

**St. Paul's UCC**

No matter who you are  
and where you are on  
life's journey,  
You're welcome here.



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**July 2017**

*“By listening to  
the still  
speaking God,  
we seek to  
connect people  
to God and to  
others through  
worship,  
service, and  
fellowship.”*

**We are a church  
that values:**

*Welcome*

*Fellowship*

*Outreach*

*Tradition*

**God  
is still  
speaking,**

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

**Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. Habakuk 2:2**

I've interrupted your regularly scheduled headline graphic so I can introduce you to the new logo of the United Church of Christ. You may recall that over the years we have been represented by the cross and orb and the still speaking comma (on this page.) Recently the national church board released this logo, which encompasses “A Just World for All.” You may also see this logo with a hand under it, portraying the hand of God holding the still speaking world. They also released new purpose and vision statements, that I would like to share with you:

**Core Purpose** Drawn together by the Holy Spirit, we are a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church, joining faith and action. In covenant with the church in all of its settings, we serve God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world as made manifest in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Core Values

#### *Continuing Testament*

Our faith is 2000 years old. Our thinking is not. God is still speaking,

#### *Extravagant Welcome*

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

#### *Changing Lives*

Never place a period where God has placed a comma

## **Bold, Inspirational Goals (BIGS)**

### **1. Bold, Public Voice**

The UCC is a bold, widely-known and respected public voice of Christianity in service of God's ever-unfolding mission.

### **2. Welcoming, Reachable Congregations**

There is a welcoming UCC community of faith that is accessible to all — no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey.

### **3. Engaged Discipleship**

Every UCC person is well-equipped to be growing in faith, biblically-literate, theologically conversant, and active in the national and global mission of the church.

### **4. Excellent, Diverse Leaders**

The UCC has a wealth of prepared, excellent leaders that reflect the diversity of God's beloved community.

**Words hold power.** The words we use to describe ourselves shape who we grow into being. So, when we say what we value, that is who we become if we are doing it right. I am challenging you as a church to take the values you crafted long before I arrived and live into them. Take welcome and fellowship seriously. Reach outside your doors to understand the people who inhabit where the church is. Understand that tradition is more than thwarting change, it is understanding how our community has leaned into the cultural change over the years (and they have!) so we can continue that movement, rather than ignore it.

We live out of our own experience. **That's why I am expecting you to join me on July 23rd after worship. We'll eat lunch and listen to Rev. Avery Sledge talk about transgender living. You can invite friends, ask questions, and learn about something outside the realm of your life— an important step to welcome. Let's take welcome and fellowship seriously!**

*Blessings, Pastor Sheresa*



### OUR CONDOLENCES

In the months of March and May we have lost several devoted members of our church. Please pray for their families' grief and join together in remembering their commitment to this community of faith:

Garry Webb, March 27th

Gary Sheffield, May 18

Hobert Turner, May 23



## Midnight Basketball

As many of you know, there is a group in Middletown working diligently to bring a Boys and Girls Club to our town. As we work on the bureaucratic side, we also are building momentum in making connections with youth. One way of doing that is to work alongside the YMCA to open the gym for Midnight Basketball for ages 13 through 18. Children arrive by 9:00 PM and sit through a 45 minute presentation. After that educational time, they play basketball in the gym, swim and hang out. Our kids need this desperately— an opportunity for safe, supervised fun. On June 23rd, St. Paul's sponsored snacks and water. Thanks to our crew: Patricia Lemmons, Jack & Charlene Kinyalocets, Nichole Fisher, and those folks who donated money to be used for purchasing snacks. Thanks for making a difference in the lives of Middletown youth!

Pastor Sheresa is in the church

**Tuesday /Wednesday 11:30 AM– 2:00 PM**

If she isn't there, call her cell phone; there's a good chance she's at a meeting or on an emergency visit.

Her cell phone is (717) 318-6865.

Her home phone number is (513) 915-7184

**Income for the month of May...\$4125.61**

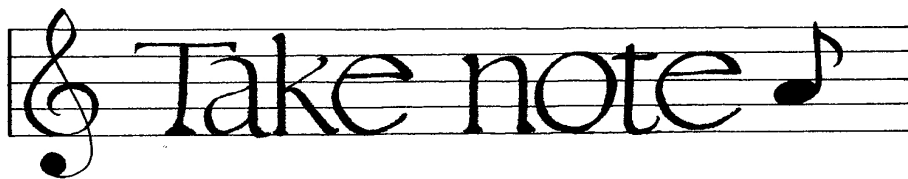
**( \$3,778.00 of that amount is offering)**

**Expenses for the month of April...\$8660.89**

**May offering was Strengthen the Church...\$100**



**Its that time of year again!  
It is time to renew your Krogers Community Rewards. You can do it a couple of ways: go to Kroger.com or go to the customer service desk at your local Krogers. Tell them you want your donation to go to St. Paul's UCC in Middletown!**







The choir will take a much deserved rest beginning on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you know some special music that you would like to perform or know someone that would love to share their musical talents with us, please let Pastor Sheresa or Barb Flory know.

