



St. Paul United Church of Christ
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St. Paul UCC Warren
New services premiere
each Sunday at 10:15 am

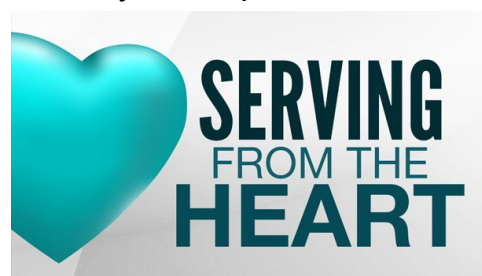
The Good News

January 2021

PASTOR K.C.

2020 is in the past! Many of us are thrilled to have “turned the page” so to speak. Isn’t it funny how a date on a calendar helps us feel free to move forward in some way, whether it’s New Year’s Day, your birthday, or an anniversary of sorts? *Many people need a significant time in order to be empowered.*

Last year was time of great crisis around the entire world. Due to the pandemic, Earth was shaken like a snow globe and 2021 will be a time of putting the pieces back together. However, new challenges will arise when we see that many of the pieces no longer fit. Because of the consequential changes from the pandemic, our greatest priorities have shifted. Not only was this inevitable and unavoidable, we need to acknowledge that not all of the changes have been adverse. On the contrary, many of us have grown into larger spaces—we’ve learned to cope, adapt, and intimately walk alongside each another.



For others though, their ability to cope may have long deteriorated in April or May and they’ve not been able to adjust to the rapid changes all around us. While churches tried to set the stage for a meaningful Christmas, for many it was a day that came and went without their basic needs being met. Some people are marching into the new year while others continue to struggle emotionally, spiritually, physically—all of which are taking a toll.

I hope celebrating the birth of Jesus rekindled the fire in our hearts to *be the church*. I pray that the shepherds renewed your vision of praise and the Magi revitalized your energy for the journey. Accept that *change happens* and the church will always be instrumental in context of change. Remember the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:6-11:

“In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift of showing kindness to others, do it gladly. Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy and serve the Lord enthusiastically.”

The Lord has blessed our congregation with a myriad of spiritual gifts. As we move into 2021, as Paul writes, let’s put laziness aside and serve the Lord enthusiastically. We’ll follow the lesson Jesus taught in his parable found in the Gospel of Matthew: **“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”** (Matthew 25:40) Amen.

Happy New Year!



Thank you to all who purchased tickets—\$640 was donated to the church.

A special thanks to Ellen, Betty Jean & Dave for donating their priceless handmade goods!

Winners:
Darcy, Lorri, Adelaide & Ken



January

4 Mikey & Tori DeMarco
5 Adelaide Ammon
15 Kurt Gardner
19 Mike Demarco
26 Marge Murrell

MARGE

The Consistory

Your Consistory did not meet in December as there were no pressing business issues to discuss. The Consistory approved repairs and additions are underway or have been completed. The good news about the Covid-19 vaccines means that most of us will receive treatment within the next four months and MAY allow us to re-open the church sooner. We will still have to wear masks and social distance well into 2021 even with the vaccines, but we should be able to work things out. Although our Christmas celebrations were with less family this year to protect our loved ones, we hopefully can look forward to a “regular” Christmas next year. 2021 will be hopefully better than 2020, so I wish everyone a HAPPY NEW YEAR!



As I sit here on another gloomy afternoon, the phone rings. It is one of my church family. Just checking to see how I am doing. You all have been so comforting with calls, cards, emails and I will never be able to express my most heartfelt appreciation. These little "interruptions" break up the day and are truly welcome. Please know that I am so very grateful to belong to a church that is so caring. I love you all and am really looking forward to getting together and doing what we are meant to do - love our neighbor and serve our community. Thank you all for being who you are - MY FRIENDS.

**January 29
James & Ellen Fox**



EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY: PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THERE ARE CHANGES YOU NEED TO MAKE IN YOUR LIFE. THESE CHANGES NEED TO BE COMPLETED IN ORDER THAT I MAY FULFILL MY PROMISES TO YOU TO GRANT YOU PEACE, JOY AND HAPPINESS IN THIS LIFE. I APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE, BUT AFTER ALL THAT I AM DOING, THIS SEEMS VERY LITTLE TO ASK OF YOU. I KNOW I ALREADY GAVE YOU 10 COMMANDMENTS. KEEP THEM, BUT FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES AS WELL:

1. QUIT WORRYING
2. PUT IT ON THE LIST
3. TRUST ME
4. LEAVE IT ALONE
5. TALK TO ME
6. HAVE FAITH
7. SHARE
8. BE PATIENT
9. BE KIND
10. LOVE YOURSELF





"I will repay you for the years that have been eaten."
Joel 2:25

Dear Members of St. Paul UCC,

I know that God restores. I know that God defies. The things that look defeated, turns to victory from the perspective of faith.

And now being in prison for multiple years, having faith in this above scripture is where I find a lot of hope. There is no disputing that these years I've lost are a result of my ignorant thoughts and actions, but even God can forgive and provide that restoration for all people. No matter what the occurrence was that caused years to be lost.

And as a new year approaches, I know we will find ways to restore as the days progress. I truly believe God can use this previous year for the good. Not to say whatsoever that this last year was good, but it can be used that way. I am excited and looking forward, envisioning ahead, and aligning with a new restored hope from the strength we've all gained throughout this last year. I'm welcoming the new year with expectation with all of you!

I thank all of you for your wonderful outreach and gracious words of encouragement. This is a time where everything is even more so appreciated.

Happy New Year to you all & I wish you all God's grace to restore those things that may seemingly be lost.

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



*Thank you all so very
much. Your thoughts
and prayers are very
much appreciated.*

*The Regier Family
Sue, Debbie, Laurie &
Erich*