

CHAPEL BELLS

St. Paul's U.C.C. - Erin



October, 2026



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

FYI: Pastor Lois Buchholz will again be leading worship beginning October 18th! As the seasons shift and our church community settles into fresh routines—from the bustling start of Sunday School complete with new faces and new teachers, to the crisp, beautiful changes in creation all around us—I find myself reflecting on the unique journey we share together here at St. Paul's.

Life is going to bring each of us challenges. Grief comes in various forms by all of us. My personal loss is visible in the form of the invisible brain fog that affects my daily life. You have witnessed it when Sunday after Sunday there is one or more things that I simply mess up. There is no cure for it other than to live through it, and it can last anywhere from six months to a year or more. It also is affecting my health; for those reasons and more, I have been meditating and praying on how to better care for myself.

The Holy Spirit has always influenced my decision making. The way forward became clear to me when I learned that Rev. Lois Buchholz was completing her present position and would be available for supply or an interim position in the near future. I have spoken with Pastor Lois and together we have presented to the Wisconsin UCC Conference and St. Paul's council the option of job sharing. Under this arrangement, Pastor Lois and I will handle separate responsibilities and tag -team from time to time.

I have repeatedly expressed my desire to lead confirmation and last Sunday's confirmation class only reinforced my love for confirmation aged kids and these kids in particular. This will remain part of my duties. More details will follow after further discussions and a congregational meeting will take place.

The other details I can share with you is I will be moving to Cedar Ridge in West Bend sometime in February or March 2027 and I will be fully retiring on June 1, 2027.

Connie's husband, Erik, posted a photo revealing a child - a young girl, roughly eight or nine years old - lying on her stomach on a huge rock with her arms and legs spread out like she was hugging the rock. She was just lying there absorbing the rock's warmth and energy. She loved that rock!

There was a time in my life that I sat on a huge, ancient boulder that peered a long way down at a stream as the sun played tag with the clouds. The water was colored by the iron embedded in the floor of the stream. This spot was indeed ancient and I allowed the energy of that rock - and all the generations who had sat there in the past...most likely past and present Native Americans for sure - to speak to me. It was way too large to hug, unlike the young girls' rock; in particular, the energy of the flecks of mica in the granite was magical. That rock warmed my soul. I need to find that rock or one like it again.

I am deeply grateful for the rhythm of life we share here at St. Paul's. Thank you for your grace, your dedication, your endless volunteer energy, and your willingness to walk this path of faithful, shared ministry together.

Blessings on the journey,

Pastor Bonnie

CONFIRMATION NEWS

On October 4th the confirmation youth will be participating in worship. They will be greeters, candle lighters, collect the offering and lead the Call To Worship. Their parents will offer Coffee and Conversation and the kids will be seeking out someone outside their family to interview. They will have prepared questions and you will be encouraged to ask them questions as well. If one of them taps you on the shoulder hopefully you will welcome them and make room at the table to share with them. Being a part of St. Paul's church family has always been valued.

October 11th will be the second session of Confirmation. We will be exploring The Bible as a whole. Class runs from 11 am to 3 pm. I'M LOOKING FOR AN ADULT TO BE PRESENT to cover our Safe Sanctuary policy. Please let me know if you are available. You only need to be in the building. Many thanks.

COUNCIL NOTES

The year is moving quickly and it will soon be time for the Church Council to work on the budget for next year. To help us in that process, we are asking for all committees to submit their 2027 budget requests no later than October 25, 2026. As another sign of the fast-moving year, the Council has also discussed participating in the Hartford Christmas Parade. The parade will be held Saturday, November 14 th from 3 to 5 pm. Does this interest you? Do you have ideas you would love to share? Please reach out to any Council member. In other business, we have discussed the possibility of some small maintenance items for the roof and the possibility of some fall landscape clean-up projects that could be done by individuals on an "as time permits" schedule.

As always, if you have a question, comment or an idea, please reach out to me. I enjoy talking with each of you and sharing our love for St. Paul's!

Debbie Schlafer
Council President

ST. PAUL'S GUILD

At our September meeting, we checked out a table size food warmer which was donated by Janene K. for use at potlucks, funeral lunches, buffets etc. Thanks Janene! Bernice baked "delicious bars" for our dessert -- and boy, were they ever!!! Thanks Bernice! Recipe follows --

We discussed plans for this year's Cookie Walk. At our October meeting we will designate annual financial donations to church organizations and committees.

