

AUGUST 2023

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

THE EPISTLE



Letter from the Pastor

By Rev. John Ward-Diorio

"Man, it has been so hot!" "Did you see what the heavy rains and flooding did in Vermont and upper New York State?" "Do you think we have to worry about all the Code Orange or Code Red Air Quality alerts we are getting?"

Perhaps you have uttered one of the above lines or heard it from another person. We have been undergoing severe weather events here in Pennsylvania, in the Northeast, throughout our country and around the world. Whether the climate change skeptics or deniers are willing to admit it or not, our weather is indicating, in no uncertain terms, that the damage we have done to our environment, to the air and water, to all of Creation...

(continued on the next page)

MONTH HIGHLIGHTS

**13 SPOOF PICNIC
AND HIKE**

**19 COMMUNITY
GARDEN WORK
DAY**

Any level of experience is
welcome

**27 OUTDOOR
WORSHIP
FOLLOWED BY ICE
CREAM SOCIAL**

Cover Image: Volunteers and
Participants from VBS, July 10-13.

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(Cont.) to all of God's Creation, is now impacting all people, all around the world in ways we can see and feel.

There are some segments of the Christian Church who distrust science and scientific findings. This is an old distrust, stretching back hundreds of years. We can add disbelief in climate change to denials that the Earth is round, that the Earth circles the Sun and not the other way around, or that evolution is real. Despite overwhelming evidence as to the reality of these and other matters, segments of the Christian Church held on to these denials well past when the majority of populations around the world believed otherwise. It is one thing to continue denying reality if it only adversely impacts the deniers. It is another thing when such denials, claiming Christian backing or authority, are used to manipulate other people.

God's Creation, of which we are all a part, not owners of, has suffered greatly, as some have used manipulative interpretations of Scripture and Christian Tradition in order to advance their self-centered and self-serving goals. Natural Resources have been torn from the land, to enrich a small portion of the population. The air, water, ground, and atmosphere have been polluted without regard to the consequences to God's Creation or human health, all to further enrich a small number of people. They know better, because they have seen scientific research but do not share it with the wider population because of their greed.

The quote below appeared in the Witness for Justice weekly UCC email the day I was writing this reflection. "Settler Colonial Policies Still Seek the Eradication of Native People" Issue #1161 | July 20, 2023.

"In the throes of climate change and after generations of extractive and unsustainable water use in the Southwest United States, there is huge water crisis. States and different interest groups are trying to secure what they need, but last month, the Supreme Court ruled the United States is not responsible for supplying the Navajo Nation with drinking water, which they desperately need to live. Though we are dependent on and made of the same water, the Diné people have been sequestered to land without water rights, and much of their groundwater has been polluted by uranium mines."

[1] This is not an isolated unjust ruling—it is part of settler colonial policies that continue towards the eradication of Native people.

[1] <https://tinyurl.com/yc5cp3ju>

Climate change, climate destruction, does not impact all people equally. Most often, the poorest, the least powerful, the outcast and the targeted suffer the most. Even as this is recognized, little has been done to address this inequality of impact. Christians are called to serve those in need, particularly those most in need and ignored or persecuted by others. Therefore, climate destruction and change are issues we are called to address.

What can we do, as individuals, as a Community of Faith, in face of such an overwhelming problem? The first thing we need to commit to is not giving up hope!

There are decisions we can make, actions we can take, witnessing in which we can partake. Often, we are not motivated to change, to take part until we are personally impacted. That is happening right now, to us, to our loved ones, and to people all around the world. We have made some progress, but not enough. That progress serves as an example that more progress can be made. Let us participate in such work.

