

Chapel Bells

DECEMBER, 2022

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



What a joyous and thought-provoking season of Advent and Christmas is planned for this year!

The first week of Advent, we light the candle of HOPE. Worship will focus on the Advent theme of "Getting Ready to Get Ready"; something new is coming.

The second Advent candle is that of PEACE. We will explore the connection between the uncomfortable feeling of divine judgment found in the Isaiah 11:1-10 text and the passionate text of Matthew 3:1-12. What could this have to do with peace?

JOY is the third candle of Advent. People singing with everlasting joy and asking the question

"Do we have the imagination to image the realm of God?"

Advent four finds us lighting the candle of LOVE. It is the children's Christmas program Sunday! What a joy indeed. Matthew 1:18-25 speaks of Joseph. What do we really know about Joseph? Christmas Eve we once again tell the ancient story with candles and carols! We celebrate the birth of one who brings us HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE. The church will be brilliantly lit! Come and Adore Him!!!

Christmas Day will include a Carol Sing-A-Long. Be thinking of carols you love but weren't sung on Christmas Ever. May your spirits be bright!



Christmas Poinsettias

A \$5.00 donation toward the purchase of poinsettia arrangements will give you the chance to honor or remember a loved one at Christmas and also brighten and decorate our sanctuary. Names will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Forms are available on the greeters stand and should be returned to Judy or Charmaine by December 11.



Please remember that there are two Christmas services this year. The Christmas Eve service is at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 24 and the Christmas Day service is at 9:30 a.m. On Sunday, December 25. Both will be special Christmas services. Please choose the service that best fits your families celebration.

BIBLE STUDY



Bible Study will be held at 1 pm the first and second Thursdays of the month beginning

in January of 2023. You don't have to be a Bible expert to add your voice, rather, bring your questions!

PASTOR'S HOURS

Thursday's, Pastor Bonnie will be in the church office from noon to 6 PM. Feel free to stop in for a visit. If I will not be in the office, due to weather or visiting folks or performing other church business, you will receive an E-blast. Please reach out to me, and I will be more than happy to be in the office or meet you anywhere by appointment. Pastor's weekend will be Friday and Saturday. In an emergency, please call **262-416-5094**.

Recordings of Sunday Service

Missed Church, no problem. The service recordings are now posted on our website for the month (services will be deleted from the website after 30 days). Visit the News & Resources tab and click on Worship Resources.

NEW PHONE: 262-416-5094

Pastor Bonnie now has a phone with this number, in addition to her personal phone. Please use this number in the future to contact Pastor Bonnie. The original church number remains in effect, if you need to contact someone who is physically at church. The messages on the original church number will only be checked from time to time. Please change your phone contacts to reflect **262-416-5094** for Pastor Bonnie for calls and texts. E-mail mes-

sages will remain the same: jacquebonnie@yahoo.com for now. New calling cards will be distributed soon with the new number.



BLUE CHRISTMAS

Christmas is not a season of joy for everyone. For many of us, Advent and Christmas can bring sorrow, as we grieve the deaths of loved ones or pets, loss of income, or other losses suffered during the year. For those of us feeling the weight of loneliness, sadness, loss and even rage, this time of year can be difficult – not as the classic song promises – “the most wonderful time of

the year!”

That’s why we offer a Blue Christmas prayer service on **December 14 at 7 pm.** This

Christmas is not a season of joy for everyone. For many of us, Advent and Christmas

Chili Dinner & Homemade Pie Sale – Committee help needed.

The Chili Dinner is one of the two church fundraisers to support the general fund. For 2023 we are bringing back the Homemade Pie Sale as part of the fundraiser and are looking for someone to take charge of that portion of the fundraiser. This person would recruit pie bakers and coordinate the sale on February 26th. Please see Connie Johnson if you are willing to be the committee person in charge of the pie sale. Flyers for the February 26th Fundraiser will be available in December.

quiet, sacred time provides a space for anyone who desires to offer laments to God and receive assurance that we are not alone in our sorrow. Please plan to join in a simple worship of music, readings, and lighting of blue candles, however you may be feeling.

