



The Messenger

October 2018

St. Paul's
United Methodist Church



OTW NEWS

Bernard Garlid	Oct 3
Tom Knott	Oct 3
John Peterson	Oct 6
Marsha VanHorn	Oct 6
Irene Haizman	Oct 8
Jane Deal	Oct 10
Dottie Lorson	Oct 10
Grady Simonds	Oct 12
Jan Gauthier	Oct 15
Emma Steckelberg	Oct 15
Al Pall	Oct 17
Jackie Rothfuss	Oct 17
Edna Drake	Oct 23
Don Mills	Oct 23
Linda Cook	Oct 25
Ed Hesley	Oct 25
Deb Brooks	Oct 27
Casey Placencia	Oct 27
Jordon Rios	Oct 28
Denny O'Neill	Oct 30
Tom Orsborn	Oct 30
Michelle Peterson	Oct 31

Trunk or Treat

Yes, it's that time again! What happened to summer?? Our annual Trunk or Treat event will be held Saturday, October 27th, from 2:00-3:30PM. This is a fun event that is beneficial to the children in our community, so plan to join us! Dress in costume if you'd like, bring your car with a decorated trunk or come just as you are and pass out goodies to all the little ones. In the event of bad weather, we will move inside the church. There are some ways you can help if you aren't able to join us. You can donate individually wrapped candy, fruit snacks, etc. to be passed out. As always, you can pray for those participating in this event and for the families and children who attend.



Hamilton ECC Update

Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies, helped put those supplies together, delivered them to Hamilton ECC and/or prayed for the teachers and our little friends. The staff is very thankful and appreciative of everything God calls St. Paul's to do in this partnership.



HURTING WORLD

The Hurting World Offering for October will be designated to the Ghana Water Projects. While Ghana has made great strides in providing water for its people, there is still 16% of the rural population without access to an improved water source. Only 15% of the population has access to safe, private, and hygienic sanitation, while 19% of the total population and 34% of the rural population continue to practice open defecation. This results in disease, especially for children. 25% of child deaths attribute to diarrhea. As the population increases, the demands on the existing needs are increasing dramatically. Some areas have long walks to a water source. Please prayerfully consider these people and their needs and give generously to this project.

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Methodist Church**
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St. Paul's Church Council Meeting Summary Sept. 25, 2018

Pastor Gini – 1) Church council meetings will be moved from the 4th Tuesday to the 3rd Tuesday of the month to give Marilyn Griffin and Emma Steckelberg more time to prepare and include the Church Council meeting minutes in The Messenger. 2) Our church's missions giving is changing to have 3 aspects of giving – Learn, Give, and Act. There will be 6 steps of giving instead of 6 lanes.

Worship – Nothing to report this month.

Hospitality – A pamphlet will be written telling about all activities at St. Paul's, how to get involved and whom to contact. This will help potential and current members and be written by Roni McNeil and Marilyn Griffin.

Over the Wall – 1) School supplies have been delivered to Hamilton. 2) Love and Logic classes began last night with 6-7 parents and 10 children attending. Class went very well, with lots of good discussion. 3) Trunk or Treat will be Sat. Oct. 27 from 2 to 3:30 pm. Sign up at the Over the Wall table. Donations of individually wrapped treats are welcome. Fliers will be hung up at church and Hamilton.

Missions – 1) Orlan Lehmann reported that the balance of the Mission Endowment Fund as of Sept. 25 is \$2836.09. 2) The Red Bird Christian School offering collected \$502.02.

SPRC – They are working on completing paperwork for our Church Conference on Wed., Nov. 7 at 7 pm in the sanctuary. 2) Salaries for 2019 are being discussed.

Finance – 1) Lyndon Wood distributed financial reports from Jan.1 to August 31 for all to examine. August was a bad month since our income was similar to the August, 2017 income, but expenses were higher. We have already surpassed our expected deficit for the entire year as of the end of August. 2) Stewardship letters and pledge cards are ready to be distributed after the Finance Committee reviews them. 3) Pastor Gini will have 3 sermons on stewardship during October featuring special speakers.