The October meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, at noon. All church women are invited to join us.

Delicious Bars (Isabel Horn recipe)

1 c flour

½ c butter or margarine

¼ c powdered sugar

1-1/4 c crushed graham crackers

¼ tsp salt

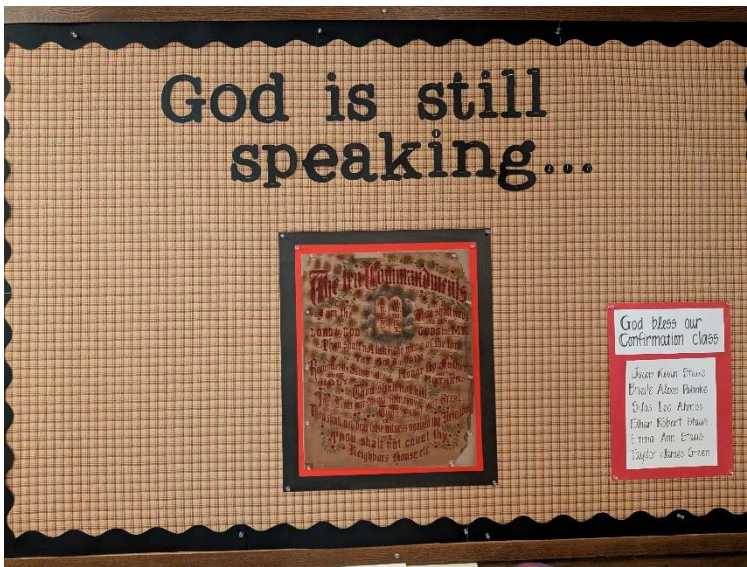
1 tsp baking powder

1 can sweetened condensed milk

½ c nuts

1 (6 oz) pkg chocolate chips

Blend flour with butter and powdered sugar. Cover bottom of 9 x 13 pan. Bake 10 minutes at 350. Combine 1-1/4 c (10 double) crushed graham crackers, salt, baking powder, condensed milk, nuts and chocolate chips. Mix well and spread over first layer. Return to oven. Bake 30 minutes; cool. Combine: ½ c butter and 1-1/2 c powdered sugar. Cream well and frost.



SOMETHING TO SHARE

The following comes from Wendell Berry's famous poem "Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front"

So, friends, every day do something
That won't compute.
Love the Lord.
Love the world.
Work for nothing.
Take all that you have and be poor.
Love someone who doesn't deserve it.
Be like the fox who makes more
Tracks than necessary...
Some in the wrong direction.
Practice resurrection.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Please pray for John and Polly E., Diane S., Joyce O.K., Mark G., Lucy K., Steve M., Marilyn D.

OCTOBER	GREETERS	LITURGIST
4TH	Confirmands	Eugene D.
11th	Misti & Truett	John D.
18th	Steve & Alice	Katie G.
25th	Bernie & Jill P.	Bernie C.

COUNCIL MINUTES

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Church Council Meeting Minutes August 10, 2026

The Church Council meeting came to order at 6 p.m. Those in attendance were Pastor Bonnie, Mark K., Jack D., Bill E., Brett M., Connie J., Vicki D., Curt H., and Debbie S. Pastor Bonnie opened the meeting with a prayer.

Investment Committee- Brett M.- The Investment Committee developed an Investment Allocation Plan for the council to review. The Investment Committee met with Matt Wagner from United Church Funds (UCF). We currently have some assets invested with the UCF. They are focused on investments for churches. After this meeting, the committee recommends we use UCF to invest our assets utilizing four of their funds. The committee will meet with UCF every 6-12 months, or as needed to review performance. The Investment Committee recommends that we keep 10% of assets in cash or cash equivalent, 50% of assets in fixed income, and 40% of assets in equities. We would maintain easy access to these funds if needed. This plan also simplifies the transfer of funds. The Investment Committee will continue to make recommendations to

the Church Council regarding investments and will work with Connie to rebalance the assets. After review and discussion, the council approved the Investment Plan. Thank you to the Investment Committee for all your work.

