



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

I've been thinking about the concept of enough. How do we know what enough is? What do we need enough of rather than want? Are we talking about money when we say we have enough or time or talent? Most of us think of money as something we need to have enough of to live a comfortable life and support the various causes, we value...think church. How do we manage our time and our talents so there is enough for ourselves and to share?

I once had a cookbook that was called *More with Less*. It contained recipes and suggestions by the Mennonite community on "how to eat better and consume less of the world's limited food resources" according to their website. I remember reading it like a book. Some of the recipes focused on making bulk dry mixes and then baking the brownies or cookies as needed. More with less, one way to think about having enough.

Then, there is doing more with less. I'm reading a book called *Holy Currencies* written by Eric Law. In it there is a story about a large family that included grandparents down to preschoolers. Mom did her best to make enough food for everyone. She would put the plate in the middle of the table and each person helped themselves. It was interesting to see who took more for themselves and who considered the person next to them as they took their share.

The story goes that at one meal there was meat (a rare treat) left on the plate after everyone had their serving. But, no one made a move for it. Then someone said, "You take it grandma. You're the oldest." Grandma said, "No, I've eaten enough. I'm stuffed. Give it to the youngest one. He needs nourishment to grow big and strong." The youngest said "No, not me. I am completely full because I have the smallest stomach." And so it went around the table. The meat was then considered an official leftover and became an ingredient in the next day's casserole.

The ultimate lesson to learn from that dinner table was that there was enough and, therefore, it was okay to have less than the other." There is a spirituality to the idea of enough. The dynamics of caring made "enough" doable. And the belief in abundance from enough came from caring and caring flowed like a river of life, circulated, beyond that one table and out into the community. I wrote in the margin, Love This Story.

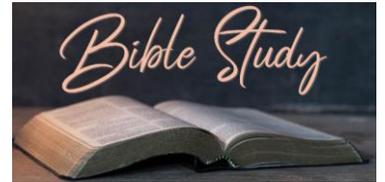
Scribbled on a loose scrap of paper beside my laptop are the words: God is near. Peace is near. Maybe that is enough. God already dwells with us. Peace can be found in our heartbeat, keep awake to that.

How are we to behave when we have enough? I'd love to hear your thoughts.



COFFEE WITH PASTOR BONNIE Our January Coffee Date is the 25th at the Perc Place in Hartford. We have a lot of fun. You are invited even if you don't drink coffee. It's Dutch treat and no reservation is necessary.

BIBLE STUDY meets at 1 pm in the Pastor's Office on the second Thursday of each month, which is January 11th this month. We will be discussing the upcoming Sunday's scripture reading, John 1: 43-51. The Gospel of John is often referred to as the Spiritual Gospel. This is your invitation to consider what that might mean.



Grateful ❄️ Thankful ❄️ Blessed

THANK YOU

Thank you to our own Andy and Ada...Eugene and Vicki Dost ...for the Reader's Theater titled *Are You Ready* during the December 10th service. I understand they refer to each other as Andy and Ada at home.

Thank you to Vicki and Gerald Lubbard for lighting the Advent Candle of Hope; to Corey and Cheri Johnson who lit the second candle, that of Peace; to Anna and Janene Kluever who lit the third candle, that of Joy and to John and Lynn Duwell for lighting the candle of love.

Many, many thanks to all the incredible cookie bakers and helpers at this year's Cookie Walk and Silent Auction. Special thanks to Peggy Ahles for her teaching skills and her patience helping others to learn cookie decorating. What a blessing and the cookies tasted good too!

Thank you to all the Mission Maniacs and the special "little" manger animals who took us to the Beach for Christmas on December 17th. Thank you to their teachers for loving these kids and helping them to know what it means to "Be The Church". It really matters. Thank you to Emma Ahles-Zignego for her Christmas piano piece which she shared with us. AND, thank you for the Birthday Cake for Jesus! . You all did an AWESOME job!

Thank you to Charmaine and Jack Duehring and others on the altar committee for creating the lovely Advent wreath and candles and the Christmas Eve altar featuring the baby Jesus. Thank you for creating the setting that invited us to journey through Advent and then to kneel at the manger bed.

Thank you to the choir! We are thankful for each of you giving of your time and talent especially at Christmas. *Were You There on a Christmas Night* was especially tender.