Trustees – 1) The Trustees presented a motion to Church Council that we become a chartering organization for Boy Scout Troop 200 which has 8 youth members. Orlan Lehmann seconded. Motion Passed. 2) A storage policy has been adopted due to recent flooding in the basement. Committees or groups that store items are asked to put them in boxes that are labeled with their group name and contents. These items should not be placed directly on the floor to keep them dry during minor flooding. Groups are also asked to review what they have stored each year to evaluate if the items are still needed. 3) Trustees have received a proposal to replace some of the downstairs carpeting. 4) Glenn is still researching the rental agreement with Babywearing.

St. Paul's Church Council Summary Cont.

213 Process – 1) The End of Life workshop will be postponed until Lent. 2) Our church's vision statement for 2019 will be GREAT, which stands for God-Driven, Relational, Excellence, Accepting, and Thankful.

Crisis Response Task Force – Plans to meet on Wednesday, Oct. 3.

Pictorial Church Directory – Pam Gombert is currently taking pictures of those who go south for the winter. Other's pictures will be taken in December.

Lay Leadership Report – 1) Lee VanHorn has been working on this. We need a Memorial Committee Chair still, but Gini will ask someone she has in mind. SPRC needs another member. Sharon Gould has 2 Communion stewards, but wants to have 2 more so they can alternate months.

Miscellaneous – 1) A preliminary 2019 budget is being developed. 2) Orlan Lehmann presented a proposal to Church Council to bring to our Church Conference on Nov. 7 regarding the Way Forward to be considered at a special session of the General Conference in 2019. The proposal was not seconded and died. Meetings will be held around the state seeking input from UMC members, who are strongly encouraged to attend these. Members are also encouraged to research and educate themselves about this very important issue in the life of our church. 3) Certificates recognizing payment of 100% of our apportionments for 2016 and 2017 have been received. 4) Tom Orsborn is planning another trip to Shishewana to see the play "Stolen" at the Blue Gate Theater. Information on cost, date, and time will be coming. 5) The "Grace Space" is a work in progress, with Peg Edverson and Marilynn Springman making improvements as we work through each week. 6) Background checks are being updated for all who volunteer with children at St. Paul's. Forms are at the Over the Wall table. 7) Brenda Haney reviewed the listing of inactive members whose names will be placed on the "First Year" list at Church Conference.

The next church council meeting will be October 16 at 7 pm.

Finance Update

Financial Results Through August 31, 2018

Ordinary Income	Expenses	Deficit
\$123,723	\$141,566	(\$17,843)

Letter From Pastor Gini

Many of you will soon quit reading when you realize this is the pastor's annual stewardship letter. Yup! That darn church is asking for money again. Actually, I'm not. I'm asking you to look at your life and see where you find your biggest blessings.

For most of us we will say it is our family. What a blessing they are! We spend our time, our thoughts, our prayers, and yes, our financial resources on them.

But for those of us who have been upheld in difficult times by the church, challenged in our daily living, uplifted in our faith, it is also the church. I am so spiritually blessed to be given the opportunity to minister here at St. Paul's. I love your humor! Your enthusiasm! Your desire to be the church. But it comes at a cost.

Sundays are the highlight of my week, but I have always loved worship since a small child. With that comes the choirs, the music and instruments, the sound system, the projection, heating and air conditioning, new window shades, bulletins, cleaning, and the list goes on.

Then there are the programs during the week, from Bible studies to support programs to outreach. We are a blessing to God, to one another, and to the community.

Some are offended when the "church" asks for money, but have no problem when asked to give to the local athletic program, Habitat for Humanity, cancer research or their preferred political party. Why? Because there is belief in what they are doing. I believe in what we are doing here at St. Paul's. We can do more and we can do better, with your help of time, talent, and financial giving.

