



# Chapel Bells

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

April, 2025

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### **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

Life is strange. One day the sunshines and there are signs of Spring everywhere I look. It's what I call a tender day...a day filled with hope. I try to savor those days and those beautiful moments. It's an "easy to smile" day and to cherish the smiles I receive.

Then there are days focused on the health of someone very dear and those in my church family. Those are hard days. Those are days when some creeping ache reminds me that everything, literally everything, in life is so fragile. Those are heavy days. Those are "life is too much" days.

Thank goodness life is strangely a mix of joy and sorrow, love and loss, little wins and sometimes big failures. Lent began on Ash Wednesday, where we say the words, "You are beloved dust" and "to beloved dust you shall return". I have never seen a pillow embroidered with those words, or painted on barn board for decor. Have you?

April is still the season of Lent. We all love the celebration of Palm Sunday, and certainly the triumphant music and pure joy of Easter morning, but first...FIRST...we have to sit with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Jesus dies. He dies a horrific death. He is killed.

It's human nature to desire to skip the painful parts of life. Jesus suffered. His pain was beyond our worst nightmares.. We cannot rush past it. Like the pain of childbirth, once it begins, unless there are special circumstances, it is present from 1 cm dilated all the way to 10 cm. For new life to happen, the pain must be endured.

I invite you to experience the events of April - as painful as they may be, as hard as they may be for something else to happen - we get to the good part!

**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH at 9:30 AM**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY/GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 17th at 7:00 PM**

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH at 9:30 AM**



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### **EASTER SUNDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**

Hot ham sandwiches will be provided, along with coffee and conversation for those who do not have other plans following church. IF you would like to bring something to add, please feel free. HOWEVER, it is not necessary. Just show up!

## Easter Egg Hunt



### Community Event!

**April 12th from 10am-Noon**

**Bring your own basket or bag to Hunt Eggs**

**Snacks and coffee provided**

**Fun crafting stations!**

**Invite your family, friends, and neighbors!!**

### Easter flowers

The last Sunday to order Easter flowers to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday is April 6. Flowers that are ordered may be taken home after the 9:30 service. Order forms and payment envelopes are available on the greeters' stand. All flowers come from Shady Lane Green House.



### **BIBLE STUDY AND COFFEE WITH BONNIE**

I'm really excited to share with you the changes to Coffee with Bonnie and Bible Study.

We are combining them! **APRIL 10TH at 10 AM** will be our inauguration gathering. We will offer various flavorings/syrups for your coffee, and various teas will be available as well. Pastor Bonnie will have an ice-breaker style question to get the conversation going and the laughter as well. Our time of Bible study will center around the scripture readings for Palm Sunday, including Luke 19: 28-40, Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29, and Isaiah 50: 4-9a. I don't want to forget the TREATS!



**Spring Clean-Up Day - Saturday, April 26 8 am til noon**

Rake a flower bed, spread some mulch, pick up sticks, wash some windows, trim some branches. There is always plenty to do. Bring your own tools. Start working at 8 or 9 am, and we should be done by noon!

The Creation Care Team and Pastor Bonnie are coordinating a celebration of **EARTH DAY on APRIL 27th**. Our God creates and is creating.





## Intergenerational Puzzling!!!

Check out the puzzle in the fellowship hall before and after church! Kids and adults can work together to try to find the pieces that fit!! So fun!!

## St. Paul's Little Library

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 Library Nook! Lots of book options from the library to choose from! Don't forget to fill out the slip on the inside cover to help weed out unused books!



The Council is looking to update committee information. Please submit to Cindy Cain by May 9<sup>th</sup> the following information: Committee Name, Committee Chairperson, committee members, and a brief description of the committee's functions. If you have any questions regarding this request, please reach out to any of the council members. Thank you.

### Message from Church Council President:

We will be implementing a new procedure for Preparing Our Hearts for Worship. At around 9:25 (or slightly before), the lights will be dimmed, and Jill will begin playing music as the greeters head to the altar to light the candles. Pastor Bonnie will then walk up front and sit in the chair, collecting her thoughts and preparing for worship.

I ask everyone to respect this time of reflection and preparation. Thank you, Cindy Cain

April	Greeters	Communion	Reader
April 6	Bernice D. & Connie J.	Judy N. & Charmaine D.	Bernie C.
April 13	Dave & Betty Z.		Jacquie B.
April 20	Lucy K. & Debbie S.	candles & offering - Jack & Charmaine D.	Eugene D.
April 27	Norb & Barb B.		Kim K.



