

# St. Paul's

## August 2023



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# THE BEACON



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**NEXT BEACON**  
**September 15th**  
All articles are  
due in by 9/7

# Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



*August, 2023*

*Change: to Resist or Embrace? That is the question!*

I greet you in the name of the God who created and is creating. I could not be more grateful to all the good people of St. Paul's UCC for the warm welcome you have offered me as we begin our journey together as co-participants in the ministry of grace and goodwill as we live out our call to serve and "be the church" together.

There is so much I could say in an attempt to offer a prophetic or pastoral message to you at the crossroads that we all find ourselves entering in the middle of year 2023. But I trust we will have ample time together for that in the days and weeks to come as we discern our mission and purpose and as we do some serious reflection together on what we believe God is calling us to be as St. Paul's United Church of Christ.

My initial message shall therefore be simple and forthcoming. The role of the interim pastor is not simply about steering the ship, so to speak, until a search can be conducted for a settled pastor. But neither is it merely to change the way we do things or to upset the status quo. There's so much more to it, and I do hope you'll be open to hearing my thoughts. And that you will also keep your minds and hearts open to what God may be up to.

Why is it that we are often resistant to change? I think there are many answers to that question, but suffice it to say, for better or for worse, at some level, the only thing constant is change. I heard it said that "one reason why people resist change is because they focus on what they have to give up, instead of what they have to gain." (Rick Godwin)

If there is any truth to this quote, then I ask that you trust me and consider that we have so much to gain; that we truly have an amazing opportunity to be "change agents" for all things good. Not change for the sake of change, but change for the better; that we might not only survive, but that we may thrive as a viable institution that is part of the larger whole that is the body of Christ.

*See ya' in church.*

*Pastor Bob*

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**Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.**

**Via Facebook Live or streaming on website.**

**Church Office Hours**

**8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday**

# Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



*AUGUST*

*Worship Opportunities*

**August 6:** The 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

**Scripture:** Luke 10:25-37

**Sermon Theme:** *Finding Our Third Eye*

*Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served*

**August 13:** The 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

**Scripture:** Matthew. 14:22-33

**Sermon Theme:** *Stepping Out of the Boat*

**August 20:** The 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

**Scripture:** Genesis 45:1-15

**Sermon Theme:** *It's Not Just About a Multi-Colored Coat*

**August 27:** The 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

**Scripture:** Romans 12:1-8

**Sermon Theme:** *To Think with Sober Judgment*

**September 3:** The 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

**Scripture:** Romans 12:9-21

**Sermon Theme:** *Let Love Be Genuine*

*Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served*



*August, 2023*

I am unable to find the right words to express my appreciation for the joyful service that Pastor Jim brought to St. Paul's. He stepped in at a time when we were filled with grief at our loss. He brought laughter and a sense of calm through this transition. I will always be grateful for his time with us.

Now we face another transition. Pastor Bob comes to us with a great deal of experience in shepherding congregations as they move forward. We must enter a period of self-reflection as to where we have been and where we need to proceed. Like many churches today, we face several important issues. I pray that as a congregation we are able to face these issues and work to find solutions for our overall benefit.

Under the guidance of Pastor Bob and his experience, I personally look forward to this exciting time in St. Paul's history. The next several months we will come to know one another as we lay the groundwork for establishing a search committee to determine St. Paul's direction in hiring a settled Pastor. With continual prayer and reliance on the Lord Jesus Christ, I am confident that our future will be lovingly blessed.

*Wendy Manser*

*Church Council President*



# Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Donna Butler	9/1	Luann Hopkins	9/18
Gordy Triefenbach	9/3	Gerilyn Whetham	9/18
Linda Christensen	9/6	Margaret Tobin	9/19
Caitlin Lindstrand	9/7	Robelle Feffer	9/20
Presley Clay	9/8	Connie Chappell	9/20
Lena Vocalino	9/8	Marianne Spencer	9/21
Kathi Seibt	9/9	Sophia Coduto	9/22
Eric Mason	9/10	Jackie Mason	9/26
Barbara Jelinek	9/10	Jordan Lotesto	9/26
David Loehner	9/12	Meghan Schneeweiss	9/26
Tasha MacKenzie	9/13	Becky Berg	9/27
Bill Eich	9/17	Linda Kranz	9/29
Jessica Butler	9/17	Randolph Kriegel	9/29
		Krista Huffman	9/29



