



January, 2025

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

What do you think of when I say January? Do you imagine a cosy scene? Maybe it includes the warm light and warmth of a fireplace or a wood stove. Perhaps the television channel with the fireplace is still on for you to chill out.

The yearly January question is, “When do you take your tree down?” Many follow the uncertain date of January 6th as when the three wisemen or Magi began their journey to find the new-born baby Jesus following a brilliant star in the dark January sky. Our church calendar names this event as the feast of the Epiphany. Are you ready to feast again or did you make dieting your New Year’s resolution?

At some point in January, we take the twinkling light down and pack away the shepherds in the creche because they have returned back to the hillside and keep close watch over their sheep.

We have already experienced snow falling quietly in December. How much snow will January have in store for Erin, Wisconsin? Some of us cheer for new snowfall and the ability to just sit and watch out our windows at the amazing transformation to whiteness everywhere. I love when the snow is covered with white glitter - sparkling in the moonlight or the winter sunshine. It stops me in my tracks. What a creation joy.

Advent was a month-long time of preparation, both theologically and secularly. Religiously Advent is intended to remind us that we need hope, peace, love and joy in our lives all the time. Our secular culture wants us to hurry, don’t be late, quick buy this. It can be exhausting to the point that we ask, “Are we there yet?” January brings us Epiphany. It tells us, “Ok, we are here.” Christmas is over. NOW WHAT?



THEO-DRAMA

Pastor Bonnie is looking for anyone willing to dress in a wedding dress and a groom’s attire for our January 19th service. It would also be nice to have a father of the bride, best man, maid of honor, flower girl, ring bearer. Let me know if any of these appeal to you.

*Let us
Prepare
our Hearts
for Worship*

SHHHH

It's 9:15 on a Sunday morning at church. It's time to quiet our hearts and minds. It's the time that teachers say, "Use your 'inside voices, please.'" The teacher is not saying you cannot talk, only to speak quietly. For us that means that people two rows behind or in front of us cannot hear every word we say.

Young children are often told even before they enter the sanctuary (sanctuary in Hebrew means sacred place) they need to be quiet because people are praying. As adults, we need to set an example of what it means to be in a holy place and showing respect to others.

Why is this important? For the teacher it is so students hear what is being taught. For us, it is so we can listen and hear God. Amen.

Thank you from your Church Council.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have joined in supporting our congregation in the coming year by making your stewardship pledge. Because of you, our congregation will continue to change lives. We are fortunate to have a community of faith that believes in what God is doing here, in this place. If you haven't had a chance to submit your pledge for 2025, you can still do so. You can download a pledge card from our website – <https://stpaulserin.org/stewardship-%26-giving>

If you have any questions, please contact the Stewardship Committee – Eugene & Vicki Dost, Connie Johnson and Pastor Bonnie.



CHILI LUNCH & PIE SALE

SAVE THE DATE – Our annual church fundraiser -the Chili Lunch & Homemade Pie Sale will be Sunday, February 23rd. Donation slips, promotional flyers and a sign-up to help form will be available in January.





The 2025 Nominating Committee is made up of Bill Ahles, Lynn Duwell, and Susan Miller. They will be looking for several persons for positions on the Church Council, Endowment Committee, and Pastor Parish Relations Committee. Please consider accepting a nomination for these important positions if you are asked.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 2** following the regular church service. All committees need to have their annual reports completed by **Sunday, January 19**. They can either be placed in a folder in the secretaries office or emailed to Council President, Charmaine Duehring at jkduehring@hotmail.com.

If you have not turned in your pledge for 2025, please do so as soon as possible. The Church Council uses these numbers to set the budget for 2025 before the Annual Meeting.

Lights are still being left on. Please be sure all lights are turned off when you leave the church building. Many of them are not automatic and need to be turned off.



WOMEN'S GUILD

St. Paul's Cookie Walk this year was one of the best ever! The weather was perfect, Santa was on hand to greet and direct shoppers, and the cookies were amazing! Many of our shoppers are seasoned professionals who look forward to this each year. They zero in on their favorite cookies and this year approximately 480 lbs. of cookies left our sale by noon to cookie platters around the neighborhood. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of our bakers!

The Silent Auction and Gifts to Go tables made for popular Christmas shopping while our guests waited to shop for cookies. Thanks to everyone who donated the Christmas gift items and assembled the tables. It is the generous contributions of so many that make our Cookie Walk such a popular community event.

The next Guild meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16. All St. Paul's women are invited to bring a bag lunch and join us.



GIVING ENVELOPES

If you need more giving envelopes, let Sharon Schlafer know. Please remember to put your name on the outside of the envelope as we no longer keep track of the numbers listed on them. Also, we have some families with the same last name, so include your first name (especially if you leave cash).



