

Chapel Bells

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

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www.StPaulsErin.org



June, 2026

FROM
THE
PASTOR



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Our little Bible study group has been reading (or rather I have been reading aloud - just show up, no homework) a book written by Matt Miofsky titled *Fail*. Doesn't sound like a book I would generally be excited about reading. The rest of the title is What To Do When Things Go Wrong. I have found it well worth my time, so much so, that I want to share with you some of the highlights. The following are quotes from the book.

The introduction speaks of grit referring to a person's ability to persevere and overcome challenges to achieve long-term goals. Grit is based on the assumption that some of our best learning experiences actually happen through setbacks, disappointments, and failure. Matt writes: When we learn how to fail, we learn how to live.

The book itself is based on Jeremiah's Story as found in the Old Testament and the book of Lamentations. Jeremiah had the unfortunate job of being a prophet at the worst possible time and in the worst possible place. What's inspirational about Jeremiah is that he didn't complain about his circumstances. He didn't get mad at God. He accepted his circumstances. He recognized they were not his to control.

Jeremiah responded with a hopeful insistence that God was up to something powerful even in the midst of tragic circumstances. This chapter underscored that something we can control is our response! What do we do when things go wrong? We remember not to focus on the things that we can't control but instead to respond faithfully to the task that's set before us, believing that we have God who will deliver us.

Chapter two is titled The Do Over. Many of us believe that our sins, mistakes, and bad choices disqualify us from God's love. The author insists that mistakes can't always be avoided, but they can always be learned from. We can choose to let our mistakes define us and bring us down or to catapult us to something better...Mistakes can help us become the people God wants us to be!!!

The remaining chapters are: In The Pit, Finding Hope, and On the Other Side of Exile. Perhaps you will pick up this 100 some page ,easy to read, book and discover ways you can learn when you fail.

On a lighter note, next fall we will be exploring Matt's book, *Happy? What it is and how to find it*. Now, that is a book I am looking forward to reading!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please hold in prayer: Diane S., Mark G., Joyce O'K., John and Polly E., Steve and Alice M., Isabel H., Cheryl F. Joyce recently entered hospice care. Please keep the family of Christine Kalvelage in your thoughts and prayers. Her funeral service was held here at St. Paul's on May 16.



WOMEN'S GUILD

As part of St. Paul's Apron's in the Wind Mother's Day tribute, the Guild baked and distributed cookies for a good will offering to benefit Lisbon Presbyterian Church which was damaged in the April tornado. Thanks to the bakers, to volunteers who staffed the cookie table, and to very generous cookie fans the Guild was able to send \$525 to Lisbon Presbyterian Church. Our cookie bakers provided many more cookies than were "sold," so look for an array of MANY cookie varieties at coffee and conversation on June 7.



On May 2 church clean-up day Guild members did some inside cleaning and organizing in the kitchen and fellowship area.

Guild members served lunch for a non-member funeral on May 16.

In place of the June 17 Guild meeting, we are planning our annual summer outing. Betty is looking into possibilities, so.....more information to come.

JUNE	GREETERS	LITURGIST
7 th	Norb & Barb	Eugene D.
14 th	Cheryl & Jacquie	John D.
21 st	Jill S. & Vicki D.	Katie G.
28 th	Connie & Bernice	Curt H.



CONGRATULATIONS/THANK YOU

I ask for forgiveness, I lost track of our graduates, so this a general CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR GRADUATES.

We wish you success, happiness, and exciting opportunities in the journey ahead.

Congratulations to the Becker family. Elouise Adaline Becker was baptized into Christ's Church and our church on May 31st.

Congratulations to all who worked on the APRONS IN THE WIND project. You outdid yourselves with the display of 300 plus aprons! We are also thankful for the great weather.

Thank you to all who baked cookies, sold cookies, bought cookies during the Aprons in the Wind event. The proceeds were donated to the Lisbon Presbyterian Church, which suffered significant damage from the recent tornado.

Pastor Bonnie took part in a conference-wide book study on the book titled *Nice Racism*. It was extremely thought provoking. If you would like to borrow the book, speak to Bonnie. This fulfilled one of the requirements for the renewal of her license.

