

St. Paul's

August
2024



THE BEACON



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NEXT BEACON
September 16th
All articles are
due in by 9/8

August
2024

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Acceptance Leads to Serenity

Several years ago, my son Josh attended a concert at the Lyric Opera auditorium in Chicago. The concert featured the world-class Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the world-renowned pianist, Lang Lang.

When Josh came home that night, we naturally expected him to report how wonderful the performance was. Instead, the first thing out of his mouth was that someone's cell phone went off during one of the most poignant moments of Lang Lang's performance of a Chopin nocturne. But that wasn't the end of his rant. A short time later someone just a few rows in from of them got sick all over the aisle. And then, just when it seemed things might calm down, two police officers entered the auditorium and hauled somebody out of the audience. But the musicians never skipped a beat - they never missed a beat.

Life can be like that. Just when we seem to be in our "zone" something happens; an interruption occurs. It might be receiving the results of a recent medical exam, or an accident of some sort; it could be a knock on the door, a loss of income, or worse yet, the horrific news of the death of a friend or loved one.

You, the members and friends of St. Paul's Church are going through a period of transition that is certainly causing some anxiety, worry, and fear; with a level of uncertainty as to how things will play out. We know that, even in institutions like the church, we are not exempt from things happening or situations arising that are out of our control.

In any case, the challenge is how we work through the process in order to come to some resolution and eventually, with God's help, acceptance. But also, to trust that the music will go on. And the next thing after acceptance is rebirth, new life, and finally, a renewed sense of hope.

As Robert Frost one once wrote, "In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on." The challenge to acceptance is realizing that it takes time. My prayer for all those enduring a setback or loss (including St. Paul's Church) is that you are able to be patient and to ask for help. God knows, we can never go it alone. Of course, "The Serenity Prayer" is always a good "go to" when working through our grief or anxiety.

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will;
That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him
Forever in the next. Amen. --Reinhold Niebuhr*

My farewell column is still to come.

So, in the meantime, see ya' in church.
Pastor Bob

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Worship Opportunities

August - September

August 4: 11th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: John 6:24-35

Sermon Theme: *Hungry Hearts*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

August 11: 12th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Eph. 4:25-5:2

Sermon Theme: *Thumper Theology: An Imperative For All*

August 18: 13th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-20

Sermon Theme: *Music Therapy*

August 25: 14th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Psalm 84

Sermon Theme: *On Feeling At Home in Worship*

September 1: 15th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: James 1:17-27

Sermon Theme: *Mr. Do Bee Advice*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

September 8: 16th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 7:24-37

Sermon Theme: *Finding Our Voice*

September 15: 17th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 8:27-38

Sermon Theme: *There is No I in Disciple*

September 22: 18th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 9:30-37

Sermon Theme: *Contrary to Popular Belief*

Note: This will be Pastor Bob's last Sunday

September 29: 19th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: TBD



A Report on Our Recent “Let’s Talk Church” Retreat

Thirty-five dedicated St. Paul’s Church members gathered on Saturday, August 3rd and engaged together in some spirit-filled programming and discussion. After an opening song and a prayer, Eric Mason offered a reflective piece and study on 1 Corinthians 12:4-31; reminding us of the importance of working together with our aim being on building up the body and learning how to integrate all the parts of the body for a favorable outcome. ⁴ *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.* ⁵ *There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.* ⁶ *There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work* (1 Corinthians 12:4).

We then discussed the benefits of building trust and rapport. Then Pastor Bob shared a piece on the concept of integrating change. Here is a summary of that presentation.

Integrating Change in Churches

Rev. Cameron Trimble (CEO of Convergence), in experience as a congregational consultant, suggests that **creating change** isn’t a challenge for most congregations. Rather, it’s **Integrating change** that seems to be the stumbling block. Change management statistics suggest that approximately 70% of organizational change initiatives fail. Many congregational leaders can attest to this reality. As she outlined her thinking about change, she found that her experience pointed to four conditions for integrating change:

1. The congregation must grant **trust** between leaders and participants sufficient to risk letting go of who they were in favor of a new way of being;
 2. They create a culture that actually rewards people in their **pursuit of new possibilities**;
 3. They **mediate differences** between ideas, opinions, and people as needed in service to the most generative outcome;
- They **remediate conflicts** early to reduce risk to the people and possibilities involved.