Building and Grounds-Jack D.- Roof- We recently had our roof inspected by Interstate Roof Systems. They are an independent roof consultant. They inspected our roof and prepared a 24-page report for us to review. Our roof currently has no leaks. The main roof should be good for another three years. The addition is good for another 5 years, and the steeple was just completed and is good. They did find a couple of repairs that they recommend we complete now. There are a couple of flashings, sealants, vents, and fasteners that need attention. Jack is going to check to see what he can do and will keep us posted. First Floor Bathroom- Jack contacted Kyle G. as his company does this type of addition. Jack will be meeting with Kyle and his architect soon. Jack also met with another contractor that he has worked with. This contractor thought the office would be the best option for the bathroom. They would not need the entire office space. He gave a rough amount of \$40,000. Jack will report back to the council after meeting with Kyle. Thank you, Jack.

The June Council Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. The July Special Council Meeting minutes were also reviewed and approved. Connie discussed and reviewed the June and July financial reports. Both reports were approved by council. Connie noted that \$1035 was spent to purchase a computer and software for the office. The Sunday School class raised \$690 and donated it for the computer. The Guild plans to pay for the remainder of the purchase. A big thank you to Dave Z. for computer installation and set-up, and thanks to the Sunday School class and the Guild for their generosity.

Pastor's Report- Pastor Bonnie- Council reviewed the Pastor's report. Meet Me in the Prayer Garden is scheduled for August 20 at 1:30 p.m. Bonnie also submitted a comprehensive plan for the six confirmands which include several adventures. They will have their first adventure of fishing on August 13.

Brat fry update- Vicki D.-Eugene has distributed posters for members to post at various businesses. He also distributed raffle packets with tickets for members to sell. There are currently 6 confirmed vendors for the Brat Fry, and a couple more possible. Eugene updated a couple roadside banners from last year with current information. He will post them in the 3rd week of August.

Office/Computer-Debbie S.- The Office Computer is installed. The office group met with Donna regarding her duties. The Office group will send out Chapel Bells this week to those who do not use email. The Office group continues to learn their role/duties.

Cleaning Fee for Special Events- Debbie S.- The council decided the custodian fee collected should be given to Wanda for the cleaning she does for these events.

Liaison Reports- Creation Care- Curt H.- Curt observed the run-off in the area where the trees were removed. He feels the area handled the rain well and told the contractor to hold off on the swales for this year. We will need to discuss further what to do next year.

Curt is working on a list of landscaping tasks that need to be assigned to keep our grounds looking good throughout the year. Mark K. offered to help with this. Curt would also like to put a bird feeder with a camera. It would be helpful to figure out if raccoons or squirrels are getting into the feeders.

Christian Education- Debbie S.-Debbie will meet with Jodi soon to set start date and specifics. Truett will be helping Debbie with Sunday school.

Guild-Vicki D.- Guild had their summer outing on July 15 in Port Washington. They will meet next August 19 to discuss their participation with the Brat Fry.

Missions- Debbie S.- The Mission committee collected \$525 in donations for school

supplies along with the donated supplies. Altar- Debbie S.-They have had some membership changes. Technology- Vicki D.- They have been online, going well. Music- Vicki D.- The organ is not working correctly. Jill contacted the organ repairman. We need a new circuit board, but there are none for our organ. Jill feels she can make do. She will keep us posted. The piano is going to need to be tuned again. Apparently, the heat was turned up to 80 degrees in church which affects the piano. Christmas Eve services will be held at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Also, Blue Christmas will be held on December 6 at 11 a.m. after coffee and conversation. The council meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, September 21, 2026, at 6 p.m.

October

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Bernice D. Marvin & Kathy S. Anniversary	2	3 Mason W.
4 9:30 Worship Vintage Car Show	5	6 Seniors	7	8	9 Jacob S.	10
11 9:30 Worship	12 Neil & Debra W. Anniversary	13	14 Women's Guild at Noon	15	16 Carl R.	17
18 9:30 Worship	19 Neil W. Mike & Shirley J. Anniversary	20	21 Haleigh Y.	22	23 Cheri J.	24
25 9:30 Worship Jean S. Obie & Anna O. anniversary	26	27	28	29	30	31 Lewe J.