



**St. Paul's**  
United Methodist Church

# The Messenger

## September 2021

**St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

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# Our Hurting World

## SEPTEMBER HURTING WORLD OFFERING

The Missions Committee has chosen “Operation Classroom – Liberia” as the recipient of our September Hurting World Offering. Operation Classroom is a non-profit organization that partners with the United Methodist Church in Liberia and Sierra Leone to improve secondary education. There is a desperate need to educate young men and women in fields where employment is a possibility – especially in agriculture, engine mechanics, and construction. With unemployment at over 50%, these are fields where immediate employment is a real possibility. Operation Classroom provides scholarships to allow students who would otherwise be unable to attend school to get an education. This equips them with the knowledge and skills they need to provide for themselves and their families, as well as provide ethical Christian leadership within their communities. For more information, please check out the bulletin board in the Narthex or look online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/3020494/> or <https://www.operationclassroom.org/> The Hurting World Offering will be received the last Sunday of the month, or you may designate “September Hurting World” whenever it is most convenient for you to give your offering. Please prayerfully consider supporting this ministry.

**The Monday Morning Women's Bible Study group**—will be starting again on Monday, September 13th at 9:30 AM. All women are welcome. We will be studying Max Lucado's book of Ephesians.



**Brunch Bunch**—We will gather for brunch on Friday, September 10th at 9:00am. This time we will meet at Bob Evans on Kalamazoo Ave. for our first brunch in a long time. Please let me know if you will be attending by email (lynneve6@sbcglobal.net ) or text/call (616-822-5948). I look forward to seeing you! Lynn Penninga

**Adult Sunday School**—will begin September 12th, about 10 minutes after the worship service. We will meet in the basement fellowship hall. We will have 5 weeks of videos and then a discussion about what we have learned after each video. The videos are called "Faith Lessons on the Promised Land" and are narrated by Ray VanderLaan from The World May Know series featured by Focus on the Family. Get your coffee and cookies and come join us after church. You will be blessed with new knowledge and great fellowship. See you there!

**Altar Flowers**— There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex for Altar flowers. Please feel free to sign up. You may request what type of arrangement you would like. The cost is \$35.00



**In the Image**—is hosting a tour for those interested at 10:00am and 3:00pm on September 23rd. They will explain their processes, needs and, how volunteers can help.

**Generosity**  
changes everything

## **OTW - Over The Wall**

We are collecting supplies for teachers at Hamilton School through September 5th. Please bring your items to church and place them in the basket by the OTW table. The needs are: paper towels, kleenex, napkins, small paper plates, small paper cups, hand sanitizer, stickers, Clorox wipes, dry erase markers, post-it notes, goldfish crackers and fruit snacks.

## **Bible Study**

The Thursday Evening Women's Bible Study will finish the last three sessions of the study on Paul that were paused due to the pandemic. We will begin a new study in October. Further info to come in September.



# St. Paul's Church Council Meeting Summary

August 17, 2021

**Pastor Bri** – 1) Church conference will be Thursday, November 11. SPRC will meet at 6:30 pm. Church council will meet at 7:15 pm for the church conference. Both meetings will be via Zoom. Paperwork for conference will be due Nov. 1. 2) She is researching and networking to get ideas for children's/adult/ inter-generational ministries. There are many ideas out there that she's sorting through. 3) Thank you for the prayers for their health after family camp. So far, all of their covid tests have been negative.

**Worship** – Pam White reported Worship Committee will meet after worship on Sunday, August 22. They will include discussions on congregational singing and communion.

**Over the Wall** – 1) In the Image is doing their shoe give-away for school children on August 16-19. St. Paul's has some people who will work from 5:30 to 8 pm on Thurs., Aug. 19. 2) We are collecting supplies for baskets for Hamilton teachers through Sunday, Sept. 5. Some supply lists asked for small paper clips, but it should have read small paper cups. A new list will be emailed to all. Some programs at Hamilton don't start until Sept. 20, so the baskets will be distributed close to that date.

**Missions** – 1) Hurting World offering for Sept. is for Operation Classroom – Liberia. 2) October's Hurting World Offering will go to support the Gideon Association for Bible distribution. We will have a speaker from the Gideon organization sometime in October. 3) November and December Hurting World will go to the Hamilton School families' Christmas gifts. 4) Total Hurting World Offerings collected so far in 2021 are \$7,560. In addition to that, \$680 in 2020 Christmas offerings were sent out in Jan., 2021.

**SPRC** – 1) Church conference is Thursday, November 11, 2021. 2) SPRC is working on getting an organist for St. Paul's. 3) SPRC has not talked about nursery staffing yet.

**Finance** – Lyndon Wood distributed financial reports. July was a bad month since donations dropped. It was also a 3-paycheck month for staff members, so expenses were higher. Our income is still better than was budgeted.

