

Maturing as God's Children

We are called to be God's children. It is how we inherit eternal life in God's Reign. We are to be grateful towards our Creator. We are to trust in Jesus' promises in the same way a healthy child trusts. We are to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit with the energy and enthusiasm of a young child.

We are also to mature as Christians. We are to continually become more like our Triune God. We are to continually grow in love of our neighbor. We are to dedicate time to spiritual exercises that help us deepen our trust and belief. We are to mature towards a vibrant faith.

However, too often when it comes to things of the church, we act immaturely. We react automatically out of the reptilian (survival) and mammalian (emotional) portions of our brain. We become quickly offended, easily provoked, and demanding. We blame, criticize, compete, and think in polarizing terms. We are uptight, covert, defensive, and create one-sided solutions. We expect the church to remain like we remember it from our teens.

Mature Christians endeavor to work out of the 85% of the human brain that comprises the cerebral hemisphere. Instead of being reactive, we become responsive, intentional, and thoughtful. We are self-managing, resourceful, open, and aware. We embrace a breadth of understanding and allow time for things to process. We define ourselves from within and learn when challenged. We collaborate, create options, and stay in touch even when tension grows. We are clear, objective, and purposeful.

In the book of Genesis, God shapes creation. Chaos becomes a carefully planned system that continues to adapt and evolve. In Christian tradition, our Triune God is three separate persons- and yet one. Our Creator chooses to be a gracious God who covenants with the created world. Jesus observes the traditions of his Hebraic origin but also breaks rigid human borders as he speaks to women in public, heals on the Sabbath, and dines with sinners. The Holy Spirit both creates and empowers us to be the Body of Christ in the world today. They work individually and cooperatively to usher in and further God's Reign.

In this new creation, we are free to journey with and serve as the Body of Christ in the world today. God's grace and mercy continually gift us. Trust is our ongoing response to God's faithfulness. Righteousness is a new and right relationship with God. Christian love becomes about embracing all of God's children. There is diversity in unity. There is individualism in cooperation.

As God's children, we're not to give our attention to human inconsistencies and sin. We are to be creative and focus on God, nurture healthy relationships, and become more mature in our journey as heirs to God's Reign. We are to make this world a more Godly place in which to live.

SURVEY:

The Church Counsel is looking for your input to help make the best decisions for the congregation. It is important to get as much input as possible so just a few people are not speaking for the whole congregation. Please have each church member in your family fill out a survey and return it either by mail or by dropping it in the box in the back of the church. If you need an extra copy, they will be in the office. Thank you in advance! Your input is very valuable.



We Live Stream to You Tube on 10 am on Sunday morning. www.youtube.com in the box up on the top put in St. Paul's Attica or here is the direct link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi2hK62nkmeNAMJwMpchvJw>.

It will be posted to Facebook after the broadcast.

If you feel able to help we still need volunteers to learn and do the sound on a Sunday am. You can sit right at your seat. There is a sample bulletin for you to follow.

This the easiest way to help without much training.

Pray for our Shut-ins



Bev West

Larry Taylor

...and others who are physically unable to join us.
Why not call or visit, to let them know they are missed?



Congratulations to
Meg Baker and Emily Peters
on being inducted into the
Technical National Honor Society.



And
Congratulations
Lauren West
making the
Dean's List



Attica Food Link Distribution:

Attica Presbyterian Church
April 3
10am-12pm

—1st come 1st served , Bring your own bags
This will be for the next six month period.
Sponsored by Attica Food Pantry

DUNKIRK CAMPERS

Online registration is now Open—See Bulletin Board
for scholarship requirements and sign up.
Last call to sign up for summer scholarships is March 31st.



Bible Studies

Dig Deeper with Friends



Bible Study groups will meet in our respective areas.
If you have additional questions or concerns,
contact the Convener:

Lisa Knerr- Mon. evening, 7 pm
Charles- Wed. morning, 10 am

Sunday Bible readings:

The first reading is *italicized*; the message text is **bold**.

