

St. Paul's

February
2024



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March 15th
All articles are
due in by 3/8

February
2024

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Inquiring Minds Want to Know: Ash Wednesday Origins

Did you know that this *Ash Wednesday* tradition was not always the way we understand and practice it today? In the earliest days, ashes marked on the forehead of believers were not given to everyone but were given only to the biggest sinners; a punishment for those committing the most grievous infractions. Thus, ashes were reserved for these *public penitents* as they were brought before the community for “shaming.”

Think Hester Prynne in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter*, who in a Puritan Boston, Massachusetts in 1642 was required to publicly wear a scarlet-colored letter “A” on her dress. This was a way of shaming her for giving birth to a baby out of wedlock. The “A” on her dress is presumed to stand for adultery.

Thus, in the original context of wearing ashes, only the most notorious sinners were marked publicly with a sign of their disgrace. But as time went on, as if creating jealousy, the ritual got the attention of others in the church who wanted to publicly show their humility as well. “Hey, how come they get ashes on their head? I want ashes on my head too!” Thus, with a desire to outwardly show penitence, other “sinners” began asking that they, too, might be marked as sinners. In the end, the number of penitents eventually grew so large that the imposition of ashes was extended to everyone in the church. And that my friends, is how this whole Ash Wednesday thing got started.

Historically, Roman Catholic churches initiated the annual ritual of imposing ashes on their foreheads as a liturgical practice to begin the Lenten season and it has been adopted by many Protestant churches as well. However, only about half of the congregations I’ve served have actually established it as a church tradition. So, whether you choose to participate in the ash custom or not, the symbolic nature of the ritual has become a sober reminder that “from the ashes (earth) we come, and to the ashes (earth) we will return.”

February 14 marks the beginning of yet another Lenten season and we will be offering an Ash Wednesday service of “reflection” with music, liturgy, and the word. Worship, which will include a special anthem by the choir which will be at 7:00 p.m.

We wish you a blessed Lenten journey as you begin the walk toward new life and the glory of the Easter event.

See ya’ in church.
Pastor Bob

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Let's Talk Church P. 2 – Saturday, March 9 (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

To refresh your memory, *Let's Talk Church* is a project designed for the purpose of coming together with fellow church members to engage in times of reflection and dialogue on matters impacting the present and future of St. Paul's Church.

As we continue to engage in the process, we have the opportunity to prayerfully consider the many ways in which we can be the kind of church that can best serve the people who belong, the community in which we exist, and the wider United Church of Christ. In short, to reflect on how we can best work together with others to become a more just, generous, vibrant, and vital church. The benefit of this project is that it will help in making the church even more attractive to those ministerial candidates who may be interested in applying to serve as the settled pastor.

Let's Talk Church Part 2 is set for Saturday, March 9, beginning at 9:00 a.m. with coffee and sweets, a time to lunch together, and will wrap up by 2:00 in the afternoon. We are happy that the Rev. Shernell Edney Stilly, associate conference minister for churches in transition, will be spending the day with us. She will offer her perspective on the "state of the church and ministry" from her middle adjudicatory position and will engage us in some thoughtful dialogue. As we delve into some of the issues impacting mainline churches and how we move forward with a sense of hope, she will help us continue to "reimagine" the how's and what's of parish ministry in light of the many cultural shifts happening around us; shifts that we can no longer deny the existence of.

Additionally, Rev. Shernell will offer an overview of the search process which includes the formation of a search committee and putting together our church profile. So much of what we have been discussing will be key to that process and will help us present ourselves as a vibrant and open-minded congregation to potential candidates; willing to "adapt" and embrace the changes necessary to remain relevant as a local church.

One of the takeaways from our first retreat included the formation of ad hoc teams whose purposes is explained below. Our itinerary on March 9 will include time for those various teams to meet and discuss our roles as well as the necessary action needed to move forward. These lists are not exhaustive as we hope for additional names to be added as well as the input from those who were unable to attend.

Below is a description of each team and the names of those who thus far have expressed their interest in assisting. Anyone wishing to be added to any of these teams, please notify Lena or anyone on the planning team.

