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**PLEASE READ:
IMPORTANT
MESSAGE**

ALL activities and services scheduled are subject to change at a moment notice with the COVID-19 Pandemic. Notifications will be done via our Call-Em-All system as well as our church website: www.stpaulsuccsm.com.

This is a quickly changing challenge. We want to be respectful of our congregation. We are paying attention to the recommendation from the White House Coronavirus Task Force, along with the recommendation of Gov. DeWine's Health Secretary as well as the recommendation of the Heartland Conference United Church of Christ

Please know that we are keeping everyone at St. Paul's UCC in our prayers and invite you to do the same. The good news is that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Even the COVID-19 Pandemic. We will get through this with God's help.

In Christ we are,

Ralph Heckler, St. Paul's UCC Consistory President
Luke Leffel, President of the Congregation
Rhonda Hainer, Pastor

WAYS TO KEEP INFORMED DURING THIS PANDEMIC:

Updates will be through **Call-Em-All**, and also posted on our webpage: www.stpaulsuccsm.com and Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Pauls-United-Church-of-Christ-St-Marys-Ohio>

Rhonda's Reflections



Five Ways To Be The Church When Church Is Cancelled

Seems like the notion of “cancel culture” just took on a whole new dimension.

School — cancelled. Vacation – cancelled.

Basketball tournaments and horse races – events of all kinds – cancelled. In a matter of a few days, this thing has gone from “wash your hands and cover your cough” to a significant lifestyle change that most of us have not experienced in our lifetime.

Of all the cancellations, perhaps the most unnerving of all is the call to cancel church worship services. This seems counterintuitive in a time when people are anxious and need community; when people are facing economic uncertainty and need support; and when people are fearful and need the comfort of prayer and connection. And yet– we have to acknowledge that “large gatherings” are a hotspot for the spread of disease, and that church services can be pretty cozy experiences as far as personal space goes. For all of our best efforts to eliminate hand shaking and peace passing, and to modify communion practices, the best way to protect folks right now is to keep them apart.

It’s sad. It’s painful. It goes against every impulse of church leaders who proclaim faith in a God who is bigger than human fear. And it rubs up against the ego of those who think of themselves as hardy enough to weather any storm and get to church early to get the coffee going.

I get it. I really do. But sometimes, painful as it is, cancelling is the responsible, compassionate thing to do, and anything else is just hubris. Think of this illness as the black ice of liability. If there is a blizzard, you might be able to get to church. But if you can’t clear the sidewalks and the parking lots, do you really want to

invite people into a hazard situation—the invisible threat that is just under the surface? This is like that. Sure, folks who are not sick are going to feel like they should still come to church. But they could be carrying something they don't know they have yet, and pass it right on to their elderly or immunocompromised neighbor.

There are many unknowns here. There is unprecedented territory ahead, and nobody can say how long it might last.

So, what are we to do in the meantime? How can we maintain connection with one another and keep “being the Church,” even when you can't be in the church building?

The following suggestions were made by Erin Wathen from Patheos publication and I recommend them to you.

1. **Support your** Elders and Deacons, Pastor and Trustees, Consistory members, and staff— whoever has to make the really hard decisions about whether and how to gather in times of uncertainty. There is no road map for this, and there is no one right answer. Trust that the folks who ultimately make the call spent some time in prayer, discernment, and very difficult conversations. Know that they heavily weighed consequences, including your disappointment, and ultimately did what they thought was the best thing for the wellbeing of the community. Thank them for having your best interests at heart, and then
2. **Send in your pledge.** This may seem like a small thing in the grand scheme right now, but trust me. It matters that you continue to get your offering in, as long as you are fiscally able. This is a great time to reexamine online giving options, or encourage folks to sign up for automatic withdrawal. Even the healthiest congregations can find themselves in the hole, and quick, after just a few Sundays of missed offerings. If you can't give online, mail in a check, send a carrier pigeon, do what you have to do. Even if the building is empty, ministry is continuing. Planning, coordinating, pastoral care continues; what's more, you're helping your church maintain mission

commitments to the community in a time when that commitment is more important than ever.

