

# *St. Paul's News October 2020*

## **Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:**

Luke 24: 30-32 “As they sat down to eat, He took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.

And at that moment he disappeared! <sup>32</sup> They said to each other,

“Didn’t our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?”

Happy October! Summer is officially over, and all things fall have begun. I hope that you take time to enjoy the beauty of the fall season. Each fall I am reminded of the artistry of God’s creation as I see the beautiful colors in the landscapes.

**Worship Update:** We continue to offer worship in person and online for our congregation and community. I am so grateful that we have the technology to offer both worship options. Our tech team continues to work to improve our online worship offering. We have recently invested in new cameras for the sanctuary and we are excited about the ways that they enable us to improve our online worship. We are now able to record our in-sanctuary worship services to post online (both on YouTube and Facebook). Soon, we will have the ability to livestream our worship services so that online worshipers can view our worship services in real time.

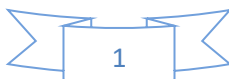
**Christian Education:** Many of the young people who attend our church have returned to school. Some of them have returned to in-person instruction and others have returned to online instruction...either way, our kids are back in school. Our young people have also resumed their Christian education here at St. Paul’s. Our education committee worked hard to make changes to our Sunday morning Christian Education program so that our kids could return to learning in a safe environment. I am so grateful that the committee members were able to formulate a plan for safe learning for our kids. We are continuing to evaluate our mid-week Christian education programming (Connections and Youth Club) to see how we can offer those in a safe way. Stay tuned for more information on those programs!

**Youth Fellowship:** Tevin Drosky continues to serve as our Youth Fellowship leader. She is being assisted by Heidi Ramirez. We are grateful for their leadership. Youth Fellowship is held every other Sunday evening at the church. Check the church calendar for the specific dates and times. Masks and social distancing are required for everyone’s safety. Tevin is planning a Fall Festival in October. Check it out!

I know that I have said it before, but it bears repeating...the pandemic has made ministry more challenging, but it has never made it impossible. There was a brief period of time that the church building was closed to visitors, but the “church” was never closed! Ministry continued, discipleship making continued and the gospel was preached.

My prayer for all of us is that we will never again take for granted how important it is to actively participate in a faith community. I fear that we did take it for granted prior to COVID-19. However, I saw the yearning for worship, community, and fellowship during the time our interactions were limited. May that fire for God always burn within our hearts.

***Blessings,  
Pastor Charlene***





Thank you to everyone for a successful FISH mission. This report is being submitted before the project is complete, but it is easy to see our missionaries at work. It was evident when we saw Vickie struggling up the step to the sanctuary with bags of groceries that weighed more than her or Gary carrying bags in both hands and then turning left or right as he made his way to the table without knocking anyone down and maintaining social distance. Heroes worship here!!

The Third Sunday Ingathering Offering for September obtained was \$82 to be donated to First Call for Help.

We will be participating in **Operation Christmas Child** starting in October.

Operation Christmas Child is a program of Samaritan's Purse which is a ministry founded in 1970. Franklin Graham (eldest son of Billy Graham) joined this ministry in 1973. In 1978 he became President and CEO of Samaritan's Purse. The ministry grew and spread around the world. Operation Christmas child which is also known as the Shoebox Ministry officially launched in Bosnia in 1993. The mission is to provide God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. It has served 178 million children in more than 150 countries. The boxes will include a booklet with 11 scripture stories printed in over 80 languages. If the children show interest, they can enroll in a program called The Greatest Journey. When this program is completed there is a graduation complete with caps, diplomas, and a New Testament printed in their language. Sometimes parents/grandparents are leary at first, but it frequently opens a door and they become involved. The shoeboxes reach children in hard

to reach places. They travel by trucks, planes, boats, camels, and on the backs of volunteers. They travel to Central America, South America, North America, Pacific Islands, Asia, Africa, and Europe.

We will begin our mission on October 18 thru November 1 during which time the boxes will be passed out on the landing on the stairs to the sanctuary. Leaflets with directions will be inside. They are due back on November 8 thru 15. Say a prayer over your box and include a picture or brief message if you would like. There are interpreters at each site. The boxes will be taken to local collection centers and then transported by semi to one of eight processing centers in the United States. Processing takes place during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of December, before Christmas. Scripture booklets are added and lids are secured with tape around the center, so our labels need to be on the lid, at either end. The boxes are then grouped according to destination and loaded on planes or ships. They are delivered to the various countries and then to various missions with arrival usually within 1-2 months or slightly longer in very remote areas. The missionaries read the Gospel stories and end with a count down from 20 to 0. The count down includes the children drumming on their boxes as their excitement builds. At zero they finally get to open their boxes and it is like the best Christmas morning you can remember. In my November article I will share some of the spiritual impact stories that were shared with me.