Trust

Saying more on the topic of trust, Tremble suggests that trust is the single most important contributor to change integration. Trust is the glue that holds human community together. It creates a sense of safety, belonging, and unity, all essential for navigating change effectively. In short, the trustworthiness of a congregation is dependent on the trustworthiness of each participant. That’s the hard part: our congregations are the sum total of each of us. When we are trustworthy, the culture of the congregation is as well. When we behave in destructive ways, the whole community suffers (1 Corinthians 12:26). In this way, building trust is both an internal and external task, deeply grounded in spiritual maturity.

We then broke into three breakout groups to discuss the following:

Methods and Mission

The reason change is so difficult in many churches is that church members tend to be enamored with or place too much emphasis on methods. Methods, as a rule, are those practices or activities that receive so much of our attention, time, and energy but often result in church-member burnout or volunteer fatigue.



To be more specific, a method (not unlike many business models) is a way of doing things (how we operate); i.e., the various programs run by the church; annual rituals, the music program and/or style, worship order and format, caring for the physical plant, building, and property. Other methods include the staffing model, supporting missions with money, church lay leadership, or upholding church governance and committee structures. And we can't forget most church's tendency to cling to those sacred and long-standing "traditions." And last but not least, a strong emphasis on the ministry of money; bound to a "budget" (i.e. only spending only what is in the budget). These are all simply methods. However, methods can and should change from time to time.

The mission, on the other hand, is what we are called to do (the reason we exist); often seen as our real purpose as the church. However, mission is what should be driving the church, not the methods. Mission is inspired by Jesus' command to Love God and to love our neighbors (to love all others). Mission is reaching people with the hope and selfless love as taught and modelled by Christ, and empowering (calling) us to engage with others in helping to make a positive impact on the community and not just for the benefit of those sitting in the pews. In short, to help make the world a better place. But the mission never really changes.

Remember that little slogan that Pastor Bob shared at the first "Let's Talk Church?" We need to think about "Moving from maintenance to mission." Or the main point of his keynote: we should not simply be about "technical change" or doing the same thing we've always done and just "trying harder." Or doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. In short, not just holding on to the methods.

We desperately need to consider, therefore, the much-needed changes in order to be able to respond to a rapidly changing world. That's called "adaptive change." It doesn't mean "caving in" to the culture. It means being alert, attentive, and intentional in our efforts to remain vital (or revitalize), and truly strive to "be the church" that God has called us to be; and always about the task of transforming lives.

In short, the more you focus on mission, the easier it is to change or adapt the methods. So, what new thing is God trying to do at St. Paul's UCC?

After enjoying a potluck lunch, we regathered in our small groups and continued the discussion on the many challenges we are faced with as a church including a reflection on the *Marks of Faithful and Vital Churches in the United Church of Christ*.

The last ninety minutes were spent conducting "mock interviews" with fictional (but typical) candidates in each of the three small groups; with each pastoral candidate (role playing) rotating throughout the three groups. After each candidate had a time to field questions from the small groups, the tables were turned with each group having to convince ministerial candidate, just why they would want to come and be their pastor. The discussions that ensued were quite heartfelt and telling as to what the real search committee will be faced with as St. Paul's journeys down that path.

All who attended this final "Let's Talk Church" retreat felt that it was time well spent and that it will hopefully spark more meaningful conversation in the days to come as we head into yet another time of transition.

Thanks to all who brought food and join in the conversation.

Back to School Prayers

Pray that public school teachers can draw from their faith to model their beliefs in ways that will help inspire others in a time when tensions are running high and when many want to be more than society allows when it comes to witnessing their faith.

Pray for all the Homeschool Teachers, that they may have peace and grace and mercy and remember they were called for this.

Pray for protection! Pray for perseverance! It is hard and heavy being a teacher. There is a lot of responsibility. And there is a lot of pressure, not just in caring for and instructing someone else's children, but pressure to perform well as a teacher because the state grades the teacher and the school based upon their performance.

Pray for the children! Pray that their personal needs are being met daily, so they come to school not only prepared to learn, but ready to learn. Pray for them to be focused and free from distractions.

Pray for the parents! They are often quick to blame and sometimes confront teachers because of the performance of their child. Parents have a job to do in raising their children. And though teachers wear many, many hats, they cannot do it all.

