

# Chapel Bells

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

262-628-2319

[www.StPaulsErin.org](http://www.StPaulsErin.org)

May, 2026



### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Has your life ever gotten really out of whack?

I was recently in conversation with a group of fellow clergy women, and we found ourselves reflecting on a challenge that feels all too familiar: how to maintain a healthy balance between church life, home life and personal time. Each of these areas carries real responsibility and deep meaning, yet when one begins to overshadow the others, it doesn't take long before everything feels confusing.

What struck me most in our conversation was how simple many of our shared practices of self-care were. No elaborate plans, just small intentional choices. One pastor spoke about the discipline of turning off the computer and stepping outside for a short walk. Another mentioned a few quiet moments taking a few quiet moments to breathe and pray.

The council approved a week of vacation for me from May 23 to the 30th. As I am writing this I have not finalized plans for that week, however, my hope is to spend two nights at a retreat center...perhaps even a silent retreat. I have never experienced a silent retreat but to have dedicated time to spend with God, that would be a real treat.

This year, the 50th day after Easter, the day to celebrate as Pentecost Sunday, falls on May 24th. Pentecost is often referred to as the Birthday of the Church and we have plans in the making of celebrating with an emphasis on Birthdays. As a result, I am going to do something a bit unorthodox. I'm going to move Pentecost to Sunday, May 31st when we will also celebrate the baptism of Elouise Becker.

Balance in our lives is not something we achieve once and for all. The key is to truly be attentive to our bodies, minds and spirits asking for rest. Even Jesus stepped away from the crowds to pray, to rest, and to be alone with God. If he needed times of restoration, how much more do we? Give yourself permission to hit pause and you may find not only renewed energy, but also a deeper awareness of God's presence with us - steady, unhurried, and always inviting us back into balance. Amen.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MANAGING WEBSITE AND YOUTUBE CHANNEL

**WHAT'S HOLDING YOU  
BACK?**

**HERE'S AN EASY WAY  
TO HELP OUT....**

We are looking for a volunteer to manage the church website including posting weekly updates along with someone to manage the church YouTube channel which involves editing weekly service. This would be a great way to give of your time without being overly time consuming. If you would like more information on what is involved, please contact Connie Johnson at [ecfamily5@gmail.com](mailto:ecfamily5@gmail.com) or (262) 313 7672.



YouTube

St Paul's UCC Erin church service ...

## APRONS IN THE WIND



Our Mother's Day tribute is gearing up for our second annual display. The clothes lines are to be installed on May 6th and the aprons hung on the 7th. The exhibit will be open to the public from May 8th through Mother's Day, May 10th. The Guild will be offering "Christmas Cookies" with free-will donations to support the Lisbon Presbyterian church which sustained major tornado related damage.

The following is the media release sent to local newspapers, radio stations and television stations. Please watch for it and spread the word!

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, located at the corner of St. Augustine and Monches Roads in Colgate, has been gifted a truly spectacular apron display by a neighbor - an exhibit rich in history, love, and remembrance.

This heartfelt tradition began around 2008, when Teri first displayed her mother's aprons over Mother's Day weekend to honor her memory. Over the years, the collection has grown as Teri and others contributed aprons in tribute to their own mothers and grandmothers. Today, nearly 200 aprons flutter in the May breeze on our side church lawn, creating a vibrant and meaningful visual tribute.

Community members are warmly invited to participate by adding an apron in honor of their mother or grandmother. Each contribution becomes part of this remarkable annual memorial. Dedication cards will be available to fill out and pin to your apron - or to any apron in the collection that has not yet to be dedicated. As each apron is hung, a prayer is offered, sending remembrance and love on the wind far and wide.

The exhibit will be open to the public May 8 through Mother's Day on May 10. Visitors are encouraged to stroll through the display, read the personal histories, and take in the beautiful colors and patterns that transform these aprons into true works of art.

This year, we will have a table of freshly-baked Christmas Cookies - St. Paul's is well known for its outstanding annual Christmas Cookie Sale - for guests to enjoy. A free-will offering will be collected, with all proceeds donated to Lisbon Presbyterian Church, which sustained significant damage during the Sussex tornado on April 14, 2026.

Come, celebrate, remember, and be part of this touching tribute to mothers.



## **Strengthen the Church**

### STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

Strengthen the Church is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ designed to advance the church's mission and growth. The theme for this year is Sent Forth in Love. Your participation in this offering furthers the work of our conferences and the national UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided with 50% staying regionally within our conference and 50% supporting the National Ministries. Strengthen the Church offering envelopes will be available on May 10th through May 24th. Be sure to include your name so you can be appropriately credited.