## WOMEN'S GUILD

After lunch and a short March meeting, we spent several hours assisting the Easter Bunny by filling boxes of eggs with candy for St. Paul's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12, from 10 AM to 12 PM. Hopefully, this year the eggs will be hidden in grass, not snow, and the kids will not need to be bundled in snow suits!



The next Guild meeting will be on April 17, and all St. Paul's women are invited to attend. Bring a bag lunch at noon. Dessert will be furnished by Jacquie.

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## CONGRATULATIONS

Nate W. won his competition at the 51st annual SkillsUSA Wisconsin State Leadership and Skills Conference AND went to nationals! We are so proud of you Nate!

I am sure there are others we would love to congratulate. If you or your child is involved in a competition or has a successful season in sports, please let Pastor Bonnie know.

*Our Thoughts and Prayers  
are with You*

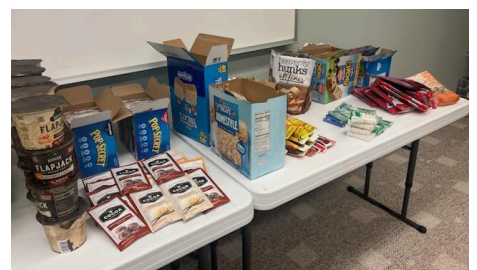
**CONDOLENCES** to Lee A. on the loss of his son, Todd. And to Jeff G. on the loss of the mother of his children, Linda.



## THANK YOU

A huge THANK YOU for the Generous donations from the Congregation to help pack the College Care Packages! And BIG Thank You's to the Mission Committee and Endowment committee who donated money to help fill these care packages! We KNOW the kids will love getting these little care packages from home and will feel all the love and support that they were packed with! Teaching the Sunday School classroom to do for others in LOVE is a privilege for

all of us made possible by YOU!! Thank you for your support!!



## THANK YOU!

Thanks to Eugene D. for becoming our fourth Techie. You will find him in the closet once a month. 😊

Connie J. will be incorporating the Memorial Funds into her position as treasurer. Thank you!

Thank you to Fred D. for accepting a position on the Pastor-Parish Relationship Committee as a representative from the council.

Thanks to Gary B. for accepting the position of head of the Pastor-Parish Relationship Committee.

Thanks to Brett M. for his past leadership on the Pastor-Parish Relationship Committee.

Thank you to those who contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. You are appreciated.

Thanks to Cindy C and her volunteers for organizing our professional directory photos. Can't wait for the new directory!

Thanks to the Guild Members for treating us to pies on PI Day Sunday!



### Do you know that:

- A single blood donation can save up to 3 lives
- About every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood
- Only 3% of age-eligible individuals in the U.S. give blood each year

Our nearby friends at St. Teresa of Calcutta in North Lake host a blood drive every eight weeks. They have ample parking and friendly volunteers who make donating fast and easy.

The next blood drive is on Thursday, April 24, from 1:30 to 6:30 P.M. Schedule a donation time online at VERSITI or call Rita at 262-719-2815.

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## **SOMETHING TO SHARE**

A Poem for you by Ann Richardson

Hope nonetheless.  
Hope despite.  
Hope regardless.  
Hope still.

Hope where we has ceased to hope.  
Hope amid what threatens hope.  
Hope with those who feed our hope.  
Hope beyond what we had hoped.

Hope that draws us past our limits.  
Hope that defies our expectations.  
Hope that questions what we have known.  
Hope that makes a way where there is none.

Hope that takes us past our fear.  
Hope that calls us into life.  
Hope that holds us beyond death.  
Hope that blesses those to come.



(Based on Romans 4:18: Hoping against hope, he believed)

Robert Bateman wrote:

If you find yourself worrying, go outside, take three breaths, address a tree, and quietly say "Thank You". If you can't find a tree, a dandelion will do.

The Philadelphia Coordinated Health Care at [pchc.org](http://pchc.org) responded to the question: "How much quiet time do adults need? Most people are aware of physiological and emotional benefits that a few minutes of quiet time offers. Amazingly, ten minutes of sitting and being still allows us to relax and refocus. Afterwards, adults feel less stressed, more alert and rejuvenated."

Pastor Bonnie notes: From a religious point of view, sitting in silence with God is a way to connect with God on a personal level. It allows God to search us and prepares us to listen for the sounds of God's constant presence.



