



# Chapel Bells

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



262-628-2319

[www.StPaulsErin.org](http://www.StPaulsErin.org)

December, 2019



### Christmas Eve at St. Paul's UCC

You and your family, friends, and neighbors are invited to join us for worship at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24. Our worship service will include caroling, a special time for children, special music, the Christmas Story, a brief, but inspiring message about the meaning of Christmas, and candle lighting. Join us as we celebrate and welcome the birth of Christ!



### Extending the Table December 1

We will be "Extending the Table" to our neighbors in need by collecting goods for area food pantries again on Communion Sunday, December 1. Here are the items currently most needed: canned carrots, Canned peas, canned chicken, applesauce, jelly/jam, pasta sides, rice sides, potato sides, mac & cheese, shampoo, deodorant, body wash, jello and pudding, Hamburger Helper.



### Christmas Mission Project

Our St. Paul's Giving Tree is officially up and decorated with Red and Green "gift" ornaments. This year, we are working with Christmas Clearing Council to sponsor a family near the Waukesha area, who are in need this holiday season. As of now, we are sponsoring a family with four children and a newborn (due date 12/20)!! Please stop by the tree and grab an ornament to help pass on the holiday cheer!! If you'd rather donate money, the mission committee will collect & shop as well. All gifts and donations MUST be turned in by Sunday, December 8th!! THANK YOU so much for showing God's love and support this holiday season!!



### Christmas Poinsettias

A \$5 donation toward the purchase of poinsettia arrangements and luminaries for the front steps on Christmas Eve will give you the chance to honor or remember a loved one at Christmas and also brighten and decorate our sanctuary and front steps. Forms will be available on the greeters stand beginning December 1 and should be returned no later than December 15 to Judy, Charmaine, or Joyce. Checks should be made out to St. Paul's.



### **Secret Pals Christmas Party December 15**

The Secret Pals Christmas Party will be on Sunday, December 15 from 12:15 to 2:15. Please bring a small gift for your 2019 Secret Pal and a dessert or appetizer to share. Drinks will be provided. If you were a Secret Pal this year and cannot attend, please have your gift at church by the 15th and let Charmaine know if you'd like a name for next year. All members of the congregation over the age of 12 are welcome to participate. Secret Pals remember their person on special days throughout the year with cards or small gifts and then with a small gift at our annual Christmas party where your identity is revealed. If you'd like to be included in 2020 just let Charmaine know and you will be given a name and someone will receive your name.

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### **Church Budget Requests**

Council will begin working on the 2020 general fund budget at the December 9th meeting. Committees that are seeking funds to pay for expenses in 2020 should submit their requests and if possible, details of what the money will be used for to Connie Johnson or John Duwell before the December meeting. The general fund is supported by the weekly offering made by members and guests, the chili dinner fundraiser and the new brat fry fundraiser.

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### **Christmas Fund Special Offering December 22**

Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors.

*"It wasn't easy picking up the telephone to share with you my present situation. In fact, it was one of the most humiliating experiences of my life although it reminded me that grace still happens. Sometimes we as clergy persons lose sight of God's grace when the negative stuff comes into our lives."*

*"...thanks so much for sharing your time and ministry with me. Your most gracious gift is appreciated more than words can say as I continue to live in the 'meantime.'"*

These eloquent words are from a pastor who is the recipient of the caring and concern of those who contribute to the Christmas Fund Offering.

You have the opportunity to be a part of this ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ through your participation in this year's Christmas Fund Offering.

Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors like the one above, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks next December to lower-income retirees.

Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.

**We will receive the Christmas Fund special offering during worship at 9:30 am on Sunday, December 22. Please make checks payable to "St. Paul's UCC" with a memo for "Christmas Fund." Thanks for giving as generously as you can!**



The Guild will not meet in December, so our next meeting is Thursday, January 16, 2020. All women of St. Paul's are invited and encouraged to join us. We meet the third Thursday of the month, beginning at noon with a potluck lunch. If your schedule is such that you can only attend meetings occasionally, come when you can. You are always welcome!

Also, St. Paul's Women's Guild celebrates 50th anniversaries, but we do not have a complete list. If you haven't already done so, please email your wedding anniversary date to [caroy4@gmail.com](mailto:caroy4@gmail.com). If you know of members with anniversaries coming up, please email those as well. We don't want to forget anyone.

### **Women's Guild**

St. Paul's Christmas Cookie Walk is on Saturday, December 7. This will be the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Cookie Walk for our Guild and it seems to become more popular every year. Over 470 lbs. of cookies were sold last year, making it the most successful event to date. That is thanks to the generous bakers who make the beautiful cookies that our shoppers have come to expect. Road signs are up, posters and flyers are on display, local media has our information, and brand-new cookie recipes are being considered. Let's hope for good weather and a successful fund raiser. Cookie sign-up sheets are being distributed. Please let us know the name of the cookies you plan to make and we will have Christmasy name cards displayed on the trays. Thank you so much for donating cookies and inviting your friends and neighbors!

