

# ST. PAUL'S UCC ERIN CHAPEL BELLS

February, 2026

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Another month on the horizon. February. February is a short month, but it's full of meaning and opportunities to follow in Jesus' footsteps. Yes, it's still winter, but winter calls us to slow down. Not hibernate certainly, but a time to take care of ourselves.

February brings us Ash Wednesday (February 18) with the imposition of ashes marking the beginning of Lent. Lent, to me, is a time of personal reflection. A time to take stock of myself. And in addition, to set small, meaningful goals. As the days grow longer and the shadows lengthen, I remind myself to show greater gratitude and kindness not only here in church but outside of church.

The world outside our church doors has certainly turned cold and dark. Much of January's events weigh heavy on my heart and probably yours as well. What will February bring us? Lent calls us to slow down and turn our hearts to God in preparation for the joy of Easter.

February encourages us to reflect on our relationship with God, to practice kindness and generosity, to let go of distractions and habits that draw our attention away from what truly matters. Lent offers us a time to renew our hearts and minds. It is a sacred tradition, practiced for many Christian generations. You will not find it in your Bible, but its practices are rooted in Biblical themes...Jesus' 40 days fast in the wilderness - for example.

I have read that the word Lent comes from Old English and Germanic origins referring to springtime or lengthening of days. Apricity is another archaic word which in Latin means "the warmth of the sun in winter." Winter sunshine carries the coming of spring. As I write this on a cold and snowy January afternoon, that sounds so good to me.

As you journey through Lent, remember to be kind to yourself as well as honest. Stay safe. Stay healthy.

Lenten Blessings to you!  
Bonnie



St. Paul's U.C.C. – Erin's  
Annual Meeting will be on  
February 15 at 10:45.  
Reports will be available on  
February 8th. Please contact  
Bernice or Council President  
Kay with any questions.



**St. Paul's UCC Blood Drive  
Monday February 9  
2:00 PM - 6:30 PM**

**LOCATION:**

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
495 St. Augustine Road, Colgate**

**All donors will receive a voucher for a free  
Milwaukee Admirals ticket, while supplies last.**

**Appointments are highly encouraged.**

**Secure your spot by visiting the link below, scan the QR code,  
or call 877.232.4376.**

**[tinyurl.com/StPaulFeb9](https://tinyurl.com/StPaulFeb9)**



**ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL CHURCH FUNDRAISER, THE CHILI LUNCH & HOMEMADE PIE SALE** will be held on Sunday, February 22nd serving dine in & take out from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (food will be ready for church members who wish to eat or take a to-go, after service at 10:30 am)

**The money raised at this fundraiser helps support the annual church budget.** To defray the cost of preparing the meal and make this a profitable fundraiser, we ask for a donation from each member. Please Contact Connie Johnson if you did not receive your donation request email/slip.

**Please have all canned goods to church by February 15th.** All other items should be at church by 9:30 a.m. on February 22nd. Please return this slip or write your name on your donation.

**The homemade pie sale is always a sell-out!** If you would like to sign up to bake a pie for the fundraiser, please contact Betty Zimpelman at (414) 507-8330 or [lovmydiesel@yahoo.com](mailto:lovmydiesel@yahoo.com)

**Volunteers needed** - Please sign up to help with serving, resetting tables, doing dishes, cashier, etc. A signup sheet for volunteers will be posted in the fellowship hall at church and online under the news & resources tab. <https://signup.com/go/tsNTwiY>

**Help get the word out!** Invite your friends and family to come and enjoy a hot bowl of all you can eat chili, a ham sandwich or grilled cheese. TO GOs are also available. Copies of the flyer are available at church and can be printed from the website (under the NEWS tab). Are you on Facebook? Watch for a post on the church Facebook page and share it on your page too.

Please contact Connie Johnson if you have any questions or a council member if you need help getting your donation to church.

## WOMEN'S GUILD



This year's Cookie Walk was successful, and at our January meeting we came up with some good ideas to make next year's event even better. We also began plans for the pie sale at this year's Chili Lunch. It has become a popular part of the Chili Lunch and we need to step up our pie baking to make sure both members and guests have a good variety of pies to choose from. Hopefully, church members can bake and contribute pies for the sale in addition to Guild members. Speaking of pies, the Guild will again celebrate PI Day and thank the entire congregation for all their support throughout the year by hosting an all-pie Coffee and Conversation March 15.

Guild members will bake cookies for donors at St. Paul's blood drive which will be held on Monday, February 9, from 2 PM to 6 PM. Plan to make an appointment, drop by, leave a pint, save a life and enjoy some delicious cookies!

The next Guild meeting will be on Thursday, February 19, at noon. Bring a sandwich and join us. Dessert will be furnished.

