

Rooted in the past,  
Living faithfully in the present

# St. Paul's United Church of Christ

January  
2018  
Supplemental

*“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

Dear Church Family,

As we look forward to a new year, it is worth our time to reflect back on our blessings. Personally, this year brought the death of my cousin and several of our church family. It also brought births of babies, graduations, engagements, soldiers returning from active duty and plenty of other joys.

I have completed the third of four class semesters of my doctorate, which mean I begin writing next summer. I would not have made it this far without your understanding and support— especially the prayers of this faithful community. It is your gifts that make this Gospel walk meaningful both in theory and practice.

As I move into the final semester before writing my dissertation, I am ready to begin the work that I intended from the beginning of my call to St. Paul's, which is to assist you as you discern the path of your ministry. We will begin during lent through individual study and later as a large group on Palm Sunday. That feels as if it is a long way away, but in reality that is the end of March— not so far away at all.

Before we get there, we will continue learning about experiences of individuals around us. We began that work with transgender education last summer, and we will continue it this month when we turn our eye to poverty and its effects. These sessions are intended to bridge the distance between our white, middle-class congregation and the community around it that struggles to maintain the meagerest of lives. I ask you to take it seriously because we are called to take seriously the plight of our brother and sister in Christ.

Thank you for a blessed Christmas season. Your gestures of generosity— as a church and individually— touched my heart. I thank God for such a loving community of Christ's believers to call beloved. Our walk together, I pray, is a journey to draw closer to God's heart so we may bring the kingdom of God to hearts in need of

## New Year's Reflections

Looking back on the months gone by,  
As a new year starts and an old one ends,  
We contemplate what brought us joy,  
And we think of our loved ones and our friends. Recalling all  
the happy times,  
Remembering how they enriched our lives,  
We reflect upon who really counts,  
As the fresh and bright new year arrives. And when I/we  
ponder those who do,  
I/we immediately think of you.

## Why Poverty?

On January 21st, you are invited to engage in an educational experience. Pastor Dave Wess will guide you through a simulation that many living at, and below, the poverty line face each day.

Many of us grew up with little. This is part of that experience, but with a present day twist: much of our culture is geared toward keeping the poor as they are: poor. In addition to this cultural divide between those that have and those who do not, we see concrete statistics about obesity, illness and educational lapses among those existing in impoverished states.

This is our problem as a church and perhaps most importantly, as a society. This isn't just a political issue, it is a Gospel issue. This session is intended to give us a better understanding of the people who inhabit our communities and how we can help them succeed beyond handouts.

Stay after church on the 21st and share a carry-in lunch, then listen as we embark on a new perspective of an old issue. It will be worth the hour and a half you will spend.

## Who is Pastor Dave Wess?

Pastor of New Life Community Church of Middletown and now Lead Outreach Pastor of the combined Faith United & New Life Community Church. He serves in positions with the following organizations to help individuals from all walks of life, businesses and churches realign or advance toward future dreams and goals.

- **Certified COPE Facilitator (Cost of Poverty Experience)** for Think *Tank, Inc.* an organization that exists to alleviate poverty by equipping communities to embrace mindsets and practices that restore the social fabric of society.
  - **Life Skills, Work Ethic and Job Readiness Trainer** for Omnicom Solutions Group, a company designed to to genuinely help those who wish to change their employment and career situation for the better, and do all within reason to ensure their success and well-being.
  - **Co-Founder and Executive Director** at We Care So We're There, an organization created to help respond to the needs of the community.
- Lead Business Consultant** at DNA Leadership Consultant Group, LLC, a minority-owned consulting firm that specializes in coaching, business consulting and training for entrepreneurs, corporations and not for profit organizations.

There will be pledge cards available in Friendship Hall in case you misplaced yours or forgot to hand it in.



Has any of your contact information changed during the year? If it has, would you please send an email to the office so we can update our records?

## January Volunteer Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Communion</u>
01/07	S. Green J. Green	R. Lakes	J. Brewer P. Lemmons R. Lakes	R. Lakes	D. Meeker P. Beatty
01/14	R. Britton L. Britton	J. Rockwell	C. Kinyalocts J. Kinyalocts C. Clark	J. Ratliff	
01/21	L. Adams D. Adams	R. Lakes	B. Canter T. Shibley M. Shibley	N. Fisher	
01/28	P. Lemmons A. Turner	C. Clark	D. Adams L. Adams C. Lowman	P. Lemmons	

## COUNCIL MINUTES. NOVEMBER 14, 2017

PRESENT: Barb Flory, Chuck Clark, Dan Meeker, Rick Lyons, Cindy Burnett, Judy Brewer, Julie Ratliff, Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice.

OPENING PRAYER: Chuck

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 10, 2017.