The Bible informs us time and again that we are to tithe. Do we believe in that command? Do you believe in what we are doing here at St. Paul's? I ask you to give, not out of a sense of obligation, but out of a sense of joy and praise and thankfulness. Throughout September, the sermons were on faith. What do you believe? Where do you stand in the continuance of God's kingdom?

Yes, it is Stewardship Month, if you wish to call it that, and it is something that I celebrate! Consider prayerfully what you wish to share this year. We will celebrate Consecration Sunday on Sunday, October 28. See you in church!

Thanks,

Pastor Gini

P.S. pledges can be mailed to the church to the attention of Christine Bonk, Financial Secretary, or given to Christine directly.

All Saints Day

The first Sunday in November is the church universal's tradition to lift up those we have lost in the past year. This is an especially sacred Sunday for me. I know of a few of you who have lost loved ones this year, and you are in my heart and prayers. I send you a special invitation to attend this service on Sunday, November 4.

The first All Saints Day worship service is often difficult as those heartstrings are so frayed. Please know, and my son will tell you, that I put more time and attention into this service than any throughout the year. Yes, even over Christmas and Easter. It is in these times of grief and heartache that our God seeks to step closer into our lives to balm our souls with peace.

If you have lost someone precious, please email or call the church office that their name can be included in our service. If you would like special time with the pastor, please feel free to call me and set up a time. (269-274-9416.)

God be with you,

Pastor Gini



Midwest District Conference

The Midwest District Conference is Sunday, October 14 from 2-4pm at Grand Rapids 1st UMC. All are welcome and church leadership are especially encouraged to attend. Just as in the church, this is the yearly meeting where leadership and budget are recommended and voted upon. It is a time to come together to hear what is happening in our district. Special speakers this year are Paul Perez and Laura Witkowski. See you there!



9-Month Giving Statements

Just a note to let you know that 9 month giving statements are being mailed on October 3. That will allow you to compare your giving to your pledge. When I checked our giving, I found ourselves coming up short, so we were able to catch up. Please check it out, and if you are able to increase your giving for the rest of the year, that will go a long way towards reducing our budgeted deficit of \$16,000. I will try to keep you updated as we proceed through these last months of the year.

Thanks so much for your generosity to St. Paul's.

Evelyn Mingle, Finance Chair





October



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<p>1</p> <p>7:15am-AA 9:30am-2 Peter WBS 10am-Thrive 12:00pm-AA 6:00pm-L&L 6:30pm-FA</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:15am-AA 12:00pm-AA 5:30pm-Crosscreek Condo 7:00pm-Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:15am-AA 12:00pm-AA 6:30pm-Praise Team 7:00pm-Men's Rehearsal 7:40pm-Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:15am-AA 12:00pm-AA 6:30pm-SPRC 6:30pm-Women's Bible Study (WBS)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:15am-AA 9:00am-Brunch Bunch 12:00pm-AA</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:15am-AA</p>
<p>7</p> <p>7:15am-AA 10:00am-Worship 11:15am-Sunday School 11:15am-Mission Committee</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:15am-AA 9:30am-2 Peter WBS 10am-Thrive 12:00pm-AA 6:00pm-Love and Logic 6:30pm-FA</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:15am-AA 12:00pm-AA</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:15am-AA 10am-Thrive 12pm-AA 6:30-Praise Team 7:00pm-Men's Rehearsal 7:40pm-Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:15am-AA 10:00am-Caregivers Support Group 12pm-AA 6:30pm-WBS</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:15am-AA 10:00am-Babywearing 12pm-AA</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:15am-AA</p>
<p>14</p> <p>7:15am-AA 10:00am-Worship 11:15am-Sunday School</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:15am-AA 9:30am-2 Peter WBS 10am-Thrive 12:00pm-AA 6:00pm-Love and Logic 6:30pm-FA</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:15am-AA 12:00pm-AA 7:00pm-Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:15am-AA 10am-Thrive 12:00pm-AA 4:30pm-Worship Committee 6:30pm-Praise T. 7:00pm-Men's Rehearsal 7:40pm-Choir</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:15am-AA 12:00pm-AA 6:30pm-WBS</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:15am-AA 12:00pm-AA</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:15am-AA</p>
<p>21</p> <p>7:15am-AA 10:00am-Worship 11:15am-Sunday School</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:15am-AA 9:30am-2 Peter WBS 10am-Thrive 12:00pm-AA 6:00pm-Love and Logic 6:30pm-FA</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:15am-AA 12:00pm-AA</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:15am-AA 10am-Thrive 12:00pm-AA 6:30pm-Praise Team 7:00pm-Men's Rehearsal 7:40pm-Choir</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:15am-AA 12:00pm-AA 6:30pm-WBS</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:15am-AA 12:00pm-AA</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:15am-AA 10:00am-Babywearing 2:00pm-Trunk or Treat</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Our Hurting World 7:15am-AA 10:00am-Worship 11:15am-Sunday School</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:15am-AA 9:30am-2 Peter WBS 10am-Thrive 12:00pm-AA 6:30pm-FA</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:15am-AA 12pm-AA</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:15am-AA 10am-Thrive 12:00pm-AA 6:30pm-Praise T. 7:00pm-Men's Rehearsal 7:40pm-Choir</p>			

