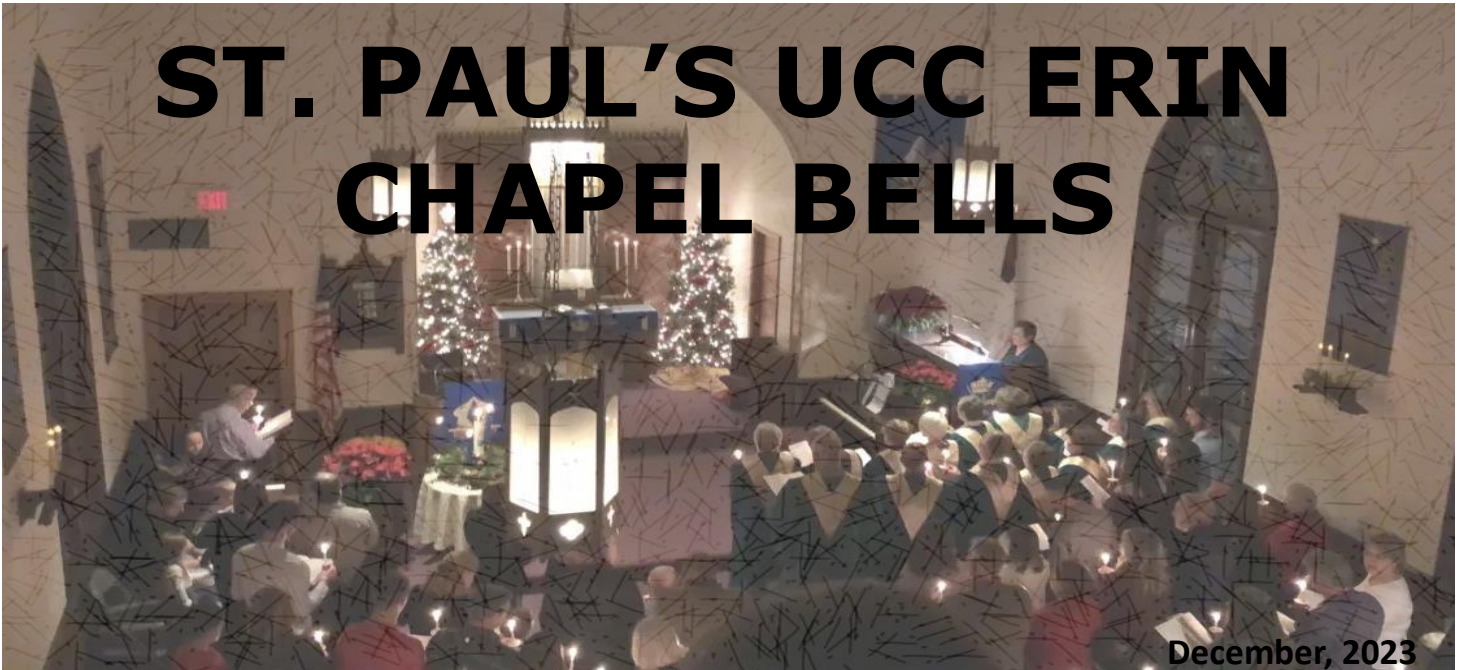


# ST. PAUL'S UCC ERIN CHAPEL BELLS



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Here it is, the long awaited for season of Advent and Christmas! Advent is all about preparing and waiting. I find that I am quite accustomed to waiting. There is waiting in a check-out (even self-check-out) line, sometimes switching lines because I think another line is moving faster. There is waiting in traffic. I experienced this kind of waiting daily when we lived in Minneapolis. Sometimes I would take out a tube of lipstick and put it on while I waited for traffic to move. At least I felt like I was doing something! And the waiting for someone to return your phone call or text message probably is the most common waiting I do these days.

But that's not the kind of waiting Advent calls for. Yes, Advent is a season of waiting, but it also is a season of giving. God gave us the greatest gift of all with the birth of Jesus for sure. But what kind of giving are we called to do both during Advent and Christmas time itself?

Here's an example of what I'm thinking about. On Black Friday, there was only one lady working at a fast-food place nearby. One lady working frantically to serve her customers. Her boss did not answer his phone when she called for help. Her coworkers called in "sick". Yes, she was doing it all and with a smile. When the folks waiting at the drive-through realized she was the ONLY one working, they had a choice to be angry and go across the street to another fast-food provider, (which also had a long line by the way) or be pleasant and commend her for her dedication. We are called to give the gift of waiting patiently and with compassion. The gift of compassion, that is what Advent and Christmas are about.

