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DONNELLSON, IA 52625

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Forum

September 2021



St. Paul's United Church of Christ
PO Box 297 / 401 Maple St.

Donnellson, IA 52625

Pastor Bob Molsberry

Susan Krebill, Secretary

Office Hours are Tue. and Thurs.,

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

(319) 835-5741

uccdonnellson@windstream.net



St. Paul's UCC Donnellson IA

The Dawn of Civilization

Anthropologist Margaret Mead has declared that the dawn of human civilization was 15,000 years ago. Do you know what criteria she used to determine this milestone? Do you suppose it was the use of tools? Or an organized encampment? Or artwork drawn on the walls of caves? Or the cultivation of crops? Pottery?

No, it was none of these things.

The earliest known indicator of civilization was identified by finding the remains of a human who had a broken femur – the big thigh bone – that had healed. The healing indicates that this specimen had lived several years beyond the breaking of his bone. The healing also indicates that someone else had been caring for this individual while they recuperated. A caring person indicates civilized society.

Normally in nature, an animal would die of starvation with an injury as serious as a broken femur. It couldn't hunt, couldn't gather, couldn't get to water, couldn't fend off predators. It would die.

But in this case, some other member of the tribe cared for the injured person until the injury healed. And then they went on to live a normal life.

What separates humans from the animal world, according to Mead's definition, is mutual care and compassion for one another.

Today's equivalent threshold might be getting a covid vaccine and wearing a mask in public. Don't think of these as tools of control; think of them as marks of civilized society. For by these simple acts we demonstrate a basic concern for our vulnerable neighbors.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Bob

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES

Donnellson, Iowa – July 18, 2021, in sanctuary after worship

CALL TO ORDER: 10:56, Present were Nadine Allen, Cheryl Lang, Bill in for Norma, Susan Krebill

OPENING PRAYER - Pastor Bob Molsberry led with the opening prayer.

REPORTS:

Secretary's Minutes Report – June's meeting minutes

Secretary's minutes from June were approved. Cheryl moved; Nadine seconded.

Old Business

- New Website: now exists is being updated with pictures and events
 - AED defibrillator for church use, Memorial
 - Committee is paying for. Will order in July.
 - Continue to pursue projection in Sanctuary
- Repairs lined up or in process:
- Roof over Narthex and elevator shaft area. – needs inspected
 - Outer doors repaired. In progress
 - Basement floor. Waiting on estimate

Pastor's Report

Treasurer's Reports – June's General Ledger Report and Financial reports were given. Treasurer's reports from June's were approved. Cheryl moved; Nadine seconded.

NEW BUSINESS:

- July and August – Dahms's will open Coffee Nook
- Ordering defibrillator for Sanctuary.
- Organ was tuned on June 10, 2021. Trumpet pipes
- need cleaning cost in the thousands.
- Set next meeting August 8, 2021

ADJOURNMENT: Cheryl moved, Nadine Seconded. Ending with The Lord's Prayer.

Cheryl Lang, Secretary



LIFT UP YOUR PRAYERS



Becca Nemsgerm	Danny Hawk	Ron Mace
Anne Wright	Dion Kramer	Greg Hohl
Ed and Joan Rohdy	Garry Schiller (knee)	
Michael Dahm's family	Vickie (Lay) Riis Family	

Families affected by the fires in the western states.
Global Caring for Haiti and Afghanistan and for our Military.

Please keep Pastor Bob updated on hospitalizations, and individuals that need a call or visit. You can always reach Pastor Bob on his cell phone 618-339-7589 or email: molsberrybob@gmail.com

Our Sympathy to the Family of Vickie Riis. Vicki passed away on Monday, August 2, 2021, at Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, Iowa. Her body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. A memorial has been established in her memory.

Sympathy for Michael 's family. Michael is the great nephew of Bill Dahms, grandson of Scott Dahms, son of Kevin Dahms.

PRAYER RING: Prayer requests call **Catherine Seyb, 835-5577**, or the Church office, 835-5741.

Back to School Supplies Needed for Central Lee!

