



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-THz, 9am-1pm
Rev Dr. K.C. Lazzara, Pastor
www.spuccwarren.com
email: stpauluccwarren@gmail.com



Beginning Tuesday,
Sept 8, Maria will be in
the office regularly
(Monday thru
Thursday from 9-1).
We will only be
accepting rummage
during normal
business hours.
Please contact her to
make arrangements.
Also, please do not
bring rummage items
to church on Sunday.

The Good News

September 2020

PASTOR K.C.

Our last service in the building was on March 14, 2020. Since then, we've transitioned to a shortened worship format out on the church lawn. For some of you, this change alone has been a process which has challenged your patience as well as the way you believe worship should be done. For others, this move from indoors to outdoors has been fairly seamless, and furthermore, is simply a part of life. This change of worship is rather minimal compared to the change the disciples made along their transition from Judaism to a burgeoning new path which unfolded with each miracle, each revelation, and each prophesy fulfilled.

As a congregation we are far from alone. All places of worship have had to step into change. Some have done so very smoothly and others have taken baby steps to ensure that the congregation could let go of the old and embrace the new with some measure of assuredness. What would that measure of assuredness be for you in order to let go? Your response to that question matters deeply as we move forward together in context of COVID-19.

While we have challenges ahead, rather than looking in the rearview mirror in hopes of returning to worship that was comfortable and consistent for so long, God will lead us into new pastures which will allow us to grow spiritually and bear new fruit. If this virus continues to a measure which is unsafe to return to the building, we will pull out our Fall jackets, warm blankets and keep our lawn services going. And again, if this virus continues at this level of severity into the Winter months, we can transition to an online format like many other churches have successfully done. *The primary obstacle will be our own resistance to change.*

As your Shepherd, my number one goal is to keep church safe for you and all who worship with us. I hope you receive that deep in your hearts. As written in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." We have every reason to believe this virus does not usher the end of our ministry. It is our responsibility to wear masks properly, social distance properly, and respect the health and space of those around us each and every day. If we sincerely believe God has a plan for our church, then we must act accordingly. Just as the health of our congregation depends on that belief, our health is also contingent upon our behavior in and out of the church setting. Please, take good care of yourselves and minimize the risks you take.

Let's get excited about what lies before us! *I fully trust God to lead the way. Amen.*



BETTY, SUE, DIANE & BARB



Well, it's official. There will be NO rummage sale this year. Our fall rummage sale has been cancelled. It was decided that the times are just too uncertain to put that much effort and work into the rummage sale and not be certain anyone would attend due to social distancing and crowd control (how would we limit our early birds and also our stuff-a-baggers). HOWEVER, we are still accepting rummage and we are hopeful we will be able to have a sale in the Spring of 2021. The old Rummage Room has some room and we have at least one more room that can be used. There are many hidden spots in our historic Church that can hold your treasures. Keep safe and healthy and when this is all behind us, we will have a good old fashioned St. Paul Rummage Sale.



Trudy & Chuck and
Dick & Diane,
Thank you for taking care of
our flower garden!!

STEVE & GAIL

From "Life's A Dance" by John Michael Montgomery

"Life's a dance you learn as you go
Sometimes you lead, sometimes you follow
Don't worry about what you don't know
Life's a dance you learn as you go"

From "Stand Up" by Sugarland

"There's a comfort, there's a healing
High above the pain and sorrow
Change is coming, can you feel it?
Calling us into a new tomorrow"

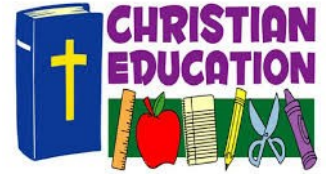
From "I Hope You Dance" by Lee Ann Womack

"I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean
Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance
I hope you dance"



LINDA

Earlier this year, I was asked if I would be interested in heading up Christian Education this year. With a resounding yes, I embraced this new “adventure” with a lot of excitement. Ideas quickly came to mind what we could do and where we could take this. Flash forward a few months where our beloved church and our lives have changed in a way that none of us expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Who would've ever thought? Certainly not me, but here we are now in a “holding pattern.” With that being said, I am still planning on moving forward over the next couple of months implementing some changes so we'll be ready when things do move forward! I will be doing some much needed updates to the room we use for our Christian Ed classes, as well as picking out new curriculum.

Last but not least, this is to the kids/parents - instead of being called Sunday School and/or Christian Education, how about coming up with a new name to call us? It would be kind of fun and cool if we could come up with a “new” name that would be all ours and no one else's! Think about it and let Maria know what your good ideas may be!

I would like to take this time to thank Pastor K.C. and our Consistory for opening up their hearts and welcoming me with open arms to serve with them. I am looking forward to it and all the ideas and things we will share in the months ahead.

I am grateful...

BRANDON

*"I could be bounded in a nutshell, yet consider myself a king of infinite space."
Shakespeare*

Dear Members of St. Paul UCC,

This fitting quote seems to guide my mind in the direction and perspective I need to grab ahold of right now. And in a sense, I have been able to really absorb the power in these words for the past decade. This is only by the true enlightenment given by the grace of God, of course. But my vision has always been beyond the barbed wire (nutshell) I've lived in for so long. So I know the place this is coming from. I also know that many are finding it so hard to cope with any sort of isolation or loneliness. And rightfully so, we are not meant to be alone. Part of everyone's purpose is fellowship with loved ones.

