The Scribe

St. Paul UCC
144 E Palatine Road, Palatine IL 60067
(847) 358-0399 www.stpaul-ucc.org
January 2023

Pastor's Pen...

This isn't a cheery subject for a church newsletter, but it recently occurred to me that Sunday January 8th will be the 30-year anniversary of the Browns Chicken Massacre here in Palatine. It was a crime that left an indelible mark on the community. Even though the restaurant was torn down and a Chase bank now occupies that spot, no one can forget what took place there. *(I was living in Crystal Lake at the time, so I was around to see the local news coverage.)*

We live in a world where things like that happen. This is a world where people seek to destroy one another, physically or otherwise. However, the opposite of that is equally true. In this world people also seek to preserve life, uphold the other's dignity, and affirm everything that is good. Human beings are capable of both good and evil.

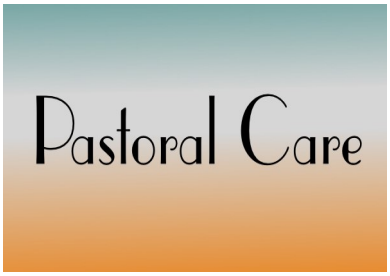
Basically, it all comes down to choices. People consciously choose which course of action that they're going to take. Some people choose to transgress boundaries, while others choose to respect boundaries. Some people choose cruelty, and others choose kindness. Some people choose to waste time, and other people choose to make good use of time. Everyone makes their own choices, and no one else can make those choices for them.

The beginning of a New Year is always a clean slate on which to make new choices. What kind of choices are you, I, or the folks down the street going to make this year? In this world of contrasts in which tragedies and triumphs take place within a mile of each other, what are we going to add to the whole mix? Perhaps a good starting point would be for us to say along with Joshua: ***"Choose this day whom you will serve.....But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*** (Joshua 24:15)

Choosing to be God's person on your street, or on your block, or in your workplace.....that is always a good choice to make! May God guide each of your choices in the New Year.

David

St. Paul UCC Executive Board Members: Sharon Altergott (Spiritual Life Board Rep.), John Beresheim (Admin. Board Rep.), Kim Cichon, Karen Connor (Spiritual Life Board Rep.), Ed Doktor, Randy Everett (Admin. Board Rep.), and David Mercer (Staff Rep).



Pastoral visitation is available to those who are hospitalized, temporarily laid up at home, or going through rehab at a facility. Because hospitals and other institutions do not notify the church when a patient is admitted, we need for you or your family member to notify us. We will be more than happy to accommodate your request for pastoral care. Please note also that the pastor may be reached for emergencies at (224) 386-6285 (cell phone).

Pastor David's procedure in visiting St. Paul's shut-ins, as well as, those members who have a difficult time getting to church is to offer support, bring Holy Communion (their option) and to let them know we journey together in worship. Pastor David understands that scheduling may depend on frequency of doctor's appointments or the church member's schedule. Visitation is always available, however, as the shut-in member's health and life situation may change and more extensive pastoral care is needed. Any church member or their family member desiring more frequent pastoral visitation, or to be placed on the visitation list in the first place should contact the church office at (847)-358-0399 to make arrangements.

"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14)

The Pastoral Relations Committee Is Available To You!

Do you have an idea, a question, a comment, or a concern that you would like for Pastor David to know about? You have a couple of options available to you. First, you may speak directly with the pastor. Our pastor is here for ALL of St. Paul's members and he welcomes communication from ALL members. If you aren't comfortable in speaking directly with the pastor, however, then your second option is to go through the Pastoral Relations Committee. Their purpose is to foster good relations between pastor and parish through open and thoughtful communication. St. Paul's Pastoral Relations Committee members are: Debbie Everett (Chair); Tom Donat, Jim Frost, and Bob Kolze.

From the Treasurer...St. Paul at a Glance

	November 2022	YTD	ANNUAL BUDGET
Revenue	**$16,691.68**	**$204,633.59**	**$230,100.00**
Expenditure	**$21,113.50**	**$253,138.81**	**$262,298.00**
Net Income	**$-4,421.82**	**$-48,505.22**	**$-32,198.00**

January Birthdays

5 Michael Wagner
6 Mike Drost
7 Holly Chvoy
7 Karen Connor
19 Jeff Florey
23 Mark Faust Sr.
26 Judith Zimmer
26 Mark Faust Jr.
28 Gloria Helms
28 Helen Chvoy
29 Britly Colella
29 Diane Nosek

If there is anyone I missed, please call the church office, so we can update our records. Thank you!