Transition Team (Ruth Costello, Wendy Manser, Pastor Bob)

Purpose: To join Ruth, Wendy, and Pastor Bob to oversee, explore, and develop a plan for moving forward with follow up steps in this important work of reimagining the church and how we can be intentional in living into it.

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Let's Talk Church continued – Saturday, March 9 (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

Church Governance (Nancy Bellis, Sheryl Gee, Jennifer Good)

Purpose: This team will evaluate our present governance structure and do the necessary research to be able to make a recommendation to the council and congregation for action and implementation.

Asset and Property Management (Kevin Kruse, Jane Dawson, Gary Gee, Linda Kranz, Ken Hansen, Cheryl Treifenbach, Becky Berghorn)

Purpose: Stewardship ministry is also brick and mortar and includes question about how we can better utilize our buildings and grounds. This team will work with our current buildings and grounds committee for the purpose of evaluating our property and explore ways that we might encourage more usage (establish community partners) and to consider potential revenue in the process.

Creation Care Team (Linda Tickner, Bev Tychsen, Nancy Schmitz)

Purpose: This team would help to educate and prioritize our church's efforts to "go green" in as many ways possible, and to help individuals and families become better stewards of God's world, and to advocate for better practices in promoting sustainability.

Open and Affirming Feasibility (Nancy Bellis, Jane Dawson, Ruth Costello, Dana Sideris, Marianne Deacon, Debbie Patterson, Cathy Schmidt)

Purpose: This team would meet to prayerfully discuss and determine whether St. Paul's Church is a good candidate for engaging in the year-long ONA study provided by the United Church of Christ. The work of this task force would be to ponder the message on our church sign that reads "all are welcome." Ultimately, the team will make recommendations to the council and the congregation (with feedback) whether to proceed with the process or not. This would **not** be a decision to become an open and affirming church but merely the process of determining whether we want to begin the conversation.

The planning team for *Let's Talk Church* is Wendy Manser, Ruth Costello, and Pastor Bob. Feel free to contact one of them if you have questions or ideas. As with anything crucial to church life, we always welcome your prayers.

If you are able to attend on March 9, please contact Lena in the church office either in person, via email, or by calling the church office. We will need a head count by March 5th. We were grateful to Donna Butler for providing lunch at our first retreat and we're hoping another generous soul will step-up for our next session.

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Movie Watch Party #2 – *Amistad* (March 3 after worship)

Please consider joining Pastor Bob for another movie watch party; Steven Spielberg's, *Amistad*. The story that inspired the film actually has historical connections with the UCC.

Synopsis: In 1839, 55 Africans who had been captured in the slave trade struck out for their freedom while being transported out of Havana, Cuba, on a schooner called La Amistad. The captives successfully took over the ship and ordered the crew to sail back to Africa, but weeks later the ship ended up far north, at the tip of Long Island, New York. U.S. officials boarded the ship, arrested the captives and jailed them in Connecticut.

While President Martin Van Buren sought to extradite the Africans to Cuba to pacify Spain, they were befriended by Christian abolitionists, many belonging to churches that are now part of the United Church of Christ. This group of abolitionists was led by Lewis Tappan, Rev. Joshua Leavitt and Rev. Sim-eon Jocelyn, raised money for their legal defense, including former President John Quincy Adams, arguing that they had been illegally captured and imported as enslaved workers.

The case was appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which declared the captives free in 1841. This abolitionist victory helped create momentum for the formation in 1846 of the American Missionary Association. This interracial agency's work in education, discipleship and justice eventually became part of the national mission structure of the United Church of Christ which continues to this day.

We will gather after the worship service on Sunday March 3. Once again, we plan on ordering pizza to be delivered directly to the church. No need to sign up in advance, just show up and enjoy the fellowship and discussion in the lounge.

