



Words from Wang
Pg. 2-3

May & June Birthdays
Page 6

St. Paul's Prayer List
Pg. 11

Worship Opportunities
Pg. 4

Church News
Pg. 7-9

SCRIP
Pg. 12

Council News
Pg. 5

Usher List
Pg. 10

NEXT BEACON

June 17th

All articles are
due in by 6/10

May
2024

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Labor Pains

There is a certain irony that, as of June 1st, I will have been serving as your interim minister for nine months, the typical gestation period of a normal pregnancy. This begs the question, what might we be giving birth to at this stage of the process (and you do need to continue to *trust the process*)? I do have some thoughts on that very question and ask that you oblige me.

But first, a word of gratitude to you that have, by and large, welcomed some of the new ideas and practices that I have brought to the table – and not just for the sake of change but rather because of the need to be open to it. The flipside, there has also been a certain level of resistance to some of the changes that I've presented or implied in some of the numerous conversations we've had. Going with the analogy I opened with, those would be the labor pains associated with any new birth. And it should be assumed and expected. But then, to "manage the pain," not avoid or eliminate it, or even try and mask it with "metaphorical meds."

I have been clear from the start that my role is to help you as a church explore the numerous ways that we can seek to uphold those *old things* that are worthy of preserving, while at the same time, establishing some *new traditions and practices* – all while preparing for a transfer of pastoral leadership. In short, that all the work we have been doing the past nine months has been for the purpose of empowering St. Paul's Church in moving toward a more sustainable future - and for embracing a vision and congregational identity that will help attract the right leader to guide you in the years to follow. Very soon, once a search committee has been selected, that team will take what we've learned and apply it in the creation of a church profile. However, at the present moment, I do not believe that you are sufficiently prepared to do that; that you do not have that clear vision of the congregation's true "identity" and/or even purpose. More labor pains, right? So, we still have some work to do.

The Apostle Paul writes in his 2nd letter to the Corinthian church, *According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - the work of each builder will become visible, for the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.* (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

This text seems fitting on many levels as we continue our work together, and thankfully we still have a fair amount of time to work through some of the issues and refine our objectives "without getting burned" – and eventually arrive at what should be a unified effort and outcome. And that, by faith, we can and will complete the tasks before us and (stronger together) will continue to trust in the God who will never abandon us.

Last year, the annual meeting theme of Wisconsin Conference UCC was "Changing Church: Following Jesus Forward" which was, in essence, a summons to the memory of our ancestors in faith, who time after time found themselves journeying toward unfamiliar, even unknowable, destinations, but all the while, trusting that they were following God's call. We know how that feels and should therefore do the same, in spite of the labor pains.

See ya' in church. Pastor Bob

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



An Update on the Open and Affirming Feasibility Study

Our “Let’s Talk Church” meetings have proved to be great opportunities to reflect on our role as “the church” and how we can best “ready ourselves” for the calling of the future settled pastor that will, God willing, be just the right fit to lead St. Paul’s into the next chapter and era.

As we have reported on several occasions, and through our various forms of communications, one of the “take aways” from our “Let’s Talk Church” sessions was the formation of several ad hoc committees to respond to some of the cultural trends that are empowering churches in the areas of revitalization and renewal. Trends that are impacting all mainline denominations and not just those in the United Church of Christ. Becoming more inclusive and intentionally open to marginalized communities is one of those trends that many **growing churches** have embraced.

As many of us at St. Paul’s have been keenly aware, churches that have gone through the process of becoming Open and Affirming (one of the many UCC identity campaigns) practice full inclusion, especially to those groups who have traditionally been alienated and even hurt by the church (ex: LGBTQ+). Consequently, the formation of the “Open and Affirming Feasibility Study Team.” This team was established in November with a sign-up sheet at that “Let’s Talk Church” retreat. And then after several invitations were sent out to the entire congregation, a short list was compiled of those feeling called to serve on this team - which actually included certain people who have stayed away from the church due to our inactivity in dealing with the this extremely sensitive issue in the past.

During the first week in May, an email was sent out inviting those on that original list, to attend a brief information meeting after church on May 5. The purpose of that meeting was, first and foremost, to build a strong level of trust and rapport between team members; crucial to the discussion. It was then made clear that we were not there to debate the issue but to merely develop a strategy and timeline for how we might proceed with our study. The meeting preparations were made based on this point of order.

