

Chapel Bells

July, 2023

Pastor's Message

Cindy Cain and I attended this year's Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting at Green Lake. I attended the Thursday intensive workshop lead by Matt Miofsky based on his book, *Let Go: Leaning into the Future Without Fear*. He explained that change is either "threatening, dangerous, needs to be resisted" or is seen as "a chance to grow, an opportunity to be embraced." I found that to be a very profound statement. We do want to grow, but at the same time, it certainly can be a challenge to what feels familiar and right. In all I took 13 pages of notes. I will be sharing many of them with you at one time or another.

The Conference sent an e-mail summarizing five takeaways from the annual meeting. I hope you find them enlightening. Please share your thoughts with me. I'd love to hear them.

We're on a journey to becoming "the next expression of Christ in the world". Conference Minister Franz Rigert drew on a metaphor from Stephanie Spellers' book "The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New

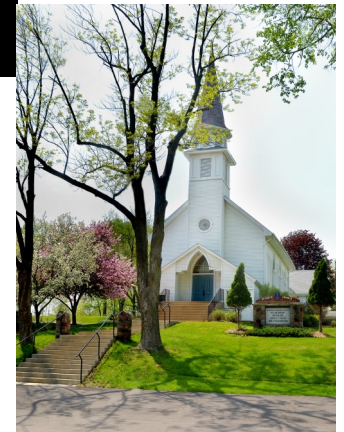
Hope for the Beloved Community" in describing the state of the Wisconsin Conference. Although external forces like COVID-19 and racial and political tensions have produced cracks in the Church, Franz said, the Spirit of Pentecost will continue to "refashion and renew this Church...to transform us, to empower us to transcend all that limits us. And ultimately to transition us into the next expression of Christ in the world."

We got WISEer. Delegates to the Annual Meeting on Saturday unanimously approved a resolution declaring the Wisconsin Conference Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged (WISE) for Mental Health. The resolution followed a year of discussion by a critical mass of Wisconsin UCC congregations. On Saturday evening, Vicki Harvey of the UCC Mental Health Network emailed Associate Conference Minister, Lisa Hart, with the news that Wisconsin is the fourth WISE conference in the denomination. WISE is an official des-

ignation awarded by the UCC Mental Health Network. "We are so impressed with the unprecedented effort you have made to get a large number of Wisconsin churches entering this process." Vicki wrote. "These churches are aflame with excitement over beginning their journey."

A window of opportunity for the UCC. This COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the decline of trust in institutions, including the church, yet it also accentuated individuals' appreciation for community as loneliness and mental health challenged proliferated, said keynoter Sarah B. Drummond, founding dean of Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School. That presents an opportunity for the UCC. "We learned that chronic loneliness is bad," she said. "The church has something to say about this. The idea that communities that check in on each other and provide spaces for moral meaning-making, I'm not sure how long that will last."

'Making plans in faith but



hold them loosely'. In her sermon on Saturday's closing worship, Damascus Project Director Stephanie Perdeu preached about the importance of faith communities of "extraordinary, improvised plans" during uncertain times. "We can improvise our plans, excessively and abundantly, with courage and hope and not just the way we've always done it." Stephanie said. "We can plan, and God may laugh, but only in order to ask us to expand our imaginations toward the flourishing God intends for all of us."

Through our budgets, we build a beloved community. The way the church spends money is a statement about how we are responding to God's call in this time and place "to create a beloved community wherein lives get transformed," said the Rev. Andrew Warner, development director for the Wisconsin Conference. "Through budgets we make decisions about how

we will embody God's love in the world." Examples include the Conference's investments in leadership development and congregational development. Support from congregations through Our Church's Wider Mission makes most of this work possible. Beyond gifts to OCWM Basic Support, individuals in the Conference over the past year have donated generously to refugee relief in Ukraine, earthquake recovery in Syria and Turkey, and tornado recovery in Mississippi and Alabama.

Adult-Changing Table Update

Pastor Bonnie met Rev. Elizabeth Hazel at the Annual Meeting at the Green Lake Conference Center. Rev. Hazel is the most generous woman who provided us with \$5,000 of her own money toward the purchase of the adult-changing table to be placed at the Tri-County YMCA. She was simply delightful, and she was so pleased to get a thank you card signed by so many of you!

That left us \$1,000 short of our goal, including the \$600 the congregation had already donated. The Good News is that the Dieball family has named this project to be the recipient of the necessary funds to come from the Russell Dieball Memorial. With a grateful heart I am pleased to say we now have all the funds we need. Stay tuned for further details as to installation date, etc. We will need to include a plaque recognizing not only St. Paul's by in memory of Phil and Ken Markley (as requested by Rev. Hazel) and Russell Dieball.