3. **Check on your neighbors.** Your older neighbors, your neighbor on chemo, your neighbor whose kid relies on free school lunch, your neighbor who still has to go to work and could use help with childcare... Any time you help someone in your proximity, you are living out the values of your faith community. You are embodying what the whole gospel thing is about, which takes church out of the building and brings it to life for others. This is what we go to church to learn how to do— it is ‘for such a time as this’ that you have spent all those other Sundays in worship.
4. **Pray for your church family.** And send notes. Make phone calls. All the things that we do for shut-ins, do for each other now that we are all shut-ins, so to speak. We are one body, even when that body is not together in the flesh. There are plenty of ways to stay connected in spirit, and care for each others’ spiritual needs.
5. **Practice Sabbath.** For some, this shutdown of life as we know it is going to cause significant economic hardship. In the spirit of #3, care for your neighbor as best as you can. In the meantime, recognize if your own discomfort is just inconvenience, and keep that perspective. Recognize that downtime can be a gift— an imposed sabbath of time to sit still and be with your family, without the usual rush of places to be and things to accomplish. Read together; prepare meals together (can you share with a neighbor? #3 and repeat); maybe even binge watch some Netflix together. When’s the last time everybody was home for this long? Talk about what you can learn from this season. Talk about your blessings. Play a game. Make something. Listen to music. It really doesn’t matter. Any of these things can be worshipful in their own way, if by ‘worship’ we mean rest and renewal by way of connecting with God and others.

“Cancel culture” might have a whole new meaning; but “let the Church be the Church” still stands.

Together and with God’s help we will get through this.

You are in my prayers,
Rev. Rhonda



GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST: The tradition here at St. Paul’s of having a Good Friday Breakfast has returned again this year on April 10 at 8 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All members of our church family are invited to attend as well as bring a friend, too, and share in a time of breaking bread and fellowship on this sacred day on the Christian calendar. Waffles, eggs, sausage links, fruit and drinks will be served. A free will offering will be received and will be split 50/50 between the New Elevator Fund and helping fund a form of therapy for Terry Tangeman to which Terry is responding quite positively to, but which is not covered by insurance. Pastor Rhonda will offer a brief devotion on the importance of Good Friday in our Christian tradition. We hope many folks will join us for breakfast that morning for warm fellowship, good food, and a reflection on Jesus’ sacrifice for us all on the cross at Calvary.

RSVP FOR GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST BY APRIL 6TH

_____ **Yes, I/we will attend breakfast**

_____ **# attending**



April 9th Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary
April 10th Good Friday Breakfast 8 a.m. Fellowship Hall
April 12th Easter Sunday!
6:45 a.m. Sunrise Service in the Sanctuary
(intinction)
7:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Easter Service in the Sanctuary (pew
communion)



7:30 pm, April 9, 2020

Tenebrae is the Latin word for "Darkness." Tenebrae Services originated during the early years of the church and depicts the events from the Last Supper to the crucifixion. Through the several readings and songs, it is a service of gradual darkness and meditation on the final hours of Jesus life on earth.

DECORATE THE ALTAR FOR EASTER!

We are asking the congregation to help decorate the altar for Easter!! Donations of spring flowers for the altar need to be in Eletteve Room by 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 11th.

ELEVATOR UPDATE

We are making slow but steady progress on the elevator project. As of this writing, all of the “below ground” concrete has been poured and the forms have been removed. This week (March 16), at the city’s request, we will dig up and replace the sewer line that runs under the parking lot. Then we can fill in the holes and begin work on the building. We continue to need everyone’s help to finish funding this project. We are 90% there – needing just a little less than \$50,000.00. There are several ways that you can donate to our “uplifting” project:

1. Cash donation can be dropped off or mailed to the church office anytime.
2. Visit our website at stpaulsuccsm.com – select donate - and designate the elevator option.
3. We have a GoFundMe account. You can donate and challenge all your Facebook friends to donate also.

Any and all donations are gratefully accepted. Remember that all donations are considered charitable donations on your taxes. Since we are all banned from eating out right now – maybe donate the extra money you are saving?? Thank you all for supporting this project!!

AGAPE MISSION: We are not only collecting donations for toilet paper, but we are collecting soap as well due to the desperate need for it at Agape. Our toilet paper goal for the year is 2000 rolls. Let’s get rolling and put the rolls in the Elevette Room. If you would like for me to purchase rolls for you, I can do this. Just give your donation to me or the office. I will be glad to help out. So, let’s just keep the paper rolling. Thank you for your past and present support on this project. Jane Nuss

DISASTER KITS

Hopefully Spring is around the corner. With Spring rains comes flooding. The Northwest Disaster Team is looking for more clean-up kits.

They're needed to help dispose of debris left from floodwaters, and also to rid homes of mold and mildew.

