



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Do you have a Christmas carol still going in your mind? I do. Joy to the World! The Lord is come: Let earth its praises bring; Let every heart prepare Christ room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing. Christmas Joy!

But Christmas isn't the only season of joy, every day is an opportunity to experience joy. I, for one, do not want to pack away all that joy along with the Christmas lights and glitter. January joy, where do you find it?

January can be a month of gentle quietness. I find myself curled up on the couch, covered in the snuggliest, warmest blanket, and a little smile and an "ahhh" can be seen and heard as my eyes close, even in the middle of the afternoon. The January sky is full of twinkling stars, and the four phases of the moon offers us its gifts of brilliance, and the new moon around January 18th will be a supermoon. What a delight January brings.

Of course, January can bring storms and treacherous weather. Those most affected by the bitter cold are those without shelter. Did you know there are seven homeless shelter listings near Richfield? Winter can be challenging on many levels.

We celebrate the Baptism of Jesus on January 11th with its brood of vipers and then the heavens opening. Joy to the World, the Lord is baptized?? Well, maybe not, but there is both fear and joy in this story.

Is there a hymn that embraces the joys and sorrows of January? How about, *This Is The Day The Lord Has Made* or "God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"? What is your favorite January hymn?

WOMEN'S GUILD

Women's Guild did not meet in December, but we were very busy with the Cookie Walk. It was a great day and a very successful sale. Thank you to all the bakers. Your beautiful and tasty cookies--the variety, the quality, and the volume--are what keep people coming each year. Thanks to the Christmas Sale organizers and contributors. It was beautiful! Thanks to Jack for the snowplowing and shoveling. Thanks to the folks who put up signs, posters, and invited friends and neighbors. Thanks to Peggy and all the decorators for the many trays of beautiful cookies. Thanks to those who worked at the sale and to Jodi, who posted Cookie Walk updates in real time on Facebook. Of course, thanks to Santa (both of them) as well as the chipmunks. It takes a village, and ours might be small, but it is mighty!

Thanks also to all our enthusiastic cookie shoppers! Three cars of shoppers were waiting in the parking lot before 7 AM! Jacquie was cashier/stenographer and reports hearing: "Best cookies in town" / "Your cookies are outstanding" / "You have such lovely cookies" / "See you next year!"

The next Guild meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15, at noon. All St. Paul's women are invited to bring a bag lunch and join us.



St. Paul's UCC will be hosting a blood drive on Monday, February 9th, from 2 pm - 6:30 pm.

"Versiti Blood Center" will be setting up an online sign-up in January- more info to come at that time.



Can you help?



Grateful Hearts, Helping Hands

Our church is blessed beyond measure by the many volunteers who faithfully give their time, energy, and talents in service to God and our congregation. Whether it's teaching, music, serving on a committee, maintenance, administrative tasks, outreach, prayer, or quiet acts of support behind the scenes, your dedication makes it possible for our church to live out its mission each and every day. We offer our heartfelt thanks to all who serve so generously—your commitment truly matters.

The need for helping hands grows. There are many opportunities, both large and small, where new volunteers can make a meaningful difference. If you have a talent to share, a skill to offer, or simply a willing heart, now is a wonderful time to step forward. Together we can continue to strengthen our church and ensure its mission thrives for years to come. Please prayerfully consider how you might help and talk to a council or committee member or pastor to learn where your time and talent is needed.

While not an inclusive list, some areas where help is currently needed include:

Council Members

Fundraiser Committee Members (Chili Lunch & Brat Fry)

Committee Members

Teaching/Assisting with Christian Ed

Women's Guild

Building and grounds maintenance, Garden care, annual cleaning activities, snow removal

Marketing Talents

And lots of other opportunities

MISSION COMMITTEE

We collected a total of \$545 in gift cards for the Waukesha Christmas Clearing Council.

\$350 in Target gift cards.

\$120 in Walmart gift cards.

\$75 in Walgreens gift cards.

Thank you to all who donated. These gift cards will be much appreciated by the boys/girls age 12-18 in need.



| January | Liturgist | Greeters | Communion |
|---------|------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1/4/26 | Jacquie B. | Steve & Alice M. | |
| 1/11/26 | Cindy C. | Cliff & Debbie B. | |
| 1/18/26 | Bernie C. | Bernie C. & Jill P. | |
| 1/25/26 | Bernie D. | Vicki & Eugene D. | |

UPCOMING EVENTS:

02/09/2026 - Blood Drive 2 - 6:30 PM

02/18/2026 - Ash Wednesday

02/22/2026 - Chili Dinner

PRAYER Requests

Please remember with your prayers, cards, calls and visits: Diane S., Joyce O'K, Mark G., John and Polly E. Mary and Tom G. and Jeff G. and Lucy K.



