

St. Paul's News November 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Philippians 4: ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The month of giving thanks is upon us! Can you believe it? This year has gone by in the blink of an eye! A few weeks ago, in worship I gave a discipleship challenge about gratitude. I encouraged each person to write down two or three things that they are grateful for each day. I hope that you participated in this gratitude challenge, and I hope you consider continuing with it. There is scientific evidence that if you focus on gratitude in your life that you will become a more positive thinker and a more positive person. I believe that focusing on what is going right in our lives influences our ability to be thankful in all circumstances, as Paul calls us to do in his letter to the Philippians. Pray and be grateful!

I am grateful for the work that we are doing at St. Paul's this year. Confirmation class is in full swing and I am enjoying teaching our young people immensely! The confirmands are engaged and excited about this faith development journey that we are on together. Please pray for them as they continue to develop a deeper understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Christ and a faithful member of St. Paul's UMC.

We held membership class this past Sunday and will be receiving three new members within the next month or so. Membership vows in the United Methodist Church are promises made between all within the church. Please join us as we welcome Matt and Tevin Drosky (and son Braden) and Leslie Paradiso into membership. The Drosky family began attending St. Paul's seven months ago and have felt welcomed and accepted by our congregation and that has been very meaningful for them. Leslie has attended St. Paul's for years and she is grateful for this opportunity to make this official and public commitment to St. Paul's, as she considers St. Paul's her family. We are grateful for all our members, new and established!

As we head into the Thanksgiving and Christmas months, I encourage you to join us in worship as often as possible. This is such a holy time of the year as we are reminded of Christ's gentle entry into the world. Join us as we explore gratitude in our November worship and then as we celebrate the Advent season and the remembrance of Christ's birth.

Prayer Focus: As we attend charge conference and anticipate the upcoming year, please continue be in prayer for clarity of mind for your church leadership and for clear discernment of the next step of God's plan for St. Paul's.

Blessings,

Pastor Charlene



NOVEMBER'S ACOLYTES

If your son or daughter is in Third Grade or older and would like to acolyte, please contact Jill Lindhorst at 419-443-0273. Please consider helping us!!

Happy November Birthdays!!

*6- Norina Martin
13- Faye Eley
25- Duane Hoffert*



If you are over 80 and would like your birthday listed, contact the church office.



October Missions Report:

Third Sunday Ingathering Offering of \$105
This money will be designated for First call for Helps "Christmas Corner" Which provides gift certificates from the Chamber of Commerce. These gift certificates are given to teens from low income families between the ages of 11 and 18. Thanks to those who made donations to bring joy to others this holiday season.

World Communion Sunday Offering
\$530.00

Shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child are now available. Please consider filling a box for needy children around the world. Postage for each box is \$9.00. Donations are appreciated to cover that cost! Packed shoe boxes should be returned to the church office by no later than Sunday November 10th. Thank you!!

Special Thanksgiving Offering Envelope donations will go to First Call for Help to assist Cancer treatment patients in Seneca County.

-Kathy Daniel for Missions Committee



***Children's Christmas
Program 2019***

***Rehearsals November 24th
and December 8th from noon
to 1:30***

***The program is December
15th during worship at
10:15***

***Please see Molly Lofton or
Kyle Paxson with any
questions.***



**ANNUAL CHURCH
THANKSGIVING
DINNER**

November 24, Noon

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Provided: Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, pumpkin pie, bread and tables service

Please bring a salad or vegetable to share.

RESERVATIONS: Can be made on Sunday November 10 and 17 or by calling the church office at 447-1743.

A freewill offering will be taken to cover expenses.

Join us for this annual event.



Christmas shopping just got easier! This year the Salvation Army has requested we simply purchase clothing for the boys and girls. They want to be able to give each child a complete outfit. They said they would like an assortment of sizes of clothing for boys and girls as they have many children in need.

We will still have paper angels on our Christmas tree near the elevator. You may take an angel if you want as a reminder. The suggested limit is \$20.00 and a return by date of December 10th.

The Salvation Army did state they will have Christmas tree tags in the stores with toy ideas on them, if you would rather take one of those feel free to do so. You can turn it back in at the store or to St. Paul's. If you have any questions or need someone to do the shopping for you call Sandy Arnold at 419-447-6145.

Sincerely,
The Missions Committee

Volunteers Needed

St. Paul's will be staffing the Sharing Kitchen on December 23rd and December 30th. We need volunteers from the church to come and help on those days.

There will be a sign-up sheet hanging in the church kitchen for volunteers. Please contact Kathy Daniel if you have any questions.

419-448-8418



TEAM MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

BETTER TOGETHER If you have an idea of how we can do ministry “better together”, please let one of the team members know your idea or come to the meeting to share. Team members are Brian Arnold (SP), Molly Lofton (SP), Donna McConahay (RE), Barb Milroy (RE), Mark Milroy (RE), Jen Loudenslager (ME), Carol Taylor (ME), Kay Weisenauer (ME).

Upcoming Events Across the Connection:

Melmore UMC: Melmore is hosting a Thanksgiving Eve service in conjunction with Harmony UMC. Join us at Melmore UMC on November 27th and hear Rev. Michael Padula preach.

Melmore is also selling ham loaves and sauerkraut balls as a fundraiser for their church. An e-mail has been sent with information on ordering. Six ham loaves are available for \$18 and a pack of 10 sauerkraut balls are \$9.00. All are homemade. If you have questions, please see Pastor Charlene or visit www.melmoreumc.org for details and online ordering.

DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS

We are currently focused on personal discipleship. As part of that focus, we will challenge ourselves to grow in our own personal walk with Christ and to focus on growing as disciples through a process of Incremental Discipleship. Small adjustments can lead to **BIG CHANGES!**

Discipleship Focus for November: We will be focusing on gratitude and stewardship this month. Look for opportunities you feel called to commit to support our church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Commitment cards will be mailed out early this month and we will have an opportunity to return them in worship service on November 24th. Please return your confirmation card. It gives us vital information on what ministries you feel called by God to support at St. Paul's. Commitment cards are not only about your financial commitment. The Commitment cards include much more information than your financial support commitment. The commitment cards serve as a way for us to fulfill the call to discipleship that is on our lives.



Help Wanted! We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, November 24th between church service and the Thanksgiving dinner. Please plan on joining us as we deck the halls! If you have questions regarding decorating, please see Laura Wallrabenstein (Worship Committee Chair) or Pastor Charlene.