Thank you to everyone who contributed toward the Christmas Poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one. They were beautiful.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the UCC Christmas Fund Drive.

Thank you to you everyone who wished Jeff and I a Merry Christmas. You are all special people in our lives. It means a lot to us to be here and to share the love of God with you. Pastor Bonnie

ONE MORE THANK YOU Thank you to Santa who made two appearances this year – one at the Cookie Walk and another for the Mission Maniacs program. Ho, Ho, Ho.



CONGRATULATIONS to Anna Kluever who graduated from UW Parkside with a degree in Applied Health Sciences. Well done Anna! But let's not forget... Anna and Scott Helleson got engaged! Plus, they are first-time homeowners!!!

CONGRATULATIONS to Mason Weber who received special recognition from the Hartford School Board and the Hartford Rotary Club for his academic excellence and his achievements in sports, DECA, math club, Badger Boys State and for his involvement in community service. Your church is super proud of you Mason.



NEW PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS Pastor Bonnie has changed her office hours. Look for her to be in the office on Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm. If that time is not convenient or there is an emergency, please do not hesitate to call me (262-416-5094) at any time.

ADULT HEIGHT-ADJUSTABLE CHANGING TABLE It gives me no pleasure at all to share with you that we have been unable to place our fully paid for adult height-adjustable changing table. Kim Kersten and I have been turned down at countless establishments including the American Family Field – Home of the Milwaukee Brewers. We tried at the UCC camps, the Milwaukee Zoo and YMCAs. The \$5,000 donation from Elizabeth Hazel has been returned as well as the Memorial Fund money for Russell Dieball.

CREATION CARE TEAM will be holding an organizational meeting on January 21 at 11 in the conference room. If you are interested in what this team might be about, you don't need an invitation, just show up.

NEW MEMBER CLASS The Magnuson family, the Oberholzer Family, Scott Hellesen and Terry Phillips have shown an interest in joining St. Paul's. We will be meeting in the conference room on January 14th at 11. I'm going to catch a cup of coffee and a treat or two and meet you there. If you know anyone else who might be interested, please invite them!



MISSION COMMITTEE



Thanks to everyone who chose to participate in the Bundle Up Brown Street project this year. 15 bags were overflowing with jackets, toys, treats and clothing. This 100% self-funded project is a delight to everyone who participates whether you fill a bag for a child or donate money to help. The generous hearts of St. Paul's congregation show their boundless support for these children. What inspires you to take part in this project each year?

Jacque Branchford: This is a perfect project because we have a direct connection to the children at Brown St., there is a real need and we get great feedback through pictures and thank-yous.

Carol Kaisler: Christmas shopping for my student at Brown Street Academy is a highlight of the holidays. With no grandchildren to shop for, it is always fun to look at the photograph and try to imagine what is their favorite color, do they like the athletic look or something dressier, what jacket would keep them nice and warm, etc.

Lynn Duwell: It is truly a beautiful day in the neighborhood when you can make it a beautiful day in a nearby neighborhood, too. To choose to bring joy to those less fortunate, to see the face of the young recipient and to have a first name to go with it makes this Brown Street Academy mission very meaningful to me and one of my favorites.

FROM THE ALTAR COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who donated money towards the purchase of poinsettias to decorate our church for Christmas Eve. The poinsettias were purchased at Shady Lane Green House and we received double our order as a gift from them. They would rather donate extra plants than throw them away. Consequently, if you donated towards the purchase of the poinsettias, please feel free to take one home after the service on December 31. Plastic bag covers are available in the room adjoining the altar. First come, first served.



Thank you also to Judy Nell for putting up and decorating the trees and to Jack Duehring for helping to light the manger display for Christmas Eve.

COUNCIL NOTES

Committee Annual Reports are due in paper copy to the church office or by email to Charmaine Duehring by Sunday, January 14.

Thank you to everyone who turned in pledge cards this year. Knowing in advance what your support for the church will help the council tremendously when preparing the new budget.

Annual reports should be available around January 21. When you receive a copy be sure to read about the discussion topics on the agenda that may be voted on at the Annual Meeting along with the 2024 budget. One is a proposal from the Technology Committee to upgrade our present projector, screen, and zoom capabilities. Another is a proposal to shingle the steeple. The third item is a request to establish a building fund for future expansion of the church. Because these are "big ticket" items, the council is looking for congregational input before adding them to the 2024 budget.

