

CHAPEL BELLS

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



September, 2026



Photo: Jeff G. at Harrington Park, Belgium, WI

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

September ushers in a season of vibrant change. As routines shift for school-aged children and youth, initial excitement - new clothes, backpacks, teacher(s) - often transitions into early morning alarms. Nearby gardens and fields yield their seasonal crops while migrating birds take flight; the remarkable hummingbird, for instance, covers up to 500 miles daily on its journey south.

Our church calendar reflects this dynamic season with several key returns and events. **Choir Practice:**

Resumes every Sunday at 8:30 AM. All are welcome to join - just show up! **Bible Study:** Begins on September 10th at 1 PM. Pastor Bonnie will guide discussions using Matt Miofsky's book titled *happy? what it is and how to find it*. Again, just show up!

Brat Fry, Music, and Vendor Market: Sunday, September 13th brings us the **BRAT FRY** and tons of fun. The change this year includes vendors offering crafts, honey, etc. and Erik J will be there with his paintings. Our outdoor worship will begin at **10 AM**. Help spread the word.

Youth and Confirmation: Sunday school aged children will begin their first class on creation as part of our Outdoor Worship at the Brat Fry supported by the confirmation students.

Confirmation activities officially kicked off with a successful fishing outing! **SPECIAL THANKS** to Eugene D. and Curt H. for supplying transportation, fishing gear, bait and guidance.. Silas caught the most fish and everyone followed catch and release practices. We returned to the prayer garden for hot dogs, smores, lemonade and talking about fish and fishermen in the Bible. Do you think Jonah really lived three days and three nights in the whale's belly? Is there anything God can't do?



Confirmation Class Dedication: Ethan S., Emma S., Jake S., Brielle P., Taylor G., and Silas A. will be recognized as St. Paul's confirmation class of 2026-2027 during worship on September 20th to receive their Bibles, with official classes starting on September 27th. *Note: Per our Safe Practices policy, two adults are required for youth events. If you are willing to assist, please inform Pastor Bonnie in advance to complete the required paperwork.* Who knows, you might want to play Duck, Duck, Goose with them as well...I mean have fun. □□

See you in September!

Back to SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Yay! It's time to get back to our Sunday School classes; stories, games, crafts and snacks! All about God's love for us and God's wonderful creation. We will start on Sunday, September 13th at the Monches Park Brat Fry.



All children ages 3 through 7th grade are invited to join us! It's going to be a fun and exciting year!

Any questions? Contact Debbie Schlafer



CONFIRMATION NEWS

ALL RISE! is an uplifting musical celebrating the life and teachings of Jesus and commemorating his passion and resurrection. The confirmation class is planning to attend the **March 20th, 2027** performance. It will be held at Xavier Fine Arts Theater, [1600 W. Prospect Ave, Appleton](#). The tickets are \$15, however, we can save \$2 on each ticket if we make our reservations of 10 or more before **September 7th!** For more information visit: xaviertheater@xaviercatholicschools.org. Email, text, call or speak to Pastor Bonnie with your thoughts., questions, etc.

September	GREETERS	LITURGIST
6 th	Cheryl F. & Cindy C.	Cindy C
13 th	Brat Fry	Curt H.
20 th	Misti & Truett	Jill P.
27 th	Mark & Kim K.	Truett D.
30 th	Norb & Barb B.	Jacque B.

COUNCIL NOTES

This past month the Council reviewed the Roof Inspection Report that was commissioned earlier. The report has been very helpful in helping us prioritize what needs to be done and gives us a timeline to help us plan. I am happy to say that with a few minor items that we have discussed with Jack, we do have time to plan for this expense. The Investment Committee has made recommendations to the Council, which the Council has approved. This will allow us to be better stewards of the funds entrusted to us. A new computer has been purchased for the church office with the advice of Dave Z and contributions from the Sunday School and Women's Guild. Thank you! This was a much needed purchase. We have also agreed on service times for Christmas Eve services. We will again have two services, one at 3 pm and the second at 5 pm. The Council continued the discussion regarding a first floor bathroom; Jack is helping us with the next steps. We look forward to bringing this to the congregation in the future. Mark your calendars for two big events on September 13th, the Annual Brat Fry and the beginning of Sunday School. We hope to see everyone there!

Have a question or concern? Please reach out to any Council member. We would love to have you sit in on a meeting as we discuss the business of the church. Everyone is welcome!