Some of our church family received such kits when flood waters invaded their homes.

Buckets are being provided by the Women's Guild. We are asking for monetary donations to fill these buckets.

Donations may be placed in a marked envelope labeled for Clean-up kits.

This way some items can be purchased in bulk.

Thank you,
Mission Outreach Committee



BREAKING BREAD COMMUNITY MEAL

St. Paul's offers a weekly free community meal, "Breaking Bread." We serve meals from 4:30 to 6:00 pm on Thursdays (*except the first Thursday of each month*).

TAKE NOTE: CHANGES DURING THE CORONA VIRUS OUTBREAK

No dine-in meals. All meals will be drive up/walk up from 4:30-5:30p

- April 9
- April 16
- April 23
- April 30

BREAKING BREAD DURING CONSTRUCTION: *Everyone will enter the Fellowship Hall door as there will not be access to the Heritage Hall door. There will be help for using the steps. For only those who are absolutely unable to use the steps, someone will take your order and bring it to your car. Dining room and carry-outs will remain the same.*

Do you shop at Gordon Foods? If so, much like the Kroger Rewards Program that the Women’s Guild has, Gordon Foods has a points system. This point system greatly helps with purchasing food for our Breaking Bread meals. The next time you shop at Gordon Foods, ask them to credit your points to St. Paul’s Account #002159887! A little bit goes a long way! Thank you!

EASTER BAKE SALE CANCELLED

Sara and I have been in contact with Minster Bank and have decided with current social distancing regulations that we will have to cancel the bake sale this year. This would have been our 15th year and hate to do this. We certainly appreciate all the support from you all and hope to try again next year, or possibly try something in the fall. See you then!

INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW...

Have you moved or have a new telephone number? A new email address? Do you have a child in college or leaving for college soon? We will need their new address too. Keep your church family updated with any new phone/address changes that you may have. Please contact the church office with your updates by either calling the church office at 419-394-3811 or emailing us at smucc@bright.net. Thank you!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

4 – Bree Howell	18 – Emma Birt
6 – Joey Vanderhorst	24 – Emma Wibbeler
7 – Claydon Milner	26 – Kalie Gayer
8 – Harrison Silber	

PERFECT ATTENDANCE FEBRUARY 2020

<p>NURSERY Ellie Burden Lucy Klosterman</p> <p>Pre-School Maya McDonald</p> <p>Kindergarten Amelia Klosterman Harrison Silber</p> <p>1st Grade Sophie Burden Asher Craft</p> <p>2nd Grade Henry Klosterman</p> <p>3rd Grade Aubrey Birt</p> <p>4th Grade Lincoln James</p> <p>5th Grade</p> <p>6th Grade Ollie Chisholm</p>	<p>7th Grade</p> <p>8th Grade Cody Birt Rhett Chisholm Kaylee Clausing Sophie James Andrew Leffel Brian Speckman Ray Walter</p> <p>Senior High Tyler Birt Brett Speckman Emma Birt Lindsey Clausing Brad Speckman Lucy Spencer Kalie Gayer</p>
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Summer Camp Registration is Now Open!!!

Interested in camp this summer? The 2020 summer camp registration portal is now open!

Visit <http://www.ohioucc.org/outdoor-ministries/> to register for camp! Early registration deadline is April 15th! All other registrations are open up until 2 weeks prior to camp. There are opportunities available for people of all ages, so check your calendar and get ready for a summer of fun!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS!!!



Aluminum Can Recycling for the Youth Group

Thank you to everyone who is saving aluminum cans for the **YOUTH GROUP**. We will continue to save, collect, and recycle cans. Cans need to be **rinsed out** and brought to St. Paul's - **just leave them behind the curtain under the stairs of the Creation Station door**. If you have a lot of cans and would like to just take them on to recycling and donate the money, it may be just as easy once they are in your vehicle. Thank you for your support.

WOMEN'S NEWS

Check out the display case in the Elevette Room!

Women's Guild crafts are on display and available for purchase. Please help support Women's Guild. All proceeds support our church and community needs. If you are interested in something, please contact Joni Leffel at 419-305-5610 or Jane Nuss at 419-305-9629.

DO YOU CROCHET OR KNIT? HELP NEEDED!

Looking for volunteers that are able to help out with making baby afghans. Yarn is available in the sewing room if needed. Questions? Call Margaret Hunter at (419) 733-4332.

