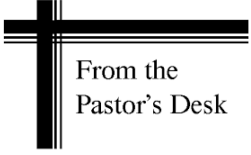


The Crier

December 2019

St. Philip's United Church of Christ



Music is a favorite part, for many, of what we do together as church! I believe that all God's children can and should sing. It makes us breathe well and feel good while inspiring us with words that lift us up.

"Make a joyful noise!" Psalm 100

St. Philip's United Church sings well, but as a reminder to keep doing that here is a story: One pastor, in a church that wasn't singing well, told attenders:

"Today we're going to sing 'Amazing Grace' in a way our ancestors did - - unaccompanied. On verse one, I'll sing to give you the key. On verse two, we'll all sing. On verse three, we'll harmonize - - just do it how it sounds best to you. And verse four we'll sing all the same note together."

That church sang without the organ or piano. And it was lovely. They discovered their voices.

St. Philip's United Church sings well already. This year, as the season approaches, Christmas music and Christmas carols will, of course, be a part of our experience together. Please sing out strong, on the notes as best you can. Sing for God, undeterred by ideas of listening people, because, we sing to give God praise!

And in so doing, our worship will be enhanced and more enjoyable for all.

Pastor Mike Krewson



St. Philip's Mission Statement

*St. Philip's United Church of Christ is a loving
Christian community believing in
Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit*



St. Philip's Vision Statement

**Our
Vision
Statement**

We are called to the body of Jesus Christ, with:
Minds to study God's word,
Mouths to proclaim the Gospel,
Eyes to see the needs of others,
Arms to welcome all,
Hearts big enough to share God's love with all God's children.

December Birthdays



Happy Birthday to our members who will be celebrating a birthday in December.

We will sing on the 1st Sunday of each month....

*"Happy Birthday to You!,
Happy Birthday to You!,
Happy Birthday Everybody!,
and God Bless you!"*

Gail Knoll	1	Zoe Azzara	18
Alex Balzer	2	Madeline Williamson	18
Linda Kotthoff	5	Devin Coleman	21
Nicholas Balzer	7	Chloe Armistead	24
Kim Tangeman	7	Karen Nickel	26
Sarah Witte	9	Katie Eason	28
Carla Moran	11	Ashley Henson	30
Robyn Mikusch	15	Scott Stevenson	30

Contact the Pastor



Feel free to call Pastor Mike anytime:

Cell (618) 789-2203

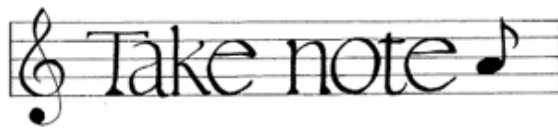
Office (314) 843-5100

or email

pastormike@stphilipsucc.com



The Decker Family
Russ Hickman
The Holdener Family
Pam Kelly
Bud Leonard
Brian Malin
Ben Metz
Marilyn Milne
Alice Noland
Janet Remmers
Dottie Vinyard
Paula Williams
Debby Wodicker
Gary York



Choir Rehearsals

The Choir meets each week to rehearse the Anthem and Hymns for the upcoming Sunday worship service. New members are always welcome. There is no audition - anyone with a love for music and a desire to sing is invited to join. Rehearsal lasts usually about an hour and we always have fun! Contact Mike Orzel, our Music Director, for more information.

LITURGISTS



The liturgist reads the scriptures during worship. We will provide the reader with the scriptures via email or USPS mail several days prior to the service allowing you time to become comfortable in reading to the congregation. If you are interested in serving as a liturgist, please let Tammy, the Office, or Pastor know and indicate the method of receiving the readings.

Thank you for your consideration,
Tammy Knoll

Church Office Holiday Schedule

The offices will be closed:

Wednesday, December 25
and

Wednesday, January 1

The offices will be open normal hours:

December 24 & 31



OUTREACH MINISTRY NEWS

In addition to our traditional Cap, Scarf, and Mitten tree, we are collecting items for ECH (Every Child's Hope). Items will go to the ECH "Store" where residents can select gifts for their family members.

