

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



July, 2025

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

“The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.”

— *Isaiah 40:8*

Wow, it certainly is summer. Some days I wake up to feel the weight of humidity in my bones. Yet, of all the seasons, summer seems to go by the fastest. One day it's here and the next it's gone. Of course, it could have something to do with living in Wisconsin.

I read this Isaiah passage this cooler than usual (66 degrees F) morning, and it struck me how loud and clear it was that God's love, God's spirit, God's word, endures no matter the weather, no matter what we are doing or not doing or how still the wind might be at the moment. God's promises are deeper than the roots of the old trees in our cemetery. Those roots run deep and wide.

Some of us take a long-awaited summer vacation in July. I have sweet memories of spending the fourth of July up north and sitting on the pier at sunset to watch the fireworks exploding in the distance or up close from neighbors across the lake. Many of us are in gardens in the early mornings to beat the heat or early evening. At least that is when I would set out to pick raspberries in my backyard.

I invite you to be intentional about designating a time for sacred space...space to hear God's creation around you. Here at church we have wrens singing their hearts out thanks to the refurbished birdhouses Curt hung. I make it a habit upon parking the car to just stand and listen and look. One recent Sunday, we saw a bluebird fly into the grass, heard the wrens and there up at the very tip of the rooster weather vane, was a cardinal. I hope you hear God's voice wherever you are.

No matter where you are on life's journey, I hope you eat a melting ice cream cone and splash in the water, and take in a deep breath of God's love. Most of all, I pray you hear God's voice, because God is Still Speaking...you can hear it if you try.

LITTLE JESUS

Did you get a Little Jesus? Pastor Bonnie did a reverse offering of these rubber Jesus figures on Father's Day. A reverse offering is when you receive the offering plate with something to receive and place your offering in as something to give. Currently, there are several on the window sills in the sanctuary, feel free to take one. I have heard that Little Jesus has made it to the Kwik Trip! I plan to order more for Fall when the Mission Maniacs return.



CREATION CARE



Being a relatively new committee, we now have a description of what we are all about. “We understand creation care to mean that we care about our interactions with the natural environment God created. Creation Care incorporates a variety of themes ... recycle, reclaim, reuse, solar energy, reduced use of plastics, etc. We believe that all creation is God’s, and that we are responsible for the ways in which we use it.”

Have you noticed, we have cloth napkins available at Coffee and Conversation?. Why? Not only are we saving the cost of paper napkins, but used paper napkins are not recyclable. In fact, anything that has food stains, etc. are not recyclable. Paper mills, themselves, emit a great deal of greenhouse gases. Go ahead and try the cloth napkin. Do you have any cloth napkins to donate to church? They would be welcomed. Do you have cloth napkins you could be using at home instead of paper napkins or paper towels? Better to use them than sitting daintily in a drawer. FYI: Pastor Bonnie volunteered to wash the ones at church.



WOMEN’S GUILD

At our June Guild meeting we discussed opportunities to participate in St. Paul’s 185th anniversary celebration. The Guild will celebrate its 110th year as well. What a strong history we are built upon!

The Guild will sell cookies again at this year’s St. Paul’s Brat Fry in September at Monches Recreation Park.

Ideas for coffee and conversation following church services were discussed. We are also assembling a list of caterers that can be contacted by families planning funeral refreshments at the church.

We have 14 people attending “The Last Potluck Supper” at the Fireside dinner theatre on July 18. There will be no Guild meeting in July.

The next Guild meeting will be August 21. As always, all St. Paul’s women are invited to attend.

JUNE WEDDINGS

Scott H. and Anna K. were married on Thursday, June 12th here at St. Paul’s. The date was specifically chosen to honor Grandma K’s birthday, the groom’s 24th birthday, additional Grandma and Grandpa’s anniversary and Nanna and Pappa S’s 60th anniversary. It was an intimate but meaningful ceremony followed by a family meal. Congratulations Scott and Anna H.

Congratulations to Debbie B.’s daughter, Jenni H., who has married David M. on June 4th.



Aeli Olson and Robert (Robbie) Beres were married the following weekend on June 21st. Theirs was a much hotter day, but together we celebrated the gift of marriage. A very special part of their wedding was a service of communion shared by the bride and groom, while their best man offered a lovely song on his guitar. It was very touching. Unfortunately for us, they have moved to Minnesota but promise to visit.

RECYCLE

If you have plastic or paper bags to share, please give them to Debbie G. She has a friend whose husband cuts them and she crotchets them into mats for the homeless shelters. Also, Curt H. has offered to deliver plastic bags to be recycled. God's creation is precious. Let's all do our part.

*Our thoughts
And prayers
Are with you*

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Ron and Diane S., Joyce O'K, Marvin S., Mark G., Charmaine D., John and Polly E., Jill P.

SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathies to Debbie G. at the death of her 102 year-old-mother and to John D. with the passing of his elderly mother.

Thankful 🙌 Grateful 💖 Blessed 🙏

CONGRATULATIONS

The Edgar's grandson, Erik, graduated with a Master's Degree in Business and is presently employed in Boston. Leland A.'s grandson Mason graduated from Slinger High School.

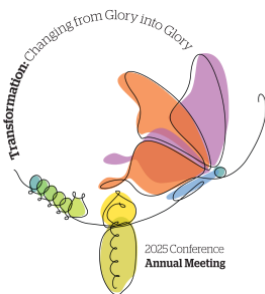
THANK YOU

Our thanks to our "weeders" for cleaning up our flower beds.