QUILTERS meet on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to ??? in the sewing room. Questions? Call Margaret Hunter at 419-733-4332.

BUSY NEEDLES meet in the old kitchen on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 9 a.m. to?? We knot lap robes and comforters for local nursing homes, VA hospitals, Shriners hospitals in Cincinnati and Lexington, Ky., and anyone in need to keep warm. We are looking for anyone wanting to help with this Mission. If you can thread a needle, we need you. Thanks for everyone who has donated fabric and yarn to this Mission. It is through the donations of many that this program has continued for over 35 years. It only costs the

church for the electricity we use in a few short hours. For more information, call Margaret 419-733-4332.



The St. Paul's UCC Women's Guild will be holding BINGO on the following dates: **CHECK TO SEE IF FACILITIES ARE BACK OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- April 13, 2020 Otterbein 6:00-7:00 pm
- May 11, 2020 Vancrest 6:30-7:30 pm
- June 8, 2020 Grand Lake Health 6:30-7:30 pm
- July 13, 2020 Otterbein 6:00-7:00 pm

We are in need of BINGO helpers. Please call Janice Katterheinrich at (419) 394-3264 to let one of them know if you can help work the Bingo or if you can bring cookies.

NOTES OF THANKS:

Thank you for remembering my mother, Leona Peterman, with the bag of Valentines and treats! She read each card and we shared memories. It is so nice to have a church family.

Sincerely,
Linda Millington

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Dear St. Paul's,
Thank you, thank you, thank you! Your Valentine package was a delightful surprise! I sure miss St. Marys. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

Tonie Might

~~*~*

Dear Friends,

What a nice surprise! I was out of state visiting family and upon my return I received a box from my church. My sweet tooth was bothering me, so I had some good sweets! Thanks so very much! I enjoyed all of the notes and goodies!

Janet Swartz



Dear members of St. Paul's:

It is my sincere pleasure to thank you for your recent gift, through the Northwest Ohio Association of UCC, to Heidelberg University. It is so heartening when we receive a gift from a donor that allows us to say "yes" to one or more of our students.

The university is indeed grateful to the recipient of such a kind and thoughtful gift.

Thank you again,

Kelly R. Lavelle, Director of The Heidelberg Fund

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Dear St. Paul's UCC,

Thank you to the members of your church for the kind gift to Defiance College. We are always grateful to be remembered by St. Paul's!

Sheri McCoy

Advancement Services Coordinator

Defiance College

~~*~*~*

Dear St. Paul's,

Thank you so much for your monetary donation. We are so grateful to you all! You make a difference for abused and neglected kids!

Thank you!

Kyle Zanker, Chief Development Officer
Crossroad Child & Family Services

 *In Memoriam*

- **To the Sunday School Fund in memory of Bud Lehman:**
Mary McDonald, Barb Overman, Barb and Bud Fitzgerald, Ron Ketchum, Jim and Mikki Spees, Becky Spees, Cliff and Marie Spees, Mark and Jeanette Chiles, Jim and Kris Vanderhorst.
 - **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Bud Lehman:**
Bob Adams, Grace Young, Glenn and Lynda Hadley, Betty McDonald and family, Willis and Ruth Henschen.
 - **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Tom Hevlin:**
Willis and Ruth Henschen
 - **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Donald Nedderman:** Adele Fast
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CHURCH INFO

CALL-EM-ALL - Please let the church office know if you are experiencing any problems with the Call-Em-All phone messages. **Also, please contact the office if you would like to be removed from the calling list, or listen to the broadcast and at the end follow their directions to 'opt out' of any future broadcasts - this will remove your number from the calling list.** Thank you!

'BREAKING BREAD' COMMUNITY DINNER - If you would like to make a financial contribution to help with costs for the weekly community dinner, these will be gratefully accepted. Donations can be placed in the Sunday offering plate or mailed to the church office. Please be sure to indicate your name on the envelope if you would like to receive credit on your giving statement. Contributions of #10 canned food are also accepted.

FOR THE RECORD - INFORM US PLEASE!!

 If you will be going to the hospital or if someone you know is hospitalized, please call the church office and let us know.

 Please call the church office with address corrections or if you do not see your **Birth**day or **Anniversary** listed during the correct month. Call 419-394-3811. Thank you!!

 **Cell phone # for Pastor Rhonda** (563) 210-3508

 **rhainer@bright.net** – Rev. Hainer's e-mail address.

 **smucc@bright.net** - church e-mail address. Use this to e-mail articles for the newsletter/messages for the Sunday bulletin.