A partial list includes the following (see bulletin board for complete list)

- Toys, Legos, Hot Wheels, Frisbees, card games, board games (no guns or sharp items)
- Craft and Art supplies
- Toiletry Sets, headbands, makeup sets, nail polish sets
- Cook Books, journals, comic books
- Slippers, hats, gloves, socks, leggings, T-shirts
- Balls, tennis rackets, water bottles, gym bags
- Scotch tape, wrapping paper, tissue paper
- Baby clothes and toys

All items should be new and unwrapped. We will deliver items to ECH before Christmas. Since the ECH "store" is open year round, any items donated closer to Christmas will help restock the "store" after the holidays.

Thanks in advance for your generosity!

Bottle Caps & Container Lids Ongoing Collection

Remember your clean plastic caps and lids from many containers will be collected and recycled by an organization that makes park benches.



We will collect these items at least through the end of the year. You can find the bin in the Gathering Space to drop off your items. See the flyer by the collection bin for details.

Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, December 17 - Noon
Women's Fellowship will hold their Christmas lunch at noon at Olive Garden on South Lindbergh.



Please signup by Sunday, December 15. The signup sheet can be found on the bulletin board.

Contact Lois Decker for more

December Lunch Bunch

The December Lunch Bunch will be held at Sandy's house on Wednesday, December 11th starting at noon. See the bulletin board for more details and to sign up. All are welcome.



Back by popular demand will be a holiday Rob Your Neighbor game. Please bring two "white elephant" type presents to share.

Come and enjoy food and fellowship!

Savers FUNDRIVE Update

We collected over 2,200 pounds of clothing, linens, household objects, and books and magazines, netting \$323.66! Thank you to all for your donations.

Thanks to Barbara Barnes for donating the Uhaul van and Walter Knoll Florist for use of their van.

A big thank you to Tom Nottelmann who helped load the vans, and Paul Harvey and Chuck Knoll who drove vans and helped with the unloading.

Pam Henson
Barbara Barnes



*Hanging of
the Greens
December 1*

Celebrate with us as we start the Advent season. Bring your Christmas Spirit and Joy to this annual event as we decorate St. Philip's **after the December 1 worship service.** All ages are welcome to join in the fun. Lunch provided if you wish to stay. See the green signup sheet & please indicate if you will be joining us for lunch.

**Ornament Tradition
December 1**



It has been a St. Philip's tradition for many years for all those attending St. Philip's to bring an ornament from home to hang on our tree in the sanctuary. This is a simple way to celebrate the community of Christ.

If you have not had an opportunity to hang an ornament on the tree, no matter how long you have been with St. Philip's, please consider doing so on December 1, 2019. This will be a special and welcome addition for all of us! (Don't worry if you cannot bring an ornament on December 1, you may bring one any time during Advent.)

**CHRISTMAS
POTLUCK
BRUNCH**



Mark your calendar!

All are welcome to our Christmas Brunch, **Sunday, December 8.** Our brunch is a potluck. Please bring any item to share and we will eat promptly at 9:00am. Worship will begin at 9:30am as usual.

No need to sign up - just bring a dish to share and enjoy a delicious brunch before worship!

**Please Join Us for the
LOGOS Christmas Program**

**Wednesday, December 11
5:00-7:00 PM**

Come hear the Christmas Story (as told by the kids), sing some carols and share a holiday meal.

If you can, please bring a batch of your favorite cookies to share with everyone.

We can't wait to celebrate the season with you!



The Christmas Fund

Every year the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance provides financial support for the veterans of the cross and emergency fund, one of the special mission funds provided by the United Church of Christ that cares for the active and retired clergy.

Your gift to the Christmas Fund helps those who have faithfully served the United Church of Christ. Christmas Fund Offering envelopes will be available on Sunday, December 15. Thank you for your participation.