COUNCIL NOTES

Welcome to Pastor Bonnie! She officially became our full time settled pastor at our last council meeting where she signed a one year contract. We look forward to having her as our pastor and working with her on council matters.



Snow happens!

If a church service is canceled due to snow or sleet or ? this winter, three things will happen.

1. You will receive an email as soon as possible.
2. The closing will be listed on the WTMJ website
3. You will receive a phone call from someone on the council.

A zoom service from Pastor Bonnie's home is difficult to schedule on short notice, so will not be available.

Nominating Committee

WHERE CAN YOU SERVE?



A nominating committee is being formed to find persons to serve on various elected church positions. If you are asked to fill a position, please consider serving your church in this manner.

The next council meeting is on Monday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome, as are ideas for topics that should be brought before the council.

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

Unlocking the mysteries of Faith in Faith Foundations is a 12-week learning intensive presented by the Damascus Project. The Damascus Project is an on-line format shared by the Wisconsin and Minnesota Conferences. The topics covered for the January 12-April 20 session include the New Testament and Introduction to Christian History. So much has changed in the last three years that it is easy to feel adrift or alone in faith. What do I believe? Does God care? Who is Jesus, really? If God is a loving God, what do I do with all this chaos and loss? IF that sounds

like you, then consider joining this winter session of Faith Foundations.

Those who participate will: Gain tools for reading and interpreting scripture; meet like-minded believers on a similar journey of faith; connect events from the past with God's dream for our future; and ground faith in scripture and tradition within a vibrant, hybrid (online and on zoom) learning community.

I have taken several sessions through the Damascus Project and found them to be well worth my time. Sessions are both live on

Zoom and recorded for later viewing online. I am excited to say several members have already voiced an interest in this opportunity! How about you?



THE MANY WAYS WE HELP OTHERS

CHRISTMAS FUND for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a special mission offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficul-

ties. These gifts will be collected any time before December 18. There are envelopes available in the pews or you can give electronically at the UCC website.

SLEEPING BAGS/

BLANKETS for the homeless are desperately needed. I found sleeping bags on Amazon for \$25. They can be used if they are in good condition. See Cheryl Fischer for further information.

♥ FETCHIN' UP FOR JALYN ♥



donated \$170. Overall, the event total raised was over \$6,000!!

Jalyn is the 'World's Best Babysitter' and seeing her live a healthier, happier path in life because of Gemma has been fantastic!

Gemma is a certified, legal service dog. However, she does need further training soon to have a more specialized working relationship with Jalyn to meet her needs.

Money from this fundraiser will be put towards the costs and expenses of further training.

This fundraiser would Not have been this successful without the love, support, and generosity from St. Paul's UCC!!



Thank you to everyone who contributed and donated to the fundraiser for Jalyn Hermanson and her service dog, Gemma! The Women's Guild donated baked goods for the fundraiser and officially raised \$267. Sunday School and other congregational, personal monetary donations





ST. PAUL'S WOMEN'S GUILD

Our November meeting was heavily cookie related. December 3 is St. Paul's 31st annual Cookie Walk and we hope it is the best ever. A few of the delicious cookies pledged: Pecan fingers (possibly the world's most popular Christmas cookie), To-Die-For Cookies, Maple Syrup Chewies, Raspberry Walnut Bars, Orange Chocolate Butter Cookies, Root Beer Bites, Hickory Nut Cookies, and 10 dozen Christmas Mice!! This year's silent auction has many delightful Christmas gift items and will be a popular addition to the Cookie Walk. Thanks to everyone who baked cookies, donated silent auction items, helped with the set-up and sale and who shopped for cookies and invited friends. Our little Women's Guild couldn't do this without you!

The Guild's designated funds for 2022 are: \$500 to Honor Flight, \$500 to Sunday School, \$1,000 to the Mission Fund and \$1,000 to St. Paul's General Fund.

Reminder: Please sign up to host a Coffee & Conversation following church service. It's easy—just brew a pot of coffee and furnish snacks to enjoy after worship service. It doesn't have to be elaborate—coffee and cookies are good.

