



The Scribe



St. Paul UCC

144 E Palatine Road, Palatine IL 60067

(847) 358-0399 www.stpaul-ucc.org

September 2020

Pastor's Pen...

If you noticed that there wasn't an August *Scribe*, you weren't just imagining things. I asked the three boards if they would support giving Mary a month off from her newsletter editorial duties so that she could have a little more space to recover from COVID-19. Well, Mary (and Mark Sr) still have the virus, but you now have in your hands the *Scribe* for September 2020. I tried to talk Mary out of doing the September issue as well, but this time she completely ignored me.

Few could have predicted this pandemic. Certainly no one in the U.S. would have been able to see it coming. It can remind one of what tornadoes did to communities before early warning systems were invented; disaster was coming, but it was beyond the scope of anyone's ability to know about it beforehand.

As hamstrung as we've all been by this crisis, we at St. Paul are bound and determined to hold our church life together. I'm speaking not only of the entire staff, but also of all of those volunteers on boards and committees who quietly go about their business of keeping this local church in one piece.

Please stay tuned because plans are underway for activities, programs, and worship life to move ahead (*with precautions*) despite the global crisis. We're not a dead church; not by a longshot. We're simply a church that is trying to live during a challenging time.

But live, we will! Nobody's giving up.

David

WE WILL GET THRU THIS
Together

St. Paul UCC Executive Board Members: Sharon Altergott (Spiritual Life Board Rep.), Kim Cichon, Ed Doktor, Randy Everett (Admin. Board Rep.), Kim Ferris, Arlene Kraus (Spiritual Life Board Rep.), David Mercer (Staff Rep), and Chuck Oberly (Admin. Board Rep).



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 (224) 386-6285 (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 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); Dolly Chamberlin, Tom Donat, Jim Frost, and Bob Kolze.



From the Treasurer...St. Paul at a Glance

	July 2020	YTD	BUDGET
Revenue	\$49,361.77	\$171,449.25	\$268,700.00
Expenditure	\$30,095.71	\$155,731.68	\$271,738.00
Net Income	\$19,266.06	\$15,717.57	\$-3,038.00

150th Anniversary Committee Update



On August 17th our committee met to reconnect and recharge our 150th anniversary plans. Knowing that COVID-19 has clamped down on our original suggestions for much of the celebration, we are trying to envision more than a Plan A. Flexible planning is necessary due to the changing virus restrictions. While there are projects that we can continue with, the actual April 18, 2021 service, dedication, and meal celebration planning will be on hold until the beginning of 2021.

Fortunately, our Anniversary rock installation was scheduled early, just as statewide cancellations and closedowns were beginning. Our statement rock was lifted, lowered, tilted, pushed, and coaxed into place on March 17th of this year. And happily, the shrub garden around the rock was planted on June 13th. Our goal was to have a tangible centerpiece of our anniversary celebration established and even possibly blooming (meaning the serviceberry bushes) for the month of April 2021. We are very grateful that this entire project, thus far, has been donated. The plaque for the rock has been discussed and is an ongoing process. Its installation will possibly be in late March or early April of 2021.



For now, our committee members are working on such items as banners, on a souvenir booklet, and on photo pages of St. Paul Church memories to be displayed on a bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Please get your St. Paul Church related photos (weddings, baptisms, committee activities etc.) to Gloria Helms before this October, if you can.

Thinking of the many symbolisms of our anniversary rock, there is a reminder that this rock was created through eons of time and has weathered the storms that have tried to erode it. Yet it now stands beside our church marking our 150th year anniversary. Our rock prevails, and so do we.



Gathering into the Sacred Circle

The beginning of the Sunday School year finds us learning about, gathering into, Sacred circles.

Mother Teresa wrote: There is so much suffering in the world-physical, material, mental... but the greatest suffering is being lonely, feeling unloved, having no one. I have come more and more to realize that it is being unwanted that is the worst disease that any human being can ever experience.

Throughout history, circles have been a means of connecting people. In Europe there have been discoveries of 5000-year-old circles made of wood and stone. Indigenous people see circles as a way of life, whether people are sitting in the circle or not. Circles are a way to bring about a positive transformation in people's lives. Within the circle, stories are told, experiences are shared, relationships are built. Circles honor the gifts, knowledge, talents and experiences that each person brings.

