



Chapel Bells

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

March, 2025

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

February has seemed like a long month to me for some reason. Perhaps the COLD is wearing me down. You too? As I'm writing this, it is nearing the end of February and all of a sudden I turned the page on my calendar and...it's nearly ASH WEDNESDAY and LENT!

Lent, the season of ashes, honesty and uncomfortable truth.

Lent, the time where we sit with life's hardest parts and wait for God's love to find us. Sitting with the hardest parts of life, our individual lives, and collectively as a church family. Because it requires sitting when usually we tend to put off dealing with those deep dark hard things about us requires patience with ourselves. Lent demands that we pause and reflect and find the courage to deal with what it is that makes us human.

Lent is when we put down our burdens and sit with them...the fragile and unfinished past. It's a process of cleaning out old wounds so they can heal properly. If you put your hurtful past into a nice solid box, wrapped it in proper gift wrap and topped it off with a big bow, now is the time to unwrap it, to bring it out to the light of day, to look at it anew. Do you still need it? Then, dispose of it. Good for you!

Want to give something up for Lent? Give up hiding your hurts, even those things you cannot forgive yourself for and let God meet you in the hardest parts.



New Church Council

Please feel free to always bring suggestions, concerns, or comments to any Council members. The members are as follows:

President-Cindy Cain

Vice President- Kay O'Keane

Secretary- Vicki Dost

Treasurer - Connie Johnson

Members- Fred Dieball, Debbie Schlafer



New Church Directory

To help celebrate our church's 185th anniversary, we are planning a new directory. Photo sessions will be on April 1, 2025, from 2:00pm to 8:30 pm. We need a small committee to help with this project. Specifically, 2-3 people to help schedule family photo sessions and to help day of photo session and 2 people to help with the book layout once photos are taken. Please let Cindy Cain if you are interested in volunteering to help.



College Care Packages

Mission Maniacs are excited to be collecting items to pack for the

St. Paul's College bound young adults!

Collection dates: Now until March 9th

What do college kids like, you ask?

Snacks~Gift cards~Pens and paper supply~Candy~Self Care items

If you have a child or grandchild you would like to receive a care package, please let us know as soon as possible!

St. Paul's Little Library

Our little library is FULL of so many book options for us to share! A vast variety of fiction, faith-based, inspirational/self help, Auto-biography, Non fiction and Kid friendly books are available. In an effort to keep our library “fresh” we are asking you to fill out the slip on the inside cover with a date and initials or name. This will help us to filter out books that are no longer being pulled! And take a little rest on our new loveseat! Need to talk to a friend, bring a kid down during service, or just want to relax with a cup of coffee, take a break in St. Paul’s little sitting area! Hope you enjoy our little nook!!

A blank library card with a light blue background and horizontal ruling. The card is tilted slightly to the right. It has four main sections: 'AUTHOR' at the top, followed by 'TITLE', then a section divided into 'DATE DUE' and 'BORROWER'S NAME'. The 'DATE DUE' and 'BORROWER'S NAME' sections have multiple rows for writing. The card is placed on a light-colored surface, and a portion of a book spine is visible on the right edge.



WOMEN'S GUILD

At the February Guild meeting we planned another Pie Day for PI Day as a "Thank You" to the congregation for all the help and support you give the Women's Guild throughout the year. For Coffee and Conversation following worship service on March 16, the Guild will be serving homemade pie—and ice cream, of course. We appreciate your help installing road signs to advertise our Cookie Walk, all the midnight bakers who make those delightful cookies, snow clearing for shoppers and parkers, Christmas auction contributors, and all who distribute posters and invite friends and neighbors. You all make it work!

Cindy C. and Cheryl F. gave a travelogue on their recent trip to Ireland. Their tour focused on Irish history and Irish women who helped shape that history. Their pictures were beautiful and the stories and information fascinating. We learned that Ireland has palm trees; their history includes a very successful female pirate; and Irish St. Bridgett could turn bathwater into beer. Thank you, ladies!

The next Guild meeting will be Thursday, March 20, at noon. All St. Paul's women are invited. Bring a bag lunch and dessert will be provided by Jo S.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Did you know there is no mention of a ritual similar to Ash Wednesday in the Bible? It began as a tradition in the Christian Church in Rome as a time for public penance, including covering themselves with sackcloth and ashes. Aren't you glad we don't do that? We will be celebrating the beginning of the church season of Lent on Ash Wednesday on March 5th

at 7:00 pm. Remember you are God's beloved dust and to God's beloved dust you shall return.

LENTEN PLASTIC BAG PROJECT

Let's begin with a thank you to all those who have contributed plastic bags. Plastic is the key ingredient in creating jump ropes, mats, shopping-style bags and various other objects. Debbie B. has been making samples and finding the best directions for us to follow. We will need all sizes of hands to cut the bags and then braid, crochet or knit those together. More information to follow.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS on Sunday, March 9th. It's that time when we lose an hour of sleep.