MISSION COMMITTEE

St. Paul's completed our 5th year of the Bundle Up Brown Street project in December. 21 shopping bags filled with cozy winter jackets, additional clothing and lots of fun treats were donated by our caring St. Paul's members to the third grade class at Brown Street Academy in Milwaukee. The Mission Committee sends a warm note of thanks to everyone who participated in this project that brings smiles and much needed cuddly clothing to our young inner city neighbors. An extra special thanks to Betty Pellman for crocheting toasty neck warmers, Jill Schaefer for donating toys and Ruth Gielow for knitting cozy hats for each child. Merry Christmas to everyone at St. Paul's.

We received a total of \$615 in gift cards from Target/Walmart!!! This total is an amazing show of generosity! Thank you to all who donated to the Waukesha Christmas Clearing Council. These gift cards will go to kids ages 12-18. Thank you to the Endowment Fund for donating \$100 which provided four \$25 Target gift cards.

This year, the Council chose The Washington County Foster Care Closet to be the recipient of 50% of the loose Christmas Eve offering. Many thanks to everyone who contributed!

THANK YOU CARD We received a Thank You card from Sheriff Marty Schulteis that reads: Pastor Bonnie, I wanted to extend my gratitude to you and your congregation for inviting us to the special service to recognize First Responders. The service was a touching reminder of the bond we share as neighbors to protect, support and uplift one another.



Thank you for your unwavering support and for providing a moment of reflection, fellowship and appreciation for First Responders.

P.S. Sorry I could not stay for coffee. You know how much cops like coffee...duty called.



PASTOR BONNIE ON VACATION

Pastor Bonnie will be on vacation from January 30th to January 6 of 2025. In case of an emergency, please contact Charmaine D. Lesley Buelow has accepted my invitation to lead worship on January 5th. I trust you will give her your warmest welcome.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE On January 7, 2025 at 10:30, St. Paul's will hold a celebration of life for Leslie King. Her family invites us to share in their loss and exchange memories of Leslie's life.



THANK YOU

Out of fear that I might leave someone out, I am going to give a HUGE **THANK YOU** to everyone, and I mean everyone, who gave of their time and talents to make the month of December totally AWESOME.

Greeters & Readers January – June 2025

St. Paul's has always been known as a very friendly church. Part of this is due to how we greet members and visitors when they enter our church! Please sign up to take your turn as a greeter. Two greeters are needed each Sunday. If you are a single member, feel free to sign up with a friend.

Greeting includes handing out bulletins, saying hello, lighting candles, and taking collection. On the first Sunday of the month greeters also serve communion along with two other members.

If you can only greet, please indicate that next to your name and the altar committee will find someone else to do the other parts of the job. A list of greeter duties is on the greeters stand if you have any questions about what to do.

Date	Greeters	Communion Servers (1st Sunday of the month)	Reader
January 5	Katie and Kyle G.	Taylor G. and Jack D.	Eugene D.
January 12	Jim and Jo S.		Kim K.
January 19	Tom and Mary G.		John D.
January 26	Steve and Alice M.		Jill L.
February 2	Vicki and Eugene D.	Kyle and Katie G.	Curt H.
February 9	Mark and Kim K.		Jill P.
February 16	Judy N. and Jacquie B.		Charmaine D.
February 23	Cindy C. and Cheryl F.		Katie G.
March 2	Wanda and Fred D.	Obie and Ann O.	Bernice D.
March 9	Jill S. and Lynn D.		Kay O'K.
March 16	Jerry and Vicki L.		Cindy C.
March 23	Jill P. and Cheryl F.		Steve M.
March 30	Roy and Carol K.		Alice M.
April 6	Bernice D. and Connie J.	Judy N. and Charmaine D.	Bernie C.
April 13	Dave and Betty Z.		Jacquie B.
April 20	Lucy K. and Debbie S. (greet only) - Jack and Charmaine D. (candles, offering)		Eugene D.
April 27	Norb and Barb B.		Kim K.
May 4	Tracy and Jeff M.	Jack and Charmaine D.	John D.
May 11	Karrie and Curt H.		Jill L.
May 18	Bill and Bernie C.		Curt H.
May 25	Kay O'K. and Jean S.		Jill P.
June 1	Norb and Barb B.	Dave and Betty Z.	Charmaine D.

June 8	Allan and Sharon S.		Katie G.
June 15	Mark and Debbie G.		Bernice D.
June 22	Bill and LouAnn E.		Kay O’K.
June 29	Vicki and Eugene D.		Cindy C.

SOMETHING TO SHARE

I found January’s Something To Share on social media under the title “Tips That Change Your Life”. I do not have any further information about the author, etc. Enjoy This Like is one of the phrases in the UCC Be The Church campaign.

“People wait all day for 5pm. All week for Friday. All summer for winter. All winter for summer. And all of life for happiness.

Don’t let the pursuit of tomorrow diminish the joy of today!

