

ST. PAUL'S UCC ERIN CHAPEL BELLS



April, 2024

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

There are just some authors who get you, speak directly to you, grab your imagination. Madeleine L'Engle was the first to do that for me. I read and reread her "children's" Newberry Award winning *A Wrinkle in Time* and its sequels first. However, it was her "*A Circle of Quiet*" (Book 1 of her published *The Crosswicks Journal*) that I read until the book had pages full on underlining and notes in the margins. I actually bought a new clean copy just to share with others.

In seminary, I was exposed to lots, and lots of mind-expanding authors. As I think back on some of them now, I doubt I will ever read them again and there are some who I seriously hold dear. Ann Weems is one of those. Like Madeleine L'Engle, she was a prolific writer. As you read any of her books, you can feel her passion. Among her seven published books or collection of poems, I own four of them and I'm convinced I must have all of them. Note to self: Order Ann's book, *Kneeling in Jerusalem*.

She is widely acclaimed for her poem, *Balloons Belong in Church*, about her then four-year-old son, Todd, who brought an orange balloon with pink stripes to church school one Sunday morning. You can read it in *Something to Share*. All of her writings are deeply rooted in the scriptures, and in daily living, both joys and sorrows. She once said that "writing was, for her, a spiritual exercise, a form of prayer in which one can imagine what might be and, in the writing, help it to become true."

Do you have an author who has touched your life? If you cannot bear to part with your personal cherished copy, I invite you to purchase a clean copy to add to our library. Oh, you do know we have an active library, right? Check a book out or check a book in! I'm adding *A Circle of Quiet* and I'll purchase a clean copy of *Reaching for Rainbows* by Ann Weems. Remember, to add a book to the library, IT DOES NOT NEED TO BE BRAND NEW.

ANNUAL SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE MEETING is being held on April 24th at First Congregational UCC in Oconomowoc. Pastor Bonnie will be attending. Are you interested in attending?

ANNUAL WISCONSIN CONFERENCE MEETING is scheduled for June 7th through the 9th. Pastor Bonnie will be attending; however, we are invited to bring a member of our church as well. Again, are you interested?



WOMEN'S GUILD

At our March meeting we discussed this year's Chili Lunch which was delicious, successful, and great fun! It is gratifying to see how popular the pie sale was and how fast the pies fly off the sale table. The big problem—one we plan to resolve next year—we need to bake more pies!

The Guild brat fry at Fox Bros. Piggly Wiggly in Hubertus is scheduled for June 22. We plan to have another plant sale that day, so if you are dividing/thinning outdoor plants or have indoor plants that need dividing, consider potting them for this sale. Plants are displayed and sold for "good will offering."

The Guild is planning to offer desserts for sale at St. Paul's Monches Park Brat Fry in September. A soft chewy brownie topping off a tasty brat or burger fresh off the grill—what could be finer?!?!

We voted to replace six older banquet tables in the Fellowship Hall with six new tables to match the white ones. The six older tables are in decent shape, very substantial, but VERY HEAVY--too heavy for church ladies to fling about! The six banquet tables are free for anyone who can use them. They are 30 in. wide x 8 ft. long. If you would like one/all of these tables, see Carol.

The April Guild meeting will be Thursday, April 18. All St. Paul's women are invited—just bring a bag lunch at noon. Dessert and possibilities to support our church will be provided.

BIBLE STUDY is open to all. You do not have to sign up...just show up. You don't have to do any homework...just show up. Hope to see you April 11th between 1 and 2 pm.

COFFEE WITH BONNIE this month (April 25th) we will meet at 10:00 at Fiddleheads in Menomonee Falls. No need to sign up, just show up! This group loves to laugh, so be ready to enjoy an hour or two.



Mark your Calendars for our Fundraiser!

April 21st- the Mission Maniacs will be having a Pizza Fundraiser! We will be making homemade pizza, using pizza sauce made from the garden tomatoes grown at church! We also have herbs and green peppers we are using from that garden! More information to follow!!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Jeff & Tracy M.
Madelyn & Jayden



Obie & Anna Marie O.
Neil & Amore`



THANKFUL GRATEFUL *Blessed*

A BIG thank you to Judy N. as she retires from the Altar Committee after Easter. She was one of the original members of the committee and has been lead person for many, many years. From changing candles and paraments, storing and decorating Christmas trees,

buying wine and selecting new paraments, she has done it all and taught the rest of us along the way. Both present and past committee members couldn't have succeeded without her guidance. We'll miss you, Judy! Thanks to your support, the 2024 Chili Lunch & Pie Sale netted over \$2200 in profit which will go towards the church general fund to support this year's budget. A special THANK YOU to Cory & Cheri J. and Lucy K. for the donation of beef and to Jack & Roy for getting the new signs ready and posted. We heard many compliments about our pies...way to go bakers!! A huge thank you to Connie J., Fred & Wanda D. for organizing and making the traditional chili!

