The Scribe

St. Paul UCC
144 E Palatine Road, Palatine IL 60067
(847) 358-0399 www.stpaul-ucc.org
January 2024

Pastor's Pen...

Craig Nessan wrote an excellent book entitled, *"Beyond Maintenance To Mission: A Theology of the Congregation"* (1999, Fortress Press). In the first chapter, he lays out three Greek words that are often used to express the identity of the earliest Christian church and its mission: ***kerygma***, ***koinonia***, and ***diakonia***. Respectively and briefly, those words refer to the church's three distinct forms of mission. The *kerygma* people are all about worship and telling the world about Christ. The *koinonia* people are about fellowship and community. And the *diakonia* people are about service and social action.

All three are needed, and all three are valid! All three make up what we know today as "the church." Speaking for myself, I'm very much a *kerygma* guy. It's not that I discount the other two, but rather it's that I think *kerygma* might be our denomination's Achille's heel and so I feel that it's my mission to take up some of that slack. As such, I've been a source of irritation over the years to some *koinonia* and *diakonia* folks who felt maybe that I was neglecting what they gave priority to. I never intentionally irritate people, but sometimes we do that in the church! It happened in the churches of the New Testament, so it's bound to happen today as well. Lord God, teach us how to forgive!

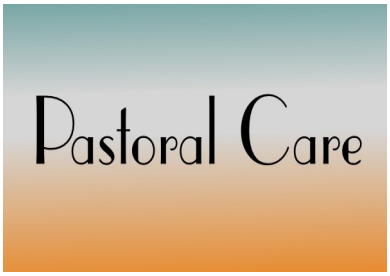
What about you? How do you see yourself? Are you a ***kerygma***, or a ***koinonia***, or a ***diakonia***? Perhaps you're a combination of a couple of them, or even all three! Some people are gifted enough to embody more than one of those, but many others of us are not. That's why God put all of us in the church together! We're supposed to be all together in the church even if we suspect that the other might be a little bit crazy! The deeper truth is that we all need one another, and the world that God so loved, needs us as well. That is why we must never give up trying to be the church together!

It's a brand new year! See you in worship.....or at a supper.....or as you're out taking things to the food pantry.

David

WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER

St. Paul UCC Executive Board Members: Sharon Altergott (Spiritual Life Board Rep.), Karen Connor (Spiritual Life Board Rep.), Ed Doktor, Tom Donat, Randy Everett (Admin. Board Rep.), Robert Kraft 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.

We will be un-decorating the Church on Saturday, January 6th at 10am. Please help out if you are able, many hands make light work!

January Birthdays

7 Karen Connor
23 Mark Faust Sr.
29 Diane Nosek
26 Judith Zimmer
28 Gloria Helms

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

AN UPDATE FROM THE PASTOR REGARDING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:

As a local congregation, we infrequently have visitors who express interest in exploring formal membership with us. Whenever this happens, I always meet with them to discuss their own faith and church background, as well as what it means to be a member of St. Paul and our denomination. It will remain my practice to make certain that every inquiry about membership also includes a clear discussion about the prerogatives and responsibilities of membership.

However, the only change will be in HOW people are received into membership. In the past and traditionally, candidates for membership have made their vows in front of the congregation on Sunday morning. It has been done that way for decades. However, the times we are living in today have seen large shifts in the way people think and feel about things. The older ways don't always work today. As such, it has been my experience here at St. Paul that the public act of joining our congregation has actually been a deterrent for some who have considered membership. Most, if not all, people today simply do not want to be a part of the spectacle of standing in front of the congregation.

Therefore, I have made the decision to receive new members administratively. That is, they will be joining our rolls without the usual fanfare. However, the congregation will be made aware of who joins by way of an announcement in the Scribe, and hopefully will be aided in getting acquainted with them through an optional "Who's Who" bio which may appear along with the announcement.

While I realize that this development goes against a long-standing tradition, it is my hope that we will all adjust accordingly in our rapidly changing world.

