



THE MESSENGER

OUR MISSION IS TO GROW IN FAITH, TO WORSHIP GOD, TO SERVE OTHERS, AND TO WELCOME ALL.



03

ALL CHURCH PICNIC AND POOL PARTY

Come join the fun on August 8, 2021 at the Rudnitsky's. Sign up [here](#).

Children & Youth "Back to School Fair"

Items desired:

- New backpacks (for older children)
- 3-ring binders (1", 1½", or 2")
- Filler paper for 3-ring binders
- Colored pencils, crayons, washable & regular markers
- Pencil pouches (3-ring binder style), pencil boxes, pencils & sharpeners
- Pocket folders (with clasps inside)
- Spiral notebooks
- Rulers, erasers (pencil top & larger)
- Construction paper, Post-It notes
- Book covers
- Scissors (safety style & regular)
- Glue sticks & bottles
- Germ X, tissue pack

03

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

Please help Snyder County Children & Youth Services by donating items.



04

NEW CONFIRMATION GROUP STARTS

Pastor Dietmar will be teaching a Confirmation Class beginning September 12.



04

NEW WORSHIP SERIES ABOUT PRAYER

We will explore together why and how to pray.



VACATION AND RETREAT - HOW WILL YOU MAKE ROOM AND TAKE TIME FOR GOD?

We have had plenty of green onions so far this spring and summer. The cucumber, tomato, squash, and pepper plants are producing. The eggplants are coming along nicely. It's growing season in the garden I planted again this year.

Veggies and grass need rain, sunshine, and nutrients to grow and produce. What does it take for you to grow in faith? Where and how do you feel close to God? How do you grow deeper roots, connecting to your Ground of Being? How do you open your heart and soul to the living God?

For me it takes two things: time and paying attention. Every morning I sit quietly meditating on our sofa with a cup of coffee. I record my dreams if I recollect them and reflect. This quiet time in the morning helps me just be, be present and relaxed. I read a devotion and reflect on its meaning. The morning is sacred time for me, in the sense of the Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God."

Where and how do you take time for yourself and for God? How do you pay attention to what is beyond the busyness, getting-things-done, and the distractions of the day?

Summer is a great opportunity for making room and taking time for God and yourself. In its original sense, vacation means just that. Like a vacant lot or like vacating a place, vacation means, making room in space and time for what matters. Vacation is not just when you are off work and travel. Vacation is a place in your heart that you open up for God and for yourself.

Retreat is another word that is full of meaning. Retreat means stepping back and making room. I love going on retreats to learn and explore. Yet just like with a vacation, a "retreat" must not be a formal event. It can be simply a stepping back. Pausing for five to ten minutes and paying attention. Pay attention to your body, your feelings, your thoughts. Stepping back can give you a new perspective, when you see yourself from a distance, from outside yourself, like an outside observer would do.

We will be very intentional this fall in making room and taking time to connect with the living God. Our "Learning to Pray" worship series is an invitation for you to grow in faith, to open up, and to experience the living God. I ask you to join us in worship beginning with Kick Off

Sunday, September 12 at 10:30 AM, and explore together with us how to fall in love with God all over again.

Whether you travel or stay at home, whether you are busy or relaxed, I invite you to join me in making room and taking time to encounter the living God during these coming days and weeks. In its original sense, take a retreat of 5-10 minutes a couple of times per day, and take a vacation - make room for God and for yourself in your heart. And pay attention to what is.

I hope and pray that you open up to the living God and retreat (step back) and vacate (make room and take time) for the living God to reach you.

When and how will you take time and pay attention in order to grow in faith?

If not before, I hope to see you on Kickoff Sunday!

Blessings,

Pastor Dietmar

ALL CHURCH PICNIC AND POOL PARTY

Please sign up [here](#) or on our website, or call the office (570-374-8749).

Come and enjoy the fun on Sunday, August 8, from 12 to 4 PM at the Rudnitsky's Home (108 Susquehanna Avenue, Selinsgrove). Bring a friend!

There's plenty of indoor seating for people who want to avoid the heat or the bugs or are allergic to bees.

Hot dogs, hamburgers and chicken will be provided, as will soda, paper plates, cups and napkins. Please bring a picnic-style dish to share and your own drinks, if you prefer.

Bring a lawn chair and your bathing suit and a towel for fun in the pool. Rain date is August 15, 2021.