Thank you to everyone who made the St. Paul's 2024 Egg Hunt possible!



The candy poured in and we were SHOCKED at how much you donated! A big thank you to the Endowment committee for their monetary donation that allowed us the stuff those eggs even fuller! Thank you to the Nutty Knitters and Guild members who tirelessly had to match top and bottom to those little plastic eggs and stuff them! It's hard work!! Thank you to Roy and Carol and to Eugene for hanging our banners out in the community! Thank you to the members who came on the day of the event to get the food ready and out and to help with the craft stations and to be there in general! Anyone visiting St. Paul's for the first time, was witness to our church family and we couldn't be more proud!

Another Thank you to everyone who donated to the College Care packages! The kids always LOVE packing these and the "kids" receiving them LOVE them too! We received so many text messages, emails and cards from this group of young adults who were so excited to receive a little something from St. Paul's! Thank you for all you do for our little church!

THANK YOU TO,

Another awesome cake was created by Peggy A. for our New Member Reception.

Jill L and Carl R. for visiting Ken S. and Ron S. as part of the Congregation Care Committee

Eugene (Andy) and Vicki (Ada) for their Palm Sunday Reader's Theater

Greeters: Jack and Charmaine D., Dave and Betty Z., John and Polly E., Bill and LouAnn E., Mark and Debbie G. and Kyle and Katie G.

Liturgists: John E., Charmaine D., Katie G., Bernice D. and Carl R. In addition, these folks read at our Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service: Jill L. Jill S., Bernie C., Bernice D., Cindy C., Jill P., Steve M., Curt H., Eugene D. and Carl R. Thank you!

OUR CHOIR sang their hearts out for us in March. Thank you!!!

Guild Members who made PIE for us as a thank you on PI Sunday!

HUGE THANK YOU to Dave Z and Jack D for ALL their time and efforts that went into developing our own soon to be worship enhanced screen! This comes with the caveat that there will be hiccups along the way and a learning curve is to be expected.

Mark K. for his leaf blowing talents! It didn't go unnoticed!

Janene K. for her pie plates donation.

And not to be forgotten: EVERYONE but special thanks to Jodi S., Debbie S. and Rachel H. for the best Easter Egg Hunt in the snow ever!!!

And a special thank you to visitor, Kathy H., who donated her Easter ham from her employer to our after Easter potluck coffee and conversation. How sweet is that?

CONGRATULATIONS

Nate W. for being on the high honor roll at Harford High AND being recognized for his carpentry skills at the State SkillsUSA! We are Proud of You!

Curt H. whose daughter was married in Maui on the same spot they got engaged. Congratulations on being a Father-In Law Curt!

Chelsea and Adam B. on the birth of their daughter Annabelle Doris on Sunday, March 24th .

NEW AUDIO/VIDEO INSTALLATION:



Here's an update on our audio/video upgrade. During the past week we have installed a new 75" TV, new automated camera (replacing the outdated projector), and new video/audio control equipment. Not all of it is working in a coordinated fashion yet. That's next along with a new line (shotgun) microphone. In addition, the Tech room received a much needed new coat of paint and new flooring. Both look great!

Many thanks for all the great help: Jack D., Neil W., Eugene D. and Cindy C.



Saturday, April 27 with a rain date of May 4 from 8 a.m to 11 a.m.

Volunteers are needed for many different jobs. Please bring your own tools.

Pick up sticks, rake some grass or last year's leaves, cut some buckthorn, remove or trim plants, do some dusting, wash some windows or clean up around some graves. Plenty to do for many hands.

If you can't make it that day, contact Jack D. or Carol K. to see about doing a job at a time convenient for you.

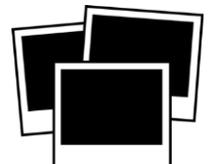
STEEPLE SHINGLING



At the March Council meeting, Jack D. presented 4 bids for the shingling of our beautiful steeple. The Council chose Infinity Exteriors to do the project at a cost of \$16, 546 Work should begin in 4-6 weeks depending on the weather and take about a week to complete. Watch for any email updates that may close the upper parking lot during shingling.

DO YOU LOVE PHOTOS?

