

**St. Pauls
United Church of Christ**



Sixth Sunday of Easter

Good Luck Pastor Steve Davidson!

Sunday, May 5, 2024

**St. Pauls United Church of Christ
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin**

(* = YOU MAY STAND.)

PRELUDE

RINGING THE BELLS, WELCOMING THE LIGHT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Back Guest Musician Abmi Emig

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Friends - as we gather in this sacred space,

ALL: With the uniting winds of the Holy Spirit in the air,

Leader: Let us praise the God of creation,

ALL: The God revealed in Jesus,

Leader: The God known through the Holy Spirit,

ALL: Which abides with us still,

Leader: That all may be one,

ALL: One in the Spirit and one in the Lord,

Leader: Even now as we pray:

***INVOCATION:**

Leader: Loving God, we remember the commandment of Jesus to love one another as He has loved us. May this time of prayer and reflection remind us of the love we have in Jesus, of the joy and hope we can know as we sing our songs of praise, as we hear God's word, and as we resolve to follow the One who taught us how to love one another. Amen.

***OPENING SONG:** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" #2 (vs. 1 and 2)

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Leader: Forgiving God, again today, we confess that we do not always follow the commandments of Jesus. Even as we seek to follow His example, we sometimes forget that we are chosen and appointed by you to bring hope into the world. Forgive us. Help us renew our faith and live by your will with joy in our hearts.
Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

Pastor: Friends - in the gospel of John, Jesus no longer calls us servants, but friends. Each relationship is a new opportunity to nurture Christ's love. Having recognized our wrongdoing, we are assured that we are forgiven, just as God has promised, and free now to abide in God's peace.

***SHARING GOD'S PEACE:**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

ALL: And, also, with you.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Liturgist's Reading: Psalm 98:4 - 9 (P. 713)

Pastor's Reading: John 15:9 - 15 (P. 1289)

SERMON: "Thankful Blessing" **The Rev. Stephen J. Davidson**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

...We ask these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to say when we pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (ALL QV)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***SERMON SONG: “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” #67 (vs. 1 - 3)**

***CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP** *(from the UCC Statement of Faith)*

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image
and set before each one the ways of life and death ...**

You call us into your church:

**to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world,
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at His table,
to join Him in His passion and victory.**

You promise to all who trust you:

**forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace.
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Leader: Jesus calls us to bear the fruit of the Spirit, to be agents of love and unity, joy and hope. God has blessed us with gifts that enrich us and empower us as a people of peace. In gratitude, let us return a portion of these gifts to God.

OFFERTORY



(Please place your offering in the plates as they are passed, give through your usual method, or click on the QR code to the left by using your cell phone camera and clicking on the St. Pauls Giving website.)

*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one. Amen.*

*DEDICATION

Leader: Loving God, we remember that one of Christ's most important commandments is loving one another. With these gifts, help us show this love in our words and actions, caring for the vulnerable and offering hope for people of all ages, tongues, and races. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The United Church of Christ practices open communion in which all baptized Christians attending are invited to commune together regardless of Church affiliation. Once served, please hold each communion element until all are served so that we may commune together.

*The bread trays contain gluten free bread in the center cup.
The wine trays contain grape juice in the center ring.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Pastor: This is the Lord's Table,
and Christ invites you to share this meal of grace.
Christ recognizes you and looks upon you with favor.
Christ befriends you and wants you within his circle.
Count yourself among Christ's disciples
by partaking of this spiritual feast.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Pastor: Let us recall "that the Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and, when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is my body that is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, He took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NSRV)

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

(Please wait until all elements have been distributed)

Pastor: Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen.**

Pastor: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you. **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION**

ALL: Almighty God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF FAREWELL

Christine Sparrow - St. Pauls UCC's Cabinet President

Reverend Jane Anderson - Associate Conference Minister,

WI Conference UCC

Cathy Jones - Co-chairperson of Church & Ministry,

WI Conference UCC

RECOGNITION OF THE END OF MINISTRY (Chris Sparrow)

...

Following Pastor Steve's words:

PEOPLE:

We receive your thankfulness and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

***VOWS OF RELEASE:** (Cathy Jones & Rev. Jane Anderson)

CATHY JONES: All who are able please stand for these words.

