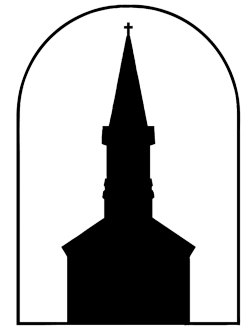


ST PAULS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MENOMONEE FALLS

EVANGEL

May 3, 2024



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Post from the Pulpit

Not ...

Long ...

... ago, as I was heading south on I-41, I had Anne Murray riding shotgun! Rough transition: I was listening to one of her CDs. The fact that I love her music puts a date on my forehead. Anne, a Canadian, has been “at it” for a while. Every time she showed up in northern Michigan where we used to live, Carol and I were in the audience. A few years ago, Anne hung up her vocal cords. At least for the time being, it occurs to me I’m about to do the same thing. Over time, Anne has recorded a pile of “albums”, as she calls them. One of her kids told her one time, “Mom, we don’t do albums any more. We do CDs.” By referring to “albums,” Anne puts a date on her forehead.

A week or so ago, I punched up one of her CDs and headed for the Falls. A few miles down, I heard Anne sing, “Somebody’s Always Sayin’ Goodbye.” I can relate. Having made many interim stops along the way, I know this drill well. Whether this will be my last stop, God only knows. That’s really all I need to know.

A few days ago, I had some quality time with your new permanent pastor. Our task: transition - creating a smooth transition from me to her. Over coffee, and while she was feeding/burping/rocking her new baby, I listed a few things we have done as pastor and people over the past 18 months ... and things that are left undone. The latter list seems to be longer than the former. In listing the “undone,” I had no intention of saddling her with a “to do” list. I wanted only to acquaint her with my loose ends. Those “ends” include, among other things:

PLANNING PROCESS:

Last spring, then-president Jeff Jegl raised a few “biggies”: How can we grow? What’s ahead for us?” Having been down that road a time or 3, a few of us huddled and came up with a series of questions intended to help us answer the above-mentioned “biggies”: What are our strengths, our recent accomplishments, current opportunities, that sort of thing. Beginning last summer, we launched this conversation. Although the entire congregation was invited to participate, it was primarily Cabinet people and Board people who did the heavy lifting. Over 3 sessions or so, a flood of sticky notes got affixed to massive pieces of newsprint. We had no difficulty coming up with ideas. The task now is to make sense of it all and come up with recommendations that can be brought before the congregation for endorsement.

EDUCATIONAL WING:

As part of that conversation, we talked some about the educational wing of the church. Although we've got a couple of community choirs in there during the week, also, Scouts and Masons, for church purposes, for educational purposes, the space is underutilized. In my November newsletter article, I listed a few over-the-top, out-of-the-box ways to utilize that space to the greater benefit of the church and the community. Granted: my suggestions were all "big ticket" items, but, at some point, that discussion needs to be revisited.

CONFIRMATION EDUCATION:

During my conversation with Emma, and with baby Cora, now fast asleep (I know how to put people to sleep!), I handed Emma a folder containing all the materials I put together for our Confirmation kids. She now knows what portions of the UCC Statement of Faith have been discussed since our initial class back in September. This process will continue over the summer months under Emma's leadership, leading to a Confirmation Sunday in September. I wish I could be around that day since I have so enjoyed working with these kids, but, as you know, we former pastors are strongly encouraged to disappear for at least a year, maybe longer, giving the new pastor full opportunity to be the new pastor.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Along that line, there needs to be discussion regarding the educational ministry of our church. Sixty years ago, when we tacked on the educational wing of the church, we needed space. We had kids running all over the place on a Sunday morning. No more. Like so many other mainline churches, we've got precious few "church school" families in church on a Sunday morning. This has been true for quite a while. Fortunately, our Christian Education Board will soon be discussing other models, other materials, other ways to attract young families to our church. More can be done in the area of Christian Education for adults as well, with people other than the pastor assuming more leadership. Exhibit A: that April 16 workshop on mental fitness. That workshop was put together by folks other than me. Some are equipped to do this sort of thing.

