



Chapel Bells



St. Paul's U.C.C.-Erin

262-628-2319

www.StPaulsErin.org

November, 2020



WISCONSIN COUNCIL
OF CHURCHES

COURAGE. JUSTICE. HOLY IMAGINATION.

CHURCHES URGED TO RETURN TO PHYSICALLY DISTANCED MINISTRY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 6, 2020

The Wisconsin Council of Churches recommends that churches statewide return to remote operations as the COVID-19 crisis deepens in Wisconsin. While today's state Executive Order to limit indoor gatherings to 25% of building capacity exempts religious services and places of worship, and churches are free to continue operations as they have been, the ecumenical organization recommends that they not gather in person.

"Our obligation as faithful people is not to the minimum standard, but to behavior that demonstrates care for the most vulnerable and the well-being of the entire community," said the Rev. Kerri Parker, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches. "In view of the high level of COVID-19 in Wisconsin, it is neither prudent nor pastoral to gather groups of people together at this time. We urge you to put a hold on any plans for worshiping or having fellowship together in physical place for the time being."

It is estimated that approximately 25% of mainline Protestant churches have been offering worship indoors this fall, with others holding worship outdoors and many continuing worship online. Throughout the pandemic, more than half of Christian churches the Council surveyed have been offering ministry to address the needs of hungry people in Wisconsin, in ways that protect the health and safety of staff, volunteers and people served. Other common church-based programs included health-related ministries such as blood drives, COVID testing and distributing masks for the community.

"Being a faithful people is not abstract; it is about applying our faith when it matters," continued Rev. Parker. "This virus is not going to get itself under control. We have a responsibility to each other. We are able to worship, pray, provide faith formation and pastoral care, and address other community needs in ways that limit the risk of spreading COVID, to save lives and relieve the strain on the health system. We have a moral imperative to do so."

The Wisconsin Council of Churches is a network of Christian churches and faith-based organizations committed to working together across differences. Exercising holy imagination, the organization helps its members and friends make courageous choices that lead toward peace with justice, the vitality of the church, and the well-being of neighbors. The ecumenical organization counts twenty Christian traditions representing over 2,000 congregations in its membership, and has been providing information and advice to churches during the COVID-19 public health crisis. Its resources have been shared nationwide.



transfer from your bank. Thank you for continuing to give as generously as you can!



**November 22 SE UCC “Mission Match Day”
Special Offering**

In Need of Assistance?

During worship on Sunday, November 22, we will be receiving a special offering for “Mission Match Day” along with many other congregations in the SE Wisconsin UCC. Mission Match Day will raise funds for 3 UCC-affiliated ministries serving the poor, hungry, homeless, and most vulnerable in Milwaukee: Guest House of Milwaukee (homeless ministry), Frieden’s Community Ministries (food pantry ministry), and St. Ben’s Meal Program (free meal ministry). All gifts received will be matched by the UCC to double our impact on serving those most in need. Checks can be made out to “St. Paul’s UCC” with a memo for “Mission Match Day.” Thanks for giving as generously as you can!

We know that many families are struggling financially and/or with mental health issues due to the pandemic. If you are in need of assistance, please contact Pastor Glenn (414.550.1553 or SPPastor@yahoo.com).



Words of Thanks

Dear St. Paul’s Parishioners,
My heart is truly full after sorting all of your generous donations. I can’t wait to show the children! My co-teacher Brad and I are slowly but surely making home deliveries and will share pics whenever possible. The students will be so excited and we know people care about them and their education. With love & gratitude,

Giving to the Church During the Pandemic

Jessica Ornborg & Brad William
Brown Street Academy

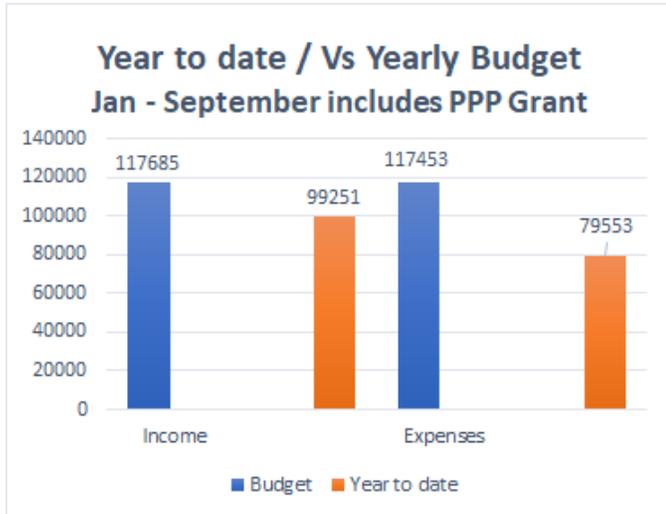
We expect this to be a very challenging year financially for our congregation due to the pandemic. Please continue to practice good stewardship by mailing your weekly offerings and pledges to the church office at: St. Paul’s UCC, attn: Financial Secretary, 495 St. Augustine Road, Colgate, WI 53017. Gifts can also made during in-person worship starting October 4, online on our church website (<http://www.stpaulserin.org>), or by electronic

Chili Dinner



Not at all a surprise, but wanted to officially announce, our annual Chili Dinner is canceled for 2020.

well. Keep an eye on your email inbox for a "blast" with more details. Thanks in advance for your generosity.



Women's Guild

Our October meeting was in the church Fellowship Hall—first meeting there since February. It felt good to be in church again, especially as it is getting pretty nippy for outdoor gatherings.

Our main topic was St. Paul's 30th Annual Christmas Cookie Walk which is traditionally held the first Saturday in December. We received inquiries from regular customers about holding the popular event and considered how this important fundraiser could be safely carried out. Unfortunately, we were unable to come up with a plan for promotion and logistics to hold a safe and successful event this year. Sadly, we voted to cancel it. Hopefully, we can hold a successful 30th Annual St. Paul's Cookie Walk next year!