A brief reminder was offered during the announcements during worship that morning, primarily for the benefit of those on the team who may have missed the “memo.” When the meeting was convened, there were four other people in attendance who were unclear about our intentions; albeit an innocent oversight by some who thought differently but who, none the less, remained thoughtful in their participation and comments. That was not, however, the eventual intentions of other parties present who appeared to be there simply to sabotage our efforts. Proverbs 18:13 says, *“If one gives answer before hearing, it is folly and shame.”*

To be clear, all we are asking for is the opportunity to respectfully discuss the matter (test out the waters without someone trying poison it first). And to do so in order for us to get a clear sense for whether or not we even feel it is “feasible” to move forward with the actual process. In short, to determine whether it even stands a chance of passing a final congregational vote once we have completed the official process - which typically takes up to a year to do. Consider this wonderful quote: *“Taking the time to listen - to truly listen to someone - can truly communicate our love and respect even more than out spoken words.”* Is that not what we all desire as compassionate people?

The author of James appeals to us: *You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, ²⁰for human anger does not produce God’s righteousness.* (James 1:19)

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Worship Opportunities

(May - June)

May 5: 6th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 15:9-17

Sermon Theme: *Friends; the Final Episode*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

May 12: 7th Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

Scripture: John 17:6-19

Sermon Theme: *Yours, Mine, and Ours*

Note: Faith, Food, and Fellowship Sunday in fellowship hall

May 19: Pentecost Sunday

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Sermon Theme: *Praying For A Moral Pentecost*

May 26: 1st Sunday after Pentecost/Trinity Sunday

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

Sermon Theme: *Holy to the Third Power*

June 2: 2nd Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: John 8:22-27

Sermon Theme: *Sailing On Faith*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

June 9: 3rd Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: 2 Cor 4:13-5:1

Sermon Theme: *You're Not Getting Older You're Getting Better*

June 16: 4th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: TBD

Sermon Theme: TBD

Note: Eric Mason will be preaching.

June 23: 5th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: TBD

Sermon Theme: TBD

Note: Eric Mason will be preaching.

June 30: 5th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 5:21-43

Sermon Theme: *Taking Matters Into Our Own Hands*

May, 2024



UPDATES FROM YOUR COUNCIL

The Church Council met on May 14, 2024, at 7 p.m. The following are updates from that meeting:

- *April financials were presented and discussed. It was agreed that updates on the financial status of the church should be given to the congregation on a regular basis.
- * The president's report was given in conjunction with Pastor Bob's comments, as he was unable to attend the meeting. The council discussed the best way to move forward with developing a search committee for the settled pastor. Several options were presented. It was also suggested that we check the UCC guidelines for additional information. Materials have been requested from the UCC, which include checklists and templates for developing a church profile. It is customary for the search committee to be comprised of 7 to 11 members. More information is to come.
- * The renovation of the kitchen continues to move forward.
- *Purple Moose Preschool issues continue. We have completed the radon mitigation, and it has been tested and passed all acceptable standards. We have resolved issues of concern with the fire marshal. We are continuing to work on the water issue. Hopefully, a solution is near. Door handles and locks have been updated, and paint refreshing has been accomplished. It is important to note that, due to a generous donation outside of the church, as of this writing, no church funds from the budget have been utilized for updates in conjunction with the Purple Moose.
- * The Council feels it is important to have someone in the office at all times. Lena will have vacation time and possible sick days. We would like to establish a volunteer list consisting of anyone willing to cover the office in Lena's absence. This would involve answering the phones and being present to answer any questions that may arise. If you would be interested in volunteering a few hours when needed, please contact any Council member.
- * The current council is looking ahead to next year. Several members will be ending their terms and have expressed that they will not be returning. As we enter an extremely important time in the life of our church, it is imperative that St. Paul's have a strong and dedicated council. Please prayerfully consider joining the Council beginning January 2025. Please contact any current Council member if interested in serving; voting will take place at our October congregational meeting.

It is my honor to serve with this dedicated group of people.

In God's Service,
Wendy Manser

Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Wendy Manser	5/6
Laurie Revak	5/7
Sheryl Gee	5/11
Steve Ticknor	5/11
Kailee Kruse	5/14
Jack Glauner	5/14
Sue Phillips	5/14
Laura Middaugh	5/17
Julia Zickus	5/17

Molly Schneeweiss	5/21
Kurt Albertson	5/21
Jack Vogt	5/23
Gary Gee	5/24
Keith Chappell	5/25
Arlene Jezierski	5/29
Doug MacKenzie	5/29
Sandy MacMillan	5/30



Anna Schmidt	6/1
Colin Braun	6/8
Kristin Dul	6/9
Janis Braun	6/13
Brian Zickus	6/13
Pinky Martin	6/20
Anna Zickus	6/21
Angela Loehner	6/22
Dana Sideris	6/28
Rob Revak	6/29

Church News



On Saturday, April 27th, eleven of us participated in a meal packing session at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville. We were blessed to work as "the hands and feet of Jesus" packing meals for the hungry children in Chad, Central Africa, which is 6,333 miles from Crystal Lake. In *Matthew 25:34–40*, "*Jesus praises his followers who saw people in need and responded in love. That's what it means to be "the hands and feet of Jesus."*

We scooped, weighed, sealed, and packed enough pouches for a nutritious daily meal for 201 children for an entire year with fellow volunteers during our 1-hour, 15-minute session.

