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St. Paul Annual Meeting—Part 2

St. Paul’s Annual Meeting, Part 2 is scheduled for **Sunday, February 11, 2024** following worship. During the Annual Meeting, Part 2 we will review the work of the church from the past year and accept annual reports. St. Paul’s Evangelical—Conrad Kolmer Memorial Cemetery Annual Meeting will be immediately after the Annual Meeting.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent on **February 14**. We will have an Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:00 p.m. Pastor David Nottrott will preside, and the service will include communion and the distribution of ashes.



Fellowship Meals

All women of the St. Paul congregation are invited to a luncheon at **11:30 on Tuesday, February 20** at Acorns Golf Links. The church bus will depart at 11:10 a.m. If you plan to ride the bus, please place an asterisk (*) next to your name on the sign-up sheet. Our service project is collecting non-perishable food, paper products and cleaning supplies for Uni-Pres Kindercottage. The sign-up sheet, shopping list and donation bin are at the Welcome Center. Please join us for an afternoon of great food and fellowship. For more information call Kathi Emery at 618-458-7186.

The **Adult Social Group** will meet on **Thursday, March 14 at 5:30 p.m.** at Mr. BBQ at Mystic Oak Golf Course. All are welcome for an evening of food and fellowship. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

Cemetery Clean-up—Cemetery clean-up will be done on **March 1**. Please pick up any items you wish to save before that date.

BLOOD DONATION

DONATE BLOOD & SAVE LIVES

GIVE BLOOD, GIVE LIFE

Giving blood is crucial to save people's lives & make sure blood is available when it's needed

MARCH 12, 2024 1-7 PM

Register online at redcrossblood.org or by calling 800-733-2767.

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10.

Don't forget to "spring ahead"!



Planting A Garden/Believing in Tomorrow

Dr. Jill Mayer

Audrey Hepburn is credited with saying “To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.” These words ring especially true in the work of Christian education as we must have faith that the seeds we plant today will blossom in the days, and weeks, and months, and years ahead.



As we get ready to embark on this new season (of Lent, of spring, of garden planting), we have a lot to hope for and believe in. Here’s a look at a few of the opportunities for faith development for the children/youth/families in the months ahead.

Messy Church

We’ll be learning about how we’re called to live together as Christians at our February Messy Church on **Wednesday, February 7** beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Our March Messy Church will be held on **Wednesday, March 6** and will be themed around Peter’s discipleship.

We’ll be celebrating Easter in Messy Church on **Wednesday, April 3**.

Sunday School

Sunday school will continue to meet through the spring from 8:45 until 9:20 each Sunday before worship (with the exception of LIFT Sundays when the entire church joins together to learn). All children aged 3 through high-school age are welcome to participate each

week. During our time in Sunday school, we play games in the gym, have the opportunity to work on a themed craft and spend time learning about the scripture from the lectionary for the week.

LIFT

LIFT continues to meet on the last Sunday of each month (**February 25, March 31 and April 28**). ALL ages are invited to experience LIFT, which is designed to bring generations together to share food, learn, worship and have fun. Each LIFT session begins at **8:30 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

Milestone Workshops

All 3rd graders are invited to participate in a workshop to learn about the Lord’s Prayer on **Sunday, February 11** before worship at 8:45 to 9:15 a.m.

The 5th grade Easter workshop will be held on **Sunday, March 24** during Sunday school. During this workshop, students will learn about the events of Holy Week and Easter and create a set of resurrection eggs.

If your child/grandchild would

be interested in participating in one of our milestone workshops, please let me know.

Confirmation

Confirmation will take place on Pentecost Sunday (**May 19**) this year. To help our confirmands meet their requirements, the following programming will be offered this spring:

- Confirmation Classes on February 18, March 17 and April 14
- Confirmation Visits on February 3 (Catholic Mass), February 25 (Mosque) and March 11 (Virtual Buddhist Temple Visit)

Adult Education

I will be leading an adult spiritual disciplines workshop on Prayer Labyrinths on **Monday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Heritage Room.