James Ticknor	10/1	Emily Butler	10/16
Lynn Virzi	10/3	Claire Needham	10/16
Lisa Sadlik	10/4	Ginny Deuerling	10/21
Rebecca Johnson	10/7	Samuel Reckamp	10/21
Julie Moore	10/7	Pastor Bob Wang	10/21
Joan Bourdage	10/10	Caitlin Monahan	10/23
Ken Hansen	10/11	Abby Pagnotta	10/24
David Patterson	10/12	Jan Rickard	10/25
Nancy Lutz	10/14	Bria Riley	10/25
Mary Benz	10/15	Myla Riley	10/25
John Whetham	10/15	Donna Reber	10/26
Dolores Broker	10/16		

# Church News



Mary Circle would like to invite all women of St. Paul's to our annual Salad Supper. We will be meeting on Thursday, September 21st, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Following dinner, Wendy Manser will be presenting a program detailing her adventures in Africa. Watch for a sign-up sheet coming soon to the narthex.

We hope you are able to join us for this fun evening of food and fellowship.

Mary Circle





# Church News

## CALLING ALL WHO LIKE TO SING!



St. Paul's Choir is resuming practice on Wednesday, August 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the choir loft. All who like to sing, junior high and older, are invited to join in preparing and offering musical praise to the Lord! You will have plenty of time and lots of help learning your music. Rehearsals are weekly, with singing in worship one Sunday a month, starting September 10th. We also sing at special services such as Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Easter. Did we mention that we are a really FUN group?

Please prayerfully consider joining in! Music reading and a long-term commitment are not required! Music speaks in ways words cannot! See you on the 23rd in the loft!

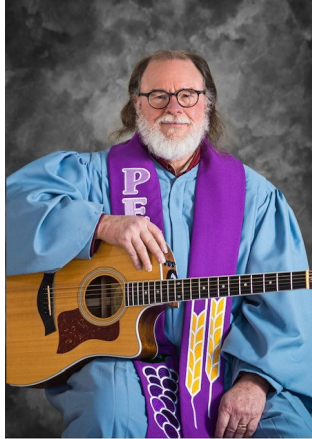
Lon Schmidt

Choir Director



# Church News

## Meet Pastor Bob



Pastor Bob Wang has been called to St. Paul's as our full-time Interim Pastor. He is an Ordained Minister with full standing in the United Church of Christ. He was ordained on October 28, 1989. He graduated from the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio, with a Bachelor of Music Education degree. He continued his studies and received his Master of Divinity degree from the Chicago Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois.

He considers himself "first generation UCC" by virtue of the fact that he was born the year after UCC formed. Having been raised, nurtured, educated, ordained, immersed in parish life, married, and affirmed throughout his journey, He remains loyal to the practices of the UCC and is passionate about all that it stands for.

Pastor Bob considers himself a loving person and therefore is passionate about the many opportunities at St. Paul's for making acquaintances and being able to watch relationships develop into supportive and trusting friendships. He has been blessed to observe this phenomenon in countless ministry settings. From youth and adult fellowship, church camp and retreats, mission trips, committee work, and fellowship groups to the literally thousands of Sunday morning worship services, which have then been followed by the cherished coffee hours where he has the opportunity to engage in the lives of those whom he has served.

Pastor Bob is currently celebrating 35 years of marriage to his wife Judy, who is also a Pastor. They have two grown children, and they make their home in Bristol, Wisconsin. They love the outdoors and take advantage of road trips and camping experiences.

As we move forward in our search for a settled pastor, we will look to Pastor Bob for guidance and directions in determining our future. St. Paul's is excited and blessed to welcome Pastor Bob to our church family.



# CHURCH NEWS

**My name is ...**



## AUGUST IS NAME TAG MONTH!

Please wear your **name tag** on every Sunday in August, to help our interim pastor get to know you by name.

If you don't currently have a name tag, please let Lena know so she can make one for you.

Evangelism Ministry

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## ATTENTION

### Your Assistance is STILL Needed

Thank you to those who have sent me a profile picture and updated their contact information. There is still a little time to do this, however, in the next couple of weeks I will have start putting together the directory with the information I have.