Pastor Bob

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Worship Opportunities (February-March)

February 4: 5th [Sunday](#) After Epiphany

Scripture: Mark 1:29-39

Sermon Theme: *There's Plenty of Jesus to Go Around*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

February 11: Transfiguration Sunday

Scripture: Mark 9:2-9

Sermon Theme: *What Color is God's Skin?*

Note: Faith, Food, and Fellowship Sunday in fellowship hall

February 14: Ash Wednesday

7:00 p.m. – Worship

Worship Theme: *Children of the Earth*

February 18: 1st Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 25:1-10, Mark 1:9-15

Sermon Theme: *Soul Screening*

February 25: 2nd [Sunday in Lent](#)

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23; Hosea 11:1, 2 Corinthians: 4:8-9

Sermon Theme: *The Flight into Egypt!*

Note: Guest preacher, Rev. Dave Strang

March 3: 3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 19

Sermon Theme: *Of the Lord*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

March 10: 4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 3:14-21

Sermon Theme: *God So Loves the World – Present Tense*

Note: Faith, Food, and Fellowship Sunday in fellowship hall

March 17: 5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Sermon Theme: *The Days Are Surely Coming*

March 24: 6th [Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday](#)

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11

Sermon Theme: *Everyone Loves A Parade*

March 31: Easter Sunday

Scripture: – Mark 16:1-8

Sermon Theme: *In Your Resurrections*



February, 2024

I am writing this on Groundhog Day, the date which is the mid point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. Punxsutawney Phil (and hopefully Woodstock Willie) has just predicted an early spring! We can only hope he is right. I find this time of year, a time for reflection. What worked well in the past, and what change is necessary as we move into the season of rebirth. St. Paul's is facing its own sense of rebirth.

I want to thank everyone who participated in our annual congregational meeting and remind you if you haven't submitted your ballot, you have until February 14th to do so. Extra ballots and copies of the annual report will be available at the information desk.

I also want to reiterate Pastor Bob's reminder of "Let's Talk Church" on March 9th. It is essential that we have as many perspectives and ideas as possible.

As the Council convenes on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, I personally look forward to working with this dedicated group of members who are committed to the work of St. Paul's.

I will do my best to keep you abreast of relevant issues as they arise. If you have any questions or concerns as we move forward this year, please do not hesitate to contact me at **wendy0506@att.net**.

I certainly do not have all the answers, but I will do my best to find the right people to address them.

In God's Service,
Wendy Manser Church Council President

Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Scott McDowd	2/2
Calvin Reckamp	2/4
Lauren Henneman	2/4
Jake Monahan	2/4
Nancy Haskins	2/6
Hannah Virzi	2/7
Harry Speros	2/7
Dick Hautzinger	2/9
Becky Berghorn	2/10
Fred Mullard	2/11
Jan Czosnyka	2/11
Olivia Pagnotta	2/14
Anthony Tuscano	2/16

Bonnie Goldman	2/17
Sammie Kay	2/17
Rodney Hopkins	2/18
Sondra Matterness	2/19
Cheryll Triefenbach	2/19
Donna Layne-Albano	2/19
Jennifer Wikman	2/26
Arlene Tuscano	2/26
Andrew Chappell	2/26
Karen Ryberg	2/26
Jill Gapp	2/27
Amanda Lotesto	2/27



Sharon Dieball	3/1
Erik Ogle	3/1
Luke Eckhardt	3/2
Rosanne Zickus	3/3
David Kranz	3/8
Barb Kriegel	3/9
Abigail Wikman	3/9
Meg Reckamp	3/11
Layla Lawson	3/12
Cathy Schmidt	3/13
Lisa MacKenzie	3/13

John Arvidson	3/17
Regina Lombardo	3/19
Deborah Sroka	3/20
Joe Rickard	3/23
Riley MacKenzie	3/24
Donald Roxworthy	3/25
Jean Fleenor	3/25
Ken Thrun	3/27
Mary Katenhusen	3/28
Noah Virzi	3/29
Janice Bordignon	3/31

Church News



Aspire - "an evening of laughter, learning, stories, and music" for Christian women, is again coming to Huntley. **Save the date! Saturday, March 9 at 6:00 p.m.** This year, the Aspire worship team is made up of the original 3 ladies who first brought this event to us in 2019, and they are AMAZING! This is a completely new team from last year, and their message is inspirational, uplifting, and just plain fun. It is appropriate for middle school age and above.

