

Chapel Bells

August, 2023

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

I have been listening, reading and thinking about the mission of the church and change. Many churches, not only ours, are struggling with how to re-define ourselves to adapt to the changes happening so quickly all around us. I hear the concerns of those of you who wonder where's the next generation of church members. Why aren't they here? After all, the mission of the church is to spread the Good News. Who is going to fulfill that mission when we no longer are able.

My question is, has the mission of the church really changed and does it have to change? The first answer is no. Jesus called us to be guided by his call to action. That would be the Great Commission. Jesus declared, "I have authority over all things in heaven and on earth. So, go and lead people unto me, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to follow everything I have taught you. Be assured; I will be with you always, even until the

end of time." That sounds fairly easy. It's pretty much a word-of-mouth strategy. Ever since Matthew wrote these words, these marching orders really have not changed. And they have worked.

The second answer is Yes. What is changing is how we gain new members. The pandemic, disaffiliations, political disputes, etc. have affected membership in ways we were/still are not prepared to deal with. We are going to need to be creative in how we reach people. And many churches and leaders are not adapting, but others are.

There is a myth that says nothing should change. Just because Jesus' teachings do not change and are just as relevant today as they were yesterday, doesn't mean how we share those stories can't change. Today, people watch YouTube videos or Facebook Live for spiritual direction. Churches use TV-like screens to project images and scripture relevant to the Sunday

message. They learn new hymns and sing old ones using videos.

Of course, we need people in the pews. But volunteers are not just people you see in the pews on Sunday mornings. Perhaps we should consider approaching folks who worship remotely to help on occasion or who attend occasionally. Perhaps we need to simply ask others to help, even if it's only for one specific task or one event. People like to be invited to help out.

I also hear from folks how we need to attract people to our church to strengthen our membership. It should also be pointed out that the steady decline in active church participation began well before the pandemic. In fact, church membership has been decreasing for over the last five to seven decades! That's the reality we live in, but it's hard to let go of that ideal. It's even harder to imagine what's next.



Here's the thing, even small changes can have a significant impact. I have ideas. I always have ideas. As I have said before, they are ideas, not set in stone. They are things to consider. You won't break my heart if you are not interested in them. That's okay.

Perhaps a once-a-month coffee with Pastor Bonnie at a local coffee shop. Perhaps a once-a-month Sunday Supper or Lunch at rotating local restaurants with each person paying for their own lunch or dinner. I'd be willing to provide some ice breakers.

Some churches go so far as initiating Bible and Beer meetings, similar to Pub Theology. What would you think if the next Fellowship committee meeting was

held just down the road at Flynn's? Maybe the next council meeting at the Fox and Hounds?

Perhaps we invite our neighbors to a fall gathering around the fire pit? I'll supply the marshmallows, graham crackers and chocolate, if you will bring apple cider? Maybe apples for dunking????

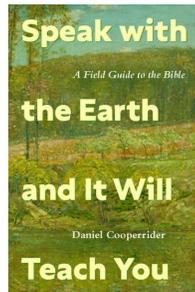
We are very fortunate to have an excellent Facebook page thanks to Jodi Staus. But, she needs our help. If you are on Facebook, please friend our church page and like our entries. Of course, sharing it on your page allows for a wider reader distribution.

She also asks if there is something that is going on around us, send her a text or email so she can add those to our page. Jodi gave an example of how Donna Runte sent her an item

CREATION CARE

The Wisconsin Conference UCC Kairos Grants have funds available for the purchase of Daniel Cooperrider's book, "Speak with the Earth and it will Teach You." Text, e-mail or speak to Pastor Bonnie about getting a copy for you. We will have a book discussion at a later date for those who want to share your thoughts and feelings. Some folks in other churches have donated back their copy, which is then handed on to other churches. Now that is creation care. Pastor Bonnie has re-

quested 10 books and she has not heard back yet. If you would like one, let her know, OR you can pick up a used copy reasonably priced on Amazon.



DIRECTORY UPDATES:

Please update your phone number for Marilyn Dieball, her new number is 262-361-0342 Also, please update Adyce Senfleben's address to:

W398 N5981 Autumn Woods Dr., Oconomowoc, WI 53066

THIS N' THAT



Please note the bins behind the church are for the church's garbage and recycling, please do not put yard waste in those bins. Thank you .

CHURCH BRAT FRY



The church brat fry on Saturday, September 10 from 11-5 at Monches Park. We will have brats,

burgers hot dogs, beer and soda. Live music from Tom and Brian. Also, the kickball tournament is from 1-4.

Debbie Schlafer is organizing an Outdoor Adventure basket raffle which will have an outdoor smokeless fire pit, cooler, lawn chairs etc..., If anyone is interested in donating to the raffle, please contact Debbie or Lucy. Thanks to everyone who has signed up for shopping and help at the brat fry.

FOR ALL CHURCH MEMBERS

We are looking for you to do your part. Each Sunday we are in need of a set of greeters. Not only do you get to shake hands, smile at folks as they arrive and hand them a bulletin, but you also get to light the candles, extinguish the candles, and collect the offering. It's easy and a great way to serve. There is a sign-up sheet in the basement, OR, you could drop a note in the offering plate and your name will be added.

Another way that you can do your part, is to sign up for coffee and conversation. Use your best judgement on what you want to bring but KEEP IT SIMPLE! It's not meant to be about providing breakfast or lunch. It's not supposed to be about spending hours bak-

ing and cooking. KEEP IT SIMPLE. The table doesn't have to be full of goodies, two items would be sufficient. Again, sign-up on the sheet downstairs or drop a note in the offering plate.



