



St. Paul United Church of Christ
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The Good News

September 2024

A new Search Committee has been commissioned to look for a settled pastor for our vacant pastorate. Its members are Shirene Cece-Clements, Beth DeVlaminck, Mike Gebert, Gail Popyk and Erich Regier. The committee met with Lawrence Richardson. Lawrence is the Associate Church Minister of Vitality and Transitions for the Michigan Conference. We will be working with him through the call process. After a tour of the church, Lawrence gave us a brief orientation of the call process as it stands now. Under the current system, St. Paul will upload its own profile onto the national database of churches looking for pastors. Pastors looking for a position will then contact us through the database. Our profile is largely complete, having been done for our last search and recently been updated. There are only a few new questions that remain to be answered. Once the update is complete, the profile can go “live.” Then we wait to see what prospects God has in store for us. We also work with Lawrence proactively to look for prospective pastors. We will keep you posted as to our progress.



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



- 5 Dick & Diane Schuster
- 16 Glenn & Maria Momeyer

Thank you for your best wishes and prayers during my recent illness.
Gail

ERICH

The Consistory didn't meet in August. As in years past, we take the month off. However, there are a few things happening in and around St. Paul. The congregation approved the money for the chimney repair. We are in the process of updating our church profile for our pastor search committee. We are extremely grateful to Rev. Kim and Rev. Traci for offering to help fill pulpit supply for St. Paul through the end of the year while we continue our search. The lobby furniture should be arriving soon. This year is flying by. Summer will soon be over and you know what that means, the Rummage Sale is right around the corner. Consistory will be back at it on Tuesday, September 10th.



SUE

It has been quite a summer. Work on rummage has been going on for quite some time, but, we are ready! Rummage sales are A LOT OF WORK, but they are very necessary. Not only are they a great way to raise funds for our outreach missions, but they also serve a much needed shopping experience for our community. Believe it or not folks—not everyone can afford to shop at Macy's or Target or even Walmart. We provide an opportunity for people to shop for true bargains without spending much. Everyone loves

To Do List

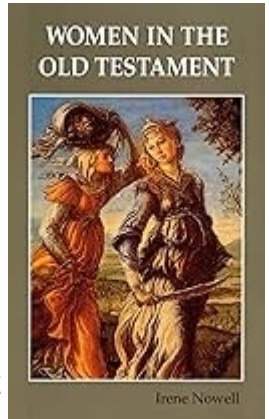
- ① So
- ② Many
- ③ Things

to find that little something at a great price. This year, we did a major purge and have cleaned out some of our items that haven't been used in recent years which not only brought in more profit, but we found new homes for these items and they are being put to good use by new people. The large dining room is FULL and PRIME is overflowing and CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY has expanded and HERMAN'S HALLWAY is a work in progress. As with any endeavor, there have been glitches and

mistakes, but by working together, we have worked through and out of many situations. If this event is meant to continue, we MUST work with and SUPPORT whoever chairs this thing. It is a big job and requires help from everyone. Let's give Kim and her crew a big thank you for the many hours they have put in. I know I keep saying how much FUN we all have, but it is really hard work made fun by those crazy ladies who just keep showing up. Now, I gotta go find my recipe book as it's time to start baking—Sandy and her crew are waiting to see what we come up with this time.

Last month we examined the lives of Sarah, Hagar and Deborah, three important women of the Old Testament.

Chronologically, next comes Ruth. Her story is well known, but still important to Christians. In ancient times, an Israelite family lives in Moab, a traditional enemy of Israel. The two adult sons marry Moabite woman, Orpah and Ruth. (Yes, Oprah Winfrey was named after her. There was a mistake on the birth certificate.) All three men die. This is a time without Social Security, life insurance or pensions. There is no safety net for the widows. The mother, Naomi, determines to go back to Israel. Ruth goes with her, Orpah does not. Ruth tells Naomi she will go with her in one of the most famous Bible passages. It begins: "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16 NRSV) It continues and convinces Naomi of Ruth's sincerity.