Cookies can be delivered to church on Friday, December 6. Nutty Knitters will be accepting cookies from 9 AM to noon, and Guild members will be at church from 5 PM to 7 PM setting up and accepting cookies. If those times don't fit your schedule, call a Guild member and we will make other arrangements. Please have your name on your containers so they can be returned to you.



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### **Looking to get more involved?**

We have several positions opening up on the Church Council, PPRC and the Endowment Committee. If you are interested in any of these positions or would like more information, please talk with Jacquie Branchford or John Duwell.



**Young Ambassadors Youth Exchange**  
**June 23-July 14, 2020 in Germany**  
**July 7-28, 2021 in Wisconsin**  
**Cost: \$1650**

We are looking for Wisconsin Conference UCC youth and young adults aged 15-22 to participate in this two-year exchange with our church partners from the Moers Church District in Germany. This is a wonderful opportunity for travel abroad, expanding your horizons and learning about Christians from Germany - their culture, faith, and customs. The Moers Church District is located in the North Rhine-Westphalia region one hour north of Dusseldorf. Based on previous exchanges, quality time will be spent with your host family, you will participate in an engaging group program, and often the group will visit Berlin for some days of touring. It is expected that participants will commit to both ends of the exchange, as you will be hosting the person in 2021 who hosts you in Germany.

If you are interested in participating in this opportunity, contact Pastor Glenn as soon as possible.

**Thank You for Your Help and Donations!**

The annual Chili Dinner, Holiday Pie and Homemade Candy Sale fundraiser was held on November 10th. We had a great lunch time rush, welcoming many visitors to our church. Pies sold out quickly. While the final numbers have not been calculated, we are anticipating an increase in profits over 2018.

Thank you to everyone for donating food items, those that made pies, desserts and candy and everyone that helped market and work throughout the day to make this a successful fundraiser. The money raised will be used to help support the general fund budget.

Connie Johnson & Marilyn Dieball Chili Dinner Committee



**Save the Date: National Youth Event 2020**  
**July 22-25, 2020**  
**Purdue University**  
**Theme: Unite!**

When? July 22-25, 2020

Where? Purdue University

Who? Youth who have finished 6th grade through 12th grade; Young adults 18-22; Youth leaders and chaperones

What? This 4-day event is celebrated as the largest denominational gathering. Often bringing in 4,000 participants, this time together is centered on faith, leadership, service and social justice to empower our youth and young adults.

Cost? \$375\*...includes housing, meals and program (\*need-based scholarship available)

\*The Wisconsin Conference UCC will organize bus transportation to and from Purdue. Cost to be determined. More information will be available in January.

Interested? Contact Pastor Glenn  
 View the agenda and confirmed speakers at the [National Youth Event website](#)



*Children's Veterans Day Tribute November 10th*



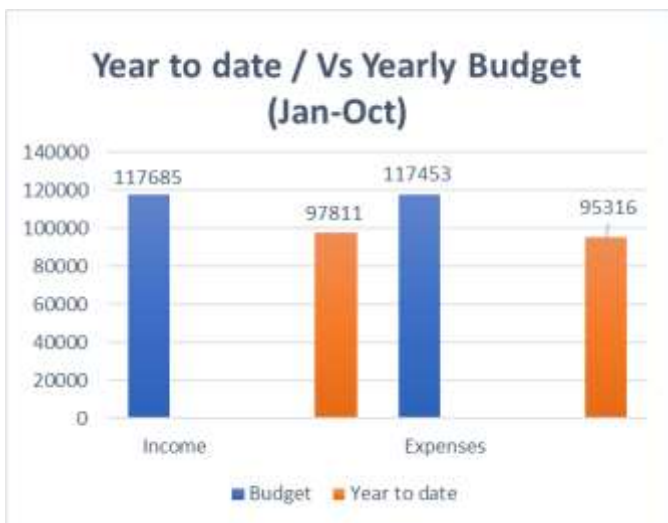
**Claiming Your Life As It is: Soul of Aging  
A Circle of Trust retreat  
Cedar Valley Retreat Center  
January 31-February 2, 2020**

Are you yearning to explore the joys, challenges, and gifts of the aging process; wishing to be transformed as you grow, hopefully, into a wise old human? Two facilitators trained by the Center for Courage & Renewal, Winton Boyd and Kirsten Anglea, will create the space for reflection on how to age well, with dignity and integrity.

Please consider joining us at Cedar Valley Retreat Center in West Bend in January 2020 for this first of two Soul of Aging retreats, inspired by the work of Parker Palmer.

