



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

November is a month dedicated to thankfulness and stewardship as in pledging out of thankfulness for all St. Paul's UCC in Erin means to us and to our community. Once again, individuals will speak of their faith journey and St. Paul's during a Stewardship moment. Once again, our Stewardship committee is asking for you to pledge an amount you will "gift" to St. Paul's during 2025. Yikes, 2025! Yes, 2025!

There are many ways to support the work of this congregation. I'm not supporting the idea of renting your pew for a year like many churches did in the 1800s. I'm not supporting the idea of having paid advertisements from local businesses in our bulletins or on our screen. I wholeheartedly support making a pledge from your heart. This is a generous congregation on so many levels. There is a spirit of generosity that guides our missions and the Christian education of our youth and adults for that matter, our music program, and on and on.

According to Christian Smith's definition of generosity from his work with the Generosity Project at Notre Dame University, he wrote:

"Generosity is the virtue of giving good things to others freely and abundantly. It is a learned character trait that involves attitude and action entailing both the inclination and actual practice of giving liberally. It is not a haphazard behavior but a basic orientation to life. What generosity gives can vary: money, possessions, time, attention, aid, encouragement, and more but it always intends to enhance the true wellbeing of the receiver. Like all virtues, generosity is in people's genuine enlightened self-interest to learn and practice."

I looked back through the Chapel Bells of the past year to get a taste of what happened at St. Paul's. We host a Seniors Gathering monthly which is open to the public; Bible Study meets once a month; our Women's Guild meets and plans events and disperses their funds between local and church needs; Creation Care concerns itself with God's command to be stewards of the earth; Coffee with Pastor Bonnie gathers folks outside of the church and in the community. We do FUN stuff too - Vintage car, truck and tractor Sunday, Pie Sunday, Brewer's tailgate party in the parking lot, brat fry with worship, food, raffles, music and kickball at Monches Park.

Before you fill out your 2025 pledge card, pray on it. Good things come with prayer.



CIVIL SERVANT SUNDAY

Out of a desire to express our thankfulness for all that our local civil servants do for us individually and as a church, we are inviting them to attend our November 24th worship service followed by a special Coffee and Conversation. We have extended invitations to the Richfield Fire and Ambulance Department staff, the Washington County Sheriff's Department staff, and the Highway Department staff. Staff in this case includes those folks who handle the business of the office and take our phone calls, etc. The Richfield Fire and Ambulance Department has offered to come with a Fire Truck and Ambulance.

LENTEN ALL CHURCH PROJECT

On the surface it looks like this must be a mistake because we haven't even entered Advent yet. No mistake. The Creation Care Committee, Mission Committee, Nutty Knitters and The Women's Guild are inviting everyone to participate in collecting plastic bags between now and the beginning of Lent which is March 9, 2025. During Lent, we will be creating Plarn (plastic yarn) to be used in patterns for grocery bags, sleeping mats, waste baskets, totes, rugs...Pinterest has over 300 ideas. For now, bring your CLEAN Plastic bags to the church office.



THANK YOU

Thanks go out to Jodi S. for doing an amazing job of keeping our Facebook page eye-catching and current.

Thanks to Adam S. for volunteering to take over our recycling and trash collection. THANK YOU Adam.

Thank you to Steve and Alice M. for their Stewardship Moment presentation. You work well together! LOL

Thanks to Jack for replacing the section of sidewalk with a bump at the rooster door entrance. Marilyn will tell you it's so smooth now!

As of this writing, the FALL CLEAN UP day has not happened but by the time you receive the November Chapel Bells it will have. So. Huge thanks to all those who helped clean up the area formerly known as the prayer garden in advance. Hot dogs and S'Mores were good too! (I hope) Instead of Trick or Treat, we had Work and Treat.



St. Paul's has been blessed with a new piano and its tone is so sweet and warm, much like Beulah Timm in whose memory it was dedicated. Many thanks to Jill L. for procuring this particular instrument and, of course, to the Timm family for choosing to use Beulah's memorial money to purchase it. Beulah's memory will live on each time Jill opens the piano lid and shares her musical talents.