Speaking of fundraisers—the Women's Guild/Fellowship Committee is still taking orders for the 2021 St. Paul's calendar. Each month has a beautiful picture highlighting our lovely church, cemetery, church grounds or events. The calendars are \$15. We know the 2021 calendars cannot raise the amount we made with the Homemade Bread & Soup Lunch, the Bake Sale and the Cookie Walk, but we hope this is a successful fundraiser and, along with proceeds from the brat fry and an apple pie side hustle, will help the Guild continue its support of our church while providing members with a lovely calendar. Call Jill at 262-251-1856 or Carol at 262-628-0656 to place an order.

Thank you for continuing to send in your pledges. Your giving is greatly appreciated and needed in order to pay the churches monthly bills. Currently, the weekly offering (includes envelopes and loose offering) is running behind 2019. St Paul's did apply and receive a Payroll Protection Loan which helped cover payroll and utility expenses for much of the summer but those funds have been depleted.



A note from the Mission Committee

The congregation of St. Paul's UCC-Erin has a wonderful opportunity to make Christmas bright for the 3rd-4th grade class at Brown Street Academy in Milwaukee. We will be asking for your help in collecting items for gift bags for these children. We are looking for items for ages 8-9 years (12 boys and 13 girls). Suggestions include: candy, slime, action figures, lego type building puzzles and Barbie items. We will gratefully accept money donations as

Bakers looking for new recipes can pick up this year's free WE Energies Cookie Book on Thursday, November 5, from 10 AM to 2 PM in Menomonee Falls at a new location – W220 N7884 Town Line Road.

The next Women's Guild meeting will be November 19 at noon.



Sussex Food Pantry Update

Our Serving Day on the 3rd Saturday morning of each month at the Sussex Food Pantry has been temporarily suspended due to the pandemic. Jennifer Waltz, SOS Director, will let us know when volunteers are needed again.



Thanksgiving Greetings

It is the custom of the Women's Guild to send special greetings to our "Shut Ins" during the holidays. Being that we are all more or less "Shut Ins":

Thanksgiving is a time for getting together to celebrate and give thanks for all that we have received during the year. This year we cannot do this, but we pray that the love of God will feed and nourish our hearts and souls. God's blessings on all of you.

St. Paul's Women's Guild

Know of Someone in the Hospital?



If you know of someone in our congregation who is currently hospitalized or in need of pastoral

care, please contact Pastor Glenn at SPPastor@yahoo.com or (414) 550.1553.



Please remember with your prayers, cards & calls:

- *Carl Roock, hospitalized with COVID-19
- *Sheila Anderson, recovering at home from COVID-19 after recent hospitalization
- *Jill Lotzow, recovering from COVID-19
- *LouAnn Evert, undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer
- *Ardy Senfleben, recovering from Aug. 31 knee replacement surgery
- *Dan O'Keane, recovering from Sept. 22 knee replacement surgery
- *Joyce O'Keane, as she grieves her sister's recent loss
- *Lori Snow, as she grieves her sister's loss
- *Steve Manuell, as he grieves his mother's loss
- *Brock Guetzke, recently diagnosed with kidney cancer
- *Ron Perschon, now in home hospice care suffering from prostate cancer
- *the people out West recovering from wild fires
- *Donna Runte's father-in-law, hospitalized with a brain bleed
- *All students, parents, and teachers doing their best to navigate a very difficult school year
- *A vaccine for the coronavirus and healing for all those who are suffering

Pastor Glenn's Contact Information:

Cell phone: (414) 550.1553 E-mail: SPPastor@yahoo.com



Confirmation 2020 Mason Weber

Mason and I visited Holy Hill and it was beautiful! The church was filled with people and the music was angelic. It was an amazing experience for both of us! As we were walking around afterwards talking about it, Mason said "I like our church better". Hmmm I wondered... Our small church? I wonder why!! But I knew... You see, nobody there talked to each other after mass. Nobody asked Mason how his basketball games are going. They don't remember him when he was 4 years old and dressed up like a sheep for the Christmas pageant one year and a wiseman the next. They didn't EVEN have coffee and conversation. See, at our church- we believe in God just like they do, and I'm sure there are a lot of great things going on in a big church with a beautiful cathedral sanctuary, but here...you *feel* it. You *live* it. You are *family*.

So, I guess what I'm saying is deciding to confirm your beliefs at our church was probably easy. You have roots here. You came to Sunday School here. You came to VBS here. You don't remember this, but your Grandma probably caused a big commotion somewhere in the back there when you were a baby showing you off to all the ladies here!! *You* don't remember, but *they* do .. You have roots here. And This is *home* to you.

Here is what I want you to remember though. **God loves you.** He loves you always, never a question, never a doubt.

God forgives you. You will make mistakes in your life. That's human. He forgives. Always.

Be strong. Be really strong. When things get tough and they will, you need to be strong in your faith that He is with you. He is standing right there. He is in your heart. You will experience amazing things in your life, but you will not be immune to the hard times. There will be experiences that will make you question God. Your faith will shake and *that's* okay. But never ever forget, God is with you. He knows what you are going through. Let Him be that spark, that *small* spark in your darkest hour that keeps you afloat. That's all you need. If you never forget that, **all** your amazing times will be *unforgettable* and your strength in God will always get you through any hard times. ALWAYS walk by Faith and Not by Sight!!

Mason, you are an amazing kid. My heart skipped a beat when I was asked to be your mentor. I feel honored to be on this path with you. Our time during confirmation is a short path but know that I am always here for you. Thank you for asking me to be your mentor!!

Love, Jodi Staus