Altar Flower Chart

The 2023 flower chart **is up in the East Entrance**. We welcome you to sign up to have flowers placed on the altar for special Sundays of significance to you and your family. (You can also call the church office and Mary can sign you up.) Having flowers on the church altar is a wonderful way to honor, celebrate or remember special persons or events in your life. We are hoping to have the chart filled for each week of the year, so that fresh flowers remain a part of our weekly service. The cost is $32.00. Please make checks payable to St. Paul UCC. Thank you!

The Board of Spiritual Life would like to let you know for 2023 we will require 90% sponsorship for the altar flowers. If we do not reach that, the live flowers will need to be discontinued for 2024, and we will use artificial arrangements going forward. If we do use the artificial flowers, you can still sponsor a Sunday if you wish, it will still be listed in the bulletin, however, there will be no charge. The church finances can no longer absorb the cost of unsponsored flowers for services. Thank you.

The open dates are: March 5,12,19,26; April 16,23,30; June 11,18,25; July 2,16,23,30; August 6,27; September 10; October 1,8,15,29; and December 10,17,31.

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Dorothy Altergott
Ed Bartelt, friend of Charlotte Mally
Nancy Drost, sister of Russ Drost
Michael Drost
Jeff Florey
Carol Hannah
Ralph, Matthew, & Michael Hayford
Jerri Helms, daughter-in-law of Orrin & Gloria Helms
Carol Hennings, sister of Pat Kolze
The Hernandez Family, neighbors of the Gumms
Larry & Marlene Ingram
Nancy Johnson, friend of Charlotte Mally
Bruce & Barb Kerlin, parents of Bruce Kerlin
Corry Klipp, friend of David Gumm
Ken Kolze
Larry Layman, brother of Shirley Kolze
Alfred & Patricia Maruda, parents of Michelle Garcia
Dorothy Mende, sister of Charlotte Mally
Paulette Mohr, aunt of Kim Ferris
Mary Paz
Holly Petersen
Robin Plemich, cousin of Kim Ferris
Dennis Schimka, brother of Jim Schimka
Mary Schultz, neighbor of Nancy Perry
Sherry Stephens, sister of Shirley Kolze

SERVING CHRIST IN WORSHIP

January Usher Captain:
Chuck Oberly

Communion Sunday: There is a combo wafer/communion cup on the table as you enter, *(with the bulletins)* please take one and bring to your seat. Thank you!

January Readers:
1: Tom Donat
8: Cherrie Wickstrom
15: Janet Olsen
22: Reader Needed
29: Melissa Gumm

Lectionary for January:
1: Isa 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Heb 2:10-18; Matt 2:13-23.
6: Isa 60:1-6; Psalm 72:-7,10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12.
8: Isa 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matt 3:13-17.
15: Isa 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Cor 1:1-9; John 1:29-42.
22: Isa 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1,4-9; 1 Cor 1:10-18; Matt 4:12-23**.**
29: Mic 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Cor 1:18-31; Matt 5:1-12.

Community Outreach Update:

Because of your support over the years of the Wachs Love offering, we were able to help with a request from Palatine High School. They were in need of coats, hats, gloves, scarves and pantry items. We were able to donate 20 puffer type jackets and a bag of scarves, hats and gloves.

Along with that, we donated 12/12 packs of Ramen Noodles and 40 cans of heat and serve pasta to the pantry there.

Here is their reply:
Thank YOU for the incredibly generous donation. Literally, five minutes after receiving the items, we already provided a student with a jacket. I always love how things happen that way. We truly appreciate you thinking of PHS. The items are going to be put to great use!

Have a wonderful holiday season!
Sincerely, Deana

Have you noticed …

… that the choir is back in action? Is 2023 the year that you'll decide to give choir a try, or come back to choir? We would love to have you join us! Feel free to speak with me or with a current choir member to find out what it's like to joyfully sing with us once or twice per month! Rehearsals take place every Wednesday from 4:15pm-5:15pm and every Sunday from 9:00am -9:30am. You're welcome to attend either or both rehearsals.

Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of this dedicated group!

Boards and Committees!! The deadline for the 2022 Annual Reports is Monday, January 9, 2023. Please have them turned in to the church office by the 9th. If you need a copy of last year's report, please request via email from the church office at secretary@stpaul-ucc.org. Thank you!

Health Committee Book Exchange – 2023

Last year we had a wonderful selection of books, etc. Thanks to all of you who contributed items. The exchange has continued in our library through out the year, and we hope you have continued to check out the selections. We would like to add some new items this year so we will again host the exchange beginning in January.

Please use the following guidelines:
*Bring your items and place them on the designated tables in Fellowship Hall.
*Items to be included: Books, Magazines, DVD's, CD's.
*Names should be removed from magazines.
*Books and magazines should be in fairly good condition.
*No textbooks or encyclopedias.