We
the
Church

to EVERYONE, including your children with your supervision. Let's be as inclusive as possible in taking part in these important functions of the church.

At one point in the past, the Women's Guild provided these functions, they are now open

WOMEN'S GUILD

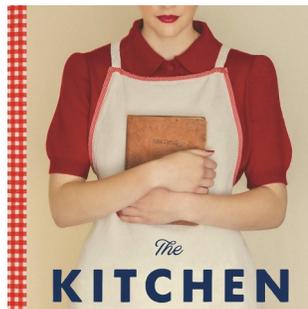
We enjoyed a tasty spread at our July meeting!! Jill furnished a delightfully decadent key lime dessert. Debbie B. brought a fresh baked Door County blueberry bread. Kathy S. brought fresh picked home-grown raspberries which disappeared before our eyes.

The Kitchen Deco Committee met and has plans to include moving electrical outlets to accommodate two new refrigerators; browsing kitchen cabinets and storage locations to remove obsolete items taking up valuable storage space; and contacting a professional painter about removing wallpaper, color suggestions and repainting the kitchen. We also plan to have the carpets cleaned.

The Guild voted to send a contribution to former interim pastor Rev. Bev Davis who has a long recovery ahead after suffering a

serious break to her arm.

The Guild voted to donate toward a major raffle item as a fundraiser at the Monches Ballpark brat fry on September 10. Plans are afoot to hold Sunday Worship at the ballpark. Sounds like a fun day!



With the price of ingredients going up, we voted to increase the price per pound at the Guild's Christmas

Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 2, but only by \$1-- to \$9 per pound. That is less than many other cookie walks are charging, but with the thought that our customer base is made up of local neighbors, friends and long-time

cookie walk shoppers we have come to know and appreciate. Again this year, there will be no early sales.

The next Guild meeting will be held on Thursday, August 17, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. All St. Paul's women are invited to bring a lunch and join us. Pastor Bonnie will give the devotional and Debbie B. will furnish dessert.



August 6th-Brett Miller

August 13th-Steve Manuell

August 20th-Alice Manuell

August 27th-Bernice Dieball

Pastor Bonnie's Vacation

Pastor Bonnie will be on vacation from August 18 through September 1st. Ms. Lesley Buelow, a seminary student who wants to hone up on her preaching skills, will lead worship on August 20th. Please give her our usual warm welcome. I am grateful to John Helt for agreeing to lead worship on the 27th. In case of emergency, please call Pastor Bonnie at 262-416-5094.

St. Paul's U.C.C. Erin
495 St. Augustine Road
Colgate, WI 53017
262-628-2319 or
262-416-5094
www.stpaulserin.org

saintpaulserin.pastor@gmail.com

PASTOR'S HOURS

Pastor Bonnie will be in the church office on Thursdays from noon to 6 PM. Stop by for a visit! Friday and Saturday are Pastor's weekend. In an emergency, please call **262-416-5094**.

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

Thank you so very much for all the birthday wishes and greetings for my 101st birthday.

All of the various communications I had from friends at church were wonderful, and made my birthday very special.

Thank you all for thinking of me.

Beulah

Thank you to all my St Paul's friends for the cards remembering my ordination anniversary on the 25th of June.

I was deeply



touched, and will always be thankful to God for our ministry at St Paul's, where we "saved the best for last" together.

pj

SOMETHING TO SHARE

Here's a word to add to your vocabulary (if you can pronounce it) psithurism. It is a noun that means the sound of wind in the trees and the rustling of leaves. Did you know some folks can tell what kind

of tree is making a particular sound? The cottonwood tree for instance is different that the mighty oak. Jeff and I stood outside our car before we came into church last Sunday. You

could hear the wind approaching from the north. That was psithurism. It was so soothing. You could almost feel God in the psithurism.

ADULT-CHANGING TABLE UPDATE

While everything was ready to go, once again we have met what feels like a brick wall. There apparently is not sufficient space to mount the changing table at the Menomonee Falls YMCA. There is hope, however, as the changing room is due to be upgraded. The thought is they might be able to store the table until the changes are made. None of this is certain at this time. We are waiting for a reply from the CEO. We promise to update everyone when that happens.

Thank You to Vicki Lubbert for volunteering to be on the Altar Committee. Thanks Vicki.

Congratulations to Kevin and Jodi Staus who are the new owners of Staus Septic Systems and Excavating! Kevin worked for Don Cull over 20 years before purchasing the business from him.

Congratulations to Gavin and Liz Johnson on the birth of their son, Grayson Lee. Grayson is the grandson of Connie and Erik Johnson and the great-grandson of Bernice Dieball. What a blessing.

Congratulations to Rev. Don Niederfrank has written a book titled *House of Toast*. It can be purchased on Amazon for \$12.00.



August 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Seniors Tom Pahnke	2	3	4	5 Bill & LouAnn Everet's Anniversary
6 9:30 Worship	7 Council Mtg. 6 PM	8 Chelsea Becker Lori Snow	9	10	11 Roy Kaisler Brett Miller Brady Weber	12 Cindy Cain
13 9:30 Worship New Member Sunday	14 Keith Gothard	15 Levi Jacklin	16 Clara Becker Ron Smith	17 Women's Guild	18 Pastor Bonnie on vacation 8/18-9/1	19 Ari Miller
20 9:30 Worship	21	22	23	24	25 Diane Smith	26
27 9:30 Worship Marilyn Dieball Luke Truman	28	29	30	31		