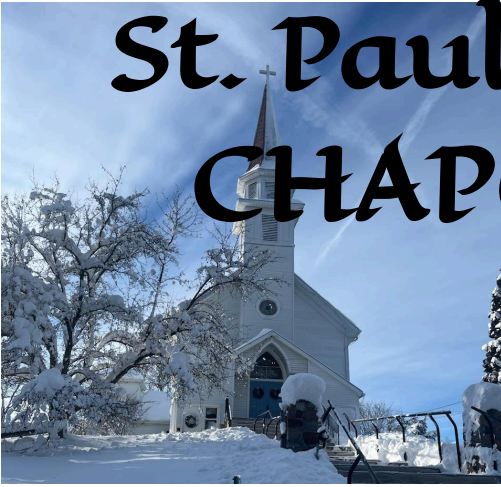


St. Paul's U.C.C - Erín CHAPEL BELLS



February, 2025

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

As a congregation, we have been naming a creation joy each Sunday. I include a photo of a creation joy for the slides. The creation joys we witness everyday don't seem special to us. We see them all the time. Why do we bother?

The thing about creation joys is that it invites us to truly see the ordinary through God's eyes. It's a time to stop and look deeply, listen intently. There may be deer that are in your yard almost every day. It could be the night sky that we neglect to look up at and truly appreciate what's beyond. It could be the eagle who sits in the tree at the edge of the field. Ordinary to folks who live here.

For Jeff and I, it's going to the same spot on Harrington Beach near Belgium, Wisconsin, the spot we affectionately call the Rock Garden. It's the same exact latitude and longitude but it is different every time. It's amazing what the power of water can do to huge rocks or how the beach increases or decreases from day to day, storm to storm.



This photo was taken in March of 2023. Today, the twisted log is totally gone as well as most of the rocks. This was not done by human hands. Where did they go? Creation is mysterious.

Another creation joy I experienced. As I turned east off of St. Augustine onto Monches Road one Thursday afternoon, I encountered a gentleman in a "tractor", not as in a field tractor, but one with a cab and a hydraulic mower on the back. It had huge tires. Knowing the traffic, both automotive and animal, on that stretch of road and the solid yellow lines, I slowed way down...all the way to 16 miles an hour and continued behind him.

When we approached Platt Road, he put on his left-turn signal and so did I. Yes, I could have continued on Monches and came to 164 at a "regular"

speed. But I was sure he would turn off soon. He didn't. A car came up behind us and zoomed past. He turned onto east Elmwood and so did I. He probably thought I was crazy. There was plenty of room to pass him. Nope. I began to totally relax. At that speed I could really see the fields on either side of the road. I could take a good look at the birds flying nearby. It was nice. I could pay attention to the music I had chosen to play, which happened to be a Bach piece. There wasn't another vehicle around and so I safely observed the world (creation) around me. In fact, I allowed myself to become one with nature.

Where do you feel closest to God? We need to pay attention. Creation is awesome! God is AWESOME!!

ST. PAUL'S WOMEN'S GUILD



The January Guild meeting featured a catered lunch of tenderloin tips with gravy, hot ham, mashed potatoes, season's rice, warm rolls, green beans and corn. Bernice D furnished a delicious drumstick torte. Everyone enjoyed the tasty leftovers from Leslie King's funeral lunch. We will enjoy the same menu at our February meeting. There was a lot of food left over.

We discussed ideas for our annual summer outing. A trip on the Lake Geneva mailboat is a possibility

The Guild will be discussing ideas for funeral lunches, fundraisers, etc. that will be less labor intensive and can spread roles among several teams or committees.

The next Guild meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20, at noon. No bag lunches required and LouAnn E. will furnish dessert.



LouAnn Evert has decided step down after 46 years as St. Paul's Memorial Fund secretary.

Anyone interested in becoming the next Memorial Fund secretary should contact LouAnn.

VERSITI NEIGHBORHOOD BLOOD DRIVE



St. Teresa of Calcutta in North Lake will be hosting a Versiti blood drive on Thursday, February 20, from 1:30 to 6:30 P.M. Make an appointment at donate.wi@versiti.org or call Rita at 262-719-2815.



HOMEMADE PIE SALE at CHILI LUNCH

St. Paul's Homemade Pie Sale at the Chili Luncheon is Sunday, February 23. Betty Z. asks all St. Paul's bakers to make two 9" pies this year as last year's pie sale was very popular and sold out very early. You can make two of the same or two different, whichever you prefer. A sign-up sheet is on the coffee table in the Fellowship Hall. Also, there will be no early sales and no saving of pies. There were complaints last year from customers who

came expecting to buy homemade pies, and there were none left, so please be understanding. This year the pies will sell for \$12.



