

The Chimes

May 2016

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

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“In the beginning, Lord, you
founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work
of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like
clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them
up,
and like clothing they will be
changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will never
end.”

Hebrews 1:11-12



Experts say that one of the most helpful things that parents and teachers can do to calm anxiety for children is to create a routine. When children know what to expect they feel secure and less anxious and are open to learning new things. As we grow older our desire for stability remains. No matter how old we are, change is a difficult part of life. The more mature we become, the more we realize how many things in our lives do not stay the same. Our relationships change, our routines change, our jobs change, society and churches change. While all of these changes are difficult, they also can bring new insights and growth. When we look back, some things even change for the better.

While the world may change around us, there is one that that will not change. God's promise to be with us and love us throughout our lives and even in our life after death will never change. Whenever fear of change turns our world upside down, we can cling to the fact that God's love for us will always be constant.

Journeying with you,

Pastor Jill

Open and Affirming

On April 10 a special congregational meeting was held to vote on whether to enter into the open and affirming discernment process. The results of the vote were: Yes 40 and No 21.

This discernment process can take one to two years. As we have expressed before—this doesn't mean we will choose to be open and affirming. It is very important that all members be able to express their opinions in a loving environment. It is also important that both viewpoints are represented.

We, as a church family, want to make a well-informed decision. Thank you.

Religion in the News

The world is not being taken over by robots—yet—but they continue to make their way into everyday life.

In an attempt to reach a technological-savvy world, a Buddhist monk in China has created a robot monk to help spread the good word. Master Xianfian built Xian'er, a 2-ft-tall robot, to answer 20 basic questions about Buddhism and what life is like at the Longquan Temple, which is located outside of Beijing. All one has to do is use the touch screen on his chest.

Xian'er also can chant mantras and is the product of a joint effort between the temple, artificial intelligence experts at Chinese universities and a technology company.

Church Council

The next council meeting is Thursday, May 19, at 7 p.m. We are close to finalizing a gazebo and the new website.

Vice President Karen Westerman is working with a couple church members on safety procedures. A visioning consultant will be invited to our meeting to explain and answer questions about the service he can offer. As always, church members are always welcome at council meetings.

Worship Ministry

Worship ministry met on April 17. Lent, Easter and Holy Humor services were reviewed. On May 15 we will dedicate our church sign and celebrate Pentecost.

Music Sunday will be on June 5. The following Sunday, June 12, we will celebrate Graduation Sunday. Plans and ideas for summer services were discussed.

We are always looking for fresh thoughts about worship. If you are unable to attend, please share your thoughts with Anne Heinrich, Barb Kamp, Jon Kobel, Paula DeFarno, Vern Knaak, or Pastor Jill. Our next meeting will be July 17th.

ACTS

ACTS is selling coffee cakes and other pastries. Orders are due by May 15. See Jon or Ginny for more information and order forms.

On April 23 ACTS members went to several of our member's houses and did yard work. If you need some help with anything around your house, please contact Sandy or Dale Volkening at 847.426.8403.

Wider Mission Ministry

Thanks to everyone who donated hygiene kits for our Lenten Mission. We surpassed our goal and have 104 kits to donate. Simply amazing!

The fifth Sunday in May we will do an MIA project for Pads. We will make meals at the house to freeze for future Tuesdays. It is a great way to spend time with our church family.

UCC Summer Camp

Do you want your child or grandchild to have a camping experience where they can learn about their faith while having fun? Outdoor Ministries of Illinois Conference of the UCC sponsors summer camps at Pilgrim Park in Princeton, Ill., and Tower Hill in Sawyer, Mich.

There are camps for children as young as 4 to attend with an adult and independent overnight camps from Kindergarten-high school.

For more information go to: <http://www.il-outdoorministries.org/assets/2016-poster-layout.pdf>

Vacation Bible School

This year St. Paul's UCC will be teaming up with Cornerstone UMC on Russell Road in Elgin for Vacation Bible School, which will be held June 20-24 at Goebbert's in Hampshire (42W813 Reinking Road) from 5:30-8 p.m.

The theme will be Cave Quest, which will be an over-the-top underground adventure where the kids will walk away understanding what it means to follow Jesus and shine His light.

Last Supper

Once again our Last Supper presentation was a great success. Thanks to all the cast members, lighting crew, publicity and all those who helped with set-up, props, make-up and of course the church secretary. Everyone did an excellent job. A big thank you to Ann Heinrich for a great job of directing and Pastor Jill for her help and support. I have enjoyed working with everyone.

Financially Speaking

The total receipts for the month of March were \$15,142. Our spendable income came to \$14,857 including our OCWM income of \$428.

We had charitable income of \$260 towards One Great Hour of Sharing and \$25 towards the Scholarship Fund for the month of March.

Ladies Auxiliary

The ladies auxiliary first meeting 2016 was an "out-to-lunch" meeting which was held at Sweet Berry restaurant in Elgin on March 3, 2016. Pastor Jill opened with prayer before lunch was served and after lunch we had a short business meeting.

Judy Olsen passed out program booklets for the 2016 year. Corrine Eickstaedt read the minutes of the last meeting, which was Dec. 3, 2015. Corrine also read two thank-you notes from Pastor Jill and Judy Reimer. It was decided that the people who did not bring paper products to the meeting could bring them to church on Sunday and give them to Corrine. The paper products are for the Elgin Crisis Center.

Pastor Jill installed the officers: Judy Olsen (president), Rita Rucker (secretary), Corrine Eickstaedt (secretary) and Joy Zweifel (treasurer).

Summer PrayerGround

For six weeks this summer (July 3-Aug. 7) we are going to try something new. In place of Sunday School, we will have a special area set up in the sanctuary called a PrayerGround. This will be a special place just for kids filled with quiet activities that fit with the theme for the day. Children will stay in worship for the entire service and nursery will still be available for our littlest worshippers.

Our focus for the summer will be the life of Moses. We will use parts of the animated movie Prince of Egypt to guide us. It will be a fun summer for our whole church family!

Feed My Starving Children

St Paul's will be volunteering at Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg on June 27 at 6 p.m. To join the fun, go to <http://fmsc.org/Schaumburg> and register. St Paul's code is 871675.

We need 25 people to volunteer. Please see Karen Westerman if you have any questions.

May Greeters

May 1: Connie Moraca and Vern Knaack
May 8: Ralph and Elsie Ward
May 15: Judy Olsen and Mardge Dralle
May 22: Ruth Volkening and Karen Westerman
May 29: Polly Russell

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Those celebrating a birthday in May are:

| | | | |
|------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| JoAnn Pate | May 2 | Violet Watermann | May 12 |
| Jeff Volkening | May 7 | Gary Brown | May 13 |
| JoAnn Sorenson | May 10 | Alison Smith | May 17 |
| Eileen Andresen | May 12 | Douglas Volkening | May 17 |
| Michael Diekman | May 12 | Richard Beu | May 18 |
| Elsie Ward | May 12 | Ryan Smith | May 18 |
| Lyravene Gunnell | May 21 | Mary Reel | May 26 |
| Courtney Kaye | May 25 | Jeanette Franks | May 30 |

Those celebrating an anniversary in the month of May are:

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
| Gordon and Jan Flentge | May 7 | Ralph and Elsie Ward | May 23 |
| Bill and Sally Wilson | May 11 | Tommy and Liz Patz | May 24 |
| Brett and Susan Wolfe | May 20 | Dan and Anne Heinrich | May 29 |

We want your pictures

If you take pictures at a church event please email them to Linda at 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

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