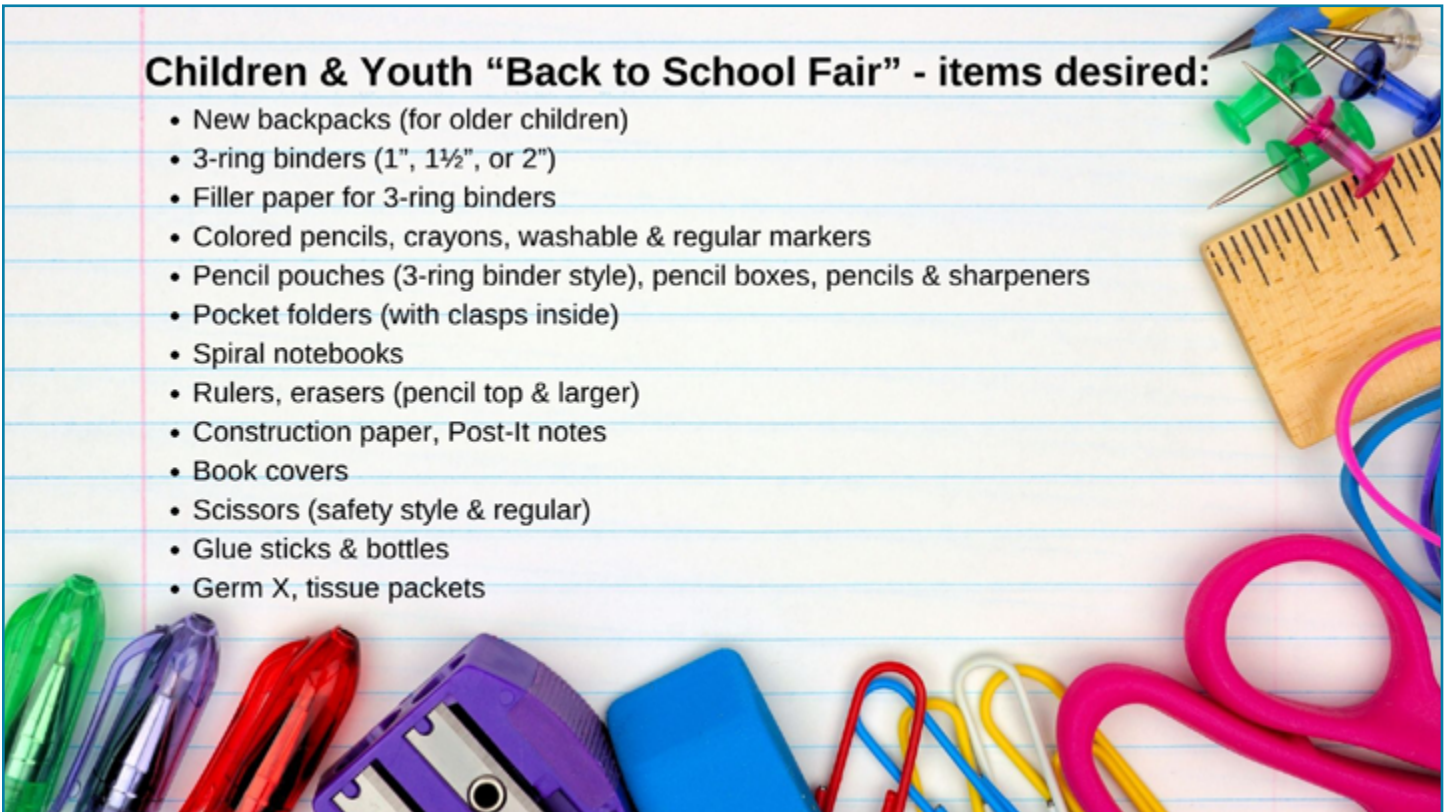


Children & Youth "Back to School Fair"

Snyder County Children & Youth Services will be collecting school supplies for their annual "Back to School Fair." Their goal is to provide backpacks filled with school supplies for local children in need. St. Paul's will collect items through Sunday, August 1. There will be a box outside the secretary's office where you may place your donations. Thank you for your help!

Children & Youth "Back to School Fair" - items desired:

- New backpacks (for older children)
- 3-ring binders (1", 1½", or 2")
- Filler paper for 3-ring binders
- Colored pencils, crayons, washable & regular markers
- Pencil pouches (3-ring binder style), pencil boxes, pencils & sharpeners
- Pocket folders (with clasps inside)
- Spiral notebooks
- Rulers, erasers (pencil top & larger)
- Construction paper, Post-It notes
- Book covers
- Scissors (safety style & regular)
- Glue sticks & bottles
- Germ X, tissue packets



CONFIRMATION GROUP

For all children and youths 6th grade and up, Pastor Dietmar will be teaching a Confirmation Class beginning with Kick Off Sunday, September 12 at 9 AM in the fellowship hall. Pastor Dietmar will offer an orientation for children, youths and their families what the Confirmation Class entails on Sunday, July 25 at 11:30 AM in the fellowship hall. There will be a strong emphasis on service projects, creative and hand-on activities, and on the personal experience of Biblical stories and our faith. Pastor Dietmar is looking for mentors to help with the class. Junior mentors can practice leadership skills by guiding the younger ones in small group conversations and helping with specific tasks. Adult mentors will help facilitate and guide the youngsters as they practice their faith. Please let Pastor Dietmar know of your interest in helping as mentors on Sunday mornings at 9 AM by emailing dietmar@saintpauls-ucc.org or calling/texting (570) 541-0121.