During the cleaning out of the church files, we came across many, many old pictures and articles. Several albums have been made in the past, but there is a need to now take these new finds and put them in albums too. If you are interested in working on this project please let Charmaine D. know.



CREATION CARE TEAM is getting ready to show off our property. They have their sites on the area of land just south of our driveway. The first step will be to clean it out, trim up some trees and bushes and even remove a tree. That is scheduled to take place on our annual **Spring Cleanup Day, April 27th**! The bulletin board that shares a wall with the tech room will be the place to check out drawings of what the team envisions for that space. Watch for that.

Pastor Bonnie has asked the Mission Maniacs to enlist a grown ups help to take a photo of something they find beautiful in creation. She will then frame them to be placed on that bulletin board to share with the congregation.

If you are a bird watcher/photographer, the team is interested in creating a slideshow of those photos. Send them to Pastor Bonnie at saintpaulserin.pastor@gmail.com.

Wanted: Rain Barrel or a Barrel we could adapt to be a Rain Barrel. Anyone have one to donate? Suet bird feeders are also wanted. Check out your collection of feeders for a suet feeder to donate.

Daniel Cooperrider's book, *Speak With The Earth and it will Teach You*, will be the focus of a monthly series to include topics of Rivers, Mountain, Trees and Clouds. This would begin in May and we would like to meet at Loew Lake. Watch the May Chapel Bells for further details. If you would like a copy of the book, contact Pastor Bonnie.



APRIL GREETERS

April 7 Sunday School (G, C, O, Com.)
April 14 Bonnie H. & Rachel H. (G, C, O)
April 21 Lucy Krapfl & (G) Curt & Karrie H. (O & C)
April 28 Connie J. & Bernice D. (G, C, O)

LITURGISTS

Kim W.
Cindy C.
Steve M.
Alice M.

SOMETHING TO SHARE

Balloons Belong in Church, written by Ann Weems included in her book *Reaching for Rainbows*

I took to church one morning a happy four-year-old boy
Holding a bright blue string to which was attached his much-loved
orange balloon with pink stripes...

Certainly a thing of beauty

And, if not forever, at least a joy, for a very important now.

When he later met me at the door,

Clutching blue string, orange and pink bobbing behind him,

He didn't have to tell me something had gone wrong.

"What's the matter?"

He wouldn't tell me.

"I bet they loved your balloon..."

Out it came then, mocking the teacher's voice:

"We don't bring balloons to church."

Then that little four-year-old, his lip a bit trembly, asked:

"Why aren't balloons allowed in church? I thought God would



like balloons.”

I celebrate balloons, parades, and chocolate chip cookies.

I celebrate seashells and elephants and lions that roar.

I celebrate roasted marshmallows and chocolate cake and fresh
fish.

I celebrate aromas: bread baking, mincemeat, lemons...

I celebrate seeing: bright colors, wheat in a field, wild flowers...

I celebrate hearing: waves pounding, rain falling, soft voices...

I celebrate touching: toes in the sand, a kitten’s fur, another
person...

I celebrate the sun that shines slap dab in our faces...

I celebrate snow falling:

the wondrous quiet of the snow falling...

I celebrate the crashing thunder and the brazen lightning...

And I celebrate the green of the world, the life-giving green, the
hope-giving green...

I celebrate birth: the wonder – the miracle – of that tiny life al-
ready asserting its selfhood.

I celebrate children

who laugh out loud

who walk in the mud and dawdle in the puddles

who put chocolate fingers anywhere

who like to be tickled

who scribble in church

who whisper in loud voices

who sing in louder voices

who run – and laugh when they fall

who cry at the top of their lungs

who cover themselves with Band-Aids

who squeeze the toothpaste all over the bathroom

who slurp their soup

who chew cough drops

who ask questions

who give us sticky, paste-covered creations

who want their pictures taken

who don’t use their napkins

who bury their goldfish, sleep with the dog, scream at their
best friends

who hug us in a hurry and rush outside without their hats

I celebrate children who are so busy living they don’t have time
for our hang-ups,

And I celebrate adults who are as little children.

(I'm going to leave out the next several stanzas, which pains me to do, but I challenge you to look up the entire poem on your own. I am jumping to the last several verses as something to share.)

