



Sowing Seeds

When I served in Nebraska, a teenage girl walked into the church and asked if I had an envelope. I asked her if a #10 would work. She said, "Yes. Does this church have Bible Camp?" I replied that we have one every year and mentioned the dates for the upcoming Vacation Bible School. She responded that she had attended a few years ago and had truly enjoyed it.

We spoke a little while longer. Then, she asked if we had a ladies room and a water fountain to get water for her dog. I inquired if she had a water bowl, handed her the envelope, and pointed the way to the fountain and bathroom.

A few minutes later, the young lady appeared at the office door and handed me a thick envelope with the words 'Bible Study Camp' written on the outside. She seemed to be in a hurry, so I thanked her for the envelope, and returned to the task at hand. Later when I checked the envelope, I discovered 100 well-worn \$1.00 bills!

In Matthew 13, Jesus shares several parables about the kingdom of heaven. The first is about an indiscriminate sower who throws seeds everywhere! He throws seeds on a path, on rocky ground, among thorns, and on good soil. He understands that his job is not to determine if the soil is good or bad for planting. His job is to have plenty of seeds so that he can sow them everywhere.

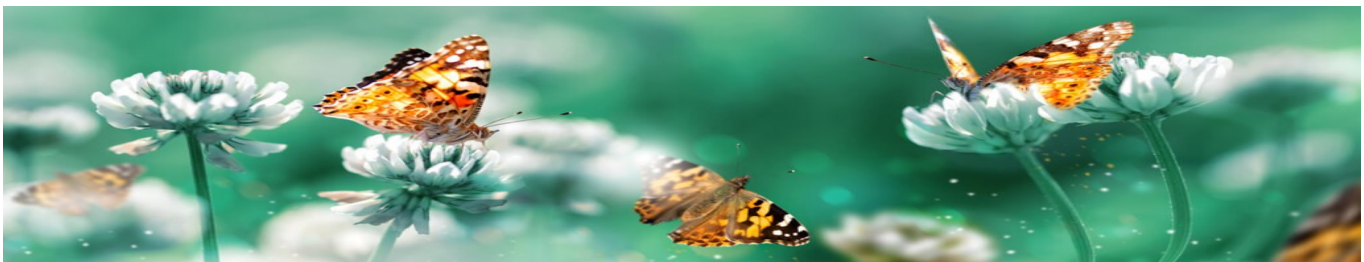
We Christians tend to be too frugal with the seeds we sow. Sometimes it is because we are fearful or uncomfortable with continuing Jesus' ministry of spreading the Good News. Sometimes it is because we decide the 'soil' is barren. All too often, it is because we are too busy gossiping, complaining, blaming, and shaming. Our minds are so full of negative things, we forget we are to be fruitful.

As Christians, we must nurture our relationship with our Triune God, so our spiritual lives bear many seeds. We are to sow this abundance everywhere. We are not to worry about the soil, birds, rocks, or even thorns. We are to have enough seeds so that we might continually throw them everywhere.

All those years ago, a seed was thrown. I do not know if the soil was fertile or if God had to extensively till, weed, and fertilize. But, it grew a teenager who is extremely generous. She is hospitably throwing out the seeds God has given her.

She does not know if a bird will pick up some of the seeds and deposit them elsewhere. She does not know if several will be blown by the wind. She does not know if they will fall among thorns. What she does know is that she must multiply the seed sowed in her, so she has an abundance of seeds to sow.

May God continue to bless her and nurture us towards generously sowing seeds.



Annual Meeting of the New York Conference- May 15-16, 2026

The Annual Meeting of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ will convene at the at Silver Bay Retreat Center in Silver Bay, New York, beginning at 1:00 PM on Friday, May 15, and will be in session until after the Closing Service of Worship on Saturday, May 16. St. Paul's UCC may be represented by two delegates.

If interested, please contact Pastor Laurie.

Pray for our Shut-ins

Russ Wackenheim



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



FOOD LINK
FOOD
distribution event

Wednesday, May 6th

10:00am

ST. VINCENT SCHOOL
72 EAST AVENUE, ATTICA, NY

www.fieldsofgrace.family



The Attica Food Pantry
Located at
121 Prospect Street

Open: Tuesday and Fridays
9 am to 12 Noon



Happy
Mother's Day

*A man's work is from sun to sun,
but a mother's work
is never done.*

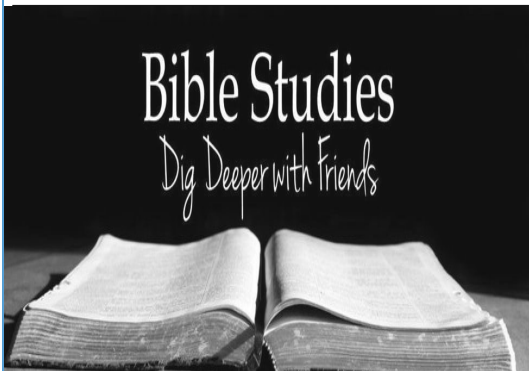
Proverbs 31:28-29

50-Year Member Celebration- October 4

We will be celebrating our members who joined St. Paul's UCC in 1976.