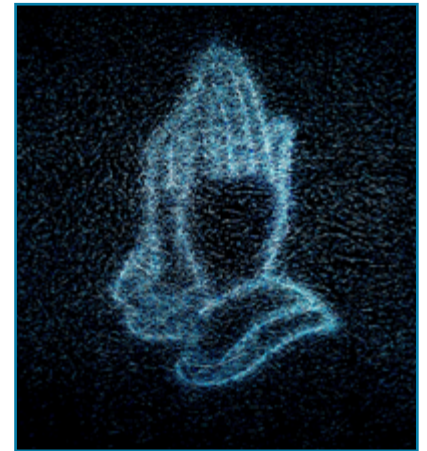


LEARNING TO PRAY NEW WORSHIP SERIES

STARTING ON KICK OFF SUNDAY, SEPT. 12 AT 10:30 AM

When and how do you pray? What is prayer all about? What are various ways to pray and connect with God? In the new worship series beginning with Kick Off Sunday, September 12 at 10:30 AM, we will explore together the purpose and reasons for prayer and how to pray in meaningful ways. Pastor Dietmar is asking you to consider sharing for 3-5 minutes in worship on your personal experience with prayer. When and how do you pray? When and how did you struggle with prayer? What forms of prayer are meaningful to you? When and how do you feel close to God, and/or God close to you? Your sharing personally and from the heart will help all of us grow in faith and connect with the living God. Please let Pastor Dietmar know of your willingness to share briefly in worship on your experience with prayer by emailing [\[pauls-ucc.org\]\(mailto:pauls-ucc.org\) or calling/texting \(570\) 541-0121. Also, you can help us all by sharing what devotional you use and how your devotional is "speaking to you." Also, what is one of your favorite formal, written, or memorized prayers that is meaningful to you? Please share it with Pastor Dietmar. Through your sharing we can all learn from each other.](mailto:dietmar@saint-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Thank you!
Pastor Dietmar



Kick Off Sunday September 12th!



I hope all of our St Paul's families and friends are doing well and enjoying their summer. Fall will be here soon and we need to start planning for Kick Off Sunday. Would you be willing to help? Together with Messy Church and a few Kick Off Sunday activities, we hope to have a fun time for our community. Some ideas are the fun crafts and story time that is provided by the Messy Church team along with bingo, a raffle table, and an activity provided by the Green Team. We will close with pizza for supper and homemade ice cream for dessert. How can you help? Would you be willing to help set up tables and chairs for

the activities and for bingo? Set up pop ups? Collect items for the raffle table, set up and sell tickets? Make home made ice cream and help serve? Help with clean up?

Please contact me or the church office and let us know how you can help. Email me at slb725@hotmail.com or call or text me (570) 898-0574, or contact Sue at the church office [office@saintpauls-ucc.org or (570) 374-8749] and provide your name and number and I will be in touch with you.

Many Blessings,
Susan Bolig
Council President





UPDATE FROM CHRISTIAN ED

Is it really August already?!? We hope all of you are feeling more comfortable being “out and about”, traveling and reconnecting IN PERSON with family and friends during these warm, sunny days. But September will be here in the blink of an eye so we want to update you on the programming for children and youth and families this fall. Because more and more of us have been vaccinated, Council decided to resume our morning worship service at our prepandemic time of 10:30 am on Kick Off Sunday, September 12th. There will be chil-

dren’s Sunday School during the service and nursery attendants will be available immediately before, during and after church for the little people under five years of age. Pastor Dietmar is offering confirmation classes to prepare our young people to join the church. His confirmation article will provide all the details. One of the activities we all missed most during the pandemic was IN PERSON Messy Church so you will be happy to know that Messy Church is back. We will be meeting each month in Fellowship Hall for crafts,

stories, games and a meal together. We are in the midst of our search for a new Youth Leader so we’ll keep you posted on when those activities will begin again. Last, but not least, we hope you all will sign up for the church picnic/pool party at Rudnitsky’s on August 8th from noon to four. It will be so much fun to be together again. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of the summer and savor the beauty all around you.

Peace and blessings,
Raven Rudnitsky, Chair of the Christian Ed Committee



Children’s Sunday School will begin September 12 during worship service, right after the Children’s Message.



CALLING ALL SINGERS

The Senior Choir resumes in-person rehearsals on Wednesday, September 1st at 7 pm. It will be joyful to see each other in person with a choir folder in hand. Hey, High School singers, please join us. We need you, too. Even if you can’t always be with us, come as much as you can. Our Youth Choir Director retired. Anyone interested please send me a message or give me a call (Rudnitsky@RHPLegal.com or 570-556-9677).
Marvin Rudnitsky, Music Committee Chair

AUGUST



BIRTHDAYS

- 8/01 Richard Lybarger
- 8/02 Bill Teisher
- 8/04 Bob Brown
Talisha Probst
- 8/05 Oliver Namminga
- 8/07 Amelia Gentile
Jack Lewis
John Snook
- 8/08 Ashtyn Lukens
Carolyn Proger
- 8/10 Nathan Lewis
Gibby Mease
Corey Troup
- 8/14 Bill Young
- 8/15 Sara Adams
Donna McElroy
Rory Smith
- 8/16 Denise Haddon
- 8/17 Taleisha Burd
Sally Hayhurst
Gladys Luckenbaugh
- 8/20 Gayle Dively
- 8/21 Matthew Beaver
Mary Bolig
- 8/23 Bruce Hummel
- 8/24 Linda Forster
Janet Siegfried
Ben Williard
- 8/25 Norman Golden
Landon Williard
- 8/26 Tayla Derr
- 8/27 Helen Hannah
Derick Shambach
Landon Spriggle
Andrew Wagner
- 8/28 Darlene Attig
Peggy Peeler
Devin Rhoads
Jane Ruhl
Verlyn Smith
Thomas Spriggle
- 8/29 Joyce Mensch
- 8/30 Bob Engel

