



Sharing God's love by serving others

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DECEMBER/JANUARY 2023/24 Hilltop Herald

Grace and Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ,

Dear Beloved Church Family,

As we enter into December, our hearts resonate with the joyous melodies of Advent, echoing the anticipation of the miraculous event that transformed the course of human history. This season is a sacred journey, a time of reflection, hope, and preparation as we eagerly await the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

Advent, derived from the Latin word "adventus" meaning "coming," is a season of expectant waiting and preparation. It marks the beginning of our liturgical calendar, inviting us to pause and ponder the significance of the incarnation—the divine becoming human. Each candle lit on the Advent wreath symbolizes a different aspect of our spiritual journey: hope, peace, joy, and love.

In this season of reflection, let us draw closer to the light of Christ, illuminating the path of our lives. As we light the candles each week, may the glow remind us of the hope that Christ brings, the peace He imparts, the joy found in His presence, and the boundless love that defines His message.

The culmination of Advent leads us to the heart of Christmas—a celebration of God's profound love manifest in the birth of Jesus Christ. As we exchange gifts and share festive meals, let us remember the greatest gift ever given: the gift of salvation through the birth of our Savior. Christmas is a time to extend love and kindness to those around us, mirroring the selfless love God demonstrated through the gift of His Son.

With the close of December, we not only conclude the Advent season but also embark on a new year. The liturgical calendar serves as a guide, leading us through the life of Christ and the foundational aspects of our faith. The liturgical year begins in Advent, but we will also celebrate 2024 – a whole new year for the world. As we turn the page to a new year, let us renew our commitment to grow spiritually, individually and as a community. Let us open our hearts to the lessons each season brings, deepening our understanding of the love and grace God abundantly pours upon us.

As we journey through December, may the spirit of Advent ignite our faith, may the joy of Christmas fill our hearts, and may the new year be a season of profound spiritual growth for each one of us. Let our lives be a living testimony to the transformative power of Christ's love.

Well, that is all I have for now – until next time my friends, be blessed. As always, keep our church in your prayers. If you find you are in need of support, please reach out to me. Always serve God with joy and praise; be of good courage; hold fast to what is good; support the weak; and help the afflicted. May you experience a blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Pastor Andy

BELL RINGERS NEEDED

St. Paul volunteers will be ringing the bell for the Ministerial Alliance donation kettle at Village Market in December. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. Please join us in this event, which benefits those within our community who need assistance.

BLOOD DRIVE DECEMBER 4

St. Paul UCC will host a Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall on Monday, December 4 from 2:00-6:00 p.m. Please call 1-800-Red Cross (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter StPaulUCCHermann to schedule an appointment. **“Give something that means something, give blood”**

CHRISTMAS CONCERT/CHOIR

“Sing to Him, Sing His Praises”

Proclaim All His Wondrous Deeds”

The Senior Choir and Riverside Singers have been busy preparing for the Christmas Eve Service December 24th and their annual Christmas Concert, “Sing We Now of Christmas,” Sunday, December 17th, 4:00 p.m. This year’s concert features the HandBell Choir, Senior Choir, Riverside Singers, Keeley Uthlaut and special guests.

The concert is dedicated to the memory of Ruth Hulsey.

The senior choir will be singing “Candles and Carols” which is arranged by Mark Hayes. It is a service of hope, peace, joy and love. The handbell choir will be presenting familiar Christmas Carols. We hope you will join us for an inspirational afternoon of Christmas music.

Our concert is free and open to the public with donations going to the Ministerial Alliance. Bring your family and friends to enjoy an afternoon of Christmas music.

“Glory in His Holy Name, Rejoice, O Hearts That Seek the Lord”

LaNette Kotthoff, Music Director

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Women’s Fellowship will meet on Dec. 14th at 12:30 for our annual Christmas luncheon. The entrée will be provided. We are asking that if your last name begins with A through M, please bring a salad. If your last name begins with N through Z, please bring cookies. There will be a \$5 gift exchange. The women of the church are invited to attend. Join us for a time of fellowship as we enter the Christmas season.

TIME & TALENT SHEETS

Enclosed are the 2024 Time & Talent sheets. Please add your name to the lists to help with various duties and to volunteer for various committees. There are also copies in the front and back of church. This list is most helpful to the church council, the pastor, and the office to fill the positions when they arise. Thank you for any help you are able to provide. Please return to the office by February 4

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The boxes of church offering envelopes for 2024 will be set out soon on the table in back of church. Your numbers may be different that they were for 2023; **new numbers will be assigned** for most of you. Please use the new boxes and discard the old ones. If you do not see a box with your name; or if you are not using offering envelopes at the present time but would like to receive a box, please let the office know.