ST. PAUL'S WOMEN'S GUILD

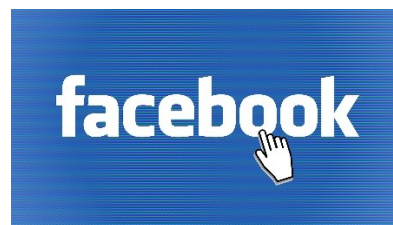
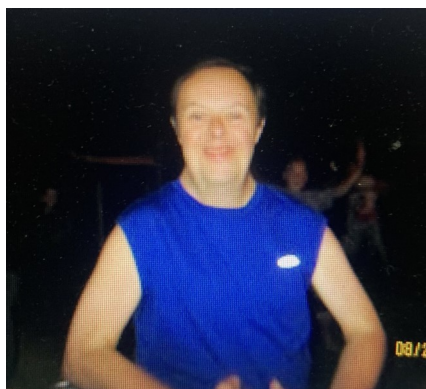


June was a busy month for the Guild, beginning with a brat fry and plant sale at Fox Bros. Piggly Wiggly in Hubertus on June 10. The weather was perfect and we had a good turn out of brat and burger customers from 9 AM right through closing at 3 PM. The plant sale was successful as well. Thanks to all who came to buy brats and blooms and who worked and contributed, especially Betty Z. who organized the event and our grill masters, Barb and Norb B. and Bill E.

Our Guild toured the Dheinsville Settlement museums on June 15, including the Bast Bell Museum, Christ Church (1862), and Wolf Haus Museum (1854). It is always interesting to see how our forefathers lived, worked and worshiped. Thanks to members of the Germantown Historical Society who guided the tours. We enjoyed lunch at Asian Buffet in Menomonee Falls.

June 16 was Dan O'Keane's funeral, and the Guild served lunch for family and friends following the service. Dan will be missed.

The next Guild meeting will be held at noon on Thursday, July 20. You are invited to bring a bag lunch and join us. Jill will provide dessert and Bernice will present a devotional.



Is there something cool happening at St. Paul's? Take pictures and give me a couple details and I will post them on Facebook! It's a great tool to show our community what we are about!! If you have something to post, text it to Jodi at 262-224-8189 or email at jodischup-pel@yahoo.com



Touring the Sila Bast Bell Museum



Brats for Breakfast at the Pig



Please sign up to Greet , we are in need of Greeters and also Coffee and Conversation hosts. Coffee & Conversation doesn't need to be anything fancy. Coffee is made each Sunday, just bring some simple snacks to go with it.

SOMETHING TO SHARE

I recently began utilizing a resource called Spill The Beans. Yes, the name intrigued me, but what I found impressed me as well. It is produced in the United Kingdom. My Something to Share for July comes from Spill The Beans. I hope you find something of yourself in this reading. I did.

I Believe in God

I believe in God, not the institution. Sometimes, I find it hard to separate them. I was raised in this church, married here, I found a wife here, and we are still here. This church has been a constant to me. When my child was born, when my child grew up, when my child left home, they also left here.

I believe in the God who created the world. I believe in the God who knows us, opens life in all its fullness to us, opens each day as a symphony,

opens each day in technicolor, to experience with other humans and God. I still believe. Help me with my doubts.

I believe in God, not the building. Sometimes, I find it hard to separate them. The sun comes in and blinds us often. God streams in through the stained glass. There is often feedback from the microphones, I think of angel throngs causing it. I think I could find the toilets in the dark. I think I could open that squeaky door silently; I think I have only sat in two places ever, now I will not sit here again.

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God. I still believe. Help me with my doubts.

I believe in God, not me. Sometimes, I find it hard to live this out.

I believe the world has to change, and me with it. First and last must swap, so the meek inherit the earth. Cries of help must be heard, radical love and grace must be shown.

I often don't hear the strangers help cry, I often don't love others as myself, I often judge and hold a grudge. I often don't think I am good at this Christian thing.

I believe in the God who created the world. I believe in the God who knows us, opens life in all its fullness to us, opens each day as a symphony,

opens each day in technicolor, to experience with other humans and God. I still believe. Help me with my doubts.

I believe Jesus never said that every little thing is gonna be all right. I believe in God not the institution, I believe in God not the building, I believe in God not me. I still believe. Help me with my doubts.

Liturgists for July:

7/2 —Polly Edgar

7/9—John Edgar

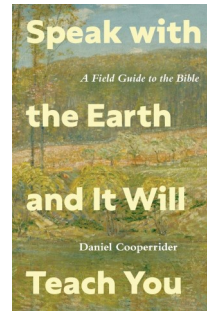
7/16— Charmaine Duehring

7/23 —Katie Green

7/30—Jill Schafer

The next Council Meeting will be August 7th at 6 PM.