Peace,
Rev. John

In Our Hearts and Prayers

Addie (Stork-Whitson); Kevin & Karen Allison; Jim Barger; Barb Bell; Cindy & Dick Bensel; Beverly (Hayden); Braylan; Bria (LaRue); Anna & Dale Burns; Nancy Cabrera (Runkle); Cass and Jay (Mullin); Alyssa Claar (A. Thompson); Don Coldren (Grice); Heather Connelly (Bomberger); Mary Cooley (Richey); Donna D'Agostino; Emily Degnitz; Allen Dreibelbis; Nancy Dreibelbis; Ann Eckman; Betsy Eichelberger; Jerry Foulke & Lynn Carson; Fenton Fox & Rick Holtzapple; Diane Freeman; Steven Freeman; Ron Gabriel; Floyd Gouse; Shirley Grammer; Mike Greenwald; Harriet Grimm; Michalia Grimm; Dr. Mark Hagenbuch (Bomberger); Jane Hall; Chris Harris; Kelly Hartman; Mike Hatz; Jim and Leslie Hoehn; Brenda Hoffer (Stork-Whitson); Dan & Will Jones; Jean & Will Jones; Julia (Fox/Holtzapple); Elaine Kansy (Hoehn); Kathy (Simpson); Martha & Gene Keith; Stephen Keith; Rev. Dr. Chris Kennedy (Ward-Diorio); Jesse King; Dave Kirkwood; Kristine and Family (Ward-Diorio); Chris L.; Debbie Lever (A. Thompson); Liam (Simpson); Larry Linder (Stork-Whitson/Williams); Judy Linton & Family; Jess Logan; Lorrie; Luca; Taran M. (Taylor); Manny (Sharp); Marie (Murphy); Mary Frances; Michael & Ernie (Richey); Michelle; Charles Miller (Lloyd and Matthew's dad); Sue & Dayne Miller; Tasha Misner (Trout); Carol Moran; Ernie Moyer; Randy, Dar & Sarah Murphy; Gene & Ruth Ellen Myers (Boyer); Susan Myers (A. Thompson); Nyugen, Thu (P. Boyer); Patrick (Gabriel); Richard & Nancy Reba (Richenbacher); Harry Reidinger; Amy Rhoads; Carol Rhoads; Jason & Rachelle Rhoads; Wes Rhoads & Family; Alan and Diane Richenbacher; Harry Reidinger (Sponsler); Franklin, Andrew, Levi Roth; Jack Runkle; Rhoda & Ned Rupp; Thomas Schwartz (Sizemore); Scott & Tracey (Davinroy); Jean Searle; John Shandra; Karen Shapiro; Sherry (Short); Shondra; Corky Short & Candy LaRue; Alice Suwak; Terry; April Thomas (Bomberger); Cathy Thomas; Edward Thorn; Tracy Thrush Family; Shannon & Phoenix Trout; Bill Utley (Boyer); Rosalie Utley (Boyer); Vickie (S. Miller); Jean and David Weiss; Ryan Wilson (Bomberger); Mitchell Worley (Jones); Suzanne Worley (Jones); Kevin Young (A. Thompson); Zachary (Taylor).

BIRTHDAYS

08/01	Constance Miller
08/01	Judith Clovsky
08/02	David Scott
08/03	Jean Weiss
08/04	Ashley Bergstresser
08/05	Richard Bensel
08/05	Ronald Chronister
08/07	Anthony Howe
08/07	Barbara Blust
08/07	Mark Boyer
08/08	Carol Sizemore
08/08	Elaine Daly
08/09	Ernest Moyer
08/09	Ryder Paulus
08/09	Rachel Thompson
08/10	Andrew Cowan
08/10	Isaiah Chripczuk
08/10	Carter Miller
08/10	Levi Chripczuk
08/12	Christine Grice
08/13	Wesley Rhoads
08/14	Shawna Simpson
08/15	Jeffrey Whitman
08/16	Sally Haas
08/16	Erin Moyer
08/16	Kimberli Nalepka
08/16	Steve Mitchell
08/19	Dorothy Miller
08/19	Thomas Pineo
08/21	Jonathan Knox
08/21	Edward Thorn
08/21	Martha Keith
08/22	Gary Fleisher
08/24	Leann Davinroy
08/25	Martin Velez
08/25	Becky Weaver
08/26	Michelle Howe
08/26	Carol Visscher
08/29	Brady Nye
08/29	Cheryl Malick

Vacation Bible School 2023

July 10-13th, 2023. Thank you to all our participants and volunteers for making this VBS a rousing success!



Thank you for Serving

Head to our website, under the "sign up" heading, to volunteer.