Do you, the members and friends of St. Paul's UCC, release Rev. Steve Davidson from the duties of pastor and teacher?

PEOPLE: We do, with the help of God.

REV. JANE ANDERSON: Do you offer your encouragement for his ministry going forward?

PEOPLE: We do, with the help of God.

(Vows from Pastor Steve)

***WITNESS OF THE ASSOCIATION/ CONFERENCE**

CATHY JONES: ...We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

***FAREWELL PRAYER:**

REV. JANE ANDERSON Let us pray:

ALL: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our tears and laughter, our disappointments and hopes. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN:** “God of Grace” #464 (vs. 1 and 5)

***BENEDICTION:**

Pastor: Friends - as we leave this place of worship,

ALL: Let us be guided by these words:

Pastor: Go forth into the world in peace.

ALL: Be of good cheer.

Pastor: Hold fast to that which is good.

ALL: Render to no one evil for evil.

Pastor: Help the afflicted and support the weak.

ALL: Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Go in peace, and may God go with you always.

ALL: Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

Adapted from *Chosen and Appointed: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B* was written by Rev. Jacob Nault, Pastor of Union-Congregational Church in Waupun, WI. He also works alongside the UCC's Disabilities Ministries Board to provide music, liturgy, and other resources on issues of disability justice.



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RESOURCES FOR PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

Lectionary Readings for May 12, 2024 *Seventh Sunday of Easter* *Mother's Day*

~Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
~1 John 5:9-13

~Psalm 1
~John 17:6-19

LITURGIST SCHEDULE:

May 5 Pam Gibowski
May 12 John Rubatt
May 19 Jeff Jegl

USHER SCHEDULE:

May 5 Team #5: Nooyen, Toebe, Tracy
May 12 Team #6: Dethloff, Krohn
May 19 Team #5: Nooyen, Toebe, Tracy

GREETER SCHEDULE:

May 5 Blaine Harris
May 12 Pam & Bill Gibowski
May 19 Jayne & Bob Gardebrecht

COFFEE HOUR HOST:

Chris Sparrow & Darlene Eisen
Cathy Schnabel
Jayne Gardebrecht

COURTESY DRIVER:

May 5 Pam & Bill Gibowski
May 12 Sue Schuelke
May 19 Chris Sparrow

OUR STAFF:

Interim Pastor: Reverend Stephen J. Davidson
Guest Musician: Ahmi Emig
Bell Choir Director: Chris Sparrow
Pastor Emeritus: Russell Knoth
Admin. Assistant: Michelle “Mickey” Jegl

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You can reach the office at 262-251-5160 or  
email [saintpaulsinthefalls@gmail.com](mailto:saintpaulsinthefalls@gmail.com)

Pastor Steve can be reached on his cell at (989) 388-7657 or  
email: [davidson@charter.net](mailto:davidson@charter.net)

**OFFICE HOURS**

Mickey: **Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 8:30am - 2pm,**  
**Sunday, 10:30am-11am**

Pastor Emma: Wednesday 9:30am-3pm or by appointment  
(Pastor Emma will *begin office hours the week of May 19th*,  
following her first official service with us.)

**OFFICE HOUR CHANGES, NOTE ABOVE**

**CPR (Church and Pastor Relations Committee) MEMBERS**

|                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Julie Loth        | jmhloth@gmail.com             |
| Mike Dethloff     | mdethloff62@gmail.com         |
| Terry Tracy       | terencepatricktracy@gmail.com |
| Amy Krohn         | jakrohn@sbcglobal.net         |
| Sue Schuelke      | sschuelk@charter.net          |
| Jennifer Seehaver | jennifer@seehaver.com         |

**Don't forget to complete the Who's In The Pews Form  
located on the end of the pew near the main aisle.  
**PLEASE** put completed forms in the offertory plate.**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **OFFICE HOUR CHANGES**

See two pages back

## **FAMILY PICTURES NEEDED**

Please email a recent picture of yourself / your family to include in a booklet for Pastor Emma Sancomb to be presented May 19th. Please send to [saintpaulsinthefalls@gmail.com](mailto:saintpaulsinthefalls@gmail.com). If you only have a paper copy and don't have a way to scan and send electronically, place your picture outside the church office on the round end table. Use a sticky note to indicate if you want the paper photo returned.

