



St. Paul Ministries

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St. Paul, a United Methodist Church, and so much more...



Students Gear Up for a New School Year

On Sunday, August 11, more than 60 people gathered for St. Paul's Back to School Night. Families enjoyed tacos and ice cream sundaes, and students from kindergarten through eighth grade were equipped to start the new year. Each of the 47 school-aged kids that were here had the opportunity to pick out a backpack stuffed with paper and folders, coloring supplies and pencils. Everything that the students received had been donated by the generous and faithful friends of St. Paul Church. Christ Church in Kettering contributed a large number of the 51 backpacks that went out; we want to extend and extra-large 'Thank You' to all who gave through that ministry. It was amazing to see the kids excitedly donning their backpacks!

As part of the Back to School Night, parents were able to sign students up for St. Paul's afterschool program., the Asset Builders' Club. The program will be different than in years past in that it has been designed using the 40 Developmental Assets Framework.

EXTERNAL ASSETS

- Support
- Empowerment
- Boundaries & Expectations
- Constructive Use of Time

INTERNAL ASSETS

- Commitment to Learning
- Positive Values
- Social Competencies
- Positive Identity

The Developmental Assets are forty positive supports and strengths that have been identified by Search Institute as necessary for the success of young people. These assets are divided into two groups: those that focus on the relationships and opportunities kids need in their families, schools and communities (external) and those

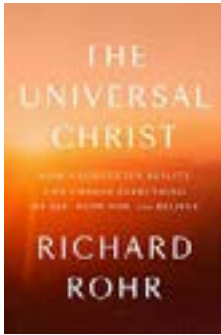
that focus on social-emotional strengths, values, and commitments that are nurtured within young people (internal assets).

The desire of the Asset Builders' Club is to help young people build social and emotional skills that are critical to their success. A group of college students serving as Program Assistants will connect with the club members, establishing effective developmental relationships that help kids discover who they are, develop abilities to shape their own lives, and learn how to engage with and contribute to the world around them. These relationships will be built as we engage in activities focused on academic support, the arts, fitness, health, recreation, service, science, and more!

The Asset Builders' Club runs Monday-Wednesday 3:30-5:30 during the school year.

We are always looking for adults who have a passion for helping young people thrive. If you are interested in investing in our kids through the Asset Builders' Club, contact Elizabeth at 937-232-8904 or elizabethheft@gmail.com.





The Universal Christ Spiritual Growth Workshop

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24
10:00AM TO 2:00PM
ST. PAUL UMC

Where better to see the incarnation of Christ in the world than at St. Paul where we experience Christ daily in the diversity of people, especially those on the margins, who come and go from our place. Here, we hold an incarnational worldview striving to be inclusive and respectful of every thing and every one. From that starting place, we can be lead to actions that are affirming and compassionate towards others and ourselves. Continually leaning into the practice of seeing Christ in every thing and every one is not always easy and at times frustrating but yet it serves as a valuable tool for spiritual growth. In his book, *The Universal Christ*, Richard Rohr describes the incarnational worldview as:

...the profound recognition of the presence of the divine in literally "every thing" and "every one." It is the key to mental and spiritual health, as well as to a kind of basic contentment and happiness. An incarnational worldview is the only way we can

reconcile our inner worlds with the outer one, unity with diversity, physical with spiritual, individual with corporate, and divine with human.

You are invited to join us. Included in this workshop will be videos of Fr. Richard speaking from THE UNIVERSAL CHRIST CONFERENCE held in Albuquerque, NM, March 28-31, 2019, along with group activities selected from the book's companion guide developed for small group study.

A freewill offering will be collected to cover lunch. We ask that you do register by calling the church (252-4467) so that we can plan for lunch.

To prepare for the workshop, please read the book which you can buy from wherever you buy your books. If you like to listen to podcasts, you will find *Another Name for Everything with Richard Rohr* to be very helpful.

Welcome, New St. Paul Staff Member!

Billy Brokschmidt, an AmeriCorps VISTA, as of February was placed at St. Paul for 27 hours each week in direct service to the addicted, the homeless, the uninsured, people with mental illness, and families affected by the tornado who have migrated to East Dayton. With great skill as a recovering heroin addict himself, Billy has been serving weekly as a peer counsellor and placing people into treatment, counselling, housing and bringing substantial partners to the St Paul site. These agencies include Jeremiah's Letter, Job and family Services social workers, Goodwill counsellors to assist with the mental illness, and Public Health addressing Medicaid sign up. Also included is Five Rivers Medical Group where people can get a primary care doctor, and staff of the VA for addressing the broad needs of homeless vets. Billy is aligned with FOA (Family of Addicts) and is being professionally mentored by Think Tank, Inc., an important partner with St. Paul. He is also being mentored around his own spiritual growth and attends 3 of the 4 weekly worship events held at St. Paul. Through personal and relational skills he has greatly enhanced the bridging of people with a host of needs with agencies where they can be served. Billy's work, connections, and presence has indirectly brought a massive respect and community focus to the work of St. Paul and has greatly helped create a real path for many individuals to be transformed.





