



The Scribe

St. Paul UCC

144 E Palatine Road, Palatine IL 60067
(847) 358-0399 www.stpaul-ucc.org

December 2016 Edition

Monthly
Newsletter

Pastor's Pen...

The Chicago Cubs World Series win this year should, if anything, serve to remind us that we live in a world in which the miraculous isn't as far-fetched as we sometimes think it is. What we are quick to dismiss as implausible can suddenly appear on the horizon and make us rethink our positions on what is "real" and what is "fantasy."

The Christmas story is one such outlandish claim. It is the proposition that the Eternal Word who was with God and was God became flesh and dwelled among us (John 1:1-15).

In other churches where I've served, I have preached on this very notion of the Word becoming flesh only to have a few people snicker at me from the pews and shake their head. (*Trust me, for a preacher that can be pretty unnerving!*) 21st century Westerners – even professing Christians – have a hard time believing in anything supernatural.

Yet, the story of Christmas is precisely that. It is a story about something that transcends everything empirical and everything logical. It is so remarkable in fact that it required an angel of the Lord to announce it. The good news of great joy that is for all people is news that reaches beyond the grasp of the sophisticate. It takes the faith of a child in order to appropriate it. Without such faith, it remains a gift unclaimed (Luke 18:17).

This should be a special Christmas for Cubs fans this year; not simply because you finally got to witness what you thought would never happen in your lifetime, but because you were reminded that the "far-fetched" really isn't so far-fetched after all.

Pastor David



St. Paul UCC Executive Board Members: Bernadette Chvoy, Randy Everett (Admin. Board Rep.), Kim Ferris, David Freeman, Arlene Kraus (Spiritual Life Board Rep.), David Mercer (Staff Rep), and Chuck Oberly (Admin. Board Rep).



Christmas Cantata

***This year St. Paul will be featuring
"The Silence and the Sound" by Heather Sorenson
on Sunday, December 18th at 10:00 am***

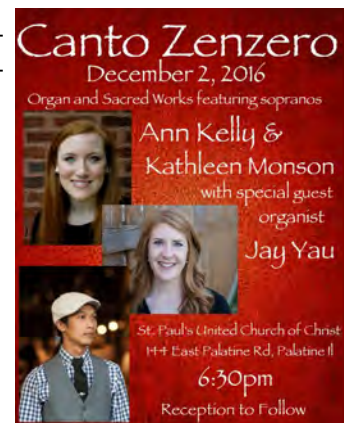
***Please join us for our Annual Pancake Breakfast following
the December 18th Christmas Cantata Service.
Once again the "St. Paul Flippers" will be making those
delicious pancakes they are famous for.
Come for the food, stay for the fellowship!***



***Saturday December 24th Christmas Eve Worship
5:00pm & 11:00pm
Both services will feature candlelight and
Communion***

Sunday December 25th *Regular Sunday morning worship is cancelled.*
In consideration of the popularity of the Christmas Eve late service as well as the probability of very low worship attendance on the following morning, the Board of Spiritual Life has decided to cancel the Sunday morning worship service on December 25th of this year. This decision was made following the recommendation of the staff and Worship Committee. It is our hope that the Christmas Eve services on Saturday will more than meet your spiritual needs on Christmas weekend. Please come and rejoice with us on Saturday evening as we celebrate the Word becoming flesh for the life of the world!

Canto Zenzero, the Singing Gingers, the dynamic duo of classically trained redheaded sopranos are back! After a successful inaugural concert, *Canto Zenzero* will be teaming up with well known organist Jay Yau to perform an evening of classical organ works, and holiday music to usher in the Christmas season. Come discover the voices of Ann Kelly, and Kathleen Monson as they fill the evening with familiar Christmas ballads, sacred works and thrilling organ fugues and toccatas. The evening will begin at 6:30pm, December 2, 2016. Following the concert there will be a reception and a chance to meet the artists. Admission is Free, donations are welcome.





Pastoral visitation is available to those who are hospitalized, temporarily laid up at home, or going through rehab at a facility. Because hospitals and other institutions do not notify the church when a patient is admitted, we need for you or your family member to notify us. We will be more than happy to accommodate your request for pastoral care. Please note also that the pastor may be reached for emergencies at [\(847\) 445-7248](tel:8474457248) (cell phone).