We are called to give of our time. How much time will you budget to bake/make/buy something special for your mail person or the folks at the fire department, police department, emergency crew, VFW? Is that just another thing to add to our list, our stress or is it something we do from an Advent heart? Maybe it's simpler than that...perhaps it's offering to babysit for someone, so they have a bit of time to themselves.

And we are called to give of our talents. Many of us wait all year for the Sunday School Christmas program. The Mission Maniacs have the most talented teachers. All those cookies sold at our Cookie Walk and the silent auction gift bags! More cookies and more bags than ever before. Those take time and talents! What other talents can you share this Advent season?

Advent can be filled with worry about finding the perfect Christmas gifts. Deep down we want the people in our lives to know they are special and that we love them. But sometimes we overlook the greatest gift of all...our presence.

MERRY CHRISTMAS,  
Pastor Bonnie and Jeff

## SOMETHING TO SHARE

Martin Copenhaver is one of the Stillspeaking Writers Group who contributed to *The Jesus Diaries: Who Jesus is to Me*, which contains thought-provoking essays that encourage one to really think about what Jesus means to you. Martin titled his essay, *God With A Face*, a concept we had been dealing with in regard to the Israelites journey to the Promised Land, especially symbolized by the mirror and seeing God in each other.

“A mother once told me about tucking her young daughter, who was afraid to be left alone, in at bedtime. The mother tried to comfort her by saying that she would remain in the next room. When that failed to reassure her daughter, the mother told her that God would stay at her bedside and watch over her. But that was not good enough, either. Her young daughter pleaded, “That’s not going to help, Mommy. I need someone with a skin face. That, it seems to me, is a good description of who Jesus is - God with a skin face.”

This Advent season, let us prepare to receive God with skin on in Jesus.

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**BLUE CHRISTMAS** has been canceled this year. That does not mean you cannot speak the name of the one or ones you miss, light a candle, and say a prayer. My prayer is that this ritual brings you some peace and you truly feel the presence of God with you throughout this season and always.

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Christmas on the Beach  
December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am

Join us for a Mission Maniac presentation you won't want to miss and  
A Secret Visitor from the North Pole!  
Invite your families!  
Cake and snacks to follow service!

FEB

SAVE THE DATE

25

CHILI LUNCH & PIE SALE

Our annual church fundraiser  
The Chili Lunch & Homemade Pie Sale  
will be Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.  
Donation slips, promotional flyers  
and a sign-up to help form will be available  
in January.

Cookie  
Walk

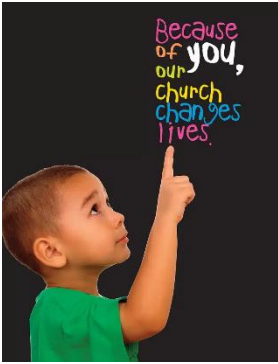


## WOMEN'S GUILD

Our November meeting, as you might expect, was mostly cookie-related. December 2 is St. Paul's 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Cookie Walk and it is looking good! Our church is blessed with members who answer when we put out a call for help. Our little Guild could not manage this event on our own, but we have many cookie bakers, volunteer helpers, sign posters, etc. who step up and offer assistance. Peggy's supervising a squadron of elves to do some special decorating this year. Our cookie shoppers will be happily surprised. Betty Z. has some impressive items in the silent auction! We are excited and hope St. Paul's 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Cookie Walk is the best ever.

There will be no December Guild meeting. Next meeting is on Thursday, January 18. All St. Paul's women are invited. Bring a bag lunch, come at high noon and join us. We could use some new blood.

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## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have joined in supporting our congregation in the coming year by making your stewardship pledge. Because of you, our congregation will continue to change lives. We are fortunate to have a community of faith that believes in what God is doing here, in this place. If you haven't had a chance to submit your pledge for 2024, you can still do so. You can download a pledge card from our website – [Pledge Card](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the Stewardship Committee – Eugene & Vicki Dost, Connie Johnson and Pastor Bonnie.

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## COUNCIL NOTES

Have you noticed the new hydrangea bush where the old crabapple tree used to be? It was donated by Lucy Krapfl in memory of her husband Gilbert and her son David Schramm. Thank you Lucy.

A nominating committee is being formed and will soon be asking members to serve on the Church Council or the Pastor/Parrish Relations Committee. Please consider serving our church in these important positions if you are asked.

Since most members of the church have email, we will no longer be calling all members if the church is closed due to bad weather. Instead, an email blast will go out and the closing will be put on WTMJ -TV. If you do not have an email address, however, someone from the council will call you. If the church has to be closed for some other reason, there will be an email blast, but you will also be called.

All committees should be meeting at least quarterly and Pastor Bonnie would like to be invited to your meeting.

Be sure to make a note of the week you are being asked to greet, light candles, take offering, or serve communion during 2024. If you cannot serve on your assigned date, please try to switch with someone else.

