

# *St. Paul's News* December 2019

## **Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:**

2019 is coming to an end...can you believe it. We recently completed our 2019 charge conference (Hallelujah) and I have attached my pastor's report for your review. It has been a wonderful year of ministry and I look forward to where God is leading us in 2020.

Jeremiah 29:11 For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. 12 Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. 13 When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, 14 I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Surely God does know the plans that He has for us. If we knew all the things that God was going to call us to do, we would certainly try to convince Him that we had a better plan! However, God's plans for us are always perfect in their wisdom.

We have completed a wonderful year of ministry in our three-church connection. Though members of our congregations were hesitant about this new configuration when it was first presented, it seems as if everyone does agree now that we are stronger and better together.

One of the most exciting things that has occurred in our collaborative ministry is the development of the Better Together Collaborative Ministry Team. There are representatives from each of the three churches and they meet to create a vision for collaborative ministry opportunities for the congregations. This team is a lay led

group and have taken the idea of working "better together" to a new level for our connection. To date, they have completed a small group study together, supported taking youth from the churches to the district youth event and they are in the process of planning a mission project for next summer. What a joy it is to see the relationships that are developing within the Better Together team!

Our goals in each of the three congregations have continued to center around developing stronger faith and discipleship within the individual members of our congregations and to begin to think outside of our walls and to engage the community together.

To reach those goals, St. Paul's continues to host the Sharing Kitchen and I have personally become involved by praying with the guests before they eat their meal and also by working on the serving line. We have begun a confirmation class at St. Paul's and have participated in the Wednesday night youth worship at Melmore. Further, St. Paul's has also partnered with Impact Youth Center to allow young people to utilize our church's gym during the winter months. I am also working with the Overflow College Ministry through their one-on-one mentoring program and am grateful to be paired with local college student. I have attached a listing of other effects of ministry at St. Paul's.

Republic Trinity has had an exciting year. We have added new members to our congregation. We continue to offer two worship services, one on Sunday morning and one on Sunday evening. We are seeing some cross over attendance from the other congregations at our evening service. (Meaning if someone can't make it to church on Sunday morning, they will come to our evening service on Sunday nights.)

We celebrated outdoor worship this year, which was a new experience for some. We are working on creating a stronger and longer-range vision for Trinity and have begun alternating business meetings with vision meetings. Our leadership is looking forward to taking part in a one-day vision development retreat in January of next year.

I continue to be as involved as I can at Melmore UMC. I preach at youth worship on Wednesday nights once a month and also preach at Sunday morning service approximately every two or three months. I continue to participate in their special events. We held our Fall Festival at Melmore UMC last month and welcomed all of the neighborhood kids! It was a beautiful day together.

I continue to strive to live out the call that God has placed on my life. Three churches can be challenging and there are times I don't feel as effective as I want to be. I continue to walk with people through whatever circumstance they find themselves in, because I think that is what God has called me to do and that is what Jesus did and I thank the Holy Spirit for strength and direction.

**Blessings,**

**Pastor Charlene**



## DECEMBER ACOLYTES

**12/1: A.J. Lindhorst and Ryann Arnold**  
**12/8: Courtney McGinnis and Sam Patterson**  
**12/15: Sofia Paradiso**  
**12/22: A.J. Lindhorst and Bailey Barnes**  
**12/24: Carter Lindhorst and Braden Drosky**  
**12/29: Carter Lindhorst and Charlie Garcia**

**If your son or daughter is in Third Grade or older and would like to acolyte, please contact Jill Lindhorst at 419-443-0273. Please consider helping us!!**

# Happy December Birthdays!!

*6- Norina Martin*  
*13- Faye Eley*



*If you are over 80 and would like your birthday listed, contact the church office.*



# **Mission Report**

## **November Missions Report:**

Third Sunday Ingathering Offering of \$119 will be donated to First Call for Help to assist those in need in our community.

Thanks to those who packed shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. These boxes will bring joy to children around the world. Thanks to Carol Graham and Denise Lawson for coordinating this project! There were 31 boxes and \$279 received for postage.

United Methodist Student day Offering will be on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Donations in our Special Thanksgiving Offering Envelopes go to F.A.C.T. and provide financial assistance to cancer treatment patients in Seneca County.

Our Special Envelopes Christmas Offering will be divided between First Call for Help's Heating Fund and Morrison House.

There will be no Table Favor Committee Meeting in December.