Please contact the office if you would like a Sunday School box of envelopes. Your number for the Sunday School envelopes will **NOT** be the same as last year. A new number will be assigned.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The next Christian Education meeting will be February 11 immediately following the church service.

The Christmas activities that have been planned this year include the following Advent activities, as well as the program and end of year information.

December 3: Christmas Card making during Sunday School

December 9: Parent's Night Out (babysitting, meal and games for the kids) 4-7pm

December 10: Christmas play during the worship service

December 17: Caroling and annual choir and bell concert at 4pm

December 24: NO Sunday School

December 31: NO Sunday School



AFTER-SCHOOL BEARCATS

The Afterschool Bearcats program has been meeting weekly on Wednesdays. The program has sixteen students from Grades 2-7. We have approximately twenty-five volunteers serving as tutors/mentors, substitute mentors, or helping with food preparation. Volunteers prepare peanut butter sandwiches, fruit, and other snacks for the students.

Students arrive at approximately 3:30 p.m. They snack for 20 minutes, read 20 minutes, work on homework and academics for 30 minutes, and do enrichment activities for the last 20 minutes of the session. Enrichment activities have included yoga lead by Susan Lenger, journal writing, and social skills, using role play and charades to help students deal with real life situations. Students have learned some Spanish and wrote letters to Veterans. Veteran Gordon Heck came to speak with students about his service.

We are thankful for the students and volunteers in this ministry! We will not be meeting on December 27th.

We need more volunteers, if you are interested in becoming a volunteer for After School Bearcats, contact Sharen Speckhals 573-220-0965 or Carol Paubel, 636-221-7108.

LIT n' LATTE BOOK CLUB

December 11th at 10:00 we are meeting at Adlee's for a potluck brunch and our book is *Alaskan Christmas Redemption*, by Belle Calhoun. By the way, a copy has already arrived at the library. Please let Adlee know if you plan to attend and what food you plan to contribute to the brunch. **Thank you, Adlee, for the invitation!**

Here is a list of book selections through June.

Jan 8	<i>Setting Free the Kites</i> , Alex George
Feb 12	<i>The First Ladies</i> , Benedict-Murray
Mar 11	<i>When Two Feathers Fell From the Sky</i> , Verble
Apr 8	<i>Olive Again</i> , Strout
May 13	<i>Behold the Dreamers</i> , MBUE
June 10	<i>Redeeming Love</i> , Rivers

Don't forget to RSVP to Adlee. See you soon. Nancy

We have many different churches and walks of life represented and all are welcome! If you have any interest or questions about the book club, call or text Nancy at 573-291-1126.

HANDBELL CHOIR

The handbell choir is gearing up for the holidays as we prepare music for the Christmas Concert on Dec. 17. We also will play for the worship service that morning. The ensemble is about to enter its 19th year of ringing. It hardly seems possible that we've been playing for so many years. We hope that anyone who is interested in learning to ring, or has rung in the past, will give it a try. Practices are held

on Wednesdays at 4:00. Contact Nancy Fagerness at 573-486-3700, or leave a message at the church office, if you are interested.

We will take a break from ringing during the month of January, but practices will resume in February. The bell choir will play the fourth Sunday of the month from February through May. The choir was saddened by the passing of Ruth Hulsey in October. As director, she played a huge role in the success of the bell choir. We miss her every time we get together to ring, but she's always with us in spirit.

For anyone who enjoys listening to handbell music, the Columbia Handbell Ensemble will return for its winter concert in Hermann on Saturday, Dec. 9. It will be held at St. George Church at 2:00 that afternoon. The concert is free and open to the public.

We wish everyone a blessed holiday season.

Nancy Fagerness, Ringer

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

Special offering envelopes have been included in this newsletter to receive extra gifts to benefit the Current Fund. These extra gifts will help meet the budget which was approved at the last annual meeting and help to make sure we are able to meet our end-of-year obligations. For those of you receiving the newsletter by email, envelopes will be available on the tables at church. Thank you for these special Christmas gifts.

CHRISTMAS FUND (Veterans of the Cross)

There are also envelopes on the tables for the 2024 Christmas Fund (formerly Veterans of the Cross). The mission of the Christmas Fund is to provide assistance dollars in situations of critical need, while preserving the dignity of those who receive the aid. The goal is to raise money for the vital ministries of Pension Supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift checks to lower-income retirees during 2024.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Liturgists are needed to assist with worship services. Please contact the church office if you are able to help in any way. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church.

SNACKS NEEDED FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR

There is a signup sheet in the back of church for the 9:00 Sunday morning Fellowship hour.