There is no Guild meeting in December. Next meeting is Thursday, January 19. This is an invitation to all St. Paul's Women to begin the year by attending. Come at noon, bring a brown bag lunch, and join us in supporting St. Paul's UCC and each other.

Church Council Meeting October 10, 2022 Minutes St. Paul's United Church of Christ

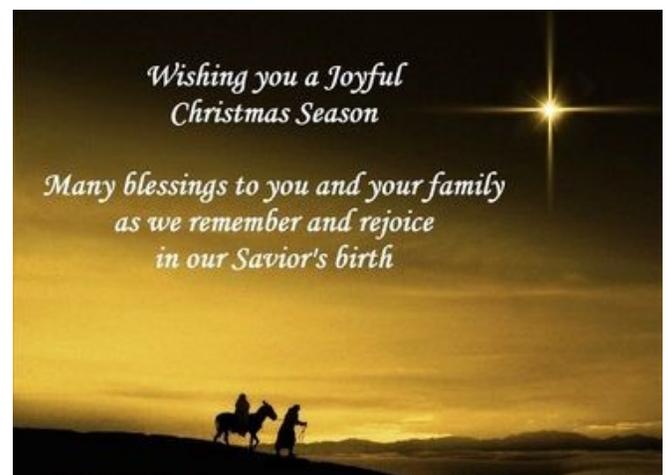
The meeting was called to order by President Charmaine Duehring at 6:02pm. In attendance were the following: Charmaine Duehring, Pastor Bonnie Jacque, Cheryl Fischer, Carl Roock, Janene Kluever, Kim Kersten, Connie Johnson, Lucy Krapfl and Kay O'Keane.

The September minutes were approved. The financials, we are still doing well ahead of forecast on the envelopes and separate offerings. Our electric bill is still not correct, but they did say it will work itself out, just need to keep watching it. Financials were approved. Pastor's report included her visits, one funeral for Tom Cain. Pastor Bonnie is planning on coaching, training and mentoring. She is taking some classes for this.



The Secret Pals Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 11 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the church hall. Please bring a small gift for your Secret Pal for 2022 and a dessert or appetizer to share. Drinks will be provided. If you cannot attend, please have your gift at church by the time of the party on the 11th. If you would like to have a name of a Secret Pal next year, please 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 2023 and someone will receive



The Legacy fund catalyst grant has been delayed until March 30th as we could not get all the information together for the September deadline. Pastor Bonnie had received a cost of \$7000, but this was more than the fund of \$5000 and so she was going to see if she could get a better price. This price included the product and the installation. As we discussed further, we thought the church/congregation might be able to come up with the difference, to keep this project alive.

The conflict transformation training/information will be presented to us on November 14th at 6:00pm during our meeting. This will be dealing with being proactive and managing for any conflict. The expense for snowplowing has increased slightly due to the increase price of the fuel. We will give the number for the snowplower to Bonnie, in case she needs it. The two signs directing towards our church have been replaced, the two on Monches Road and St. Augustine Road.. We will not post the third sign as we have called Richfield, and since this would be on a State Highway 164, it may be unsafe if it is too close to the road and if it is too far off the road it will not be seen. The \$500 for the third sign will not be used. The Christian Education was given \$100 for the Stars and Stripes/ Veterans Day. The Flowers for Christmas will be purchased with donations from the congregation, a \$5.00 donation will be requested.

The stewardship letter will be mailed out with the line of Pray Together, Play together and Serve Together. Jeff Jackopin will design the stationary. Stewardship will be Sunday, November 13th.

The Guetzke Memorial tree has been planted and watered. However the watering is not needed after October. The bench has been placed and anchored. The tree trunk will be wrapped. We have decided a new member committee is not required. They can get together informally and discuss. There is the Picture Bible which River Falls Church had developed and if we would like to use in the confirmation curriculum, it would be \$350 for the artwork for the confirmation students, when digging into their faith.

St. Paul's would like a mission statement which is to nurture and inspire all people through worship, education, pastoral care and outreach.. We will need to review further in our constitution. The constitution was last reviewed in 2018. We may need to discuss with Brett Miller to see if the constitution should be reviewed and/or revised. We will discuss further in November meeting. The Technology meeting resulted in a need to purchase a new computer as the service is very slow, taking 5 minutes to boot, alone. We will check on current computers in the office and update or check our service.

