



Consistory Corner

The Consistory met with Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister, to discuss Pastor Bob's retirement. The Consistory will be working closely with Rev. Johnson in the coming months to discuss the process for St. Paul during the transition time. Please look for a letter from the Consistory after the New Year. As we face changes in our church this coming year, always remember the Holy Spirit will guide us. Also, the Consistory also wishes to extend sincere thanks to those who served on boards and committees this past year. Your work is greatly appreciated.

Blessings,
The Consistory

**FOR PASTORAL NEEDS
DURING THE HOLIDAYS...**

December 25 - 31:
Contact Pastor Bob at 618-978-5579

Evening of December 31 - January 5:
Contact Pastor Keith at 330-388-0920

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
DECEMBER 25, 26 AND JANUARY 1,
IN OBSERVATION OF THE HOLIDAYS.**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, IS THE LAST
DAY FOR 2019 CONTRIBUTIONS –
OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON**

BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Annual Report articles are now due
to Cathy in the office.**

A NEW YEAR; A YEAR OF THE BAPTIZED

As I write this article, I am planning my session with the Confirmation Class on the meaning of baptism: not only the meaning at the time the sacrament is celebrated, but also its meaning as we live out our baptism throughout our lives. I find this lesson as a watershed experience of all of our Wednesday sessions with them. Everything we have taught and experienced before this flows to baptism. Everything from now on flows to the day they confirm their baptismal vows (the day of Confirmation). At that time, the pastors and Faith partner, as well as parents and family members, lay their hands upon the confirmand and bestow the presence of the Holy Spirit onto them.

On Sunday, January 12, we will celebrate the Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17). We will follow the Gospel Lessons throughout the rest of Epiphany Season, including the call of disciples (Matthew 4:12-23), the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), another reading from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:21-37) and concluding with Transfiguration Sunday (Matthew 17:1-9). Included in this season will also be a sermon by former missionary Mary Schaller-Blaufuss (who was confirmed at St. Paul UCC – Waterloo), and a Sunday where we explore the God's Creation and the continuity of Faith with Science and Technology (February 9).

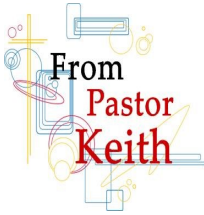
These Sundays will all be expressions of how we live out: our baptismal vows, our Confirmation vows, our life as Christians called by God. It is my hope that all of our lives will be transformed during this Epiphany Season and will prepare us for the season of Lent.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Bob



Our Sunday School Christmas program, *Wrapping All the Way*, was a great success! All the kids worked really hard since October. Their patience and dedication to sharing their talents with family, friends and the congregation makes the true meaning of Christmas shine through. As we all prepare, we are reminded that the reason for all the celebration, is that God's greatest gift was a baby. This little baby was the promise of hope to everyone that longs for peace. Love came down to earth!

A NEW YEAR AND NEW BEGINNINGS



Have you ever played with an Etch-A-Sketch? It resembles a rectangular picture frame, where two knobs control a line that goes either up, down, left or right. It is terribly difficult to create a masterpiece on an Etch-A-Sketch, but that isn't the reason why they are so fun. The best part of the Etch-A-Sketch is that when you are dissatisfied with your art, and you will be dissatisfied with it, you can give it a good shake and your picture disappears. You have a clean slate, a new beginning.

An Etch-A-Sketch is a lot like ushering in a new year. We are invited to reflect on the picture of 2019, and we appreciate the good and notice the mistakes. The great thing is we have the opportunity to begin with a fresh start.

I realize it doesn't always work this way. Just because the ball drops doesn't mean everything starts over, but we do have an opportunity to let go, shake away the burdens of 2019 and imagine something better in its place.

What burdens from this past year do you need to let go of? Who is someone you need to forgive? Is it a friend, or family member? Is it yourself? In what ways do you want to grow in 2020? Do you want to learn something new? Do you want to improve your health? Do you want to grow in compassion for the 'other'? Are you looking to reconnect with nature? Are you hoping to grow closer with your God?

New Year's Day gives us an opportunity to start fresh. As Christians, we are offered this same opportunity 24/7, where God through Jesus keeps the promise to journey with us through all of life's joys and pain. That same grace which flows through the bread and wine is continually offered to us, even when the confetti falls and the champagne is popped.

Here is to the year 2020! May you find a new sense of wholeness and healing as you continue your journey onward.