PASTOR/PARISH COMMITTEE

The Pastor/Parish Committee is a standing committee of St. Paul. The purpose of the committee is to support a healthy relationship between the pastor and the congregation to enhance the effectiveness of the church's ministry. The committee serves in two primary ways:

- As an advisory group to the pastor: sharing ideas, dreams, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the pastor.
- As a support group for the pastor's leadership: interpreting roles, functions, boundaries, opportunities and needs of the pastor to the congregation.

If you feel the need to voice a concern on any topic, please follow St. Paul's policy by speaking with a member of the committee. We all have a right to our opinions but we need to think about our actions and the potential consequences they might create. Open, honest discussion will help resolve issues as they might arise.

Current members of the committee are: Sharen Speckhals, Mike Grosse, Scott Jacob and Maureen Heck.

ASSISTANCE AT FOOD PANTRY

Mark Leech advises that he needs 3-4 volunteers on the 3rd Tuesday of every month to help unload food at the food pantry. If you wish to volunteer, the unloading begins at 2:30 and typically takes about ½ hour to complete. Please contact Mark (573-619-1533) if you have any questions or would like to participate.

CHURCH VAN

Please call the church office 486-5525 if you would like the church van to pick you up for worship service at St Paul. This service is free.

MISSION CUP

The Mission cup for December will benefit Every Child's Hope.

Every Child's Hope (ECH) was founded in 1858 as an orphanage for immigrant children who lost their parents in cholera outbreaks. As the needs of St. Louis children and families have evolved over the past century and a half, our services and programs have adapted to meet those ever-changing needs. While ECH is no longer an orphanage, caring for vulnerable children is still at the heart of each program.

More than 200 staff members across Missouri are dedicated to preventing child abuse, treating emotional trauma and mental health issues, and providing aftercare and follow-up services. Each year ECH helps more than 1,400 youth and children find healing and hope for their futures. We provide hope for every child, healing for every family, every day.

ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

Thank you for your generous support of our annual Food Drive. With a goal of 1800, we collected 2217 food items which were delivered to the Food Pantry. You have given support to those within our community who deal with hunger.

VILLAGE MARKET RECEIPTS

Please save your receipts from Village Market and place them in the boxes on the tables. The church receives a 1% rebate for them. All of your receipts really add up.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

“**Box Tops for Education**” has gone digital, making it easier to donate to our schools using your smart phone! No more cutting up boxes or peeling off labels.

Steps: 1. Download the Box Tops App to your phone, 2. Choose Gasconade R-1 Schools as recipient, 3. Scan your receipt with the App. The Box Top App will identify products that are eligible. If you order online, the Box Top App will direct you on how to scan the digital receipt. *Be sure to scan receipts within 14 days of purchase.* If you don't have a smart phone, you can give your receipts to any member who does!

FOOD PANTRY

St. Paul UCC members are asked to bring food items for the community food pantry and place them near the church office. Request for December are canned meats, pasta, and dried staples. Requests for January are desserts, paper towels, and bathroom tissue. Monetary gifts are always welcome.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Girl Scout Troop 30657 has constructed a Little Free Pantry, as a project toward earning the Girl Scout Silver Award. It is located in front of the Hermann United Methodist Church on Hwy. 100 West, and needs: canned food, personal care items, kid-friendly snacks, and non-perishables. Donation boxes are located in the grocery stores and in the narthex and front entrances of St. Paul UCC. Please donate and help everyone out. Good job girls!

SNOW CANCELLATIONS

In case snow and ice would make it necessary to cancel worship service on a Sunday morning, check Fox 2 News, KRCG 13, and KPLR. A message will be scrolled across the bottom of their broadcast along with whatever other cancellations. So, if you are wondering about worship service, check there.

CHRISTMAS FLORAL & MONETARY GIFTS

The time is near to receive the list of memorial gifts and poinsettias for use during the Christmas services on December 17 and 24. The flowers need to be brought to the church by 12:00 noon on Friday, December 15. We will need the following information no later than December 14 so the Christmas Memorial List can be compiled.

I (we) plan to place a poinsettia in church for the Christmas altar in memory (in honor) of

I(we) plan to give a cash gift as a memorial for

The gift will be presented by

TOUCH OF HOPE PROJECT

The Women’s Fellowship is assisting the “Touch of Hope” project. This group distributes purses or shoe bags to women, men and children for various reasons such as domestic violence or homelessness, primarily in the state of Missouri. They fill the bags with personal care items to make them feel supported, such as new/gently used purses, new hygiene products such as tampons, pads, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, disposable razors, combs, brushes, lotion, first aid supplies, etc. There is a collection box near the church office. On it is a list of items requested. Information about this project is posted outside the church office.