 **christianed@bright.net** - Christian Education and Youth Director email address.

 **cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com** to contact Carol Schmidt for the Email Prayer Team Requests.

 **spmedia@bright.net** – to contact Jim Huckemeyer or Rich Spencer email address.

 **www.stpaulsuccsm.com** - church web site address and most current worship service videos can be seen here.

📺 **Televised worship service-** our worship service here at St. Paul's is shown on **TSC cable - Digital channel 1 OR non-digital channel 2,** every Sunday at 10:30 am and also on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm. There is a one week delay of the service shown.

STAFF OF ST. PAUL'S UCC:

- ... **Rev. Rhonda Hainer, Pastor**
 - ... **Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant**
 - ... **Amy & Mark Dieringer, Youth Directors**
 - ... **Jim Huckemeyer, Director of Music**
 - ... **Andrea Spencer, Organist**
 - ... **Ann Vogel, Organist**
 - ... **Cynthia Hanover, Pianist**
 - ... **Bob Schumacher, Custodian**
 - ... **Rich Spencer, Audio and Video**
 - ... **Carol Schmidt, Email Prayer Team Contact**
 - ... **Mary Holtzapple, Christian Ed Coordinator**
 - ... **Julie Speckman, Church School Superintendent**
 - ... **Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher**
 - ... **Kim Opperman, Nursery Supervisor**
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Kroger Fund Raiser for the Women's Guild – If you would like to support Women's Guild with the Kroger fundraiser, log on to: www.krogercommunityrewards.com to sign up & register your Kroger Plus card. **NPO# is SK5720**. If you do not use the internet, but would like to sign up, please contact Jane Nuss or Kris Vanderhorst.

EYEGASSES FOR THE NEEDY - collected by the church school classes. Donated glasses should be placed in the basket at the North entrance to the sanctuary.

LIFT CHAIR is available for 'loan' to anyone in the church who might have a need for it. Please call the church office for more information.

ATLAS 600 VISION MACHINE - to assist those who have vision problems with reading books, newspapers, prescription labels, writing personal checks or viewing family photographs - making this possible with video magnifiers. **This item is currently unavailable.**

ANOTHER VISION MACHINE - to assist those who have vision problems with reading books, newspapers, prescription labels, writing personal checks or viewing family photographs - making this possible with video magnifiers. **This item is currently available to church members on a "temporary" basis. If you are interested in checking out this machine, please contact the church office.**

WALKERS - If you have need of a walker for assistance in getting around, please call the church office. One of our church members has several different type walkers, which are available for loan.

RESTROOM ITEMS: If you have a need for shower chairs, toilet seat elevators and hand-held shower adapters, please call the church office. One of our church members has graciously donated a few of these items.

LAMINATOR - available in the church office. This is used by the Sunday School teachers for classroom projects and activities and by the office staff. We will also laminate items for church members for a fee of \$1.00 per item (**NOTE: maximum size we can laminate is 8 ½ x 11 inches**).

OFFERING ENVELOPES - are distributed by quarterly mailing. Please notify the church office if you are not receiving envelopes and would like to be added to this mailing list. Also.....**PLEASE**

NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

COPIES - if you need copies made of any personal items, you may stop by the church office and we will be glad to make them for you. If it is a large project, it is best to call ahead. **Cost for making copies for church members is 15 cents per copy if you use the office paper or 10 cents per copy if you bring your own paper.**

THE DVD/CD DUPLICATOR in the church office enables us to make multiple copies of the morning worship service. Please call the church office to request a copy. **The charge for duplicating a DVD will be \$2.00 each.** Monthly sets of worship DVD's can also be mailed at a cost of \$10.00 per month. Call the church office for more information.

2020 CHURCH OFFICIALS

President of Congregation	Luke Leffel
Vice-president of Congregation	Jeff Dieringer
President of Consistory	Ralph Heckler
Vice-president of Consistory	Marsha Landers

2020 Members of Consistory

Elders:	Ralph Heckler	Virginia Burroughs
	Jane Nuss	Marsha Landers
	Joan Leffel	Mary Holtzapple
Deacons:	Becky Raswehr	Victor Long
	Carol Waesch	Luke Leffel
	Lynn Schmidt	Melinda Silber
	Lynda Hadley	Kellie Kill
	Susan Braun	Linda McDonald
	Jennifer Ginter	Susan Spencer
Trustees:	Greg Walter, Kyle Opperman and Larry Kill	

