



The Good News

June 2016

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



PASTOR JACQUIE PATT



Thank you again for your gracious welcome. I am amazed at your hard work, dedication and your activities. Before I officially started, I saw some of the soup-making and Rummage Sale activity with a lot of cooperation and teamwork. Many people benefit from both of these activities in many ways, such as those people who buy the Rummage Sale goods, the people through Trinity-St. Marks who benefit from the donations, and those people who benefit from your financial donations. Thank you for your ministry to the people in this community and beyond. I know your effort is deeply appreciated by many people.

Since beginning our journey together, I've had a busy few weeks. In addition to worship each week, I attended a Consistory meeting and have visited several members who have not been able to come to church regularly. I appreciate your patience with me, while I learn your names and figure out a routine for my week. Most of my part-time 20 hours per week schedule will be focused on worship. Given that, I'm not sure if I will have regular office hours. If you want to talk or meet with me, please contact Maria or me. We will work something out. And, of course, please let me know if an emergency arises that may include a pastoral visit or call.

I am looking forward to our journey. Blessings!

June 1, 2016—4:30-6:30 pm





Consistory President's Report

On May 10, St. Paul held its monthly Consistory meeting. The Consistory welcomed Pastor Jacquie to her first Consistory meeting and to St. Paul in general. If you haven't already done so, please introduce yourself to her.

The Consistory sent a "welcome to the neighborhood" plant to the new owners of the parsonage. We hope they are enjoying their new home.

With the Parsonage sold and our new Pastor in place, the Consistory reviewed this year's budget moving forward and it is balanced. Giving continues to be about the same—the half-time pastor and no parsonage bills and up-keep, definitely help.

The rummage sale was a big success. The profits this time around were very good. Community dinners have been moving along nicely. It sure is a nice treat to have dinner ready and all you need to do is show up and eat!

We had another sewage issue this past week. Not as bad as before, but it still required clean up. The City was called and they came out and checked the city lines. They were all clear. We called our plumber back and he cleaned our lines out (there was a slight blockage that he found). So far, so good.

The water spigot outside of the educational building that was leaking last year has been fixed. Also, we had a company come out to look at fixing the ground outside of the back door by the dumpster. We are looking at trying to level out the area. We won't be able to do the whole parking area, but hope to get the small area right outside of the door fixed.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to let me know, or any of the Consistory members and we will try to answer them.

- 1 Bonnie Meek
- 4 Carroll Fritz
- 9 Maria Momeyer
- 12 Faye Mork
- 18 Dawn Regier



- June
- 5 Dick Schuster
 - 12 Gail Popyk
 - 19 Joyce Karner
 - 26



God defies...."God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things-and the things that are not-to nullify the things that are."

1 Corinthians-1:27

Since I've begun this journey with God; there has been so much enlightenment of how God changes the natural order of circumstances. How He gives "beauty for ashes" and often utilizes the lowest stature of people. Of course this isn't the case when an employer is hiring, a sports team is scouting for players, nor a majority of people are just looking for a friend. Most would prefer the smartest, strongest, richest ones in their life. But only God defies that.

One of my favorite examples of this is from the book of Judges. The beautiful story of Gideon has inspired me for years now. An angel of the Lord told Gideon that he "is a mighty warrior." Gideon's first response was, "my clan is the weakest of the tribe and I am the least in my family." Gideon wasn't lying, but he was looking at the natural. Then God used him and he found his identity by conquering an army. This assures me that EVERYONES purpose is great and important. Especially those who seem to be the least.

Another testament where God has done these defying miracles is through the life of Paul. First, a Pharisee, a leader in persecuting and even killing Christians. By reading the story of Saul, I truly could not have guessed God would defy the expected outcome of his life. What he once thought was a gain was actually a loss he says and he found gain in what many see as a loss. Wow, that's deep. We know that God named him Paul and he'd become one of the most influential Christians to ever live. Paul's books/letters are so profound. Only God could have thought of that.

And of course Jesus...everything He said and the purity He was during His ministry 2,000 years ago is incomprehensible.

He lived and walked to turn the worldly activities around. Such powerful teachings that always defied the ways of the religious leaders. It is all so miraculous and overwhelming to grasp. I'll never get it if I "lean on my own understanding."

The last thing I want to share is a passage in Ecclesiastes-4:14: *"The youth have come from prison to kingship."* Now imagine how much that speaks to me and to know how long ago it was written. It is so moving to know what I am working toward and God has more than proven to me of what he can do with what is perceived as 'lost lives.' I just now ask you to make it personal. He can defy any situation. The confidence of what is possible is through so many readings in the Bible. With that said, God's defying power is life changing and I know everyone has the ability to push through and experience this in their life. Thank you so much for allowing me to write this! All the words and encouragement I receive is very much what keeps me going. God bless.