That Christ hung there
Loving the unlovable.
What beautiful gift cannot be offered unto the Lord –
Whether it's a balloon or a song or some joy that sits within you
 Waiting to have the lid taken off?
The Scriptures say there's a time to laugh and a time to weep.
It's not hard to see the reasons for crying in a world where hatred
 for others is so manifest;
But it's also not hard to see the reasons for laughter in a world
 where God's love is so manifest.
So celebrate!
Bring your balloons and your butterflies, your bouquets of flowers,
Bring the torches and hold them high!
Dance your dances, paint your feelings, sing your songs, whistle,
 laugh.
Life is a celebration, an affirmation of God's love.
Life is distributing more balloons.
For God so loved the world...
Surely that's a cause for joy.
Surely we should celebrate!
Good news! That God should love us that much.
Where did we ever get the idea that balloons don't belong in
 church?

(Doesn't that make you thankful we do allow balloons in church! - Bonnie)



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 via Zoom, 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 Minutes
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
February 11, 2024

Meeting was called to order by President Charmaine Duehring at 6:00pm. The attendees included Vicki Dost, Connie Johnson, Kim Kersten, Cindy Cain, Charmaine Duehring, Kay O'Keane, and Janene Kluever. Fred Dieball was unable to come. Pastor Bonnie joined us via the telephone and led our prayer. January meeting minutes were approved. We also reviewed the Annual Meeting Minutes. The financials incoming did very well, which was expected, because of the start of the year. The electric bill was high and we will check this out but the solar panels are getting old and there was not much sun. There is now an additional fee from the Electric Company for the solar panels. Financial report was approved.

Pastor Bonnie will be meeting with the new members, Oberhozers, Scott Hellesen and Terry Phillips. She will be going over the history of our church and the history of the United Church of Christ formation, and its history. She is hoping to install the new members on March 3rd, with a reception following the church service. Easter Sunday is March 31st and she would like to find out if there would be a number of people to get together with those people who do not have plans for a celebration and perhaps have a potluck. She will find out from the congregation. Her change in office hours will be entered on the church service program and in Chapel Bells. Baptism of Ava and Aspen Ranta to take place on a Saturday at church, but the date is unknown. Pastor Bonnie is looking for some funds to provide snacks or some hospitality type lunch or food for visitors with the minister. The money that is provided to her will cover this cost.

We had the election of the officers, as we welcomed our new Council Members, Vicki Dost, Cindy Cain and Fred Dieball. Charmaine Duehring will continue as President, Kim Kersten has accepted the role of Vice President and Kay O'Keane will continue as Secretary. The selections were approved. We went over the location of necessary items in the church for the new members. The installations of the Council members will be the following Sunday, February 18th. We have to select two new members for the Endowment Committee. Kim Kersten will ask one of the Guetzkes and Vicki Dost will check with Eugene Dost and if needed Cindy will check with Peggy Ahles. This is a one year appointment.. Kurt Hulterstrum and Cindy Cain will be leaving the committee. Regarding the By-Laws, one council member will be selected to be on the PPRC Committee and Cindy Cain has accepted this position.

We reviewed the final membership and a letter was sent out to those who did not fulfill the membership roles as indicated in our By-Laws. We had feedback where some people were upset to get this letter and perhaps we will need to change the contents of the letter. We have 131 members which we submit to the Association. Christian Education has a Pizza Day coming up soon. Palms have been ordered for Palm Sunday. A form has been made for people to buy Easter Flowers. Dave Zimpelman is working with Tech to help make up the new Tech system with a TV. We reviewed the liaisons for committees, Vicki Dost will be liaison for Guild and Charmain has Building and Grounds and Fellowship and Christian Ed.and Altar.. Connie Johnson has Mission Committee. The Chili Luncheon is all set along with the pie sale, except we are a little shy of people to help. The 36 pounds of meat was donated by Lucy Krapfl and the Johnsons.

We are looking for a cleaning person to replace Blondie. Wanda Dieball might accept the position, we are still checking.

Our next meeting will be March 11th. Meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm.



April 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Seniors	3	4	5	6
7 9:30 Worship	8	9	10	11 1:00 Bible Study	12 Kyle G.	13
14 9:30 Worship	15	16	17 Chelsea & Adam B.'s Anniversary	18 Women's Guild	19 Emma A.Z, Mark & Debbie G.'s Anniversary	20
21 9:30 Worship Pizza Fundraiser	22 Fred D 	23 Chapel Bell Items due to Donna Jill L. Betty P. Megan J.	24 Annual S.E Conference Meeting	25 Coffee w/Bonnie 10 am Fiddleheads	26 Steve & Alice M,'s & Dick & Judy N.'s Anniversary	27 8-11 am Spring Clean Up
28 9:30 Worship Steve M.	29 Jay & Heather L.'s Anniversary	30				