Our website should be checked and updated once a week. Our congregational meeting will be held on October 30th and a letter was sent out, for which the search committee will be responsible.

We need to check Blondie's job description as she should be cleaning the balcony and it does not appear that it is being cleaned. The personnel committee may have the description and whether all personnel is background checked. We may need money in the budget for this.

The Chili Supper will be February 26, 2023 and the annual meeting will be February 5, 2023. We will not have a Thanksgiving service. Discussions on the 2023 expenses for our budget. On-line giving through our church website will cost the church. The Stewardship Committee will lay out different ways to pay and update our numbers.

Next Council Meeting will be held on November 24,2022.

Greeters for December:

December 11th—Vicki & Eugene Dost
December 18th—Mission Maniacs
December 24th—Jack & Charmaine Duehring
December 25th—**NEEDED**

Liturgist

December 4th— Eugene Dost
December 11th—Bernice Dieball
December 18th— Karl Rook

Coffee & Conversations Hosts:

December 4th—Cookie Walk
December 11th—Jo Swanson
December 18th—Mission Maniacs

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



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

Something to Share

An Advent Poem based on Luke 2: 8-20 written by Mary Taylor
How hard it is to be patient, Child.
Your coming we anticipate,
Patience is not our strong suit, Child.
It is truly hard to wait.
We prepare gifts and food and cards
In many stops and starts.
But so often we forget, Child,
We first must prepare our hearts.
Shepherds saw your star, Child,
And were witnesses to your birth.
We await you as our shepherd,
God's caring love for earth.
Angels proclaimed your coming,
The good news was sung with Joy.
We sing in joyous anticipation
Of the birth of this holy boy.
You have come among us, Holy Child,
Now a babe in a manger bed.

Please keep in your thoughts and Prayers

Betty Zimpelman and family, Bill Chase, Ron Smith, Beulah Timm, Jim Swanson, Sheila Anderson, Norma Hulterstrum , and Erik Johnson.

Attention Sunday Readers:

I will be doing Liturgist calendar for 2023 soon. Please let me know by 12/21/22 if you would like to remain as a reader for 2023. Also, if anyone would like to become a Reader, I will be happy to put you in the rotation, just let me know. You can email or text me. (cindycaain52@icloud.com or 414-614-4476) Thank you Cindy L Cain

Thank you



CHRISTMAS TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

It is with deep joy and thanksgiving that Jeff and I wish each of you a blessed Advent and Christmas season. What a wonderful and grace filled time it is. May God watch over you as you make your way to Bethlehem and join the angels singing "Glory to the Newborn King." Merry Christmas, Pastor Bonnie and Jeff

To a Secret Pal,
Thank you!



Peace,
Love, and
Joy
Cindy Cain

Erik & I and our family would like to thank all of you for the cards, the prayers and the support we are receiving from our church family and so many others. We are blessed to have so many wonderful people in our lives. Erik has been challenged with multiple health issues this year, but we pray that Gods grace is with us and will provide the healing hands he needs to recover.

Much Love Connie, Erik, Cody, Bryce, Kasey, Gavin & Liz Johnson



December 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Confirmation 6 PM</i>	2	3 <i>Cookie Walk</i>
4 9:30 <i>Worship</i>	5	6 <i>Seniors</i>	7	8	9 <i>Barb Brehmer</i>	10
11 9:30 <i>Worship</i> <i>Secret Pal</i> <i>Celebration</i>	12	13	14 <i>Blue Christmas</i> <i>Service 7 PM</i>	15	16	17
18 9:30 <i>Worship</i> <i>Children's Christmas</i> <i>Program</i>	19	20	21	22 <i>Norb & Barb</i> <i>Brehmer and Connie</i> <i>& Erik Johnson's</i> <i>Anniversary</i>	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> <i>Worship 4 PM</i>
25 9:30 <i>Worship</i> <i>Mike Janichek</i> <i>Marvin Schlafer</i>	26	27 <i>Charles Kluever</i>	28	29	30 <i>Jodi Staus</i>	31