Pray for those working in Special Education. There are many moving parts with teaching, IEPs, and building relationships. Please pray that they may wake up grateful each day and not grow weary.

A retired teaching found herself tearing up reading these prayer requests. She said, "I know how exhausting and rewarding teaching can be. Please pray for the excitement and energy they have in September and that it may last to the end of the year. Pray for wisdom and insight to reach each students' needs; for finding their funny bones; for drawing on their natural curiosity. For spotting the hungry, tired, cold, ill, angry, frightened, and sad. For patience and understanding to connect and support parents. For appreciation and love for their family when they arrive home. And to always feel God guiding and embracing them each and every day!"

Hear our prayers, oh God. Amen.





August, 2024

COUNCIL UPDATE

The Church Council met Tuesday, August 13, 2024. Several pressing issues were discussed. Bill Eich and Jim Henneman (co-chairs) were present to address the issues and timeline for finding a settled pastor. Discussion took place on securing an interim pastor as Pastor Bob's last day with St. Paul's will be September 22nd.

On October 20, 2024, we will once again hold a congregational meeting. directly after the 10 a.m. service. The main purpose of this meeting will be to elect new Council members, as well as BOCE members. As of this writing, we have two returning council members and no BOCE members.

It is URGENT that we fill these positions. Prayerfully consider donating a small amount of time and your talents to keep St. Paul's operating. We are at a crucial time in our church's history.

Finally, St. Paul's, as part of our mission, has supported the Crystal Lake Food Pantry. We are currently without a lead volunteer. Without someone stepping into this position, we cannot commit to further ongoing involvement. Please speak with Elizabeth Speros if you are willing to accept this position in order to maintain St. Paul's commitment to the Food Pantry.

As members of St. Paul's, it is our responsibility to maintain and enhance the vitality of this church. Without involvement from all its members, St. Paul's can't flourish. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help secure St. Paul's future.

In God's Service,
Wendy Manser

Reminder: Approved Council Minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the elevator.

CHURCH NEWS

McHenry County Crop Hunger Walk 10/06/2024 2pm
Hosted by St. Paul's United Church of Christ



**WHEN YOU WALK,
LIVES ARE transformed!**

For over 50 years, CROP Hunger Walks have been empowering communities across the United States to respond to the global challenges of hunger, poverty, access to education, and clean water.

With every step you take, you are transforming communities by ensuring access to nutritious food, giving kids a chance at a good education, increasing availability of clean water for drinking and hygiene.

With every step you take, families and communities have the chance to lift themselves out of extreme poverty. We know that your friends and family will be inspired by your care and generosity. You show us that everyday people like yourself are champions in the fight against hunger!

Sunday October 6

1:30 Sign in/Registration
Photographs
Music
2:00 Walk Kickoff
1 mile route
4 mile route
CWS Kits Assembly
Community Fellowship

SIGN IN/ REGISTRATION

Participating teams (so far we have 6 churches, 1 synagog) need to sign in/register with their team, turn in their donation envelopes and sign a waiver. During this time we will take Team Photos, individual photos, some fun candid shots and hopefully have some live music. We are working on that.

KICKOFF

****Come together****
Time for prayer and a mission moment before we "walk". Teams usually walk together splitting up for the 1 or 4 mile routes. We have even had cats in strollers! Follow the signs leading you through downtown CL if you are walking the 4 miles!

CWS Kits Assembly

Kit materials will be purchased directly from CWS with money raised during our summer fundraising events. During the walk, we invite those who choose not to walk to help assemble kits as well as the walkers.

REMAINING FUNDRAISERS

Lou Malnati's 8/21/24
Lakewood location 11 am - 10 pm
Dine in, carry out, delivery
Cary location 4 pm - 10 pm Carry out or delivery

Portillo's Crystal Lake TBD

Chipotle Crystal Lake
Wednesday, 9/25 from 5-9pm and the online ordering code for pickup is NZT9ZZR

Calling all Walkers
Set aside the date and watch for sign up with **St. Paul's TEAM!**

Hands on Deck!
We will need many hands to make our church ready.
Set-up Saturday 10/05
TTBD
Break-down 10/06 4 pm

2024 TEAMS SO FAR
Cary United Methodist
Living Waters Lutheran
Bethany Lutheran
McHenry County Jewish Congregation
Ridgefield CL Presbyterian
First Church
St. Paul's UCC

Linda Ticknor
Event Coordinator

CHURCH NEWS



We are grateful for your support of our last two fundraising events for Crop Walk!