PLASTIC BAGS LENTEN PROJECT

Lent doesn't begin until Ash Wednesday on March 5th, but in anticipation of this project, hopefully you have been saving plastic bags. There are several possible items to create using plarn, which is plastic yarn. For example, there are internet craft directions for knitting plarn into mats or bags. There are similar directions for crocheting with plarn. The jump rope made of plarn is braided and no needles are needed. It takes 12 plastic bags to make a jump rope. We will include these in our Christmas ShoeBox

project. Anytime you want to drop off your collection of plastic bags, bring them to the church office.

SHHHHHH - LISTEN, CAN YOU HEAR GOD

It's 9:15 on a Sunday morning at church. It's time to quiet our hearts and minds. It's that time that teachers say, "Use your 'inside voices, please.'" The teacher is not saying to the children, 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 show 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.

SOMETHING TO SHARE

Here's a benediction which celebrates the beauty all around us in God's creation. It was written by Carlos Fernandez at Village Church in Beaverton, Oregon.

Benediction

Creator God—
as we return now to our homes, workplaces, and communities,
may Your Spirit open our eyes anew
to the vastness and splendor of Your beauty all around us.

May we hear, and smell, and see, and touch
Your glory evident in all of Your creation.

Above all, let us see Your beauty
even in the brokenness of our brothers and sisters—
all of them, created in Your image,
and waiting to experience that redemption that comes
only through Christ Jesus our Lord.

We go now to love and serve our Lord—Amen.



THANK YOU

Thank you to Dave Z and the Tech Committee. They continue to investigate ways of improving the quality of our live streaming.

To those who participated in the Wedding at Cana - Rebecca and Jonathan O., Janene K., Cindy C., Dave Z., John D and those who congratulated the couple and Jesus' friends. Thanks to Jill L. for playing 'Here Comes the Bride', and Peggy A. who miraculously knew how to turn water into the best "wine".

To the Women's Guild members who supervised the luncheon for Leslie King's funeral.

Thank you to Neil W. for repairing the light switch in the sanctuary. I understand he had to do some crawling around in the attic.

Thank you to Kim K., Janene K. and Charmaine D. for their dedication to serving on the Church Council.

*Thankful
Grateful
Blessed*

February	Greeters	Communion	Reader
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.



Reminders:

February 2nd - Annual Meeting
 February 4th - Seniors
 February 20th - Women's Guild noon
 February 22nd - SE Association Annual Meeting
 February 23rd - Chili Dinner



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
December 9, 2024

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

The November Minutes were approved after corrections. We are ahead of the Budget with envelopes and loose offerings. We are looking at the front door replacement. It needs to be a steel door and will be investigating costs for the door which is not working correctly. Final bills need to be paid for the end of the year. The Financial Report was approved.

Pastor Bonnie's report was the Creation Care will not meet now until the new year. Half of the loose change from the Christmas offering will be designated to the Washington County Foster Closet. It has become too long for "joys and concerns" along with Mission happenings and "Nature's Wonders". Pastor Bonnie suggested that she would try some ways to shorten this time during the service. Pastor Bonnie would be taking vacation December 30th through January 6th.

We reviewed the Amended and Restated By-Laws which were printed for the annual meeting. The people have been asking for the nomination Committee and we have Bill Ahles and Lynn Duwell and looking for another one. Cindy Cain and Vicky Dost have reviewed the year of music with Jill Lotzow and Jill has accepted the increase of pay to \$145.00 per performance. We are getting insurance for the church, but at a higher price. We discussed the pledge updates to determine how much we can work with on the Budget. Kay O'Keane to get the picture album completed from photos of the past. The piano will be tuned and the metal plaque will be installed to indicate it is from Beulah Timm.

The date for all annual reports to be turned into the office or emailed is January 19, 2025. The King funeral will be held at church on Tuesday, January 7th.

We went into executive session for review of Pastor Bonnie Jacque. Then we continued Budget work for 2025. Annual Meeting will be February 2, 2025.

Our next meeting will be January 20, 2025. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm



February 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 Worship Annual Meeting 10:45	3	4 Seniors	5	6	7 Julia K. Anna K.	8
9 9:30 Worship	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:30 Worship Jacquie B. Betty Z..	17	18 John E. Nolan W. Jeff G.	19 Chapel Bells items due to Donna	20 Guild 12 Noon Blood Drive 1:30- 6:30 North Lake	21 Neil O.	22 SE Associa- tion Annual Mtg. Bonnie H. Obie O. Debra W.
23 9:30 Worship Chili Lunch & Pie Sale 11—2 	24 Marysa H. Bill & Bernie C. Anniversary	25	26	27 Wanda D. Jack D.	28	29