April 7

Acts 4.32-35

Psalm 133

April 14

Acts 3:1-3,6-8,11-21

1 John 3.1-3

April 21

1 John 3.16-24

Acts 4:1-3,5-12

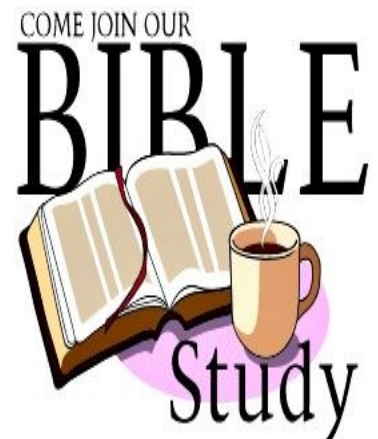
April 28

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8



Join us for a Tea party with God Retreat

April 20th—10am to 2 pm

Lunch will be served

For all the women of St. Paul's
other churches and Friends

Reservations due by April 11th

Bring your Favorite Tea Cup or mug



The Sixty-first Annual Meeting of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ will convene at the Holiday Inn, Binghamton, New York, beginning at 1:00 PM on Friday, May 31, 2024, and will be in session until after the Closing Service of Worship on Saturday, June 1, 2024. The Continuing Education Institute (Learning Institute) will take place on Thursday, May 30 and conclude Friday morning May 31. Each member Church of the Conference is entitled to representation by two lay delegates. If you are interested, contact Pastor Laurie.

Save the Date: NYACIC meeting

You are invited to attend Western New York Area Churches in Covenant Worship and Workshops on May 4th from 9am-2pm at Church of the Nativity in Tonawanda.

Pastor Laurie will be attending.
Let her know if you're interested.
Thank you!

MAY 4TH

WNYACIC Spring Meeting
WORKSHOPS &
ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL FOR
HOPE SCHWARTZ

9:00 Registration

9:30 Worship (Led by WAY) and Recognitions

10:15-11:10 Session I (choose one to attend)

A. "35 and unders" led by Guinevere Blue & Pastor Josh Bower

B. Using social media for outreach led by Rev. Elizabeth Duffy & Rev. Paul Werner

11:15-12:10 Session II (choose one to attend)

A. Building Up a New World: Congregational Organizing for Transformative Impact led by Rev. Ann Dunlap

B. NARCAN Training

12:15-1:15 Lunch, Announcements, and Presentation by the "35 and unders"

1:15 Hope Schwartz's Ecclesiastical Council

SCHEDULE

Location:

Church of the Nativity, UCC
1530 Colvin Blvd.
Tonawanda, NY

Watch for registration email in April.

CONGRATS TO

Josh Kipfer on being top scorer of his grade for the entire region & qualified for the state mathematics competition—which pushed them into 1st place for the season.

And

Emily Peters for bringing home a title on the Scholastic Bowl team.

WAY TO GO!!!

EASTER FLOWERS

In Honor of:

Family
My Family
Lena, Emma, Anna, Aubrey & Dad
Janet Paine, Josh, Andy & Michael
PopPop
Jennifer Eddy & Nicole Breedlove
Parents
Bev West & Larry Taylor
Family

From:

Edie Almeter
Laurie Bellucci
Ruth Hopfinger
Linda Paine Hughes
The Kipfer family
Marie Lowe
Vicki Silvernail
Mike & Mary West
Marilyn Wilson

In Memory of:

Kathy
Larry, Mom & Dad
Donna Wickins & Rod MacLane
Jason Henskee
Mom and Aunt Mar
Jack Paine
Grandma Floss, Aunt Mar
Florence Williman, Marian Brunn
Loved Ones
Marie Taylor & Dorcas Taylor
Marie Taylor, John West
Floss
Family
Family members

From:

Joe & Elaine Amedick
Laurie Bellucci
Debbie, Dave & Kyle Best
Diane Carter
Ruth Hopfinger
Linda Paine Hughes
The Kipfer family
Marie Lowe
Peters family
Larry Taylor
Mike & Mary West
Charles Williman
Marilyn Wilson
Lorraine Wolf

SAVE THE DATE:

June 9th
St. Paul's Church Picnic
following worship

BBQ Pork Sandwiches
Hotdogs, Hamburgs, rolls and drinks will be supplied

Bring a dish to share



CHURCH COUNCIL

Meeting was called to order @6:56 pm by President Mary West. Members in attendance- Mary West, Laurie Bellucci, Lorraine Wolf, Justin Kipfer, Jeff Peters, John Brandon, David Williman, Debbie Best, Chris Eddy, Marie Lowe, Pastor Laurie.