ACTIVITY BAGS FOR CHILDREN

We have put together church bags with crayons, color pages and plain paper for children to enjoy during the service. They are on the tables as you come into the sanctuary. Please take any papers with you after the service and replace the bags on the tables so we can refill them during the week. If you have suggestions for other things to include, please let the office know.

MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

Anyone who is in need of assistance may call the Hermann Area Ministerial Alliance at 573-569-2082. The 5th Sunday offering of each month is designated for the Ministerial Alliance.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Please keep the church office updated on any changes to your phone number, e-mail or address. It is often difficult for us to contact you because you have changed your phone number. You can call or e-mail the church office at churchoffice@hermannucc.com.

MAIL LIST

Please notify the church office if your loved ones are in a long-term care facility, including the location, and if they are home bound or if they have moved, to ensure they receive member mailings and cards from the church.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open 9-noon on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays; and other dates/times by appointment or by chance.

If you need to contact the church, please email churchoffice@hermannucc.com or call 573-486-5525; messages will be returned by the next business day. If you have an issue that needs immediate attention, you may call Pastor Andy at 618-578-2772.

ST. PAUL MAIL

Please be sure to send your mail to the church to **P.O. Box 352**, rather than our street address. The post office will **not** deliver to the street address.

SCAM

Beware! If you receive a text, email or telephone call from Pastor Andy requesting gift cards, **this is a scam**. Pastor Andy will never contact you directly with a request for gift cards. This scam reappears frequently throughout the year. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office.

NEWSLETTER MAILING

If you wish to receive the newsletter via e-mail, send an e-mail to churchoffice@hermannucc.com with your name and indicate that you want to receive the newsletter by e-mail. If your email address changes, please keep the church office updated.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following persons in your prayers: Elizabeth Klemme, Lyndon Ruediger, Rose Faes, Donna Erfling, Mary Korman, Marilyn Rethemeyer, Sharon Elliott, Marilyn Buchholz, Mary Fritz, Robert Buesking, Moe Peters, Gary Grannemann, Joe Claus, Megan Daniels, Taylor Sanders, Glen Holtgrewe, Janet Mueller, Stanley Meyer, Angela Sherrow, Shawn Davis, Debbie Ferrario, Tim Randles, Jane Mueller, Ken Spreckelmeyer, Richard Fennesey, Christine Gleeson, Jeanne Hoffman, Brenda Baur, Jane Dial, Pat Watson, Nancy Kirchhofer, Joe Hart, Chris Kinate, Ketha Bounds, K.C. VonBehren, Carl Bounds, Nancy Wright, staff and residents of area hospitals and care centers.

If anyone knows of names of people on the prayer list who have recovered from their health issues, please let the church office know so we can remove their names. Of course, we will continue to pray for those who still need our prayers.

NURSING HOME & SHUT-INS

St. Paul members and friends who are residents of Victorian Place, Frene Valley of Hermann Stonebridge, and other shut-ins may enjoy a call or a card. If you know of someone living at home, in a care facility, or a caregiver who needs a church member to call or visit, please contact the church office so that we can reach out to them.

The Nurturing Committee; Church Office - 486-5525.

FRENE VALLEY OF HERMANN STONEBRIDGE

Janet Mueller

VICTORIAN PLACE (2120 Village Lane)

JoAnn Lenger 573-282-0923

Gladys Schulte, Rm. 24

HOME BOUND

June Faerber, 411 Stark Blvd., Hermann. 486-3684

MEMORIALS

Current Fund

- In memory of Ruth Hulsey
- In memory of Harvey Cramer
- In memory of Mary Kleindienst
- In memory of Phyllis Hannan
- In memory of Renate Ellis
- In memory of Carol Grannemann Collins

Bell Choir

- In memory of Ruth Hulsey

Choir

- In memory of Ruth Hulsey

NEW BABY

Congratulations to Dan and Ashton Tappmeyer on the birth of Abigail who joins Josephine, Evelina, Lorelei.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to Mary Struttman and family on the passing of her brother Clarence “Ed” Meyer November 14. Visitation will be held Saturday, December 2nd from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul United Church of Christ, Hermann, where a memorial service will follow at 11:00 a.m., with Rev. Andy Wilson officiating.

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Phyllis Hannan, who passed away October 29.

Our sympathy to the family of Harvey Cramer who passed October 26. This includes his daughter Diana Cramer, son Merlin and wife JoAnn and grandson Tim & wife Rebecca, and other relatives and friends. Visitation will be held today from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the funeral home and service will be at St. Paul UCC tomorrow at 11.