Don't be late for church!!!



March	Greeters	Communion	Reader
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.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

PALM SUNDAY is on Sunday, April 13th, at 9:30 am.

MAUNDY THURSDAY/GOOD FRIDAY will once again be celebrated with a combined worship service on Thursday, April 17th at 7:00 pm. This is a very powerful service including communion, old hymns, the cross and nails.

EASTER is on Sunday, April 20th. There will be a light lunch featuring ham and buns following worship. If you would like to bring something to share, that would be great. However, it is NOT necessary. You do not have to sign up, just show up.

CONGRATULATIONS

Emma A for her accomplishments at the piano and being a high flyer in cheer!

Congrats to Nate W. and Christopher D. in carpentry.

Jill L. granddaughter competed in a vocal competition.

Levi B. does great in wrestling.

Taylor G. competes in basketball.

Brielle P.

Mason W. still runs like the wind!



THANK YOU!

Thanks to Katie G. for coordinating gift card donations for our neighbors who are recovering from a house fire on Platt Road.

To our snow shovelers - Jack D., Eugene D. and Carl R. and to the folks who put up our Chili Luncheon sign.

Many thanks to Bill and LouAnn E. for giving our handicap bathroom a fresh coat of paint, including the ceiling, and new decor! It looks so wonderful!

Thanks to the Sunday School staff for purchasing new seating in the church library area AND for rotating the books so there is always something new to read. Be sure and check it out.

Thanks to Betty P. for providing us with red, white and blue afghans for our vets.

Many thanks to Dave Z. for his diligent and successful efforts to improve the quality of our live streaming!

Did you know Keith L. videos our choir and shares them on Facebook. Thanks Keith.

We cannot forget to thank Madelyn M. for selling her Girls Scout cookies to us!

IN OUR PRAYERS

Ron and Diane S., Joyce O'K., Marvin S., Mark G., Mark S., John and Polly E., Cheryl F., Charmaine D. and all those folks who have the various viruses that are going around.

NEW ADDRESS If you would like John and Polly's new address, there will be paper copies on the greeters stand in church.



UCCI



The United Church Camps, Inc., provides all with a wide variety of camp opportunities. The Rev. Jim Shleif, who coordinates these camps, recently wrote:

“Greeting Friends,

I firmly believe that our Creator has formed us in the Divine image and has given us the breath of life. Although we enjoy/suffer ‘free-will and self-determination’ our God continues a life-long effort to draw us into a deeper and more loving relationship with Godself, others, and ourselves. I also firmly believe that when we immerse ourselves in nature, and sacred spaces, we are more fully present to God, others, and ourselves. Our sites, and outdoor ministry in general, afford transformational experiences as a result.”

Having attended summer camps at Moon Beach and what is now Daycholah in my youth, I can attest to my own memories of not only swimming and crafts and getting to know other campers, but the effect sitting at the edge of Green Lake where there is a cross centered around the seating area and watching the sunset, singing and praying. It is a vivid memory. I have involved confirmation classes in Youth Formation Retreats. I have used the Moon Beach camp for a personal retreat. So can you!

Yes, camp is for youth. BUT it is much more than that. Does Sail Camp, Con Camp, or Night Owl adventures appeal to you and your family? These are unforgettable events. Art lovers, check out MADD camp. Maker’s Retreat is designed for those who scrapbook, knit, quilt, make jewelry, crochet, sew, design cards, etc.

Close to home, the Cedar Valley location has an event called Needle Felting - Blue Bird Workshop. You have to hurry to register though. March 8th is the date and runs from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

St. Paul’s is happy to extend financial assistance so don’t let that hold you back. If you are at all interested in more information, please speak to me or visit <https://UCCI.org>.

SOMETHING TO SHARE

How quiet it is when we have the patience to be silent.

How much we can learn in moments like these.

We can learn to have patience within ourselves,

To better understand who and what we are.

We can learn to have patience with others,

To better listen to what they say and how they feel.

We can learn to have patience with life,

To better work with it, rather than against it.

How much we *do* need silence:

Silence for truth so that we may learn wisdom,

Silence for wisdom so that we may love,

Silence for love so that we may be just,

Silence for justice so that we may live fully.



May we be more patient and more silent,

So that we may proceed with courage and compassion.

Written by Charles Gaines

March 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 Worship	3	5 4 Seniors Carol K Roy & Carol K Anniversary	Gary & Cathy B. Anniversary	6	7	8 Lee A 
9 9:30 Worship Bonnie J.G	10	11 .	12 Kim K	13	14 Joyce O.K	15
16 9:30 Worship Eugene D	17 	18 Mark K	19	20 Coffee with Pastor 10:00 @ Java Dancer Women's Guild Tom G	21 Brenda J.K	22 Alan S Mark & Kim K & Eugene & Vicki D Anniversary
23 9:30 Worship	24	25	26 Chapel Bells items due to Donna	27	28	29 Jay L Heather L
30 9:30 Worship	31 Curt H					