Please send me the following information:

- Email me an individual picture and a family picture that I can include in Realm as well as on the printed directory. Make sure this is a decent size picture, similar to a wallet size. The family photo can be a little larger. I will do my best to crop it if it is too large.
- Recent changes to your mailing address; phone number; or email address.
- Relationship status change if applicable.
- Birth Month & Date

The preferred method to receive this information is by e-mail, to [info@stpaulsucccl.org](mailto:info@stpaulsucccl.org). If you don't have email, you can send a copy to me via snail mail. The other option is to come into the office. I will scan the picture, and you can take it back home. **Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m., but please call first to make sure I'm available.**

I appreciate your cooperation and look forward to creating a NEW 2023 church directory.

**Lena**

# Church News

## Church Renovation – Thanks to YOU!

After a year of work on two key outdated areas of our church, we have wrapped up the renovation projects! And this was only possible because of YOU – the 100+ people who stepped up and supported these needed renovation areas!

To recap, we re-roofed the failing roof at the SPACE Center, in part with capital funds raised. We needed repairs performed on our main church chimney, which had many cracked and crumbling bricks and was leaching into our lounge.

Next, we focused on a complete rehab of the lounge itself that included drywalling over the 1960s paneling, installing a completely new and beautiful drop ceiling, installing modern energy-efficient LED lighting, and installing new carpeting and new plank flooring for the kitchenette area. New furniture, a conference table, and some wall decor were procured, and a new 70-inch smart TV was added.

With some remaining funds, we focused on the pastor's office, which also needed a total facelift. The office got a new paint job, new carpeting, and several new pieces of furniture to prepare it for our new interim pastor and whoever next joins us.

Many thanks to the many people that were involved in the physical and/or design work of these projects, to include: John Whetham, Scott Whetham, Ken Thrun, Ken Hansen, Jane Dawson, Laurie Revak, Cathy Schmidt, Lon Schmidt, and Wendy Manser. Of course, none of this would have been possible **without YOU**, our financial supporters, to make our church updated and maintain its beauty! **Huge thanks to all!**

*Rob Revak*

*Project Coordinator*

## LOUNGE BEFORE



# Church News

## Renovation Projects

### Lounge After



### Pastor's Office Before & After





# Thank You

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you! We hope you are well and your summer has been a blessing. The members and friends of St. Paul's presented us a very generous love gift in celebration of my retirement in May. I'm writing to share with you that your gift enabled Joyce and I to travel to Spain for 10 days this July and visit my sister, Karen, who has lived there for nearly 60 years. Karen and I discovered each other last year through Ancestry.com and this was the first time we met in person. Joyce and I enjoyed a wonderful, moving time meeting Karen and experiencing some of the rich culture, food and history of Spain. Accompanying this note, is a photo of Joyce and I at the cathedral in Seville.

We want to share this news with you and thank you for making this once in a lifetime trip possible. Thank you!

We miss you and continue to hold you in our hearts and prayers.

Love,

Pastor Greg and Joyce

*Gracias*



Thank you for all the get-well wishes and prayers. It was so appreciated and really blessed my heart.

With gratitude,  
Evelyn Winters

# Usher Schedule

August  
Sunday Worship  
10:00 a.m.

## ***USHERS***

### **August 6th**

Sheryl Gee - Captain  
Gary Gee & Elizabeth Speros  
Greeter: Ann Lingner  
Reader: Wendy Manser

### **August 13th**

Ken Hansen - Captain  
Karen Hansen & Don Roxworthy  
Greeter: Hazel Kriegel &  
Bonnie Goldman  
Reader: Lauren Henneman

### **August 20th**

John Whetham - Captain  
Kevin Kruse & Nancy Bellis  
Greeter: Bill & Shirley Berghorn  
Reader: Jim Henneman

### **August 27th**

Ken Thrun - Captain  
Joe & Jan Rickard  
Greeter: Becky Berg  
Reader: Cathy Schmidt

UPDATED 7/12/23

September  
Sunday Worship  
10:00 a.m.