MIAMI VALLEY DISTRICT RESPONDS TO BISHOP GREGORY PALMER'S CALL TO ACTION

In recent months we have noticed an influx of new asylum seekers from Honduras moving into the neighborhoods around St. Paul. As church, when we endeavor to follow Jesus' directive in Matthew 25 to "welcome the stranger," we begin to realize the seriousness of the responsibility we have to these precious souls. At the same time, they bring us joy and blessing. The people we have met are people of faith, brothers and sisters in Christ.

Their stories are heartbreaking as we hear about the horrendous difficulties they've faced in their country of origin: roving gangs of criminals out to rob and even kill hardworking people coming home from work with their paychecks; civil unrest due to local governments' refusal to solve problems (in many cases, the criminal gangs are actually *connected* to the government); lack of basic needs such as water and food (rivers and streams are drying up due to global warming, which in turn affects the crops); and the consequent inability to feed their children and themselves. Coming to the United States and turning themselves in at the border to request asylum is their last, best hope.

As they arrive, many are detained in "camps" and separated from their children at the border. Those who are allowed in are fitted with a GPS ankle bracelet and must check in with immigration monthly in Cincinnati, Columbus or Cleveland. The only immigration court in Ohio is in Cleveland. Keep in mind, these people are virtually penniless, they don't have transportation; and if they did, according to current law, they aren't allowed to get a driver's license. If they miss a check-in date, they are in danger of deportation. Yet, how are they supposed to get to these distant appointments without transportation?

They are not allowed to work until their request for asylum is approved, nor are they allowed to apply for government assistance. It can take five years or longer to get a work permit. These are hard working, good people who do not want to be a burden on society; however, they are barred from seeking employment because of our draconian laws. As church, we need to stand up for mercy and justice for these souls. We are confident that there *is* a better way.

For all the reasons listed above and more, **Bishop Gregory Palmer has issued a "Call to Prayer and Action" for the entire West Ohio Conference.** The Miami Valley District is responding to that call. A committee of movers and shakers from several congregations has met three times in the past few weeks, to organize an event that will raise awareness and seek reasonable ways to break down the barriers that are marginalizing and disenfranchising a new generation of people.

*If you are called to be part of the solution, we invite you to join our effort to develop a meaningful event that will make a lasting difference. We want to design a model that could be replicated in different settings, providing also an opportunity for potential "helpers" to connect with those in need. **Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 3, 7 p.m., at Grace UMC. Please join us!***



August / September Calendar

August 20	Job & Family Services at Tuesday Lunch for applications, etc.
August 22	All sub orders due
August 24	Universal Christ Seminar
August 30	Sub making project; church closed
September 2	Labor Day, church closed
September 3	First day for Asset Builders Club - 3:30-5:30 p.m. Call to Prayer and Action Vigil Planning Meeting, Grace UMC at 7 p.m.
September 8	United Methodist Women following worship
September 12	Weekly Hispanic-Latino Ministry Fall Schedule: Las Amigas - Thursdays - 6:45 p.m. Spanish Worship - Sundays - 6:45 p.m.
September 23-30	Stuff Shoppe closed for seasonal changes
September 28	Miami Valley District United Methodist Women Annual Gathering at Sulphur Grove UMC.

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, November 2 - Steak Dinner



At a Glimpse

During June and July, with your help, St. Paul:

- Provided food for 801 people with 12,015 through our Food Pantry.
- Provided 2,843 meals at our Tuesday Lunch and Saturday Breakfast.
- Sold 1,500 pieces of clothing and household items and made \$866.00 for the Outreach budget. In addition, vouchers are given out on Thursdays for two outfits each for those without funds to pay.

Needs List

Food Pantry:

Canned vegetables
Canned fruit
Canned soups
Canned meat
Peanut butter
Jelly
Shelf milk
Boxed potatoes

Meals

and Hospitality:
Sugar and Creamer

Stuff Shoppe:

Men's clothing

TUESDAY LUNCHES

September:

3 Think Tank, Inc.
10 St. Andrew UMC
17 Concord UMC
24 Aldersgate UMC

October:

1 Aley UMC
8 Christ UMC
15 Community UMC
22 Tipp City UMC
29 Lewisburg UMC

SATURDAY BREAKFASTS

September:

7 Belmont UMC
14 Englewood UMC
21 Normandy UMC
28 Community UMC

October

5 Belmont UMC
12 Aley UMC
19 Normandy UMC
26 Belmont UMC Youth

