

St. Paul UCC Council Meeting

October 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Myra Hanenkraatt. Those in attendance were Pastor Locke, Myra Hanenkraatt, Tom Brandewie, Lynda Ranly, John Mohrman, June Oaks, Bryan Trego, Elyssa Mullins, Janet Eilerman, Lindsay Quellhorst, Tim Nevels, Lisa Weigandt, and Mimi Messick.

-Pastor Ken opened with scripture and prayer.

Secretary's Report: Secretary's Report was reviewed and motioned to accept by Lynda Ranly and 2nd by Lindsay Quellhorst, minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was reviewed with a motion to accept by Bryan Trego, June Oaks seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Team Reports

Discipleship: Christmas Market 11/18/23

Finance: no report

Budget: 10/16/23 meeting to work on upcoming budget

Stewardship: Minutes of Stewardship Committee Meeting September 26,2023 6:30PM

Attendance: Roland Dicke, Tom Brandewie, Matt Ranly, Pastor Ken Locke, Myra Hanenkraatt

The UCC theme for Stewardship this year is "Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives".

It was decided that our stewardship drive this year would run from October 9th through November 19th. Stewardship is about giving. Giving your time, talents and resources to help our church help others both on the local level and worldwide. We will spread this message by having leaders of our various teams speak briefly about what their team does and how their role with the team enriches their lives. The following is a timeline of each week's events:

October 9th - A letter from the Pastor about stewardship will go out along with the pledge cards, a stamped self-addressed envelope and the Time and Talents form

October 15th – We will kick off with a video (I have sent Pastor Ken a you tube link for a video from the Heartland Conference) about giving and Jeff Quellhorst will give a three to five minute statement about stewardship, and his experience giving time and talent and what he got from those experiences.

October 22nd – Mission Team representative will come forward to present their three-to-five-minute presentation – June Oakes

October 29th – A council member presentation

November 5th – Blessing Pantry – Beth Bretz

November 12th – One of the Sunday School teachers or Confirmation Class teachers – suggested Shelly Smart.

November 19th Wrap up, Pastor Ken to say something appropriate to the cause and ask the congregation to come forward with pledge cards and Time and Talent forms. Baskets at the front to collect pledge cards. Additional Opportunities for Stewardship throughout the year. A huge Christmas card on display for the congregation to sign with the message "consider giving a special offering instead of sending out Christmas cards this year".

November 27th - Pastor Locke to send out a special Advent Giving letter with a stamped, self- addressed envelope for return.

February 12th – Pastor Locke to send out a special Lenten Giving letter.

We will meet November 21, 2023 at 6:30PM in the assembly room to evaluate the success of the drive.

Blessing Pantry:

Total visits: 60

60+: 17

18-59: 135

0-17: 82

Total served: 234

Worship:

The Worship team met on October 8, 2023. Members in attendance were: Rev. Ken Locke, Mimi Messeck, Matt Ranly, Lynda Ranly, Connie ONeal, Patty Ruckman, Myra Hanenkraatt, June Oaks, Ann Kuhn, Gary Wehmeyer, John Mohrman, Abby Bushman and Bev Plattner. Several guests were also in attendance, Shelly Smart, Dianne Gilberg, Jim

Tontrup, John Knost, Nancy Knost, Cindy Newman and Amy Sheer. Rev. Ken Locke offered the opening prayer and read a devotional.

The next several months will be very busy with important events and the upcoming holidays.

* The annual Stewardship Campaign will be from 10/9/2023 to 11/19/2023. This year's theme is, "Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives." During the month, "champions" from organizations will be reading their testimonies during worship on each Sunday.

* 10/29/2023 we will be observing All Saints/All Souls Day, during the 10:15 AM church service. The name of each member who passed during the last year will be read, a candle will be lit and a bell will toll.

* 10/29/2023 will also be the village Cider Time celebration and the annual Trick-or-treat observance. From 3 to 5 PM, several parishioners will be passing out treat bags, from the parsonage front porch. (The bags have been made by Abby Bushman.) Spooky music will also be playing from the speaker system of the bell tower.

* 11/12/2023 will be the Veteran's Day observance. The theme music from the different branches of the military will be played and the veterans in attendance will stand and be recognized. Roland Dicke and our Sunday school children will also participate.

