

St. Paul's News *November 2020*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

At this past Epiphany we each chose a star word during our worship service. Prior to worship, I had prepared the star words and I had prayed and asked God to help each person get the word that was most meaningful for them for the year 2020.

The star word I got was "Reassurance." It seemed an appropriate word for me. While I appreciated the word, I would have no idea of how often I would be seeking reassurance from my God, my family and my church during 2020.

This has been a challenging year, to say the least. Life has been interrupted in ways that we could never have predicted, and it continues to be interrupted and I continue to seek reassurance.

In the course of these days, I have often turned to scripture for reassurance from God's word. I have told you many times how I love the word in Jeremiah 29:11 and how they reassure me that God does indeed have a plan for our prosperity and to offer us hope.

I have also found much reassurance from these words:

- ★ *1 Peter 5:7 – Cast all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.*
- ★ *Philippians 4:6-7 – Do not be anxious in anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
- ★ *Psalms 94:19 – When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.*

★ *Matthew 6:34 – Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

★ *Hebrews 11:1 – Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for. The convictions of things not seen.*

God's word offers us great reassurance for all of our days.

I have also received great reassurance from our faith community at St. Paul's. I was so overwhelmed by your cards, notes, and gifts during pastor appreciation month. I cannot express how much they all meant to me. The sentiments shared by you were a source of great reassurance to me. Pastoring during a pandemic has been challenging and there have been many times I have doubted myself. In His plan for me, God knew that I would need reassurance during these times, and He gifted me with my star word so that I would be looking. I praise God for His plans for me, plans that give me hope for a bright future.

Blessings,

Pastor Charlene





November birthday celebrations:

Duane Hoffert - November 25th

If you are over 80 years old and would like your birthday listed so we can celebrate you, please let the church secretary know. Thank you!



- November 1st – Braden Drosky & Remington Arnold
- November 8th – Enola & Ariana Ramirez
- November 15th – Hezekiah & Elijah Ramirez
- November 22nd – Enola Ramirez & Ryann Arnold
- November 29th – Braden Drosky & Hezekiah Ramirez

If your son or daughter is in Third grade or older and would like to serve as Acolyte, please contact Jill Lindhorst at (419) 443-0273.



The planning committee for the Thanksgiving dinner had set a number for people needed to RSVP, unfortunately that number was not reached therefore Thanksgiving dinner is cancelled for this year.

Prayers for everyone to have a blessed Thanksgiving and remember to give thanks to God, who blesses us above and beyond all that we could ask for or think.

St. Paul's Ecumenical Sharing Kitchen

The Sharing Kitchen will not be having their annual Christmas party in the traditional sense as they have in the past. **It will be slightly different as they will be doing a give-away during normal Sharing Kitchen day, handing out bags already filled with personal items for the adults whom they serve.** Donations are needed to fill the bags, such as: underwear (differing sizes for men and women), t-shirts, men's tools (such as tape measure, screw drivers, etc.), socks (for men and women), and throws. If you would like to help with donations of these items, **the deadline for donations is December 13th. Thank you!**



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

We will still have paper angels on our Missions Christmas tree, you can take an angel to help as a reminder. The suggested limit is \$20 with a return date of December 9th. The gifts can be placed under the Missions Christmas tree or in the office. **(please do not wrap, leaving in the store bag is fine).**

If you have any questions or need someone to do the shopping for you, feel free to call Sandy Arnold at (419) 447-6145.

*~ Sincerely,
The Missions Committee*



Our FISH mission project is now completed. We collected mainly food items. We collected 60 cans, 41 boxes, 11 bags, and 7 snack-pack items of food. There were 3 bottles of salad dressings, 1 container of coffee, and 1 powdered drink item. One package of toilet paper was also included. The FISH volunteers were very thankful for all the items. Seeing their pantry and the organization involved was an eye-opener.

The Third Sunday Ingathering Offering for October was \$75.00 and will be donated to First Call for Help.

The Operation Christmas Child (OCC) mission began Sunday, October 18. The Shoeboxes are available under the display table on the landing in front of the sanctuary. Thank you to Tevin, Heidi, and the Youth Fellowship for putting the boxes together. The boxes will remain available thru November 7 and are due back November 8 thru 15. During our Sunday Service on October 18 we saw a video with a spiritual impact story from a young man who had received one of these boxes as a child. There were many stories shared by local workers at the training session I attended.

One story was about a young boy who opened his box and found multiple colorful socks. It is unusual that a box so singularly packed would have made it through a processing center without being repacked with a variety of items. This repacking was attested to by a gentleman at our session who volunteers each year at one of the processing centers, but somehow it made it through. One of the leaders at the OCC celebration saw the young boy and the box and tried to exchange it for another box. The boy held it tightly to his chest and wanted to keep it. He pulled up his pant legs and showed the leader his ankles and feet which had been badly scarred by a

fire. He was overjoyed at receiving the socks. He also received a second box.

A 14-year-old boy in Honduras attended an OCC celebration but when the boxes were handed out, he refused it saying there was nothing in there he wanted. He had recently been orphaned and was still very sad about this. A leader convinced him to take a box. A note inside was signed by a couple from the United States. He wrote to them and thanked them for the gifts. They wrote back and a relationship continued. They were childless. They were eventually able to adopt this boy and brought him to the United States. That which he most wanted was in that box, a randomly selected box in a foreign country. How does this happen?