PRAYER LIST

Members:

- Terry & Vivian Beaver
- Al & Dot Deans
- Helen Hannah
- Andy Womer
- Judy Anselmo

Friends:

- Adeline
- The family of Candy Adkins
- Jerry Bogar
- The family of Mary Anne Britton
- The family of Christopher Ehrsam
- Kathy Showers
- Gary and Dorothy Waite

All affected by Covid-19
 All who lost their jobs
 All who keep working in critical situations, especially the health care workers
 All who are grieving
 Those in leadership positions
 Our country - for peace, respect, understanding

Special prayers for all those who are serving in the military, leaders of the world, those who are working for peace and understanding, and all the children of the world.

THANK YOU

I want to send out a great big thank you for all the well wishes and birthday wishes sent my way during May. I am truly blessed to have such a caring church family.

Gratefully,
 Sally Lauer

Loaves and Fishes May

Total families	55
Total children	20
Total adults	36
Total seniors	55
Total served	111

Loaves and Fishes June

Total families	56
Total children	33
Total adults	44
Total seniors	56
Total served	133

AUGUST



ANNIVERSARIES

- 8/02 Barbara & Tim Reed
- 8/06 Raven & Marvin Rudnitsky
- 8/09 Peggy & Tom Peeler
- 8/10 Deb & Tony Martello
- 8/13 Ben & Kelsey Williard
- 8/14 Debra & Bruce Witkop
- 8/18 Bob & Jeanne Engel
- 8/19 Sigrid & Dietmar Plajer
Kathy & Derek Straub
Shelly & Willie Wolfe
- 8/23 Vivian & Terry Beaver

ST. PAUL'S MEDIA POLICY

We welcome and encourage media submissions by St. Paul's members. We are grateful for your participation in ministry and appreciate your contributions. At the same time, St. Paul's wants to comply with copyright rules and laws. Social and entertainment media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube have become more vigilant in protecting themselves by implementing and enforcing content policies. If St. Paul's does not comply, we risk an automated takedown of our online worship live stream on Facebook or suspension of our YouTube channel. If we are repeat offenders, we run the risk of our social media accounts being blocked and losing our ability to upload new content.

Before you begin working on your submission, you should understand what media you can use. We encourage you to use your own photos or videos, music, or text. It makes it more meaningful if you present your own creations. If you want to use materials that are available on the internet, you must have permission or a license to use the material.

- Generally, we cannot download YouTube videos or broadcast them from St. Paul's. If you have written permission from the owner and a file of the video sent directly to you, it can be used.
- Pictures and videos and other materials found through a simple Google search are likely protected by copyright and should not be used. There are a few sites that license content or make copyright-free content available for free use. St. Paul's also has a few subscriptions that could provide you with the material you want. The Tech Team is happy

to help and guide you towards places from where copyright-free media can be downloaded and used. We are here to assist you.

Here are a few guidelines for media to be projected on our screens:

- Text: No more than 4 lines of text in a large size sans serif font (Arial, Helvetica, etc.) so that it is easy to read from a distance.
- Pictures: Whenever possible, use landscape format (not portrait). Ideally, aspect ratio should be 16:9. Use the largest file size you can so the image will not look pixelated on the screens.
- PowerPoint: Our presentation software cannot show PowerPoint slides natively. The slides will be exported as images, so please do not use transitions and animations. If you need any help, the Tech Team is happy to assist.

All media submissions should be uploaded by Friday morning at 9 AM for the following Sunday so we can properly import the media and prepare for Sunday's worship service.

Thank you for your cooperation. We reserve the right to not use a submission if it does not follow this policy.

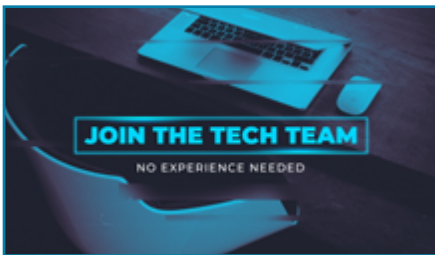
Thank you!

The Tech Team

Sigrid Plajer (tech@saintpauls-ucc.org)

Jevan Beaver (audiovideo@saintpauls-ucc.org)

Adopted by Council on May 11, 2021



JOIN THE FUN! JOIN THE TECH TEAM

We are looking for a few more volunteers to join our tech team. We will train you. Our ministry is a crucial part of our worship services. Help us make St. Paul's look and sound good! Please contact Jevan at audiovideo@saintpauls-ucc.org for more info.



HOSPICE OF EVANGELICAL VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Are you searching for a volunteer experience that is gratifying and emotionally meaningful? Hospice of Evangelical has the opportunity you're seeking and all the training you need! For more info, call the Volunteer Liaison at (570) 522-2955.



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 AT THE FREEBURG CARNIVAL

The Best in American Music!
Rock 'n Roll of the 1950's and 1960's!
The Retro Rock of the 70's, 80's, and 90's!
Rockin' the 40's with Big Band Swing!
Country Classics and Chart-Topping Hits!
A Patriotic Finale Sure to Inspire!

