

CHAPEL BELLS

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



November, 2026



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

November is the first month in the season of long shadows. As the days shorten and winter approaches, **Daylight Saving Time ends on November 1st** – gaining us an extra hour as fall deepens.

November marks a distinct turning point in the Earth's tilt toward the sun. The low angle stretches shadows far across the landscape, capturing the raw, quiet beauty of the natural world preparing for the cold months ahead.

The photo I chose for our November Chapel Bells demonstrates the stark, dramatic shadow of bare branches against the earth – reflects this peaceful transition.

November at St. Paul's is full of activities you will not want to miss:

Committee Budget Requests: Please submit these soon as possible so we can begin the budgeting process.

Stewardship Campaign: This is vital for creating a realistic budget for 2027. If you have never pledged before, please make this the year you prayerfully consider doing so. Pledge cards are due by November 22nd.

Congregational Meeting (November 1st): We will discuss the proposed job-sharing agreement for Pastor Bonnie and Pastor Lois. Buildings and grounds may also provide an update regarding the creation of an upstairs bathroom.

Veteran's Sunday and Breakfast (November 8th): You are invited to help us honor and pay tribute to our veterans.

Hartford Christmas Parade (November 14th): St. Paul's is participating! If you would like to help share the love of the birth of Jesus, speak to Misti or any council member. It is sure to be great fun.

Thanksgiving Day (November 26th): A time for gratitude and gathering.

First Sunday of Advent (November 29th): We step forward into the season of hopeful waiting.

May your November be filled from beginning to end with the love of God, the love of family and the love of friends.

Pastor Bonnie

SOMETHING TO SHARE

Meditation on Advent

Written by Reverend Barbara Deane Price

Waiting is something we do a lot. Women particularly have spent their lives waiting: waiting for the phone to ring, waiting for the baby to be born, waiting for someone to come home. My mother told me a good reason to learn to embroider or knit was because as a woman, I would spend my life waiting and I might as well have something to do!

Waiting...

...those chairs near dressing rooms that are occupied this time of year by weary men sitting glassy eyed amid bags and boxes, waiting. Children checking their calendars. "How many days 'til Christmas?" — they're waiting. An eagle sitting comfortably on top of a bare tree, the light shining on his feathers, turning to show his profile to watchers with a touch of vanity - he is sovereign of his site, but he too is waiting.

And yes, the people of God wait, too. But we, O most fortunate ones, wait for joy; wait for the wolf to accompany the lamb; wait, hearts filled with laughter; wait to bear witness to the light. And we do not wait in vain. By the very power of our expectation, by our very faith, our willing welcome, we assist in the annual birth of love, of hope, of innocence.

This Advent, let us wait well, in faith, in hope, and in sympathy with one another — for together, we wait for joy!

CONGRATULATIONS & UPDATES

Brielle P. pitched 13 strikes outs for her softball team at a recent tournament. They won all 3 games! Congratulations Bri!

Truett keeps wowing us with his running skills.

Mason also exceeds all our expectations with his running prowess.

Pastor Bonnie will be transitioning to Cedar Ridge Apartments toward the end of the month. If you would like her new address, please text or call her.

Pastor Lois: While we await confirmation from the congregation, we thank you for leading a supply Sunday on October 18th, while Pastor Bonnie was on vacation. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Jim S. has returned home with home health care!

Marilyn D. has returned to Heritage Senior Living in Hartland. If you would like her new address and phone number, please call or text Pastor Bonnie or the Office at stpaulserinoffice@gmail.com.

Bernice D. is expected to have heart surgery on October 22nd. Please keep her in your prayers.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

November 1st: The confirmation class will be assisting with worship.

November 8th: Class will meet as we focus on God by asking, "Who even are you?"

November 14th Hartford Christmas Parade: If confirmands are not already marching in the parade, they are invited to join the rest of the St. Paul's group.

PLANETARIUM VISIT - DECEMBER 12, 2026 AT 3:30 PM

I am excited to share that the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee has a planetarium, which will feature a program on the **"STAR" OF BETHLEHEM**. The program will explore astronomical phenomena such as fireballs, comets, supernovas, and planetary groupings. After the program we will have the opportunity to see the night sky and learn about constellations. See why I am excited?