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FEBRUARY	GREETERS	LITURGIST
1 <sup>st</sup>	Misti S. & Truett D.	Truett D.
8 <sup>th</sup>	Bill & Peggy A.	Eugene D.
15 <sup>th</sup>	Jill S. & Jacquie B.	John D.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Curt & Karrie H.	Katie G.

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## THANK YOU



Many thanks to the altar committee and spouses who not only created our Christmas altar decor but to those who very carefully packed it away. Special thanks to Jack D., of course.

Did you notice the white strips on our stairways? Thank Lynn D.

Bernice D. has been sending out cards of all types on behalf of all of us. Thank Bernice when you see her.

Jill S. for coordinating our upcoming Blood Drive (February 9th) sponsored by Versiti Blood Center.

The outgoing Council Members and those who agreed to join Council. As well as those who have faithfully served on the Endowment Committee or the Pastoral Relationship Committee and those who will be filling their position.

Thank you to those who volunteer to act as greeters/ushers or communion servers; those who prepare snacks, etc. for Coffee and Conversation; and those who read scriptures.

Also, welcome Jeff S. whose membership has been reinstated.



## PRAYER LIST

Romans 12: 12 reads: Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Please contact Pastor Bonnie with any requests for prayer or a visit any time - day or night.

This is St. Paul's current list of those who are in need of our cards, visits, thoughts and prayers: Diane S., Joyce O'K., Mark G., John and Polly E., Mary and Tom G., Bernie C., Peggy A., Lucy K., Steve M. and Cheri J.

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## SOMETHING TO SHARE

I do not know who to credit, but I found this quote extremely powerful.

"You have two kinds of people in your life: those who look in your cup to see if you have more than them and those that look into your cup to see if you need more."

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Church Council Meeting Minutes December 8, 2025

The Church Council Meeting came to order at 6 p.m. Those in attendance were Kay O., Pastor Bonnie, Connie J., Fred D., Debbie S., Curt H., and Vicki D. LouAnn E. as a guest.

LouAnn has been managing the Memorial Fund since 1978. She reviewed the duties of managing the Memorial Fund as well as the history of the fund. After 47 years, LouAnn plans to retire from this position at the end of the year. The Church Council will need to assign these duties to someone else. Many thanks to LouAnn for her dedicated service!

The November Council Meeting minutes were approved. The November Financial reports were reviewed and approved.

Pastors Report-Discussed whom the Christmas service loose change should be given to. Agreed upon the Washington County Foster closet. Connie has ordered Christmas offering envelopes. Jill Schaefer has agreed to help schedule a Blood Drive at church in January or February. The Mission Committee has agreed to purchase and manage two doses of Narcan to be available at church. Reverend Lois is having back surgery, and we will send her a card. Jeff S. plans to be reinstated as a church member. Pastor Bonnie will update the Greeter Stand instructions. Blue Christmas service will be held 12/10.

Pledges-we need to get more information from Sharon S. The Nominating Committee for 2026 is Janene K., Kim K., and Cindy C. We need two Council Members. Kay will contact John D. regarding needs for Endowment. PPRC needs one council member for one year. Gary B. and Debbie B. need to either reinstate or replace.

Liaison report- Christian Ed-Debbie- Getting ready for Christmas program and will serve coffee and conversation afterward. Guild-Vicki- Completed successful Cookie Walk. The Gifts to Go did well. Mission-Kay- Collecting gift cards for Waukesha County Christmas Council. Also donating to a family in need. Creatin Care-Curt-Wild bird care program is a success. Recycling brochures are downstairs by kitchen. Plan a PDF mailing to members. Financial-Debbie- Need to reschedule the first meeting. Will develop policy and plan. Music-Vicki- No report. Building and Grounds-Fred- No report.

Council reviewed line items on Budget. We are waiting to receive some end-of-year bills. Reviewed compensation and personnel reviews. Approved compensation increases for Pastor Bonnie and Jill L. Debbie S. and Vicki D. will review Jill L. Kay O. and the PPRC committee will review Pastor Bonnie. End of year/Christmas gifts are designated for Adam S., Pastor Bonnie, Wanda D., Bernice D., Jill L., and a huge thank you to Jack D. and Connie J.!!!

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m. The next Council Meeting is January 12, 2026 at 6 p.m.



# February 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Worship	2	3 Seniors	4	5	6	7 Julia K. Anna K.
8 9:30 Worship	9 Blood Drive 2:00-6:30	10	11	12	13	14
15 9:30 Worship Annual Meeting 10:45 Jacquie B. Betty Z..	16	17 Chapel Bells items due to Donna	18 John E. Nolan W. Jeff G.	19 Guild 12 Noon  Katie G.	20	21 Neil O. Obie O.
22 9:30 Worship Chili Lunch & Pie Sale 11—2 Bonnie H. Debra W. 	23	24 Marysa H. Bill & Bernie C. Anniversary	25	26	27 Wanda D. Jack D.	28