



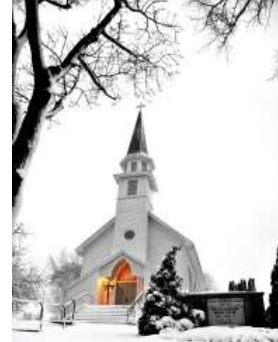
# Chapel Bells

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

262-628-2319

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

December, 2020



## UCC Officers Urge Worshippers to Tap Healing Power of Love to Close Political Divide

November 05, 2020

As we gather to worship, we acknowledge that we are a church and a nation in need of God's providential mercy.

A political battle has been waged within a continuing global pandemic and a domestic pandemic of race-hate whose wounds are both ancient and fresh.

Worshipping with us today are those who are trying hard to celebrate a political outcome and those who are trying to heal from it. It is hard to celebrate any outcome when the margins are so thin and come at the end of years of widening distrust between political rivals. It is hard to heal when the tactics we engaged in to win these elections were so, in a word, unkind. We have opened wounds here that will take time, trust, and empathy to heal.

We claim Jesus as our guide. He is for us the embodiment and incarnation of God's eternal and undying love. We know that there is nothing in this world that can separate us from that love of God known in Jesus.

As leaders in the wider church, covenant partners with all who worship as the United Church of Christ, **we ask only one thing this day: let us all pause to ask what love will ask next of us.**

We have arisen as a community of faith within a democracy that empowers every citizen with a voice and a vote. Our voices of late have been hard to hear - choruses of shouting at each other have often replaced the gentle and deep listening to each other that engenders lasting relationship and trust. Narratives of mistrust and division have replaced our more endearing narrative of the common good, shared interest, and mutual ministry.

We call upon the members of our shared household to center on the healing power of God's redeeming love. Our mission can certainly be enhanced by political outcomes – but it isn't resolved by them. Our mission is to love all, welcome all, and seek justice for all. The world will come to know we are Christians by our love. Let our singular commitment be to a love that surpasses all understanding, heals all wounds, and restores all hope.

Faithfully,

The National Officers of the United Church of Christ  
John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President  
Traci Blackmon, Associate General Minister  
Karen Georgia Thompson, Associate General Minister



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

You and your family, friends, and neighbors are invited to join us for online worship here at St. Paul's United Church of Christ at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24. Our worship service will include 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! The link to this service will be emailed to the congregation early in the week and will also be posted on our church website at [www.stpaulserin.org](http://www.stpaulserin.org).



### **Giving to the Church During the Pandemic**

This has been a very challenging year financially for our congregation due to the pandemic, but giving continues to be strong—thanks to you! Let's finish the year strong by fulfilling our pledges. 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!



**Snow shovelers** are needed at church this winter. If you can help, please call Jack Duehring at 262-628-1192.

Thanks,  
Jack

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## **COVID-19 Update**



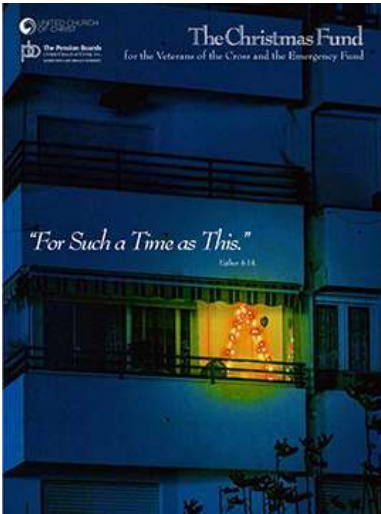
Given the current state of COVID spread in Wisconsin, and [Executive Order 94](#), the Wisconsin Conference UCC and Wisconsin Council of Churches recommend that congregations abstain from gathering in physical space, indoors OR outdoors, at this time.

We ask you to love your neighbor by watching out for their health and well-being. Lift up those who are weary from months of hard work caring for people sick with COVID, and from doing their best to protect the community. Help slow the spread.

We know that the timing of this statement and the spike in COVID conditions will impact community celebrations and holiday services in the weeks to come, and offer these recommendations in the firm belief that they will help protect the life and health of congregants and community.