A big thank you to Jan & Joe Rickard, Becky Berg, Fred Mullard, Ann Lingner, Nancy Haskins, Julie Menke, Bev Tychsen, Carla Voss, Regina Lombardo, and her friend Melanie for supporting this adult fellowship event. We had a very fun and impactful experience at Feed My Starving Children!



Church News



Church News

Instead of our regular May meeting, Mary Circle will enjoy their usual spring tradition of going out to lunch.

This year's luncheon will be held at the Metalwood Grille located in the McHenry Country Club.

**820 N. John St
McHenry, IL 60050
Thursday, May 23rd
11:30 a.m.**

We look forward to seeing everyone! For more information, you can speak to a committee member by the information desk after Sunday service.

**CONTACT SONDR A MATTERNESS TO MAKE A
RESERVATION. 815-482-7922**

Usher Schedule

June
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

USHERS

June 2nd

Ken Thrun - Captain
Kevin Kruse & Nancy Bellis
Greeter: Joe & Jan Rickard
Liturgist: Cathy Schmidt

June 9th

Rob Revak - Captain
Laurie Revak & Jack Vogt
Greeters: Debbie Patterson
Liturgist: Jim Henneman

June 16th—Father's Day

Gary Voss - Captain
Carla Voss & Don Roxworthy
Greeters: Jan Bordignon
Liturgist: Jackie Mason

June 23rd

John Whetham - Captain
Bill Berghorn & Jane Dawson
Greeter: Elizabeth Speros
Liturgist: TBD

June 30th

Sheryl Gee - Captain
Gary Gee & Wendy Manser
Greeter: Bonnie Goldman & Hazel Kriegel
Liturgist: TBD

[Update 5/16](#)

July
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

USHERS

July 7th

Sheryl Gee - Captain
Gary Gee & Elizabeth Speros
Greeter:
Liturgist:

July 14th

Jim Henneman - Captain
Lauren Henneman & Bill Eich
Greeter:
Liturgist:

July 21st

Ken Thrun - Captain
Steve Tobin & Bill Berghorn
Greeter:
Liturgist:

July 28th

John Whetham - Captain
Gene & Lynn Virzi
Greeters:
Liturgist:

St. Paul's Prayer List



St. Paul's Members

Linda Christensen, Ruth Costello, Carol Heck

St. Paul's Homebound Friends

N/A

Deceased Members and Friends

Arlene Kopsell

Friends

Frank, Wendy Woosnam

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
485 Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

Phone: 815-459-5096

E-mail: info@stpaulsucccl.org | Website: www.stpaulsucc-cl.org

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram: [stpauls_ucc_cl](https://www.facebook.com/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

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Office Manager, Lena Vocalino

815-459-5096 - info@stpaulsucccl.org

Church Council

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Donna Butler, Council Vice President

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Linda Ticknor, Secretary

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Fred Mullard, Treasurer

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Jennifer Good, Financial Secretary

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Steve Tobin

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Give the Gift of SCRIP



IN STOCK SCRIP CARDS as of November 28th, 2023

Amazon	10 @ \$25
Best Buy	1 @ \$25
Buffalo Wild Wings	2 @ \$25
Chili's	4 @ \$25
Chipotle	3 @ \$10
Darden (Olive Garden)	8 @ \$25
Dunkin'	6 @ \$10
Fannie May	5 @ \$10
Home Depot	2 @ \$100
IHOP	1 @ \$25
Jewel	2 @ \$25/11 @ \$100
Kohl's	4 @25/1 @ \$100
LL Bean	1 @ \$100
Mariano's	3 @ \$50
Menards	2 @ \$100
Panera	6 @ \$10
Red Lobster	8 @ \$25
Shell	7 @ \$50
Speedway	12 @ \$25/1 @ \$100
Starbucks	7 @10/ 10 @ \$25
Synergy (Mobil)	3 @ \$50
Steinmart	1 @ \$25
Subway	3 @ \$10
Synergy (Mobile)	4 @ \$50
Target	2 @ \$25
TJ Maxx (Sierra, HomeGoods, Marshall)	2 @ \$100
Walmart	14 @ \$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!