Pastor David's procedure in visiting St. Paul's shut-ins, as well as, those members who have a difficult time getting to church is to offer support, bring Holy Communion (their option) and to let them know we journey together in worship. Pastor David understands that scheduling may depend on frequency of doctor's appointments or the church member's schedule. Visitation is always available, however, as the shut-in member's health and life situation may change and more extensive pastoral care is needed. Any church member or their family member desiring more frequent pastoral visitation, or to be placed on the visitation list in the first place should contact the church office at [\(847\)-358-0399](tel:8473580399) to make arrangements.

"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14)



The Pastoral Relations Committee Is Available To You!

Do you have an idea, a question, a comment, or a concern that you would like for Pastor David to know about? You have a couple of options available to you.

First, you may speak directly with the pastor. Our pastor is here for ALL of St. Paul's members and he welcomes communication from ALL members.

If you aren't comfortable in speaking directly with the pastor, however, then your second option is to go through the Pastoral Relations Committee. Their purpose is to foster good relations between pastor and parish through open and thoughtful communication. St. Paul's Pastoral Relations Committee members are: **Debbie Everett (Chair); Bob Kolze; Joyce Mah; Melissa Gumm; Mary Doktor; and Tom Donat.**

No Bored Meetings:

Pastor David advised us to have no pencils, pens, or 3-ring binders on the table in January. Instead we will have a pizza buffet, vegetable trays, and drinks on tables at **The Lamplighter Inn Tavern & Grille.** **EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND**

Friday, January 6th, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. 60 N. Bothwell, Palatine. Cost: \$14 per person (includes soda) Cash bar. Watch for sign-up list in Fellowship Hall

From the Archives...



This is from the Cook County Herald . . . Friday, Nov, 5, 1920

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Program for Sunday

Sunday School at 9:30. Subject, "The Twelve Sent Forth."

Totenfest will be celebrated at 10:30 in memory of those who have passed to their reward. The pastor, or a substitute officiated at the following funerals since Dec. 1, 1919:

William Leseberg, aged 90
Nicholas Baker, aged 80.
Barbara Herschberger, aged 87
Conrad Wienecke, aged 84
Mrs. Mary Meyer, aged 69
A.T. Weaver, aged 63
Mrs. Caroline Dahms, aged 84
Mrs. Sophia Gusewille, aged 79
Henry Haemker, aged 29
Ferdinand Tegtmeier, aged 80
Miss Bertha Wildhagen, aged 37
Henry Wittenberg, aged 64
Mrs. Barbara Rudolph, aged 83
Joseph Alkofer, aged 70
Johann Bockelman, aged 66
Carl Behlendorf, aged 78
William Langhoff, aged 84
Albert Mosser, aged 55

English service at 7:00. Subject, "On the Fence."

Prayer will be offered at our church Thanksgiving Day morning at 9:30 o'clock.

Have you heard the news? Thirty eight, yes 38 were received into membership of the Ladies Aid last week Thursday. The Aid is now 105 strong.

Theodore F. Bierbaum, Pastor





**6 Ryan Petersen
7 Bruce Kerlin
10 Susan Gould
10 Bonnie Rendl
12 Larry Ingram
12 Holly Petersen
17 Cherrie Wickstrom
18 Catherine Conrad**



*If there is anyone I missed, please call the church office,
so we can update our records. Thank you!*



Gloria & Orrin Helms in memory of Karl Krause
Ron & Donna Bochot in memory of Karl Krause
Sharon Khan in memory of Dasha Ramer



Thank you to everyone who participated in our FMSC packing event on Saturday, November 5th. We packed 136 boxes which equates to 29,376 meals; enough to feed 80 children for a year! The food is going to Haiti for hurricane disaster relief (Hope for Haiti).

* * * * *

I just want to extend a heart-felt thanks for all your thoughts, prayers, and cards during my surgery and rehab. Things didn't go as smoothly as expected, so your prayers and well wishes were most valuable. It was proof God answers prayers, and He has blessed me so much during the past two months. I look forward to getting back to a more normal routine and seeing all my St. Paul friends on a regular basis again. - Dolly Chamberlin

From the Community Outreach Committee...