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



Thank you to all those who brought in flowers on Pentecost Sunday & all the St. Paul gardeners who planted the flowers in the Pentecost Garden and cleaned up the flower bed around the flag pole.

GAIL POPYK & SHIRENE CECE-CLEMENTS

Well, as with everyone else, the ONA Team is enjoying a much needed rest over the summer and as St. Paul determines its future direction. Even so, we look forward to our participation in Ferndale Pride on June 4, in partnership with Salem United Church of Christ and Trinity-St. Mark's, with whom we are building a strong partnership. This year, thanks to our partners at Salem, our booth will feature enhanced signage for each church, along with a rainbow tablecloth, table skirt and back drop. We are very grateful to John Wagner at Salem who has spearheaded the production of this material.



We will display and hand out our "Welcome to St. Paul" brochure, which Maria has enhanced a great deal, as well as the "So You're Thinking of Joining the UCC" brochures produced by our denomination. Also on hand will be our temporary rainbow tattoos, St. Paul pens to give away, bottled water from both St. Paul and Salem, and maps should anyone request one showing how to reach St. Paul. This year, our St. Paul booth team consists of Dick and Diane Schuster, Beth DeVlaminck, Gail and Steve Popyk and Faye Mork. We appreciate all who have volunteered for this important effort to demonstrate our commitment to the LGBTQ community. Salem and Trinity-St. Mark's will also provide volunteers to staff the booth on a limited basis.

On another topic entirely, our team wishes to extend its heartfelt congratulations to one of its own members, although other commitments have kept her from active involvement in the team for some time. Bonnie Meek-Miller, who has been serving as Associate Pastor at Salem UCC, on June 4th (yes, the same day as Pride) will be graduating from the Ecumenical Theological Seminary of Detroit with her Masters of Divinity degree. This is a major accomplishment which has been achieved after years of hard work, and we are proud to call Bonnie "one of our own." We wish her well in what we know will be a distinguished career in the ministry, serving God as she has been called to do.

We continue to welcome all who wish to enter the full life and ministry of St. Paul. Won't you join us?

Please Pray For

Pastor Terri Bracy
 Madeline Goldstein (hospice)
 Andrew Schwartz
 Matt Sufnar
 Ruthie Kuntzman
 Vigna Family
 SPUCC Community Supper
 Those Serving our Country
 Washington Decision Makers
 Michigan's People & Economy
 People Who Seek/Need a Community of Faith
 Safety for People of the World
 Seminarians and Members in Discernment
 PFLAG/Ruth Ellis Center
 The Warming Center
 Sacred Conversations on Race
 Middle Eastern Conflict & Refugees
 Flint Water Crisis
 Detroit Public Schools

Cancer

Bonnie Fagon
 Barbara Delmoral
 Shirley
 Jean
 Donna
 Eugene Hardy
 Lynn
 Tom
 Carol
 Anna
 Nancy
 Lillian
 Howard Dubois
 Irene
 Marian (Bendik) Yaeger
 Hannah
 Rachel
 James
 Karen Powell
 Mary Fritz
 Sandra Smith
 Carol D
 Shirene Cece-Clements



We continually strive to keep our prayer lists updated. If you know someone on this list, please take a moment and let Barbara Stephens know how they are doing. New additions will be lifted up during our community prayer time in worship. Each Monday, updated copies will be available on the black countertop and send by email. Emergency requests will continue to be called down the prayer chain as they are received. The names on our *Cancer* list is ongoing. The names on our *Please Pray For* list will remain on for one month. If a name is removed and you would like it to continue on the list, please let Maria know.



Mable Adamson

Wally Paczkowski

Anne Pyciak

Marilyn Dopp (hospice)

Virginia Park

Mae St Clair

Esther Hornyak

Joan Pinegar

Dorothy Zink



*Steve & Gail,
We wish to thank you for providing the beautiful
wreaths that grace our church throughout the
year.*

BARBARA STEPHENS

As I was shopping at a favorite place, the Christian Book Store, for some special cards, a young lady asked me if I would like to sponsor a young child from Zambia, Africa. I wasn't prepared at that moment to answer that question. I thought about it for a few minutes and asked a few questions.

I thought what a wonderful idea this would be, even though this is in a far-away part of the world, we can still show our love and concern by supporting and making someone's life a little better.

The young lady that I am sponsoring, Theresa, is 11 years old and she has a mom and dad, brothers and sisters. They are from a poor area that needs clean water, medical care and HIV/AIDS education. I have a picture of her and will have an update on her in a few weeks. We will be able to correspond via mail and email.

I am very excited about being able to do this, hoping it will make life a little better for this family and the village they live in.

I truly feel this is God's mission – that we are called to be servants, whether it is near or far, it doesn't matter at all. We are all God's children and he loves us all the same.

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith"

Galatians 3:26