We do not have the dollar amounts as of this Beacon. Each penny helps us purchase CWS kit materials that will be assembled at the Crop Walk event.

I'm still enjoying my pint of mint chocolate chip.

Linda Ticknor
Event Coordinator
McHenry Crop Hunger Walk



CHURCH NEWS



Confirmation is Back!

I'm excited to announce that confirmation class is back! I would like to invite our 7th, 8th, and high school age kids to join me on Sundays to embark on this very important journey of their faith.

Maybe you have a grandchild, niece, or nephew you would like to see get confirmed who is in this age group. They are welcome to join us.

Please feel free to give me a call or email me to get more details. We are looking to begin class in September.

Watch for more information to come in the church chatter. I'm looking forward to seeing you in class.

Margaret Tobin

Email: mpeeps64@gmail.com

Phone: 816-451-4806

Mary Circle Update

The Mary Circle Salad Supper, scheduled for September 19, 2024, has been cancelled. Mary Circle will still hold a regular meeting on September 19, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. We are requesting that members bring a salad for a potluck luncheon, as there will be no program.

Thank you,

Mary Circle Executive Board

CHURCH NEWS

Friends Helping Friends

Another successful effort for St. Paul's church family members helping fellow members. This time it was for Dick and Jean Hautzinger. Jean's role as Dick's caretaker put her way behind in her favorite pastime, gardening. Her gardens are vast and beautiful but require a lot of attention. That provided another opportunity to live our faith and share some love with our fellow church family members.

Seven hard working St. Paul's members answered the call last Saturday. John Arvidson, Jane Dawson, Bill Eich, Kevin Kruse, Karen Hansen, and Jim Henneman teamed together for the day. They pulled a dump truck full of weeds and spread a dump truck's worth of mulch on Jean's flower beds. Then they enjoyed a wonderful lunch thanks to Mary Katenhusen and Donna Reber. It was another great day of work, food, and fellowship!

We will be looking for future projects to assist St. Paul's members or their neighbors. If you have any suggestions please call or text Gary Gee, 815-814-5945.



CHURCH NEWS

homework

How are you doing with your homework?

Have you been working on it? You have until September 1st to finish. If you are finished you may turn it into the church office or give it to Karen Hansen.



If you need the "Congregation Homework" sheet, you will find copies on the table outside the Sanctuary doors.

CONGREGATION HOMEWORK

Would you be willing to have a conversation with your circle of contacts to help St. Paul's UCC grow our membership? If so, below are a few questions to get you started.

Do you have a few minutes to talk? My church has asked us to gather information that might help us improve and grow our congregation.

1. Are you currently affiliated with a church, if so, do you participate in the life of the church? (i.e. attend regularly, sing in the choir, participate in mission projects, volunteer your time, support giving contributions, participate in a church bowling league?)

If you answered YES

a. What are a few things that you like about the church you attend?

b. Are there things that you don't like about the church you attend?

c. In what ways does your church help your faith grow?

If you answered NO

a. Were you ever involved with a church?

b. What are some of the reasons you are not currently involved with a church?

c. Did you leave a church and if so, what was the reason?

d. Name one or two things that might inspire you to want to get back to church?

After you have gathered your information, please submit the results to the church office and mark it "Congregation Homework." We would like to complete the survey by September 1st. So get out there and start the conversation.

Good luck, and may God be with you as we grow our church.

Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Marianne Deacon	8/2
Linda Ticknor	8/3
Jackie Loehner	8/7
Tristin Monahan	8/7
Paul Benz	8/10
Karen Hansen	8/15
Susan Radet	8/17
Lydia Lang	8/19

Marilyn Peaco	8/21
Jeffrey Moore	8/21
Carla Voss	8/22
Joyce Lucas	8/24
Annette Roewer	8/25
Solon Sideris	8/25
Linda Bichler	8/31



Donna Butler	9/1
Gordy Triefenbach	9/3
Linda Christensen	9/6
Lena Vocalino	9/8
Kathi Seibt	9/9
Barbara Jelinek	9/10
Dave Loehner	9/12
Bill Eich	9/17
Jessica Butler	9/17
Luann Hopkins	9/18
Gerilyn Whetham	9/18