For the lovely flower arrangement from Bonnie H.'s garden.

Lynn D. did an awesome job on our Father's Day bulletin board, incorporating some of her husband's ties to spell out the word Dad and adding "What My Father Taught Me" stories. Check them out.

Many thanks to our IT team - Dave Z., Cindy C., Cheryl F., and Eugene D., who volunteer their time on Sunday mornings.



WISCONSIN CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

The theme this year was "So, We Did This Thing..." Cindy C. attended our Annual Meeting at the Green Lake Conference Center, Friday through Sunday and heard our Associate General Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Operations, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson's address. Pastor Bonnie was present at the Thursday Intensive Workshop at Daycholah with particular emphasis on Small Town and Rural Churches, Community Outreach and Digital Ministry, Church Transformation & Revitalization and Church Vitality and Invitational Models. If you want more details, both of us would love to tell you more. It was excellent.



Thank you to everyone who came to the Monches Fellowship event on June 3rd.

July	Greeters	Liturgist
July 6	Donna R. & Carl R.	Steve M.
July 13	Dave & Betty Z.	Alice M.
July 20	Vicki & Eugene D.	Bernie C.
July 27	Karrie & Curt H.	Jacquie B.

Greeters July, August, and September		Communion
July 6th	Donna R. & Carl R.	
July 13th	Dave & Betty Z.	
July 20th	Vicki & Eugene D.	
July 27th	Karrie & Curt H.	
August 3rd	Bill & LouAnn E.	Connie J. & Vicki D.
August 10th	Lucy K. & Debbie S. (Greet only)	
August 17th	John & Lynn D.	
August 24th	Kay O'K. &	
August 31st	Bernie C. & Cindy C.	
September 7th	Steve & Alice M.	Karrie & Curt H.
September 14th	Jean S. & Bonnie H.	
September 21st	Norb & Barb B.	
September 28th	Jill P & Cheryl F.	

SOMETHING TO SHARE

The following is a snippet of a book titled *you belong* A Handbook for Church Members written by Allen H. Marheine, that I found thought provoking. How do you define the church?

Not Brick and Mortar but Flesh and Blood

Once past the tendency of equating church with building, the task remains to identify clearly who and what we are. A familiar song states:

I am the church —

You are the church —

We are the church —

This song reminds us that the church is not a building but is composed of real persons. However, the Boy Scouts can sing the same song by just changing a word or two — as can the Kiwanis Club, the YMCA, NAACP, AARP, etc. All of these groups can say that they are not a building but a people. So it is that newspaper obituaries list all of the deceased's affiliations including church. The implication drawn from such a listing is that the church is *just* one more organization among many to which one belongs. Wrong!



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 the 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.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Church Council Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2025

The Church Council Meeting came to order at 6 p.m. Those in attendance were Pastor Bonnie, Cindy Cain, Connie Johnson, Fred Dieball, Kay O'Keane, Debbie Schlafer, and Vicki Dost.

The April Council Meeting minutes were approved. The April Financial Report was reviewed and approved.

Pastor's report: Pastor Bonnie updated the greeter instructions to include dimming of lights during preparing for worship, then turning lights back up for worship. Will also put in Chapel Bells. Aprons in the Wind were very well received. Will advertise next year. Bonnie handed out sample Mission statements for the council to review. Will discuss in June. Bonnie and Cindy will attend Annual UCC meeting in Green Lake. Bonnie is working on setting up a new member meeting. Also, there are 3 possible confirmations for next year.

Front doors of church- Fred will check with Jack for any updates.

Financial information in Chapel Bells- will be discussed with the congregation at the annual meeting.

The new Church Directory- will start to put together soon.

Spring clean-up went well. Thank you to all the volunteers! Fred will check with Jack regarding the weeding of the gardens.

185th Anniversary in October- Looking to form a committee to plan the celebration. Kay will contact other church members for planning.

Liaison reports: Building and grounds- Fred will follow up with Jack regarding door and weeds. Christian Education- This Sunday is the last day of Sunday school. Will celebrate summer birthdays. Also, Sunday school will set up for Auction. Looking for Sunday school help next year. Guild- Planning lunch and a play at the fireside 6/18. Creation care- Looking at applying for a grant to rid of buckthorn. May plant sunflowers. Technology- Dave will check with Rich regarding a screen addition or light moving. We would also like a boom mike added. Fellowship- Council may come up with fellowship ideas and announce to congregation. Music- No report. Mission- Undy 500 until 5/25. Memorial Fund- LuAnn decided to continue until this fall.

Organizational chart and mission statement discussions will be at the June meeting. A possible fundraising idea- selling 50/50 raffle tickets at the Dockhounds games.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40. Our next meeting is June 9, 2025.

July 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Seniors Kevin S. Fred & Wanda D. Anniversary	2	3 LuAnn E. Kevin & Jodi S. Anniversary	4 	5 Vicki L.
6 9:30 Worship	7 Jill S.	8	9 Vicki G.	10	11	12
13 9:30 Worship	14	15 Mary G.	16	17	18 Women's Guid Trip	19
20 9:30 Worship	21 6 PM Council meeting	22	23	24 Jodi D.	25 Curt & Karrie H. Anniversary	26
27 9:30 Worship New Member Sunday Charlie & Janene K. Anniversary	28 Alice M. Donna R.	29	30	31 Corey J.		