For me, sacred circles are exactly that, a place where each person, each child of God, brings their best to be shared by all within the circle. When everyone brings their best, their gifts from God, the circle is sacred, and that circle widens as each goes into the world and forms more circles. Circles are intimate. In this time of uncertainty, fear, longing, we each can find comfort in the knowledge that we are part of a Sacred circle. That circle begins and ends with faith. The faith that we are all together. This has been proven time and time again during these months of "separation." During this time, we have seen acts of caring and kindness over and over again. That is what ultimately makes us the church of Jesus Christ. Christ's hands and feet in the world. So it is that the children will learn of Sacred Circles and learn about climbing Jacob's ladder and dancing Sarah's circle. All of it, will bring us, closer together.

May each of you be reminded every day of God's love for you, Christ's standing beside you and the Holy Spirit filling you with peace.

Bonnie



From the Health Committee...



**National Immunization
Awareness Month**

National Immunization Awareness Month

You are encouraged to talk to your health professional in order to make sure you and your family are up to date on recommended vaccines. Adults may need vaccines to protect against whooping cough, flu, pneumonia, and shingles.

The CDC recommends that every person 6 months and older receive an annual flu vaccine. More info at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu>.



The church office is semi-open! Pastor David is available in the office on Monday thru Thursday from 9:00am-2:00pm and may be reached at (847)-358-0399 or cell (224)-386-6285. If he does not answer when you call, that may be because he's taking a delivery or is on another line. For leaving him a message, it's best to do so on his cell phone (224)-386-6285. Also, please know that you may always reach him after hours on his cell. One last note: All in-person meetings with the pastor are to be by appointment only until Mary recovers and returns to the church office. (Which she hopes is to be very soon!)

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Faith communities provide a natural setting for suicide prevention. Spiritual beliefs and practices can help people experience greater hope and meaning in their lives. Faith communities also can provide opportunities for developing positive relationships with others and can be an important source of support during difficult times. During Suicide Prevention Awareness Month – and year-round – faith communities can raise awareness of suicide, including its warning signs, how to support those at risk for suicide and where to access help, through flyers, posters, newsletter articles, online classes and other outlets.



Other ways faith communities can make a difference:

- Create a support group for suicide loss survivors - friends and family members affected by the suicide loss of a loved one.

- Have plans in place to respond to people showing warning signs of suicide.

- Offer support to members facing challenges with their relationships, jobs, health, or other concerns.

- Expand options for temporary help for those struggling to make ends meet.

- Encourage members to seek help, and provide referrals to mental health, substance use disorder, legal, or financial counseling services as needed.

- Apply policies that create a healthy environment and reduce stigma about seeking help.

Prayer: Guide us in caring for one another. Give us courage to reach out to those experiencing pain of mind and spirit. May we share Your comfort and love with them.

NAVIGATING

a mental health

CRISIS



WARNING SIGNS of Suicide

- ♦ Giving away personal possessions
- ♦ Talking as if saying goodbye or going away forever
- ♦ Taking steps to tie up loose ends, like organizing personal papers or paying off debts
- ♦ Making or changing a will
- ♦ Collecting and saving pills or buying a weapon
- ♦ Saying things like "Nothing matters anymore," "You'll be better off without me"
- ♦ Withdrawing from friends, family and normal activities
- ♦ Increasing drug or alcohol use

WHAT TO DO if You Suspect Someone is Thinking About Suicide

If you notice warning signs, or if you're concerned someone is thinking about suicide, don't be afraid to talk to them about it.



START the conversation by sharing specific signs you've noticed, like:

"I've noticed lately that you [haven't been sleeping, aren't interested in soccer anymore, are posting a lot of sad song lyrics online, etc.]..."



Then say something like:

- ✓ "Are you thinking about suicide?"
- ✓ "Do you have a plan?"
- ✓ "Do you know how you would do it?"

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," seek help immediately.