# July 2016

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

						<b>1</b> Pastor Sheresa at UCC General Synod in Baltimore 
<b>2</b> Worship 10:15 AM Pastor Robert Walker, guest preacher 	<b>3</b> Dayton Dragons game – Mike Ratliff opens on trumpet	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Worship 10:15 AM* *Communion	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Bible Study 2pm Council Mtg 5:30 pM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
			Pastor	Sheresa in	Penn.	
<b>16</b> Worship 10:15 AM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23/30</b> Worship 10:15 A Education session on the 23rd Lunch Bunch	<b>24/31</b>	<b>25</b> Bible Study 2pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

\* Bible studies are held at Triple Moon Coffee shop 1100 Central Avenue, Middletown

**COUNCIL MEETING****JUNE 13, 2017**

Present: Patricia Lemmons, Cindi Burnett, Rick Jones, Dan Meeker, Chuck Clark, Bryan Canter, Barb Flo-ry, Judy Brewer and Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice.

Approval of Minutes from May 9, 2017: Motion by Bryan/Patricia. Motion carried

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Chuck/Judy. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Investments were up for the month. \$100.00 was received for the May Special Offer-ing going to Strengthen The Church. Motion by Chuck/Bryan. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Preached 3 Sundays, 3 church events, 1 community event, 3 meetings, 2 Bible studies, 2 Sunday Schools, 22 pastoral visits plus 1 refused. Also, there were 1 funeral, and 2 congregational deaths. 5/22-5/29 5 vacation days including 1 Sunday. Upcoming Events: General Synod in Baltimore June 29- July 5th. Pastor Robert Walker will be preaching. Communion has been moved to the July 9th. Transgender Education session will be scheduled for July 23rd at 12:30pm with lunch following church. Avery Sledge will be the speaker. Rev. Sheresa will send out a letter to all congregants.

**New Business:**

Security camera installation? Rick will check with Larry. Larry had someone in mind to ask for a quote. Rick just had cameras installed at his home.

Air conditioning maintenance bill. Ann will check to see if it is possible to pay the bill with a credit card. Yes, if able. If not, will have to take out more funds. Quotes for new air conditioners will be on the July agenda under new business.

Landscaping – this was tabled until next month to see about doing it in house.

**Old Business:**

Consolidation of funds and budget update – Bryan. Members of council will be making a decision on a financial planning company for the consolidation of funds – either Primerica or Johnson.

Service project for our three men serving our country. \$267.00 has been collected. We will be sending out the kits in July.

*Co-Moderators' Reports.* Dan: Glad Pastor Robert Walker will be back preaching. Barb: Suggested that we have a "Bring a Friend o Church" Sunday. Also, thanked Judy And Rick for volunteering for church coun-cil.

*Service:* June 23rd the church will be supplying fruit snacks, trail mix and water for the Midnight Basket-ball. Also, August 4th we will be supplying snacks for the Free Family Night Movie "Good Dino".

*Worship:* Old-times hymns were signed up for and have been assigned Sundays.

*Fellowship:* July, August and September duty list is done. For the Dayton Dragons game there were 4 plus Rev. Sheresa signed up. The Lunch Bunch will be going to Japanese Steakhouse in June, the Spinning Fork in July, the Clubhouse in August and the Silver T in September. The service for Gary Sheffield went well.

*Property:* Rick asked about inspections, such as for the boiler. The inspectors just show up. Larry is mak-ing a list of service providers for Rick.

*Budget & Finance:* Next Meeting: July 11, 5:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Sheresa

Respectfully submitted by Judy Brewer, Secretary

## July Volunteers

DATE	GREETERS	HOSPITALITY	REFRESHMENTS	USHERS	LITURGIST	COMMUNION
02-Jul	N. Turner	D. Adams	J. Brewer	J. Brewer J. Webb R. Lakes	C. Kinyalocts	D. Meeker
9-Jul	L. Burley	B. Flory	C. Kinyalocts	C Kinyalocts J Kinyalocts C. Clark	P. Lemmons	P. Beatty  <b>Moved to 2nd Sun</b>
16-Jul	D. Meeker	C. Lowman	R. McQuade	B. Canter J. Burnett C. Burnett	N. Fisher	
23-Jul	J. Rockwell	J. Ratliff	R. Lakes	D. Adams L. Adams C. Lowman	C. Clark	
30-Jul	P. Lemmons	D. Meeker	S. Canter	C. Batliner J. Batliner R. Lyons	C. Batliner	



### PRAYER CONCERNS:

*Please continue to remember those that are homebound and others that are dealing with on-going health concerns.*

Jean Rothfuss  
Virginia Elam  
Paul Gibbs  
Amanda Lorig  
Carroll Stein  
Betty Steigerwald  
Cleo Habig  
Charlene Hale  
Treva Thurman  
Pat Moore

Our Military  
Service Personnel:  
Jon LeMaster,  
Chase McConneha  
Jake Burley



**The church secretary, Ann, is in the office Tuesday from 2:30-5:30 and Wednesday from 12:00-5 pm**

### **Lunch Bunch**

**July 30th– Spinning Fork in Middletown**

**August 27th– Clubhouse in Monroe**

**September 24th– Silver Tee on Hamilton/Middletown Rd.**

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
114 S. BROAD STREET  
MIDDLETOWN OHIO 45044

**OPEN AND AFFIRMING**

**Every Sunday: 10:15 a.m. Worship Service**

**Nursery Provided • Lift to Sanctuary • Handicap Accessible**  
**Holy Communion celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.**

*Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice, Pastor*  
*Marsha Minge, Choir Director • Barbara Flory, Pianist*

Office Hours Tuesday 2:30 am– 5:30 PM, Wednesday 12PM -5 PM,  
Office 513-422-4519 **E Mail:** [stpaulsuccmidd@att.net](mailto:stpaulsuccmidd@att.net)  
**WEB PAGE:** [stpaulsuccmidd.org](http://stpaulsuccmidd.org)

