



St. Paul United Church of Christ
31654 Mound Road
Warren MI 48092
586/264-4777

Worship Service &
Sunday School — Sunday, 10 am
Office Hours: M–Th, 9am–1pm
Rev Dr. K.C. Lazzara, Pastor
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The Good News

December 2018

REVEREND K.C. LAZZARA

“Their joy knew no bounds!” Matthew 2:10

The Season of Advent is here, at last!

We’ve worked hard to get here, haven’t we?

For many Pastors, the summer/fall stretch between Easter and Advent is a long one, with many opportunities to preach on a variety of topics. We ultimately hope that each heart in the congregation is stirred by the Spirit and new seeds are planted along the way. Only God knows how long it’ll take these seeds to germinate and finally sprout, but Pastors hope that the textures of their sermons offer enough nourishment to the spiritual garden of the soul.



In my heart of hearts, my hope for you is that over the course of 2018, not only have you learned something new about the context of the Gospel within Scripture, but you’ve also learned about the context of the Gospel in your own lives. And precisely because the Earth keeps turning and time marches on, this personal context of Christ in your hearts remains alive, vibrant, and active in the ways you worship, serve, and live out your faith!

When you first read the Scripture I noted above from the book of Matthew, it would seem that these five words could fit in so many accounts in the Gospel—and surely they do. However, this one verse describes the joy of the Magi after they witnessed the star: “And look! The star appeared to them again, standing over Bethlehem. Their joy knew no bounds!” *Matthew 2:9b-10*

Is there a time you felt this heavenly joy?

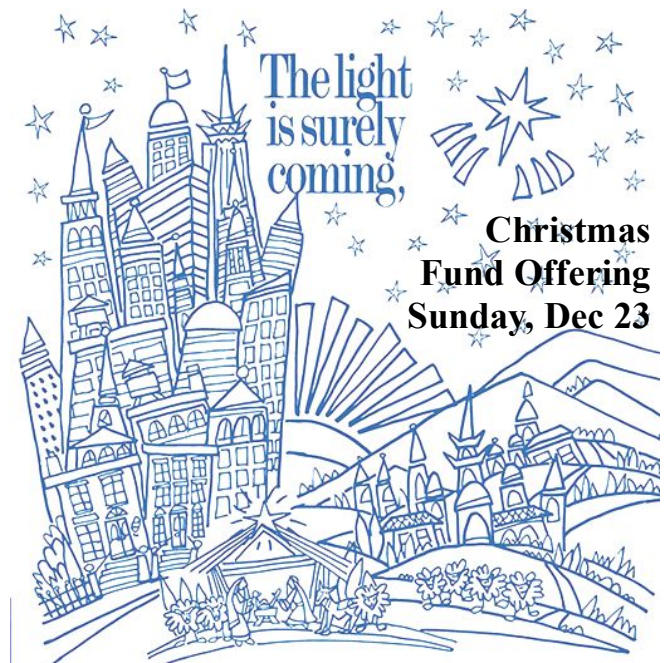
As is *hope*, joy is such a personal experience. And as is our *faith*, our understanding of Jesus is such a personal experience. There is absolutely no possibility we all hope in the same way, feel joy in the same way, or experience Jesus in the same way, and yet, the church still stands and the covenants we share are sacred and true. During the season of Advent, we also share the profound sense of wonder. While they may differ, let’s allow ourselves to be vulnerable and bold in the way we express it. *Can one possibly be both bold and vulnerable?* Such is the paradox of faith!

Allow yourself to experience hope, joy, and wonder this Advent season. Allow yourself to both give *and* receive. Allow yourself to strengthen relationships that are healthy for you and let go of those relationships that have become unhealthy. Most of all, allow yourself to demonstrate compassion inward—be good to yourselves. You are a precious child of the Most High God. *Psalm 57.2*

As you prepare your hearts to follow the Magi to the manger, remember that whatever gifts you’ve brought to the Newborn King—they are so worthy, *as are you*. **God bless you and Merry Christmas!**



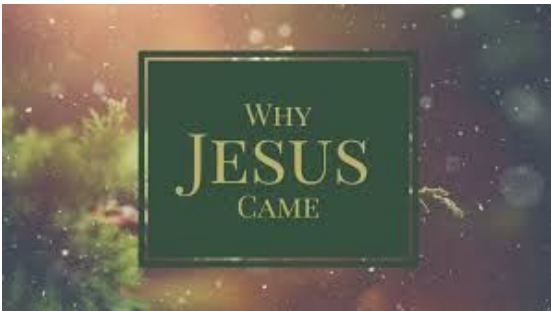
Our Consistory meeting was held on Nov 13. Our secretary, Gary Miller, could not be there so Shirene Cece-Clements took the minutes. Our finances continue to be in good shape even with the payout for the windows. However, we continue to request donations toward that expense in order to have additional funds in the operations budget for any future projects. The organ has been serviced and the refrigerator in the kitchen has had self-closing hinges installed to help it stay shut. The windows are almost completed. New Christmas trees and decorations have been purchased and the cost was split evenly between Women's Fellowship and our church budget. Lunch with Santa is coming up and volunteers are requested to help. The church was decorated on Nov. 18 and looks wonderful. Consistory wishes everyone a happy holiday season!



