



St. Paul United Church of Christ  
31654 Mound Road  
Warren MI 48092  
586/264-4777  
Office Hours: M-TH, 9am-1pm  
[www.spuccwarren.com](http://www.spuccwarren.com)  
email: [stpauluccwarren@gmail.com](mailto:stpauluccwarren@gmail.com)



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# THE GOOD NEWS

May 2023



May 28 is **Pentecost Sunday**. Please remember to bring your favorite (ANY COLOR) flowers to be planted in our flower beds on each side of the lobby doors. If you would like to make a monetary donation, see Diane. The flowers will be placed in church for the worship service that Sunday. Remember to wear **RED**.



The Search Committee continues to work on the church profile, which is mammoth in scope - more than two dozen pages. When it is complete, we will submit it to the Michigan Conference, which forwards it to the national database. Potential candidates check this database for positions in which they might be interested, then contact the church(es) in question. It is at that point that we interview candidates in whom we may be interested. Candidates who make the interview “cut” are brought in, if they are interested in us, for a “candidating” service. We choose our pastor based on these candidating sermons. First the Consistory votes on the candidates, then the congregation votes on the candidate the Consistory has identified as the best possible choice, once a compensation package has been negotiated between the parties. That’s the way the process works, folks. The committee hopes to have the profile completed by mid-May. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact a member of the Search Committee: Shirene Cece-Clements, Beth DeVlaminck, Mike Gebert, Joyce Karner and Gail Popyk.



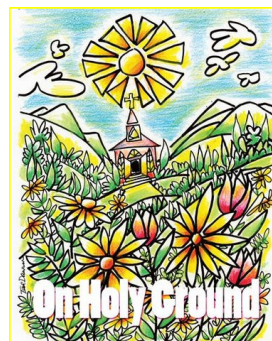
PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE



10 Diane Schuster  
Clara Frangquist  
17 Topher Brown  
20 Oz Frangquist  
22 Barbara McAdam  
23 Linda Ramsey  
24 Joyce Karner  
28 David Hicks

Sunday, May 28, 2023

The **Strengthen the Church** offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.



SUE

Well, what do you know - Spring is finally here (I think). Do you know St Paul's Church has a front door? Wouldn't it be nice if we used it - at least in the warm months! I know it is farther to walk, but it would be so nice to see the front door open for everyone to know we are alive and waiting to welcome anyone seeking friendship, fellowship and a spiritual home. I definitely will make the effort to take those few extra steps starting next week. Remember when everyone left by the front door and stood on the front sidewalk to visit? Those were the days. See you out front!

No, I didn't forget - We still need rummage. When putting it in the rummage room, **PLEASE** try to do so neatly. I have kind of straightened it up so we can at least walk into the room. Also, clothes should be in bags that can be tied shut (not Kroger bags, as things fall out and get scattered all around on the floor). Blah, Blah, Yada, Yada, Yada. See you next month!





St. Paul held its monthly Consistory meeting on April 11. Well, the deer has moved on and so has Pastor KC. We wish them both well. Thank you all who donated to the Love Offering for Pastor KC. I am sure it will help him with the move south. We now will need a group of people who can help share the responsibility of starting and stopping the recording process. Maria will be able to upload the service on Monday mornings, but we need help Sunday mornings. Maria has sent out emails and is requesting help. Palm Sunday and Easter Service were wonderful. Congratulations to the winners of the raffle baskets. That is always a lot of fun. Thank you to Joy for organizing the baskets and all who participated. Again, the MDOT project of Mound Road is ongoing. Please be careful when pulling in and out of the parking lot. The lobby project is moving along. The Committee was able to get a retired interior designer to volunteer her time to help with the lobby makeover. The Search Committee is moving along. We have pulpit supply for a couple of months. The weather has been bouncing back and forth — cold and warm, which makes it difficult for the boilers and keeping the church comfortable. I will have the boilers on a couple more weeks and then look to turn them off for the season. We are working on getting a quote and work to be started with the windows on the Educational Building soon. 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.

- ⇒ Repaint the gray metal railing outside - Spring 2023
- ⇒ Remove the Plexiglas and repaint windows on the Educational Building – Company has been called and will start very soon, I hope
- ⇒ Remodel the lobby with new furniture, flooring, etc. – Spring/Summer 2023
- ⇒ Update more lighting in rooms - Ongoing
- ⇒ Fix and repaint the ceiling in the Fellowship Hall
- ⇒ Repaint and fix plaster in Sanctuary - After Mound Rd Project
- ⇒ Look at the possibility of a covered vestibule that will block the wind when entering in the educational building



### *May Wedding Anniversaries*

- 7—Mike & Laurie Gebert
- 15—Steve & Ramie Brown
- 22—Brent & Carla Grawburg
- 25—Mike & Stacey DeMarco

Last month we looked at the various ways the Gospels recounted the story of the Crucifixion. This month, let's do the same for the Resurrection. As in last month's article, I will dispense with most scriptural citations.

Matthew and Mark each start their accounts with Joseph of Arimathea asking the authorities for the body. In both gospels, Joseph wraps Jesus's body in linen and lays it in his own tomb. Joseph is not mentioned in either Luke or John.



