



St. Paul United Church of Christ
 31654 Mound Road
 Warren MI 48092
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 Worship Service &
 Sunday School — Sunday, 10 am
 Office Hours: M-Th, 9am-1pm
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The Good News

August 2024

KIM

Can you believe it—the St. Paul Rummage Sale is next month!!

Friday, September 20
 Early Bird Sale 8am-9am \$1.00
 Sale 9am-2pm

Saturday, September 21
 Sale 8am-1pm
 Fill-a-Bag 12pm-1pm \$3.00



This is Women's Fellowship biggest fundraising event. The money that is made is used towards our own St Paul building, along with donating money to several of our mission works.

This is a big push to donate your gently used and clean items to church. We cannot accept furniture, computer equipment, broken items, dirty clothing, text books, old magazines or stuffed animals. Everything can be placed in the original Rummage Room under the church. From there, our volunteers will sort.

Please bring your goodies in by September 1 (Labor Day weekend). After that, we will not be able to accept anything.

We will be looking for help during the sale. We would love to have your help for both days, but understand if you can only help either Friday or Saturday. Please let me know if you can help. Calls will be made sometime in August as well.

With the Pre-Rummage Sales on Marketplace, Facebook and to our members, we have collected \$1,058 so far!

Everyone is so appreciated for their help during the past few months for getting our annual Rummage Sale off to a great start!

Pastor Kim will be available for visits to those who are homebound, those in assisted living facilities, or those in nursing homes. Communion can be given if requested. If you would like a visit, please contact Maria to set-up the initial visit and then we can set-up future dates once we meet. Also, if anyone in the congregation is in need of pastoral counseling, please email Pastor Kim directly at krnewport13@gmail.com.

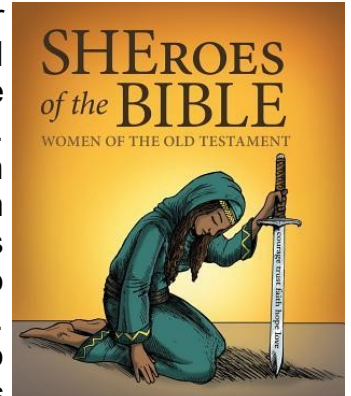
St. Paul held its monthly Consistory meeting on July 16. We have a Search Committee in place. People on the committee are: Gail Popyk, Beth DeVlaminck, Shirene Cece-Clements, Mike Gebert and me. We will be meeting with Rev. Lawrence Richardson of the Michigan UCC Associate Conference Minister of Church Vitality and Transition. He would like to meet the Consistory and church members. Our church profile will be placed back up on the UCC search portal. Pastor Kim and Pastor Traci have graciously offered to fill in on Sundays until the end of the year while we work on finding a replacement. They have also opened up classes, and will assist with social media, and schedule visits with our shut-ins, among other things. We have a couple more weeks until the new furniture for the lobby is in. The flat roof over the Educational Building in the back of the church has been completed. We will be having a Congregational vote on August 11th to appropriate the dollars needed for the chimney repair. Moisture over the years has eroded the mortar and bricks of the chimney. They will remove the chimney down to the point where they see good structure and then build the chimney back up. Please remember, if there is anything that needs attention (building, service, etc.), please let a member of Consistory know, so we can address it at our meeting or sooner.



Buster & Mary Fritz—Aug 10
Steve & Gail Popyk—Aug 11
Kurt & Laurie Gardner—Aug 22



Over the last several weeks, we have had women ministers fill our pulpit, and in the past few decades our church has had three settled women pastors, Pastors Terri, Jackie and Sue. In today's world, these are not unusual facts, but this has not always been the case. Historically, women were barred from most religious orders, other than as nuns. Even today, some denominations, such as the Roman Catholics and Southern Baptists, prohibit women from serving as pastors. The justification for this practice largely can be traced back to Paul, who frequently stated that women should be silent in church. "... women should be silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be subordinate as the law also says." (1 Corinthians 14:34 NRSV). This is but one of many examples and it is ironic, for it is from Paul himself that we see the importance of women in the early church. Paul tells us Phoebe is a deacon of the church (Romans 16:1) and it is also Paul who baptizes Lydia, who has her whole household baptized and is believed to have established one of the earliest churches (Acts 16:11-15). So Paul was clearly simply reflecting the cultural biases of his day, rather than formulating a principle of faith, just as when he accepted the practice of slavery.