If we can get a group of 10, tickets will be \$25 each. Individual tickets at the door are \$30. **Please contact Cathy Schmidt to get in on the group order by February 25.** A sign-up sheet will also be available in the marketplace of Narthex. Payment would be due when the tickets arrive. (See Cathy for "scholarship" tickets if the cost is an issue.)



Aspire

Author & Bible Teacher
MELISSA SPOELSTRA



Comedy by
KRISTIN WEBER-WITTY



Music by
MIA KOEHNE



1 night – 3 hours
Just for Women
An evening full of laughter,
learning, stories & music

SATURDAY MARCH 9, 2024

**SPRINGBROOK
COMMUNITY CHURCH**
10115 W. ALGONQUIN RD.
HUNTLEY, IL 60142

6:00PM SHOW
5:30PM GA DOORS OPEN
5:00PM VIP DOORS OPEN

ADVANCE TICKETS
General Admission – \$30
VIP/Reserved – \$40
Group tickets for 10 or more – \$25
VIP/Reserved Groups for 10 or more – \$35.
Group sales call 480-812-1100

VIP/Reserved Includes: Snack Bag, Early Entry, Reserved Seat, Pre-show Q-n-A

Purchase tickets at **480-812-1100**
or online at:
ASPIREWOMENSEVENTS.com



Church News

 **Adult Fellowship**

CARDS & GAME DAY

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25
ST. PAUL'S FELLOWSHIP HALL
11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

BRING SNACKS TO SHARE, YOUR OWN BEVERAGES AND A PACKED LUNCH, IF YOU LIKE. WE CAN ALSO ORDER PIZZAS.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME
NO RSVP NEEDED!**



**NEW
GROUP**

**ADULT
FELLOWSHIP**



 **SAVE THE DATE**

EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH

START AT 10:00 AM

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
485 W. Woodstock St.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Invite your families, friends, and neighbors!



Church News



Altar Guild Lily Sale

January has seemed like a long month, and I know so many of us at St. Paul's are looking forward to sunshine, warmer temperatures, and spring. Easter is early this year, on March 31, so let's hope the weather warms up by then. Lent will be here soon as Easter preparations begin. The Altar Guild will again be selling lilies to decorate the church for our glorious Easter service. The final price of the lilies is unknown but may increased in cost over the past year. The guild wanted to give you notice so that you could plan accordingly. Thank you for your continued support in decorating the church and enhancing our weekly services together.

Please look for your friendly Altar Guild representatives in the narthex. The ladies will be taking orders at the end of February and early March. More information will be coming about the sale.

Please follow the Church Chatter for all of this news.

Warmly,
The Altar Guild



Usher Schedule

**February
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.**

USHERS

February 4th

Ken Thrun - Captain
Joe & Jan Rickard
Greeter: Marianne Deacon
Liturgist: Kevin Kruse

February 11th

Jim Henneman - Captain
Lauren Henneman & Bill Berghorn
Greeter: Steve & Margaret Tobin
Liturgist: Eric Mason

February 14th

Ash Wednesday 7 pm

Ushers: Ken & Karen Hansen
Greeter: Ann Lingner

February 18th

Ken Hansen - Captain
Karen Hansen & Jane Dawson
Greeter: Ken & Barb Thrun
Liturgist: Jane Dawson

February 25th

John Whetham - Captain
Kevin Kruse & Nancy Bellis
Greeters: Jane Dawson
Liturgist: Fred Mullard

**March
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.**

USHERS

March 3rd

Rob Revak - Captain
Joe & Jan Rickard
Greeter: Marianne Deacon
Liturgist: TBD

March 10th

Ken Thrun - Captain
Steve Tobin & John Vogt
Greeter: Jane Dawson
Liturgist: TBD

March 17th

Ken Thrun - Captain
Wendy Manser & Wendy Domanico
Greeter: Steve & Margaret Tobin
Liturgist: TBD