St. Paul's Council Meeting June 8, 2021

In Attendance: Sara Adams, Marty Blessing, Susan Bolig, Rick Campbell, Amy Caron, Bob Engel, Beverly Heinemann, Jack Lewis, Ivana Lluveras, Pastor Dietmar Plajer, Sigrid Plajer, Shane Sanders, Linda Turner, Kathy Ulrich.

Excused: Stacey Heinemann, Peggy Peeler.

Minutes: A motion was made by Linda Turner and seconded by Jack Lewis to approve the minutes from May 11th. The motion was approved.

Financial Report: Linda Turner reported. Bob Engel motioned to accept the financial report as read, Kathy Ulrich seconded, and the motion was approved.

Pastor's Report: Included in newsletter.

Unfinished Business & New Business

- **Newsletter Minutes:** It was decided to add a disclaimer that the newsletter version of the minutes are not the official, approved minutes, which are available upon request.
- **Worship in person, via internet and by phone- How can we improve?** Nothing will be changing for the time being. We will continue to hold service in-person, online and over the phone.
- **COVID Safety measures:** Continuation of the emergency meeting topics. Sigrid asked about the social distancing regulations for committee meetings over the summer, since the OWL works well. We trust the committee members to make their own choices and make the best decisions for themselves, we do not need to make the decision for them as Council. A motion was made by Shane to allow committees to meet in the church, hosting those who do not want to be in person on the OWL. The motion was seconded by Rick Campbell; the motion was approved by the Council. The Council discussed whether or not vaccinated people should be able to sing in church. That discussion will continue at the July meeting.
- **No children's message for the summer:** It was decided among those who manage and create the children's messages that a short, summer hiatus will take place to give presenters a break.
- **Messy Church:** Sigrid Plajer reported that June and July Messy Church will be held in the park as a whole church picnic. 61 people are currently signed up for the picnic in June. Sigrid encouraged people to sign up, but even if people decide at the last minute to join, they are more than welcome!
- **Planning for the Fall Program Year: A 12-week series on Learning to Pray.** Pastor Dietmar believes going back to the basics and exploring when/how/why we pray would be a powerful series for the fall. How can we return God's friendship and closeness in like? When and how do we express gratitude, etc. Various kinds of prayer will be approached. Pastor Dietmar called on the Council and other members of the church to participate in the series in various ways, including sharing their favorite prayers for a little booklet that could be made, etc.
- **Treasurer Position Report/Update:** Marty Blessing reported. Last Thursday the personnel committee met with Courtney Hanes; she has the education and experience necessary for the position, having had this position previously for St. Paul's. She is currently available and would like the position. There were no other applicants, so they would like to offer her the position at \$19/hr and after 6 months and a review, it would go up to \$20/hr. Marty made the suggestion to offer her the position. Jack Lewis made the motion and Sara Adams seconded. The motion to offer the position to Courtney Hanes was approved by the Council.
- **Creation Care-Green Team leader:** Shane Sanders will give a tour of the community gardens during the All Church Picnic June 13.
- **Land Acknowledgement:** Shane Sanders reported. Shane had shared an example of a Land Acknowledgement that St. Paul's could potentially use, but the question of educating the congregation to have a better understanding of the how, when, and why. Instead of jumping right to creating a Land Acknowledgement, the idea of creating a specific committee, a "Living into Right Relations" group or similar body in the church that would be concerned with issues surrounding Aboriginal justice, right relations with marginalized communities and our history, and truth and reconciliation.
- **Pentecost Sunday on May 23:** Luncheon gathering with Rev. Dr. Carrie Call in fellowship hall, 13 attended, went well. Nice conversation with Carrie.
- **Penn Central Conference Annual Meeting:** Sat. June 12, 8:30am-2:30pm via Zoom. Need 2 representatives. Who will attend? Or who will ask members to participate? Pastor Dietmar will attend, and Marty Blessing volunteered to attend as well.
- **The PA Department of Health has announced that it will lift the Mask Mandate for all PA residents on June 28th.**
- **Youth Leader Position:** Christian Education working on

job description. A copy of the job description was sent to the Council ahead of time; some of the details of the description were discussed, but nothing was changed. Bob made a motion to approve the position description, and Marty seconded. The personnel committee will move forward with finding someone using that description.

- **Music committee-Youth Choir, Children's Choir, Bell Choir:** The music committee is in a bit of a weird space when it comes to finding staff for the music program this fall. A meeting is necessary.
- **Worship Committee - Acolytes?** Are there any youth who would be interested in being in that role? Maybe over the summer, get some kids in to do that, and then get on an actual schedule in the fall so we can do training, etc. We need one person who can take on that task - scheduling them and getting on that schedule.
- **Roof Repair Update Report:** Rick Campbell reported. Mike Proger will get the start date from the roofer when he has it. We have gotten quotes for various projects, including the

concrete work and windows. A few things got repaired in the Bridal Shop last week.