Shalom,
Pastor Keith




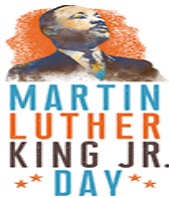
A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Our church trip to the movies was a success! This movie centers on a bitter magazine reporter who is given the assignment of profiling Mr. Rogers. Through the process of interviewing Fred Rogers, the reporter confronts his entrenched anger at his father, the passing of his Mother, and his relationship with his newborn son and wife. Thank you to everyone who came out, and shared in our conversation after the movie. We look forward to going to the movies more often as a church. If you have any suggestions, please reach out to Denise Johnson or Pastor Keith.

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND PROCTOR BOOK CLUB

Tammy Krebel and Pastor Keith are co-leading a book study promoted by the Deaconess Foundation. This study covers selected books that focus on Child Advocacy Ministry. Our first book will be *Nobody Cries When We Die: God, Community, and Surviving to Adulthood*, by Patrick B. Reyes. Together, we will grow in our understanding of those margins, and discuss our own faith response in a world of need. Contact the church office if you are interested.

January 30 – time and place TBD

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
|  | | | 1 New Year's Day Office Closed | 2 | 3 8 am Quilters | 4 |
| 5 Communion Sunday Kindercottage Food Collection 9 am Worship, Children's Classes 10:30 am Worshp | 6 | 7 9 am Preschool 6 pm Inspire Band | 8 9 am Preschool Festive Ringers 2:30 pm After School Program 6 pm Confirmation Bells of Joy 7 pm Chancel Choir | 9 9 am Preschool 10 am & 7 pm Java Chat with Pastor Keith | 10 8 am Quilters | 11 |
| 12 9 am Worship, Children's Classes 10:30 am Worship | 13 6:15 pm Finance Committee 7 pm Consistory | 14 Pathfinder Articles Due 9 am Preschool 6 pm Inspire Band 7 pm Board of Evangelism | 15 9 am Preschool Festive Ringers 2:30 pm After School Program 6 pm Confirmation Bells of Joy 7 pm Chancel Choir | 16 9 am Preschool | 17 8 am Quilters | 18 |
| 19 9 am Worship, Children's Classes 10:30 am Worship | 20 Office Closed  | 21 9 am Preschool 6 pm Inspire Band | 22 9 am Preschool Festive Ringers 2:30 pm After School Program 6 pm Confirmation Bells of Joy 7 pm Chancel Choir | 23 9 am Preschool 10 am Integrity | 24 8 am Quilters 8:30 am Assemble Pathfinder | 25 |
| 26 9 am Worship, Children's Classes 10:30 Annual Meeting | 27 7 pm Book Club | 28 9 am Preschool 6 pm Inspire Band 7 pm Board of Christian Education | 29 9 am Preschool Festive Ringers 2:30 pm After School Program 6 pm Confirmation Bells of Joy 7 pm Chancel Choir | 30 9 am Preschool CDF Book Study (Time - TBD) | 31 8 am Quilters | |

CARE CONNECTION

STAYING FIT BY EXERCISING YOUR FAITH

Many of us become motivated if there is a health problem. Being overweight, high blood pressure, or high blood sugar will want us to make changes to start an exercise program which are not always successful. Allowing others and God to help will prove that you can achieve your goal!

Psalm 55:22 "Give you burdens to the Lord and he will take care of you."

Reach out to a trained professional as well to God in prayer for your need. If you think you are too busy to exercise, review your values and use of time. Your support team will give you encouragement along the way- which may be an exercise buddy or a physician telling you the good results! Stay motivated just not to manage stress or a health problem but knowing your added energy will also make a difference in the lives of others around you. God is at the center of everything we do—even exercising!! The changed behavior improves our health for a full life, to which we then give thanks and praise to God!

The preschool would like to THANK YOU for your calendar orders, monetary donations and buying items from our Wish Tree!

Be part of the Census!
Coming spring of 2020!

Offering Envelopes for 2020 are in the Welcome Center. To save on the cost of postage, please pick up envelopes for your family and friends that are unable to pick theirs up.

IN HONOR & IN MEMORY

HOYLETON

In honor of Sam & Kathleen Habermehl's wedding anniversary, given by Ron & Lolly Glenn

MEMORIAL & TRIBUTE

In memory of Carroll Crosley, given by Phillis Bergagna

RENOVATIONS

In memory of Betty Gummersheimer, given by Earl Gummersheimer

NEW YEAR'S INSPIRATIONS

Open your heart to new adventures!
Good things are on the horizon!
Positive mind, positive life, positive year!
Small steps everyday!
Do your squats, eat your veggies, and drink your water!
New Year new me!
2020 is gonna Rock!

New decade, new possibilities!

**BOOK DISCUSSION
GROUP**

January 27 - 7 p.m.

*The Tattooist of
Auschwitz*
by Heather Morris

Please notify the church office if you would like to help reduce the use of paper and the cost of postage, by choosing to receive the Pathfinder by email only.

