

**St. Pauls
United Church of Christ**



First Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 12, 2025

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

(* = YOU MAY STAND.)

ORGAN PRELUDE:

We invite you to use the Prelude as a meditative moment of transition from the outside world into God's house of prayer.

RINGING THE BELLS AND WELCOMING THE LIGHT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Guest Pastor, Steve Hecky

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

ALL: The voice of the Lord is over the waters.

Leader: The God of glory thunders over mighty waters.

ALL: The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

Leader: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood.

**ALL: May the Lord give strength to his people,
blessing them with peace.**

(Adapted Psalm 29)

INVOCATION:

Leader: God of all joy, we give you thanks that in the epiphany of Jesus Christ you have shown us the way to true life. We praise you that you receive as your children those who seek peace and righteousness, and that you make your promise of eternal life to the humble, the merciful, and the pure in heart.

Enable us, like Jesus, to find our happiness in doing your will, so that we too may live to love you and serve others on our journey of faith forever. Amen.

OPENING SONG: Praise to the Lord #25

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Leader: Almighty God, father and mother to orphans, protector of outcasts, provider for the needy, savior of all:

ALL: Holy One, before your splendor and glory, we fall silent, aware of our human frailty and sin. We humbly confess the mistakes we have made and the good we have neglected, the promises we have broken. Who are we to speak your word of love, or spread your gospel of truth? Yet, only speak your word of forgiveness, only touch us with your healing fire, and humbly we respond to your call, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:**

Pastor: Christ himself will restore, support, strengthen, and establish you, and He will not remember our sins. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, we are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. Jesus said, your sins are forgiven. This is the good news of God's love and grace. **Amen.**

***SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE**

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

ALL: And, also, with you.

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN "The South African welcome Mat"

Let us sing. Jesus loves the little children. All the children of the world. They are precious in his sight! Red & yellow, black & white, Jesus loves All the children of the world!

**Rejoice in the Lord, Always, Again I say Rejoice! (Clap, repeat)
Rejoice! Rejoice! Again I say rejoice! (Clap & Repeat)**

READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Liturgist: Isaiah 43: 1-7

Pastor: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

SERMON: “God’s Great Family Reunion Gathers Us”

The Reverend Steve Hecky

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)

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: “Spirit of the Living God” #259**

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

We believe in God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and our God, and to God’s deeds we testify: ...

In Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to God.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, and binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races ...

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

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

Pastor: What does it mean to be baptized? Baptism means that we are joined to Jesus Christ forever. As we are baptized with water, he baptizes us with his Spirit, washing away all our sins and freeing us from their control. Our baptism is a sign that one day we will rise with him in glory, and may walk with him in the newness of life.

Through baptism, God works through us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the Spirit, and the vocation to be God’s people in everyday life.

God be with you,

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

We offer thanks to God for the gift of water that brings us life and health. In the ancient waters, your faithful servant Noah turned from death to life when he turned to you. Your people Israel found you close at hand when they passed from death to life amidst the Red Sea's raging waters. In the river Jordan, Jesus received John's baptism and witnessed that we, too, should turn toward you. Recalling your steadfast love, we ask that you bless this water, that we might be your servants to the world, strong in trust and courageous in loyalty to you.

Amen!

All: Give to all who are baptized: strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life. Unite your faithful people in the peace of Christ through the name of Jesus who makes us one. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Leader: Give now with generous hearts that all people may hear God's Word and be blessed by the work of this church. "Let your light so shine . . . that others may see your good works and give glory to God who empowers each and every gift." (Matthew 5:16)

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. Paul's 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: Thank you, Lord, for this beautiful place of peace where truth is alive and well, and where your people find strength in each other and in You. Bless every act of worship, but especially bless these offerings as they express our deep gratitude for life and love and hope. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: Eternal Father, Strong to Save #85**

***BENEDICTION:**

Pastor: The blessings of God the Creator,
there from the beginning;
the blessing of Christ our Savior.