Sunday, August 6, 2023 - 9:15 A.M.	Sunday, August 13, 2023 9:15 A.M.	Sunday, August 20, 2023 9:15 A.M.	Sunday, August 27, 2023 9:15 A.M. Outdoor Service
Acolyte	Acolyte	Acolyte	Lector
Lector Kathy Aumiller	Lector Karin Stork-Whitson	Lector Paula Boyer	Greeter - Common's Table Jody Biss
Greeter - Common's Table Consistory Present or Past Mem Chris Grice	Greeter - Common's Table Jody Biss	Greeter - Common's Table	Greeter - Sanctuary Exterior Door
Greeter - Electronic Door Consistory Present or Past Member Craig Martek	Greeter - Electronic Door Candy LaRue	Greeter - Electronic Door Sherry Spencer	Greeter - Electronic Door
Greeter - Sanctuary Exterior Door Consistory Present or Past Sherry Spencer	Greeter - Sanctuary Exterior Door Candy LaRue	Greeter - Sanctuary Exterior Door	Altar Flowers Delivery Jonneke Dundore
Greeter- Communion Server Consistory Present or Past Member Kathy Aumiller	Altar Flower Delivery Martha Keith	Altar Flowers Delivery Darryl & Winnie Wentz	Kid's Place Attendant
Greeter- Communion Server Consistory Present or Past Member Steven Roush	Kid's Place Attendant	Kid's Place Attendant	Kid's Place Attendant
Altar Flower Delivery Chris Grice	Kid's Place Attendant	Counting Team Member Sherry Spencer	Counting Team Member
Kid's Place Attendant	Counting Team Member	Counting Team Member	
Kid's Place Attendant			
Counting Team Member Sherry Spencer			
Counting Team Member Martha Keith			

To My St. Paul's 'Family':

Just wanted to say, "Thank You," for the beautiful red, white, and blue flower arrangement you sent from the church. It was stunning! That was very kind of you to think of me. It was nice catching up with Winne and Darryl Wentz too, who were good enough to deliver the flowers.

Thank you again,
Julie Patton

Events and Announcements



SPOOF PICNIC & HIKING - SUNDAY, AUG 13TH

Join SPOOF (St. Paul's On Our Feet) for a fun day in the outdoors on Sunday, August 13th at Pine Grove Furnace State Park! We have reserved the Brickyard Pavilion, which is close to the beach and playground area at Fuller Lake. We have the pavilion reserved for the entire day; come as early as you want and hang out as long as you want. There are several trails in the park of varying lengths and difficulty; we will have maps and descriptions for folks to hike as they want. Cool off afterwards with a dip in the lake. Or just stay at the pavilion and enjoy the shade or some lawn games that will be set up. Hot dogs, drinks and paper products will be provided. The rest of the picnic will be potluck. We will set up starting at 11am, with cooking noon-2. Parking and restrooms are also very close to the pavilion. All are welcome; bring your friends along too! Sign up on the church website or through the link below. Since this year's picnic is on a Sunday after our church service, rides can be provided and carpooling is an option. <https://ttsu.me/r7btsg>

POLLYANNAS

Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting 11:30 am, Tuesday, Aug 22 at Perkins on Erford Rd. We will be having our annual mystery auction so please bring a wrapped item to bid on; the proceeds go towards our sponsored child. Please let Bonnie Plymette know if you are planning to attend.

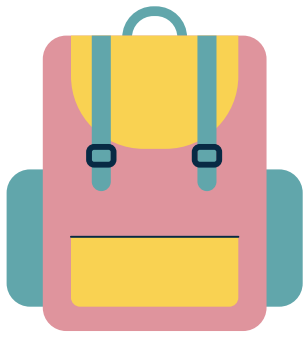


THANK YOU POLLYANNAS!

Members of the Parish Ministry Committee are grateful to the Pollyannas for buying 26 new table cloths to use for our church dinners and luncheons. Not only are the table cloths more elegant than the plastic coverings we have used in the past, but they are also more environmentally friendly.

With this donation, the congregation can move forward on its commitment to be good stewards of God's planet. Each year scientists are learning more about the damage plastics and petrochemicals are doing to our air, land and oceans.

The Pollyannas is St. Paul's oldest group. It was formed in 1936 as a social organization for the women of the church. Today Pollyannas raise money to support church-sanctioned projects, such as helping to support children in other countries and sponsoring the planting of native trees on church property.



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Bring your backpacks, bookbags, briefcases, lunchboxes, or any other baggage you use for school or work,

to worship on Sunday, August 27th. We will offer a blessing of the bags as a reminder that God's peace and presence will be with all people as they go to work and school.

SEPTEMBER EPISTLE DEADLINE

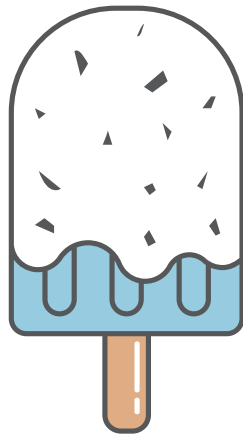
Monday, August 21st. 2023

REV. ALLYSSA ON VACATION

Rev. Allyssa will be on vacation from July 30th through August 12th. Feel free to contact the church office with any needs.

HERE'S THE SCOOP!

Come and join us at our Ice Cream Social: Sunday, August 27th following worship. Cool off with something sweet and creamy as we celebrate summer and gear up for back-to-school... with a cherry on top!