We currently have Howard Barraclough Jr and Wendy (Ripstein) Walsh on the list.

If you believe you are a 50-year member or if you know of someone who should be included, please let us know.



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.6:30pm

Marilyn Wilson-Wed. morning, 10 am

Sunday Bible readings: The first reading is *italicized*; the message text is **bold**.

May 3

1 Peter 2:4-5,9-11,2-3

John 14.1-3,6a,11-12

May 10

1 Peter 3.13-18

John 14.15-21

May 17

John 17:1-2,6-8,11,22-23

Psalms 68.3-7,10

May 24—Pentecost

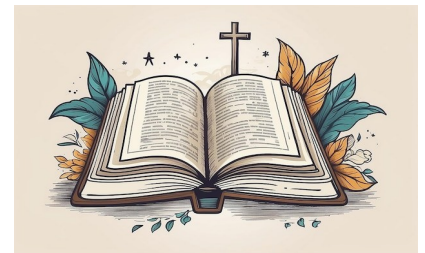
Acts 2:1-4

1 Corinthians 12:4-13

May 31—Trinity Sunday

2 Corinthians 13.11-13

Matthew 28.16-20



COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE

Study

To Whom It May Concern:

We received the following note to whom it may concern:

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude for the support from the Pastor and your parishioners. From the monetary donations, the meals that were planned and your Faith and Prayers, it kept us going. It strengthened our resolve for many weeks during the turmoil. Please accept this small gift as a token of appreciation.

Your outreach into the community is so important, and we would like to pay some of your kindness back so that you may continue to lift the spirits of many more. We are forever grateful.

-The Men and Women of Attica Correctional

CWS Blanket Sunday- May 10

A blanket can provide warmth and comfort when our neighbors have lost everything. Blankets and Kits are dispersed throughout the world to families impacted by hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, and other crises including homelessness and poverty. Look for your donation envelope in this newsletter.



Dedication of Prayer Shawls—May 10th from Sisters In Faith

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is rooted in a simple yet profound idea: using handmade shawls to share comfort and peace. It began in 1998 when the founders of the prayer shawl ministry, Janet Severi Bristow and Victoria Galo, both graduates of the Women's Leadership Institute at Hartford Seminary, started the first prayer shawl ministry.

They saw knitting and crocheting as spiritual practices, a way to weave intention and prayer into every stitch.

On this Mother's day, May 10th, our Sisters In Faith will be dedicating our prayer shawls we have made.



GRADUATES

Graduation Sunday is June 28th

If you have someone in your family that is graduating from High School, Tech School or college, please email the following information. **(along with a picture if possible)** no later than June 21st. The information will be in the July/August newsletter.



Name of graduate

School attended/degree received

Honors/Awards/Scholarships received

Name of college they will be attending and major/future plans

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 24th

Wear your RED T-Shirts

Stay after church and celebrate our
newest members



PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 2026

Attending: Pastor Laurie, Deb Best, Beverly Meyers, Lisa Knerr, Confirmands: Christopher and Eleanore Eddy.

Pastor Laurie opened with a prayer Pastor Laurie will be on vacation from April 14th-21st. Pastor Rosann Lowder, from Orangeville UCC will fill in, in case of emergencies. Angie S will fill in on Sunday 19th.

Pastor Laurie has signed up for the Annual New York Conference meeting. It will take place at Silver Lake May 14th - 6th. In order to save on expenses, Pastor Laurie intends to car pool and share a room.

The concern was noted that the color of the text on the screens in the sanctuary can make it difficult to read. Laurie is aware of this issue.

Lisa Knerr was asked bring up a suggestion to offer ashes on Ash Wednesday at the April Deacon's meeting

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Next meeting July 19th, 2026

Lisa Knerr

CHURCH COUNCIL

March 17, 2026

President Jeff Peters called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Pastor Laurie led us in prayer.

Members present: Tom Baker, Chris Eddy, Jennifer Eddy, Ruth Hopfinger, Lynne Jacoby, Lisa Knerr, Vicki Silvernail, Roy Ticen, David Williman.

Agenda was reviewed and accepted, MMSC Vicki Silvernail, Lisa Knerr. February meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted, MMSC Ruth Hopfinger, Jennifer Eddy.

Reports

Deacons - see report

Trustees - see report

Treasurer - snow removal line will be over budget this year

Christian Education - see report

Pastor Laurie - Pastor will be attending the annual meeting in May, riding and sharing a room with another pastor friend which will save money for both. Pastor received a flyer about international students needing host families. If you are interested and for more information, see flyer posted in hallway.

MMSC for all reports, Tom Baker, Jennifer Eddy

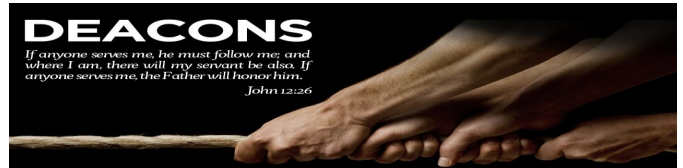
New Business

The Chamber of Commerce asked St. Paul's to sponsor a hole in their annual Golf Tournament. Due to the cost, we respectfully declined.

