



Chapel Bells

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



262-628-2319

www.StPaulsErin.org

August, 2020



Why We Rang Our Bell **by Brett & Susan Miller**

During worship on Sunday, June 14th, Brett asked our congregation to take a pause on Friday, June 19th, and educate ourselves about Freedom Day and what is currently happening in our larger national conversation about race. When we learned about the wider grass roots UCC initiative to “ring our bells” on June 19th, we did not hesitate. On that Friday, we tolled our bell every nine seconds for nine minutes at 8 p.m. We rang the bell because we believed it was the right thing to do as Christians and as members of our congregation and the UCC. Ringing our bell that Friday night was intended to be an act of human compassion, to show solidarity with a segment of our society that is often marginalized and deprived of dignity and equality. We were surprised that our ringing of our bell has been interpreted as “a political statement” and “potentially divisive” by some of our dear friends in this congregation. That was not our intention. With this conversation now being had in our congregation, we wanted to share with you why we rang our bell:

We rang our bell because Juneteenth (or “Freedom Day”) in many parts of Black culture is far more important than July 4th (“Independence Day”). To many of our Black countrymen (especially ancestors of slaves), July 4th does not represent independence at all. Our White American ancestors gained their political freedom from King George in 1776, however, our Black American ancestors that were slaves achieved nothing but bondage that continued for another 89 years. On June 19, 1865, the last slaves in America were freed from the wickedness of slavery that had lasted well over 200 years. It is a date that has been widely celebrated in Black culture for many years. However, until Juneteenth this year, no one in my family commemorated it -- because we did not know it existed. We were simply never taught anything about it; and answering “why?” is another entirely different conversation. Would this congregation have any concern if Susan and I rang our bell on the 4th of July to commemorate some of our ancestors’ political independence?

We rang our bell to commemorate the loss of the human life of George Floyd. Whoever George Floyd was (and however flawed he may have been – like all human beings), he died at the hands (and knee) of peace officers that were sworn to protect and defend all of us, including him. To cavalierly suffocate for 9 minutes a human life – any human life - is reprehensible. The bell rang to call out for an end to more needless deaths like George Floyd.

We rang the bell to show our solidarity with the vast majority of those in the Black community that believe the Black Lives Matter movement is no more than a way for them to be seen, heard and valued by our larger society.

For most Black Americans, the Black Lives Matter movement is as simple as being heard by the rest of us with no other agenda (most importantly no destructive or riotous agenda). We want to share two similar stories Brett has heard since George Floyd's death from two Black colleagues that he works with and respects. Both are mothers. One is sending her Black son to college this fall as a freshman and one has a 2-year-old half Black, half Latino son. The mother sending her son off to college posted on Brett's company's internal Facebook page that, after the death of George Floyd, she periodically just starts crying. Despite educating her son on how to protect himself in interactions with law enforcement, she is extremely worried about his safety as he leaves home. The mother of the two-year-old separately emailed Brett that she has anxiety about having to start the education process with her son about what he may need to do to protect himself, but she has even more anxiety about having to answer his simple question of "why Mommy?" Like many of you, we have never had to consider having conversations like these with our children, and we can't imagine the emotions these mothers experience. We rang our bell in solidarity with these two Black mothers and colleagues. They deserve us to stand up and see them and support them for who they are and what they experience in our supposedly "color blind" society.

Ringling our bell was a moving experience for us and we rang it as a gesture of kindness and support and as a call for dignity, equality, peace, love and justice. As followers of Jesus Christ, who made the ultimate call for dignity, equality, peace, love and justice, is there any other Way?



July 3 "Gathering for Vern



Re-Opening Task Force Underway

The Church Council has appointed a Re-Opening Task Force to help prepare our building for re-opening, which will happen as soon as the coronavirus counts show a steady decline in Wisconsin. Donations of hand sanitizer, wipes, face masks are more than welcome and can be dropped off on the table outside by the rooster door entrance. We are following the Wisconsin Conference and Wisconsin Council of Churches guidelines for reopening, which can be found here: <https://www.wichurches.org/2020/04/23/returning-to-church/>.



Giving to the Church During the Pandemic

We expect this to be a very challenging year financially for our congregation due to the pandemic. Please continue to practice good stewardship by mailing your weekly offerings and pledges to the church office at: St. Paul's UCC, attn: Financial Secretary, 495 St. Augustine Road, Colgate, WI 53017. Gifts can also be made online on our church website (<http://www.stpaulserin.org>) or by electronic transfer from your bank. Thank you for continuing to give as generously as you can!



In Need of Assistance?

We know that many families are struggling financially and/or with mental health issues due to the pandemic. If you are in need of assistance, please contact Pastor Glenn (414.550.1553 or SPPastor@yahoo.com).



Sunday On-Line Worship

In order to keep members safe during the pandemic, we are worshipping on-line using Zoom. Please join us for on-line worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. Links to the service each week will be emailed to our members and can also be found on our church website at <http://www.stpaulserin.org>.



Zoom Available for Virtual Church Meetings

Thanks to a generous grant from the Wisconsin Conference UCC, we are able to use Zoom for not only on-line worship, but other church meetings. If anyone would like to schedule a committee meeting or meeting for other groups using Zoom, please contact Pastor Glenn (SPPastor@yahoo.com) and he would be happy to assist.



Volunteers Needed to Serve on Stewardship Committee

We are currently in need of at least 2 members to serve on the Stewardship Committee. The Stewardship is responsible for coordinating our fall stewardship campaign and other year-round stewardship efforts. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Glenn or Adam Staus.



