St. Paul's 2024 Annual Report

Annual Meeting – January 19, 2025

Agenda

Prayer
Call to Order — Mary West, Council President
Establish Quorum (10% of membership; approximately 15 members)
Adopt Agenda
Approval of Semi Annual Meeting Minutes from July 7, 2024

Treasurer's Report

- 2025 Financials

Accept Church Committee Reports

Old Business

New Business

- 2025 Proposed Budget
- Nominating Committee report
- Election of Committee and Council Members

Review of church safety information

- OTHER

Reading of Minutes

Adjourn

The Lord's Prayer

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES—January 21, 2024

Pastor Laurie led us in prayer

Meeting was called to order by President Mary West with a quorum of 33 established.

Susan McPherson made a motion to adopt the agenda with a correction of the Annual meeting minutes date to January 15, 2023. Justin Kipfer seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. Motion carried. A motion to approve the prior year annual minutes was made by Cris Mahoney, seconded by Jeff Peters. All were in favor; none were opposed; the motion carried.

Treasurers Report

Susan McPherson reported the beginning balance at January 1, 2023 was $4,119.45 and the ending balance at December 31, 2023 was $18,532.54.

Laurie Bellucci made a motion to accept the 2023 financial report as presented. Chris Kipfer seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Ruth Hopfinger made a motion to accept all church reports as presented. Seconded by Becki Peters. All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business

None

New Business

2024 Proposed Budget – It was asked that the agenda be corrected to say "Proposed" budget. Jeff Peters made a motion to adopt the 2024 budget as presented. Motion seconded by Ruth Hopfinger. All were in favor. None were opposed. Motion carried.

Mike West asked if there were any C.D.'s left. Justin answered there are not. We cashed in three CDs in 2023; two in May and one in October. They all went into the operating fund. We only have the parsonage account left, as shown on the investment report.

Discussed who was on the nominating committee and discussed the investment committee and how often they meet.

Nominating Committee Report:

Deacons – Jeff Peters, Justin Kipfer

Trustees – Chris Eddy (a second trustee is still needed)

Christian Ed – Chris Kipfer and Susan McPherson

Memorial Committee – Diane Storch and Cris Mahoney is filling the unexpired term of Michelle Lovell

Investment Committee – Lisa Neary

Pastoral Relations – Deb Best

Jeff Peters made a motion to accept the nomination report. Ruth Hopfinger seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. Motion carried.

Jeff Peters reviewed the church's safety procedures and information.

Mike West thinks we should put any extra money in a real estate investment because they provide dividends, some monthly. A CD or anything like that creates wealth. Roy Ticen feels we should have a growth fund where we can live off the interest. Deb Best asked about the United Church Fund and asked if those provide dividends. Justin explained that we have 35% of the United Church Fund in mutual funds and 65% in fixed income and as the market grows and dividends are received, they remain in the fund to increase growth. We can always change the allocation at any time.

Annual Meeting Minutes cont'd

David Williman announced the church has received $5,000 from Sharon Davis's estate.
JoAnne Ripstein asked what the parsonage account can be used for and the answer is it can be used for anything including operations.

Pastor Laurie spoke about yoking with another church as a possible option for the church in the future but that it takes time to set those up and negotiate. She explained that yoking is two or more churches sharing one pastor. She plans on discussing this with church council at their February meeting. It's best to be proactive instead of reactive, as we'll have more choices if we are proactive.

Cris Mahoney suggested using our interest and dividends to supplement offering for church operations, keeping a fixed amount of principal in our account. And when we get estate money, that could be added to our fixed principal amount.

Cris Mahoney also asked if we could notify the congregation when a member passes away, possibly via email. Pastor Laurie said this has been taken care of.

Marie Lowe made a motion to close the nominations and accept the slate of officers.
Seconded by Ruth Hopfinger. All in favor. Motion carried.

Lisa Neary read and reviewed the minutes to this meeting.

Jeff Peters made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Diane Storch seconded the motion.
All were in favor. None were opposed. Motion carried.