Thinking Back While Looking Forward

At year-end, we take time to think back while looking forward. It makes it an appropriate time to think of estate planning. Your estate plan should be re-evaluated every three-five years and whenever there is a significant change in your life or family such as a birth, death, marriage, divorce, retirement or major change in your income or asset value. Consider the needs of your children (even in their adulthood), parents or siblings that may out-live you, as well as your church and other charitable organizations that are important to you. Everyone should have a will, regardless of your financial situation. If you do not have one, the State of Illinois has one for you. Gifts to the church through your estate plan do not have to be in the five to six digit amount or larger. Even more modest gifts can be faithful responses to our ministry. The following are some suggestions as to methods of giving through your estate. As always, please consult with your attorney and/or tax advisor before making any decisions.

- **Bequest.** The most common planned gift is a bequest, in which you include St. Paul United Church of Christ as a beneficiary in your will or trust.
- **Retirement plan or IRA.** Naming St. Paul as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or IRA is another great way to make a legacy gift. By establishing a pre-tax plan, you ensure that your gift benefits our foundation for the full amount of the plan.
- **Life insurance policy.** If you have a life insurance policy that is no longer a significant piece of your estate plan, you might consider making a gift by assigning ownership to St. Paul United Church of Christ or making St. Paul the beneficiary. By donating the policy to St. Paul, you may even be entitled to a tax benefit during your lifetime.
- **Charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust.** With a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust, you can even make a gift that will provide an income while possibly receiving a current tax benefit.

Planned Gifts in the recent past have provided lead gifts for our capital campaigns, added to our endowment, camperships to DuBois Center and provided financial resources for adult classes here at St. Paul as well as continuing education for our pastors and other adults at Eden Seminary and other locations. Large or small: planned giving makes a huge difference in our ministry.

The happiest of New Years to all of you.
The St. Paul Endowment Committee

Our Members in Senior Living

Garden Place Of Columbia
480 DD Rd.
Columbia, IL 62236
618-281-4200

Helen Byers
Clarice Giffhorn
Dee Steppig - Unit 313
Irene Ebert

Garden Place
735 Columbia Ave.
Waterloo, IL 62298
618-223-5834

Gene Haller: Apt. 15
Ellen Kuergeleis: Apt. 29
Jean Habermehl: Apt. 36
939-4900

Magnolia Terrace
623 Hamacher St.
Waterloo, IL 62298

Gladys Ludwig
Novella Arms
Betty Lou Carle -
Dammert G.C.
The Esquiline
726 Community Drive
Belleville, IL 62223

Our Members in Nursing Homes

Integrity
253 Bradington
Columbia, IL 62236
618-281-6800
Lela Arras
Dorothy Klein
Anne Manson
Maureen Mueller
Howard Rudder

Nira Probstmeyer
Eden Village
400 S. Station Rd.
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Oak Hill Nursing Home
623 Hamacher St
Waterloo, IL 62298
618-939-3488
Harold Devenport
Leola Schueler
Bruce Soehnlín

Military Prayer List

Nathan Schnittger - U.S.
Army Nephew of Cathy Huels

Roberto DeMarquez
Army National Guard
Son of Ursula DeMarquez

Marine Cpl. James K. Combs
Son of Jim & Debbie Combs

Sean Parrin
Army National Guard - Qatar
Nephew of Jody & Jeff Taake

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| PERFECT ATTENDANCE | Colleen Jackson Brynna Henry Bass Dexter Crawford Anna Daab Molly Harres | Benjamin Tarr *Betty Gummersheimer *Charles James *Sherry Montgomery | *Deb Notter *Becky Trexler *Donna Myers *denotes teacher |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|



Deirdre Brennan
Bachelor of Science
Computer Science
Illinois State University



Funerals - Ron Langhans

ATTENDANCE

| DATE | 9:00 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. | Total |
|-------|--------------------|------------|-------|
| 11/3 | 136 | 48 | 184 |
| 11/10 | 103 | 30 | 133 |
| 11/17 | Stewardship Sunday | 160 | 160 |
| 11/24 | 132 | 72 | 204 |