## ***USHERS***

### **September 3rd**

Rob Revak - Captain  
Laurie Revak & Linda Ticknor  
Greeter: Wendy Domanico  
Reader: TBD

### **September 10th**

Sheryl Gee - Captain  
Gary Gee & Ann Lingner  
Greeter: Arlene Jezierski  
Reader: Kevin Kruse

### **September 17th**

Gary Voss - Captain  
Carla Voss & Wendy Manser  
Greeter: Susan Phillips  
Reader: TBD

### **September 24**

Ken Hansen - Captain  
Karen Hansen & Ann Lingner  
Greeters: Nancy Schmidt  
Reader: TBD

UPDATED 8/11/23

# St. Paul's Prayer List



## St. Paul's Members

Jennifer Good

## St. Paul's Homebound Friends

Arlene Kopsell, Barb Biscomb

## Deceased Members and Friends

Barbara Roxworthy

## Friends

N/A

## Military - Stateside

Todd Whetham

## Sponsored Children

Alberly (Dominican Republic), Andrian (Indonesia), Daniel W. (Indonesia), Nicole V. (Bolivia), Nicole S. (USA), Tran Thi Chin (Vietnam), Breny (Columbia), Alfred (Tanzania), Isack S. (Tanzania), Maria, Jobenta M. (Haiti), Emyli (Guatemala)



## **St. Paul's Vision**

Call to serve

Our

Neighbors' and Members'

Needs by

Engaging as

Christ's people

Through service and Love

## **Follow Us on Social Media!**

Keep up with St. Paul's latest news, information, and connection. LIKE and share our on social media.



## **Church Staff**

Pastor Bob Wang

815-459-5096 - [pastor@stpaulsucccl.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsucccl.org)

Office Manager, Lena Vocalino

815-459-5096 - [info@stpaulsucccl.org](mailto:info@stpaulsucccl.org)

Preschool Director, Becky Lucking

815 - 479-9770 - [guidinglightdirector@gmail.com](mailto:guidinglightdirector@gmail.com)

Youth Director, Jasmine Becker

847-561-9965 - [Jasmine.ydstpauls@gmail.com](mailto:Jasmine.ydstpauls@gmail.com)

## **Church Council**

Wendy Manser, Council President

815-245-0058 - [wendy0506@att.net](mailto:wendy0506@att.net)

Donna Butler, Council Vice President

815-451-1114 - [butlersmail6@yahoo.com](mailto:butlersmail6@yahoo.com)

Janis Braun, Secretary

815- 575-1997 - [eliotness62@gmail.com](mailto:eliotness62@gmail.com)

Fred Mullard, Treasurer

224-629-3755 - [mullard@mc.net](mailto:mullard@mc.net)

Jennifer Good, Financial Secretary

815-245-3287- [jennifer.a.good@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.a.good@gmail.com)

Ruth Costello

815-354-0121- [rev.ruth.costello@gmail.com](mailto:rev.ruth.costello@gmail.com)

Nancy Schmitz

815-338 -2670 - [nancyschmitz123@icloud.com](mailto:nancyschmitz123@icloud.com)

Joe Rickard

815-243-6294 - [jrick4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrick4@sbcglobal.net)

Linda Ticknor—[lindaticknor@gmail.com](mailto:lindaticknor@gmail.com)

815-382-8295

# **Give the Gift of SCRIP**



## **IN STOCK SCRIP CARDS as of June 8th, 2023**

Amazon	5 @ \$25
Best Buy	1 @ \$25
Buffalo Wild Wings	2 @ \$25
Chipotle	3 @ \$10
Darden	4 @ \$25
Dunkin'	6 @ \$10
Fannie May	5 @ \$10
Home Depot	2 @ \$100
IHOP	1 @ \$25
Jewel	3 @ \$25/ 7 @ \$100
LL Bean	1 @ \$100
Mariano's	3 @ \$50
Menards	1 @ \$100
Panera	6 @ \$10
Shell	4 @ \$50
Speedway	4 @ \$25/ 1 @ \$100
Synergy (Mobil)	3 @ \$50
Steinmart	1 @ \$25
Subway	3 @ \$10
Target	3 @ \$25
TJ Maxx (Sierra, HomeGoods, Marshall)	2 @ \$100
Walmart	3 @ \$100/ 2 @ \$250

If you need any of the above cards, they can be dropped off at church for pick up. If you want to order any particular cards, please let me know. As always, checks are made payable to St. Paul's.

**Karen Radovich** [nuknees@mc.net](mailto:nuknees@mc.net)

## **EASY AND CONVENIENT**

These products make it easy to earn on the go.

### **PrestoPay™**

The secure online payment system for families that lets them pay for orders and receive e-gift cards and reload their cards immediately.

### **MyScripWallet™**

Our mobile website where families can buy physical gift cards, reloads, and eGift cards. Directly onto their phones great for when you are in line at a store. you can reload or buy cards to go straight to your phone!