FINANCIAL REPORT

February 2020:

Current Fund:

- Budgeted through February 29, 2020 = \$ 44,788.00
- Received through February 29, 2020 = \$ 32,282.00
- Expenses through February 29, 2020 = \$40,280.95
- Received through February 28, **2019** = \$26,120.71

Mission Fund:

- Budgeted through February 29, 2020 = \$ 2,500.00
- Received through February 29, 2020 = \$ 1,705.00
- Received through February 28, **2019** = \$ 1,416.00

Status of 2020 Budget:

Current Fund:

- Budgeted through March 31, 2020 = \$ 67,182.00
- Budgeted through March 15, 2020 = \$ 58,224.40
- Received through March 15, 2020 = \$ 48,622.53

Mission Fund:

- Budgeted through March 31, 2020 = \$ 3,750.00
 - Budgeted through March 15, 2020 = \$ 3,000.00
 - Received through March 15, 2020 = \$ 2,565.00
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MINUTES OF THE MARCH 11, 2020 CONSISTORY MEETING

The regular meeting of St. Paul's UCC Consistory was called to order at 5:58 p.m. by President Ralph Heckler. Pastor Rhonda Hainer gave the opening prayer.

Present: *Elders:* Jane Nuss, Mary Holtzapple, Marsha Landers, Virginia Burroughs and Ralph Heckler; *Trustees:* Kyle Opperman, Larry Kill and Greg Walters; *Deacons:* Kelly Kill, Carolyn Waesch, Lynda Hadley, Lynn Schmidt, Luke Leffel, Jennifer Ginter, Susan Braun, Linda McDonald, Melinda Silber, and Becky Rasaweher. Also present were Pastor Rhonda Hainer, Treasurer, David Dickman,

Custodian Bob Schumacher, Administrative Assistant Carolyn Garrison, and guest Amy Dieringer.

Vacation Bible School: Amy Dieringer

- Amy presented the idea of having a “Sports Camp” theme VBS using Sports Ministry. The New Bremen UCC does an “Art Camp” and it is big and pretty awesome. It is called “Art Camp”, but technically it is their VBS. So, we thought that with a sports themed VBS, we would have a large turn out as well. We’re looking at the dates May 31-June 3, which is the week after school is out for the summer and think that there would be more interest before people go on summer vacations. Mark and I discussed issues of rain and not enough field space, basically trying to tackle all of the obstacles. We came up with the idea to contact the Nazarene Retreat Center on 703. It has plenty of field/indoor space and even access to their pool (we provide a lifeguard). We called and the only time available this summer IS the dates we wanted. They also have a full kitchen, bathrooms, and game rooms, so if it rains, we have options. They do charge \$125 a day, so a \$500 cost, which we feel that we can fund without issue. We have also looked into a sports curriculum; it is called Mega Sports Camp Team Spirit Pre-K through 6th Grade. It uses the NIV version of the Bible and that cost is \$83.09 (comes with a DVD and all of the lessons that goes along with the sports theme). With the permission of Consistory, we would like to open it up to other churches and the kids in the area. Maybe even Pastor Rhonda taking it to the local Ministerial Association. This would be free to the kids who attend and there would be no limit. We would offer food/snacks, possibly a concession stand theme with different church committees providing food (i.e. hot dogs, sandwiches, chips, etc.). One of our concerns is transportation for the kids to get there, so we are doing some brainstorming for that. The dates are Sunday through Wednesday and would

be from 6p-8p. We will have the facilities from 5:30p-9p. If we are there past 9p, they will not charge us extra. The church picnic is scheduled for the following weekend and the VBS kids could come and sing the songs that they learned. We have a verbal agreement with the camp and do not have to pay anything until the day of. Pastor Rhonda asked if there would be any kind of liability issue. Amy said that the grounds are insured and Carolyn Garrison spoke up and said that we would have an “umbrella” of liability coverage like we do for our Back-Bay Missionaries. Marsha Landers made a motion to approve. Virginia Burroughs seconded. Motion carried.