DECEMBER SCRIP PROGRAM

December Scrip Orders are due in the Scrip Mailbox (on shelf across from the office door) by 11:30 a.m. on the FIRST Sunday, December 4th *due to the holiday shipping schedule*. Orders will be ready for pickup on the following Sunday, December 11th! So get your holiday shopping done through our Scrip program & breathe easier the rest of the month!

Ordering through our Scrip Program is an EASY way to donate to our Wachs Fund all year round, with no additional cost to you – just for prepaying for the holiday shopping you do anyway. The earnings from our orders stay in our account to be transferred to the Wachs Fund in February on Wachs Love Sunday. This fund is used to provide short term/one time monetary assistance to residents of Palatine and the St. Paul Community who are experiencing a financial hardship. Please consider and try this way to help someone less fortunate than you.

Thanks to those of you who are regulars in our Scrip Program. If you have any questions, contact Darlene Vogt, St. Paul Scrip Program Coordinator, at 847/359-0839 or online at dvogt122@aol.com.

This program is sponsored by the Community Outreach Committee of The Spiritual Life Board.

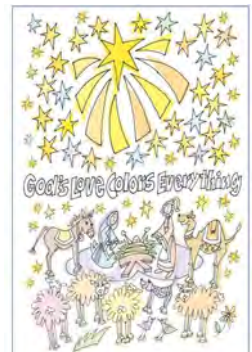
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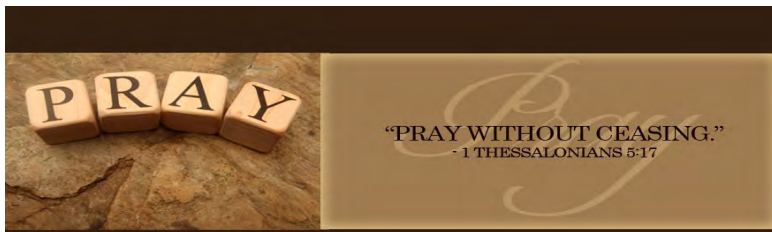
United Church of Christ Christmas Fund Offering

The theme for the 2016 United Church of Christ **Christmas Fund Offering** is **God's Love Colors Everything**. For 115 years, the Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a tangible expression of God's love. One of the four Special Mission Offerings of the UCC, the Christmas Fund provides UCC congregations and members an opportunity to reach out in loving compassion, providing assistance to those who have so faithfully served our Church and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs.

In the spirit of love and joy, we invite and encourage you to prayerfully consider and support this year's fund, and to spread the word so that others will also join in this vital ministry. Envelopes will be in the pews Sunday, December 11th. You may place them in the collection plate or turn them in to the church office by Sunday, December 18th.

Thank you for your generosity, St. Paul Community Outreach Committee





PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Rick Bartels, co-worker of Kim Cichon
 Ethel Baumann
 Charlie Betzhold
 Eva Bori
 Jim & Flo Dailey, friends of Charlotte Mally
 Don, friend of Chuck & Margie Anderson
 Russ Drost
 Kendall Eich
 Debbie Faust, sister of Mark Faust
 Laura Giltzow, mother of Sherri Davenport
 Leona Henning
 Carol Hennings, sister of Pat Kolze
 Steve Herbst, friend of Bern Chvoy
 Larry Herron
 Kira Ingram, granddaughter of Larry Ingram
 Nancy Kocher, friend of Dawn Drost
 Leizl, great niece of Chuck & Margie Anderson
 Charles Leseberg, brother of Mary Ann Leseberg
 Cathy McMillion, friend of Karen Wagner
 Dorothy Mende, sister of Charlotte Mally
 Jerry Mohr, brother of Margie Anderson
 Jerry Parsons, friend of Sandy & Dave Gumm
 Laurel Paul, friend of the Everetts
 Dorothy Regan Drake, friend of Bob & Pat Kolze
 Darryl Samborski, co-worker of Kim Cichon
 Blanche Schug
 Eric Schultze, brother of Jackie Schultze
 Kindra Spiegel, daughter of Ken & Shirley Kolze
 Sherry Stephens, sister of Shirley Ann Kolze
 Dick Storm
 Tom, cousin of Kim and Karen
 Trish Vanderploeg, friend of Kim Cichon
 Fran Werner, sister-in-law of Sharon Florey
 Vi Weiskopf, friend of Rev. Mercer
 Marjorie Winkle, friend of Phil & Lynn Arnold
 Tammy Woods, friend of Mary Faust