A little girl in Ukraine found a Barbie in her box. Her village was extremely poor and very remote, so this was a cherished item. She decided to share her Barbie with other little girls in her village, each playing with Barbie for a day then passing her on. The boxes and the scripture stories are making a difference in people's lives.

There is good work going on in our church, in our community, in our country, and around the world. Thank you Church.

~ Denise Lawson for the Missions Committee

*Thank
you*

*Dear St Paul's Family,
Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and phone calls during my 2 recent knee surgeries. I am doing well and appreciate your care!*

~ Molly

To our Church Family: Thank you so much for the wonderful notes, gifts, and prayers shared during pastor appreciation month! We cherish them and you!

*~ Pastor Charlene, Dave, Dominic
(Stella too)*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children's Church Update

Kids church is going very well. We have a great group of kids participating each week.

We are still in need of volunteers to teach for a Sunday. The material that we are using is very teacher-friendly and copies of the lesson papers for each week are already prepared. We are meeting in the fellowship hall so there is plenty of room for social distancing. Thank you to all who have already taught.

~ Please contact Melody Woessner if you can teach a Sunday.

Youth Fellowship Update

Youth Fellowship is going strong! The group continues to meet every other week with safety precautions. A typical meeting includes a craft, a game and a bible lesson, with some fellowship time thrown in!

The youth are just now completing a fundraiser, selling holiday decorations made from freshly collected pine. See any of the youth if you are interested in ordering. Orders are due November 5th.

The youth also participated in a conference wide mission project called "Project Impact." The goal of Project Impact was to provide an opportunity for young people to make an impact in their communities. Below is the write up that Pastor Charlene sent to the conference office in youth ministries.

Hi Kaye: I wanted to reach out about Project Impact and how our kids at St. Paul's UMC participated.

We have an awesome youth leader (Tevin Drosky) and she has a great assistant (Heidi Ramirez). We all talked about Project Impact and we talked about supporting our local healthcare workers. We know that COVID has been so draining on our healthcare system and we know that our frontline healthcare workers have done so much to care for and protect their patients. We wanted our local frontline hospital workers at Mercy Hospital Tiffin to know that we were praying for their safety and we wanted to send them our thanks for all of their hours of hard work and sacrifice. At one of our youth group meetings, the youth prepared cards employees of each department at our hospital. We included our thanks and notes of encouragement. The cards were prayed over, and Pastor Charlene delivered them to Tiffin Mercy. We thought about the most impactful project and we decided that prayer was the most impactful thing we could do. Thank you for encouraging all of the young people of EOC to make an impact in our communities.

~ Pastor Charlene Thomas





Youth Fellowship Christmas Wreath Sale

The Youth Fellowship group are selling wreaths for Christmas.

If you would like to place an order or have questions, please contact Tevin Drosky at 419-618-4191.

Below are pictures and pricing for the wreaths.

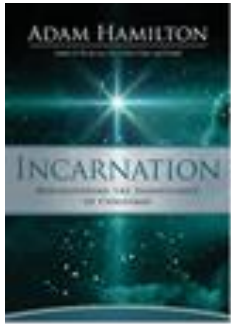
Orders and money are due no later than November 5th and delivery will be November 27th thru December 5th.

~ Proceeds to benefit the youth fellowship group. Thank you for your order!



Church Wide Advent Study

Advent will be here before we know it (November 29-December 24). Pastor Charlene will be offering a church-wide book study to accompany her Advent sermon series. Incarnation is a book written by Adam Hamilton.



- **Reading:** All participants will be reading “Incarnation”
- **Sermon Series:** Pastor Charlene will be preaching a sermon series based on the reading.
- **Facebook:** There will be opportunities for response/engagement.
- **In Person Participation:** If you are interested in participating in an in-person small group discussion, Pastor Charlene will be teaching on topics from “Incarnation” at the Flame Sunday evening worship service at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings at Republic Trinity UMC. All are welcome.

Contact the church office or email the secretary at secretary@tiffinstpauls.org by November 6th if you would like us to order your book. Books are \$14.00 for hard copy or e-books.



Important Upcoming Dates:

- Charge Conference – **On Zoom** – November 7th – 11:00 a.m. (Please let the office know if you would like to attend on zoom and Pastor Charlene will send you the zoom link.)



SEE ANY FAMILIAR FACES?

Our church historian, Carolyn Gittinger, has many photos in our archives that have no names noted. We will be including a photo in our newsletters and are hoping that some of these beloved faces. If you can identify any of these people, please call the church office or e-mail secretary@tiffinstpauls.org

Christmas Poinsettia's

6" pot = \$4.95

8 1/2" pot = \$12.75

Colors available: Burgundy, Red, Marble, Glitter, Pink, White

Order forms are on the back tables in the sanctuary or you can place your order by calling or emailing the secretary at secretary@tiffinstpauls.org

Poinsettia's will be placed on the altar for Sunday, December 20th and Christmas Eve, December 24th.