The Church Council adopted a new Church Covenant at their October meeting, please take a minute to read it over.

Annual Meeting will be held February 4 at 10:45 a.m.

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## SECRET PALS CHRISTMAS PARTY/ 2023 PAL REVEAL

Sunday, December 10 12:30 -2:30

Please bring a small gift for your 2023 Secret Pal and a dessert or appetizer to share. Drinks will be provided. If you cannot attend, please have your gift at church by December 10. If you would like to have a secret pal for 2024 let Charmaine know.

Secret Pals remember their person on special days throughout the year with cards and then with a small gift at our annual Christmas party where your identity is revealed. All members of the congregation over age 12 are encouraged to participate. Just let Charmaine know and she will make sure you receive a name for 2024 and that someone will receive your name.



**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**  
**December 24 9:30 AM and 4:00 PM**  
**Identical services, please choose one to attend.**



Bible study will resume the second Thursday of January, the 11<sup>th</sup> of 2024.

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**FROM THE ALTAR COMMITTEE:**



The Altar Committee will again this year be purchasing poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. If you would like to donate towards the purchase of these plants in memory or in honor of a loved one, forms are available on the greeters stand. A \$5 donation is requested and the names of your loved ones will be published in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Forms need to be given to Judy or Charmaine by December 17.

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**THANK YOU**

While this list is not inclusive of all who should be thanked, I apologize in advance to those I missed. Pastor Bonnie

Join me in thanking Jean Sutter who brings an armful of groceries to add to the food pantry cart every week. Jean told me she has seen the elderly women and young men and women appreciating the help the food pantry affords them. Thank you, Jean, for your faithful giving spirit.

Bill and LuAnn Evert get a thank you this month for purchasing and hanging the artwork on the back kitchen wall. Looks great! One more thanks to all who made our remodeled kitchen possible!

Thank you to the folks and youth who helped fold the fellowship chairs and tables, so the floor was ready for the carpet cleaners. Thank you to the Women's Guild who had our carpets, and the pew seat cushions professionally cleaned! Clean for Christmas!

Thank you to Betty Zimpelman and the Fellowship Committee for organizing our visit to the Schauer Center for *Once Upon A Mattress* and The Mineshaft. It was fun.

Special thanks to Silas and Luka, Jodi, Brielle and Bernice for taking part in the Creation Care Chancel Drama! You did a wonderful job! Also, thanks to Jill for coordinating the music with the folks from the Conference Creation Care Team. And not to be forgotten to Dave Zimpelman who managed the audio and video presentation that Sunday.

Many thanks to Kay for filling in for Jill on Thanksgiving Sunday.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to recently engaged Anna Kluever who is graduating from UW Parkside with a bachelor's degree in applied health sciences.

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**GREETERS FOR DECEMBER:**

December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Bill & LouAnn Evert  
December 10<sup>th</sup> – Vicki & Eugene Dost  
December 17<sup>th</sup> – Mission Manics  
December 24<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 – Steve & Alice Manuell  
December 24<sup>th</sup> – Jack & Charmaine Duehring  
December 31<sup>st</sup> –



**LITURGISTS:**

December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Jill Schaefer  
December 10<sup>th</sup> – Brett Miller  
December 17<sup>th</sup> – Steve Manuell  
December 24<sup>th</sup> – Alice Manuell  
December 31<sup>st</sup> – Bernice Dieball



## GREETER'S LIST- JANUARY – MARCH 2024

Thank you for volunteering to serve your church as a greeter. If there are only 2 persons assigned for a Sunday you will be expected to greet, light candles, take offering, and distinguish candles.

If 4 people are assigned, some may only be greeters or doing candles and offering or some may only be serving communion.

G – greeters only

C&O – candles and offering

Com. – Communion servers

If you cannot serve on your date, please switch with someone else. Dates of serving are published in each weeks bulletin for the next week and the monthly list will be in Chapel Bells.

- January 7     Sunday School G, C, O, Com.  
January 14    Peggy and Bill Ahles  
January 21    Chelsea Becker & Debbie Braden G only  
                  Cindy Cain & Jacquie Branchford C&O  
January 28    Bernie & Bill Chase
- February 4    Fred & Wanda Dieball G, C, O, Com.  
                  Steve & Alice Manuell Com.  
February 11   Bernice Dieball & Cheryl Fischer  
February 18   Eugene & Vicki Dost  
February 25   John & Lynn Duwell
- March 3       Jack & Charmaine Duehring G, C, O, Com.  
                  Dave & Betty Zimpelman Com.
- March 10      John & Polly Edgar  
March 17      Bill & LouAnn Evert  
March 24      Mark & Debbie Gettleman  
March 31      Kyle & Katie Green



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](http://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](mailto: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 noon to 6 PM. Stop by for a visit. Friday and Saturday are Pastor’s weekend.