Margaret Tobin	9/19
Robelle Feffer	9/20
Connie Chappell	9/20
Tom Braun	9/21
Jackie Mason	9/26
Jordan Lotesto	9/26
Meghan Scheeweiss	9/26
Warren Spencer	9/26
Becky Berg	9/27
Linda Kranz	9/29
Randy Kriegel	9/29
Krista Huffman	9/29

USHER SCHEDULE

August
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

USHERS

August 4th

Gary Voss - Captain
Carla Voss & Ann Lingner
Greeter: Mary Faulk & Barbi Fredrick
Liturgist: **Lauren Henneman**

August 11th

Ken Hansen - Captain
Karen Hansen & Wendy Domanico
Greeters: Lon & Cathy Schmidt
Liturgist: **Jim Henneman**

August 18th

Jim Henneman - Captain
Lauren Henneman & Wendy Manser
Greeters: Nancy Schmitz
Liturgist: **Kevin Kruse**

August 25th

Ken Thrun - Captain
Kevin Kruse & Nancy Bellis
Greeter: Sondra Matterness
Liturgist: **Sue Phillips**

UPDATED 8/12

September
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

USHERS

September 1st

Ken Hansen - Captain
Karen Hansen & Don Roxworthy
Greeter: Nancy Kramer & Bev Tychsen
Liturgist: **TBD**

September 8th

Gary Voss - Captain
Carla Voss & Bill Berghorn
Greeters: Janis Braun
Liturgist: **TBD**

September 15th

Sheryl Gee - Captain
Gary Gee & Wendy Domanico
Greeters: Jim & Janet Henneman
Liturgist: **TBD**

September 22nd

Ken Thrun—Captain
Wendy Manser & John Vogt
Greeter: Sandy MacMillan
Liturgist: **TBD**

September 29th

John Whetham - Captain
Gene & Lynn Virzi
Greeter; Donna Layne-Albano
Liturgist: **TBD**

St. Paul's Prayer List



St. Paul's Members

Ruth Costello, Gene Virzi, Linda Christensen

St. Paul's Homebound Friends

Warren Spencer, George Heck

Deceased Members and Friends

Wakan MovesCamp-Grandson-in-law of the Roxworthy's

Friends

N/A

Military - Stateside

Todd Whetham, Beth Roxworthy

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 UCC
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Phone: 815-459-5096
E-mail: info@stpaulsucccl.org | Website: www.stpaulsucc-cl.org

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram: [stpauls_ucc_cl](#)

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

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

Office Manager, Lena Vocalino

815-459-5096 - info@stpaulsucccl.org

Church Council

Wendy Manser, Council President

815-245-0058 - wendy0506@att.net

Donna Butler, Council Vice President

815-451-1114 - butlersmail6@yahoo.com

Linda Ticknor, Secretary

815-382-8295 - lindaticknor@gmail.com

Fred Mullard, Treasurer

224-629-3755 - mullard@mc.net

Jennifer Good, Financial Secretary

815-245-3287- jennifer.a.good@gmail.com

Ruth Costello

815-354-0121- rev.ruth.costello@gmail.com

Nancy Schmitz

815-338 -2670 - nancyschmitz123@icloud.com

John Whetham

815-276-3919 - whetham484@gmail.com

Steve Tobin

815-477-4235 - stobin4500@hotmail.com

Give the Gift of SCRIP



IN STOCK SCRIP CARDS as of July 9th, 2024

Amazon	5 @ \$25
BP Amoco	1 @ \$50
Best Buy	1 @ \$25
Buffalo Wild Wings	2 @ \$25
Carter's	4 @ \$25
Chili's	3 @ \$25
Chipotle	2 @ \$10
Darden (Olive Garden)	4 @ \$25
Dunkin'	5 @ \$10
Home Depot	1 @ \$100
Jewel	8 @ \$25/12 @ \$100
LL Bean	1 @ \$100
Mariano's	4 @ \$50
Menards	2 @ \$100
Shell	6 @ \$50
Speedway	4 @ \$25/1 @ \$100
Starbucks	7 @ \$10
Steinmart	1 @ \$25
Subway	3 @ \$10
Synergy (Mobile)	4 @ \$50
TJ Maxx (Sierra, HomeGoods, Marshall)	1 @ \$100
Ulta	1 @ \$25
Walmart	2 @ \$100—/10 @ \$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

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!