In Israel, Naomi introduces Ruth to her kinsman, Boaz. In ancient Israel it was the obligation of the kinsman of a deceased man to take the widow as his wife to bear a son for the deceased, to carry on his line. This would have been the obligation of the next of kin, not Boaz, but he wants to take on the obligation himself, so taken is he with Ruth. So he negotiates with the next of kin and they reach a settlement; the next of kin abdicates his "right" to take Ruth as his wife, and Boaz is free to marry her. This would have been straightforward except for one thing; she is of Moab. Individuals of Moab are forbidden to enter the congregation of Israel "to the 10th generation." Their children would not be considered Israelites, but would be Moabites. Yet the great grandson of Ruth and Boaz is David, the greatest king Israel ever had (and the ancestor of Jesus). Clearly, an exception has been made for the descendants of Ruth, a critical exception in the eyes of Israel and Christians.

Now comes Hannah, whose story appears in 1 Samuel. She is one of the two wives of Elkanah. Her sister wife, Peninah, has children, Hannah does not, which tremendously grieves her. One year, at the annual festival at the shrine at Shiloh, she goes into the temple. Weeping bitterly, she prays, promising that, if she is given a son, she will consecrate him to the Lord, and he would not touch intoxicants or have his hair cut.

Eli the priest is sitting nearby, watching Hannah's as she silently prays, wracked with sobs. He scolds her for making a drunken spectacle of herself. She protests that she is not drunk, but speaks out of her great frustration. Eli repents of his admonition, wishing that God grants her petition. Indeed, the family returns home, Hannah becomes pregnant, and bears a son, whom she names Samuel.

Hannah remembers her vow. Once he is weaned, at about the age of two or three (yes, it takes that long), Hannah brings Samuel to Shiloh and Eli, with whom she leaves him. Then Hannah prays to the Lord, in a long and lovely passage.

Samuel grows up under Eli's tutelage. He becomes God's prophet. It is he who, under God's direction, finds and anoints David to succeed Saul as King of Israel when Saul loses God's favor, establishing the line of succession that leads to Jesus, the Messiah, all because of Hannah's faith and dedication to her promise.

Continued from Page 3

Finally, we have Esther. Ahasuerus, king of Persia, has a problem. His queen has publicly disobeyed him, which is unacceptable. He has put her aside and needs a new queen. He commands that all the young virgins of his kingdom be brought to court and he will choose a wife from among them. Esther, the cousin of a Jewish official in the king's court, Mordecai, is one of them. The king chooses her to be his queen. She hides her ethnicity.

There is a high official in Ahasuerus's court, Haman, before whom all must bow. Mordecai refuses, not bowing to a mere human in this way. This kindles Haman's hatred of Mordecai and the Jews. Haman vows vengeance. He tells the king that the Jews in the kingdom do not follow his laws, offering to pay a large bounty to the king, in return for the king's order to annihilate the Jews. So an order is signed that, on a certain date, the citizens of Persia can kill any and every Jew and take their goods. Once a decree is signed by the king, it is irrevocable.

Mordecai learns of the order and tells Esther, saying that she will not escape and perhaps this is why she came to royalty. Esther invites the king and Haman to a banquet. When they attend, Esther tells the king she is a Jew, and is to be destroyed by the order of Haman. Ahasuerus is livid. He executes Haman, and makes Mordecai, who had foiled an assassination plot, his chief minister. He cannot revoke his decree that the Jews can be killed, but he issues a new one: they can fight back. They do. They are saved by Esther's bravery. It is noteworthy that God is not mentioned anywhere in the book of Esther, the only book in the Bible of which this is true.

These six women demonstrate just how important women were in the faith walk of ancient Israel and the resulting history of Christianity, despite Paul's attempt to minimize them.



Sunday, Sept 8

AND JUST LIKE THAT.....IT'S HERE! RUMMAGE SALE MONTH AT ST. PAUL!

Remember September 20 & 21! We could use your help for an hour or two or either day.

This rummage sale is the biggest fundraiser for Women's Fellowship. The money collected will help support our own church building, as well as several missions.

We will be collecting your gently used items until Labor Day weekend. We need to allow time to do the final sorting, cleaning, hanging up clothes, hanging up signs and organizing.

If you owe any money from the Pre-Rummage Sale items you bought, please put in an envelope and give to Maria, or myself. We are wanting to keep the total amounts separate from the regular Rummage sale totals.

Bake Sale: As in previous years, there will be a Bake Sale. Sandy Stilwell would like the baked goods dropped off at church by Noon on Thursday, Sept 19.

Arrangements have been scheduled with several organizations/groups to come in after the Rummage Sale to take what they need.