Mary West thanked those going off of council and those who were volunteering to come on.

Council members were asked to meet after the annual meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chris Kipfer.
Motion was seconded by Deb Best. All were in favor. None were opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. with the Lord's Prayer said by all.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Neary
Council Secretary

SEMI– ANNUAL MEETING
July 7, 2024

Meeting was called to order by President Mary West at 11am, 28 members were present.

Pastor Laurie led us in prayer.

Mary addressed the church survey. There were 32 responses- these were compiled by Mary, Justin, and John.
Justin reviewed the results of the surveys. The highlights of the surveys showed mostly positive responses. Members stated the aspects enjoyed most were coffee hours, dinners and community engagements.
The option for continuing viability of St. Paul's showed most were in favor of "yoking" with another church as opposed to having part time pastor or strictly using supply ministers.
Giving was overall positive, with the majority willing to try to give more if possible, and to give towards specific projects goals.
The council is committed to focusing on the strengths of our church and improving community engagements; encouraging more congregation involvement in programs, projects, bell and chancel choir and participation in church activities.

Jeff discussed the plan for a community Easter sunrise service and the establishment of a vegetable stand made by Attica FFA members.

Jeff reviewed the emergency drill, including active shooter and fire. There are 7 fire extinguishers in the building: 2 in front of sanctuary, 2 in fellowship room, 1 in kitchen, 1 in Sunday school wing and 1 in hallway outside study.
All are due for annual check in August. Another extinguisher will be purchased for the balcony. There are 2 first aid kits in office and in deacon's closet.
AED machine is functioning with updated child and adult pads.

Jeff will arrange for another CPR and first aid course to be offered to members and the community.

David updated information on the driveway- has been milled and will be completed this upcoming week, along with repairs to main parking lot. Signs will be posted regarding no thru traffic.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 with Pastor Laurie leading in Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Lowe
Council Secretary

St. Paul's United Church of Christ Memorial Committee
Treasurer's Report 2024

Memorial Fund Balance: December 31, 2023 (including remaining John West Scholarship monies)		$5151.53
Plus Memorials received:		
Charles Kellogg		
Kim Morris		
Florence Williman		
Maxine Carter		
Jason Henskee	$1345.00	
Less disbursements:		
Heart Association (forwarded donation)		
Back Hall Rug and Plaque		
Book Light		
Azalea	(2675.36)	
St. Paul's UCC Scholarships awarded:		
Meg Baker		
Anna Hopfinger	(600.00)	
Ending Balance: December 31, 2024		$3221.17

Note: The John West Scholarship monies were exhausted this year. The two scholarships awarded were possible, in part, because of the Carol Shreder and Ardyth VanValkenburg families. They generously allowed some of their Memorial donations to be used for the scholarships.
There is currently a $280 balance in the St. Paul's UCC Scholarship line item, thanks to donations made this Fall.
The awarding of future scholarships will depend on donations specifically to the Scholarship Fund.

Respectfully submitted,
Cris Mahoney

Envelope Giving Report for 2024

40 boxes of envelopes were issued in 2024.

$	# of boxes
0	4
1 - 99	1
100 - 149	1
150 - 199	1
200 - 249	3
250 - 299	0
300 - 349	0
350 - 399	0
400 - 449	0
450 - 499	0
500 - 749	6
750 - 999	1
1000 - 1499	3
1500 - 1999	5
2000 - 2499	5
2500-2999	1
3000 - 3999	4
4000 - 4999	3
5000 - 5999	0
6000 - 6999	1
7000- 7999	1
8000 - 8999	1
9000- 9999	0
10000 - 14999	0
15000 - 19999	0
20000 - 24999	1
Total	42

Special Giving Envelopes

	# of envelopes
2023 Christmas	2
Church World Service	1
One Great Hour of Sharing	4
Easter	21
Neighbors in Need	4
Strengthen the Church Fund	3
Candle Light Service	25
Blanket Fund	4
2024 Initial offering	21
2024 Christmas Fund	3
2024 Christmas	22
2025 Initial offiering	1

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Neary

TRUSTEE REPORT 2024

Throughout the year the trustees did several things. These things are listed below.