This event is open to the public and I am **STRONGLY** encouraging the confirmation youth to attend. Now, if you are interested, please text or call Pastor Bonnie so I can get an estimated head count. Tickets are under \$10. **DECEMBER 12, 2026 3:30 PM!!!** (I have a feeling we will be stopping at Culver's on the way home...a Dutch treat.) Pastor Bonnie

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Please remember with your prayers, cards, calls and visits: Diane S., Joyce O'K, Mark G., John and Polly E., Steve M., Jim S., Lucy K., Marilyn D. and Bernice D.

Women's Guild

Guild members at our October meeting were saddened by the loss of our dear Lucy. She was our Treasurer, always a willing volunteer, involved in every Guild event, and our friend. The Guild's memorial for Lucy will go to St. Paul's Sunday School.

We designated 2026-27 contributions to St. Paul's Sunday School, Mission Committee, Hartland Veterans Sleep-Out fundraiser for homeless vets, and several more, including Jack's pecan pie for the help he provides us all year—especially when the solution to our dilemma is to "call Jack!"

Cookie Walk posters were distributed to members for posting in mid-November. This year's Cookie Walk is Saturday, December 5. Posters are available for businesses in the area and for members to share with neighbors and friends. See Carol if you would like a poster/s and can help us spread the word to cookie shoppers about St. Paul's Cookie Walk and Holiday Sale.

Our next meeting will be at noon on Wednesday, November 18. All St. Paul's women are invited and encouraged to bring a bag lunch and join us. Dessert will be furnished. We are a small group, and becoming smaller. Supporting our church is important to us, and "many hands make light work."

Mission Project dates to remember:

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes due November 8

Bundle-Up Brown Street Christmas bags will be at church November 8. All bags and donations are due by November 29.

2026 Stewardship Campaign

There Our Hearts Will Be is this year's stewardship theme. We are asking members to intentionally and prayerfully consider pledging to support our church and its mission. Soon you will receive a letter via mail or email asking for this pledge. We are asking that pledges be turned in by November 22, 2026. These pledges help the Church Council prepare the budget for 2027. We will have our pledges blessed on December 6, 2026. Thank you for your continued support of our church! Your Stewardship Committee.

Dear Members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ:

This is your notice of a special congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, November 1, 2026, immediately following worship.

The purpose of this meeting will be to consider and approve a contract for a shared ministry position between Pastor Bonnie Jacque and Reverend Lois Buchholz. A vote will be taken at this meeting.

St. Paul's Church Council

Sunday School

Our Sunday School classes have been back in session and having a great time. And just like the rest of us, there is a lot going on! We are currently asking for donations of aluminum cans for our veteran's mission, Wisconsin Homeless Veterans Initiative. This organization helps in many ways: an emergency food pantry, housing and furnishings, bikes for transportation and crisis management. The Sunday School, with the help of the Mission Committee, will also host breakfast immediately following worship on November 8th to honor our veterans. During class on November 8th, we will also be packing Operation Christmas Child boxes. We would love to pack a box for you! You donate the money and we will shop and pack the box. The classes love to help with this mission! Finally, before November is over, we will begin practicing for our Christmas program to be held during worship on December 20th. We are so appreciative of all of your love and support!

Council Notes

As we head into the last months of this year the Council is busy not only with the business of this year, but planning for the year ahead. On November 1st, we will hold a special **Congregational Meeting** to consider approving a contract for a shared ministry position between Pastor Bonnie Jacque and Reverend Lois Buchholz. We are also requesting all committees submit their **budget requests** by the end of October as we will begin working on our budget for the next year. St. Paul's has been signed up to participate in the Hartford **Christmas parade**. Please see Misti Swanson if you are interested in participating. The parade is Saturday, November 14th from 3 to 5 pm. All members are welcome to join us at our council meetings as we discuss the business of the church! Or reach out to any council member with questions or comments.

Debbie Schlafer

November

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Church meeting Daylight savings ends	2	3 Seniors	4	5	6	7 Jo S.
8 9:30 Worship Confirm 11 – 3 Veterans Tribute Breakfast	9 Council 6:00	10	11 Janene K Jerry & Vicki L. Anniversary	12	13	14 Hartford Xmas parade
15 9:30 Worship	16 Norb B	17 Dick A	18 Women's Guild noon	19	20 Bernie C. Karrie H.	21
22 9:30 Worship Pledges due	23	24 Chapel Bells due	25	26 	27	28
29 9:30 Worship Brock G.	30 Susan M.					