Timm family presenting the piano.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS that means an extra hour of sleep on November 3rd, which happens to be our Veteran Recognition Sunday. Note to myself (Pastor Bonnie): Just don't sleep in so long you oversleep!



BIBLE STUDY will meet on November 14th at 1 PM in Pastor Bonnie's office. We will be discussing the scriptures for the upcoming week to include: 1 Samuel 1: 4-20; Hebrews 10: 11-25, Mark 13: 1-8.



COFFEE WITH PASTOR BONNIE - NOVEMBER 21ST We always have more than one laugh in addition to a yummy drink and perhaps a bakery treat. We meet at Java Dancer at 10 or whenever you can make it - Just Show Up!



WOMEN'S GUILD

At our October meeting members okayed purchase of spoons (real soup spoons) for the Chili Dinner, and we made our annual designation of Guild funds. This year we will donate \$500 to the Mission Maniac's Guitars for Vets mission; \$1,000 to the Sunday School; \$1,000 to St. Paul's Mission Committee; and will consider a donation to the Garden Committee if there is a need. Our thanks to Jack D. for all he does for us is his usual pecan pie!

LouAnn and Bill E. volunteered to repaint the new bathroom (after hunting season).



Planning began for this year's 33rd Annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 7. This is the Guild's biggest fundraiser and we are hoping to have another successful event to help us support our church in the coming year. Very soon we will have advertising posters available for display at businesses and workplaces and cookie walk information flyers to be shared with friends and neighbors. Everyone's help in distributing these and spreading the word about our cookie walk is appreciated. We ask the entire congregation to bake cookies for this important fundraiser—at least 5 dozen. But remember "If you can bake 'um—we can sell 'um" so if you are able to bake more, it would be very much appreciated.

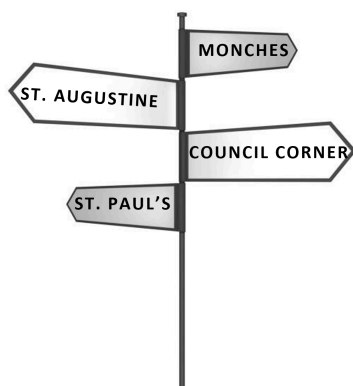
You will receive an email blast soon with more details and a request that you let us know what variety cookies you will be baking. The Guild is a small group—the success of our cookie walk is because of the generous support of the entire congregation. Thank you! Again this year, there will be no early sales.

The next Guild meeting is on Thursday, November 21, at noon. All St. Paul's women are invited to bring a bag lunch and join us. Dessert will be furnished.

COUNCIL NOTES

Lights and Doors

Many lights have been left on in the past few weeks- both upstairs and downstairs in the church. Please be sure that all lights are turned off when you leave the building. Not all of the lights automatically turn off. Doors between areas of the church also need to be closed. This is a suggestion from past fire inspections to prevent the spread of a fire.



PLEASE



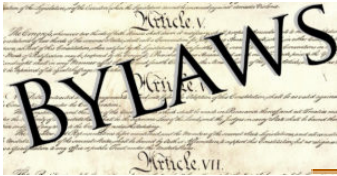
TURN OFF LIGHTS

Pastor Evaluations

Each year the Church Council must review our pastor's performance. First we meet in executive session to discuss this review and then some members of the council meet with the pastor in person to discuss our evaluation.

This year the Council is asking you to help with the process by filling out an anonymous evaluation form. This will be a great help in improving the health and ministry of our congregation.

Forms may be found on the greeters' stand and should be returned to the envelope marked Evaluations also found on the greeters' stand. All forms should be returned by Sunday, November 24. You may choose to answer all 4 questions or just those you want to give input on.



Updated copies of the 2024 Bylaws will be available soon. They will have the changes approved at the Special Congregational Meeting on October 13. If you would like a copy, please see Pastor Bonnie. Thank you to all those who attended the meeting and voted to approve the by-law changes the Council suggested.