Our sympathy to Maggie Stiegman & Family on the passing of her sister, Renata Ellis, who passed away recently.

Our sympathy to the family of Ruth Hulsey who passed away Monday. Ruth is survived by her special friend Darrel Deeker, a son Ben, brother James Hoerstkamp & wife Sharon, sister Lois Kruse & husband Don, nieces, Dawn (Dale) Maune and Rebekah (Shawn) Mayberry, many other relatives and friends.

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Dolores Huxol who died November 21st. Delores is survived by her three sons, Bruce Huxol & wife Diane, of Blue Springs, Missouri; David Huxol & wife Kathy, of Washington, Missouri; and Charles Huxol & wife Sherry, of Washington, Missouri; eight grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, three great-great grandchildren, and many nieces & nephews.

ENDOWMENT FUND

There is a copy of the endowment policy on the back table. You may consider making a gift to St. Paul that will support this historic congregation into perpetuity. For as little as \$1,000 you can establish a named fund that will support this ministry even after you are gone. Please contact the church office with any questions.

WORSHIP SERVICE

10/1	10/8	10/15	10/22	10/29	11/5	11/12	11/19	11/26
70	73	82	66	91	97	62	90	81

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

	Nursery	K-4	5-8	Confirmation	Adult	Staff	Total
10/1	3	5	2	6	7	1	
10/8		6		N/R	14	1	
10/15		7		N/R	11	1	
10/22	3	5		N/R	12	1	
10/29				N/R	12	1	
11/5		9	4	N/R	14	1	
11/12		4		0	9	1	
11/19	2	5		N/R	10	1	
11/26		7	2	N/R	10	1	

*N/R – not reported

BENEVOLENCES INCOME

October 31, 2023

	AMOUNT DONATED	AMOUNT PAID OUT
Non-Budgeted Benevolence		
Touch of Hope	88.93	88.93
Camp MoVal	60.00	60.00
Birthright	100.00	100.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	302.00	302.00
Emmaus Homes	50.00	0.00
Strengthen the Church	122.59	122.59
Samaritan Outreach	547.00	385.00
Riverbluff Industries	95.00	95.00
CWS Blankets/Tools	255.00	255.00
School Back Pack	598.25	98.25
Little Free Pantry	116.68	116.68
Hermann School	194.00	194.00
Hermann Food Pantry	957.09	467.25
Griffith/Sullentrup Mem. & Recovery Fund	1,568.55	1518.55
Crusade Against Cancer	114.50	114.50
UCC Conference	21.00	21.00
Every Child's Hope	111.00	0.00
Neighbors in Need	60.00	0.00
Hermann Special Olympics	235.50	235.50
Unleashing Potential (Neighborhood Houses	<u>37.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	5,634.09	4,174.25

DID YOU KNOW?

The Stewardship committee would like to mention a feature of the new tax law that could be of benefit to those who have attained age 72, who hold investments that are subject to RMDs (required minimum distributions) from IRA accounts. The account owner may direct the distribution check to an exempt charity, avoiding federal and state taxes, rather than receiving the required RMD check themselves. To be tax exempt, the distribution must be made payable directly to a qualified charity or church.

RMDs required from other investments such as 401(k) or 403(b) accounts do not qualify for this tax exemption. However, this same benefit can be obtained by transferring the desired RMD amount from these accounts to an IRA before December 31 of the year before the RMD is required.

So, for those over 72 with investment accounts, this new tax provision can be a major advantage to church members. And, this exemption is not limited to the required minimum—more can be distributed if desired.

If you have questions, you may contact Kenny Kunz, Finance/Budget Committee Chairman. For more information, a call to your tax advisor or financial institution is advised.

ON-LINE GIVING

On-line giving can make a big difference at St. Paul Church UCC as COVID-19 remains a concern. We still need your financial support to continue our ministry. We prayerfully invite you to use eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet to set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Recurring donations can be set up for weekly or monthly donations.

- Consistency: Your support will allow us to continue important ministries and to help our community.
- Convenience: You provide your support in the comfort and safety of your home.
- Cost-Effective: This reduces printing and mailing costs, and is better for our environment! We can use this saved money to further our ministries in the community.

Make a Donation or Access your account at: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/st136101>

There are links on St.PaulUCCHermannMissouri Facebook page and on our website www.hermannucc.com. Currently there are two options to pay (credit card or automatic debit—ACH). The church is charged a fee for each transaction, which is minimal; **however, the use of ACH results in the lowest fee.**

There are instructions printed in the front and back of church for this process. If you have any questions about how to make a donation, please call the church office.