## Church Covenant

We covenant with God and with one another to live out our Christian discipleship within this body of Christ by loving one another as Christ loves us.

As siblings in Christ, we will treat each other with respect and honesty, open to and tolerant of diverse views and opinions, and will interact with each other in good faith.

We will talk with people, not about people.

We will listen without prejudice and speak with care.

When in conflict, we will address each other directly. If direct conversation does not resolve a conflict, we will seek assistance together until the conflict is resolved.

We will serve the church with love and compassion, recognizing that God calls us to different ministries and commitments. We will respect and support all who accept office or commit themselves to the service of this church.

In our decision-making, we will deliberate responsibly and responsively, affirming the importance of open and clear communication.

We will articulate our support for our pastor and staff, both liturgically and informally, as they love and care for the members and ministries of the church.

We will offer our gifts freely as joyful and positive expressions of our faith.

We affirm this covenant, trusting in God's power to enable us to live it with courage, love, and compassion.

Church Council Meeting Minutes  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
October 16, 2023

Meeting was called to order by Council President, Charmain Duehring, at 6:00pm. Those in attendance were Charmaine Duehring, Pastor Bonnie Jacque, Cheryl Fischer, Kim Kersten, Carl Roock, Connie Johnson, Janene Kluever, Lucy Krapfl. Jill Lotzow and Jacquie Branchford were guests.

The Council Meeting Minutes for August and September were approved as corrected. The September Financial reports were approved. The envelope and loose offerings were doing good for September.

We reviewed the Norms from the Rational Covenant and the voting spectrum. This could be reviewed periodically for meetings and for new members. We also reviewed the Church covenant, which will affect the whole church. It will offer guidelines for annual meetings and could be placed on the wall in the church. We could also print in Chapel Bells, once or more as needed.

The phones are fixed. We need three phones, one for the office, one for the secretary's office and one for the kitchen. We should get rid of the old phones as they are for two sperate lines. The snowplowing price will increase to \$90 per hour. The cost of salt will be the same as last year.. Jacquie Branchford has information from a nursery specialist on the weeds that try to take over the plants around the church. The two most invasive are buckthorn and bindweed. The professional nursery person stated that he could not guarantee to completely get rid of the buckthorn and the price was very high, about \$3000 plus, which would be above the amount that the Council can approve. This would need another bid. The bushweed might be easier and would cost about \$700. The Council made a motion and voted about getting rid of the bushweed, and it was approved. Jill would like to increase the music budget as she will be getting more music, for her and the choir. The budget is \$200 and she would like it increased to \$400 to \$500. We worked further on the budget for 2024.

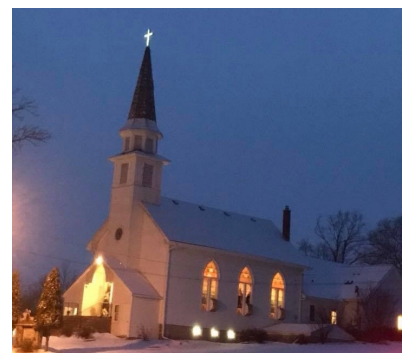
The Stewardship campaign is on the way and pledge cards are due November 12, 2023. Advent starts the first Sunday in December, the third. There will be a Blue Service, which will be open to the public. We'll try to get this information out to the neighborhood. We listened to Kim Kersten as she read Mason's Chili Luncheon essay, which affected him. He was pleased to help clearing tables and helping the people get to the tables. We are still working on the adult changing table and we may check with the Brewers at American Family to see if we can help provide one for them and other places.

We took time for the Executive Session to discuss Pastor Bonnie's contract as it needs to be renewed in November.

Next meeting will be November 6, 2023. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm..



# December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <i>Cookie Walk</i>
3 9:30 <i>Worship</i>	4	5 10:30 <i>Seniors</i>	6	7	8	9  <i>Barb B.</i>
10 9:30 <i>Worship</i>  <i>Secret Pal 12:30-2:30</i>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 9:30 <i>Worship—</i> <i>Children's Program</i>	18	19	20	21	22  <i>Norb &amp; Barb B.</i> <i>Connie &amp; Erik J.</i> <i>Anniversaries</i>	23
24 9:30 <i>Worship</i> 4 PM <i>Worship</i> <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 <i>Mike J.</i> <i>Marvin S.</i>	26	27  <i>Charles K. Jr.</i>	28	29	30  <i>Jodi S.</i>
31 9:30 <i>Worship</i>  <i>New Years Eve</i>	<i>Merry Christmas!</i>					