Lenten devotionals for adults, families and youth will be available beginning on Ash Wednesday.

Family Fun

The families of St. Paul and our community are invited to attend a movie screening (with snacks!) of *Homeward Bound* on **February 10 at 6:00 p.m.** in the theater.

The annual **Easter egg hunt** will be on **Saturday, March 23 at 10:00 a.m.** Make plans to attend this rain-or-shine event that will include fun crafts/games, snacks and a hunt for the hundreds of eggs to be filled by



Planting A Garden/Believing in Tomorrow

continued

the generous members of our church.

Our next **Bingo night** will be **Saturday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m.** As usual, doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and light snacks/beverages will be provided. All are welcome to bring their own snacks/beverages as well.

VBS

It's crazy to think that another year of VBS is just around the corner. Make sure to mark your calendars now for this year's program that will run from **Tuesday, May 28 through Friday, May 31.**

As always, an army of volunteers will be needed to make VBS a

reality. Be on the lookout for information about becoming a volunteer in the *Midweek* and bulletin, on the website and on the church's social media accounts.

Summer Mission

Andy and I are working on two opportunities for mission this summer: Hendersonville Settlement in Kentucky, which is open to high school students and older, and AMEN STL, which is truly intergenerational and open to families/youth/adults.

The Hendersonville Settlement mission trip will take place **June 16 through 22.** During our time in Kentucky, we'll be working alongside members of another St.

Paul's (this one in Ohio!) to complete projects for individuals in need in the community.

We're working on finalizing a mission project with AMEN STL, which will be very similar to last year's intergenerational project that worked with Lydia's House, New Roots Urban Farm, Isaiah 58 Ministries and the STL Food Bank. Like last year, this project will be open to youth (able to stay overnight or participate during the days) as well as families/adults able to participate during one or more of our service days. Make sure to check the *Midweek* emails and bulletins in the weeks ahead for more information as the details for this opportunity are finalized.

St. Paul Youth Group

Looking at the calendar for the months ahead, I'm really excited about all the opportunities coming up for the youth of St. Paul and our community. Here's a look!

The youth will be serving breakfast on **Sunday, February 4 beginning at 8:00 a.m.** All proceeds collected from the freewill offering will be used toward the summer mission opportunities and this year's UCC Regional Youth Event.

Youth will not want to miss our Sunday youth group meeting on February 4 as there will be an interactive presentation about the upcoming Hendersonville Settlement mission opportunity. Wednesday youth group meetings will take place in February on the 14, 21 and 28.

We'll be bowling at our Sunday youth group meeting on **Sunday, March 3.** Our Wednesday youth group meetings in March will be on the 13 and 20. The



Andy Mayer

group will not be meeting on Wednesday, March 27 as it is Holy Week.

Youth group meetings in April will take place on Sunday, April 7 and Wednesday, April 10, 17 and 24.

We've got a lot in the works for the youth of St. Paul this summer, including Hendersonville Settlement Mission (June 16 through 22) for high school students, AMEN STL (dates TBD) and Regional Youth Event, which will be held at Augustana College July 17–20. Make sure you check the *Midweek* emails and bulletins as we get closer to these events for registration information and final details.

Finally, as a reminder, all youth in 6th through 12th grade are invited to attend/participate in any youth group programming or events. If you know of a youth who might enjoy being a part of youth group, encourage him or her to try out a meeting!

Notes from the Music Staff

Gary Humphrey

Normally, I would use this space to talk about what's upcoming for Lent and Easter in the music program, and I probably should do that now. But I feel compelled to speak to something else. As most of you know, on December 15 I had surgery to repair a detached retina.