Jeff shared a postcard from a church in Batavia advertising their Easter services. Discussed the possibility of making a postcard in the future and possibly advertising the Easter Sunrise service on the Methodist Church's electronic sign. It will be advertised on social media. If you are on Facebook/Instagram, please like and share St. Paul's posts. Easter Sunrise Service, April 5th, 6:30am, at Village Park. We will have egg bakes, warm pastries, donuts, coffee, hot chocolate. Sisters in Faith made Easter treats to share.

Roy mentioned that we will have new signs to replace all old signs to advertise all events/special services at St. Paul's. We want to make St. Paul's visible to all. We also will continue to be involved in community events. Our next meeting will be April 21st following the Deacons' and Trustees' meetings. We adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Hopfinger



March 17, 2026

Lisa Knerr called the meeting to order at 6:40pm. Pastor Laurie led us in prayer. Agenda was reviewed and accepted MMSC Ruth Hopfinger, Jennifer Eddy. February meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted MMSC Vicki Silvernail, Lisa Knerr.

April's charts are up on the bulletin board for lay leaders, ushers and greeters. Please sign up if you are available to help.

Pastor Laurie has an article in the upcoming newsletter about the 50 year members. Please let her know if you believe you have been a member of St. Paul's for 50 years.

We updated the membership list. Please let a Deacon or Pastor Laurie know when your address or telephone number change. Thank you!

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd. The service will be in the dining room at 5:30pm. Please bring a dish to pass. Communion will be served.

Good Friday service is at noon on April 3rd in the sanctuary.

We adjourned with The Lord's Prayer

Our next meeting is April 21st at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Hopfinger

TRUSTEES MINUTES

March 17, 2026

Building Inspection Repair completed.

Set up time for sanctuary streamer change.

New minor roof leak.

Summer projects discussed.

David Williman

Head Trustee

May Parish Nurse Notes



May has a few health related dates. National Physical Education & Sports Week stresses the importance in physical education and activity. Sports groups have multiple age and ability groups to keep all of us moving. Regular exercise- after physical approval-is beneficial to improve our overall health and improve our lives. Be sure you stay hydrated and wear proper gear/attire as recommended.

For those able, May 15th is Bike to Work Day. Even if you can't bike to work or are retired, bike riding is a great exercise. May 27th is Senior Health & Fitness Day. All of us over 55 should evaluate programs available through the YMCA and area Senior programs and participate if possible. Many activities are available in our area. Regular exercise helps improve our cardiovascular and skeletal systems, enabling us to be more flexible, have increased stamina, improve our sleep and generally feel better.

Asthma is a respiratory disease which causes inflammation in the lungs which leads to shortness of breath and wheezing. Many treatments are available to reduce and/or prevent flareups. Asthma has a multitude of causes; thus diagnoses and treatments vary. Air quality has long been known to have adverse effects on the respiratory system. Air Quality Awareness Week stresses the causes of poor air quality and the contributing factors. Options for improvement of air quality are many, such as helping to control wildfires and pollutants.

Air quality is important for those with lung disease to be aware of. During times of high humidity and poor air quality, those persons should remain inside in cooler air and keep windows closed. For more information on air quality follow US EPA.

Children's Mental Health is on May 8th. This day is highlighted to address needs of children and the stresses put on them. Emphasis is on early intervention, reducing stigma and overall supporting children's emotional wellbeing. The 5 Cs of mental health are competence, confidence, connection, character, and caring. These form a holistic framework that stresses building self-worth, supportive relationships and maintaining compassionate behavior.

Enjoy the beautiful outdoors as our seasons continue to bloom and grow. Stay safe, wash your hands and stay hydrated.





MAY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Worship and Communion 10 am <i>Waylan Paganello</i>	4 Bible Study 6:30 pm <i>Lani Friedhaber</i> <i>Evelyn Mest</i>	5 <i>Bev Myers</i>	6 Food Link Bible Study 10 am	7 Chancel Choir 6:45 pm	8	9
10 Worship 10 am Happy Mother's Day <i>Finley Paganello</i>	11 Bible Study 6:30 pm	12 <i>Patricia & Tom Baker</i>	13 Bible Study 10 am	14 Sisters In Faith 530p Chancel Choir 6:45 pm Ascension Day NY Conference Learning Event	15 NY Conference Annual Meeting <i>Howard Barracough Jr.</i>	16 ↑
17 Worship 10 am	18 Bible Study 6:30 pm	19 Deacons/ Trustees/6:30 Council 7pm	20 Bible Study 10 am	21 Chancel Choir 6:45 pm	22	23 <i>Charlotte Perry</i>
24 Pentecost Worship & Confirmation 10 am Newsletter deadline	25 Memorial Day Bible Study 6:30 pm <i>Becki Peters</i>	26 <i>Chris & Justin Kipfer</i>	27 Bible Study 10 am	28 Chancel Choir 6:45 pm <i>Lena & Aaron</i> <i>Donabue</i>	29	30
31 Trinity Sunday Worship 10 am						

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



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

*May
2026*

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

June Newsletter Deadline
May 24th

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