



St. Paul United Church of Christ
 31654 Mound Road
 Warren MI 48092
 586/264-4777
 Sunday Service—10 am
 Office Hours: M-TH, 9am-1pm
 Rev Korderro Brown, Pastor
www.stpauluccwarren.com
 email: stpauluccwarren@gmail.com



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The Good News

November 2023

Meet The Pastor

Rev. Korderro [Kord] Brown was called to ministry as a teenager, and has over 15 years of ministry experience and as an urban leader and has been privileged to work with multiple denominations and in multi-cultural ministry settings. Kord has a strong affinity for others and often describes himself as a people development professional. He is passionate about growing people to their greatest potential.

Bi-vocationally, Kord has professional experience in healthcare, non-profit and higher education. Primarily he has served as a student advisor, career consultant and leadership development specialist. Currently, Kord serves as the Certified Formation Facilitator of Mission Integration for Ascension Healthcare in Michigan and as an Organizational Development consultant for various religious organizations. Kord was raised and has roots in Baptist and non-denominational churches.

After years of work in many progressive spaces, decided to pursue ordination with the Disciples of Christ where he most recently served as a certified interim minister. Kord is now excited to serve in a church that aligns closely with his personal values and desires to see the church grow through diversity, community development, outreach and justice initiatives.

Kord is a graduate of Mumford High School in Detroit, MI. He earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Baker College and a Master of Science in Administration degree from Central Michigan University. Kord has also completed a Master of Ministry degree from Mount Vernon Nazarene University and an Advanced Certificate in Thriving Church Ministry from Ashland Seminary. Kord is currently a doctoral candidate at Northern Seminary in Lisle, IL. Kord was married to his college sweetheart Michel'le Brown for 9 years. Together, they have two daughters Milaun (10) and Khalani Brown (3). Michel'le passed away in Dec. 2020 after a yearlong battle with a rare form of leukemia.

Kord is currently married to Victoria Bingue. Victoria has an undergraduate degree in business and is currently attending Ashland Seminary for graduate studies. She looks to pursue a ministry toward holistic and spiritual health. Victoria is passionate about ministry to youth/young adults, homeless ministry, holistic care/living and serving the at-risk population. Victoria has two children, Chasity (14-year-old girl) and Denali (4-year-old boy). Together, Kord and Victoria will parent four children. Within the year, Kord and Victoria plan to relocate to live closer to the church and to become immersed in ministry work in the Warren area.



4	Sam DeVlaminck
10	Mike Gebert
11	Eileen Harrison
25	Kelly Gawel



JOYCE



On October 15, our young members had the opportunity to participate in a Taizé-inspired prayer service. The kids did a great job and are looking forward to more opportunities to be actively involved in our worship. In our studies, we are

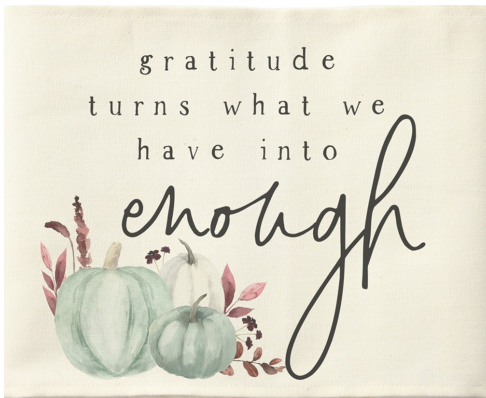
thinking about our talents and how we use them. 1 Peter 4:10-11. Also, with Thanksgiving not that far off, we will explore what part gratitude can play in our lives.

BETTY

Wasn't that a fantastic Rummage Sale?! In every room, the rummage was laid out so neatly and beautiful. It reminded you of an exquisite department store. The Christmas Room is always so pretty. The stockings were hung on the closet frame with care, in hopes that the people would soon be there. AND THEY WERE.



Those early birds were at the door at 8am to get those wonderful bargains. At the end of the sale, those shoppers were there to fill those bargain bags. The bake sale went well too. A BIG THANK YOU to Sue and all those wonderful helpers for the time and work to make this sale so successful. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL. AMEN & AMEN.



This is a public/personal thank you to all my many friends who have helped me through the years of Rummage Sales. None of our success could have happened without the help and encouragement of all of you. Everyone pitched in and together we made it happen, over and over again. Now, we have new leaders with new ideas and great enthusiasm to start us in the next year. Let's give them all the help and cooperation we can muster, remembering that this is not a one-man/woman endeavor. Each and every member of St Paul is needed on a project like this. Don't wait for a special

invitation to help. All you have to do is just show up and you will be welcomed. We have formed some wonderful friendships working together on rummage. My extra thanks go to Kim Hoover and Maria Momeyer, who have stepped forward to chair the rummage committee. I promise my time, help, and knowledge(?). But most of all, my friendship as we go forward.