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



50+ ANNIVERSARIES

Ralph & Carol Uthlaut were married December 12, 1953 and will celebrate their 70th anniversary this year.

James & Marjorie Boedges were married December 20, 19687 and will celebrate their 55th anniversary this year.

ANNIVERSARIES

The following members of our church family will be celebrating their anniversaries in December:

4	Jim and Bonnie Oncken	20	James and Marjorie Boedges
12	Ralph and Carol Uthlaut	28	Donald and Catherine Foust
14	Gary and Linda Blackwood	30	Tim and Rebecca Cramer

The following members of our church family will be celebrating their anniversaries in January:

1	James & Sharon Hoerstkamp		
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Congratulations to all.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthday greetings are extended to the following church family who will celebrate birthdays in December:

2	Colter Scheible, Emmett Scheible	14	Dawn Page Sanderlin
3	Shirley Kunz	15	Jayne Lewallen, Jacob Murphy

4	Shannon Berkemeyer, Ervin Rehmert	16	Alyssa Schirmer
6	Doris Grannemann, Melissa Schaumberg	18	Hannah Grosse, Derek Menke, Ralph Uthlaut
9	Jocelyn Kreftmeyer	20	Kara Hughes, Tim Schaumberg
10	Parker Puchta, Timothy Puchta, Lyndon Ruediger	21	Mary Wesselschmidt
11	Shane Sutton	28	Dale Maune, Annette Witthaus, Josh Witthaus, Marilyn Koenig
12	Jason Eikermann, Emily Kunz	29	Bob Kirchhofer, Erika Schutt
13	Braden Hart		

Birthday greetings are extended to the following members of our church family who will celebrate birthdays in January.

1	Holly Brethorst, Drake Fredrick, Jenna Schaefer	19	Duane Bierwirth, Robert Winkelmann
2	Diane Lause	20	Chesney Fries, Andy Wilson
3	Dawn Grosse, Chad Schneider, Christina Menke	22	Dorie Draper, Tom Rethemeyer
9	Dortha Coulter	23	Barbara Schutt
10	Brian Rector	25	Janet Rector
11	Beverly Englert	27	Jim Hoerstkamp
12	Walter Schluss, Vicki Estes	29	Madison Schneider
14	Donald Foust, Mat Rogers, Charlotte Struttman, Jack Wendleton, Sarah Smith	31	Rachael Williams

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped with landscaping.

Thanks to everyone who helped to record and display the liturgy on the projection system.

Thanks to Averi Elsenraat, Alivia Witthaus, Susan Lenger, Matt Wesselschmidt, Derek Menke, Steve Lenger, Nathan Menke, Penny Cramer, and Dawn Maune for serving as liturgists.

Thank you to Mary Leeper, Shirley Kunz and Elaine Lalk for helping with office work recently.

Thank you to everyone who provides music every Sunday, including LaNette Kotthoff, Margie Greene, Becky Mayberry, Jim Oncken, the Handbell Ensemble, the Senior Choir, and the the Riverside Singers.

THANK YOU NOTES

St. Paul UCC Congregation,

I want to thank you for your very generous donation to our local Special Olympic event. Your kindness and support will allow us to continue to host this very special event for years to come. I hope you have an opportunity to join us on Friday, Maty 3rd to cheer on all of our athletes.

Sincerely, Missy Ash

St. Paul UCC,

Thank you very much for your donation towards the Backpack Program and \$194 towards the Children's Emergency Fund. We truly appreciate all that St. Paul does to support the students and families in the Hermann community. It takes great people like you to help others in need. Thank you for all you do for our community.

Thank you, Dawn Grosse

St. Paul UCC,

Thank you for your donation of \$114.50 and for your support of the Hermann Area Crusade Against Cancer!

Dear St. Paul UCC:

Thank you so much for your recent food donation to the Hermann Community Food Pantry. It was large and generous, and we appreciate it more than you know.

Your thoughtful gift helps us on our mission to help the under-served in our community.

Thanks again!