- 3 Chuck Calabrese
- 11 Carla Grawburg
- 14 Doris Mijal
- 19 Joy Frazier
- 28 Sue Regier
- 29 Anne Pyciak

BETH DEVLAMINCK

Each year during the holiday season, we set up a tree not to decorate with pretty lights and decorations, but to use in the collection of new hats, mittens, and socks to help keep Macomb County Warming Center families warm during the cold winter months. If you would like to help us fill up our "Mitten Tree" this year, the tree will be on the end of the black countertop. If you would rather make a monetary donation, it will be used to put towards day bus tickets for the guests. Thank you in advance for your help and generosity during this holiday season.

BRANDON EBEL

Dear Members of St. Paul UCC,

"Who has believed our message (of salvation)? And to whom has the arm and infinite power of the Lord been revealed?

For He grew up before Him like a tender plant, and like a root out of dry ground; He has no stately form or majestic splendor, that we would look to Him. Nor appearance that we would be attracted to Him. He was

despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and pain and acquainted grief, and like One from whom men hide their faces.

He was despised, and we did not appreciate His worth or esteem Him. But in fact, He has borne our grief's and He has carried our sorrows and pains; Yet we assume that He was stricken by God and degraded and humiliated by Him. But, He was wounded for our transgressions, He was crushed for our wickedness. The punishment for our well-being fell on Him, and by His stripes we are healed." *Isaiah 53*

There is nothing for me to add to this amazing prophecy buried deep into the book of Isaiah. This may not be the most perfect scripture in this season, but it just puts in perspective the reason Christ was born. I always like to simply say that the purpose of Jesus was 'to seek and save that which is lost.' *Luke 19:10*

Since this is the newsletter for December, I also want to sincerely wish you all a Merry Christmas. Being around family at this time just has to be cherished. I cannot wait for that opportunity.

And I was very happy to make the 'Love' lapghan that is being raffled off. It's definitely one of my favorite projects and I figured the word Love can resonate with anyone. Everything you stand for has meant so much to me and will the rest of my life. I thank you for the sense of family you've shown me and the support. Merry Christmas.

If you would like to send Brandon Ebel a Christmas card, his address is:
 Ebel, #752523, Thumb Correctional Facility
 3225 John Conley Drive
 Lapeer, MI 48446

We will be providing Christmas Food Baskets & Gifts to local families. Gift tags will be available from the welcome table tree sometime during the week of Dec 3 (still waiting for final list of children's ages/sizes). Please return your **WRAPPED** present before Sun, Dec 16.



Secret Pal Reveal
December 16 after Service



LUNCH WITH SANTA
SATURDAY, DEC 1, 2018
11 AM

\$5
PER PERSON

Train Room
Nativity Room
Photo with Santa
Christmas Bake Sale
Gift Ideas for Young & Old
Activities for Children, Young & Old
Lunch (Hot Dogs/Mac & Cheese/Jell-O Jigglers/Veggies & Dip/
Beverage/Cookies/Chips)

Tickets available at the door



WED, DEC 5—4:30-6:30 PM
Free—Everyone is Invited!!

BARBARA STEPHENS



St. Paul is one of the oldest historical church's in Warren. We go back to 1864. Truly there is a lot of history here—more than we can comprehend. We are still serving our God and are stronger than ever.

I have been blessed to be an active member here for 50 years and am still going strong. My family grew up in the church, my children made their confirmation here and my oldest daughter, Linda, got married here and taught Sunday School. My youngest daughter, Kelly, taught Nursery School. I'm grateful to visit with Brandon weekly and I also lead bible study groups at two nursing facilities, as part of my outreach ministry.

Some of the events we still have are semi-annual Rummage Sales, Lunch with Santa (which is a favorite among the young and old), and weekly Bible Studies which are attended by many. One of our newer events is our Free Community Dinner on the first Wednesday of each month from 4:30-6:30 pm. It is open to everyone and seems to be well attended by the community.

We number 50-60 members and are a compassionate, loving, welcoming church. We are all on our own life's journey.

INSTEAD OF MAILING YOUR SPUCC FRIENDS A CHRISTMAS CARD,
BRING IT TO CHURCH AND WE'LL PUT IT ON THE FIRESIDE ROOM
BULLETIN BOARD. LOOK AT ALL THE POSTAGE YOU'LL SAVE TOO!





Ellen Fox



Dave Grawburg



Brandon Ebel



Betty Jean
Wolgast



Wreaths for Warren Union Cemetery Veterans
Saturday, December 15, 2018
2 pm
Warren Union Cemetery (Chicago Rd)



MARGE MURRELL



Our executive meeting was held on Election Day, Nov. 6 and was attended by the officers and additional women of our congregation. Pearl Carr has volunteered to be our new Secretary. The budget for next year was discussed and several changes/additions were made. It cannot be adopted until the Women's Overall Meeting in January 2019. As usual, whatever is approved will be printed in the 2019 Women's Fellowship directory.

The preparations for Lunch with Santa on Dec. 1 are underway. On Nov. 30, volunteers are needed to prepare some of the food and to set up the large dining room for lunch and the memorial dining room for Grandma's Attic, the bake sale and the auction. The money raised will go the Gleaners where it may be matched as it was last year. The money pays for backpacks filled with food for the children to have over Christmas vacation. These children are in the normal free lunch program at their school which is based on family income. The whole Grawburg family participates with meeting Santa and having the children's pictures taken and Lunch with Santa could not happen without them. Thanks to them and to all the volunteers!