YOUTH GROUP:

Those super Confirmation kids could well form the nucleus of a Youth Group. These kids have been so diligent about attending classes and participating in service projects and field trips. A week ago, I broached this idea with our kids. As I recall, nobody groaned or threw up! Ideally, some Confirmation parents would jump in and help this happen.

PROMOTING THE CHURCH:

In my sermon last Sunday (April 28), taking a chapter from a book titled "Part-Time Is Plenty," I made the case for promoting the church ... out there, rather than in here. For the pastor to be the primary "face" of the church out there, folks must be equipped to pick up pieces of the load in here. During my time as interim, I spent virtually all my time (25 hours/week) in here: preparing for Sunday morning, doing pastoral care and essential administration.

I did not make it out there, but somebody (or several "somebodies") must if we intend to grow. For Emma (also, 25 hours/week) to participate in this, the role of the pastor must be reconsidered. The pastoral terrain has shifted. If you anticipate that the pastor will "do it all," as was the expectation previously, disappointment may be the consequence. Perhaps a stronger connection

to the resources of the United Church of Christ could help us make the transition from what was to what is.

BUILDING ENDOWMENT:

I made reference to this in the article I wrote a month ago. Obviously, this is a long-term ministry. It takes a while to get folks, especially folks who have been around the church for a while, to think about including the church in their estate plan. The case can be made for setting aside a chunk of that estate plan for the church, knowing that a chunk will continue to strengthen the church long after we are gone. For that to happen, periodically, the case for estate planning must be made.

Well, enough! Probably too much. Although we didn't get it all done, although the work of the church is never done, we've had a good run together as interim pastor and people.

In the past, when I've come to this final stretch of the road, I am always aware of the people who have bailed me out, encouraged me, pointed me, stood with me. Obviously, that would include Mickey and the 3 presidents I have known: Julie, Jeff, Chris. Through them, I express my indebtedness to those who routinely show up, often behind the scenes, doing the nickel and dime stuff, often without a word of thanks or recognition, that makes things happen - you know who you are. As I have said previously, "I am only as good as the people around me." I really believe that. Good things happen only if the pastor and people work harmoniously and collegially, with all the glory going to God, whose Spirit leads us and abides with us and is seen most vividly in Jesus, whom we claim as the Christ, the Prince of Peace.

I am most hopeful as I ponder the future of the church and could only extend my heartfelt thanks, and,

Blessings on the journey,

Pastor Steve (and Carol) Davidson

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. It does NOT have to be a professional picture! Please send to 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!

Who Are You? What's Your Name?

I may know and the person sitting next to you may know, but Pastor Emma will have to learn all our names. New name tags are being made. PLEASE wear your name tags starting May 12th, when you're attending service. Thanks!

CALLING ALL 2024 GRADUATES

High school, college, university, vocational school graduates: if you are graduating this year,



please send Mickey an email at saintpaulsinthefalls@gmail.com stating your name, where you're graduating from, and your future pursuits.

We will be celebrating your accomplishments during worship service in June.

So far we know of:

Ryan Nooyen (MSOE), Eric Dethloff (MSOE), Sam Dethloff (MFHS), Gladys Hoagland (GHS), JJ Jegl (HUHS)



Remembering Our Homebound Members

Send a note & put a smile on someone's face!