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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 the service.

Check out the Church Website: [stpaulserin.org](http://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](mailto: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 Minutes  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
January 20, 2025

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

The December meeting minutes were approved after correction. Financial report had a fee cost from the bank for members who pay through the bank. We will continue to accept this charge as we have a few members that pay in that form. The Financial report was approved.

Pastor Bonnie met with a couple who wanted to be married at St. Paul's. They are not members and Pastor Bonnie had the Building Fees which are proposed for the use of the Church. Pastor Bonnie had the list of proposed charges for the use of church and necessary people to be on hand, along with a form/contract to accept the billing and rules. This will be discussed further in a later meeting. Apparently the Bride grew up in a little white Church such as ours. They went to our internet and read all about us and were more excited to get married here. Pastor Bonnie is looking to take a semester class to continue her education. There was no further information or comments on lowering the voices before the service.

The Chili Luncheon plans are coming along and the Pie Sale. The sign up sheets are being passed around. Jack Duehring is looking for bids to replace the front doors. The Mission Committee has vetted the charities which they propose to give for the California fires. The internet has glitches for those watching via UTube. The Technology committee is checking on this. The nominating committee has completed their choices for the open Council and Committee members. Kay O'Keane is working on a couple picture albums and repairing an older confirmation album.

The Council discussed the budget. We reviewed the membership. Bonnie will make some calls to check on some of the members. Cindy Cain has been checking a firm that may do our Directory. They will get back with her in a short period of time. In October of 25, we will have our 185th anniversary.

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 17, 2025. Meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm.

Church Council Meeting Minutes  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
February 17, 2025

The Church Council meeting came to order at 6:00pm. Those in attendance were Fred Dieball, Debbie Schlafer, Vicki Dost, Cindy Cain, Pastor Bonnie and Kay O'Keane. Connie Johnson could not attend. And normally, the prior member who was President, Charmaine Duehring would attend, but Charmaine was ill. We are down to the five members for our Council as we voted at the Annual Meeting. Also our new member is with us who was voted in at the Annual Meeting, Debbie Schlafer.

Cindy Cain was voted in as the President of the Council. Vicki Dost was voted in as the Secretary and Kay O'Keane was voted in as the Vice President. The Installation of the Council Members will be Sunday, March 16th. The Minutes of the January Meeting were approved. We reviewed the minutes from the Annual Meeting. The YouTube system for showing the service has been improved and Eugene Dost has accepted the need to assist the IT group. Pastor Bonnie may join a group called the Backstory Preaching or another ecumenical study group.

Tim Norland, from Universal Church Directories, attended our meeting to discuss and show what he can do for the Church Member Directory with pictures. We will start taking pictures on April 1st and Cindy Cain will get helpers and begin to get people signed up. We hope to put pictures of our members, along with scenic pictures of the church and perhaps generational type pictures. We need to have 32 pictures taken by this company. It will take 12 minutes for each picture.

Easter Sunday is April 20th and we will have an Easter Breakfast for those who do not have any other plans. We will have a Maundy, Good Friday Service on Thursday, April 17th. Vicki Dost has agreed to make calls whenever there is a cancellation for any Service at Church. This is for those members who do not have emails. The Chili Luncheon is almost set for February 23rd.

We chose Lucy Krapfl to be on the Endowment Committee. Kay O'Keane will pick up the mail. The Christian Ed. is providing new books in the library room. Lou Ann and Bill Evert are painting the bathroom.

We adjourned at 7:30pm. Our next meeting will be March 10th.





# April 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Seniors Church Directory Pictures	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 Worship Last day to order Easter flowers	7	8	9	10 Bible Study & Coffee w/Bonnie 10 AM	11	12 Easter Egg Hunt 10 AM—Noon  Kyle G.
13 9:30 Worship  <i>Palm Sunday</i>	14 Council Mtg. 6 PM	15	16	17 Women's Guild Maundy Thursday/ Good Friday Service 7 PM Chelsea & Adam B.'s Anniversary	18 Good Friday	19 Emma A.Z, Mark & Debbie G.'s Anniversary
20 9:30 Worship 	21	22 Fred D 	23 Chapel Bell Items due to Donna Jill L. Betty P.	24	25	26 8-Noon Spring Clean Up  Steve & Alice M.'s & Dick & Judy N.'s Anniversary
27 9:30 Worship Earth Day Celebration	28  Steve M.	29	30			