Best practices:

1. Stay home as much as possible; avoid travel.
2. Take precautions when leaving home - avoid gathering with people you don't live with, wash hands frequently, cover coughs, frequently clean high touch surfaces, wear a face covering.
3. Support those for whom staying home represents hardships.
4. If you are sick or symptomatic, or waiting for the results of a COVID test, stay home.
5. If you are in a vulnerable population and can stay home, please do so. If you are not safe at home, please seek out a safe alternative. If you are experiencing homelessness, please seek out shelter. Authorities are being urged to maximize COVID-safe shelter options.
6. If you can work at home, do so - and if you have the authority to allow others to work at home, do so. Limit staff and customers in offices, businesses and stores.



### **Christmas Fund Special Offering December 20**

“For Such a Time as This” ~Esther 4:14

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

Over the past nine months, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church have increased dramatically.

In such a time as this, the need for the Christmas Fund is more urgent than ever.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need.

**We will receive the Christmas Fund special offering during online worship at 9:30 am on Sunday, December 20. Please make checks payable to “St. Paul’s UCC” with a memo for “Christmas Fund.”** Thanks for giving as generously as you can!



### **Women’s Guild**

The Guild held its November meeting in the church fellowship hall with brown bag lunches. Oh, for the days of our tasty potlucks! We were without the usual November flurry of final Cookie Walk plans or the trays of Christmas cookies we always enjoy decorating together but are thinking of recipes and plans for Cookie Walk 2021 already.

Our St. Paul’s calendar project is complete and raised \$745. Thank you to all who purchased calendars to help the Guild in its efforts to support our church. We hope you enjoy the beautiful calendars.

Guild end-of-year designation of funds this year is \$1,000 to St. Paul’s general fund, \$1,000 to the Mission Committee and \$500 to Christian Education. Hopefully, the 2021 Homemade Bread and Soup Lunch, the bake sale and our Christmas Cookie Walk will be back in full swing next year. We all miss working together hosting these popular fundraising events that are enjoyed by the entire community.

There will be no December Guild meeting. We meet at noon on the third Thursday of the month and our next meeting will be January 21. All St. Paul’s women are encouraged to join us.

Christmas blessings of peace hope and joy to all.



### **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](mailto:SPPastor@yahoo.com)).



### Secret Pals

Sadly, like many other activities this year, the Secret Pals Reveal Christmas Party will not be held. Instead, if you had a secret pal this year, please reveal your identity to your secret pal through a card with a gift card or a small gift mailed or delivered to their home.

If you would like to be part of Secret Pals in 2021, please email me at [jkduehring@hotmail.com](mailto:jkduehring@hotmail.com) or call me at 628-1192 by Saturday, December 19. Include your name, address, birthdate, and anniversary date. After December 19 I will pick a name for you for 2021 and let you know who it is either by email, U.S. mail, or a phone call.

If you haven't been part of Secret Pals and would like to be for 2021, email or call me with the needed information. Secret Pals remember their pals throughout the year with cards and surprises, and then a small gift at our annual Christmas Party where your identity is revealed. All members of St. Paul's congregation over age 12 are invited to participate.

Charmaine Duehring

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### 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 "Keep the Fires Burning" Matching Gift Campaign

Our Wisconsin Conference UCC church camps and outdoor ministry programs at Pilgrim Center, Moon Beach, and Cedar Valley have been hit hard financially by the pandemic. By the grace of God, a dear couple, who wish to remain anonymous, have committed to generously match all donations in support of UCCI up to \$200,000, thus allowing UCCI to raise more than \$400,000 from now until December 31st! This donation match will make a significant impact towards allowing UCCI to remain operational in the months ahead AND your generous gift would be matched dollar for dollar. This appeal, called "Keep the Fires Burning," signals a concerted effort to ask for support to literally keep our fires burning. To donate, click on the following link: <https://ucci.org/keep-the-fires-burning-matching-gift-campaign/>.

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### 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](mailto:SPPastor@yahoo.com) or (414) 550.1553.