* 12/3/2023 will be the congregational meeting.

* 12/3/2023 will also be the first Sunday of Advent. This year's theme is "Journey to Joy." Each Sunday we will sing a verse of, "O Come Emmanuel," as a closing song. Each week another verse will be added, completing the song on Christmas Eve. The confirmation students and their families will be participating in the readings, and lighting the Advent wreath candles each Sunday.

* 12/10/2023 is the children's Christmas program during the 10:15 service.

* 12/17/2023 we will be meeting at 1:30 PM in the assembly room to go Christmas Caroling with-in the community. Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather! More information will be coming!

* 12/21/2023 will be the "Blue Christmas" service at 7 PM, with Gilberg Hartwig Funeral Home and the community participating.

* 12/24/2023 is Christmas Eve. There will be 3 services to celebrate Christmas. The 10:15 regular Sunday morning service; the 5 PM to 7 PM Christmas Eve Open House, with music, scriptures and Communion every thirty minutes; and the traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service at 11 PM.

Other topics were discussed, including information on decorating the sanctuary for Christmas, with more information to follow, and that the children's moment seems to be going well. Each week more children are participating, and they look forward to receiving the activity bag when returning to their parents.

* 11/12/2023 will be the next Worship Team Meeting following church service, in the assembly room. Bev Plattner will have the prayer and devotion for the next meeting.

Ann Kuhn gave the closing prayer. Worship Team minutes, submitted by June Oaks.

Reports:

Elder's Report: no report

Deacon's Report: coffee and hot chocolate fellowship is going great

Trustees Report:

-door locks with key pad for east and west doors:

Moeller Door quote \$3200 per door

approximate install between December 29-January 26

Motion to accept: Bryan Trego, seconded by Mimi Messick, wait for email vote

Lay Minister of Visitation Report:

-text and email prayer concerns to prayer chain 4x this month

-taken emails and texts for prayer requests and follow-up emails and texts

-called, emailed, texted 7 people on my list for pastoral care

-one home visitation

-designed, printed, and emailed three sympathy and greeting cards

Maintenance Report: John Mohrman

-Performed weekly and monthly preventive maintenance checks.

-Linda Emmons of the New Bremen emergency squad replaced the obsolete AED unit with a brand new up to date one. The unit is located on the landing of the south steps going from the educational building to the sanctuary.

- The trustees and I refreshed all the white parking stripes in all the parking lots. Great job trustees.
- Installation of the front facing monitor in the balcony should be done by the time of this meeting. Thanks to Jim Strang (technical support), Mike Hanenkratt (running communication cable), Norm Holcomb (mounting bracket), Rolland Dicke and a couple of his grandsons (muscle power). This was a big project.
- Other small things taken care of as needed.

Abby's Report:

Sunday School, Splash, Youth Group, Confirmation and dinners together are all in full-swing!

We would like to congratulate all the youth who were involved in all extra-curriculum activities, fall sports, choir & marching band! We are proud of your hard work and accomplishments! There is nothing better than watching our youth develop skills of all kinds and a work ethic that shows in the variety of chosen activities. We can't begin to measure God's generosity, but we can count on his grace-filled love and support for us!

Sunday School is from 9:00 am – 10:00 am for potty-trained and up. All are welcome to join us! Please return permission forms to the church office if you have not done so. As always, we are looking for helpers for Sunday School substitutions once a month. If you feel called to help the youth ministries of St. Paul church grow with your helping hands, please let us know! On Wednesdays, we are searching for help with youth group dinners. If you would like to help prepare a meal for any of our Wednesday evenings Youth Group dinners, please contact Mimi Messick.

• WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP EVENING SCHEDULE

- o 4th / 5th Grade SPLASH: 5:30pm -6:25pm / Dinner: 6:30pm – 7pm
- o JH / HS Youth Group / Confirmation: 7pm – 8pm
- Wednesday, October 18th - Youth Fall Outing to VANDEMARK FARMS 6pm
- Sunday, October 29th – Trick – Or – Treating at the Parsonage 3:00pm – 5:00pm
- Saturday, November 11th – Mom to Mom Sale 8:00am – 12:00 noon
- Sunday, November 12th – Youth Veteran's Day Program 10:15am worship
- Sunday, November 12th – Worship Meeting at 11:30am
- Sunday, December 10th – Youth Christmas Program 10:15am worship
- Sunday, December 17th – 1:30pm Christmas Caroling- EVERYONE is welcome
- Sunday, December 17th- Sunday School Christmas Party 9:00am
- Wednesday, December 20th – Youth Group Dinner to Do Good Restaurant 6:00pm
- Sunday, December 24th – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- Wednesday, December 27th – NO YOUTH GROUP
- Sunday, December 31st – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

We hope you're enjoying the fall weather that comes with this time of year! There are a lot of fall activities within our surrounding community to attend.

Peace and Blessing from the Youth of St. Paul Church, Abby

Pastor Locke's Report:

Interim Pastor Report

September 14 – October 4, 2023

Sermons 3

Visits 5

Hospital Visits 1

Coffee Shop Hours 3

Confirmation Meeting 3

Worship Team

Stewardship Team

Adult Sunday School

Funeral Service

Community of Practice

Boundary Training 5 hrs

Continuing Education Zoom 2

Since we last met, I have experienced God in the way our congregation has come together for grieving friends and members. I especially appreciate members of Council attending funeral services. It is good for our congregation to see their leadership at times like this.

I was very touched last Wednesday when one of the confirmands gave me some candy as a belated birthday present. I enjoy spending time with them, though I despair over their spelling and their need to be talking CONSTANTLY. I am looking forward to the holy season of Advent and having the third monitor in place with a remote control so that I can control my sermon slides. The Boundary Training was done by Zoom through Leaderwise to meet my Presbytery's requirements. I have informed Rev. Busch. The training should be enough for the UCC requirements.

My Con-Ed event is focused on church leadership in the present time. Instead of church leaders, and churches, leading from the front with in-house ideas and programs, we would be better off to spend time dwelling in our community, exploring the Word, and then experimenting without any preconceived notions of what might happen. (Throw a lot of spaghetti at the wall.) While this will certainly lead to mistakes, we can be guided by the mantra, "Fail early, fail often, fail small." There was also discussion around two complicating matters.

1) What exactly is our community? A community 'walk around' is no longer viable for lots of churches. People come from far away or attend by livestream. What does it mean to be a 'community church' in this time?
2) Is there a better word than 'leader', implying as it does one who is in front, knows exactly what to do, and is charismatic enough to carry the day? Should we consider using 'facilitator' or 'the one who empowers'? I know of some church committees that use 'point of contact' rather than 'leader' or 'champion'.

Please continue spreading the word that I enjoy meeting with my parishioners, but I am not going to force myself on anyone. Please, tell people who want to know me better to contact me. I will meet you anywhere, anytime that is convenient for both of us. And the first time, I'll buy. Also, I would be glad to visit shut-ins, nursing home residents and others (including with home communion) but I have to go with someone the first time. I need someone to go with me and introduce me. After that, I can make contact on my own. The first time, I have learned from hard experience, needs to be done with a family member.

Old Business

1. Web Design
 - add staff pictures
2. Parsonage Renovations:
 - roof painting to be done in October
3. Music Director Position
 - possible additional organist
4. Renewal of Pastor Locke's Covenant

New Business

1. Approval of Hoffman Painting to paint parsonage
 - labor only: \$4800 for downstairs paint is being donated
 - will be done in October while Pastor Ken is gone
2. Budget meeting date: October 16, 2023
3. Video Equipment issues: PAstor Ken
 - funeral videos with flash drives are not working on sanctuary monitors (technical difficulties)
 - We will have Winner's Computers in NK come out to look at the system
 - Lindsay Quellhorst will call to set up
4. Congregational Portrait: Lisa Weigandt
 - have someone go out to shut-ins to sign the frame
 - display the portrait in the Narthex for all to see
5. Letter of concern received from a member regarding the letter to the congregation
 - follow up with people who have not yet responded

Announcements: Next meeting – Tuesday, November 14 @ 7:00 p.m.

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

Mimi Messick, Secretary

Myra Hanenkraft, President