Pastor Laurie opened with prayer.

Agenda reviewed and motion to accept by Jeff, seconded by Marie- all in favor- motion carried

January minutes reviewed, motion to accept by Laurie seconded by Lorraine-all in favor. Motion carried

Reports:

Deacons discussed 50 year members, ushers/greeters and lay-reader signups. Reviewed process of choosing hymns in public domain.

Trustees - removal of Epiphany star was done, Advent streamers hung, kitchen vents were cleaned, kitchen inspection was done, lock chambers for back door ordered, motion lights for back of church to be installed, plan to hang flags.

Christian Education- discussed early bird signups for Dunkirk camp, have 32 baskets for raffle.

Pastors report- scheduled vacations and supply minister, also emergency contact during vacations. No Lenten lunches as there are no other ministers available to assist, will have Maundy Thursday service with potluck dinner and communion .

Good Friday services will be held at St. Paul's.

Treasurer report reviewed- will put quarterly report in newsletter. Discussed shortage in giving.

Motion to accept all reports made by LaurieDebbie- all in favor. Motion carried

Business:

Welcomed new members- Jeff and Justin. Chris repeating term New roster will be made and distributed. Church Historian will be Jimmy Neary. Updated emergency call list will be completed and distributed.

Discussed annual meeting- no questions raised.

Discussed upcoming pancake breakfast on Feb 25th- supplies, setup and duties assigned.

Counting schedule completed.

Discussed inside garage sale for March 9th. Have 17 tables at present. Sharon Bey to provide food.

Goals discussed for 2024: Will need to stress increased giving to maintain budget- additional \$200/ week is needed. John discussed new back doors and showed examples of doors. Will need to repair driveway and seal parking lot this year.

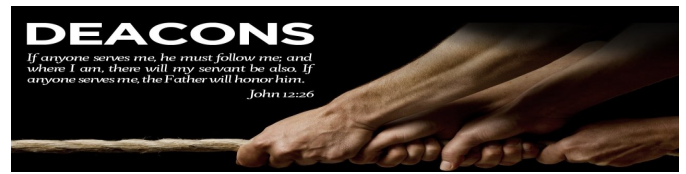
Discussed other fundraising events.

Next meeting is March 19, 2024 7pm

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted

Marie Lowe, Secretary



DEACONS MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

Pastor Laurie led us in prayer.

Members Present: Laurie Bellucci, Mary West, John Brandon, Lorraine Wolf, Justin Kipfer, Jeff Peters and Pastor Laurie.

Agenda reviewed and motion to accept made by John Brandon and seconded by Justin Kipfer. Motion carried.

January 21, 2024 minutes reviewed and motion made to accept by Mary West and seconded by John Brandon with correction. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

After Pastor Laurie checked records, she found that Joanne Ripstein will be a 50 Year Member this year. Tentative date for celebration is October 6th.

NEW BUSINESS

Reviewed Deacons responsibilities which include sign up for Lay Readers, Ushers and Greeters, serve Communion and sign up for counting the offering.

Went over Pastor Laurie's vacation dates for 2024.

Discussion held regarding Hymns that are not Public Domain due to streaming. Pastor Laurie explained.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm with Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting March 19, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Wolf, Deacons Secretary

TRUSTEE MEETING

February 20, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present Members; David, Debbie and Marie .

Took down star

Put up purple streamers

Inspection: Preschool door was fixed courtesy of Steve and Carl

Kitchen vents do not have to be professionally cleaned

Talked about moving flags and putting up motion lights

New lock chambers were ordered

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

Next meeting: March 19, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Best



April Parish Notes

April- possible meaning to the Roman word Aprillis is the Latin verb aperire which means “ to open”, because in April the buds of leaves and flowers open.

Alcohol Awareness Month is in April. Most people who struggle with alcohol abuse often underestimate the amount they drink, the duration of the problem, the impact it has on their life and overestimate their ability to control or the impact it has on their life, and overestimate their ability to control or quit. Denial is very common among friends and family who are uncomfortable acknowledging the gravity and reality of the situation. There are an estimated 14.4 million Americans who have a drinking problem, and 31% of overall driving fatalities are alcohol related. If you or your family or friends have a drinking concern, please seek help: there are many available resources.