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Ed Bartelt, friend of Charlotte Mally
Doris Brztowski
Karen and Carol Douglas
Nancy Drost, sister-in-law of Dawn Drost
Ed, cousin of Jackie Schultze
Jeff Florey
Bonnie Hartmann, cousin of Mary Ann Leseberg
Bob Hasselmann, brother of Shirley Shimka
Matthew & Michael Hayford
Carol Hennings, sister of Pat Kolze
The Hernandez Family, neighbors of Melissa Gumm
Larry Ingram
Jennifer, friend of Kris Freeman
Bruce & Barb Kerlin, parents of Bruce Kerlin
Corry Klipp, friend of Melissa Gumm
Dick Kolze
Leeland Korman
Larry Layman, brother of Shirley Kolze
Patty and Kassie, friends of Sharon Khan
Holly Petersen
Kathy & Karen Peterson, friends of the Arnolds
Kathy Schuett, sister of Sharon Giles Khan
Mary Schultz, neighbor of Nancy Perry
Bonnie Stallone, daughter of Jim & Shirley Schimka
Sherry Stephens, sister of Shirley Kolze
Judy Troutman
Nick Vendafreddo, father of Tom Vendafreddo
Beverly Young

SERVING CHRIST IN WORSHIP

January Usher Captain: Chuck Oberly

January Readers:
7: Tom Donat
14: Melissa Gumm
21: Cherrie Wickstrom
28: Janet Olsen

Lectionary for January:
1: Eccl 3:1-13; Psalm 8: Rev 21:1-6a; Matt 25:31-46.
6: Isa 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7,10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12.
7: 1 Sam 3:1-20; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11.
14: 1 Sam 3:1-20; 1 Cor 6:12-20; Psalm 139:1-18; 1 Cor 5:12-20; John 1:43-51.
21: Jonah 3:1-5,10; Psalm, 62:5-12; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20.
28: Deut 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Cor 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28.

Boards and Committees!! The deadline for the 2023 Annual Reports is Monday, January 8, 2024. Please have them turned in to the church office by the 8th. 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!

There will be a Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, January 21st** after the worship service. The agenda will include voting on the proposed 2024 church budget, voting on the proposed Constitution/By-law changes, approval of the Exec Board, and any other business that the congregation feels needs to be addressed. Thank you.

Saturday, January 13th at 5pm Trivia Night with Pizza Dinner hosted by Women's Fellowship (Men are invited) to be held in Fellowship Hall. Sign up sheet (by teams) in East Entrance. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Questions? Please call Linda Hayford at 847-721-3128.

Saturday, February 10th at 10am
Women's Fellowship will be touring the Clayson House
We will meet at church at 9:30am.

We would like to reinstitute our winter monthly get togethers for a meal at a local restaurant. As you may recall prior to Covid, we were meeting during the months of January through March at The Tap House in Palatine.

The following dates have been selected for 2024 and hope that you will consider joining us for an evening of fellowship and laughter. Everyone is responsible for paying for their own meal and beverage.

Location: Rep's Place (near the Jewel) 3200 Kirchoff Road, Rolling Meadows

Dates:	Tuesday, January 23	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
	Wednesday, February 21	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
	Thursday, March 21	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Health Committee Book Exchange - 2024 Reminder

Please bring your books, magazines, DVD's, CD's to church **beginning Jan. 7th and continuing to Jan. 21st.** On the 21st you can begin taking books, etc.

Please use the following guidelines:

-Bring your items and place them on the designated tables in Fellowship Hall.
-Names should be removed from magazines. Books and magazines should be in fairly good condition. No textbooks or encyclopedias.
-Do not take any items until Jan. 21st to allow us time to get them in order.
-Most of the remaining books will be placed in our library for your continued use. Some will be donated to the Palatine Library.
-Remember our library is always open and you can take books at any time.

St. Paul would like to welcome Steve Barr into membership. Steve became a member on November 29th. He has lived in Palatine for 45 years and is a high school teacher. When asked what he likes about St Paul, he replied, "The pastor and the people in the congregation." Make sure to welcome Steve the next time you see him.

Clean Start for 2024

To kick off the year, the Community Outreach Committee will be collecting cleaning supplies for the Palatine Township. Cleaning supplies may be a luxury for some as food and housing are the priority.

We are asking that you fill a bucket with some basic cleaning supplies all will can come from the Dollar Tree for $15 or less. Suggestions include the bucket, sponge, glass cleaner, all purpose cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, dish soap and rubber gloves.

We will be collecting these in fellowship hall under the Community Outreach bulletin board in the back.
Thank you for your support!

***On the Lighter Side*...brought to you by the Health Committee...**
Winter Edition (at least we don't have these worries yet!)

Word Search

D I C E R I N K I I Y V C I D
J S N O W F L A K E C X O A J
V Z S L E D S K T R C E A S I
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fireplace	Christmas	hot cocoa	snowflake
snowman	icicles	blanket	ice rink
tubing	sleigh	skates	mittens
shovel	gloves	Santa	boots
sled	ski	coat	ice
frost	scarf	cold	hat