Christmas Dates for Your Calendar

Children's Christmas Program Sunday, December 15 during service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 4:00 and 6:00 - No Christmas Day Service

BUNDLE UP BROWN STREET for 2024

The Mission Committee will once again offer the congregation a heartwarming, fun holiday opportunity to provide third graders at Brown Street Academy in Milwaukee with warm winter jackets for Christmas. This year we have 21 third graders in Mr. Williams' class who need new warm winter coats.

If you would like to participate in this project for our young neighbors in Milwaukee who could truly use our help, you can pick up a bag on Sunday, November 3 at church. The project will run from November 3 thru December 1. If you do not care to shop but still want to participate, we will gladly accept your cash donations and do the shopping for you. You have 3 ways to donate:

- Pick up a bag at church and have fun shopping for "your" child.
- Write a check to St. Paul's UCC and put "Brown Street" on the memo line and place the check in the offering basket, or mail it to the church.
- Make a cash donation. Put your money in an envelope with your name and Brown Street School written on the front. Put the envelope in the offering basket. Bernie will have lots of envelopes – just ask.



BUNDLE UP BROWN STREET is a self-funded project. All donations will be used 100% to purchase extra items for the bags. No amount is too small. Bless your generous hearts. Call Bernie Chase with any questions.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

The Mission Committee



	Reader:	Greeters:
November 3rd	Kim Kersten	Roy and Carol K. G, C, O, Com Jerry and Vicki L. Com
November 10th	Cindy Cain	Janene K. and Carl R. G, C, O
November 17th	Steve Manuell	Curt and Karrie H. G, C, O
November 24th	Alice Manuell	Lucy K. and Debbie S. G only Bernice D. and Cheryl F. C, O only



Secret Pals

The Secret Pal Christmas Party and Pal Reveal will be held on Sunday, December 15 at 12:30 p.m. In Fellowship Hall. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share and a gift for your 2024 Secret Pal. New names for next year will be drawn at the event. If you will not be able to attend, please let Charmaine Duehring know and have your gift at church by December 15.

If you haven't been a member of Secret Pals in the past but would like to join please see Charmaine for details.

FROM THE ALTAR COMMITTEE

Christmas Poinsettias

Forms to remember or honor a loved one at Christmas by donating to the purchase of poinsettias to decorate our church for Christmas will be available beginning November 24. Donations of \$5 will allow the Altar Committee to purchase 6-10 poinsettias. The names of those you are remembering will be published in the Christmas bulletin.



SOMETHING TO SHARE

The Lord's Prayer is a hallmark of a Christian church and messing with its words permanently are deeply frowned upon. However, there are times when we have known those words for so long that they just come out of our mouths without thought or feeling. Drew Willard of the United Church of Christ wrote a new version of the Lords' Prayer that I shared at the last Women's Guild meeting. I was asked to email or text it to several of those present. I said I would include it in this month's Chapel Bells.

O God,
Hear this ancient prayer expressed in a new way...
Guardian of us all,
May your name be respected; may your Beloved Community come to be;
May your design unfold on Earth as in Heaven;
Give us today the bread we need;
Forgive us our failures as we forgive those who fail us;
Do not abandon us to disaster, but rescue us from the evil-doer;
For yours is the Beloved Community of dynamic goodness and true beauty,
Now and in the time ahead. It is so!



How do these words affect your understanding of the Lord's Prayer in comparison to:

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

November 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 Worship Veteran's Salute 	4	5 Seniors	6	7 Jo S.	8	9
10 9:30 Worship	11 Council Meeting 6 PM Janene K. Jerry & Vicki L. Anniversary	12	13	14 Bible Study 1 PM	15	16 Chapel Bell items due to Donna Norb B.
17 9:30 Worship Blessing of Pledges Dick A.	18	19	20 Bernie C. Karrie H.	21 Coffee w/Bonnie 10 AM Java Dancer Women's Guild 12 Noon	22	23
24 9:30 Worship Ron & Diane S. Anniversary	25	26	27 Lucy K.	28 	29 Brock G.	30 Susan M.