Begin bringing items on Jan. 1st and continue until Jan. 15th. Do **NOT** take any items until Jan 15th to give us time to put them in order. **On Jan. 15th** you may take as many items as you wish. All remaining books will be placed in our library for your continued use.

A Message from the Executive Board…

The Executive Board has recently witnessed an overabundance of triangulation taking place in the church office. Triangulation happens when one or both of the people involved in a conflict try to pull a third person into the dynamic, often with the goal of trying to deflect some of the tension off themselves. While we realize that no one is intentionally putting Mary into this uncomfortable situation, it has been happening, nonetheless. Therefore, we respectfully request that you please directly contact those from whom you are trying to obtain information regarding church matters, without involving Mary. A direct contact would be a much more efficient form of communication. We know that Mary is excellent at her work and a fun and sweet person; let's not take advantage of those qualities. Please feel free to continue to contact Mary for all of your other church needs.

Thank you,
St. Paul Executive Board

Please direct all questions to Kim Cichon or Pastor David.

Alzheimer's Awareness

Do you know the difference between Dementia and Alzheimer's?

According to the Alzheimer's Association, dementia is not a specific disease. Rather, it is a general term for a decline in mental ability "severe enough to interfere with daily life." Alzheimer's, on the other hand, is a specific disease. It's also the most common cause of dementia, accounting for 60% to 80% of dementia cases. Alzheimer's is therefore both a type of dementia and a cause of dementia.

Facts & Figures

- Between 2000 and 2019 deaths from heart disease have decreased 73% while deaths from Alzheimer's have increased 125%.
- In 2022, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the nation $321 billion. By 2050 this cost could rise to 1 trillion.

More than 80% of Americans know little or are not familiar with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), which can be an early stage of Alzheimer's.

Dementia Signs and Symptoms

- Memory loss that disrupts daily life.
- Challenges in planning or solving problems.
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks.
- Confusion with time or place.
- Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships.
- New problems with words in speaking or writing.
- Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps.
- Decreased or poor judgment.
- Withdrawal from work or social activities.

Changes in mood and personality, including depression and anxiety.

Early Detection Matters

Bring your loved one to a primary care provider if you start noticing any of the above symptoms. Early diagnosis of Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia can be beneficial in terms of medical treatment, emotional and social support.

***On the Lighter Side*...brought to you by the Health Committee**

That moment when you walk into a spider web and suddenly turn into a karate master.

If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"

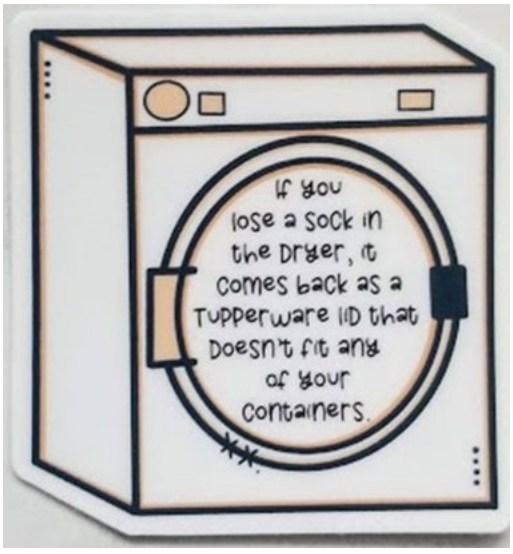
When I say "the other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago

Interviewer: So tell me about yourself.
Me: I'd rather not.. I kinda want this job.

WELL ALRIGHTY THEN

I had my patience tested.

I'm negative.



WINTER WORD SEARCH

Created by
Sue Lindlauf
Grand Forks Herald
2010

W	E	A	T	H	E	R	W	G	S	F	P	S	F	M
O	H	J	V	O	L	J	O	N	J	V	H	N	J	J
K	F	R	A	C	S	M	E	O	K	O	L	O	M	G
D	R	H	B	P	T	T	D	P	V	B	P	W	W	N
I	E	L	J	Q	T	O	I	E	L	J	Q	F	O	I
W	E	P	N	I	W	K	L	I	P	N	S	L	K	T
S	Z	Q	M	W	Q	D	S	D	Q	M	F	A	D	A
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N	V	D	O	M	G	G	N	I	D	D	E	L	S	D
S	B	E	P	I	C	C	R	E	T	N	I	W	C	E
F	S	L	I	P	P	E	R	Y	R	T	A	H	H	R

See how many of these words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

1. Snow
2. Snowman
3. Winter
4. Weather
5. Shovel
6. Cold
7. Freezing
8. Snowflake
9. Slippery
10. Slide
11. Sledding
12. Skating
13. Scarf
14. Hat
15. Earmuffs
16. Mittens