I would first like to say that I wouldn't recommend this to anyone. After hearing the horror stories of others regarding recovery, I was convinced there was no way I could handle it. Most people have to lie face down for at least a week, if not two, immediately after surgery and then take it very easy for quite a while after. My doctor had told me it would probably be a week. UGH! The surgery itself was a unique experience for me. The anesthetist told me I would be sedated but not "put under" during the surgery. So when they wheeled me in, there I was, in my mind WIDE AWAKE as they started going to town on my eye! I could hear every word that the doctors and nurses spoke. I could tell who was who by where their voices were coming from. It was a scary experience. Not particularly painful, but scary. When I was done, the anesthetist was the one who wheeled me into recovery. As we headed that way, I said "Can I ask you a question?" She said sure. I said "Can you please tell me why I needed to be awake for that?" She said there was no need to take the risk of putting me out. I said "Just for my two cents, I would take the risk rather than listen." LOL! Anyway, one of my reasons for writing this is to tell you that God only gives you what you can handle. My doctor told me in my next day visit that I only had to lie face down and flat for 3 days and that I could take a break 15 minutes of every hour. I was so relieved! But I can tell you that I barely made that! Thanks to God and my doctors, I came through it.

However, there was another factor at work, which brings me to the other reason for this writing. I am so grateful for all the thoughts and prayers from folks here at St. Paul. I can't tell you how many people have asked about me and told me they were praying for me! Prayer is such a powerful tool.



Even now as I head toward what I hope to be a full recovery, I am still immersed in the bubble of thoughts and prayers you all have given. I can never begin to thank you enough, but I felt it necessary to use this space to make sure you knew how much it has meant

to me. THANK YOU!

Finally, I can't move on without thanking our staff for picking up the slack without me. Thanks to Carmen and Linda for doing a great job of getting us through Christmas Eve. The last time I didn't participate in a Christmas Eve service was 1980! It was painful, but I was reassured that these two ladies stepped up and made it happen!

I do need to spend just a short time talking about what's to come musically in the next few months.



On **Sunday, February 18**, we will be hosting Jeremy Nunes, America's Clean Comic, as part of our concert series. To my knowledge, we have never had a Christian comedian here, so I am really looking forward to this one. Please join us if you can. As always, all our musical groups will be involved as we move through Holy Week and Easter. Celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior is why we are here, and we will do it in style!

Finally, on **April 14**, we will be joined by Samantha Crook and Friends as the final concert in this season's Fine Arts Concert Series. Samantha has joined us in worship a few times in the past, and we look forward to this concert that will showcase her amazing talent!



Child's World News

Theresa May-Harwell & Jamie Brown

We are back! Our students and staff enjoyed a nice, long winter break. However, we might have been counting down the days until break was over and back to our happy place. We are so thrilled to have our students back AND to welcome three brand new friends to our preschool. We were ready to jump right back into learning and exploring with the smallest of God's flock.



friendship? During the month of February, we will focus on God's love for us and how to be a great friend to all. What a great time to teach our students just how

Brrrr! Snow, ice and frigid temps have made their appearance, and we are taking advantage of all the learning opportunities that come with the winter season. Walking into Child's World right now is quite like walking into a winter wonderland. We have been creating snow-covered trees, snowmen and snow globes. Not only is winter a beautiful season, but it is a glorious time to teach about the changing weather, snow, polar animals and how animals survive the winter.

big God's love for us is! Did you know February is also known as Dental Health Month? We are lucky to have our very own dentist in the Child's World family who graciously offered to visit our classrooms to teach the importance of dental hygiene.

I think we say this every month, but January and February are busy months here at Child's World Preschool. We are busy getting back into the routine of becoming kindergarten ready, learning new concepts, building stronger social skills and the best part—our Valentine's Day party!

February is fast approaching, and it is one of our favorite months at Child's World Preschool. Who doesn't love a month surrounded by love and

We cannot wait to see what God has in store for Child's World Preschool for 2024! We know our students will do great things and that our preschool program will continue providing our community with a quality early childhood education for our youngest learners. Thank you for your support!

Consistory Report

Tony Mayer, President

Below are highlights from the December Consistory meeting:

- ◆ December's meeting was the last meeting for Dave Buettner, Waleah Lich, Mitch North, Stacey Cawvey and Josh Gerfen because their terms have ended. We thank them for their sacrifice and service. We welcomed new members Angela Most, Amanda Chase, Gayle North, Kary Eckrich and Ian Scherle.
- ◆ The Consistory approved hiring Anna Bulman as a nursery attendant.
- ◆ It was reported that giving for November was over budget to go along with huge unrealized gains.

