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ST. PAUL'S U.C.C.  
P.O. BOX 297  
DONNELLSON, IA 52625

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**Forum**  
**September 2022**



**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**  
**PO Box 297 / 401 Maple St.**  
**Donnellson, IA 52625**  
**Pastor Tony Keefe**

Office Hours are Tue. and Thurs.,  
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**(319) 835-5741**

**[uccdonnellson@windstream.net](mailto:uccdonnellson@windstream.net)**

Susan Krebill, Secretary



**St. Paul's UCC Donnellson IA**

Finally, FALL!

I anxiously await the fall season each year. I usually start my preparations in March, knowing that I may have to suffer through a hot and exhausting summer. This summer was no different. I made some big decisions over the course of the past 6 months that have changed my life trajectory in more ways than I could have ever imagined.

My story starts in August of 2002 when I first went to college. As a first-time college student for my family, I knew that it was a big deal to do well and succeed. The “doing well” part was easy. I had saved enough money to get me through the first semester without having to find an off-campus job, so I was able to do well in my classes. It was the second part of “succeeding” that had me a little worried during that first semester. I had originally started my undergraduate degree in religious studies with the hopes of becoming a minister after 6 years of college. Well, that didn’t work out and it is actually a great story that I would like to share with you sometime, but to make this newsletter less than 20 pages, I will jump to the conclusion.

In April of this year, I was asked to fill in as a guest speaker in your church. I had been filling in as a pulpit supply for the Argyle Presbyterian Church, the Montrose Methodist Church, and the Donnellson Mennonite Church on a couple of occasions. I decided in the Spring of 2021 to go back to Seminary and finish what I had started 20 years ago. I signed up for two online classes and instantly felt like I was doing what God had prepared me to do.

Back to April of 2021. Before I was asked to fill in for a speaker that had gotten sick a few days before Palm Sunday, I had always thought about some of the memories I had in this church. I had fond memories of Singspiration, the bell choir, your majestic organ and the great meals that were served in the basement. I often wondered what it would be like to speak here. Well, God must have heard or seen my curiosity and called us both together into a fruitful relationship.

I am honored to be your Pastor. As I continue to work through my education at the University of Dubuque and the UCC Conference, I hope to learn and grow as a human being. I hope that you will learn and grow as well as God has called both you and I together. My wife, Rosie, and two kids, Grayce, and Elijah are looking forward to serving in this church. If you need anything, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

In Peace,

Pastor Tony

## **ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, MINUTES, July 17, 2022**

**Members Present:** Tony Keefe, Bill Dahms, Kathy Keeler, Cheryl Lang, Gavin Sides – off site, Susan Krebill

Tony Keefe calls the meeting to order with a prayer.

### **Secretary's Minutes Report June's meeting minutes**

Secretary's minutes were approved. Kathy moved; Cheryl seconded.

### **Treasurer's Reports –June's General Ledger Report and Financial reports were given.**

Treasurer's reports were approved. Cheryl moved, Kathy seconded.

### **BUSINESS:**

#### Covid requirements and church update stays the same

Leadership Committee update: is now the Discernment Committee – Cheryl Lang – Chairperson, Norma Dahms and Jason Hopp

Door Security update: Waiting for Mohrfeld Electric to visit the church and give estimate

Review Property/Liability insurance quotes Insurance Boards – UCC new quote finally in.

Bring in Tony Keefe in as an Associate Member of St Paul UCC, Donnellson. Cheryl moved, Kathy seconded. Approved

Expenses to consider for Tony: pay 1/3 of psych exam (waiting for figure), education, at least \$3650.00. approved. Cheryl moved, Bill seconded. Approved.

offertory to the Altar, starting, July 24, 2022

Bill, to have Evan Longnecker to look at outside concrete pylons, need refaced.

Closing Hymn after benediction

Set next consistory meeting August 7, 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Cheryl moved, Kathy Seconded. Approved. Ending with The Lord's Prayer.