The Hermann Community Food Pantry

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

St. Paul United Church of Christ Council Minutes – September 18, 2023

Members present: Pastor Andy Wilson, Krystal Witthaus, Secretary, Maureen Heck, Treasurer, Shawn Mayberry, President, Dawn Maune, Derek Menke, Craig Schannuth, and Ernst Uthlaut

1. Pastor Andy led the Council in prayer.
2. The floor was open for comments from Council or members of the congregation. Kenny Kunz was present to discuss recommendations from the Budget and Finance Committee. He also shared that the Pony Express will begin on October 15th.
3. The September agenda was approved as Craig Schannuth made the motion to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Ernst Uthlaut. The motion carried.
4. The August minutes were approved as Maureen Heck made a motion to approve the minutes; Derek Menke seconded the motion; the motion carried.
5. The Financial Reports were reviewed and discussed.
6. The council reviewed the payments for the month.
7. Old Business
 - A. Paint eaves: Nothing new to report.
 - B. Railing: Nothing new to report.
 - C. UCF withdrawal: reviewed
 - D. Exit lights: Dale Maune is still seeking a person or company to assist with this matter; however, he is struggling to receive much response. Maureen Heck made a motion to allow Dale Maune to proceed with contacting an electrician for the exit lights and for the lighting issue in the parsonage. Ernst Uthlaut seconded the motion; the motion carried.
 - E. Rally Sunday: Maureen Heck made a motion to pay for the expenses out of the checking account; Dawn Maune seconded the motion; the motion carried.
8. New Business
 - A. Mission Bucket for October: Hermann Food Pantry
 - B. Pastor's Report: Pastor Andy shared the events of last month as well as upcoming events. Our attendance continues to be increasing. He shared that he has received positive feedback about Rally Day and this is something that he would like to continue with each year. Confirmation classes have begun.
 - C. Ushers: Maureen Heck is responsible for ushers in the month of October. The first Sunday, Maureen, Krystal and Derek will be available to usher.
 - D. Pastor's Annual Evaluation: Council members are to complete this evaluation by 10/1.
 - E. New roof for Parsonage: Dale is continuing to work on this and is again having difficulties finding contractors.
 - F. Rev. Jeff Mueller (private baptism): Council does not feel that a fee needs to be assessed.
 - G. Quilters are wanting to use fellowship hall on 10/9 and 11/13. Council is fine with this.
 - H. Annual Blood Drive – December 4th; again council is fine with this.

- I. Budget and Finance Committee recommendation: Maureen Heck made a motion to merge the UCF account of 636 (Alleman) with account 637 (Endowment) and also merge account 631 (Project Property) with account 638 (Project Property Estate Fund) to then be titled Project Property. Ernst Uthlaut seconded the motion; the motion carried.
9. Council reviewed upcoming events:
 - Sunday, September 24: 8:00 Adult Sunday School; 9:00 Confirmation Class and Youth Sunday School; 9:00 Fellowship Hour; 10:15 Worship Service
 - Wednesday, September 27: 3:30-5:30 After School Bearcats
 - Sunday, October 1: 10:15 Worship Service w/communion
 - Saturday, October 7: 8:00 Men's Club
 - Thursday, October 12: 1:00 Women's Fellowship
 - Saturday-Sunday, October 13-14: Conference Gathering, Jefferson City
 - Monday, October 16: 7:00 Council meeting
 - Tentative Scout meetings: 6:00 Sept: 19, 21, 25, Oct: 2, 16, 17, 19
10. There being no further business, Krystal Witthaus made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Craig Schannuth seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.
11. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer
Respectfully submitted, Krystal Witthaus, Secretary

St. Paul United Church of Christ Council Minutes – October 16, 2023

Members present: Pastor Andy Wilson, Krystal Witthaus, Secretary, Maureen Heck, Treasurer, Shawn Mayberry, President, Dawn Maune, Derek Menke, Mary Leeper, and Ernst Uthlaut. Non-council members present: Alivia Witthaus

1. Pastor Andy led the Council in prayer.
2. The floor was open for comments from Council or members of the congregation. No comments were discussed.
3. The October agenda was approved as Maureen Heck made the motion to approve the agenda, with additions. This was seconded by Dawn Maune. The motion carried.
4. The September minutes were approved as Derek Menke made a motion to approve the minutes; Maureen Heck seconded the motion; the motion carried.
5. The Financial Reports were reviewed and discussed.
6. The council reviewed the payments for the month.
7. Old Business
 - F. Paint eaves: Maureen Heck reported that there is a lift ordered and coming within the next 2-3 weeks.
 - G. Railing: Nothing new to report.
 - H. Exit lights: Dale Maune has been in contact with Brian Grannemann and he will take care of these lights.
 - I. Pastor's annual evaluation: This will take place the last Sunday in October
 - J. New roof for parsonage: Mary Leeper has a contact that she will get to Dale Maune.
 - K. Transfer of Funds: the transfer from the student aid money market to UCF #630 was completed and the combination of the bequests UCF funds will be done in October.
 - L. Memorial Donations: Maureen Heck will address with the office.
 - M. Church email accounts: Maureen Heck made a motion to stay with the current provider and for the payment to be made from the general fund. Mary Leeper seconded the motion; the motion carried.
 - N. Solar/heat pump option: Council discussed this and at this time there is concern of a lack of funds available for this as well as the time that is needed to truly assess whether it would benefit the church.