DEADLINE IS MAY 12th!

## **OUR CEMETERY FUND**

Happy Spring! The flowers are blooming and the grass is growing. That means it is time again for St. Pauls Cemetery to be well kept. Like everything else, the cost of lawn care keeps increasing and we have to plan the best way to keep up with your help. Your donations always help preserve our cemetery and can even improve it. There are monuments that we would like to repair as the cemetery fund allows. Many former dedicated members of St. Pauls need our help to maintain their resting place.

As many of you know, envelopes for the Cemetery Fund are included with your giving envelopes. As many of you are going away from the envelopes and turning to electronic giving, you can simply earmark your direct deposit, PayPal donation, or drop a check with a memo "Cemetery Fund" in the Sunday giving plate. Donations can also be made through stock donations direct to St. Pauls Cemetery Fund at Edward Jones; Reach out to Dustin M. Koehler at (262) 251-8282 for stock transfer assistance.

Plots are still available for purchase. If you would like more information or have questions, please contact any of the Cemetery Committee Members: Paul Martin, Bill Gibowski, or Jayne Gardebrecht.

## **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING**

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. St. Pauls will receive the **STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024**. Contributions can be made online at any time. Go to <https://support.ucc.org/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/strengthen-the-church/strengthen-the-church-give#>

## **TREASURER NEEDED**

We are still in need of a volunteer to sit on the Church Cabinet and perform the treasurer duties. If you can balance a checkbook and understand how to pay bills electronically, we can teach you the rest. Prior treasurers include: Tom Lindow & Amy Dethloff; they'd be happy to answer your questions. We need a detail-oriented person willing to give some time to do the Lord's work. If interested, please contact Mickey or Chris Sparrow.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **SUNDAY, MAY 5**

- 9:30am - Service of Farewell - Pastor Steve Davidson
- 9:45am - Children's Church (last class before summer break)
- 10:45am - Fellowship
- 3:30pm - Confirmation Class - volunteer service project at St. Ben's, Milwaukee.

### **TUESDAY, MAY 7**

- 7:30pm - Bell Choir practice

### **SATURDAY, MAY 11**

- 8am - 1pm - BLOOD DRIVE, please register
- 9:00am - Meditation Group (for more info, contact Terry Tracy, [terencepatricktracy@gmail.com](mailto:terencepatricktracy@gmail.com))

### **SUNDAY, MAY 12**

#### *Mother's Day*

- 9:30am - Service (Guest Pastor: Rev. Jim Gorman)
- 10:45am - Fellowship
- 10:45am - Prayer Shawl Ministry

### **TUESDAY, MAY 14**

- 7:30pm - Bell Choir practice

### **SATURDAY, MAY 18**

- 9:00am - Meditation Group (for more info, contact Terry Tracy, [terencepatricktracy@gmail.com](mailto:terencepatricktracy@gmail.com))

### **SUNDAY, MAY 19**

- 9:30am - Service of Welcome - Pastor Emma Sancomb (includes baptism of Adella Jo)
- 10:45am - Fellowship
- 10:45am - Women's Fellowship Meeting
- 10:45am - No Confirmation Class - please attend service and introduce yourselves to Pastor Emma during fellowship!

### **MONDAY, MAY 20**

- 6:30pm - Open Knit/Crochet Night

# BLOOD DRIVE

Hope springs  
eternal

DONATE  
BLOOD

**Saturday  
MAY**

**11**

**8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Helpful tip:  
Make sure to eat a healthy  
meal and drink plenty of  
water before donating.**

## **ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BLOOD DRIVE**

In Guild Hall - St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
N89 W16856 Appleton Avenue, Menomonee Falls

Make appt. by scanning the QR Code at bottom of  
flyer, OR call 1-877-232-4376 for assistance.

- \*Donors critically needed, so please make your appt.  
and donate AND please ask others to donate.
- \*Give blood, get a FREE Mt. Olympus Water Park  
ticket, to be used this Summer!
- \*You could WIN \$1000 IN GIFT CARDS to Great Wolf  
Lodge, in our "Make A Splash Sweepstakes"!

DO WE NOT EXPECT A SAFE &  
ADEQUATE BLOOD SUPPLY IN  
OUR TIME OF NEED? YES!!!!