CHILI LUNCH & PIE SALE

SAVE THE DATE – Our annual church fundraiser -the Chili Lunch & Homemade Pie Sale will be Sunday, February 22nd. Donation slips, promotional flyers and a sign-up to help form will be available in January.



SOMETHING TO SHARE

Winter by Greta Crosby

Let us not wish away the winter. It is a season to itself, not simply the way to spring.

*When trees rest, growing no leaves, gathering no light, they let in
Sky and trace themselves delicately against dawns and sunsets.*

The clarity and brilliance of the winter sky delight. The loom of fog softens edges, Lulls the eyes and ears of the quiet, awakens by risk the unquiet. A low dark sky can Snow, emblem of individuality, liberality, and aggregate power. Snow invites to contemplation and to sport.

Winter is a table set with ice and starlight.

Winter dark tends to warm light: fire and candle, winter cold to hugs and huddles; Winter want to gifts and sharing; winter danger to visions, plans, and common Endeavoring – the zest of narrow escapes; winter tedium to merry-making.

*Let us therefore praise winter, rich in beauty, challenge, and pregnant
Negativities.*

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Church Council Meeting Minutes November 10,2025

The Church Council Meeting came to order at 6 p.m. Those in attendance were Kay O., Curt H., Connie J., Fred D., Debbie S., and Vicki D. Kay read an opening prayer.

The October Council Meeting minutes were approved. The October Financial Reports were reviewed and approved.

Pastor Bonnie will be performing the grave site service for Ron Smith. She will return to Sunday Service on November 23. The Financial Planning/Investment Committee has four members, Connie J., Debbie S., Brett M., and John D. Connie and Debbie will set up their first meeting. Kay contacted Jeff Schulteis regarding snowplowing for church. The rate is the same at \$95 per time plus the cost of salt. The Stewardship campaign is done for the year. Sharon Schlafer has the pledges.

Church Council positions-Kay asked for Council members who would say on for next year's council. Curt, Vicki and Debbie are staying on. Discussed possible Nominating Committee members. Kay and Connie will follow up with Bonnie H., Kim K., and Janene K. We will need two council positions, and possibly endowment and PPRC positions. We plan to have our Annual Meeting on February 15, 2026. The date of the Chili Lunch is set for February 22, 2026. Performance reviews were discussed for Pastor Bonnie and Jill. It was confirmed that the reviews should be done yearly.

Liaison Report- Altar-Kay-Christmas Poinsettias will be available to purchase soon. Technology-Kay- No report. Christian Education-Debbie-Veteran's tribute and breakfast will be held November 16. The Mission Committee will help. The Sunday School children have started practicing for their Christmas Program on December 14. LouAnn and the guild volunteered to help. Music-Vicki-No news. Mission-Kay-Brown Street Academy coats and Christmas Child boxes are due November 23. Gift cards for the Waukesha Christmas Clearing Council are due on December 14. Guild-Vicki-The Guild organized the potluck for the 185th Anniversary and their 110th Anniversary. They are now planning baking and the sale of cookies for the Cookie Walk December 6. Buildings and grounds-Fred-Jack has contacted the guys who left the road equipment in our parking lot. They should be moving it soon.

The budget for next year was reviewed line by line. We are awaiting for input on some items from Pastor Bonnie and the UCC conference. Will continue to review the budget next month.

The Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. Our next meeting will be held on December 8 at 6 p.m.

January 2026



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------------------------|--|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 9:30 AM Worship Rick G. | 5 Bill C. Bill E. | 6 Seniors | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 9:30 AM Worship Payton W. | 12 Katelyn N. | 13 | 14 | 15 Women's Guild 12 Noon | 16 | 17 Jim S. |
| 18 9:30 AM Worship | 19 Cliff B. Polly E. Chapel Bells items due to Donna | 20 Rebecca O. John & Polly E.'s Anniversary | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 9:30 AM Worship | 26 | 27 | 28 Jennie H. | 29 | 30 | 31 If your birthday or anniversary is missed, please let Donna Runte know. I don't know it if you haven't shared it with me. |