- ♦ Don't leave them alone and stay calm
- ♦ Call their therapist or other health care professional
- ♦ Remove potential means, such as weapons and medications
- ♦ Call the National Suicide Prevention Line at 1-800-273-8255 or call 911
- ♦ If the situation is life-threatening, call 911 and ask for someone with mental health experience to respond, like a Crisis Intervention Team.

**LISTEN, EXPRESS CONCERN,
REASSURE**

"I may not understand exactly how you feel, but I care about you and want to help."

"I'm concerned about you and I want you to know there is help to get you through this."

"You are important to me; we will get through this together."

NAMI HelpLine

f NAMI

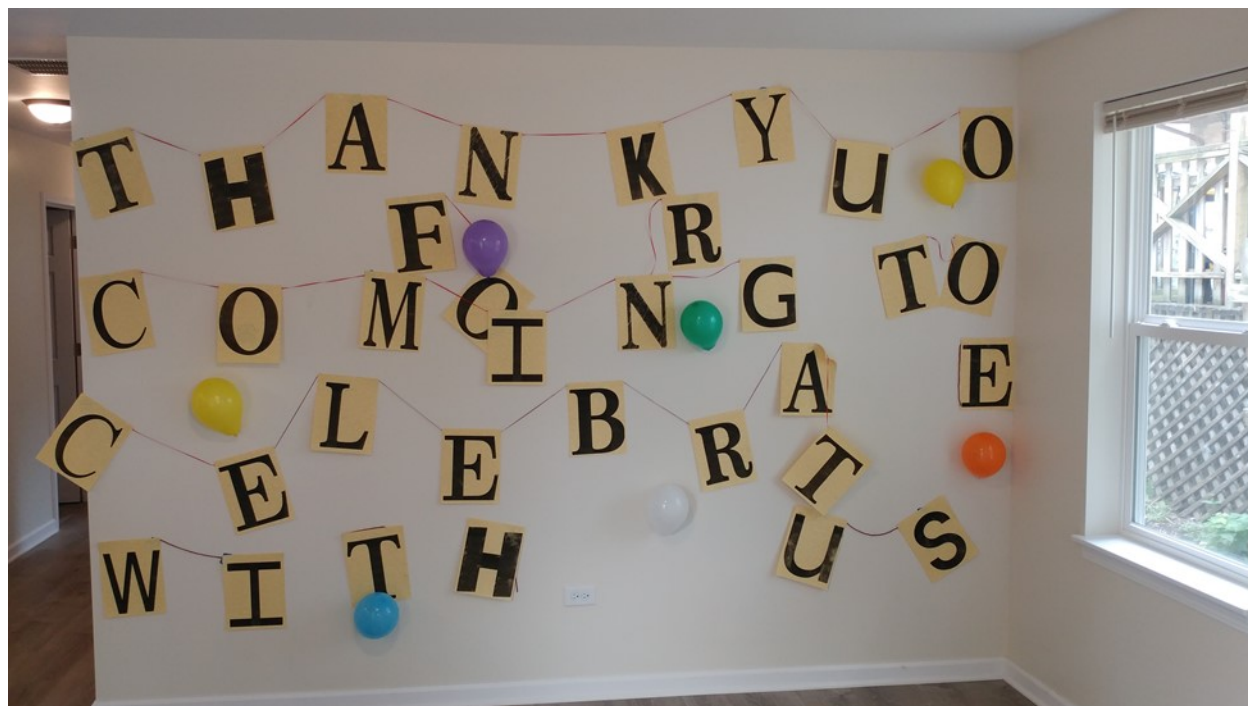
Twitter NAMICommunicate

Instagram NAMICommunicate

www.nami.org

NAMI
National Alliance on Mental Illness

Habitat Update



On Saturday, August 1st, Habitat for Humanity Spring of Life (SOL) partnership dedicated house #18 at 1015 Shuler, Elgin. This will become home for Luz Figueroa, her 18 year old daughter and 15 year old son, another dream come true. These dreams wouldn't come true without the support of the eight partnership churches, in Arlington Heights and Palatine/Inverness, of which St. Paul is one. Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution whether it be a monetary donation, volunteer hours on the job site or contributing to and delivering lunch on a Saturday.