WOMEN'S GUILD

The July Women's Guild meeting was cancelled. We have officially cancelled the September 19th Homemade Bread and Soup Lunch and Bake Sale, so we had no planning or agenda items for discussion. However, there are several Guild members and Fellowship Committee members teamed up to brainstorm fundraising possibilities. A plan is in place!! The Hubertus Fox Bros. Piggly Wiggly Brat Shack is reserved for a brat and burger sale on Saturday, September 19. Details are not finalized, but we know that volunteers will be needed to man the brat shack for several shifts. If you can help with this fundraiser, please contact Betty Zimpelman at 628-2501.

There are other fundraising/fellowship ideas in the planning stages. Hopefully, we can all find some creative ways to stay connected, work together and do some safe and fun fundraising for our church.

The next Women's Guild meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 20. Bring a mask and brown bag lunch. We will meet on the Kaisler patio, 4772 Monches Rd. In case of bad weather we can move inside and safely scatter.



August Liturgist Schedule
(*TBD depending on pandemic status)

- August 2nd - Curt Hultstrum
- August 9th - Brett Miller
- August 16th - Carl Roock
- August 23rd - Elias Gravelle
- August 30th - Stephanie Danz

Greeters for August:

- August 2nd – Bonnie Hanrahan & Cheryl Fischer
- August 16th – Jill Paddock & Kathy Schlafer
- August 23rd – Shirley Janichek & Brenda Klemmer
- August 30th – Jerry & Vicky Lubbert



Sussex Food Pantry Update

Our Serving Day on the 3rd Saturday morning of each month at the Sussex Food Pantry has been temporarily suspended due to the pandemic. Jennifer Waltz, SOS Director, will let us know when volunteers are needed again.



United Church Camps Update

All camps and programs at Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach have been cancelled until at least Labor Day due to the pandemic. Visit www.ucci.org for more information.



COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

Knowing opportunities that benefit our community and make a contribution during this trying time will be welcomed, here is a suggestion:

Saint Teresa of Calcutta, W314 N7462 Hwy. 83 in North Lake has Versiti blood drives scheduled every eight weeks. Blood donations are always needed and can be done safely within our local community.

Face masks are required, hand sanitizers available, and the drive is scheduled and set up for social distancing. Upcoming drives are scheduled for Thursdays, September 3, October 29, and December 31.

To make an appointment, call Rita who organizes St. Teresa of Calcutta drives, at 262-719-2815 or Versiti Blood Center at 877-232-4376.



Know of Someone in the Hospital?

If you know of someone in our congregation who is currently hospitalized or in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Glenn at SPPastor@yahoo.com or (414) 550.1553



*Thanks for being such a caring congregation following my hip surgery Your cards, phone calls and home cooking made my day!
Best wishes, Joyce O'Keane*

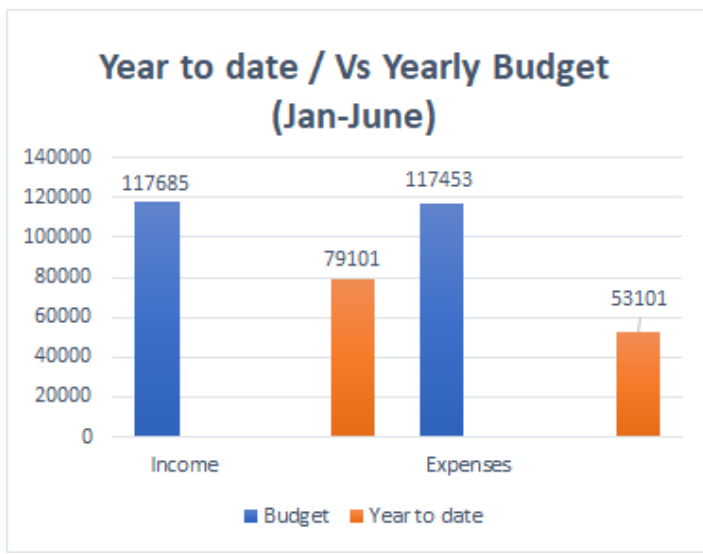


Please remember with your prayers, cards & calls:

- *Vern Guetzke, born to eternal life July 5
- *Lois Winkler, born to eternal life June 17
- *LouAnn Evert, recently diagnosed with an aggressive type of breast cancer and preparing for chemotherapy
- *Joyce O'Keane, recovering at home from hip replacement surgery and blood clots
- *All of our graduates: Mason Weber (Richfield MS 6/4), Payton Weber (Hartford Union HS 7/24), Gabriel Danz (Loyola University of Chicago 5/6)
- *Katelyn Runte & Keegan Nelson, married on July 25
- *Ron Perschon, battling prostate cancer
- *Wanda Dieball's mother, Gail, as she begins treatment for lung cancer
- *Ron & Diane Smith, as Ron recovers from brain surgery
- *A cure for and healing from the coronavirus

Pastor Glenn's Contact Information:

Cell phone: (414) 550.1553 E-mail: SPPastor@yahoo.com





August 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2 9:30 am Online Worship w/ Communion	3	4	5 John & Lynn Duwell & Bill & LouAnn Evert's Anniversaries	6	7	8 Chelsea Dieball
9 9:30 am Online Worship w/ Rev. Tom Payden preaching Emma Staus	10 6 pm Church Council mtg.	11 Roy Kaisler Brett Miller Brady Weber	12 Cindy Cain	13	14 Keith Gothard	15 Andy Brehmer Levi Jacklin
16 9:30 am worship w/ Revs. Debbie & Tom Payden preaching Ron Smith	17	18	19 Ari Miller	20	21	22
23 9:30 am worship (*TBD)	24 Tony Callen	25 Diane Smith	26	27 Marilyn Dieball Luke Truman	28	29
30 9:30 am worship (*TBD)	31					