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 3 Prong Folder | Markers |
| Plain Folders | 3 Hole Punched Folders |
| Glue Sticks | Plain Book Bags (no theme) |
| Colored Pencils | Earbuds |
| Erasers | Basic Calculators |
| Index Cards | Loose Leaf Paper |
| Glue Bottles | Crayons |
| Composition Books (100-page books) | |
| Pencils (#2 Ticonderoga, Pre-sharpened) | |
| 1" and 2" Binders (white, Black, blue, green, red) | |

Bible Readings and Reflections

September 2021

Sunday, September 5 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 22; Psalm 125; James 2:14-17; Mark 7:24-37

Martin Luther, whose motto was always, "we are saved by faith," despised the book of James, which emphasizes the opposite. James says that faith without works is dead. I don't think they disagree. James is just reminding us that there are certain observable fruits of the spirit. I like to say, "Love gets its hands dirty."

Sunday, September 12 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 1:20-35; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

This week Mark relates to last week's reflection on James. Jesus says that his identity ("the Messiah") is vitally tied to his actions (suffering for the sake of the gospel). So his followers – that's us! – have a choice to make. If we want to follow Jesus, we have to take up our own crosses in service.

Sunday, September 19 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 31:10-31/ Psalm 1; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8; Mark 9:30-37

I like to use object lessons during my Sunday morning messages for children. It helps them (and all of us) remember the lesson. Jesus used an actual child as an object lesson. "Whoever welcomes a child welcomes me." Protect the vulnerable. The first shall be last and the last shall be first.

Sunday, September 26 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Esther 7; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

James says that prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective. I believe that, too. But if, say, we are in the grips of an epidemic and someone claims that prayer – not vaccines or masks – is sufficient protection, I disagree. Prayer is not magic. Prayer helps us align our desires with God's will, but God also provides analytic minds and doctors and scientists who are all part of God's plan, too. Get the shot.



SEPTEMBER

Change for Change offering for **September 5** is our own **Families In Need Fund or FIN**. Our church has partnered with Central Lee Schools to provide a monthly Food Gift Card of \$50 per family. We distribute \$750 a month to a total of 15 families we are helping at this time.

Change for Change for **September 12** is for **Lee County Hospice**. Hospice is a Medicare certified program of Lee County Health Department. Hospice provides care and support to the terminally ill and their families in their homes, assisted living facilities, and in long term facilities. The mission of Hospice is to enhance the ill person's quality of life by alleviating pain and other symptoms and by providing physical, emotional, and spiritual support to patients and families. Hospice care may be provided to people of all ages and with any type of life-limiting illness. Website: <https://www.leecountyhd.org/index.php/ho/>

Change for Change offering for **September 19** is for **Refuge Relief through UCC**.

Change for Change offering for **September 26** is for The **Community Food Pantry in Fort Madison**. In early 1984 several churches combined their individual pantries to form one pantry by developing Articles of Incorporation. The Food Pantry located at 3421 Ave. L, Ft Madison. Across from McDonald's.

Open 9 to 3, M-W-F

Facebook: Fort Madison Food Pantry

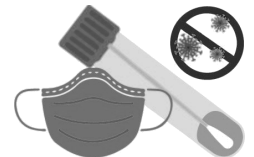


St. Paul's UCC Sunday School Plans

With the uncertainty of the new, more contagious delta variant of the covid virus on the rise, it does not seem wise to gather our children – many of whom are unvaccinated – in our small Sunday school rooms for classes. So we have decided that Tara Sides will shepherd our older children and Barb Tull our younger children through monthly contacts. They will be in touch soon with their Sunday school families. Barb plans to send out monthly packets of studies and activity pages to her charges, and Tara is hoping to have occasional outdoor gatherings and service projects with her group. Her first gathering will be Sunday, September 12th, on her front porch. Watch for more information from your Sunday School Shepherds.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION



St. Paul's UCC is requesting you to wear a mask while in the church we are asking that people still follow the Lee County Health Dept (LCHD) guidelines. LCHD continues to promote and recommend effective public health measures such as wearing face masks when in public settings, social distancing, washing hands frequently, staying home when ill, and choosing to be vaccinated if you are able.

Lee County Health Dept. Covid Data as of 8/26/2021

New positive test in the last 7 days: 101

7 day positivity rate : 8.3%

14 day positivity rate : 8.2%

Lee County residents fully vaccinated 40.3%