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| -David & Anne Marie Bast | -Lorrie Tatz |
| -Harlan & Cathy Schnabel | -Hilde Lowen |
| -Paulette Kornmann | -Dorothy Duehring |
| -Earl Flaskrud | -Sharon Whitman |
| -Mary Kurtz | -Hal Maury |
| -Keith Farnham | |

OUR CEMETERY FUND

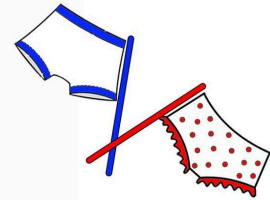
Happy Spring! The flowers are blooming and the grass is growing. That means it is time again for St. Pauls Cemetery to be well kept. Like everything else, the cost of lawn care keeps increasing and we have to plan the best way to keep up with your help. Your donations always help preserve our cemetery 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. Throughout the month of MAY we're hoping to raise funds for the entire mowing season. If you would like more information or have questions, please contact any of the Cemetery Committee Members.

THANKS! Paul Martin, Bill Gibowski, or Jayne Gardebrecht.

UNDIE 500



ST. PAULS UCC'S INAUGURAL UNDIE 500

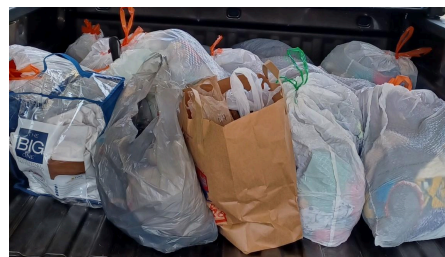
for



**Mr. Bob's
Under the Bridge**

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Racing to donate **NEW** Underwear, or gently used clean socks, bras, & undershirts of all sizes, including kids sizes, and both genders. We'll be collecting the entire **month of May!** Also, don't forget about donating hygiene products (deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, lotion, small size shampoo/conditioner, etc)



**17 bags of
clothes were
donated in
April!
Thank you
Tiffany for
the kids'**

**clothes! They were greatly needed at Mr.
Bob's Under the Bridge.**

NEW MEMBERS

New members were received April 28. Welcome Drew & Becca Olson! We're excited you joined St. Pauls UCC's *family*.



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES:

LITURGIST SCHEDULE:

May 5 Pam Gibowski
May 12 John Rubatt

USHER SCHEDULE:

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

GREETER SCHEDULE:

May 5 Blaine Harris
May 12 Pam & Bill Gibowski

COFFEE HOUR HOST:

May 5 Chris Sparrow & Darlene Eisen
May 12 Cathy Schnabel

COURTESY DRIVER:

May 5 Pam & Bill Gibowski
May 12 Sue Schueler

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)

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

WALK IN THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE!

St. Pauls UCC has teamed up with The Menomonee Falls Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) to celebrate Memorial Day, during the parade on Monday, May 27. **WEAR YOUR ST. PAULS SPIRIT WEAR!** The parade begins at 10am. The Parade runs from Pilgrim and Main to Neu's along Main Street and Grand Ave. Please let Mickey know via email if you'll be walking and we'll get you the details as soon as we have them.

Learn about more great events in downtown Menomonee Falls on their website at

<https://www.menomoneefallsdowntown.com/>

Veterans Memorial Tribute Ceremony

Please join us for the 11th Annual Veteran's Memorial Tribute Ceremony on May 25th, 2024 from 10-10:30 am where we will honor the Menomonee Falls military fallen. The ceremony will be held in Village Park on Garfield Dr. across from the North Middle School. The ceremony will include a laying of wreaths at the WWII and War Dog Monuments. We will also tell the story of one of our Menomonee Falls military fallen, Private Albert Duwel (WWI). This will be followed by the naming of all of our Menomonee Falls military fallen, a three volley rifle salute and taps.

The WWII Monument site in Village Park is where many of the citizens and veterans of Menomonee Falls would hold ceremonies to commemorate historical events since 1947 when the monument was constructed by WWII veterans of Menomonee Falls. Come spend some time at this significant historical place during Memorial Day weekend.

Music will be provided during the ceremony by members of the Menomonee Falls Symphony Orchestra.

It is recommended that attendees bring their own lawn chair.