Cheryl Lang, Consistory Secretary

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, June 12, 2022, Minutes**

**Members Present:** Norma, Ron, Kathy, Bill, Susan, Tony, Cheryl  
**Secretary's Minutes Report May's meeting minutes**

Secretary's minutes were approved. Norma moved; Kathy seconded.

**Business**

Leadership Committee update: Conf. UCC has asked for extensive background checks for Tony through Oxford doc website. Done - OK

Permission given to raise lawn mowing rate from \$25 to \$30 each mow. Due to gas prices. Norma moved, Kathy Seconded. Approved to \$35 a mowing.

Review Property/Liability insurance quotes: comparison report for July, waiting - Ins Boards new quote.

Have Mohrfeld electric come and give estimate on security for our doors.

To Start Communion August with Tony Keefe. Cheryl moved, Norma Seconded. Approved.

Invite Methodist church members to come to our church for worship.

**Treasurer's Reports –May's General Ledger Report and**

**Financial reports were given.** Treasurer's reports were approved. Norma moved, Cheryl seconded.

**NO NEW BUSINESS:**

Set next consistory meeting July 17, 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Norma moved, Cheryl Seconded. Approved. Ending with The Lord's Prayer.

Cheryl Lang, Consistory Secretary

## Congratulations Tony Keefe!



A Special Congregational Meeting was held on August 28, 2022. The order of business was to vote on hiring Tony Keefe as our part - time pastor. A total of 66 unanimous yes votes was received to hire Tony as our pastor. 31 attending members and 35 members had sent their ballots into the church prior to the meeting. Additionally, it was agreed upon to start worship at 10:30 am starting on September 4th, 2022.

**Starting September 4th, 2022 Worship  
starts at 10:30 am**

# SEPTEMBER



## Change for Change Offerings

### September 4- Families In Need

This provides for Central Lee families. Our church has partnered with Central Lee Schools to provide monthly Food Gift Cards of \$50 per family. We are helping 15 families at this time.

### September 11 & 18- Crop Walk

This is sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations and groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world.

### September 25- Ft. Madison Community Food Pantry

### ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Minutes, May 15, 2022

**Members Present:** Bill Dahms, Gavin Sides, Ron Mace, Norma Dahms, Cheryl Lang and Susan Krebill

**OPENING PRAYER** – Bill calls the meeting to order

**Secretary's Minutes Report April's meeting minutes**

Secretary's minutes, approved. Ron moved; Cheryl seconded

#### Old Business

Sign-up sheets for Door greeter/watcher in narthex, As is Liturgist Sign-up sheet, Leadership Committee talking with Tony Keefe for June and July pulpit Supply. Tony agreed.

Permission giving to have Lauren Mettenberg at \$12 per hour, to help with data filing and training as secretary, before Susan's knee surgery. Insurance estimates update – Bill, Welch's Ins. and Church Mutual quotes, are in.

Church Safety – update waiting on quotes

#### Treasurer's Reports – April's General Ledger Report and Financial

Treasurer's reports were approved. Norma moved, Gavin seconded.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Covid requirements and church update: same

Leadership Committee update: Tony Keefe: Consistory gives permission for Tony to do our Communion and Baptisms.

Cheryl moved, Norma Seconded. Approved.

Susan is inquiring to Conf. UCC if we can use the extensive back checks for Tony already given at both School and Sheriff's office.

Permission to raise lawn mowing rate from \$25 to \$30 each mow. Due to gas prices.

Review Property/Liability insurance quotes: Susan working on comparison report for June.

Have Mohrfeld electric come and give estimate on door security f  
Other New business:

To Start Communion in August with Tony Keefe. Cheryl moved, Norma Seconded. Approved

Talked with Methodist church member about combining churches, hoping to meet.

**Set next consistory meeting June 12, 2022.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Ron moved, Bill Seconded. Approved.