- **Kick Off Sunday:** Do we need to fill out a Borough form to block off the alley way? Sept. 12th will be Kick Off Sunday. Pastor Dietmar suggested that we have a designated team for planning that Sunday, so if anyone has any ideas for that team, or activities, we will pick that up next month.
- **Visitation Ministry Coordinator:** Search is ongoing.
- **Fellowship Committee:** Conversation is ongoing.
- **What is St Paul's Vision:** We will revisit in January 2022, using some of the comments from our conference minister's visit.

Next Council Meeting: July 13, 2021

Kathy Ulrich will provide devotions

Respectfully submitted,

Shane Sanders, Council Secretary

St. Paul's Council Meeting July 13, 2021

Because of the timing of the newsletter publication, these newsletter minutes are not the official, approved minutes. After the minutes have been approved at the next meeting, the final minutes are available upon request.

In Attendance: Marty Blessing, Susan Bolig, Rick Campbell, Amy Caron, Bob Engel, Beverly Heinemann, Ivana Lluveras, Peggy Peeler, Pastor Dietmar Plajer, Sigrid Plajer, Shane Sanders, Linda Turner, Kathy Ulrich.

Excused: Sara Adams, Stacey Heinemann, Jack Lewis, Michael Zettlemoyer.

Minutes: A motion was made by Kathy Ulrich and seconded by Beverly Heinemann to approve the minutes from June 8th. The motion was approved.

Financial Report: Linda Turner reported. Courtney Hanes is our new treasurer and starting in August, she will start reporting to the Council. Bob Engel motioned to accept the financial report as read, conditionally including the changes that Linda said that Courtney will make on some errors present in the report. Rick Campbell seconded, and the motion was approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dietmar sent the report to the Council members ahead of time. He added that he is pleased to see that even though we're coming out of a pandemic, we have some new guests who are becoming regular attendees.

Unfinished Business & New Business

- **The PA Department of Health has lifted the Mask Man-**

date for all PA residents - Is it time to allow singing in church? People not comfortable can sit in the balcony as an option? We have been getting more guests/visitors. Is it time to open up more pews? Committees are having meetings at the church. How do we encourage people who are "on the fence" to return to worship in person? The Council discussed various options for when to start, with the committee voting unanimously to start singing on August first, with the condition that those who are unvaccinated do not sing, the balcony is a no-singing zone, and we inform the congregation this coming Friday. We will also remove some of the tape from the pews but leave a few so those who might not be as comfortable could choose to be in a pew behind one that is blocked off.

- **Worship in person, via internet and by phone - How can we improve?** Things are still going well as a hybrid of both in-person and online, as well as on the phone. The live Facebook stream has a lower number of people watching live than we've had. They need a few more people who are able to run the sound/livestream - it has been challenging to find people.
- **Messy Church: "Jonah's Messy Olympics"** with Picnic in the Park. Sigrid reported briefly that it was canceled due to the weather, so we have the program for one Messy Church ready to go.
- **Service time for the fall:** The Council decided unanimously to go switch to a 10:30 start for the fall.

- **“How to Pray” Worship Series - Planning for the Fall Program Year:** What devotional do you use? When and how do you pray? What is one of your favorite prayers or scripture readings? Why? How do you care for yourself? Who is willing to share for 3-5 minutes in worship about their joy, wrestling, experiences with praying? Speaking about “dry times,” about not knowing, of feeling stuck is meaningful and moving (“the gift of imperfection”). The key to this will be the personal sharing aspect, so Pastor Dietmar will need participants willing to share.
- **Penn Central Conference-June 12 Report: Marty Blessing and Pastor Dietmar.** Some of the big items: The budget was passed; the Executive Board will become smaller as 24 members was hard to get them all together.
- **Youth Leader Position:** How is the search going? Christian Education/Personnel Committee. There was one applicant, but not one that we would want to consider. We haven't really had any viable candidates at this point. Susan asked about potentially breaking that position up into multiple, smaller positions (Sunday School vs. Kids Group, etc.). Even if we aren't able to find someone, Pastor Dietmar would like to find a way to at least offer Sunday School during the service, after the Children's Message.
- **Music committee - Senior Choir, Youth Choir, Children's Choir, Bell Choir - what are their plans for the fall?** Amy Caron reported: Senior Choir is the one choir that would be considered ready to go – they don't have an accompanist, but Jaime has offered to do that until they find someone. There is someone who is interested. For the Children's Choir, the parents are going to be polled as to the comfort level with unvaccinated children. Bell Choir director could be the same as the accompanist, but we will have to see. Youths are welcome to join the Senior Choir.
- **Kick Off Sunday:** Who will help plan/organize? There are some people who have ice cream makers. Shane will organize the painting of the Loaves & Fishes huts. It will basically be an extended Messy Church but including things that would attract members of the community. From 4-6pm would be ideal so that we can offer pizza & ice cream, but without taking so long.
- **Confirmation Group for the Fall:** Pastor Dietmar needs mentors and helpers. There are 8-9 youngsters who would be participating. There would be a combination of instruction and excursions/hands-on activities of belonging/serving, etc. Starting with Behavior, Belonging, then Believing. Pastor Dietmar needs the support of the parents and mentors.
- **Green Team - New plans and ideas?** Should the Green Team fall under the umbrella of a “Living into Right Relations” committee? Shane will reach out to Darin Namminga about his thoughts on the creation of that committee.
- **Worship Committee:** Acolytes for September will need to be found by the Worship Committee, who will be meeting later in July.
- We received a card from Everyone's Playground thanking us for our contribution.
- **Visitation Ministry Coordinator:** Search is ongoing
- **Fellowship Committee/**
- **What is St Paul's Vision:** Revisit in January 2022
- Vacation Pastor Dietmar: August 23 - September 5. Linda Turner made a motion to approve Pastor Dietmar's vacation request. Bob Engel seconded, and the motion was approved.
- **Property and Grounds:** Rick Campbell reported, updating the Council on Roof Repair, refrigerator repair, and grease trap repair.