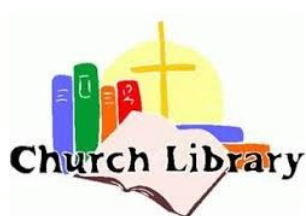
But when times of loneliness or isolation inevitably arise, that is when the peace of God is much more readily available. I'm paying attention. These are moments we all get to sympathize and empathize with others that have been living in a metaphorical nutshell for many years.

Conquering this time and this space in our lives is possible for every heartbeat. What Shakespeare may have or may not have known is that the peace of God dwells within. That's why a nutshell can still create an opportunity for our expansive minds and hearts to reach so far beyond our present circumstances. God never leaves us.

Always praying you are relying on the comfort only God can give us in these tough times. Knowing that a nutshell is only a temporary and light affliction that is preparing us for a reality of infinite blessings for us to envision. Envisioning, then speaking allows for a true manifestation of what we are seeking.

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



We have a major project going on and we need your help. You can help us in three ways with this important initiative:

1) What do we call the room that used to be called the Library? We can't go on calling it "the room that used to be called the Library." It's so much more than a library now. Resource Room? Media Room? Something we haven't thought of? Feedback, please. I can't promise we'll get a new sign, but maybe we can jury rig something.

2) Do you have books, religious CDs or DVDs you would like to donate? The books could be from Bible studies or be about the Bible. A word of caution here. Any books should be from the last five years. Biblical studies and Biblical scholarship go through periodic evolution, and the reason we gave so many books away was that so many of them were out of date. The books we are going to buy will all be new. We will accept books of religious fiction, but these, too, should be recent, as there are fads and fashions in this field as well, as there are in religious music.

3) Do you have any vintage religious material you would like to donate? This could be in the form of a family Bible or old Sunday School material. It doesn't have to be related to St. Paul, but continuing the story of the Historical Room would be nice. You should know we don't have additional display cases yet. It doesn't make sense to consider them unless we have something to display, and then we have to consider cost, but you might have something you want to share with a wider audience. Only consider donating something you would feel comfortable parting with, not the family Bible you want to pass on to the kids.

We have great plans for this room, and we're in the early stages. We are cataloging the books we have and filling in the missing subjects, so if there is something special you want to see, you can tell us that, too. Next on the boards are a smart TV and internet connection for research and to show our DVDs. We will keep you posted as to our progress. In the meantime, you can contact me with your ideas at gpopyk5@gmail.com or 586/254-1532, or Pastor K.C. at stpauluccwarren@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.



1	Barbara S
8	Barbara R
	Christina
9	Bonnie
19	Trudy
22	Rev Mary Alice



September 5
Dick & Diane
Gary & Jan

On Tuesday August 18, your Consistory members and two guests met under the Sunday tree with masks and distancing! We had many issues to discuss which included the following:



Security

We discussed two ways to update our door security as there are again too many people with church access/keys during times when the church is empty. Our first choice will be to change the locks and insure fewer people have keys with absolutely no right to duplicate them. We will also provide cameras on the north and south doors. The second more elaborate system is to provide code boxes instead of keys at the doors (similar to real estate workers at houses for sale). These boxes can be time coded to allow access only during meeting times (i.e. AA and NA). We are not aware yet of how much this type of system will cost, but it is being researched. In the meantime, we will change the locks for now.

Internet

We will be upgrading our Wi-Fi to use for the Ring cameras and our TV. This will allow us to be able to use it both in and out of church and in the library.

Church Service

In place of meeting inside for service, we discussed the possibility of renting a tent and/or setting up our Sunday services via Zoom. With Zoom, we could actually have a more regular service with singing and prayers, sermon, etc. Some details would have to be worked out, but if you have a smart phone or a tablet with a camera, you can get on Zoom. Instructions/help will be given as needed to do this.

Pastor KC is very reluctant to use the church sanctuary until UCC gives permission and all of us can be protected from each other to properly avoid getting the virus. Come winter, we may have no choice but to go inside.

Rummage Sale and Lunch with Santa

The decision was made by Consistory and our guests Sue and Diane, to cancel the fall rummage sale. Diane asked us to table the decision regarding Lunch with Santa until November.

We plan to continue meeting monthly to conduct church business. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Marge Murrell at 586/415-0648.



When the COVID pandemic hit, leadership at Michigan Humane had to make some important but difficult decisions to continue the good work but to also keep the staff safe. Although St. Paul parishioners may look upon me as a youngster, I am the oldest staff member at Michigan Humane and therefore was glad to see safety measures put in place. I was able to work from home for the first two months as we consolidated all 4 shelters into one. Our fosters stepped up taking over 400 animals out of the shelters. We rotated staff in the shelter and clinics every 2 weeks and provided training to those at home. The clinics continued to serve animals in need with curb side service which continues today.

No members of the general public are allowed into our buildings except for repair and other service individuals along with a few select volunteers. Everyone including staff must be screened at entry with questions and temperature taking. These procedures have kept us all safe and thanks to God none of our staff has been ill with the virus.

I have been back to work in the shelter for 3 months now and am glad to once again be around my furry friends. I am so thankful that my employer and my church have taken measures, that although sometimes unpopular, I feel have kept me safe.

Let's all keep up the good work keeping each other healthy so we can continue to enjoy God's blessings!



Pray for our Superintendents & all school leaders making tough decisions for our children. Pray that God will be with our teachers as they navigate new methods of teaching. Pray for God's comforting & guiding hand over our students. Pray that parents everywhere will have grace, wisdom, strength & discernment as they lead their children in the home. Pray for safety, protection & health for all.