Thank you to my awesome committee and to our awesome congregation.

*~ Denise Lawson for Missions Committee*

## St. Paul's Ecumenical Sharing Kitchen

In this unpredictable year, one thing that is certain is **-Christmas is on its way!**

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 13<sup>th</sup>. **Thank you!**



October birthday celebrations:

**Marilyn Hutchins-October 18<sup>th</sup>**

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!



### THE TRADITION CONTINUES

The Administrative Council discussed the Church's Thanksgiving Dinner at their September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Should we have it or cancel??

After a lengthy discussion it was decided to go ahead with the dinner with some modifications of what has been done in the past. Our Church Thanksgiving Dinner began in 1978 and it is exceedingly difficult to end a tradition. However, to keep people safe, we made the following changes:

1. **DATE: November 22, 12: 00, Noon**
2. **Take reservations early to determine if people are interested in attending**
3. **Eliminate the sharing of side dishes**
4. **Set up the tables for social distancing**
5. **Serve the meal buffet-style**
6. **Require masks**

Our meal will include turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, green bean casserole and pumpkin pie. A freewill offering will be taken.

**Reservation deadline – November 1<sup>st</sup> (see form on back of newsletter to make reservation.)**

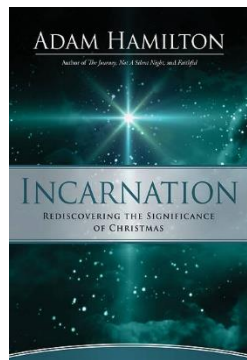


Trustees

The Trustees continue to work on various projects throughout the church.

A big thank you to Duane Hoffert for the years he served on the Trustees Board. Duane has stepped down from serving on the board, but he will be missed.

The next Trustee Board meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.



## 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. Cokesbury describes Incarnation in this way:

**“His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh. In *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, best-selling author Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth. This Advent season church families will come together to remember**

**what’s important. In the face of uncertainty and conflict, Christians reclaim the Christ child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness.**

**Now more than ever, we invite you to reflect upon the significance of the Christ child for our lives and world today!”**

Look for more detailed information on the Incarnation study in the November newsletter. We will be offering online participation, so do not let health concerns stop you from participating. Please let the church office know if you would like to participate so that we can order books. Books are \$14.00 for hard copy or e-books.



**Are you interested in becoming a member of St. Paul’s?** Church membership is important and enables you to become more fully involved and invested in the Body of Christ. If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Paul’s UMC, please see Pastor Charlene. You Belong Here!

### CONFIRMATION CLASS

Calling all young people! If you are in grade six or higher, you are eligible to participate in our confirmation class. Details are being worked out now. Please have your parent send an e-mail to Pastor Charlene at [Charlene.thomas2010@yahoo.com](mailto:Charlene.thomas2010@yahoo.com) to let her know that you are interested.

## *Thank you!*

A big thank you for all your prayers, cards, texts and help during Rich's surgeries and my ongoing challenges. You are a tremendous loving and caring church family.

Your support has been such a blessing!

~Rich & Karen Kinstler



I will be on vacation October 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> but will be in the office on October 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-3:30. If you need assistance with anything, please contact me prior to vacation, if not I will be happy to assist you upon my return. Thank you.

~ Joyce Randell, Secretary

### Important Upcoming Dates:

- SPRC Consultation with District Superintendent – **On Zoom** – October 15<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 p.m.
- Charge Conference – **On Zoom** – November 7<sup>th</sup> – 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



October 4<sup>th</sup> – Courtney McGinnis & Sofia Paradiso

October 11<sup>th</sup> – Braden Drosky & A.J. Lindhorst

October 18<sup>th</sup> – Enola & Ariana Ramirez

October 25<sup>th</sup> – Hezekiah & Elijah 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.

Please consider helping.

Please join us for lunch on Tuesday,  
October 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon  
at GW's

If you plan to attend, please RSVP  
Sandy Ritter 419-618-4990

Thank you!

Make Your  
Reservations Today!

## Thanksgiving Dinner Reservation

Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 12:00 noon

Buffet style meal consisting of turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy,  
green bean casserole and pumpkin pie.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in your party: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please call Shirley Smith at (419) 447-4304 or you can return your reservation  
slip to the church office or place in the offering plate.

All reservations need to be submitted by deadline of November 1<sup>st</sup>.