**Trustees** – 1) Trustees did not meet in August. 2) A question was raised about the status of air conditioning unit replacement. We have the funds to cover this expense. The project is in progress. 3) What about all the lights in the coat room? Glenn stated they were donated from the cathedral downtown. He's waiting on a quote from an electrician to improve sanctuary lighting, especially in the chancel area. 4) A question was raised about our audio equipment and the on-line Sunday service. Is it ok or do we need to improve it? After some discussion, it was decided that the Trustees need input from the congregation about this. We also need more church members trained to operate the sound equipment. If we make improvements, will it bring more people in the door?

**213 Task Force** – 1) Sharon Gould and Pastor Bri have discussed the history of the 213 Task Force and future make-up of the group, but Bri would like time to digest everything. Sharon will have a meeting with the remaining members of the 213 Task Force in the future. 2) Sharon knows of a couple, Bob and Laura Keeley, who are very involved with children’s ministries. Laura will do 1 consultation at no cost. Sharon will look into this. 3) Children’s sermons have resumed.

**Scouts** – Bishop Bard, Bishop of Michigan, has sent a letter asking United Methodist Churches in Michigan who charter (sponsor) any type of Boy Scout troop, asking them to end their charter relationship as of Dec. 31, 2021 due to uncertainties associated with the law suits against the Boy Scouts for child abuse and the Boy Scouts’ resulting bankruptcy. He recommends that if any relationship is kept, churches may allow troops to meet in their buildings under a “Facilities Use Agreement.” Some council members don’t like abandoning Troop 200. How is liability associated with the scouts different from liability associated with having Sunday School or a youth group? Glenn will research this and see what additional costs there may be for a rider to the church’s insurance policy to protect the church and those church members that work with scouts. He will discuss this with the Trustees at their Sept. 14 meeting. It can then be discussed further at the next church council meeting. If St. Paul’s isn’t going to charter Troop 200 after the end of the year, the troop leadership needs to know in the next month or so, in order to have time to find a new chartering organization.

**Nominating Committee** – This will start in the next month or so.

**Miscellaneous** – Face Masks – We’re still using the guidelines established in July. At this time, masks are recommended, but not required.

**Miscellaneous** – Prayer Cards – Dorothy Lehmann asked if they can they be used? Yes. Ushers will collect them and give them to Bri. It is hard for people to hear when prayer requests are spoken from the congregation. It will be better when Bri shares prayer requests from the pulpit with a mic. It was also requested that Sunday’s prayer requests go out early in the week on the prayer chain. Heather Emmons can do this.

**Miscellaneous** -- A larger sign has been put out front about not accepting donations of household items and clothes.

The next regular church council meeting will be Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 7 pm.

Friends,

I don't know what the weather is like when you're reading this newsletter, but right now, as I sit here writing it, it's HOT! The temperature has been a sticky 90 degrees or more for days now, and though it cools off overnight, every afternoon brings yet another suffocating heat wave.

Don't get me wrong: I'm thankful for these last days of summer. I'm doing everything I can to savor them, to soak up this warmth and store it in my bones for the long winter that's to come. At the same time, however, this heat has renewed my appreciation for the simple things in life - specifically, for a simple glass of ice water.

Have you found yourself reaching for a cold drink during these hot days? Have you been reminded, too, just how refreshing, how nourishing, something so simple can be? Have you found yourself thirsty - and then sated, with one cold glass full of the simple stuff of life?

I'm reminded of Psalm 42, which describes the way our souls crave God, just like our bodies crave water: "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul longs after you. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God." How has your soul thirsted for God lately?

Maybe it's a vague sense that something is missing in your life. Maybe it's a feeling of restlessness, like an itch that you just can't scratch. Maybe you've been struck with a sense of helplessness as you watch the news, and you've been searching for a ray of hope. Maybe your life has been filled with grief - or maybe things are great, and you're soaking up this season of goodness, while at the same time you feel compelled to thank the Giver of all good gifts.

Whatever you're feeling, the truth is that our souls are made to thirst for God. Nothing else will satisfy us; nothing else will fill our hearts or quench the longing in our souls.

Thankfully, God's grace is easy to find. Just turn to God, and ask! Simply admit your thirst; God stands ready to fill you with living water, with the water of God's grace and presence, the water of God's love, water that will fill your soul.

May your thirsting soul be filled with grace,

Pastor Bri

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## September Birthday's

Mary Lou Fassett—2nd  
Bill Van Port Fleet—2nd  
Lyndon Wood—4th  
Marilyn Griffin—6th  
Adam Caro—7th  
Rosita McKenzie—8th  
Amanda Walter—11th  
Bill Vert—13th  
Marilyn Grimes—14th  
Wendell Strait—16th  
Christine Bonk—16th  
Pat Bacon—17th  
Ruth Hagan—17th  
Bob Metzger—17th  
Bonnie Widmayer—18th  
Allison Pall—21st  
Brenda Haney—23rd  
Natalie Caro—26th  
Norma Walchak—27th  
Linda Smith—30th