As with many things in our world today the look of a typical work day at the Habitat job site has changed work crews are smaller, socially distanced with everyone using their own tools. Work hours are usually shorter so there is no lunch delivery. However, that doesn't mean work has stopped. SOL is already hard at work on house #19 which is also in Elgin at 341 Jewett.



*Birthdays
of the Month*

September Birthdays

9/3 Jane Santucci
9/3 David Whedon
9/4 Sharon Florey
9/4 Frank Bradley
9/4 Melissa Gumm
9/6 Linda Hayford
9/8 Blanche Schug
9/9 Henry Chvoy
9/9 Christina Guenther
9/11 Sharon Altergott

9/13 Margie Anderson
9/15 Marla Beresheim
9/15 Kyle Connor
9/18 Pat Kolze
9/19 Dorothy Altergott
9/27 Arlene Kraus

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

Jackie Schultze in memory of Judy Hambaugh,
Muriel & Irv Kaage, and Etheline Treise.

memorials
& gifts



I would like to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the cards, prayers, well wishes, gift cards and meals for myself and my family during our fight with Covid. You have all been nothing short of amazing. Your support physically and spiritually means so very much. The outpouring of kindness and love has been wonderful. Truly, thank you so much! Love, Mark, Mary and Mark Jr.

TOGETHER *we pray*

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Julia Abbs, mother of friend of Sandy & Melissa Gumm
 Dorothy Almberg, aunt of Kim Ferris & Karen Wagner
 Lynn & Phil Arnold
 Ed Bartelt, friend of Charlotte Mally
 Ben Belmonte, nephew of Shirley and Ken Kolze
 Barb Burget, daughter of Agnes Warren
 Guy Chamberlin, son of Dolly Chamberlin
 David, Leah, William Campbell & Grandma Mary
 Flo Dailey, friend of Charlotte Mally
 Kathy DePue
 Kendall Eich
 John Fretschl, cousin of Nancy Perry
 Christina Guenther
 Rick Hasselmann, brother of Shirley Schimka
 Michael Hayford
 Carol Hennings, sister of Pat Kolze
 Larry Herron, friend of Bob & Pat Kolze
 Meredith Hinnah, friend of Melissa Gumm
 Bill Houldsworth, husband of Laurie Houldsworth
 Larry & Marlene Ingram
 Joe Kenney, nephew of Kris Freeman
 Barb Kerlin, mother of Bruce Kerlin
 Jean Kolze
 Arlene Kraus
 Laura Krause, daughter of Sharon Krause
 Charles Leseberg, brother of Mary Ann Leseberg
 Cathy McMillion, friend of Karen Wagner
 Dorothy Mende & Bernice Skach, sisters of Charlotte Mally
 Paulette Mohr, aunt of Kim Ferris & Karen Wagner
 Maryann Ostrem, friend of Arlene Kraus
 Marilyn Paolisso, aunt of Bruce Kerlin
 Robin Plemich, cousin of Kim Ferris & Karen Wagner
 David Reilly, cousin of Randy Cichon
 Geri Rogers, sister of Pat Kolze
 Blanche Schug
 Mary Schultz, neighbor of Nancy Perry
 Laurie Sorman, friend of Sue Lech
 Sherry Stephens, sister of Shirley Ann Kolze
 Al & Jane Undrys, friends of Sandy & Melissa Gumm
 Agnes Warren
 Fran Werner, sister-in-law of Sharon Florey

SERVING CHRIST IN WORSHIP

Greeters for September: There will be a table with a sign directing all to take a bulletin in the east entryway.

Communion Sunday: There will be combo wafer/communion cups on the table as you enter, *(with the bulletins)* please take one and bring to your seat. Thank you!

Readers for September: Pastor will be reading all lectionary in worship, until further notice.

Lectionary for September:

6: Ex 12:1-4; Psalm 149; Ezek 33:7-11; Psalm 19:33-40; Rom 13:8-14; Matt 18:15-20.

13: Ex 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Gen 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-13; Rom 14:1-12; Matt 18:21-35.

20: Ex 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6,37-45; Jon 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Phil 1:21-30; Matt 2:1-16.

27: Ex 17:1-7, Psalm 78:1-4,12-16; Ezek 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Phil 2:1-13; Matt 21:23-32.