- Seasonal clean-up
- Pavement – parking lot and driveway
- Changing of streamers
- Mulching
- Fixed back door
- Fixed light / LED lighting
- Touch up painting was done
- Preschool door was fixed courtesy of Steve and Carl
- Kitchen vents cleaned
- Inspection completed
- Removal of Epiphany star
- Door/ lock fixed
- Cross lights changed
- Cleaned gutters / screens
- Christmas tree
- Pork and Kraut signs
- Added signage
- Toilet seat replaced
- Care of mower and mowing
- Plowing
- Other odd tasks not listed

Respectfully Submitted,
Debra Best
Trustee Secretary

DEACON ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Outgoing Deacons thanked for their service.
New Deacons welcomed.
Deacons duties reviewed.
Discussed Hymns that are not Public Domain due to streaming.
Purple slips provided for Prayer Chain during Lent.
Seder meal held on Maundy Thursday.
Community Good Friday Service held.
Palms distributed on Palm Sunday.
Easter Sunday Service held.
Church Picnic held.
Graduation Sunday held for two graduates.
50 Year Membership planned and held.
Candlelight Service planned and held.
Hanging of Greens held.
Christmas Eve Service planned and held.
Pulpit Supply dates were filled as required.
Deacons provided Service on December 29th.
Deacons provided Lay Readers, Ushers and Greeters.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine Wolf
Deacon's Secretary

Membership Report

Italicized names denote friends of the congregation.

2024 Baptisms: Henry Charles Donahue
2024 Weddings: Zachary & Emma Duffy
2024 Funerals: Charles Kellogg, *Kimberly (Knab) Morris, John Paine II*
2024 Interments: *Bridget Putnam*
2024 Deaths: *Maxine Carter*

Local Mission Report

No funds were disbursed in 2024

Sisters in Faith

- Sisters in Faith continued our mission of reaching out to all members.
- We send cards to members that are sick or hospitalized
- We sponsored a Tea Party with God Retreat
- The kitchen was cleaned up twice in 2024
- Our annual Christmas party was held in December

We are looking forward to more mission projects in 2025.
Save the date for our 2nd Retreat—March 15th.
Please consider joining us.

Pastoral Relations Annual Report

The 2024 Pastoral Relations Committee was comprised of Beverly Myers, Lisa Knerr, Debbie Best, Mary West Council President, and Laurie Bellucci Head Deacon.
The Pastoral Relations Committee met quarterly on February 18, 2024, May 26, 2024, August 25, 2024, and November 10, 2024, following church services as required.
Pastor discussed coverage/contacts in her absence, vacation schedule, youth mission trip, annual meeting of the New York Conference, Western Association meeting, mentoring new clergy, U.C.C. Church in Ministry Committee, St. Paul's food shelf and community needs.
The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 23, 2025, following church. Church members and guests are welcome to reach out to any Pastoral Relations Committee member with any comments, suggestions, or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly J Myers

St. Paul's UCC Christian Education Committee
Annual Report 2024

Members: Tom Baker, Susan McPherson, Chris Kipfer, Jen Eddy, Becki Peters

Heifer Project: We hosted cookies and cocoa the day of the annual meeting to raise money for Heifer. Susan created a banner with the kids and guide them on choosing an animal. No money was spent this past year.

Dunkirk Camp:
-We hosted a basket raffle at the spring Pancake breakfast hosted by St. Paul's, raising $655.
-We cancelled our planned scrapbook event March 16th and 23rd due to scheduling conflicts.
-We agreed to give full scholarship amounts for campers, with parents paying the $50 registration fee for regularly attending children.
-We created a policy for camp goers, which is hanging in the hallway to the CE wing regarding church attendance.
-We sent 6 children to camp (Madelyn Perry, Emily Peters, Josh Kipfer, and the Mest children)
-We hosted a basket raffle at the Sauerkraut Supper to raise funds for next year's campers, over $600 was raised.
-We did not host Scrapbook event in the fall due to time constraints.