## Calendar

**Sept 4** Worship starts at 10:30 am - Communion Sunday

**Sept 11** 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost with Dan Workman  
Consistory Meets after worship

**Sept 18** Sunday School Kick-off is Sept 18 at 9:30 am,  
meet in the fellowship hall for a quick snack  
and meet and greet!



**Sept 23** Friday, St Paul's Community Luncheon at PGSB  
Comm. Room from 11 to 1 pm.  
See you there!



**Sept 25** Worship at 10:30 am - Pastor Tony

**October 1** 9 am at Green Acres Golf Course  
Shanks Fore Food Banks!  
Sponsored by Zion Mennonite

- **Ten-Hole 4-Person Best-Shot Tournament**
- Lunch meal included in entry
- Prizes + games/challenges on every hole
- Dessert auction

100% of entry fee and money raised this day goes to  
Fort Madison Food Pantry and Farmington Food Pantry UMC

\$35/player. Maximum field of 18 teams.  
Register or inquire at [shankhunger.com](http://shankhunger.com) beFORE it's too late.



## Attendance & Views

July 3	30/79 views	Aug 7	34/88 views
July 10	at Fair/103 views	Aug 14	22/66 views
July 17	25 /89 views	Aug 21	33/81 views
July 24	32/82 views	Aug 28	41/84 views
July 31	29/ 84 views		

## Bible Readings for September 2022 *Pentecost Season*

### September 4

Jer 18:1-11; Ps 139:1-6,13-18  
Philem 1-21; Lk 14:25-33

### September 11

Jer 4:11-12, 22-28; Ps 14  
1Tim 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-10

### September 18

Jer 8:18-9:1; Ps 79:1-9 or Ps 4  
1Tim 2:1-7; Lk 16:1-13

### September 25

Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15; Ps 91:1-6,14-16  
1 Tim 6:6-19; Lk 16:19-31

## **Our COVID-19 Precautionary Measures:**

**At St Paul's UCC masks are optional.** Please wear a mask if you are coughing, sneezing or have a runny nose. We are asking that people still follow the Lee County Health Dept (LCHD) guidelines . LCHD continues to recommend effective public health measures: wearing face masks when in public, social distancing, washing hands frequently, staying home when ill, and to be vaccinated if you are able.



**LIFT UP YOUR PRAYERS**



Becca Nemsgern  
Heather Starrette  
Cherie Cole

Ardie Wells  
Bubba Hudgins  
Family of Melvin Bray

Dion Kramer  
Drew Rector

Those who are fighting COVID-19

Prayers for Ukraine

Please keep the church updated on hospitalizations and individuals that need a call. You can always call the office and leave a message 319-835-5741 or email: [uccdonnellson@windstream.net](mailto:uccdonnellson@windstream.net)

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

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*With Deepest  
Sympathy*

**Christian Sympathy for Nadine Allen** as her brother Melvin Bray has passed away on August 24, 2022. Visitation is August 29, 2022 at 5:00 -7:00 p.m., at Lunning Funeral Chapel, Burlington, IA. Service, is August 30, 2022 at 10:30 a.m., also at Lunning Funeral Chapel.

*thank you*

**Thank You:** To my UCC Family and Friends: For all cards and well wishes on my recovery after my knee surgery. Garry Schiller.

**Thank You** for so many Birthday cards and wishes on my 90th Birthday! - Helen Hohl

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In the photo, the funds that were collected by St. Paul's UCC was used to support all the children in this photo who attends a special school in a mountain village in Nepal. Every Nepali student here at this school is either visual impaired or blind, or hearing impaired, or has physical disabilities, or autistic. Every student received a backpack as seen by one of the students just beside the signage for UCC. Tears of joy from each kid, each parent, each teacher and from all of us volunteers.

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Rebuild Nepal Education Foundation: [www.rebuildnepaleducation.org](http://www.rebuildnepaleducation.org)