In the rhythm of life, it’s easy to find ourselves eagerly anticipating future moments - waiting for the clock to strike 5 pm, longing for Friday to arrive, or yearning for a change of seasons.

Yet, amidst this anticipation, we risk overlooking the beauty and joy present in the here and now.

Happiness is not a destination to be reached in the distant future; it is found in the moments we choose to embrace today.

Let us not allow this pursuit of tomorrow to overshadow the precious experiences of the present.

By savoring each moment, finding gratitude in the simple pleasures of today, and cherishing the journey as much as the destination, we can discover that happiness is not a distant dream but a choice we make every day.



Like us on Facebook: “St. Paul’s United Church of Christ Erin” AND “St. Paul’s Mission Maniacs”

Receive our E-Blasts: Please let us know if you would like to be added or have a new email address

If you would like to ask for prayers, share a joy or have an announcement, when attending worship virtually via our [YouTube Channel](#), please enter it in the chat or email Pastor Bonnie prior to service.

Check out the Church Website: stpaulserin.org. Visit the News & Resources tab and click on Worship Resources for a recording of Sunday’s Worship.

Church Email Address: saintpaulserin.pastor@gmail.com

Church/Pastor’s Phone Number: 262-416-5094

Church Address: 495 St. Augustine Road, Colgate, WI 53017

Pastor Bonnie’s Office Hours: Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM. Stop by for a visit. Friday and Saturday are Pastor’s weekend

Church Council Meeting
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
November 11, 2024

The Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Council President Charmaine Duehring. Those in attendance were Charmaine Duehring, Pastor Bonnie Jacque, Fred Dieball, Kay O'Keane, Cindy Cain, Connie Johnson and Janene Kluever. Kim Kersten and Vicki Dost were unable to be with us.

The October meeting minutes were approved. The Financial report was reviewed and the finances are doing well. We received a good credit on the electric bill due to the solar system. The financials were approved. Pastor Bonnie told us that she talked with our civil servants and the following will be attending a special service for them on November 24th. We will have members from the Richfield Fire Department and Ambulance Service and they will bring their truck. The Sheriff's Department will come and bring their vehicle. We talked about the update of the By-Laws and its proofing.

We have some evaluations for Organist Jill, from Sunday School and the Choir. Jill's salary was \$135 per performance including her four vacation times. We decided a 7.4% raise would be warranted. Two people will meet with Jill to discuss, they are Cindy Cain and either Vicki Dost or Kim Kersten. They will go over the comments and evaluations with Jill. The Church Insurance has been raised by 53% for year 2025 with deductible at \$10,000. Water damage insurance deductible will be \$25,000. Charmaine shopped around with other insurance companies and found out we are lucky to find an insurance company to take us, because of the age of the church.. Insurance will be \$8334.00 per year. We were told that the sound on the UTube would fade in and out and we will have our technology people check this out. The Sunday School Christmas Program will be December 15th and the Cookie Walk is coming up on December 7th. The Outdoor Nativity Scene will be put up in December by Jack Duehring. Fall clean-up was a success and well done.

We need three people on our nominating committee. Kay agreed to ask Carol Kaisler and Charmaine will ask Peggy Ahles and Fred will ask Carl Roock. We need to nominate a total of 5 people. We need one for the Council and 2 for the Endowment Committee and 2 for the PPRC. The Financial Secretary, Sharon Schlafer can be asked if she wants to be re-elected. Those leaving the Council will be Charmaine Duehring, Kim Kersten and Janene Kluever. The Annual meeting will be February 2, 2025. The Chili Luncheon is scheduled for February 23, 2025, from 11am to 2pm. It will be \$10.00 per ticket and there will be pies, but the pies will not be available to sell until 10:30 am. The price of the pies will be \$10.00 each.

President Charmaine Duehring reminded us that our Women's Guild will have their 100-year anniversary in 2025. Also our church will be 185 years old in October, 2025. Also, we decided to get a gift of \$50.00 for the Richfield Fire Department because of their AED Training.

The Council continued to work on the budget for 2025. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm. Our next meeting will be December 9, 2024.

January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Pastor Bonnie on Vacation 12/30-1/5				
			1 Bram M.	2	3	4 Rick G.
5 9:30 AM Worship Bill C. Bill E.	6	7	8 Council Meeting 6PM	9	10	11 Payton W.
12 9:30 AM Worship Katelyn N. Jack & Charmaine D.'s Anniversary	13	14	15	16 Coffee w/Bonnie 10 am Java Dancer Guild 12 Noon Jill L & Carl R.'s Anniversary	17 Jim S.	18
19 9:30 AM Worship Annual Reports due Cliff B. Polly E.	20 Council Mtg. 6 PM Rebecca O. John & Polly E.'s Anniversary	21	22 Chapel Bells items due to Donna	23	24	25
26 9:30 AM Worship	27	28 Jennie H. Jeff J.	29	30	31	