### **ST. PAUL'S GUILD**

At our May meeting the Guild discussed participating in St. Paul's Aprons in the Wind Mother's Day display and at the same time raising funds to help recovery efforts for Lisbon Presbyterian Church in Sussex which was heavily damaged in the May 14 tornado. We plan to have a free-will offering cookie sale from 10 AM to 4 PM during the 3-day tribute with funds raised going to Lisbon Presbyterian Church recovery efforts. We also hope our sale raises awareness of St. Paul's Aprons in the Wind Mother's Day Tribute and brings out our neighbors who enjoy shopping St. Paul's popular Cookie Walk each Christmas. Some of us will be trying out new cookie recipes for this year's Cookie Walk as well as old favorites from past years. Please consider helping us out by volunteering three hours to staff the cookie table. (Distribute cookies, accept offerings, chat with passersby etc.) A sign-up sheet is on the coffee table in the Fellowship Hall.

We also began assembling a list of inside jobs for clean-up day which will be on the coffee table. If inside is where you would like to help out, check the list, bring supplies for your job and arrive at 9 AM on Saturday, May 2.

The next meeting will be at noon on Wednesday, May 20. We hope all St. Paul's women feel welcome to join us. Bring a bag lunch. Dessert will be furnished.



### **STORM DAMAGE**

Wow, we have had a deluge of weather-related disasters across our region and beyond. Many of you have reached out with concern, especially asking how we can support Lisbon Presbyterian Church during this difficult time. Pastor Bonnie has been in touch with their pastor via email, offering words of encouragement and reminding them that they are not alone. She also extended our willingness to help in any way we can, beyond our thoughts and prayers.

In addition, our Mission Committee will be making a monetary donation on behalf of our congregation through the Wisconsin Council of Churches, which is actively serving communities affected throughout the state. This allows our support to reach not only one congregation, but many others in need. If you would like to make a personal donation, please consider visiting the Wisconsin Council of Churches website.

Our Aprons in the Wind project in cooperation with the Women's Guild will have a free-will offering of "Christmas Cookies" to those who visit, with proceeds going to the Lisbon Presbyterian Church.

In moments like these, we are reminded that the Church is not just one building or one community, but a wider body bound together in compassion and care. When one suffers, we all feel it. If further opportunities arise to offer hands-on support, Pastor Bonnie will share them.



May	GREETERS	LITURGIST
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kay O'K. &	Jacque B.
10 <sup>th</sup>	Bernie C. & Jill P.	Cindy C.
17 <sup>th</sup>	Dave & Betty Z.	Bernie C.
24 <sup>th</sup>	Karrie & Curt	Bernice D.
31 <sup>st</sup>	Bill & LouAnn	Truett D.

Grab your gloves, rakes, shovels, and dust rags and come help with Spring Clean Up! Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30. Inside, outside, no time requirement, stay and help as long as you can!

Thank you to our scripture readers for our Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service: Jill L., Bernie C., Cindy C., Jill P., Curt H., Eugene D., Jacquie B., and John D.



Many thanks to the Altar Committee + (husbands, etc.) for adorning our Easter Sunday Service with the smells and colors of joyous flowering plants and coordinating those donated in honor or memory of loved ones. Also, Jack's assistance with transporting the plants.

The potluck held on Easter Sunday once again extends its thanks to Kathy, H., a friend of the St. Paul's, for her generous donation of ham. Jill L. deserves a round of applause for managing the kitchen.

It can't be said often enough, Thank You to Jill L. and our choir members!

Did you know Bill E. polished our offering plates? Great job Bill.

Thanks to Jacquie B. for the idea of creating a wall hanging above our food pantry carts reminding us Until All Are Fed; to Vickie L. for making that idea a reality and to Jeff G. for adding hardware to the signage.

### THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Diane S., Joyce O'K., Mark G., John and Polly E., Mary and Tom G., Lucy K., Steve M., Cheri J., Gary B., Jill P. and all those who suffered damage as a result of recent storms including flooding, downed trees, and tornadoes.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Peggy and Bill A.'s granddaughter, Kendall, will be graduating from Carroll University as a Registered Nurse. Congratulations!! In addition, their granddaughter, Emma, performed on the piano at a state competition and was one of only three to earn a ribbon amongst some stiff competition. We are so proud of both these young ladies. Pastor Bonnie's granddaughter, Emmilyn, will be graduating as a Registered Nurse from Viterbo University.

The Swanson's great granddaughter, Anabelle, will graduate from high school on May 14th. Kay's grandson Brendan is graduating from Lane Tech High School in Chicago.

Nate W. will be attending the National Skills USA competition as a junior!

Both Ava and Abbi, Sharon and Al S's granddaughters, for their accomplishments in recent gymnastic competitions.

And, to Truett, who is excelling in Track and Field.

Congratulations to Mark K.'s daughter, Lauren, who got engaged!