Debbie Schlafer
Council President

ST. PAUL'S GUILD

At our August meeting it was decided to make contributions to the St. Paul's Brat Fry prizes and team up with the Sunday School to fund the new church computer. The Guild made donations to St. Paul's Creation Care Committee in memory of Jeff G. and to the Salvation Army in memory of Isabel H.

The Guild will be baking and selling cookies for a free-will offering at the Brat Fry again this year. Tune up your taste buds—so far we have cowboy cookies, peanut butter, caramel chocolate chip, sugar, and oatmeal raisin cookies on the list.

We discussed pricing cookies for this year's Christmas Cookie Walk and decided to keep the price at \$10/lb.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 16, at noon. All St. Paul's women are invited to attend.

SOMETHING TO SHARE

Some of the most healing things I can hear in church are words that communicate: You don't have to be okay to be here.

Your questions don't frighten us.

You can love God and be angry.

You can have faith and be afraid.

You can believe and doubt.

You can laugh while you're grieving.

You can have a wonderful day and still be depressed.

Human beings are complicated.

Thank God.

Written by Roger Hutchison

CREATION CARE

The World Council of Churches has declared September 1 through October 4 as THE SEASON OF CREATION. Worldwide some 2.2 billion Christians come together to care for our common home. Here at St. Paul's, we will participate by singing creation hymns both old and new throughout the month. For instance, at our outdoor worship, we will sing the Johnny Appleseed song...O the Lord is Good to Me. Sunday September 20th will be a Service of Lessons and Hymns for Creation Care incorporating different readers highlighting God Created Light, God Created Water, God Created Trees, God Created The Sun, Moon and Stars, God Created Sea Creatures and Birds of the Air, God Created Land Animals, and What Can One Person Do.

Meet Me In The Prayer Garden will be on September 17th at 1:30 pm. This is an informal gathering. Come when you can. The cemetery gate will be open allowing easy access to sit, relax, and admire God's beauty in nature together. Special recognition goes to Curt H., who has been dedicatedly tucking plants and colorful flowers in here and there. It goes without saying that the prayer garden is open to all 24/7.

American Goldfinches



Did you know these delightful little flashes of yellow wait until late July or August to nest? Unlike most birds, they intentionally delay breeding so their chicks hatch precisely when thistle and sunflower seeds peak for feeding. Have you seen any young goldfinches?

THANK YOU

I wish to thank the Church Council and the entire congregation for the recognition of my secretarial work over the years from the church also for the beautiful flowers. It has been my pleasure to be able to serve this church in such a small way.

Thank you to Peggy Ahles for the beautiful cake and all those who prepared lunch. This congregation is so very blessed with all you wonderful generous and caring people.

God Bless you All

Bernice

Bernice D.: Honored for her dedicated years of volunteer service (and thanks to Peggy A. for providing the celebratory cake).

Jack D.: Prepared a nice fire ready for those who participated in Meet Me in the Prayer Garden. Debbie S., Truett D., and Debbie B.: Thank you for leading Sunday School this coming year. (Please reach out if you are interested in joining the teaching team.)

Eugene D., Vicki D., and Lucy K.: Deeply appreciative for their continuous time, energy, and preparation leading up to the Brat Fry.

To the many others contributing behind the scenes - thank you! Pastor Bonnie

SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS



The congregation of St. Paul's UCC - Erin has once again shown their generosity and compassion for our local community by donating school supplies to Family Promise of Washington County. The supplies everyone brought to church and your donations totaling \$535 allowed us to purchase a car full of pencils, paper, crayons, notebooks and more for the children of Washington County who need a little extra help getting ready for the new school year. Family Promise distributes these supplies through the Boys and Girls Clubs in the county. Heartfelt thanks to all who participated.



THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Please pray for John and Polly E., Diane S., Joyce O.K., Mark G., Lucy K., and Steve M.

September

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Debbie S.	4 Jim & J0 S. Anniversary	5
6 9:30 Worship	7	8	9	10	11 Judy N.	12 Tom & Mary G. Rick & Vicki G. Anniversary
13 9:30 Worship at Monches Ballpark Brat Fry	14	15	16 Women's Guild Tracy M.	17 Sharon S. Kyle & Katie G. Anniversary	18	19 Brett & Susan M. Anniversary
20 9:30 Worship Connie J.	21	22	23	24 Rhett N.	25 Dave & Betty Z. Anniversary	26 Cliff & Debbie B. Anniversary
27 9:30 Worship Corey & Cheri J. Anniversary	28 Laura P.	29	30 Brielle P.			