| | November | | Year to Date | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Revenue | | | | |
| Tithes & Offerings: | | | | |
| Pledged & NonPledged | 27,766.00 | 28,915.00 | 340,213.16 | 382,135.52 |
| Misc. Contributions | 616.00 | 408.25 | 14,275.63 | 11,962.02 |
| Interest Income | 5.34 | 0.88 | 4,095.84 | 5,152.87 |
| Endowment Interest Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 51,867.62 | 51,964.10 |
| Rental Income | 178.30 | 885.00 | 5,420.95 | 5,042.33 |
| Misc Income | 222.54 | 1,263.48 | 8,694.57 | 6,612.18 |
| Total Revenues | 28,788.18 | 31,472.61 | 424,567.77 | 462,869.02 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Personnel | 21,992.84 | 28,249.87 | 323,661.03 | 316,154.61 |
| General Expenses | 2,628.70 | 4,480.34 | 89,645.32 | 92,061.18 |
| * OCWM | <u>3,114.06</u> | <u>3,746.55</u> | <u>30,397.43</u> | <u>34,271.43</u> |
| Total Expenses | 27,735.60 | 36,476.76 | 443,703.78 | 442,487.22 |
| Net Receipts | 1,052.58 | (5,004.15) | (19,136.01) | 20,381.80 |
| RESERVES | | | 53,066.09 | 92,674.91 |

*OCWM 10,000.00 out of St Paul Mission (833.33 monthly)

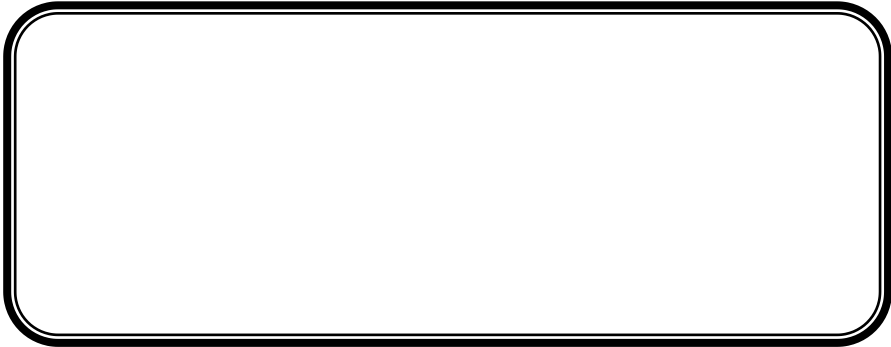
RENOVATIONS LOAN

| | Interest Paid | Principal Paid | Principal Balance |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Columbia National Bank | | | |



As there are so many volunteers who generously donate their time and talents, we would like to say "Thank You" to all who volunteer! Your efforts do not go unnoticed; you are so very much appreciated!

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Columbia, Illinois
 Permit No. 7



THE PATHFINDER

CONSISTORY PRESIDENT.....Katie Janssen
 SENIOR PASTORBob Goddard
 PASTORAL INTERN.....Keith McDevitt
 STUDENT PASTOR.....Karen Pepmeier
 DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.....Denise Johnson
 SECRETARY.....Cathy Fritz
 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR.....Barb Gerstenecker
 PARISH NURSE.....Joanne Counce
 MUSIC COORDINATOR & ORGANIST.....Lori Morton
 ADULT HANDBELL & CHOIR DIRECTOR.....Emily Thoman
 YOUTH HANDBELL & BAND DIRECTOR.....Sue Phillips
 MORNING HANDBELL DIRECTOR.....Patti French
 CEMETERY.....Shirley Asselmeier
 LITTLE FRIENDS PRESCHOOL DIRECTORJody Taake
 LEAD CUSTODIAN.....Terry Schramm
 ASSISTANT CUSTODIAN.....Janet Zinn

FELLOWSHIP HOUR.....Sunday, 10 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.
 NURSERY.....Provided for the 9 a.m. Services
 HOLY COMMUNION.....1st Sunday of the month
 CHURCH SCHOOL.....9 a.m. (Nursery - adults)
 AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMWednesdays
 (Sept. - May) 2:30 p.m.
 CHOIR PRACTICE.....Wednesdays (Sept. - May)
 CHILDREN'S CHOIR.....4:45 p.m.
 CHANCEL CHOIR.....7 p.m.
 HANDBELL CHOIR.....Wednesdays (Sept.-May)
 ALLELUIA RINGERS - 3:45 p.m.
 FESTIVE RINGERS - 9 a.m. BELLS OF JOY - 6 p.m.
 INSPIRE BANDTuesdays (Sept. - May) - 6 p.m.

 WORSHIP SERVICES Sundays, 9 & 10:30 a.m.
 SUMMER FAMILY WORSHIP
 Memorial Day - Labor Day, 9:30 a.m.
 Nursery only, No Classes

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| CONSISTORY MEMBERS | Kathleen Habermehl |
| President - | Karen Kirk |
| Katie Janssen | Mike Koenigstein |
| Vice President - | Cathie Krueger |
| Tom Kuergeleis | Dana Lechner |
| Secretary - | Mike Riley |
| Curt Harres | Dennis Rueter |
| Bob Habermehl | Allison Wolfe |