**Lakeland University Offers Outstanding Scholarship Opportunity**

Are you looking for ways to get involved in a religious studies community during your time at college? Do you have a passion to speak out for justice in our communities and world? Lakeland University offers a full-tuition scholarship competition opportunity to students with these interests; it's called our Ulrich Scholars Scholarship Program. The Ulrich Scholarship is named after the long-time and beloved Lakeland Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Reinhard Ulrich.

Each year nine Ulrich Scholars earn a \$20,000 per year scholarship to attend Lakeland University. We also offer one student a full-tuition award. Students who receive these awards major or minor in Religion, participate in Ulrich Scholars events throughout the year (including lectures, retreats, community service, and visits to various religious communities), and lead a social justice initiative on or off campus in their junior or senior years.

If this sounds interesting, we would love to have you learn more about the Ulrich Scholars Program. You may apply for the opportunity at [lakeland.edu/portal](http://lakeland.edu/portal). The full-tuition competition is set to take place on January 29, 2021. Applicants must submit their materials by January 22, 2021.

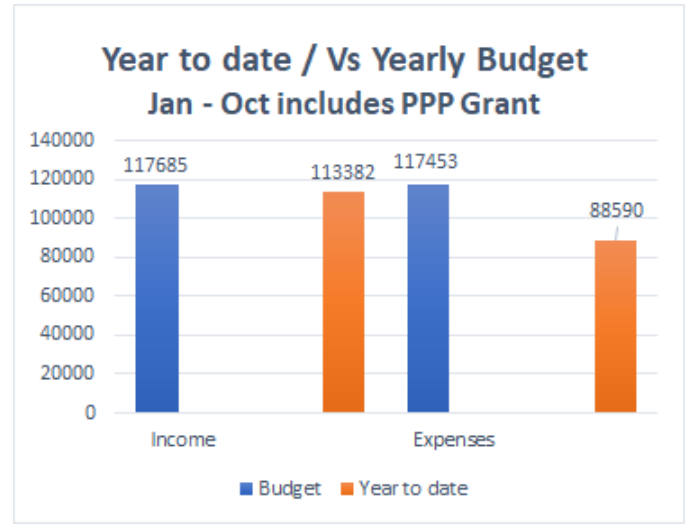
Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about this opportunity! Contact Dr. Karl Kuhn at [kuhnka@lakeland.edu](mailto:kuhnka@lakeland.edu) or [admissions@lakeland.edu](mailto:admissions@lakeland.edu).

**Pastor Glenn's Contact Information:**

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

**2021 Budget**

Council will begin drafting the 2021 church budget at their December meeting. Committees that use money from the church general fund to pay expenses (i.e. Building & Grounds; Sunday School) should submit their budget requests to Connie Johnson by December 10th.



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

- \*Carl Roock, recovering at home from COVID-19
- \*Ron Perschon, born to eternal life October 30
- \*Beverly Schroeder, born to eternal life November 4
- \*Donna Runte's father in-law born to eternal life on Nov. 3
- \*Mary & Tom Goetzke's son, Brock, recently diagnosed with kidney cancer
- \*Frank Duehring, Jack's uncle, in declining health
- \*Lynn Duwell's father, Roger, recovering from COVID-19
- \*Brett Miller's father and stepmother, recovering from COVID-19
- \*LouAnn Evert, recovering from chemotherapy and preparing for radiation therapy
- \*all those recovering from Hurricane Iota
- \*All students, parents, and teachers coping with a very difficult school year



# December 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 am Online worship w/ communion	7	8	9 Barb Brehmer	10	11	12
13 9:30 am Online worship	14 6 pm Church Council budget mtg.	15 Larry Raether	16	17	18	19
20 9:30 am Online worship w/ special offering for the Christmas Fund	21	22 Norb & Barb Brehmer and Connie & Erik Johnson's Anniversary	23	24 4 pm Christmas Eve online worship	25 Mike Janichek Marvin Schlafer	26
27 9:30 am Online worship w/ Rev. Bonnie Jacqu-Gorecki preaching and leading worship Charles Kluever Jr	28 Jim & Jacquie Branchford's Anniversary	29	30 Jodi Staus			