-Kathy Daniel for Missions Committee



## ***Children's Christmas Program 2019***

***Rehearsal December 8<sup>th</sup> from  
noon to 1:30***

***The program is December  
15<sup>th</sup> during worship at  
10:15***

***Please see Molly Lofton or  
Kyle Paxson with any  
questions.***



**Christmas shopping just got easier! This year the Salvation Army has requested we simply purchase clothing for the boys and girls. They want to be able to give each child a complete outfit. They said they would like an assortment of sizes of clothing for boys and girls as they have many children in need.**

**We will still have paper angels on our Christmas tree near the elevator. You may take an angel if you want as a reminder. The suggested limit is \$20.00 and a return by date of December 10th.**

**The Salvation Army did state they will have Christmas tree tags in the stores with toy ideas on them, if you would rather take one of those feel free to do so. You can turn it back in at the store or to St. Paul's. If you have any questions or need someone to do the shopping for you call Sandy Arnold at 419-447-6145.**

**Sincerely,  
The Missions Committee**

**Volunteers Needed**  
**St. Paul's will be staffing the Sharing Kitchen on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and December 30<sup>th</sup>. We need 5-6 volunteers from the church to come and help on those days. From 8:30am to 1:00pm when cleanup is done. There will be a sign-up sheet hanging on the kitchen door. Please contact Kathy Daniel if you have any questions. 419-448-8418**



Dear Friends,

Once again, the season of love, giving, and sharing is upon us. Christmas is a time for us to celebrate God's gift to us- his son Jesus Christ. Hopefully your giving this year will include a gift for Pastor Charlene and her family. We are blessed by the many gifts she has brought to the members here at St. Paul's this year.

On behalf of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, I would like to ask you to please consider a Love Gift, in the form of money, to present to her. This will remain a secret until Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> when we will present it to her and her family.

If you would like to contribute to this Love Gift, please send cash or check to:

Hillary Chapman 19 Franklin Street Tiffin, Ohio 44883

Christmas cards can be sent to her at the parsonage, 332 Lelar Street, or by placing them in her mailbox in the Fellowship Hall.

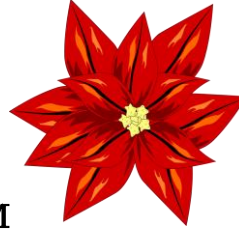
Thank you so much for your gift. God bless you and your family this holiday season.

Stay Blessed,

*Hillary Chapman*

Hillary Chapman SPRC Chairman





## POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Plants will be placed on the altar for Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> and Christmas Eve December 24<sup>th</sup>. They may be picked up after the morning or evening service. The cost is \$7.00. This year there are two alternate options. You may choose to give a gift to the Sharing Kitchen or Connections rather than purchasing a plant. Please complete this form and return it to the Church office by December 8<sup>th</sup> or place in the offering plate with your check. Checks should be made payable to the church and marked for "Poinsettia" in the lower corner and on your envelope. Thank you!

Poinsettia/Gift given in honor of:

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Or in memory of:

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Given by: (Your name as you want it listed)

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Please check:

I prefer Red \_\_\_\_\_ or White \_\_\_\_\_, OR \_\_\_\_\_ Use money for Sharing Kitchen, \_\_\_\_\_ or Connections \_\_\_\_\_



## TEAM MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

**MELMORE UMC:** Members from Melmore UMC came and worked at the Sharing Kitchen the week of November 26<sup>th</sup>. Continuing the work of Jesus by meeting the needs of our Sharing Kitchen guests!

**REPUBLIC TRINITY:** Come and join us as we study the fruits of the Spirit at The Flame praise and worship service at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings. A wonderful time of uplifting music and study of the word of God. Come and worship with Trinity (202 Broadway Street, Republic)

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:** Listed below are the Christmas Eve Services for all three churches in our connection.

- Republic Trinity UMC: 5:00 p.m.
- St. Paul's UMC: 7:00 p.m.
- Melmore UMC: 7:00 p.m.

## DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS

We are currently focused on personal discipleship. As part of that focus, we will challenge ourselves to grow in our own personal walk with Christ and to focus on growing as disciples through a process of Incremental Discipleship. Small adjustments can lead to **BIG CHANGES!**

**Discipleship Focus for December: Scripture Reading – Beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>, read one chapter of the book of Luke in the bible each evening. There are 24 chapters. On Christmas Eve, you will have read an entire account of Jesus' life!**

Commitment cards have been mailed out and we have had an opportunity to return them. If you have not returned your commitment card yet, please consider doing so.

These cards give us vital information on what ministries you feel called by God to support at St. Paul's. Commitment cards are not only about your financial commitment. The Commitment cards include much more information than your financial support commitment. The commitment cards serve as a way for us to fulfill the call to discipleship that is on our lives.