Pre-School:
-Both 3 and 4 year old classes are full.
-Tuition was raised to $100/month for this school year (from the previous amount of $90/month)
-Some new toys were purchased.
-We continue to run without the director's position, Susan continues to take care of immunizations for the program.
-Some wages were adjusted based on the minimum wage increase and longevity of teachers.

Sunday School:
-We filled 120 Easter Eggs in advance and held an Easter Egg hunt on Easter.
-We blessed backpacks on Rally Day, Charlotte Perry received her Bible for going into 3rd grade.
-Teachers should be using the website Sermons4kids to get weekly lessons.
-We have only 1 class this year, with students ranging in age from 4-12. Committee members take turns teaching, along with Emily Peters. We have no one in the nursery, and someone only goes back as needed. We have no students in confirmation this year.
-We hosted a Halloween party on 10/27 with filled treat bags and activities during church for the kids. Pastor Laurie invited pre-schoolers, but we didn't have any attend.
-We held the Advent Workshop on Nov. 17th during worship, making ornaments for the Christmas tree.
-Students helped decorate the tree during the hanging of the greens on Dec. 1st.
-Susan directed the Christmas Super Hero play during morning service on 12/22/2024, with 10 children participating. We then hosted a birthday party for Jesus in the multi-purpose room after the service.
-The Souper Bowl of Caring when children collect change during children's time will be on 2/09/2025, the same day as the Super Bowl.

Respectfully Submitted by Becki Peters

2024 PASTOR'S REPORT

My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I can, whenever I can, for as long as I can. -Jimmy Carter

Ex-President Jimmy Carter stated this frequently. More importantly, he lived by it. His Christian belief formed his whole life. It empowered him to accomplish much good in this world. He was an effective mediator. He built Habitat for Humanity houses. He monitored elections in struggling democracies. He worked to eradicate disease and poverty in the world. And people stood in long lines to attend his Sunday School classes. All because he believed that service to others isn't something we retire from, but what we live into.

Each week, we gather to worship God together. As your pastor, I prepared 47 sermon messages and 44 Children's Chats. I officiated at 1 baptism, 1 wedding, and 4 funerals/interments/memorial services. During worship, we installed church leaders, dedicated Memorials, blessed Sunday School teachers, honored our graduates, and celebrated with 1 Fifty-Year Member. Our children blessed their backpacks as well as the Souper Bowl donations. We remembered those who have passed on during the year. We celebrated our 75th Candlelight Service. I participated in the Chancel Choir.

In other ministry, I supported two weekly Bible Studies. I met 27 times with the Pre-School classes to talk about faith and being kind to others. I wrote 11 Newsletter articles. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund had no disbursements this year.

I enjoyed 112 visits including shut-in, hospital, office, Communion, and home visits. I attended 173 meetings including Christian Education, Pastoral Relations, Memorial, Deacon, and Council meetings. I joined in Sisters in Faith activities including our first Retreat. I helped with the Sauerkraut Supper. The Youth Mission Group spent a wonderful week in and around Detroit, MI. I also continued my ministry of presence at community and sporting events, including the Wyoming County Pike Fair.

The Western Association requires 75 hours of continuing education every three years. I completed 69 hours this year. I read 5 books, 1 of which was an on-line book study dealing with race. I completed Sexual Harassment Prevention Training for Church Employees. I continue to belong to a Community of Practice Group.

I represented you at the New York Conference Annual Meeting and a Special On-line Conference Meeting. I attended 2 Western New York Area Churches in Covenant meetings plus 2 Ecclesiastical Councils, and 2 Ordinations. I concluded a year of monthly meetings supervising a NYSOM student. I continue to mentor another NYSOM student with whom I meet every other month. I attend a weekly on-line Bible Study offered by the UCC church at which we did a Mission Trip in southwest Philadelphia. I continue to act as Treasurer for the Church in Attica group. I participated in another Pioneer Community Chorus' cantata with 4 other church choir members. I served as a member of the Attica Steering Committee for the Village of Attica Comprehensive Plan.