Please be aware that Bonnie H. has chosen to move to Fairway Knoll in Germantown. If you would like her new address, please call her or Pastor Bonnie. If you would like to visit, check in on John and Polly who also live there.

Grateful ♥ Thankful ♥ Blessed

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Church Council Meeting Minutes April 13, 2026

The Church Council meeting came to order at 6 p.m. Those in attendance were Debbie S., Curt H., Mark K., Jill S., Connie J., Vicki D., and Jack D. (guest). Pastor Bonnie was excused due, but she is available by phone. Debbie S. opened the meeting with a prayer.

Building and Grounds-Jack- Josten's furnace was able to repair upstairs furnace. Estimates the furnace is about 15 years old and able to get parts. Estimate for a new furnace is \$8900 and \$9800 for the A/C. Mark K. will develop list of ages of furnaces and A/C. Church Clean-up Day is Saturday, May 2 at 8:30 a.m. Church front door replacement planned to start in about 2 months. Jack received a quote for the washing of the church. Thank you Jack.

Creation Care-Curt- Has one quote for the hill project and getting another one this Friday. Curt has not heard from the third company yet.

The March Council Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. The March Financial reports were reviewed and approved. The Pastor's report was reviewed. Pastor Bonnie developed a list of Church Committee members. She also submitted a reading for council to review for our next meeting "Spend Pesos before Dollars." Pastor Bonnie requested a week of vacation starting May 24, 2026. The council approved this request.

The council approved the recommendation of Jill Schaefer and Jodi Dupras to the Endowment committee. The council reviewed the membership of the church as required by our by-laws. Curt H. will follow up with Sharon S. to check if identified members are giving financially. Vicki D. will check last year's membership review. Debbie S. will follow up with Kay O. regarding the lawn mowing contract.

Church Visioning Meetings- Debbie S. suggested that council members host meetings for members to discuss what we want church to look like in 5-10 years? Also, what do members want the church to be doing? Could host at home or at church. Will discuss further.

Liaison-Christian Ed- Debbie-Packing college care packages. Planning a good will offering soup and bread

fundraiser. The proceed to go to church. Guild- Vicki-busy packing eggs. Many members attended the murder mystery. Mission-Jill-Stay tuned for possible Undy 500. Altar- Jill-Received new "Reserved" banners for the pews. Technology- Vicki-You Tube is working now. Needed additional security login. Music- Vicki-no report. Investment- Debbie- Investment committee, Cemetery, and Endowment will attend next council meeting. Please review the Investment Committee policy and mission statement. Council to consider risk and liquidity of investments.

Other items- Would like to work on reinforcing Sunday Service quiet time at 0925. Suggest putting this in the bulletin and on the screen. We are looking for a volunteer to manage the church website. Bernice is developing a list of her duties. Will look for volunteers to help with the office. The council meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m. The next council meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2026, at 6 p.m.



**CREATION CARE/BUILDING
AND GROUNDS**

Our Spring Clean up was a success. The gardens look great!

Note on your calendar that June 18th will be the next Meet Me In The Prayer Garden. Our focus will be on water. Pastor Bonnie will be there at

1:30, but you can Just Show Up when you can.

SOMETHING TO SHARE

Julian of Norwich (1342-1416)

I saw that God is everything that is good and energizing. God is our clothing that wraps, clasps, and encloses us so as to never leave us.

God showed me in my palm a little thing round as a ball about the size of a hazelnut.

I looked at it with the eye of my understanding and asked myself:

"What is this thing?"

And I was answered: "It is everything that is created."

I wondered how it could survive since it seemed so little it could suddenly disintegrate into nothing.

The answer came: "It endures and ever will endure, because God loves it."

And so everything has being because of God's love.



June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Seniors	3	4	5	6 Kay O'K.
7 9:30 Worship Abbi R.	8 6 PM Council Meeting	9	10 Cheryl F.	11 Allan & Sharon S. Anniversary	12 Anna & Scott H. Anniversary	13
14 9:30 Worship Father's Day Jeff & Tracy M.'s Anniversary	15 Carl R. & Jill L.'s Anniversary	16	17 Guild Outing Vicki D.	18 Meet Pastor Bonnie in the garden James L.	19 Madelyn M. Nate W.	20 Isabel H. Misti S.
21 9:30 Worship	22 Shirley J.	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:30 Worship	29	30				