

# The Chimes

August 2016

The official newsletter of St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
Isaiah 43:19*

I recently returned from attending The Young Clergy Women Project Conference at Boston University. Onehundred-and-eleven clergywomen from many denominations gathered together to support one another and learn together. The keynote speaker was Rev. Susan Beaumont, a church consultant, author and spiritual director.



Susan talked about how churches are declining and do not have as many members as they used to. She suggested that instead of lamenting over the past or fretting about the future, churches need to embrace the season we are in now. She called this period "liminality." Liminality is a season when something old has ended but something new has not yet begun.

This confusing time in the history provides an opportunity for churches to appreciate the awe and mystery of God and surrender to where God is calling the church next. The Franciscan priest Richard Rohr wrote, "Liminality is that space that human beings hate to occupy . . . where the biblical God is continually taking us."

As we continue to seek where God is leading and calling us as individuals and as a body of Christ, let us embrace the mystery with confidence that God will be with us.

Journeying with you,

*Pastor Jill*

## **Religion in the News**

E-mails continued to take jabs at the Democratic Party during the Democratic National Convention. A Democratic National Committee e-mail by CFO Brad Marshall to CEO Amy Dacey questioned candidate Bernie Sanders' belief in God. In it, Marshall said, "He had skated on saying he was a Jewish heritage. I think I read he is an atheist." Dacey responded with an "AMEN."

Marshall issued an apology on his Facebook page, but it is a well-known fact that atheists are one of the most disliked groups in America. In fact, most people rank members of Congress higher than the non-believers. The highest ranking on a feeling thermometer is an 80, which is the score the military received in the 2012 American National Election Study. Congress received an average score of 42, with atheists receiving a 38. Christians, Jews, Catholics and Muslims all ranked higher.

## **August Council**

At our August meeting we will hear updates on our Souls in Pews project and open and affirming process. New items to be discussed include setting up a nominating committee and starting the 2017 budget process.

Council will be meeting on Aug. 18, 7 p.m., at the church. Our meetings are open to all.

## **Worship Ministry**

Worship ministry met on July 17. Upcoming special services being planned are: Blessing of Backpacks (Aug. 14) and our Pet Blessing (Sept. 18). Our Build-a-Meal will begin on Oct. 30. More details will follow. Christmas Eve service will be held at 5 p.m. This year Christmas is on Sunday. We are having a casual service that morning. Other ideas are being discussed for this service, so stay tuned! Our next meeting will be Oct. 16 after the service. Please stop in and say hello!

## **Heritage Fest**

St. Paul's Heritage Fest will be on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 3-7 p.m. There will be plenty of German food, music and a bounce house for the kids. The cost will be \$10 per plate, including a beverage. Carry-outs are available.

### **Financially Speaking**

The total receipts for the month of June were \$13,397. Our spendable income came to \$13,126, including our OCWM income of \$331. We had charitable income of \$271 for Feed My Starving Children.

### **Wider Mission Ministry**

St. Paul's will be participating in the Burlington/Hampshire Crop Walk again this year. It will be on Oct. 2, and the goal is to raise \$1,000. Let's fight hunger together! More information to come.

### **August Greeters**

Aug. 7 The Petty's  
Aug. 21 Arlene and Sue Huber

Aug. 14 Dave and Bonnie Starr  
Aug. 28 Tommy and Liz Patz

### **We want your pictures**

If you take pictures at a church event please email them to Linda at [stpauls4me@yahoo.com](mailto:stpauls4me@yahoo.com). Please include any descriptions. Your photos could appear in the digital edition of The Chimes.

### **St. Paul's United Church of Christ Staff**

Jill Terpstra – Pastor	Linda Becker – Secretary
Jon Kobel – Choir Director	Gay Bouwmeester – Piano Accompanist
Bill Wilson – Newsletter Editor	Dale Volkening - Janitor

### **St. Paul's United Church of Christ Council**

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Cindy Heinrich – Recording Secretary  
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Evangelism – Polly Russell  
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Calling & Caring – Ginny Mursewick  
Properties – Dan Heinrich  
Stewardship – JoAnn Pate  
Worship – Vernon Knaak