At the January Consistory meeting:

- ◆ The Consistory approved hiring Pastor Mary Beth Hartenstein to provide member care beginning after Pastor Carol Shanks leaves for her vacation home January 1.
- ◆ It was reported that pulpit supply had been filled through April 28 with only 2 Sundays yet to be filled.
- ◆ The Consistory elected the following officers:
Tony Mayer, President
Angela Most, Vice President
Rich Kurtz, Treasurer
Ryan Bulman, Secretary



Search Committee Update

—St. Paul's settled pastor position was posted on the UCC website on January 5. The Pastoral Search Committee is meeting monthly and are prayerfully considering interested candidates. Members are Barb Wagner and Mitch North, co-chairs, Megan Selck, secretary, Renae Mayer, chaplain, Steve Crook, Megan Dahlem and Lyle Hoffman. Please keep them and our future pastor in your prayers.

Mission News

February Mission : DuBois Center
 March Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing
 April Mission: Hoyleton



February's mission is DuBois Center, the camp and retreat center of the Illinois South Conference located about an hour and 15 minutes from Waterloo near DuBois, IL. DuBois's mission—Growing Together—in Faith, in Respect for Ourselves and Others and in our Care for Creation—says it all. DuBois has an exceptional summer camp program and facilities for year-round retreats and family outings, confirmation programs and special interest groups. Everyone should try to visit the camp, where St. Paul volunteers have been active for years, providing members for the Outdoor Ministries Team, ministry interns and summer camp counselors, chaplains, nurses and campers and helping on a myriad of work projects. Their most important mission, though, is sending young people to camp to experience God in nature, other

cultures and real Christian love. Just the three to five days spent at camp can make life-changing differences in a young person's attitudes and outlook.



March's mission is One Great Hour of Sharing. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This offering supports the disaster, refugee and development of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing provide immediate aid and long-term support to people experiencing hunger, thirst, disaster or crisis around the world. The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. Thanks for sharing.

April's mission is Hoyleton. Hoyleton is an all-inclusive social services agency building communities and a workplace committed to enabling all people to realize the wholeness of life that God intends. Their journey is to create a more caring and just organization, community and service delivery system.

For over 127 years, Hoyleton has created stronger communities for children and families in southern Illinois. Hoyleton provides 6 areas of care, supporting over 39 different programs—therapeutics, residential care, foster care, emerging adult care, in-community care, Puentes de Esperanza and FORWARD counseling Care by Hoyleton.

Hoyleton is in the middle of a capital campaign to raise funds to build onto their current campus. Please support Hoyleton in April.

Memorials/Gifts

- Adult Education** in loving memory of Hannah Woodside
- After School Program (SPLASH)** in honor of SPLASH Volunteers
- Music/Choirs & Instruments Fund** in memory of Paul Mueller

<u>Our Members in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Centers</u>			
<u>Oak Hill</u>	<u>Magnolia Terrace</u>	<u>Garden Place</u>	<u>Garden Place-Columbia</u>
Marjorie Bottiaux	Margaret Kutterer	Harold Hirstein	Doris England
Laverne Hesterberg	Arline Mehrrens	Dale Reuss	
Patsy Kopp	Virginia Mueller	Marilynn Schaefer	<u>Cedarhurst</u>
Margaret Lueking	Audrey Rodenberg	Betty Wild	Beverly Holmen
Pattie Mehrrens		Imogene Yarbrough	Fern Kinzinger
Rosalie Metzger	<u>Garden Place Memory Care</u>		Fred Kinzinger
Marlene Salger	Merle Wischmeyer		Sharon Olson
Paul Stiening			Judy Maurer
Sharon Sparwasser			

Help with Scout Project

Ava Scherle

My name is Ava Scherle. I am the daughter of Alaina and Josh Scherle. I am a sophomore at Waterloo High School and a member of St. Paul UCC. I have been involved in the Girl Scout organization for eleven years. I am in Troop 576, which is led by Teresa Bushong and Cara Kettler. I am writing to you to ask for support with my Girl Scout Gold Award project that I am working toward. The Gold Award project is the highest honor in Girl Scouts, which is equivalent to the Eagle Scout award in Boy Scouts.