PRISM

All singles are invited to attend our potluck lunch after church on Sunday, August 27th. Please bring a favorite dish to share. We look forward to spending time with you. Questions, contact Carol Sizemore. (717-858-3105)



ANNIVERSARIES

08/01 David & Shawna Simpson
 08/11 Amy & Brett Hockenberry
 08/12 Mark & Paula Boyer
 08/16 Doris & Wayne Albrecht
 08/16 Suzanne & Matthew Sentman
 08/17 Vic & Martha Brown III
 08/17 Bethany Pirtle & Scott Hinderliter
 08/19 Allan & Pamela MacKinnon Jr
 08/19 Christopher Royer & Elaine Daly

08/21 Douglas & Sally Haas
 08/21 Kevin & Karen Allison
 08/21 Martin & Victoria Velez
 08/23 Art & Kathy Williams
 08/24 Clayton & Carolyn Pirtle
 08/25 Shannon & Brian Sweeney
 08/27 Christine & Marc Brickman
 08/31 John & Susan Ward-Diorio Jr.
 08/31 Chris & Molly Cowan



ST. PAUL'S BAZAAR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023

Mark your calendars!! This is the church's largest event with lots of help needed. There are MANY ways you can be involved!!

KITCHEN

Chairpersons: Brenda Kern & Patty Scott

Cook pot pie meals, sides, other entrees; run dishwasher; clean kitchen end-of-day. Watch for pre-event food prep dates as well!

PARKING

Chairperson: Tom Olsen

Assist with parking and traffic flow, especially during peak hours.

COUNTRY CUPBOARD

Chairpersons: Chris Grice & Shirley Keith Knox

Donations will be needed! Baked goods, candies, canned goods, etc. Keep an eye out!

CRAFTS

Chairperson: Betty Olsen

Donations are needed! For ideas on what you could make for the crafts area, see Betty.

GARDEN SHOP

Chairperson: Sherry Spencer

Wreaths and mums sales. Looking for donations of gently used wreaths to be repurposed for sale.

FLEA MARKET

Chairpersons: Dale Thorpe & Becky Thompson

Donations needed—Save that good stuff! We do limit the type and number of items we have in our Flea Market sale so that we have fewer leftovers. Donations can be dropped off now, on the stage.

YES, please!

- Holiday & General Decor
- Linens/Fabric
- Kitchenware (gadgets, bakeware, cookware, etc.)
- Working Tools/Hardware
- Small Furniture (please check with Dale or Becky before dropping off)
- Books

Thanks but, NO:

- Sporting Equipment
- Stuffed Animals/Toys
- Electronics (TVs, phones, computers, monitors, etc.)
- Board Games/Puzzles
- VHS Tapes
- Clothes
- Glassware (glasses, mugs, vases)
- Water bottles

**SET-UP WILL BE AFTER CHURCH ON SUNDAY, OCT. 1ST AND LOTS OF HELP IS NEEDED!
IF YOU HAVE OVER-THE-DOOR WREATH HANGERS TO LEND, CONTACT SHERRY SPENCER**

August 2023

The most up to date calendar is on the church website.
Help us keep it current by scheduling your events
at the church through the church office.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 4:30PM: MLC Meeting	2	3	4	5
6 9:15AM: Worship	7	8 1PM: Prayer Shawl 5PM: Finance Meeting 6PM: Caregiver's Support	9	10 6PM: Parish Ministries 6PM: Safety & Security	11	12
13 9:15AM: Worship 11AM: SPOOF Picnic and Hike	14 4PM Worship Committee 7PM: PFLAG Meeting	15 10AM: Creative Worship 5:45pm: Consistory	16	17 6PM: SPARCC	18 10AM: Room Reservation 6PM: Den Meeting	19 9AM: Community Garden Workday 2pm: PFLAG, Trivia Event
20 9:15AM: Worship	21 6PM: Property EPISTLE DEADLINE	22 11:30AM: Pollyannas 6:30PM: Queer Bible Study	23	24 6PM: Den Meeting 7PM: CE Meeting	25 6PM: Den Meeting	26
27 BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS 9:15AM: Outdoor Worship 10:30AM: Ice Cream Social 12:30PM: PRISM	28 1PM: HR Committee 5:30PM: Bazaar Committee 6:30PM: River City Singers 6:30PM: Passages Bereavement Support	29 6:30PM: Queer Bible Study	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED		

[HTTPS://SAINTPAULSUCC-MECH.ORG/CALENDAR](https://saintpaulsucc-mech.org/calendar)