SERVING CHRIST IN WORSHIP

Greeters for December:

4: Pam Rogers
11: Dee Langguth
18: Janet Olsen
24th 5pm: Nancy Perry
24th 11pm: Debbie Everett

Nursery Attendant for December:

Carrie Kerlin

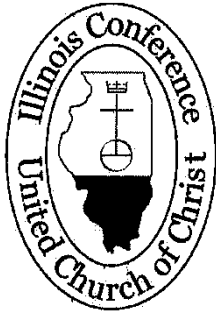
Usher Captain for December:

Randy Everett

Lectionary for December:

4: Isa 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7,18-19; Rom 15:4-13; Mat 3:1-12.
11: Isa 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matt 11:2-11.
18: Isa 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7,17-19; Rom 1:1-7; Rom 1:1-7; Matt 1:18-25.
24: Isa 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20.
25: Isa 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20.





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October 25, 2016

Reverend David Mercer, Senior Pastor
St. Paul United Church of Christ
144 E. Palatine Road
Palatine, IL 60067

Dear Rev. Mercer and Congregation:

Greetings of God's grace and peace! What a time, what a time, what a time!

The Chicago Metropolitan Association thanks you and your congregation for hosting the CMA/FXV Annual Fall Gathering. Your generosity of spirit and radical inclusivity exemplify the core values of the United Church of Christ.

We cannot pay you for the joy we received but we want you to know how much we appreciate all of you. Your church members were excellent guides as they helped us find our way around the facility. The Kitchen and food volunteers were gracious and served with a countenance of joy. All of the staff and other volunteers showed Christian love to all of us. Thank you seems so inadequate, however that is all we have. Please accept this thank you token as a sign of our appreciation.

We pray God's continued blessings upon all of you and the ministry that you share with God's people.

Yours in Christ,

Reverend Dr. Vertie Powers
Associate Conference Minister
serving the Chicago Metropolitan Association
IL Conference of the United Church of Christ





Helping People

*Adopt-A-Family ♥ Angel Tree ♥ Apple Tree
Food Pantry ♥ Easter Baskets ♥ Thanksgiving Baskets*

November 10, 2016

St. Paul United Church of Christ
144 E. Palatine Road
Palatine, IL 60067

Dear Parishioners at St. Paul United Church of Christ:

Thank you for your generous food donations in August, September and October to the Palatine Township Food Pantry. Your donations help supplement the Food Pantry with non-perishable food items and personal products for distribution to the residents in need.

In 2015, an average of 356 families residing in Palatine Township received monthly assistance through the Township's Food Pantry. These families are traditional families who have fallen on difficult times due to illness, loss of a job, or one of many other reasons. The recipients are also single mothers and senior citizens that need extra assistance with their monthly food supplies. Because of your donation to this special fund, help is available to these families.

Thank you for reaching out to those less fortunate in our community. The Palatine Township Food Pantry would not be available to assist local families without your generous donation and support.

Sincerely,

Sharon Langlotz-Johnson
President, Needy Family Fund, Inc.
Supervisor, Palatine Township

721 S. Quentin Road, Palatine, IL 60067 847-358-6700

The mission of the Palatine Township Needy Family Fund is to assist residents in need with financial and supportive services to improve their quality of life. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.
No goods or services were provided in exchange for your donation.

Needy Family Fund is a 501c3 corporation. FEIN # 36-4082618





Cookie Exchange & Lunch Saturday December 10th – 11AM

St. Paul's Women's Fellowship will hold a cookie exchange and "appetizer" lunch on Saturday December 10th beginning at 11 a.m. This is your opportunity to share a favorite cookie recipe or try a new one and take home a sampling of cookies.

To participate in the cookie exchange, please plan to provide 3 (prebagged) cookies for each cookie exchange participant. For example, if 12 individuals plan to exchange cookies you'll need to bring 12 baggies (3 cookies per bag) of cookies. We're asking for the cookies to be prebagged due to family members with peanut/tree nut allergies. Additionally, please label your cookie bags if the cookies contain nuts. Lisa or Dee will provide the number of cookie exchange participants after sign up closes on November 27th. You may also want to bring one dozen cookies to share during lunch.