Having said this, let's look at some of the women of the Old Testament, the spiritual ancestors of Paul, and how they would have contributed to his beliefs. Let us start with Sarah, mother of the Israelites. Sarah had been barren throughout a long marriage to Abram (Abraham). Originally called "Sarai," God promises to give Sarah a child at the advanced age of 90 (Abraham is 100)! Abraham's descendants will be a multitude of nations. Sarah had been skeptical of God's promise and had already given her maid, Hagar, to Abraham, to bear a child (more on Hagar later). Hagar does bear a son, but God also makes good on the promise to Sarah and she too bears a son, Isaac. Sarah becomes jealous of the attention that Abraham pays to Hagar's son by Abraham, Ishmael, and convinces Abraham to exile both Hagar and Ishmael, so that Isaac has the clear field for Abraham's attention.

Abraham acquiesces to Sarah's wish, and Hagar and Ishmael are cast into the wilderness with meager supplies. Hagar appeals to God for sustenance and protection, calling God the "God who sees," the only person to so name God in all of scripture. Both Hagar and Ishmael are saved due to Hagar's faith and bravery, but Sarah's jealous action causes permanent enmity between the two sons of Abraham, Isaac and Ishmael. Isaac is the ancestor of the Jews and Ishmael is the ancestor of the Arabs. The seeds of today's wars were sown by Sarah's actions thousands of years ago.

Speaking of war, we now jump ahead centuries to the era of the "judges" of Israel. These judges have nothing to do with courts. Rather they are individuals who, through their charisma and the will of God, lead Israel, which has no king. God is the only true ruler of the Israelites. The judges are individuals who act as God's agents on earth to enact God's will. Amazingly enough, one of them is a woman named Deborah. She is a prophetess, who sits under a tree, "judging" individual Israelites' problems and disputes. At this time, the Israelites had done evil in the sight of God, so God had given them into the hands of an enemy king, whose general was Sisera. For 20 years he had oppressed Israel.

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Scripture says Deborah summons a man named Barack, and tells him that she will draw Sisera out and give him into Barack's hands. Barack in turn summons two of the Israelite tribes to him, who provide him with ten thousand warriors. Deborah goes into battle with him against Sisera.

Sisera's army is totally defeated in battle although he himself survives. But he still falls at the hands of a woman. He stops in his flight from battle and hides in the tent of a woman from a tribe that (at least theoretically) is at peace with his king. For reasons that are never made clear, as he lays sleeping in the tent, she drives a tent peg into his temple and kills him! Barack comes in search of Sisera, and is shown his slain enemy. The Israelites press on against the enemy king, and defeat him. Then Deborah and Barack compose a long and beautiful song in praise of God. It goes on for 31 verses (Judges chapter 5). Deborah's song is one of the most famous passages in the Old Testament. It becomes a rallying cry for Jews in later centuries as they fight oppression. Deborah is a role model for Israelites fighting against those who would oppress them for centuries afterward.

Next month we will consider more women of the Old Testament.

PASTOR KIM

Each month I host a book discussion on Zoom. There are a variety of people who participate from multiple churches from a large geographic area. This year, I chose books based on the various themes assigned for each month. For example, March is Women's History Month so we read "The Three Mothers." June is Pride Month so we read "All Boys Aren't Blue." I also chose certain books because they are controversial and can lead to excellent discussion. Anyone is welcome to join and you don't have to attend each month. I announce the book on the first of each month and we meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 7pm on Zoom to discuss it.

August is National Black Business Month and we are reading "Year of Yes: How to Dance it Out, Stand in the Sun, and Be Your Own Person" by Shonda Rhimes. You may know Shonda Rhimes as the creator of Grey's Anatomy, Scandal, How to Get Away With Murder, Bridgerton, and other successful shows. This is a fantastic book! I chose to listen to the audiobook because it is narrated by the author and I loved hearing it in her own voice. Regardless of how you choose to read this book, it is worth the time! We will meet August 27th to discuss what it means to say "yes" as individuals and as a church.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

The link to join the discussion is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89803513834?pwd=qi2dYu4QTzxiQQZt2jqxbVhahNg9rx.1>