Creation Care



The Wisconsin Conference UCC Kairos Grants have funds available for the purchase of Daniel Cooperrider's book, "Speak with the Earth

and it will Teach You." Text, e-mail or speak to Pastor Bonnie about getting a copy for you. We will have a book discussion at a later date for those who want to share your thoughts and feelings. Some folks have donated back their copy which is then handed on to other churches. Now that is creation care.

Rhubarb Torte

CRUST:

18 single graham crackers, crumbled
½ c. melted butter
½ c. sugar

FILLING:

4 c. rhubarb, cut up in small pieces
1 c. sugar
3 Tbs. cornstarch blended with water
10 oz. pkg. miniature marshmallows
1 pint whipping cream
3 oz. pkg. vanilla pudding

Mix crumbs, sugar and butter. Reserve ½ cup for top. Press into 9x13-inch pan. Over low heat, bring rhubarb to a boil-do not add water; add sugar. When rhubarb is cooked, add cornstarch. Remove from heat. Add marshmallows and stir until they melt. Spread over crust and refrigerate. When chilled, spread half pint of whipped cream over rhubarb. Chill. Prepare vanilla pudding as directed on package. Cool and spread over whipped cream. Sprinkle with reserved crumbs. Refrigerate.

From Kathy Schlafer

PASTOR BONNIE'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Bonnie will be in the church office on Thursdays from noon to 6 PM. Stop by for a visit! Friday and Saturday are Pastor's weekend. In an emergency, please call **262-416-5094**.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: saint-paulserin.pastor@gmail.com for church related e-mail correspondence.

Church Council Meeting Minutes
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
May 8th, 2023

Meeting was called to order by Council President, Charmaine Duehring, at 6:03 PM. Those in attendance were Carl Rook, Lucy Krapfl, Charmaine Duehring, Connie Johnson, Kim Kersten and Pastor Bonnie Jacque. Those not in attendance were Janene Kluever, Cheryl Fischer and Kay O'Keane.

The April meeting minutes were approved as corrected.

April Financials: The entire solar loan was paid off. The church is doing well regarding envelopes and loose offerings. The church received a large amount of offerings on Easter Sunday. Connie will get clarification if all the money is designated to go into the general fund. Other expenses this month were to pay for piano tuning and the copyright license. The financial report was approved.

Pastor's Report: Four members were in attendance for Bible study this past month. Katie Greene will be joining the Mission Committee. Pastor Bonnie did several home visits to church members in the month of April. A new initiative Pastor Bonnie is interested in exploring is to start a Creation Care Team. The purpose of this team would be to gather research on innovative ideas to conserve energy for the church. The pastor is choosing a date for new membership Sunday.

Liaison Reports:

Building & Grounds: The lighting on the front sign is out and will need to be repaired. Bids are still being gathered for roofing of the steeple. Clean up was done on the inside and the outside of the church on April 29th.

Christian Education: Cheryl is getting the gifts for the Sunday School teachers.

Guild: Neil Weber will be looking at the electrical outlets for the coffee pots. They are not working correctly. The guild is making plans to update the kitchen.

Mission Committee: Lucy will be reaching out to the committee to see if they have set meeting dates, so we can learn about all the important work they are doing.

Other items:

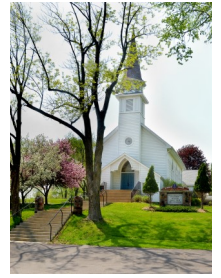
No date has been set for the brat fry.


Record Keeping: For the council's June and July meetings an hour is going to be set aside to go through church files to create a process to preserve the important documents and recycle the other documents.

Next meeting date: June 12, 2023 at 6:00 PM. Meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM.



July 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>Kevin Staus Fred & Wanda Dieball</i>
2 9:30 Worship <i>Ken & Lori Snow</i>	3 <i>LouAnn Evert Kevin & Jodi Staus</i>	4 	5 <i>Vicki Lubbert</i>	6	7 <i>Jill Schaefer</i>	8
9 9:30 Worship <i>Vicki Guetzke</i>	10 <i>Lee & Sheila Anderson</i>	11	12	13	14	15 <i>Mary Guetzke</i>
16 9:30 Worship	17	18 <i>Dan & Bonnie Hanrahan</i>	19	20 <i>Womens' Guild 12 Noon</i>	21 <i>Beulah Timm</i>	22
23 9:30 Worship	24 <i>Jodi Dupras</i>	25 <i>Curt & Karrie Hulterstrum</i>	26	27 <i>Charlie & Janene Kluever</i>	28 <i>Alice Manuell Donna Runte</i>	29
30 9:30 Worship	31					