Christmas Poinsettias

Back again this year are beautiful poinsettia plants in your choice of red, pink, or white flowers.

The poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary on Sunday, December 22, and during the Christmas Eve service. You may take your plants home after the Christmas Eve service.

The cost is \$9.00 each plant.

Make check payable to 'Walter Knoll Florist'

Name _____

Quantity Color

_____ Red

_____ Pink

_____ White

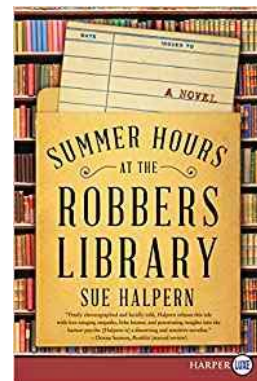
In honor of _____

In memory of _____

You can drop your order form and payment in the offering plate or give to Carol O'Shea in the church office **by Sunday, December 15th**.

BOOK CLUB NEWS

Our December selection is Summer Hours at the Robbers Library by Sue Holpern, subtitled: The Turbulent Life of a Small town librarian.



Join us to read this entertaining and award winning novel. The discussion date is to be determined, but will be in late December or early January.

We enjoy a light pot luck lunch after church, and we always have a good time. Copies of the book are available in Carol's office, in the big blue bag, and can be signed out there.

DESSERTS FOR SPAGHETTI DINNER

St. Philip's members came through again by donating desserts for the Spaghetti Dinner/Vendor Fair as follows:

- 76 Cookies
- 18 Cupcakes
- 19 Cakes
- 12 Brownies
- 3 Pies
- 24 Rice Krispie Bars



There were 6 other items not cut that will be used at a future church meeting.

A special thank you to the helpers: Kathy Shelton, Mary Darr, Hilda Leonard, and Virginia (our Energizer Bunny Hladnick)!! A big thanks to our ECC workers for the preparation of the Spaghetti Dinner!

- The Dessert Committee

October 2019 General Fund Summary

Receipts

Weekly Offering	7,681.80	
Grocery Cards	140.21	
Early Childhood Center	9,000.00	
Vendor Night	85.15	
Recycle Income	69.86	
Hall Rental	<u>100.00</u>	
Total		17,077.02

Expenses

Spiritual Life Ministry	117.75	
Learning Ministry	232.66	
Congregational Life Ministry	32.37	
Financial Ministry	1,875.53	
Church Property Ministry	6,119.45	
Personnel	<u>10,941.28</u>	
Total		<u>19,319.04</u>

October Deficit	(2,242.02)
Previous Balance	<u>11,141.55</u>
October 31 Balance	8,899.53
	=====

October Building Fund Summary

Beginning Balance	5,279.51
Building Fund Offering	556.79
Capital Improvement Fund	(417.00)
Loan Payments Rott Foundation	<u>(461.25)</u>
October Ending Balance	4,958.05
	=====

October Foundation Repair Fund

Beginning Balance	531.00
Foundation Repair Fund Offering	<u>257.00</u>
Current Balance	788.00
	=====

Remaining balance of Foundation		
Repair Loan from Continuity Fund	\$	5,881.00

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 Hanging of the Greens	2 7:00 Church Council	3	4 4:30 LOGOS	5	6	7 10:00 Donuts with Dasher
8 9:00 Breakfast Potluck Worship 10:40 Confirmation	9	10	11 noon Lunch Bunch 5:00-7:00 LOGOS Christmas Pgm	12 6:30 Girl Scouts	13	14
15 Christmas Fund Collection Poinsettia Orders Due	16	17 noon Women's Fellowship- Olive Garden	18 4:30 ECC Board Meeting	19	20	21
22	23	24 7:30 Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Worship Service	25 Christmas Day ECC & Church Office Closed	26	27	28
29	30	31	DECEMBER			