THIS AND THAT



Brunch Bunch will meet Friday, October 5 at 9am at New Beginnings (Division and 54th). All women are welcome. Contact Peg Edvenson to RSVP @ 455-8167 or pedvenson@gmail.com.

John Knox The food collection for the month of October will be soups and crackers. The pantry has purchased a new building and will be renovating and moving during the month of October. **TEAM 1 WILL NOT VOLUNTEER IN OCTOBER.** We will be back to our regular

schedule in November. The Pantry's new location is in the Town and Country Plaza. *The Food Pantry is unable to use anything that has been opened or has expired. Please check before donating. Thank you for all of your support!*



Alternative Gift Fair

Save the date of Sunday, December 2, for our annual Alternative Gift Fair. Hosted by the Missions Committee, vendors will include Women At Risk, Viva Fair Trade, SECOM Beads of Hope, Catherine's Health Center, Haitian Artisans For Peace, Heifer International, and Church World Service.



Pictorial Directory

We will be creating a Pictorial Directory for 2019. Pictures will be taken in early December. IF you will be heading out of town before that, please contact Pam Gombert to have your picture taken.



Craft Day

All women & friends are welcome to attend on Friday, October 12, at 1pm. We will be making grapevine fall wreaths. Please bring a wreath with your own special embellishments. We will have wire and some glue guns. If you have any questions, give Janet Coykendall a call at (616) 984-2910 or Michelle Orsborn at (616) 243-5824.



Children's Sunday School has gone through more changes. In addition to our new Sunday school teacher, Ms. Rhee Mairs, Messrs. Feng Logan and Jallah Logan are also teaching elementary Sunday school together with Marilyn Springman, which began on Sunday, September 9! What better way to build a relationship with God than to teach God's plan! As a result, there will be no youth Sunday school until such time as our elementary students and our family populations grow. **One volunteer each week will still be necessary to satisfy our commitment to Safe Sanctuaries.** Some people have already signed up to help us with this important mission. Please see the sign up sheet on the Over The Wall table, and sign up to be a part of seeing God's work in action!



The MESSENGER

St. Paul's UMC
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Are some of you still missing the Michigan Christian ADVOCATE? My husband used to patiently wait for our copy to arrive in the mail. After reading it from front to back, it was his way to stay connected to every corner of Michigan and beyond. He and his sister living in the Detroit Conference would phone each other and discuss the latest happenings. It brought them together as proud, informed members of the United Methodist Church.

Times have changed since those early days before internet, and the UMC has brought us up to date and informed, without the need for postage or long-distance phone calls. The church has gone another step further! Although a subscription to the ADVOCATE was a bargain at the time, our current option is FREE!!

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Enjoy. Jackie Rothfuss

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