2023 Rummage Sale—\$5,904.14

ERICH

St. Paul held its monthly Consistory meeting on October 7. We have accomplished a lot in the past several weeks. First, we have a settled Pastor! Rev Kord's first Sunday will be October 29. We are very excited to have him and his family join us. A big thank you to the search committee for all their hard work and time that went into the process. Also, a huge thank you to Rev. Newport, Rev. Bartell, Rev. Brown, Pastor Paul and all the St. Paul



members who helped with Service these past few months filling in as we search for our next pastor. The Mound Road project continues. Looks like we are half way there. Still, please be careful when entering and leaving the church as construction barrels and equipment keep changing. We have accomplished a lot with the building in the past several weeks. The outside windows are complete; the railing have been painted. We had a lot of lights replaced—in and around the office, classrooms, and all the rooms in the basement under the Sanctuary. The parking lot lights also have been repaired. The lobby is still moving along. It is taking longer than most would like. but we are making progress. The Rummage Sale was a very big success again, but is a lot of work. Discussions around the future of the rummage sale have begun. The heat has been turned on. 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.

- Remove green Plexiglas and repaint windows on the Ed. Building – COMPLETE!
- Repaint the gray metal railing outside – COMPLETE!
- Update more lighting in rooms – COMPLETE!
- Remodel the lobby with new furniture, flooring, etc. – In Progress
- Repaint and fix plaster in Sanctuary – AFTER MOUND ROAD PROJECT
- Fix and repaint the ceiling in the Fellowship Hall
- Look at the possibility of a covered vestibule that will block the wind when entering the educational building



It's November and that means Thanksgiving is here. Of course, scripture has a lot to say about thanksgiving. Let's examine what in a little more detail...

Perhaps the most well-known thanksgiving passage is what is known fondly as "Old Hundredth," Psalm 100:

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations." (Psalm 100:1-8 NRSV)

This psalm tells us the proper attitude toward God as we worship: gratitude and thankfulness. But what about times when we are not worshipping? And what does the New Testament say? Let's look in Philippians, an epistle in which Paul exhorts the reader most enthusiastically as to everyday behavior. "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7 NRSV). Thanksgiving is not only the correct attitude with which to approach God, it rewards us with a peaceful feeling, and it's how we should approach *everything* in our lives, not just those "special" blessings which come to the forefront of our attention. This is actually the culmination of a section of the epistle in which Paul tells the readers to always rejoice, that the Lord is near. He goes on later to say that he can be content under all circumstances, giving the statement of faith that has served Christians so well throughout the ages, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13 NRSV).

Paul emphasizes the necessity of constant thankfulness in his letter to the Colossians, once again tying peace and thankfulness together. "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:15-17 NRSV). Note that it is not necessary to have a thanksgiving feast every day to thank God; we can sing songs of praise thanking God, literally making everything we do an act of praise to God by doing it in the name of Jesus thankfully. Thus, our entire lives become acts of thankful praise to God, and in return we gain peace we had not thought possible.

The psalms were ancient Israel's hymns and songs of worship. As such, they offer a wealth of material to praise God, including many songs of thanksgiving. I have already mentioned the 100th psalm. Also of note is the 30th psalm, which David wrote in thanksgiving for recovery from a grave illness. It has two passages worth noting: "Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning." (Psalm 30:8 NRSV). And "You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever." (Psalm 30:11-12 NRSV). These are words we might remember and echo whenever we recover from a major illness ourselves.

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Psalm 107 is a catalog of many of the ways humankind can experience trouble: being in prison, traveling on stormy seas, wandering in the desert, seeing a productive land turn into a desert (hello, climate change!), or being needy. Yet in all these tribulations, God saves humankind, and in each case the psalmist concludes: "Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind." (Psalm 107, various verses NRSV). We should, after all, think about the conclusion of this psalm: "Let those who are wise give heed to these things, and consider the steadfast love of the Lord." (Psalm 107:43 NRSV). As it says in Psalm 118: "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!" (Psalm 118:1 NRSV), echoed in the New Testament: "... give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NRSV). Happy Thanksgiving!



Lobby Renovation Update



The Lobby Committee has obtained new cost estimates for the flooring and painting and has chosen the flooring; we are still in the process of choosing the paint color. Given the holiday decorations that are placed in the lobby during the latter part of November, it has been determined that it would be prudent to wait until after the first of the year to repaint and refloor the lobby. In the interim, we will be cleaning the blinds to refresh the look of the windows. We will start this effort in the hallway, then move on to the lobby. The last major piece to be put into place will be the furniture for the lobby, followed by secondary improvements, such as the signage. For a variety of reasons, we have parted company with the designer with whom we were working. Look for a new and improved lobby in the new year!