Christian Education and Nurture: Mary Holtzapple

- Christian Ed held their first meeting on February 25th. We need to pick officers.
- Sr. High Youth would like to help with Sunday School. We will allow this with an adult present (who has had a background check).
- More help is needed in the Nursery.
- We are currently looking into Sunday School curriculum.
- Sarah Walter would like study Bibles for the 6th and 7th grades.
- Palm Sunday the kids will carry palms and sing with the adult choir.
- The church picnic will be at 12:30p, June 7th at the second beach shelter house out at the lake. Marsha Landers will be calling to reserve that location. President Ralph asked if there would be church services out there as well as have been in some year’s past. Pastor Rhonda suggested that we table that discussion until next month.
- Easter Sunday the kids will be performing a skit that day.
- Next Christian Ed meeting is March 18th at 6p.

Minutes:

- Minutes from the February 12, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Kyle Opperman made a motion to approve the minutes. Lynda Hadley seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report: David Dickman

- David reviewed the Financial Report for the month of February 2020. There being no other questions, President Ralph asked to file the financial report for review by the church Administrative Assistant.

President's Report: Ralph Heckler

- Ralph asked if Consistory would be interested in donating to the Rotary Carp Derby. It was noted that we have not done any support in the past. It was the consensus of Consistory that we have our own activities going on around here and would pass on any donation.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rhonda

- Pastor Rhonda reported that her installation is this Sunday. Dan Busch will be leading the worship.
- Pastor Rhonda and Dan Busch will be speaking to the Sunday School kids before the service about the meaning of the installation service. Kevin Gehres, Jeanette Tangeman, Luke Leffel and UCC Rep. Mary Ann Ewing will all be involved in the installation. A typical installation during a worship service does not involve the pastor until after he/she has been installed. That Sunday we will be having a Potluck after worship thanks to Marsha Landers, Pam Scheer and her group of helpers.
- Wednesday evening Lenten services are going well. Jim Huckemeyer is preparing a Tenebrae Service for Maundy Thursday.
- We will have a Good Friday breakfast.
- Rhonda gave a shout out to how wonderful the new screen looks. Someone raised a question about the gold cross on the wall and not being able to see it anymore because of the screen. That is not true. The screen is not always going to be down, but when it is down, they have a photograph

of the cross that is super-imposed onto the screen that looks like the screen isn't even there.

- Mary is doing a great job and she has really jumped right on board!

Loose Offering for 2nd Sunday of the coming month:

- Discussion of the various donation places were discussed. After some discussion, the designated loose offering for the second Sunday in April will be to help our VBS. For May it will be for Agape Helping Hands and for June it will be for the local Council on Aging. Lynda Hadley made a motion to approve these recommendations. Luke Leffel seconded. Motion carried.

Budget and Finance: No Report

Trustees: Greg Walter

- Screen is up and wired.
- Trustees are meeting bi-weekly with the contractors. They are to start pouring some concrete tomorrow.

Elders: Marsha Landers

- With the Corona Virus, we have decided that we will be doing something different with communion. We will be having a loaf of bread, but not like what was used at Christmas time. There will be three stations-intinction trays with the throw away cups. They will tear off bread using gloves.

Deacons: Lynn Schmidt

- Lynn said that he will be taking attendance tonight at the Lenten service. Lynn asked if there was a reason attendance was taken to begin with. Carolyn Garrison spoke up and stated that attendance is logged for every service and at the end of the year she computes the average attendance for the year which she then has to report, along with other detailed information, to the National UCC office.

Christian Mission and Outreach: Lynda Hadley

- We have a crew of a few adults and youth members who will be going on a mission this summer that will also be volunteering to hang drywall at the Hardin house (home for Danielle Hardin who is now disabled due to a motorcycle accident and needs a handicap accessible home). They will be doing this in late March or early April on a Saturday.

Personnel: No report

Elevator Committee: Lynda Hadley

- They are just under \$50,000.00 (\$49,600.00) of money that needs to be raised yet.
- Need to do a “hard sell” on Easter Sunday for more donations. Possibly a “thermometer” that displays how much further we need to go to meet our goal. To purchase that type of display would be over \$200. There was a suggestion of doing a drawing of one and coloring it in as we go. Carolyn Garrison offered to have her daughter draw the thermometer and Lynda Hadley can then fill in the thermometer with the money amounts to show how far we are from our goal. Pastor Rhonda suggested even having a little graphic in the next newsletter with an article about how much we have left to raise.
- Cathy Greene, daughter of Mary Maurer, has been keeping up-to-date with Glenn via texts and Carolyn has shared the construction photos that Fred Scheer has provided, with Cathy via email.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- President Ralph asked about setting a summer service time. After much discussion, Luke Leffel made a motion to have summer services start at 9 a.m. beginning the second Sunday of June. Jane Nuss seconded. Motion carried.
- Golden Sunday will be held June 28th. There will be a “brunch” to follow and it will be open to everyone unlike what they have done in the past.