Motion made to accept as written. Motion approved. Chuck/Barb

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion made to accept as written. Motion approved. Chuck/Rick

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion made to accept as written. Motion approved. Chuck/Cindy

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice

Worship - 5 Sundays, Church Events - 3, Community Events - 1, Meetings - 1, Wider Church Lay School - 2, Bible Study - 2, Sunday School - 5, Pastoral Visitation - 8, Rest & Rekindle Retreat - 1, Intensive Week at LTS, Vacation - 5 days.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. SHALOM dates are Thurs. Dec. 21 for dinner & Fri. Dec. 22 for breakfast.
2. Hanging of the Greens will be on Sat. Dec. 2 starting at 9am. There will be a sign-up sheet in Friendship hall.
3. Christmas Eve comes on a Sunday. We will have regular Sunday service at 10:15 am & a Christmas Eve service at 4:30 pm.
4. There will be a combined service with Times of Refreshing on Dec. 17. Lunch will follow.
5. For new business items, the individual teams need to meet together and bring items to council for approval. Also, if the individual teams need help they need to ask.
6. The church secretary has requested an end of the year assistant for the 2017 taxes. An assistant will be found.

## OLD BUSINESS

1. There has been no new news from the Church of the Ascension. They have two committees - one to stay where they are and one to find a new church.
2. Office printer update: The printer is now working properly. Hopefully it will last a bit longer. The next time it malfunctions it will be replaced.
3. Phone update: The phone/internet was scheduled to be replaced on Friday 11/3. The techs arrived but were not able to install the new equipment due to not knowing how to access the communication area under the office.
4. Security update. No update.

CO-MODERATORS' REPORTS - Barb & Don. No report.

SERVICE - Patricia & Julie. SHALOM dates have been set. Rosa Parks Elementary School requested help with turkey baskets for students. The church will provide a turkey basket.

WORSHIP - Barb & Dan. No report.

FELLOWSHIP - Chuck & Cindy. The indoor picnic was a success.

PROPERTY - Rick. No report.

BUDGET & FINANCE - Bryan. No report.

NEXT MEETING: December 12, 5:30 p.m.

NEXT MONTH OPENING PRAYER: Cindy

Respectfully submitted by,  
Judy Brewer,  
Church Council

## ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Council Minutes December 12, 2017

PRESENT: Dan Meeker, Patricia Lemmons, Cindy Hughes, Dan Meeker, Julie Ratliff, Judy Brewer, Barb Flory, Reverend Sheresa Simpson-Rice

OPENING PRAYER: Cindy

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from November 14. Motion to approve—Julie/Patricia. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion made and passed to approve the agenda. Julie/Judy

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion to file for audit. Julie/Cindy. Motion passed. There was some discussion about loose money in the offering plate. Loose change is designated for Family Pantry. For special services or for guests who don't use envelopes, maybe we should suggest they put it in an envelope and designate where it should go.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Worship 3 Sundays, 2 church events, 2 community events, 1 council meeting, 3 wider church meetings, 1 Bible study, 3 Sunday school classes, 7 pastoral visitations

## TEAM REPORTS

CO-MODERATORS' REPORTS: Dan thanked those who helped with Hanging of the Greens.

SERVICE: St. Paul's will serve SHALOM on December 21, discussion about a snack sale, discussion about involvement with Rosa Parks school, discussion about the possibility of changing the name of the team to mission instead of service

WORSHIP: hymns have been chosen through February, discussion about combined service and lunch with Times of Refreshing on December 17, we will have gift bags for the children, we need volunteers for Advent candle lighting, guest ministers we have had recently have been well-received

FELLOWSHIP: volunteers for January through March have been assigned, decisions on the December 17 lunch, and report on Trevah's funeral

PROPERTY: There will be a committee meeting on Monday, Dec. 18

BUDGET & FINANCE: no report

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Security update tabled until after the ALICE training, possibly in January. Discussion about conceal and carry.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Motion made for monthly benevolences—January will be St. Paul's Needy Fund, February will be Hope House, March will be One Great Hour of Sharing, Lenten offering will be for CUE seminaries, Easter offering will be for Abilities First, May will be Strengthen the Church, June will be Crayons to Computers, September will be Tensing, October will be Neighbors in Need, Thanksgiving offering will be for SHALOM, December will be Veterans of the Cross, Christmas Eve offering will be divided between Salvation Army and Needy Fund. Julie/ Patricia. Motion carried.

Pledge cards—only 10 of 44 cards have been returned.

Church funds are being consolidated into one account with Johnson Investments. All transfers are not yet complete.

Motion to give Christmas checks to pastor, secretary, choir director, custodian. Julie/Patricia. Motion carried.


NEXT MEETING: January 9, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

NEXT MONTH'S OPENING PRAYER: Judy

ATTENDANCE: November 2017—133 (33—4 week average)  
November 2016—164 (41—4 week average)

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Flory, Acting Secretary

# January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3 Choir rehearsal 6:30 PM	4	5	6
7 Worship at 10:15 AM	8	9 Bible Study 2 PM Triple Moon Council 5:30 pm	10 Choir rehearsal 6:30 PM	11	12	13
14 Worship at 10:15 AM MLK service 4 PM @ First Presbyterian	15	16	17 Choir rehearsal 6:30 PM	18	19	20
21 Worship at 10:15 AM Poverty Experience Noon-1:15	22	23 Bible Study 2 PM Triple Moon	24 Choir rehearsal 6:30 PM	25	26	27
28 Worship at 10:15 AM SONKA Outdoor Ministry Meeting 3 PM	29	30	31 Choir rehearsal 6:30 PM			

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

114 S. BROAD STREET  
MIDDLETOWN OHIO 45044

**OPEN AND AFFIRMING**

**Every Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
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, Wednesday, Thursday 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
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