Next Council Meeting: August 10, 2021

Shane will provide devotions

Respectfully submitted,

Shane Sanders, Council Secretary

Get Ready to Welcome Back the Senior Choir!

All interested singers, please come sing with us if you feel safe doing so. All High School students are invited to join us, too. Virtual Choirs were fun and a good learning experience but making music together in person is so much better and much missed. We will begin on Wednesday, September 1st at 7pm in the sanctuary. Please contact me with any questions through the church office. I'm very excited to see you all!

Amy Caron



Senior Choir practice will begin September 1st at 7pm in the sanctuary

August 2021

Covid-19 Guidance

ST. PAUL'S UCC

MASKS

If you are fully vaccinated (two weeks after your last shot), you can be present in the church building without a mask. If you are not yet fully vaccinated, please continue to wear a mask at all times while at St. Paul's.

SINGING

Beginning August 1, fully vaccinated people can resume singing in worship. The balcony will be reserved for those of us who prefer not to sing.

CARING

Please be patient and understanding while we are emerging from the pandemic. We all are at our own comfort level, both physically and emotionally. We thank you for your support!



If you have any questions, please contact Council president Susan Bolig at (570) 898-0574 or Pastor Dietmar at (570) 541-0121.



Pastor's Report - May 2021

Our St. Paul's Mission is to grow in faith, to worship God, to serve others, and to welcome all.

We observed our Music Appreciation Sunday with outstanding and moving music from soloists, ensembles, and instrumentalists on May 2. St. Paul's music is the best in town. I am very grateful to all musicians and participants in the ensembles. The virtual Senior Choir music and the recorded Bell Ensemble music with Maya Caron's leadership were highlights. All musicians on staff were recognized with gift certificates and handwritten notes.

Our worship service on Mother's Day, May 9, was meaningful through message and special presentations. Shane Sanders compiled a beautiful slideshow from the pictures that church members submitted, and the communion table was beautifully decorated by the Worship Team.

We recognized St. Paul's graduates in worship on May 16 with gifts and personal recognition. We expressed our gratitude to them and blessed them, wishing them Godspeed for their future journey. Again, the sanctuary was decorated to perfection for this occasion.

Pentecost Sunday was a highlight with the visit of our UCC Penn Central Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, PhD. Rev. Call presented the message in worship and joined us for food and conversation in the fellowship hall following the service. We learned what makes for vital and vibrant congregations and great congregational and pastoral leadership.

I am deeply grateful to the Hospitality Team under Susan Bolig's leadership for arranging for the luncheon with the

Conference Minister and for making the visitation and funeral for Dolly Klingler in the sanctuary run smoothly. To care and to offer extravagant hospitality is at the heart of who we are as Jesus' followers.

The Wednesday "Sunday School" group led by Raven Rudnitsky ended with a social gathering on May 26. This group used the Nooma video series by Rob Bell with additional monthly social justice videos as basis for their conversations. With up to 22 persons participating via Zoom, it has become a lifesaver for many who were longing for meaningful and caring conversation through our Covid-19 pandemic. My heartfelt gratitude goes to Raven for her leadership of this group.

The Property and Grounds team with Chair Michael Proger is preparing for several big renovation projects. The church roof needs to be replaced this summer as it was damaged by hail two years ago. Rust from railings busted concrete in various places, and sinking concrete slabs channel water toward the building instead of away. Windows on the office wing from 1959 are considered to be replaced with insulating ones and a more efficient furnace is in the talks. The next-door bridal store and the church garage need significant repair. I'm grateful to Mike Proger for his leadership and to all who support these efforts in repairing and updating our facility. My heartfelt gratitude goes to Lisa Krex, who again this season took on the care for our flower beds. Together with helpers, she does a phenomenal job!

I participated in an online Leadership Workshop with the Conference Minister of the UCC Penn South East Conference. I spoke at the Selinsgrove Baccalaureate Service for area High School graduates

together with 4 colleagues in town.

Together with the family of Delia Ludwig (14) we wrestled about their suicide on May 11. I met several times with Delia's family and officiated the service on May 18. I met with the teenagers of the Youth Leadership Club at the REC to talk about their feelings and suicide prevention.

On May 3, I officiated the funeral for Dolly Klingler (91) who died peacefully at home on April 28. On May 29 I led the service for Kay Luckey, a cousin of Sylvia Knaur. On May 22, I officiated the wedding of Daria Kaminskyj and Ty Richland. Daria and Ty have been participating in St. Paul's ministries for the last year.