In all four gospels, women and only women, approach the tomb on the first day of the week. Which women varies by gospel but there is one constant: Mary Magdalene. In fact, in John, it is only Mary who goes. In Matthew, the reason the women go to the tomb is not specified. In the others it is to anoint the body with spices and oils. It is also only in Matthew that the women see the stone being rolled back, "in a great earthquake." In the other three gospels, the stone is already rolled back when the women arrive. In Matthew, the "guards become like dead men." The guards are not mentioned in the other three gospels.

In Matthew, Mark and Luke, the women encounter young men who are angels of the Lord. All ask variations of the same question: "why do you seek the living among the dead?" They explain that Jesus has been raised from the dead and is alive.

Here these three gospels diverge dramatically. In Matthew, Jesus meets the women, who worship him. He tells them to not be afraid, and to tell his brothers to meet him in Galilee. The guards re-enter the picture. They tell the chief priests everything and are bribed to say that the disciples stole the body, a "story still told today." The disciples go to a mountain in Galilee where they meet and worship Jesus. They are given the Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit..." (Matthew 28:19 NRSV).

Mark paints a very different picture. It is unique among the gospels in having two endings. In the shorter ending, the women tell those around Peter of the events at the tomb. Afterward Jesus "himself" is sent out through "proclamation" of eternal salvation.

In the longer ending of Mark, after he arose on the first day, Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene. She tells the others of this but they don't believe her. Mark then recounts the story of Jesus's appearance to two men on the road to Emmaus. They are kept from recognizing him. In conversation he explains how Hebrew scripture predicted his life, death and Resurrection. When they reach Emmaus, they recognize him and he disappears. They return to the eleven and recount what has happened. The eleven do not believe them. Jesus then appears to them. He scolds them for their lack of faith, then gives them a version of the Great Commission (Mark 16:15). After this, the disciples witness Jesus ascending into heaven.

Luke's account differs from the first two. There is no Joseph. The women arrive to find two young men in dazzling clothes asking them why they seek the living among the dead. When they return to the eleven to tell them this, they are disbelieved. Peter runs to the tomb and sees the burial linen folded on the stone. Luke then digresses and tells the story of Emmaus. At this point, Jesus appears to the disciples, who think they're seeing a ghost. He shows them his hands and sides and asks for something to eat. They give him some fish. He opens their minds to understand how scriptures pertain to him. After this, they all go to Bethany, where Jesus ascends bodily into heaven.

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Finally, there is the gospel of John, in which Mary Magdalene comes alone to the tomb. The stone has been rolled away. She runs to get Peter and the “disciple Jesus loved” (John). They run to the tomb. John gets there first but doesn’t enter; Peter does. He sees the linens laid out in separate piles. Then John enters. They see, “believe,” and return home. Meanwhile, Mary stays outside the tomb, weeping. Angels in white appear where the body had been. Mary turns around and Jesus is there. She mistakes him for a gardener. Jesus says Mary’s name and she recognizes him. He tells her to tell his disciples he is ascending, which she does. Later that day, Jesus appears to them, showing his hands and sides. Thomas is not there. When Thomas arrives later, he does not believe, “unless he himself sees.”

A week later, Jesus appears again, with Thomas present. Showing him his wounds, Thomas believes. John states Jesus performs “many other signs,” of which John gives an example or two. John finally identifies himself as the disciple Jesus loved and says his testimony is true, and that there are also many other things Jesus did and, “if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.” (John 21:25b NRSV).

LINDA

**Christian  
Education**

Sunday School is coming right along! With Easter being Pastor K.C.’s last day, it was sure nice to see how many of the kids came not only for Easter, but for Pastor’s last service. Some of the kids made him wonderful gifts to show their appreciation and love. He will be missed so very much. He also left them a wonderful, sweet message on the dry erase board to let them know how he will miss them. With that being said, we forge forward! Time for change. Kids are resilient and they will do fantastic!

They are working on lessons from the Children’s Bible and making crafts that correlate to the story. They have grown and learned so much.

With the weather breaking, there will also be a couple of projects outdoors that the kids’ help will be needed (cleaning up the front of the church and sprucing up the landscaping). We will keep everyone updated.



# Spring RAFFLE

THANKS TO ALL!!!!!! EVERYONE'S PARTICIPATION IS ALWAYS GREATLY APPRECIATED TO MAKE THE EVENT FUN. IT'S ALWAYS NICE AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR AND WINTER WEATHER TO HAVE SPRING TO LOOK FORWARD TO—WE WERE ABLE TO RAISE \$291 FOR WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP! THIS YEAR, THE MOST POPULAR BASKET WAS THE CHOCOLATE EASTER BASKET, ALTHOUGH IT WAS VERY CLOSE—ALL WERE EQUALLY POPULAR.

*THANKS AGAIN, JOY*



**MARY**  
PASTA BASKET



**HERMAN**  
SPRING CLEANING BASKET



**BEVERLY**  
AMC GIFT CARD



**AMELIA**  
SPA BASKET



**ADELAIDE**  
PANERA GIFT CARD



**TRUDY**  
HALLMARK CRATE  
EASTER BASKET

**GAIL**  
EASTER BASKET