Everything Must Go. We are hoping not to have to pack up & box up whatever is left over. But in case there is anything we will probably begin September 30. Announcements will be made with the exact date/time. These donations will be going to Am-Vets. A lot of organizations want our rummage, but they will not pick up and carry from the basement. They want it either at the curb, front steps or in the lobby.

Please tell your family and friends about our Rummage Sale. There are flyers on the blacktop to pass out. Have a doctor appointment, take a flyer there. Going to the grocery store, why not post a flyer? Give a flyer to your mail carrier.

Thank you to all the helping hands who volunteered their time and energy the past 9 months in helping set up for our Rummage Sale. You are so appreciated!

See you on September 20 and 21! **JUST A REMINDER - RUMMAGE WORKERS SHOULD COME BETWEEN 7:30 & 7:45AM AND PARK IN THE BACK (LEAVING THE PARKING LOT OPEN FOR GUESTS).** Coffee and donuts will be served for breakfast and lunch will be served both days.



Friday, September 20, 2024

8-9am—Early Bird (\$1.00 Admission)

9am-2pm—Free Admission

Saturday, September 21, 2024

8am-1pm—Free Admission

12-1pm—Fill a Bag for \$3.00

Clothing, Jewelry, Books, Toys/Games, Tools, Kitchen Items, Christmas Room, Fine Boutique Shop, and Much More.



RISE UCC Book Discussion Group

The book discussion group meets on the last Thursday of each month via Zoom. You will receive the book title at the beginning of each month and we discuss the book in its entirety during our discussion. You do not have to attend every month; only the months you are interested and available. All books have been chosen for specific reasons. Some are because they are currently on lists of books being debated in our local schools with some believing they should be banned. Some are for personal and church reflection.

August is designated as National Black Business Month and we are discussing the “Year of Yes: How to Dance it Out, Stand in the Sun, and Be Your Own Person” by Shonda Rhimes. 2016. We will discuss this book on Tuesday, August 27th at 7pm. The meeting ID for the Zoom meeting is 898 0351 3834 and the password is 395279 or you can use the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89803513834?pwd=qj2dYu4QTzxiQQZt2jgxbVhahNg9rx.1>

September is designated as National Hispanic Heritage Month and we are reading “American Dirt” by Jeanine Cummins. 2020. This is one of the longer books I chose for this year and I decided to utilize the audiobook, which I found to be a good choice. However, I do have a few extra copies of the paperback. If you would like a paperback copy, please let me know. We will discuss this book via Zoom on September 24th at 7pm. The meeting ID is 811 9941 2126 and the password is 032558 or you can use the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81199412126?pwd=3E1RraVLLi9utDHZQ6TYmbVIUeSipL.1>

RISE UCC September Friday Night Movie

On Friday, September 20th at 6:45pm, we are meeting at the home of Stephanie Lange, moderator of Rise UCC to view the documentary “Bad Faith.” Stephanie lives in Macomb Twp. about 20 minutes from St. Paul UCC. We will begin the viewing at 7pm. The documentary is 90 minutes long and then we will have a 30-minute discussion. We will have popcorn and snacks available! We are asking that those interested in coming RSVP to Pastor Kim to receive the address. (We don’t like to put personal addresses on social media.) Stephanie has a beautiful, comfortable home and is incredibly hospitable. We believe this documentary is important to watch and will be an eye-opening experience.

RISE UCC Adult Spiritual Discussion Group

On Tuesday, September 10th at 7:00pm, Pastor Kim will facilitate a class on Zoom titled “The Ten Commandments and the Separation of Church and State: A Brief History and Synopsis of the Debate in our Public Schools.” In this presentation and discussion, we will examine the ongoing debate over the placement of the Ten Commandments from various lenses including Christians, Jews, Muslims, and Atheists. The Zoom will include a PowerPoint presentation followed by a time for conversation. The meeting ID is 843 6456 4332 and the password is 771578 or you can use the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84364564332?pwd=pAv5980NeDkWIZqQvKUBB8kttg8Eda.1>

On Wednesday, September 25th at 7:00pm, Pastor Traci will facilitate a class on Zoom titled “Aramaic: the Spoken Word of Jesus.” This class and discussion will look at historical Jesus and the language that most scholars believe he used to communicate. Our time together will give us the chance to hear well known passages from the Gospels in this language and study how this may impact the translation and our understanding of the texts. The meeting ID is 884 8735 1106 and the password is 763384 or you can use the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88487351106?pwd=Kb6j1lhFz3KSwPuDT5NYINfQhCscbk.1>