Our next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8 at 6:00 p.m in the conference room. Visitors are always welcome to attend.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Since the beginning of time, churches all over, take one Sunday in December to have the kids perform a Christmas program. Most of us remember being Wisemen, sheep, Mary, Joseph, the Star and so on! And generation after generation, we continue this tradition of depicting the magic of Christmas! This year, the kids performed Christmas on the Beach! We smiled till our cheeks hurt and laughed at the little manger animals walking all over but most importantly, we did this together!

Kids, you did amazing! We are so proud of all your hard work!

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents for your dedication to practices & for all the wonderful food you were able to share for coffee & conversation! And thanks Rach and Debra for the beautiful display!!!

Thank you, Peggy, for an amazing Birthday cake for Jesus! It was so beautiful!

Thank you, Debbie for all the treat bags for ALL the kids! They love them! Your hard work is so much appreciated!

Thank you, Santa for making our program extra special! It means a lot that you came to our little church in the country!

Thank you, Pastor Bonnie and the whole congregation, for always supporting the Mission Maniacs in all they do!

And last but not least, thank you to all the teachers, Ms. Debbie, Ms. Rachel, Ms. Debra and Ms. Jodi, it takes a team to make this all happen! You are appreciated!!!



WOMEN'S GUILD



St. Paul's 32nd annual Cookie Walk was a big success this year and the Women's Guild thanks all who contributed to that success. First and foremost—thanks to all the cookie bakers! We had 500 lbs. of beautiful cookies arranged on 12 tables for our customers to select from. Shoppers' faces beam when they arrive and see the selection. A shopper reported ours was the third cookie walk she attended and was by far the best. Well done, cookie bakers!

The lovely baskets in the silent auction add a festive shopping opportunity while customers assemble. Thanks for the donations and thanks to Betty Z. for creating an impressive event! Then there is Santa—we had two this year. Front door Santa greets folks with

a friendly Ho-Ho-Ho and sends them off to shop. Great job, Eugene! Santa #2 magically appears a bit later with several friendly sidekicks to greet kids and customers. Thanks for stopping by, Santas! Big thanks also to all the volunteers who help advertise, set up, and wrangle cookies and customers on sale day. It is the generous contribution of many that makes St. Paul's Cookie Walk a success and a popular community event.

The next Guild meeting will be at noon on Thursday, January 18. All St. Paul's women are invited to bring a bag lunch and join us.



MISSION MANIACS!



The kids donated Christmas gifts to individuals through Family Promise of Washington County- an idea that came from a St. Paul's member! We appreciate all your great ideas! Way to go kids!

FEB

SAVE THE DATE **25**

CHILI LUNCH & PIE SALE

Our annual church fundraiser

The Chili Lunch & Homemade Pie Sale

will be Sunday, February 25th.

Donation slips, promotional flyers

and a sign-up to help form will be available
in January.



WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

Thank you to everyone who
donated cans or money for the
Mission Maniacs Veteran's Mission!
A total of \$1030 went to the
Wounded Warrior project!

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.

LITURGISTS FOR JANUARY

Kim Kersten
Cindy Cain
Bernie Chase

Jacquie Branchford

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. Visit the News & Resources tab and click on Worship Resources for a recording of Sunday’s Worship.

Church Email Address:

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 10 AM to 2 PM. Stop by for a visit. Friday and Saturday are Pastor’s weekend.

SOMETHING TO SHARE

The Big Ask written by Rich Orloff

To God

To my ancestors

To anyone who will listen

I ask and pray for this:

Bless me with a peace

That’s deeper than happiness

That makes room for profound sorrow

That accepts pain and loss

That’s not dependent on good news

Bless me with a peace

That comforts me when I feel anguish

That steadies me when I feel uncertain

That expands me when I think small

That finds a way through my fiercest resistance

Bless me with a peace

That stretches beyond my horizons

That heals even if I can’t explain why

That offers delight as an everyday gift

That allows me to see blessings

Bless me with a peace

That is a refuge from torment

That is an oasis from yearning

That is a sanctuary from trauma

That transcends all else

But never denies all else

Bless me with a peace

That renews my gratitude for life

And that I can access

Every time I let you in.