There being no further regular business, Kyle Opperman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Greg Walter seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Heckler, 2020 Consistory President
Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15, 2020 CONSISTORY SPECIAL MEETING

The special meeting of St. Paul's UCC Consistory was called to order at 9:58 a.m. by President Ralph Heckler.

Present: *Elders:* Jane Nuss, Mary Holtzapple, Marsha Landers, Joan Leffel, and Ralph Heckler; *Trustees:* Kyle Opperman, Larry Kill and Greg Walters; *Deacons:* Kelly Kill, Carolyn Waesch, Lynda Hadley, Lynn Schmidt, Luke Leffel, Jennifer Ginter, Susan Braun, Linda McDonald, and Melinda Silber. Also present were Pastor Rhonda Hainer, Treasurer, David Dickman, Custodian Bob Schumacher, and Administrative Assistant Carolyn Garrison.

This special meeting was called to discuss the current pandemic, Corona Virus and discuss the pros-cons of moving forward with services/church activities or not.

President Ralph opened the meeting explaining what the Governor DeWine/CDC are recommending with this start of the Corona Virus and would like input from Consistory as to whether or not we should shut down or move forward with safety precautions. Currently, our Sunday school program has cancelled for the next three weeks. Ralph stated that as of now, religious functions do not fall under the current guidelines recommended by the government. The Boy Scouts and GED classes have cancelled for the next three weeks as well.

Discussion and ideas ensued with eliminating hand-to-hand touching, opening up the overflow portion of the sanctuary for social distancing, place a table between the back section and overflow to have offering plates as well as bulletins to be picked up. For today's service the back is open for social distancing with a table set up for the bulletin and offering plates as well as in the balconies. Further precautions of wearing gloves for those who count the offering are in place. Increased placement of hand sanitizer throughout the building was suggested.

Pastor Rhonda asked everyone to consider the rationale behind shutting down the schools, etc. is that ER's can only handle so much. While we don't want to over-react, at the same time we need to react. What is our witness to the community if we do continue? Are we being supportive of what the community needs or possibly contributing to the increase in exposure?

Other items discussed:

If services are cancelled what alternatives instead:

Videotape a devotional from our pastor and put on website, Facebook page

Live stream through church website Discussion about our capabilities to do a "live stream" or not. Ralph stated that Rich is currently on vacation, and we would have to wait for him to return and get with him about videoing.

Concerns raised if we do not cancel services:

-Strongly recommend the elderly and those with health issues, or currently sick to not attend worship

Concerns raised should worship be cancelled

-Financial deficit. Options: Mail in the offering, go online and give

-Concern that isolation of older members might affect them emotionally, socially, spiritually.

Other information:

Office hours will be maintained and Pastor Rhonda reminded everyone that she will still offer pastoral care as usual. Further discussion brought up the fact that we are going to need extra care with sanitizing the building which will take an increase in manpower than just Bob. Jane and Bill Nuss volunteered to assist Bob.

Mary Holtzapple spoke up and suggested that we just go week to week and just see what the status is at that time. Mary said that she wouldn't have cancelled Sunday school except for the fact that the children are every place and are carriers. Greg Walter made a motion to cancel the Wednesday service and the March 22nd service, but that Consistory meet at 6pm on Monday, March 23rd to re-evaluate services for the coming week. Lynda Hadley seconded. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. with a motion by Jane Nuss and seconded by Lynn Schmidt. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph Heckler, Consistory President
Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant



Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. for the May issue of The Communicator will be April 20th at 9 a.m.

WAYS TO KEEP INFORMED DURING THIS PANDEMIC:

Updates will be through **Call-Em-All**, and also posted on our webpage:
www.stpaulsuccsm.com and Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/St-Pauls-United-Church-of-Christ-St-Marys-Ohio>

easter word search

C Y T E G G S I W Y K B J S A
X S N C A Q Q D O H A C S P O
F Z U N A L J F H B N E A N P
K Z H C U E A S T E R S U I T
U M G E O B L Y X D R O T V V
N Y G D J L D O R Y A D N U S
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BUNNY
CANDY
CHURCH
COLORS
EASTER DRESS
EASTER EGG HUNT

EASTER SUIT
EGGS
GRASS
LOVE
RABBIT
SUNDAY