

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

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*"Since you're so eager to participate in what God is doing, why don't you concentrate on doing what helps everyone in the church?" 1 Corinthians 14:12 The Message*

One common criticism of Christians from nonChristians is that church-goers are hypocrites who don't live out their faith. During worship this fall we will contemplate what it means to not just go to church but to "Be the Church." Each week will focus on a different theme:



September 11	Forgive Often
September 18	Protect the Environment
September 25	Care for the Poor
October 2	Embrace Diversity
October 9	Love God
October 16	Fight for the Powerless
October 23	Reject Racism
October 30	Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources
November 6	Enjoy Life
November 13	Be the Church

Looking forward to learning more about what it means to "Be the Church!"

Journeying with you,

*Pastor Jill*



## **More on Moses**

St. Paul's UCC spent most of the last few weeks talking about Moses and his many accomplishments. There are some unknown findings about the great Biblical figure that may or may not be true, but are interesting to ponder nonetheless.

Moses was trained in military tactics and government by the Egyptian Royal House. He also might have been someone who stuttered. By his own admission, he was "slow of speech." Moses likely had two wives, one who was from Ethiopia.

After the crossing of the Red Sea, the Israelites were hungry, so the Lord provided Manna and quail. At night, quail covered the camp of the Israelites and in the morning there was a layer of dew. When the dew was gone there were thin flakes like frost on the ground. Moses said it was the food the Lord provided them.

## **Open and Affirming**

In April as a congregation we voted to begin the process to determine if we are being called to become an Open and Affirming Church. Open and Affirming is the official designation of the United Church of Christ for congregations that are officially welcoming to lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender persons. This will be a year-long time of listening and learning in hopes of discerning where God is calling our congregation at this time.

We will begin this process by having small group listening sessions. The listening sessions will be held once a month from September through December at different times and locations, in hopes that everyone will have a chance to attend at least one. The first listening session will be Thursday, Sept. 22, at the Tyler Towers Clubhouse, 1450 Plymouth Lane (across from Kimball School), Elgin, from 1-3 p.m.

A sign-up sheet is on the back table at the church so we can know how many people to expect. If you have questions about the Open and Affirming process, don't hesitate to contact one of the team members: Pastor Jill, Anne Heinrich, Judy Olsen and Doug Volkening.

## **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.

## 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!

The link for St Paul's online donations:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/burlingtonil/Team/View/24225/St-Pauls-UCC>

The Missions Ministry would like to give a big thank you to all those who helped make the blood drive successful. On July 30, 10 units of blood were donated at St. Paul's. Thank you to our generous donors: Anne Heinrich, Anthony Milazzo, Chuck Smith, Gary Brown, Ginny Mursewick, Jeff Terpstra, Jill Terpstra, Judy Olsen, Mike Mursewick, Paula Defarno, and Polly Russell. Thank you to Barb Kasper, Karen Smith, Polly Russell and Sue Huber who volunteered to bring snacks and refreshments for our donors. Also, thank you to Liz Patz who helped advertise the blood drive on social media and the website. Because of everyone's support, lives were saved!

## Blessing backpacks, vegetables and the children



Pastor Jill (left) blesses the backpacks before the start of the school year while members of the church (right) pick vegetables supplied by St. Paul UCC's garden.



Declan Wilson enjoys the final service that offered St. Paul's Prayerground.

## Financially Speaking

The total receipts for the month of August were \$11,229.86. Our spendable income came to \$10,820.86 including our OCWM income of \$283.

We had charitable income of \$409 for the month of August, including \$211 for the Crop Walk Mission, \$50 to the Scholarship Fund in memory of Michael Diekman, \$50 to the Music Fund, and \$98 for PADS from the selling of our vegetables from the garden.

We also would like you to remember we are no longer collecting for World Service. Any donations to that fund will be placed in OWCM.

## September Greeters

Sept. 4 Polly Russell and Ernest Stagg

Sept. 18 Mike and Karen Westerman

Sept. 11 Dan and Anne Heinrich

Sept. 25 Becky, Langston, Patrick Kelly

## 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

Jon Kobel – Choir Director

Bill Wilson – Newsletter Editor

Linda Becker – Secretary

Gay Bouwmeester – Piano Accompanist

Dale Volkening - Janitor

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

Anne Heinrich – President

Karen Westerman – Vice President

Sandy Volkening – Financial Secretary

Myron Meglin/Dave Thompson -Treasurer

Cindy Heinrich – Recording Secretary

Christian Education – Karen Smith

Evangelism – Polly Russell

Fellowship/Hospitality – Janet Werner

Mission – Barb Kamp

Calling & Caring – Ginny Mursewick

Properties – Dan Heinrich

Stewardship – JoAnn Pate

Worship – Vernon Knaak