Thank you for your prayers, your witness, your giving, your service, and your faithfulness to God and to God's work through St. Paul's. You are the hands and heart of Jesus in action.

May 1-31, 2021

Days worked	23
Days off	07
Continuing Education	00
Vacation days	00
Holidays	01
Total Days	31

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Dietmar Plajer

Pastor's Report - June 2021

Our St. Paul's Mission is to grow in faith, to worship God, to serve others, and to welcome all.

We continue with hybrid worship meeting in person and electronically. Each Sunday we explore a new theme of what it means to be Jesus' family and how to love those whom we have a heard time loving (June 6) and on how we imagine heaven and God's Kingdom to look like (June 13). Jesus' emphasis is on how we can create a piece of heaven here on earth, how we participate in God's work right here and now in creating a better community and world for those who are hurting and suffering.

Messy Church with the Picnic in the Park was a great success with over 75 people participating. The theme was the Parable of the Talents, and the Messy Church team made it come alive through the crafts and activities. New people get a wonderful opportunity to connect with St. Paul's through our outdoor events. I am deeply grateful to all who made this afternoon possible!

Together with Marty Blessing, I participated in the virtual UCC Penn Central Conference Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 13. We have great conference leadership with the Rev. Dr. Carrie Call and the two associate conference ministers, Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola (she is new to the conference) and Rev. Nora Foust.

The Penn Central Conference is doing vital work as we are facing challenges together.

I participate in and help coordinate the ministries and work of St. Paul's Committees: Property and Grounds, Stewardship and Finance, Music, Christian Education, Church Growth and Membership, Worship, Personnel. Important and much needed repairs to our property need to happen. We are looking for a Youth Leader, new music staff, and a Visitation Ministry Coordinator.

On an ongoing basis I provide vital pastoral care for people and families who face significant challenges in their lives.

I am planning for a "How to Pray" worship series as we approach our new Program Year with Kick Off Sunday on September 12. I need everyone's support and cooperation to make this worship series meaningful and successful. Also, I am planning for a Confirmation Group for teens 6th grade and up and need adult and junior mentors to accompany the group during our program year.

I continue to meet with colleagues from the Selinsgrove Ministerium where we affirm each other in our common ministries. Also, I meet with UCC colleagues for a monthly Spiritual Support Group. I keep reading on theology, leadership, mission and best practices for congrega-

tional ministry.

On June 5, I officiated the memorial service for the very dear and faithful church leader Leon Deshields in Norfolk, VA. He was key in bringing the Plajer family to the UCC and the US. Also, I met with the family of Donald Wilt on June 30 and officiated his funeral. We celebrated the life, love, and legacy of Dolly Klingler at a Klingler Family reunion on June 12.

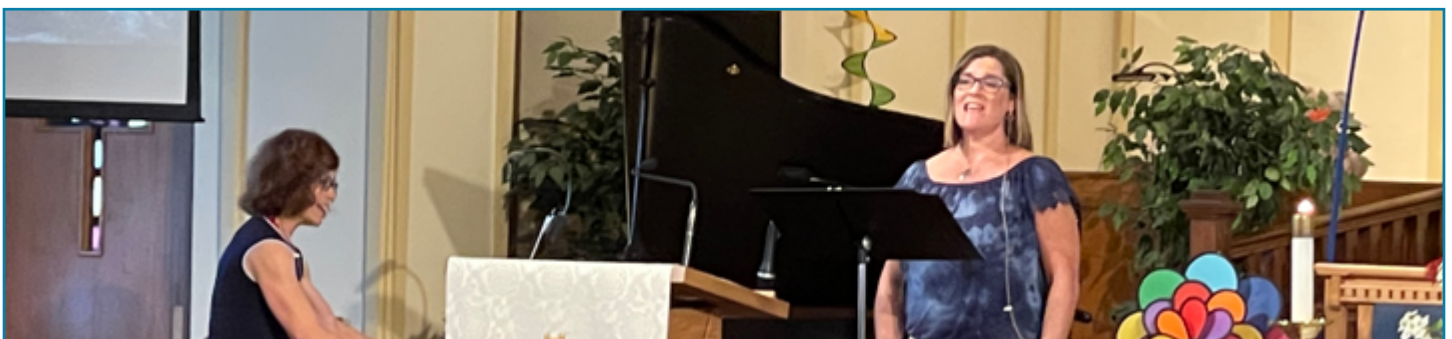
I am deeply grateful to Rev. Darin Namminga for leading the worship services while I was on vacation and to Rev. Amelia Price for being available for pastoral care emergencies.

Thank you for your prayers, your witness, your giving, your service, and your faithfulness to God and to God's work through St. Paul's. You are the hands and heart of Jesus in action!

June 1-30, 2021

Days worked	16
Days off	03
Continuing Education	00
Vacation days	11
Holidays	00
Total Days	30

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Dietmar Plajer





St. Paul's United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation

400 North Market Street
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office@saintpauls-ucc.org
www.saintpauls-ucc.org

Worship Sunday at 10:00 AM
in person, on Facebook, or our website

“God is Still Speaking”

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

We thank God for...



The All Church Picnic with Messy Church in June was a whole lot of fun!