Please note the different start time of 11AM. We will start later so we can exchange cookies and enjoy an appetizer lunch together. Please sign up in Fellowship hall or email Lisa or Dee. Please bring a hot or cold appetizer to share with the group. Remember you don't have to bring cookies to attend. Come join your friends for conversation and fellowship during this festive and sacred season. See you December 10th!

Questions? Please contact Lisa (llkennelly@yahoo.com) or Dee (deel134@att.net).



Thank you From the Board of Community Outreach

Thank you for your generosity. We delivered four full **Thanksgiving baskets** along with twelve grocery gift cards to the Palatine Township before Thanksgiving. As you sit down for your Thanksgiving meal, please take a moment to think about the joy you have helped to bring to families that otherwise may not have been able to share a bountiful Thanksgiving meal together.

Thank you for your abundant gifts for the two families we adopted through the Palatine Township Adopt-a-Family program this Christmas season. **Remember that all Adopt-a Family gifts and gift cards are due by Sunday, December 4th. Please be sure to include a box or gift bag with each gift,** and remember to put a piece of paper with the family member's name, the family number and your name on the gift so we can be sure it gets to the right child. Please give any gift cards to a member of the Community Outreach Committee with the same information attached to them. We were able to provide each of the children in the two families with a winter coat, a gift card for a pair of shoes or boots, a shirt, sweater, pair of jeans, some linens, and several toys or games, as well as \$300- \$400 worth of Target/Walmart gift cards for food or other family essentials. God is truly at work through each of you. Thank you. We will be wrapping in Fellowship Hall on December 4th following worship and would love to have your help. And, if you would like to get involved with the outreach projects of St. Paul, we would welcome you to join our committee. It is through giving that we truly receive God's blessings. Merry, merry Christmas.

Your Community Outreach Committee,
Greg Mayer, Melissa Gumm, Holly Petersen, Darlene Vogt and Karen Wagner

From the Boards...

....We are in need of a Spiritual Life Board Member
....We are in need of a member for the Administrative Board.

We are also in need of some “task helpers”....for one time tasks that we are in need of volunteers for. You do not need to be on a committee or board, or commit to be on either to participate. If you are interested in being a task helper for any of the tasks listed below, please see a member of the Spiritual Life Board. Thank you!

....The Worship Committee is looking for ASK ME Reps, Lectionary Readers, Element Bearers for Communion Sundays. Please contact Kris Freeman if interested in any of the openings.



Altar Flower Chart

Don't forget! The 2017 flower chart is in the Narthex, we have 39 openings left. We are hoping to have the chart filled for each week of the year, so that fresh flowers remain a part of our weekly service. The cost is \$27.00. Please make checks payable to St. Paul UCC. Thank you!



Christian Education Corner

In the 11th chapter of the book of Isaiah, it says: *The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.*

It is my belief that children do lead us. Through their innocence they see the world far differently than we do. I am very excited as we enter this Advent season. I am in conversation with other religious leaders who are developing an interfaith youth group. This opportunity seems perfect for our youth and more it provides hope for the future of our world.

Jesus birth gives us opportunity to once more look at what our faith means, a faith of hope, peace, love, joy and more—compassion. In this world of division, we can be a small corner of connections. Our connections to other faith traditions allows us to be instruments of peace. I am very excited about this new venture. If you are interested in learning more about different religions, Huston Smith's book: *The World's Religions, A Concise Introduction*, is a good place to start. For those interested, I am hoping to offer a Christian Education discussion of this book in the new year.

In our regular Sunday morning, Christian Education class, we will be exploring the birth of Jesus and all that it means for us as Christians. Our Sunday mornings are always full of surprises.

Yours in Christ, Bonnie Haase



A Different Kind Of Christmas

*Sometimes Christmas is just overwhelming, it seems,
As we rush around buying up stuff.
We spend without end, and we rack up those bills,
But it feels like it's never enough.
So this Christmas, let's all take a different approach:
Let's try to be more in accord
With God's Christmas gift, the best one of all--
Our sweet Jesus, our Savior, our Lord.
We'll be gentle and patient, and loving and kind,
And we'll keep our priorities straight;
The gifts of the Spirit, the gifts of the heart
Are the ones that we'll all celebrate.
And our stress will decrease, and we'll feel more at peace,
As we decorate, package, and trim;
Our new Christmas will be a pure joy and delight,
As we try to be much more like Him.*

By Joanna Fuchs