******Parking******

There will be minimal parking available on Garfield Drive for this event. Please refrain from parking by the monument if possible as we are reserving this parking for ceremony participants, veterans, disabled and Gold Star family members. Please park on Sheridan Dr. as able, other side streets or potentially in the Middle School parking lot off of Main St. if the parking lot is open.

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 treasurer's include: Tom Lindow, Amy Dethloff, and Andy Toebe; 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.

DO YOU PLAY THE PIANO and/or THE ORGAN, AND SING?

St. Pauls UCC is looking for a talented pianist/organist & vocalist to lead music during Sunday worship services.

St. Pauls United Church of Christ in Menomonee Falls, WI is looking for a part time pianist/organist. Ability to play both piano and organ is preferred. Must be able to play 48 Sundays a year including Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Rally Sunday (first Sunday after Labor Day), as well as 3 additional services, Ash Wednesday evening Service, Maundy Thursday evening service and Christmas Eve evening service. Hours are 6 – 8 per week which includes an hour long Sunday service, consulting the pastor or administrative assistant on appropriate selections, and researching and registering the copyright for online streaming with our licensing services, OneLicense and CCLI. Traditional Protestant hymns and contemporary church music repertoire required. Must find your own replacement for the four Sundays not present. Salary negotiable, experience considered. Contact the church office to schedule an interview which will include playing the piano and organ. Additional skills considered would be ability to accompany soloists, vocal accompaniment to hymns. Potential for referral for weddings, and funeral opportunities with separate remuneration.

Please contact St. Pauls United Church of Christ at saintpaulsinthefalls@gmail.com or call (262) 251-5160 for details



**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.

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

**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"!



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#>



May 2024 "Most Needed Items"

- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Carrots & Peas
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Peaches & Apricots
- Cereal
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Chunky Soup
- Crackers
- Cash Donations for Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
- Jelly
- Mashed Potatoes (Bags or Boxes)
- ALWAYS NEEDED — Brown Paper Grocery Bags !



The Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawl crocheters and knitters will gather the second Sunday of each month after church as well as the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

OPEN KNIT/CROCHET NIGHT

Knitters and crocheters and people willing to learn are invited to Guild Hall for fun, conversation, and the joy of yarn!

The third Monday of each month, for May, it's

May 20th at 6:30pm

All are welcome!

Contact Sarah Welke @ 262-893-0150 or swelke6@gmail.com with any questions



Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange

Bring in your gently used puzzles and exchange them for a new to you puzzle

Please note if the puzzle you bring has any missing pieces, and put puzzle pieces in ziploc bag inside the box or make sure to tape the box shut.

Puzzle Night Picture:



St. Pauls United Church of Christ
N89W16856 Appleton Ave.
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

phone: 262-251-5160, leave a message
 email: saintpaulsinthefalls@gmail.com
 Pastor Steve Davidson's Cell: 989-388-7657

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH?
FIND US LIVE ON:

Facebook & YouTube



- ALMONTE, Laura & Freddy(19) 05/05
- CLEMENT, Ruth & David (60) 05/16
- BAUMAN, Michael & Lynn (31) 05/22
- JAKUSZ, Cynthia & Brian (22) 05/25
- HARRIS, Blaine & Sue (32) 05/29
- LINDOW, Tom & Kam (18) 06/03



- DETHLOFF, Mike 05/01
- KARCH, Michael 05/01
- LUNDE, Addison 05/01
- FLASKRUD, Earl 05/04
- EISEN, Darlene 05/05
- WELKE, Sarah 05/06
- MICECH, Brandon 05/09
- SERCHEN, Laurie 05/09
- LUNDE, Natalie 05/10
- FLASKRUD, Linda 05/11
- DETHLOFF, Amy 05/14
- JAKUSZ, Cynthia 05/14
- TRACY, Terence 05/19
- TOMPKINS, Ted 05/21
- FRANK, Shawn 05/28
- MARTIN, Jane 05/28
- TOEBE, Andrew 05/28
- HOAGLAND, Dorothy 06/04