My project is to collect plastic bottle caps, which will be turned into park benches. My goal is to collect enough bottle caps to make two benches. I plan to place the park benches in Waterloo so that children and adults have a place to sit and relax with friends. I am working under the direction of Dr. Jillian Mayer at St. Paul United Church of Christ and Mary Anne Hopper, who is my Gold Award advisor for Girl Scout Service Unit 211. The benches will be placed in the area around the GaGa pit that I built for my Girl Scout Silver Award project, which is located in the St. Paul UCC parking lot.

For each park bench, I will need to collect 200 pounds of caps. I am reaching out to you for support. I would appreciate your willingness to help me toward my goal. Please see the attached flyer for more information regarding my project. There will also be flyers at church for you to pick up at your convenience. Thanks for your help!

BOTTLE CAPS TO BENCHES

EarthConnection

We always strive to be better stewards of our natural resources. Natural resources include our environment and the most important natural resource, each other. We are collecting caps to turn into benches to display at Earthconnection. Working with the Girl Scouts and college students we want to create a win-win situation for all. Those working with us learn about sustainability seating and we keep caps out of the landfill.



Each 6-foot bench requires us to collect 200 pounds of caps and \$300. Each 6-foot table requires 500 pounds and \$550.

**Acceptable Items - Milk jug caps - Detergent Caps - Bottle Caps
Caps with Recycle Numbers, 2, 4 and 5
All items need to be clean!**

For more information email us at scearthconnection@gmail.com



Help Ava Scherle collect bottle caps to make recycled benches.

Bottle Cap Collection



To schedule a bottle cap pick-up, please contact Ava Scherle at 618-660-9866 or place lids in the collection container at St. Paul UCC.



Acceptable Items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Any Drink Bottle Lids | Baby Food Caps | Sharpie Caps |
| Hair Spray Caps | Marker Caps | Shampoo Caps |
| Ointment Tube Caps | Spray Paint Caps | Spice Caps |
| Medicine Bottle Caps | Spout Caps | Parmesan Lids |
| Sour Cream Lids | Butter Lids | Yogurt Lids |
| Peanut Butter Lids | Icing Lids | Whipped Topping Lids |
| Coffee Can Lids | Mayo Jar Lids | Flip-Top Caps |
| Drink Mix Lids | Food Take Out Lids | Juice/Tea/Milk Caps |
| Fast Food Drink Lids | Solid 6 Pack Can Holders | Conditioner Caps |
| Pill Bottles (Labels Removed) | Deodorant Caps | Condiment Caps |
| Feta Lids | | |

Lids Must Be 8 inches or smaller.

St. Paul United Church of Christ
200 N. Main Street
Waterloo, IL 62298

Office Phone: (618) 939-7123
Office Fax: (618) 939-7144
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Monday thru Thursday
Child's World Preschool: (618) 939-7125
Website: www.stpaulonline.org

Worship Services

9:30 a.m. (online on YouTube)

Christian Education Time

8:45 a.m.

All submissions for the next *Messenger* are due to the church office by **4/17/24**. We reserve the right to edit submissions for publication.

Next Deadline: 4/17/24

Next Issue: 4/25/24



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**JEREMY
NUNES**

America's Favorite
Clean Comedian

**SUN., FEBRUARY 18
3:00 PM**



**SAMANTHA CROOK
& FRIENDS**

Seasons of Love

April 14, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of song and conversation with Kansas City native, Samantha Crook, in her music revue, *Seasons of Love*. Featuring Ken Remmert on drums and vocals and Lenora Remmert on piano, you'll enjoy favorites from The Carpenters, Patsy Cline, Frank Sinatra and more!