I feel blessed to have served as your pastor for the past 12 years. I pray that St. Paul's UCC continues to generously worship our Triune God, minister in the ways of Jesus, and be transformed by the Holy Spirit, as we use our God-given gifts to reach out to our community and to each other. May Christ's peace be with us as we move into God's vision for the future.

Godspeed,
The Rev. Lauran Heidenreich

Nominating Committee Report for 2025

Deacons—3 yr term

Laurie Bellucci	2023-2025
John Brandon	2023-2025
Justin Kipfer	2024-2026
Lisa Knerr(filling Jeffrey Peters term)	2024-2026
Ruth Hopfinger	2025-2027
Lynne Jacoby	2025-2027

Trustees—3 yr term

David Williman	2023-2025
Marie Lowe	2023-2025
Christopher Eddy	2024-2026
Jeffrey Peters	2025-2027
Roy Ticen	2025-2027

Christian Education—3 yr term

Jennifer Eddy	2023-2025
Susan McPherson	2024-2026
Christine Kipfer	2024-2026
Becki Peters	2025-2027
Tom Baker	2025-2027

Memorial Committee—5 yr term

Cris Mahoney	2021-2025
Chris Kipfer	2022-2026
Laurie Bellucci	2023-2027
Diane Storch	2024-2028
Marilyn Wilson	2025-2029

Pastoral Relations—3 yr term

Lisa Knerr	2023-2025
Debbie Best	2024-2026
Beverly Myers	2025-2027

Investment Committee—3 yr term

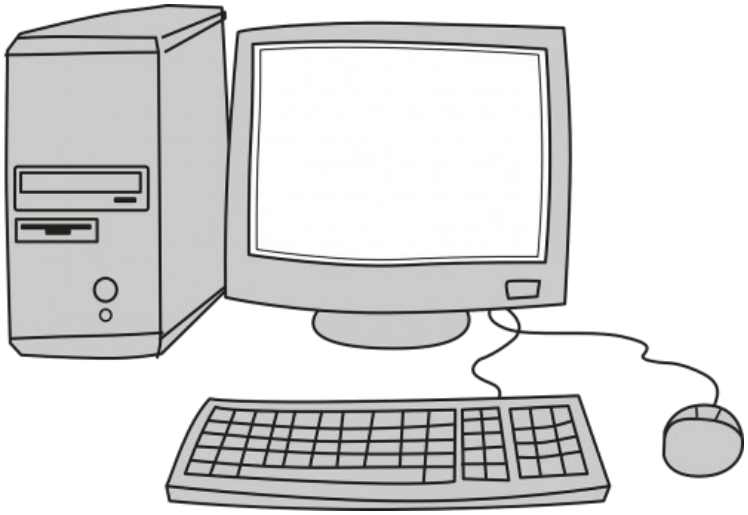
Justin Kipfer	2023-2025
Lisa Neary	2024-2026
Joanne Ripstein	2025-2027

Local Mission— 3 yr term

Beverly Myers	2023-2025
Marie Lowe	2025-2027

Submitted by:
Nominating Committee
Church Council

Media Annual Report

I have now been media minister for 2 and a half years! We've made numerous improvements in the last year, the biggest of which being the purchase of a new computer to replace the old one! I've managed to get everything we used rebuilt on the new one sufficiently, along with some improvements to the readability of the service on the screens. Training with David Williman has been going well, and is now able to run the service in my absence if I can't make it on a particular day. We've maintained the consistency of the backgrounds used in the service at various times of year(purple for advent, etc), and have now also have modified end-of-service slides different from the pre-service slides. Big thanks to the help from David Williman, Laurie Bellucci, Marylin Wilson, and Sawyer West for the help running the services in 2024!

Sincerely,
Daniel Neary