March 24th

John Whetham - Captain
Ann Lingner & Bill Eich
Greeters: Jane Dawson
Liturgist: TBD

March 31st

Ken Hansen - Captain
Karen Hansen & Elizabeth Speros
Greeters: Ken & Barb Thrun
Liturgist: TBD

St. Paul's Prayer List



St. Paul's Members

Dick & Jean Hautzinger, Marianne Spencer

St. Paul's Homebound Friends

Arlene Kopsell

Deceased Members and Friends

Alex Alexeyuk, Marilyn Koch,
Linda DeBolt (sister to Jane Dawson)

Friends

Erica, Shawn Warren (brother-in-law of Pastor Bob)

Military - Stateside

Todd Whetham, Beth Roxworthy

Sponsored Children

Alberly (Dominican Republic), Andrian (Indonesia), Daniel W. (Indonesia), Nicole V. (Bolivia), Nicole S. (USA), Tran Thi Chin (Vietnam), Breny (Columbia), Alfred (Tanzania), Isack S. (Tanzania), Maria, Jobenta

St. Paul's UCC
485 Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

Phone: 815-459-5096

E-mail: info@stpaulsucccl.org | Website: www.stpaulsucc-cl.org

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram: [stpauls_ucc_cl](https://www.facebook.com/stpauls_ucc_cl)

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Via Facebook Live or streaming on website.

Church Office Hours | 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

St. Paul's Vision

Call to serve

Our

Neighbors' and Members'

Needs by

Engaging as

Christ's people

Through service and Love

Follow Us on Social Media!

Keep up with St. Paul's latest news, information, and connection. LIKE and share our on social media.



Church Staff

Pastor Bob Wang

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Office Manager, Lena Vocalino

815-459-5096 - info@stpaulsucccl.org

Church Council

Wendy Manser, Council President

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Donna Butler, Council Vice President

815-451-1114 - butlersmail6@yahoo.com

Linda Ticknor, Secretary

815-382-8295 - lindaticknor@gmail.com

Fred Mullard, Treasurer

224-629-3755 - mullard@mc.net

Jennifer Good, Financial Secretary

815-245-3287- jennifer.a.good@gmail.com

Ruth Costello

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Steve Tobin

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Give the Gift of SCRIP



IN STOCK SCRIP CARDS as of November 28th, 2023

Amazon	10 @ \$25
Best Buy	1 @ \$25
Buffalo Wild Wings	2 @ \$25
Chili's	4 @ \$25
Chipotle	3 @ \$10
Darden (Olive Garden)	8 @ \$25
Dunkin'	6 @ \$10
Fannie May	5 @ \$10
Home Depot	2 @ \$100
IHOP	1 @ \$25
Jewel	2 @ \$25/11 @ \$100
Kohl's	4 @25/1 @ \$100
LL Bean	1 @ \$100
Mariano's	3 @ \$50
Menards	2 @ \$100
Panera	6 @ \$10
Red Lobster	8 @ \$25
Shell	7 @ \$50
Speedway	12 @ \$25/1 @ \$100
Starbucks	7 @10/ 10 @ \$25
Synergy (Mobil)	3 @ \$50
Steinmart	1 @ \$25
Subway	3 @ \$10
Synergy (Mobile)	4 @ \$50
Target	2 @ \$25
TJ Maxx (Sierra, HomeGoods, Marshall)	2 @ \$100
Walmart	8 @ \$250

If you need any of the above cards, they can be dropped off at church for pick up. If you want to order any particular cards, please let me know. As always, checks are made payable to St. Paul's. **Karen Radovich** nuknees@mc.net

EASY AND CONVENIENT

These products make it easy to earn on the go.

PrestoPay™

The secure online payment system for families that lets them pay for orders and receive e-gift cards and reload their cards immediately.

MyScripWallet™

Our mobile website where families can buy physical gift cards, reloads, and eGift cards. Directly onto their phones great for when you are in line at a store. you can reload or buy cards to go straight to your phone!