8. New Business
 - J. Mission Bucket for October: Community Christmas; a suggestion was made to add a summary of this program to the bulletin
 - K. Pastor's Report: Pastor Andy shared the events of last month as well as upcoming events. Our attendance continues to be well. The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held at the United Methodist Church in Hermann.
 - L. Ushers: Ernst Uthlaut is responsible for ushers for the month of November. For the first Sunday, Maureen Heck, Krystal Witthaus, Dawn Maune and Ernst Uthlaut will be available.
 - M. Community Thanksgiving-This will be held at the United Methodist Church in Hermann on 11/19.
 - N. UCF withdrawal: This was reviewed
 - O. Memorial donations for congregation members: Council has decided to opt out of this as it would set a precedent that may not be able to be upheld consistently.
9. Council reviewed upcoming events:
 - Sunday, October 22: 8:00 Adult Sunday School; 9:00 Confirmation Class and Youth Sunday School; 9:00 Fellowship Hour; 10:15 Worship Service; 11:15 Family Life Meeting
 - Friday and Saturday, Nov. 3-4; Girl Scouts Rummage Sale
 - Saturday, Nov. 4; 8:00 Men's Club
 - Sunday, Nov. 5; 10:15 Worship service w/communion
 - Nov. 9; 1:00 Women's Fellowship
 - Friday evening, Nov. 17; Mueller private baptism
 - Monday, Nov. 20; 7:00 Council meeting
 - Sunday, Nov. 26; Totenfest service
 - Tentative Scout meetings: 6:00 Oct: 17, 19; Nov. 6, 16, 18 Popcorn Delivery
 - Quilters meet Nov. 13; 9:00-7:00
10. There being no further business, Krystal Witthaus made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mary Leeper seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.
11. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Krystal Witthaus, Secretary

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Clarence "Ed" Meyer Funeral
3 8:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class; 9:00 Sunday School; Fellowship Hour 10:15 Worship Service w/communion	4 2-6 p.m. Blood Drive 5:00 Scouts	5 10-11 MU Exercise Class	6 3:30 After School Bearcats 6:00 Choir	7	8	9 4-7 p.m. Parents Night out; drop off kids for food and fun.
10 8:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class; 9:00 Sunday School; Fellowship Hour 10:15 Worship Service w/children's program	11	12	13 3:30 After School Bearcats 6:00 Choir	14 12:30 Women's Fellowship Christmas Luncheon	15	16
17 8:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class; 9:00 Sunday School; Fellowship Hour 10:15 Worship Service Christmas Caroling & Pizza 4:00 Christmas Concert	18 5:00 Scouts 7:00 Church Council	19 8:00 Quilters 6:00 Scouts	20 3:30 After School Bearcats 6:00 Choir	21 6:00 Scouts	22	23
24 10:15 Worship Service w/communion 7:00 Candlelight service w/communion	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:15 Worship Service						

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 3:30 After School Bearcats	4	5	6 8:00 Community Breakfast
7 8:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class; 9:00 Sunday School; Fellowship Hour 10:15 Worship Service w/communion	8	9	10 3:30 After School Bearcats	11	12	13
14 8:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class; 9:00 Sunday School; Fellowship Hour 10:15 Worship Service	15 7:00 Church Council	16 8:00 Quilters	17 3:30 After School Bearcats	18	19	20
21 8:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class; 9:00 Sunday School; Fellowship Hour 10:15 Worship Service	22	23	24 3:30 After School Bearcats	25	26 Boy Scouts Lock-in	27 Boy Scouts Lock-in
28 8:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class; 9:00 Sunday School; Fellowship Hour 10:15 Worship Service	29	30	31 3:30 After School Bearcats			

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2023 Advent Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 3 – Kids Make Christmas Cards
During Sunday school, children will make handcrafted Christmas cards to give to shut-ins.

Saturday, December 9 – Parent’s Night Out
Parents, enjoy a few hours to go out, wrap presents, or simply enjoy time alone. Drop off your kids at St. Paul from 4-7 PM for food and fun.

Sunday, December 10 – Kid’s Christmas Play
During our morning worship, our kids will present their annual Christmas play!

Sunday December 17 – Christmas Caroling & Christmas Concert, “Sing me Now of Christmas”
After worship, we will enjoy a pizza lunch followed by caroling at the nursing home, assisted living center, and other locations in town. The annual choir and bell Christmas concert will be at St. Paul UCC at 4PM.