*Thank you all so much for the cards, prayers, and sweet messages while I was in the hospital and rehab.*

*I'm so grateful for each of you and am very blessed to be part of such a wonderful extended family at St. Paul's.*

*Feeling stronger every day and very thankful ❤️*

*And I apologize for any goofy things I said when I wasn't quite myself 😊*

*Bernice*



**St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Church Council Meeting Minutes March 9, 2026**

The Church Council meeting came to order at 6 p.m. Those in attendance were Kay O., Pastor Bonnie, Jill S., Connie J., Debbie S., Curt H., Mark K., and Vicki D. Pastor Bonnie led the group with a prayer. The February Council Meeting minutes were approved with one correction. The February Financial Reports were reviewed and approved. The Council elected Debbie S. to be council President, Curt H. to be Vice President, Connie J. will remain as Treasurer, and Vicki D. will remain as Secretary. We welcome our new council members Jill S., and Mark K. Thank you to Kay O. and Fred D. for their dedicated service on the council!

Pastor's report- Pastor Bonnie is working with the Altar Committee on their supplies. They have added gluten-free wafers to communion. We are asking that the greeters do church attendance in Bernice's absence. Connie is working on a list of all Bernice's duties. Pastor Bonnie investigated some advertising options. Our Easter services will be mentioned on WTKM radio for free. Council discussed the other paid options, and we decided to place a 7-line ad in the Daily News church directory for \$59 a quarter. Jill L. and Pastor Bonnie will provide meat ham and buns for the Easter potluck. Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service is 4/2. Easter Sunday service is 4/5.

Council completed a review of emergency/elevator operation with the new members. Council reviewed the Endowment membership and will appoint 2 new members. Vicki D. will ask Kyle G., and Connie J. will ask Jodi Dupras. Vicki D. agreed to represent council on PPRC. Curt H. will check with Jack D. regarding date for Spring clean-up. Pastor Bonnie is planning to attend the annual conference on Thursday 4/9. Cindy C. and Jill L. plan to attend on 4/10-11. Council will review church membership at the next meeting. Donna R. will send Curt H. the current list. Pastor Bonnie will complete a list of committees and their members. Our Chili lunch total was \$2108. Thank you to Connie and her family and all who helped!

Liaison report- Building and grounds-Curt-no report. Creation Care-Curt-working on getting quotes.

Technology-Vicki-You tube is down. Cindy is working on it. Christian Ed-Debbie-Easter egg hunt is 4/28. Packing the college care packages. Guild-Vicki- Stuffing eggs for the egg hunt on 3/18. Missions-Jill- The Narcan is here. Altar-Jill-no report. Music-Vicki-Debbie S and I completed Jill's review. Organ may need repair in the future. Financial- Debbie- Committee concerned regarding the condition of roof for insurance. They can get a report on the roof condition. Planning to do a presentation at our next council meeting. Other items-Pastor Bonnie will attend a presentation on the UCC revised Manual of a Local Church. We received a thank you from OCWM and made 5 for 5 congregations. Connie J. will work on developing the role of the Memorial Fund. Connie suggested using a Google doc that Misti, Connie, and Sharon S. would access for data entry. Debbie S.- Some members commented that they would like a sermon on hymn sing Sunday. The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. The next council meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2026, at 6 p.m.

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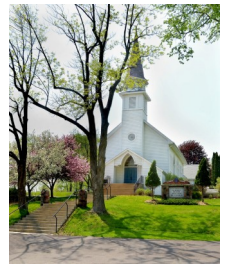
**SOMETHING TO SHARE**

Although Artemis II, NASA's latest space adventure, was launched on April 1, dramatic lunar moon photos from that mission continue to be shared with the public almost daily. These photos reminded me of Rosemary Wahtola Trommer's poetic words, "For everything we see, so much we miss."

*In the dark house  
we watch the moon  
rise through the window,  
watch as its fullness  
climbs into the sky.  
For everything we see,  
so much we miss.  
But in this moment,  
your hand in mine,  
we give the moon  
all our attention until  
every part of us,  
even our wounds, are  
shining.*

— Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer,  
*"How We Momentarily Become the Moon"*

# May 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Spring Clean up 8:30
3 9:30 Worship Sunday School Soup & Bread Fundraiser  Aspen R.	4  Lewe & Sharon J.'s Anniversary	5 Seniors  Gary B.	6  Jerry L. Dave Z.	7 Hanging of the Aprons	8	9
10 9:30 Worship   Taylor G.	11 Aprons taken down  Kathy S.	12	13	14  Adam S. Ethan S.	15  Ken & Donna R.'s Anniversary	16
17 9:30 Worship  John D. Lynn D.	18	19  Keith L. Jayden M.	20 Women's Guild 12 Noon	21	22 Pastor Bonnie & Jeff's Anniversary	23
24 9:30 Worship Truett D. Pastor Bonnie & Jeff's Anniversary	25 	26	27	28	29 Amore' O. John & Rachel H.'s Anniversary	30
31 9:30 Worship  Jill P.						