



### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"Have a blessed birthday", "blessings on your memories", "bless you" and simply "blessings", I use those phrases often. The benediction is always a part of a worship service because it serves as a blessing on everyone as they go out into the world, back to their daily life. It is my privilege and honor to bless each of you every Sunday.

Here's the thing. The words bless or blessings have almost become meaningless. It is overused. You can find it embroidered on pillows, on signs, even in tattoos. What does it mean to be blessed? Here's what it is not, it is not simply a good thing. It is not just a gift. I've been blessed is not proof of a life well lived.

Kate Bowler wrote a blessing for when you don't feel blessed:

"Blessed are we drowning in grief.

When wave after wave after wave crashes over us.

Who start to feel okay, then something reminds us of what we've lost,

And we're pulled under once again.

God promises to comfort us.

Blessed are we when someone hurts us

When we are offended and we don't return insult for insult.

Instead, we forgive, recognizing the number of times

We've needed to be forgiven."



The component of blessing that is often overlooked in the common usage of blessed or blessing is thankfulness. A benediction then includes being thankful for being a part of a faith community. Yes, St. Paul's is very blessed to be an active faith community, for which we all are very thankful. Always remember to be thankful.

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### BOOK DISCUSSION/BIBLE STUDY



We have been discussing sections of Daniel Cooperrider's book *Speak With The Earth and It Will Teach You*. We have covered water and mountains and look forward to Clouds and Trees. Given those subjects, it has been decided to take a break for the next two months and pick up on Clouds in September and Trees in October when the trees are AWESOME. Again, you do not have to have read the book to come...just show up!

## WOMEN'S GUILD



On Thursday, June 20, nine ladies enjoyed a delightful and educational trip to Watertown.

First stop was a delicious lunch at the Rose Garden restaurant. Then it was back in the cars to visit Watertown's famous Octagon House. During a guided tour we learned the house had been finished in 1854 and built over 13 years by the John Richards family. Four stories tall and built entirely of brick in the shape of a perfect octagon the house is one of the largest residences from pre civil war Wisconsin. It featured a central spiral staircase, running water provided by a funnel shaped roof, and a roomy octagonal tower room for a fifth floor. The grounds also included a restored barn and the first kindergarten in the United States-begun in 1856 in Watertown.

A stop at Mullen's Dairy Bar (1932) in downtown Watertown completed a memorable day.

A big thank you to Carol Kaisler for organizing the outing



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## **Classic Car, Truck and Tractor Sunday**

To all Members with Collectable Cars, Trucks and Tractors:



**Sunday July 21** is St Paul's UCC Drive Them to Church Day.

Come early and display them in the lower lot. Stay late for viewing and conversation.



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## **PLAY BALL!**

Baseball season is in full swing and our Brewers are doing great. Come join us on JULY 13, 2024 at 2:00 for a "tailgate" in the Church parking lot. Fellowship will provide sandwiches, soda and water. Please bring a dish to pass. If you wish something to drink other than soda or water, bring your own. There will be games, Bags and Ladder Ball, if you wish to partake!! Of course, we will have the game on the radio!! There is sign up sheet in basement so we can get a count. Come cheer the Brewers on, it will be a fun time!

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## **THANK YOU**

Betty Z., Carol K., Lynn D., and Jill P. for the Pop-Up Beading night. It was great fun!

The Women's Guild for serving the funeral luncheon for Ken S.'s funeral.

Donna R. for producing the bulletin for Ken's Celebration of Life and Bernice D. for running it off.

Jill L. for providing the music at Ken's funeral.

All those who welcomed Rev. Meredith Anderson and Rev. Dr. Tim Perkins who led worship while Pastor Bonnie was on vacation.

Kay O'K for providing music while Jill L. was on vacation. You are appreciated.

Norm and Barb B. for their faithful church lawn care

<h1>Welcome</h1> <p>So glad you're here</p>	<b>LITURGIST:</b>	<b>GREETERS:</b>
<b>July 7</b>	Bernice Dieball	Jill P. & Jill S. G,C, O, Com    Jack & Charmaine D. Com
<b>July 14</b>	Carl Rook	Betty P. & Jean S. G Allan & Sharon S. C, O
<b>July 21</b>	Kim Kersten	Debbie S. & Kathy S. G Bernice D. & Donna R. O, C
<b>July 28</b>	Cindy Cain	Kevin & Jodi S. G, C, O

**SOMETHING TO SHARE**

Pantheism is the belief that God is present everywhere and everything is a part of God. Omnipresent is the theological term for God is always present. I'm not aware of a study of why is God a mystery...a riddle for us to try again and again to solve. Kahil Gibran was a Lebanese-American writer who I have quoted below. I love how he describes God as omnipresent and in everything (pantheism).

And if you would know God  
 Be not therefore a solver of riddles,  
 Rather look about you  
 And you shall see Him  
 Playing with your children.  
 And look into space;  
 You shall see Him walking in the cloud,  
 Outstretching His arms in the lightning  
 And descending in rain.  
 You shall see Him smiling in the flowers,  
 Then rising and waving  
 His hands in trees.



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  
 virtually via our [YouTube Channel](#), 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 10 AM to 2 PM. Stop by for a visit. Friday and Saturday are Pastor’s weekend.

Church Council Meeting Minutes  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
May 13, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm, by President Charmaine Duehring. Those in attendance were Cindy Cain, Fred Dieball, Kay O'Keane, Charmaine Duehring, Pastor Bonnie, Connie Johnson, Vicki Dost and Janene Kluever. Kim Kersten could not make it.

The April meeting minutes were approved. Regarding the financial reports, we are still doing good, ahead of last year. We have a family donating money for the steeple to be shingled. The utilities problems have now been worked out and prices are correct. The Tech Committee is under budget so far. The Financial Report was approved.

We were told the water was checked by the bill of \$40.00 from Washington County. But no one was here at the time and we cannot verify this water check. Charmaine will find out if our water was indeed checked and who signed off for this. The Coffee gathering on Thursdays may stop for the summer. Pastor Bonnie will make that decision. We discussed who would be going to the Annual Association Meeting at Green Lake. Pastor Bonnie will be going and Cindy Cain has said she would go and possibly Jill Lotzow will go. The cost of each attending would be around \$153.51 and we will make a note of the cost so that we can put it into the budget for next year. The Brat Fry planning is ongoing. Eugene has two kickball teams so far and is looking for more. Lucy Krapfl has recruited her daughter to help, because she did a fabulous job last year.

The steeple shingle planning and work is not complete, we are waiting for a dry/no rain week to complete the project. Clean-up turned out good. There was a pine removed and the Creation Care Committee will plant a tree to replace it. Also, the Creation Care Committee would like to look into recycling and garbage pick-up. They will need to investigate the costs to see if this would be possible. Perhaps we will need to put it into the budget next year.

We reviewed the By-Laws of the church,, to be continued next month.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm. Our next meeting will be June 10th.

# July 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Kevin S.  Fred & Wanda D. Anniversary	2 Seniors	3 LuAnn E.  Kevin & Jodi S. Anniversary	4 	5 Vicki L.	6
7 9:30 Worship  Jill S.	8	9  Vicki G.	10  Lee & Sheila A. Anniversary	11	12	13 Tailgate 2 PM Church parking lot
14 9:30 Worship	15  Mary G.	16	17	18 Women's Guild 12 Noon	19	20
21 9:30 Worship Bring your classic car, truck or tractor	22	23	24  Jodi D.	25  Curt & Karrie H. Anniversary	26	27  Charlie & Janene K. Anniversary
28 9:30 Worship  Alice M. Donna R.	29	30	31  Corey J.			