

St. Paul UCC Council Meeting

September 19th, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Myra Hanenkraat with council members including, Tom Brandewie, Matt Ranly, June Oaks, Tim Nevels, John Mohrman, Lindsay Quellhorst, Mimi Messick, Pastor Ken. Also in attendance were Abby Bushman, Tracy Oldiges, Katie Dietrich, Emily Willrath, Staci Jones, Kathy Topp, and Janet Eilerman.

Opening Scripture and Prayer was given by Pastor Ken.

Janet Eilerman came with concerns:

- individual church members have come to her regarding the new Doxology wording, and are not happy with it
- other concerns brought to her were about the Letter to the Congregation that was sent out

Photo/Phone Directory Update: given by Kathy Topp

- Jeff Paul is in the process of photo editing
- goal to be finished by late October
- each family/individual listed in the directory will receive a free book

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

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

Team Reports

Discipleship: no report

Finance: will meet in October

Budget: will meet in October

Stewardship: Giving envelopes will be out October 15-November 20

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: Families:57 60+:15 18-59:101 0-17:74 Total:190

Trustees Report: finished parking lines

Worship:

Met September 17, 2023

11/12/2023: Veterans Day service

Stewardship campaign to begin in November

12/03/2023: Congregational meeting

12/10/2023: Children's Christmas program

12/21/2023: Blue Christmas service

12/24/2023: 10:1pm regular service, 5:00-7:00pm-Open House, 11:00pm: candlelight service

Staff Reports:

Maintenance Report:

- Performed weekly and monthly preventive maintenance checks.
- No trouble with Security System since phone system upgraded to fiber optics.
- They replaced a bad outlet in the parsonage and replaced outlet and switch covers that were missing.
- Installed two dehumidifiers in the parsonage basement.
- Contacted NK supply and about the air conditioner in the zoom room. Parts taken from that air conditioner to repair the pastor's air conditioner. New parts for slightly different but they adapted them. All is well.
- Met with trustees.
- Made mock-ups for locations of possible front facing monitor.
- Installed 1-inch rise ramp pad to the wheelchair entrance to match the sidewalks.

- Contacted Linda Emmons on the New Bremen Squad about our AED unit. The battery and pads are outdated. She informed me that the unit is obsolete and needs replaced. She is taking care of it.
- Installed digital clock on balcony railing facing toward the front of the church.
- Parsonage porch and garage roofs were power washed and painted.
- Other small things taken care of as needed.

John Mohrman

Maintenance Technician

Abby's Report:

It has been a month of gearing up for Kickoff and here we are! It is awesome to have the noise and energy of our youth back in the building. For Sunday School at 9am we had 39 youth, ages preschool to high school and 6 adults in attendance for our Kick off Sunday at Sunday School! We enjoyed donuts from the New Bremen Coffee Company, had a birthday celebration singing "Happy Birthday to St. Paul" and we also handed out new bibles to our youth! As always if your child did not receive one please let us know! Thank you to the members of the 190th Celebration team as the fun facts, history and luncheon was enjoyed by all! Wednesdays Youth group was also kicked off with laughter, games, giggles and full bellies from the New Bremen Coffee Shop! If you would like to help prepare a meal for any of our Wednesday evenings Youth Group dinners, please contact Mimi Messick. We are looking forward to a great year. **SAVE THE DATES IN YOUR FAMILY CALENDARS**

WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP EVENING SCHEDULE

- 4th and 5th Grade: 5:30pm -6:25pm / Dinner: 6:30pm – 7pm / JH and HS Youth Group & Confirmation: 7pm–8pm
- Wednesday, September 27th - Youth Group Outing to Fields of Faith, 7pm Harmon Field, Wapakoneta
- Wednesday, October 18th – Youth Fall Outing to VANDEMARK FARMS 6pm
- Sunday, October 29th – Cider Time Parade: 1:00pm
- Sunday, October 29th – Trick – Or – Treating 3:00pm – 5:00pm
- Sunday, November 12th – Youth Veteran's Day Program 10:15am worship
- Sunday, December 10th – Youth Christmas Program 10:15am worship
- Wednesday, December 20th – Youth Group Dinner to Do Good Restaurant 6:00pm

Lay Minister Report:

Text and email prayer concerns to the prayer chain four times over the past month.

- I've taken emails and texts for prayer requests and numerous follow-up emails and texts
- Called, emailed and texted 8 people on my list for pastoral care
- Two home visitations
- I didn't make and send cards this month because the pictorial directory took a large amount of my time in August. I will be getting back to sending cards in September

Pastor Ken's Report:

Sermons 5

Visits 8

Hospital Visits 2

Home Communion 1

Men's Group 1

Worship Committee 1

Mission Team 1

Confirmation Meeting 1

Wednesday Activities 1

Coffee Shop Hours 5

Funeral 1

DHS Webinar on Safe Houses of Worship

Bremen Fest Prayer

Presbytery Meeting

Vacation 1 wk

I saw God at work in the first Confirmation Class last week. It was refreshing to see members of the congregation volunteering to teach the faith to our youth.

I am excited to see how our Advent will take shape and proclaim the mystery of the Incarnation.

Included with this report are: 1) information gleaned from a DHS Webinar on Safe Houses of Worship; 2) two handouts on engaging volunteers; 3) suggested guidelines for the Local Aid Fund. At the top of the page is my write-up of suggestions. They

basically mirror Pastor Becky's guidelines which are below. I could have just kept on following Becky's guidelines, but it seems to me that this is something that the Council should have a hand in.

I request that the session review these guidelines, adjust as you feel appropriate, and then endorse by motion.

Local Aid Fund Guidelines:

-updated for Pastor Ken to follow

-motion made by Lindsay Quesllhorst, seconded by Tim Nevels, motion passed

Old Business

1. Website Design

-letter from web designer was received asking questions that need answered before going forth with web design

2. Kick off Sunday

-email was received from Lisa Weigandt thanking everyone for their help in making this event a success

-suggestion was made to offer a meal after Sunday worship service from time to time

-council will look into this

3. Music Director Position

-not yet filled

-still looking for organist, pianist, or any musician for future Sundays

4. New sanctuary monitor

-new quote from Fowlers for \$3045

5. Parsonage Renovations

-Matt Ranly has created a cost spreadsheet

-Baumer Construction to make the exterior repairs motion to accept by Myra Hanenkrafft, seconded by Tom Brandewie, motion carried

-Quartz countertops from Homan Interiors motion made by Matt Ranly, seconded by June Oaks, motion carried

New Business

1. changing Congregational Meeting to first Sunday in December

-motion made to accept by Lindsay Quellhorst, seconded by Tim Nevels, motion accepted

2. Renewing Reverend Locke's contract extension

-motion made by Matt Ranly, seconded by Tom Brandewie, motion accepted

Announcements: Next meeting – October 10th @ 7:00 p.m.

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

Mimi Messick, Secretary

Myra Hanenkrafft, President