Called, emailed and texted 8 people on my list for pastoral care

- One home visitations

Pastor Ken's Report:

October 5 – November 8, 2023

Sermons 3

Visits 8

Men's Group 2

Funerals 1

Adult Faith Formation Classes 2

Youth/Confirmation Class 3

Mission Committee 2

Blessings Pantry meeting 1

Coffee Shop 3

Women's Service Group to Pandora

Community of Practice monthly meeting

Otterbein Interfaith Breakfast

Open & Welcoming Church Continuing Education

Vacation = 2 weeks

Since we last met, I have experienced God in the mountains of western North Carolina. I enjoyed myself tremendously and easily

could have stayed another week. I am excited about Advent and how we will celebrate this holy season. The Continuing Education workshop on being on being an open and welcoming congregation was particularly interesting and useful. I have a few ideas of things we might want to try. To whom do I need to speak about this to see if the idea has any traction?

Action: I propose that the Council come together for a Council Organizing Day on January 13, 8:00 – 12:00. (See Draft Agenda

attached.) I have some particular skills and training in organizational change, especially in churches adapting to their changing ministry environment. No one wants to give up a Saturday morning, but this seems to be the best way to share the information. I believe it would be helpful to all of us.

Council Organizing Day

8:00 – 12:00; January 13, 2024

Draft Agenda

8:00 – 9:00 Opening Devotions/Getting to know you

9:00 – 10:00 Leadership – 3 things leaders do

Change – Technical vs. Adaptive

Systems Theory in the church

10:00 – 11:00 Bowling Alone: Where is everybody?

Canoeing the Rockies: A new paradigm for ministry How the landscape of ministry has changed. Brainstorming silver pellets.

11:00 – 11:45 Deacons/Elders/Trustees/Sr. Officers, etc. write Mission Statements (7 words or less*), determine 3 reasonable goals and one BHAG**, share with the rest of Council.

11:45 – 12:00 Closing Devotions

*The Mission of the ___ is to: 7 words or less

**Big Harry Audacious Goal

-motion to accept this made by Lindsay Quellhorst, seconded by Matt Ranly, motion approved

Old Business

1. Huffman Painting has completed most of the painting of the parsonage. They are waiting to do the kitchen once the countertops have been installed.
 2. Web design is complete.
 3. Parsonage Renovations
 - half way through with exterior painting
 4. Music Director position is still open
 5. Renewal of Pastor Locke's Covenant
 - renewal is for another 6 months
- motion to approve made by Lynda Ranly, seconded by June Oaks, motion approved

Announcements: Next meeting – December 12, 2023 @ 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