God-with-us in history and humanity;

the blessing of the Holy Spirit,
calling us into a future of hope:

be with each one of us, our communities,
our world, now and evermore.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. -The Iona Community

***ORGAN POSTLUDE:**

We invite you to stay and listen to the sending music of the Postlude. During and afterward, Pastor Steve invites you to come forward to the front of baptism water and dip your fingers in the waters of baptism, touching your forehead with the Spirit of new life.

**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.**



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RESOURCES FOR PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

Lectionary Readings for January 19, 2025

~ Isa 62:1-5

~ John 2:1-11

~ Ps 36:5-10

~ 1 Cor 12:1-11

LITURGIST SCHEDULE:

Jan 12 Michael Dethloff
Jan 19 Pam Gibowski
Jan 26 Marcus Seehaver

USHER SCHEDULE:

Jan 12 Team #2
Jan 19 Team #3
Jan 26 Team #4

GREETER SCHEDULE:

Jan 12 Julie Loth
Jan 19 Sarah Welke
Jan 26 Mike Maury

COFFEE HOUR HOST:

Julie Loth
Sarah Welke
Jean Lipenski

OUR STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Steve Hecky
Bell Choir Director: Chris Sparrow
Pastor Emeritus: Russell Knoth
Admin. Asst.: Stephenie Osuji

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

## **OFFICE HOURS**

Church Office: **Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 10:00am-2:00pm**

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

Julie Loth [jmhloth@gmail.com](mailto:jmhloth@gmail.com)  
Mike Dethloff [mdethloff62@gmail.com](mailto:mdethloff62@gmail.com)  
Terry Tracy [terencepatricktracy@gmail.com](mailto:terencepatricktracy@gmail.com)  
Amy Krohn [jakrohn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jakrohn@sbcglobal.net)  
Sue Schuelke [sschuelk@charter.net](mailto:sschuelk@charter.net)  
Jennifer Seehaver [jennifer@seehaver.com](mailto:jennifer@seehaver.com)

## **SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Andy Toebe  
Pam Gibowski  
Drew Olson  
Chris Sparrow  
Paul Martin

## **PRAYER REQUESTS (To be added to the prayer chain, please contact Julie Loth 262-422-0267)**

- Julie Loth - Whose cousin, Scott Schwinn, died this past November and for his family going through their first Christmas without him.
- Darlene Eisen - who is home recovering from a broken hip.
- Jaye Gardebrecht - Whose brother, Dale passed away and brother Kurt who is going through treatment for his cancer that has returned.
- Carol Rubatt - We celebrate that her CT scans came back good.
- Jean Lipenski - Brother, Dan, is recovering from a stroke.
- Steve Hecky - 6-year-old grandson, Graham's continued medical journey.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **COLLEGE STUDENT CARE PACKAGES**

We are putting together care packages for our college students. If you have a student, please let the church office know and please provide their address. If you'd like to donate small snacks, gift cards, or a note of encouragement, we have a box in Guild Hall. We will plan to ship in January in time for the start of the second semester. Thank you!

A vertical rectangular graphic with a green-to-teal gradient background. It features faint circular patterns on the left and right sides. The text is centered and reads: "St. Pauls United Church of Christ" in a white sans-serif font, enclosed in a white rounded rectangle. Below this, "Annual Meeting" is written in a large, white, serif font. At the bottom, the date and time "Sunday, January 26th, 2025 10:45 a.m." and the phrase "Following Worship" are displayed in a white sans-serif font.

St. Pauls  
United Church of Christ

# Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 26th, 2025  
10:45 a.m.  
Following Worship

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

9:30am - Service

10:30am - Prayer Shawl

10:45am - Fellowship

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

7:30pm - Bell Choir Practice

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

6:30am-8:00pm - Prayer Shawl

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

9:00am - Meditation Group

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

9:30am - Service

10:45am - Fellowship

11:00am - Women's Fellowship

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

Food Pantry

7:30pm - Bell Choir Practice

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

4:30pm - Bible Study

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

Food Pantry

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

9:00am - Meditation Group

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

9:30am - Service

10:45am - Fellowship

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

7:30pm - Bell Choir Practice