



St. Paul United Church of Christ
31654 Mound Road
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Sunday Service—10 am
Office Hours: M-TH, 9am-1pm
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The Good News

September 2021

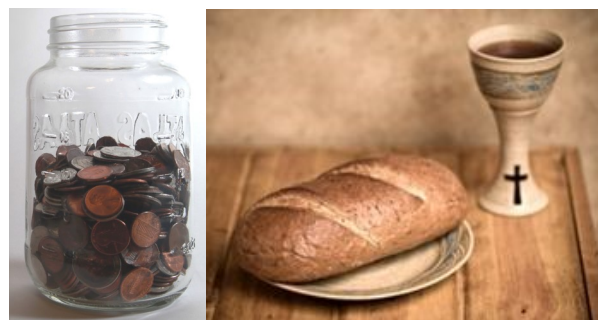
PASTOR K.C.

As you have heard from the pulpit through the month of August, I preached about aspects of living fully in our faith community, and furthermore, the humanity within us all that makes our faith community so critical for one

other. It was no different for the disciples of Jesus! You would think his miracles were enough to bolster the faith of his followers, but as we read in the 8th chapter of Mark, even Jesus needed to point it out: **"Why are you so worried about having no food? Won't you ever learn or understand? Are your hearts too heavy to take it in? You have eyes—can't you see? You have ears—can't you hear? Don't you remember anything at all?"**

As we move into September, there are so many reasons to be *grateful* for what God has done for St. Paul. During this next church year, I want to not only branch out in our ministries in the way we serve the Lord, but I also want to lead the church in *celebration* of St. Paul through the years. Let's take the words of Jesus very seriously; indeed, we have both eyes and ears to remember the tremendous blessings bestowed on our congregation. The Autumn months of September through December facilitate so much cause for joy which include Thanksgiving, All Saints Day, the Season of Advent, Christmas and New Year's Eve.

With the beautiful enhancements to the building, these upgrades will change the way we experience serving God within the four walls of our church. With some landscaping plans on the horizon, both the Resource Room and Children's Education Room have already been transformed in addition to the Fellowship Hall. We are truly blessed by the generosity of our members, friends, visitors, and all who have offered their gifts of service, donations, and tithes to St. Paul. While staying safe and respectful of one another, let's leap into September full of joy and revival in our hearts! Amen and amen! God bless you!



JOYFUL NOISY OFFERING & COMMUNION
SUNDAY, SEPT 12

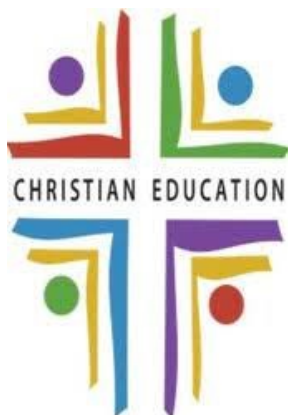
*Our deepest condolences
are extended to the family
of ANNE PYCIAK*



Spiritual Reflections
Monday, Sept 20 at 6:30 pm



LINDA



Wow! It's just about the end of Summer! Where did it go? It has flown by so quickly! With the ending of the Children's Program in the next couple of weeks comes a new season with Fall just around the corner and the beginning of the official start to our Sunday School Program! I'm looking forward to it! Like I said, I love listening to the children and hearing what they have to say and offer. We are not only there to give them guidance and teach them, but they also teach us as well.

The Sunday School Room is just about complete with a few more things to add. I'm excited for it to be completely done!





WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CIRCLE 1—SUN, SEPT 12 AFTER SERVICE

CIRCLE 2—TUES, SEPT 7 AT 12:30 PM



MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN
RESOURCE ROOM/LIBRARY

SUE

Believe it or not, we are in very good shape. We have worked only 3 days a week and only 3 hours a day, and I think we have accomplished a near miracle. When we started it, it looked impossible, but we kept plugging along and slowly but surely we "got-r-done." Now with the new lighting system installed, we are ready to go. The brighter lights should make our rummage shine and sparkle! Many thanks to all who gave many hours to help get this project going. We had so much rummage, we took over the whole lower portion of the Church. Go down and take a look! The only thing missing this time will be our Kitchen and the Bake Sale. This will be a disappointment to our guests as they look forward to our famous soup and bread, and our baked treats. Hopefully, we will be able to open our kitchen next time. We are no longer accepting rummage, but please save your treasures for the next rummage sale.



- 1 Barbara Stephens
- 8 Barbara Radke
- Christina Grawburg
- 9 Bonnie Burk
- 19 Trudy Calabrese
- 22 Rev Mary Alice Purcell



- 5 Dick & Diane Schuster
- Gary & Jan Coleman

Proverbs 4:20-27 This passage is too long to quote here. The book of Proverbs was (largely) written by Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived. This particular section is advice from a father to his son. It concerns three aspects of behavior, but the key to it comes earlier in the chapter, in verse 7: "The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever else you get, get insight" (NRSV). The advice in this specific section is to put "devious and crooked talk" far from oneself, to look directly forward, not swerving to the left or right, and to turn one's foot from evil. Solomon tells his son that these words are "life to those who find them," and "healing to all their flesh." In an echo of the 23rd Psalm of his father, David, ("...He leadeth me beside the still waters..." verse 2b KJV) Solomon says to keep one's heart "...with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." (verse 23b of this chapter NRSV). So, in summary, these seven verses tell us to speak "straightly," gaze directly forward, and turn away from evil. God is straight ahead, not to the side.



This passage flows into the next chapter, in which Solomon warns against associating with a "loose" woman and instead tells us to focus on cherishing the "wife of (your) youth," followed by many more practical pieces of advice for daily life, such as keeping one's word and avoiding laziness. It is telling that Solomon's words that will be "life to those who find them," (verse 22 of chapter 4 NRSV), however, come first, and concern what we say, where we look, and where we walk, and not the many specific laws or actions we often associate with Judaic law. Solomon is laying down principles of behavior, not the Ten Commandments or other laws. Again, we find God when we look and move straight ahead of ourselves, not when we look or move to the side. This idea found its fulfillment centuries later in the life of John the Baptist, of whom Isaiah the prophet said, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Luke 3:4b NRSV).

ERICH

We did not have an August Consistory meeting. However, the Consistory continues to work together on issues that need attention before the September meeting. The preparation for the rummage sale continues. The basement is full from one end to the other. Again, there will be no food sold, only rummage. We received quotes from a few electricians. We decided to go with a company from Waterford. Consistory approved and notified the Congregation. Consistory moved quickly to secure this quote and the company, along with ordering the more than 60 lights needed for the project. We wanted to make sure this project was completed before the rummage sale. Work has started and will most likely be completed before my report is sent out. This project will replace/upgrade the following areas of the basement with LED lighting: all fluorescent lights in the Fellowship Hall, the hallway outside the bathrooms, the stairwell by the old wooden stairs, the hallway leading to under the Sanctuary and the large room under the Sanctuary. There are other smaller rooms that will be completed at a later date. It looks like the landscaping in front of the church will need to be scaled down quite a bit and be completed by ourselves. Quotes for a company to do it was just way too high. This project will be started in the coming weeks as soon as the weather isn't so hot. We are always looking at updates to the building and facilities to make it safer and more enjoyable for our members and visitors.

Faith, Hope and Love