Parkinson’s awareness occurs in April. Parkinson’s is a disorder of the nervous system that affects movements, often including tremors. Symptoms may be tremors, slowness of movement, limb stiffness, and/or gait and balance problems. There are more than 200,000 US cases yearly; it is the 14th leading cause of death. There is no definitive cause, but scientists believe a combination of genetic and environmental are the cause. There are treatment options including lifestyle adjustments and surgery. The course progression is usually slow and eventually a person’s daily routine activities may be affected and become challenging. There are support groups which help family deal with the challenges.

Stress awareness month draws attention to the negative impact of stress. Managing stress is an essential component of a healthy lifestyle. Knowing how to manage stress can improve mental and physical well-being as well as minimize exacerbation of health-related issues. Long term stress may continue to or worsen range of health problems; digestive disorders, headaches, sleep disorders; can worsen asthma and has been linked to depression, anxiety, and other mental illness. Many ways to help destress are available: yoga, relaxation techniques, exercise or meditation/ pray. If you or someone you know is struggling, call your local mental health department or call/text 988- available 24/7.

Have some discontinued or expired prescriptions? April 27th- is Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Your local pharmacies will take your unused medications. Clean out that medicine cabinet!

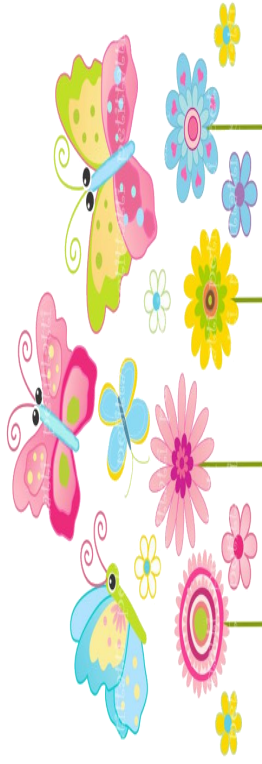
Stay safe, healthy and well!

Here is a reminder—

An alternative option to bringing in canned goods for the “Giving Tree” is to use one of the envelopes on the tree. Add your \$5 or \$10 dollars—or make out a check to the “Attica Food Pantry” and place it in the offering plate.

Thank you





APRIL 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Bible Study 7pm <i>Dorothy Kellogg</i>	2	3 Bible Study 10 am Food Link	4 Chancel Choir 7:15 pm	5	6 <i>Debbie & Dane Best</i>
7 Worship and Communion 10 am <i>Emma Hopfinger</i> <i>Mary West</i>	8 Bible Study 7pm	9	10 Bible Study 10am	11 Sisters In Faith 6pm Chancel Choir 7:15 pm Cathy Abenschein	12 <i>Dave & Jude</i> <i>Williman</i>	13 <i>Ed Bey</i>
14 Worship 10 am	15 Bible Study 7pm <i>Patricia Baker</i> <i>Emily Lovell</i>	16 Deacon/Trustees/ Council meeting 6:30/7 pm	17 Bible Study 10am <i>Debra Kirsch</i>	18 Chancel Choir 7:15 pm	19 <i>Wendy Walsb</i> <i>Vicki Silvermail</i>	20 Sisters In Faith Retreat 10 am— 2 pm
21 Worship 10 am Newsletter Deadline	22 Bible Study 7pm Earth Day 	23	24 Bible Study 10 am	25 Chancel Choir 7:15 pm	26	27 <i>Laurie Bellucci</i>
28 Worship 10 am <i>Marilyn Wilson</i>	29 Bible Study 7pm <i>Ann Wilson</i>	30				

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
11 Washington Street
Attica, NY 14011

SP The Spirit

April 2024

of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Village of Attica

St. Paul's UCC, 11 Washington Street

Just around the corner, first block down from Main Street.

Join us for Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

Sunday School for children K-7th Grade - Nursery always open!

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at St. Paul's."

Reverend Lauran Heidenreich

Call the church at (585-591-2705), stpaulunited@verizon.net or pastorucc@verizon.net

Website: atticaucc.org

May Newsletter Deadline
April 21st

Please make sure all newsletter submissions are in by this date. In the pink folder on the office window or e-mailed to:
stpaulunited@verizon.net