"To ripen--not just grow up, but to keep on maturing through our entire lives--takes great courage and great vulnerability. We can end up unripe, bitter, not able to reap the fruits of this life, or as elders, we can explore and share the tender, bittersweet and ferocious truths of growing old." ~ Sherry Anderson

[More information and registration](#)  
Questions - Contact [Winton Boyd](#)



**December 21 Serving Day at Sussex Food Pantry**

We are responsible for providing a team of 4-5 people to serve at the Sussex Food Pantry from 9:30 am-12:00 pm on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Our next serving day is scheduled for Saturday, December 21 (friends are welcome, too!). Please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall or let Pastor Glenn know if you are interested in serving. The Sussex Food Pantry is located in the new Sussex Civic Campus at N64 W23760 Main Street, Sussex, WI. Sussex Outreach will be providing 500 holiday meals - 250 Thanksgiving meals and 250 Christmas meals this holiday season to our families. Sussex Area Service Club and the Sussex Lions will be collecting cash donations for these meals on 11/16-11/17 and 12/07-12/08 at our local grocery stores (\$20-\$25 supports 1 family). Please consider helping to support this wonderful program that allows families to come together and celebrate the holidays together!



**Know of Someone in the**

**Hospital?**

If you know of someone in our congregation who is currently hospitalized or would like a pastoral visit, please contact Pastor Glenn at [SPPastor@yahoo.com](mailto:SPPastor@yahoo.com) or (414) 550.1553.

**2020 Liturgist Schedule**

Pastor Glenn is in the process of developing the liturgist schedule for 2020. If you would like to serve as a liturgist during worship next year, please sign-up in Fellowship Hall or e-mail Pastor Glenn at [SPPastor@yahoo.com](mailto:SPPastor@yahoo.com).



### **December Liturgist Schedule**

December 1: Bernice Dieball  
December 8: Jill Paddock  
December 15: Brett Miller  
December 22: Steve Manuell  
December 24 (4 pm): Bernie Chase  
December 29: Alice Manuell

### **Greeters for December:**

December 1<sup>st</sup> – Eugene & Vicki Dost  
December 8<sup>th</sup> – Mark & Debbie Gettelman  
December 15<sup>th</sup> – Bill & Peggy Ahles  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Joey & Jean Sutter  
December 24<sup>th</sup> – Volunteers Needed  
December 29<sup>th</sup> – Dick & Judy Nell

### **Coffee & Conversation Hosts:**

December 1<sup>st</sup> – Cheryl Fischer  
December 8<sup>th</sup> – Debbie Gettelman & Marilyn Dieball  
December 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School Program  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> - **\*\*NEEDED\*\***  
December 29<sup>th</sup> - **\*\*NEEDED\*\***

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### **Pastor Glenn's Contact Information & Schedule:**

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

At the church office Monday-Wednesday: 9:00 am to noon

Thursday: I work at home writing sermons and making calls

Friday: Pastor's day off

\*Available other times by appointment—just give me a call!

\*\*Schedule subject to change depending on evening meetings, weddings, funerals, SE UCC clergy meetings, etc.

### **Please remember with your prayers, cards, calls & visits:**

- \*Ron Perschon, undergoing treatment for prostate cancer
- \*Kathy Hermanson, recovering from stomach & cataract surgery
- \*April, Jack, and Luke Truman as they grieve Jeff's loss and celebrate his life
- \*Lois Winkler, in LaCrosse
- \*Ron & Diane Smith, as Ron recovers from brain surgery
- \*The people of Santa Clarita, California in the wake of the recent school shooting
- \*The people of Hong Kong, in the midst of current riots and protests
- \*The people of Syria, living with war



*Holiday Pie Sale & Chili Dinner November 10<sup>th</sup>*



# December 2019



| Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed                                    | Thu | Fri                       | Sat   |
|---|---|---|--|-----|---------------------------|---|
| 1 9:30 am Worship w/ Communion + Extending the Table w/ Rev. Russ Knoth preaching | 2   | 3 10:30 am Senior Group   | 4                                      | 5   | 6                         | 7 9 am Cookie Walk  |
| 8 9:30 am Worship; 10:45 am Confirmation Class                                    | 9 6 pm Church Council Budget mtg.<br><br>Barb Brehmer | 10  | 11                                     | 12  | 13                        | 14 12 noon-3 pm Boy Scout Troup Christmas Party   |
| 15 9:30 am Worship w/ Sunday School Christmas Program<br>Larry Raether            | 16<br>Larry & Dawn Raether's Anniversary              | 17  | 18                                     | 19  | 20                        | 21 9:30 am Serving Day at Sussex food pantry; 11 am-5 pm Fellowship Hall reserved for private Christmas party |
| 22 9:30 am Worship<br>Erik & Connie Johnson's Anniversary                         | 23 Chapel Bells items due to Donna                    | 24 4pm Christmas Eve worship  | 25<br>Mike Janichek<br>Marvin Schlafer | 26  | 27<br>Charles Kluever Jr. | 28<br>Jim & Jacquie Branchford's Anniversary  |
| 29 9:30 am Worship w/ Alan Timm preaching   | 30<br>Jodi Staus                                      | <br><i>Merry Christmas</i><br><i>and Happy New Year !</i> |  |     |                           |   |