

St. Paul's

**October
2024**



THE BEACON



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NEXT BEACON

November 18th

**All articles are
due in by 11/4**



October

2024

Dear members of St. Paul's,

At the January 2024 Annual Meeting, there were a number of changes to the Church Constitution that were voted on. Among these amendments was a change to the number of votes needed to pass a congregational motion *from* 2/3rds of those *present* at a congregational meeting *to* 2/3rds of *all* church members.

We have come to realize this raises a concern that to obtain a vote that includes our entire congregation (both present and not present) *and* obtain the 2/3rds number would cause an undesirable delay in order to seek out every church member who did not attend on the day of the vote.

Therefore, we will be asking for a motion and vote at the October 20, 2024 congregational meeting that this requirement be reviewed and reverted back to its original language of 2/3 of church members present. In an effort of fairness, we will also offer a Zoom invite for those unable to physically attend and expect their vote to be cast through the chat feature on Zoom and be included in the vote tally instantly.

Lastly, to date, we have two members (Kevin Kruse, Bill Eich) who have been nominated to serve on the church council through 2025 and 2026 and will be voted on at the October 2024 meeting.

That still leaves two positions to be filled for council as well as a full Board of Christian Education members. While gathering in worship is vital to our spiritual lives, we must remember that gathering to do the work of the Church is vital to the life of our congregation and community. Please consider your role in the life of St. Paul's and how you can help to sustain our ministry!

Sincerely,

2024 Church Council members

Wendy Manser, Donna Butler, Ruth Costello, Linda Ticknor, John Whetham, Steve Tobin, and Nancy Schmitz



October

2024

The Church Council met on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 7 p.m. Minutes from our September regular meeting as well as a special meeting were amended as necessary and approved. September financials were presented, discussed, and subsequently approved.

Bill Eich and Jim Henneman joined the council for discussion on updates, timelines, and concerns regarding the work of the Committee on securing a settled pastor. The Council takes pleasure in officially announcing that Pastor Jim Benzing will be joining us on a regular basis beginning Sunday, November 3rd. The agreement with Pastor Jim is specifically for Sunday services. As a congregation, we will need to support church events, daily responsibilities, and any occurrences that may develop. This time of transition requires all of us to support the ongoing needs of the church. We are excited to announce that Bill Eich has graciously volunteered to take on the lead responsibilities for St. Paul's at the Crystal Lake Food Pantry. We have supported the Pantry for so many years and are sincerely grateful to Bill for keeping this commitment alive.

A reminder that October 20, 2024, immediately following service will be our congregational meeting. We will be electing new council members. As of today, we are still looking for three more devoted members to step forward to fill these vacancies. We will also be voting on an adjustment to the voting parameters as set forth in our by-laws. More information will follow shortly.

A huge Thank You to Linda Ticknor and all the volunteers that helped with the CROP walk. It was an amazing day!!

Lastly, we are getting closer to a revamped WEB site. A few "bugs" need to be addressed and resolved, but we look forward to a dynamic new look for the church.

As always, the council does the essential and important "business" of the church. Please consider joining this group as we move forward in service as children of God.

In God's Service,
Wendy Manser

Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Jim Ticknor	10/1	Dolores Broker	10/16
Lynn Virzi	10/3	Emily Butler	10/16
Lisa Sadlik	10/4	Ginny Deuerling	10/21
Rebecca Johnson	10/7	Samuel Reckamp	10/21
Julie Moore	10/7	Bob Wang	10/21
Joan Bourdage	10/10	Caitlin Monahan	10/23
Ken Hansen	10/11	Abby Pagnotta	10/24
Nancy Lutz	10/14	Jan Rickard	10/25
Mary Benz	10/15	Donna Reber	10/26
John Whetham	10/15	Trent Eckhardt	10/28



Ann Kummerow	11/3	Faith Lotesto	11/17
Todd Fredrick	11/6	Glenn Berg	11/17
Bill Deuerling	11/9	Dan Pagnotta	11/21
Michael Czosnyka	11/9	Tim Monahan	11/21
Nolan Van Hoorn	11/9	Kevin Kruse	11/24
Barbie Fredrick	11/10	Dennis Radet	11/24
Jan Lloyd-Gohl	11/13	Gary Voss	11/25
John Gulino	11/13	Keving Lang	11/28
George Heck	11/15	Ann Mullard	11/29
Elizabeth Speros	11/15		

**"Trunk or Treat"
October 26th, 2024
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**



We're off to a great start, but we would still like more participants for the 2024 Trunk or Treat.

We can use your help to make this another successful Trunk or Treat.

1. Sign up to be a trunker. (Invite family and friends.)
2. Donate candy; we need lots of candy. You can drop it off in the **Green** box in the Narthex.
3. Give a monetary donation. Cash or a check is acceptable. Note on the check or envelope: "Trunk or Treat" Church Life donation.
4. Help give candy to trunkers (Lena will be walking around with the candy wagon).
5. Trash/Clean up volunteers.
6. Collect the votes for the BEST TRUNKER.

We will NOT be doing the movie outside.

Sandie Dogs will be selling delicious hot dogs, chips, and beverages.

If you are creative, or even if you're not, we would love to have you participate in this spooky event. It's SO much fun. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. If you are a newbie and have questions, or would like to sign up, feel free to email Lena in the office. info@stpaulsucccl.org

CHURCH NEWS



McHenry County Crop Hunger Walk Update of Event held October 6th, 2024, at St. Paul's UCC

As the Crop Walk was only last Sunday, October 6th, I do not have final numbers or photos as of the Beacon print date. I will share my gratitude along with **the gratitude on behalf of the McHenry County Crop Hunger Walk Committee.** This committee is outside of our church and comprises of volunteers from the McHenry County Crop Hunger Walk participating churches.

We are so GRATEFUL to those who sponsored walkers and the walkers that took the efforts to ask for donations. We are grateful for your volunteering of time and talents that made St. Paul's a welcoming host church. This committee is so happy with the "event." I was part of conversations sharing how impressed they were by the ease and flow of day. The help and kindness that was shown to their congregation members and friends was appreciated! This committee will meet in early November to recap the event and gather all the totals. We look at total number of walkers, participants, dollars raised per congregation and total dollars raised for CWS. Remember 25% of this grand total will be split evenly between four local McHenry County food pantries. Final numbers will also be provided on the fundraisers for the CWS Kits. We did pack 81 Period Packs and 120 Hygiene Kits. That is an admirable number of kits to present to CWS that have an estimated dollar value of \$1,350.00.



Above photo of Nick Gliha from CWS receiving the CWS Kits that we assembled and provided.

CHURCH NEWS



St. Paul's Walkers who raised funds

Lynn Virzi, Sondra Matterness, *Claudia Terrones, Karen Hansen, *Julie Menke, Linda Ticknor, Jean Hautzinger, *Coral Scranton and friend *Nancy, Sheryll Gee, *Nancy Bellis, *Kevin Kruse, Linda Kranz, *Carla Voss, *Cathy Schmidt, *Charlie Schmidt and *Murphy, woof woof.

Together you raised \$3,023.00 for CWS.

That is \$188.00 directly to Crystal Lake Food pantry

Thank you, walkers, and thank you sponsors!

We will continue to accept further sponsorship through October 31, 2024.

*indicate first time walkers or first-time fund raiser.

St. Paul's, as host church, you met many needs on Sunday. *Thank you.*

You provided fellowship for people that might have been alone or have not been in companionship for a few days. You provided cheer, laughter and smiles. You provided nourishment. One walker's companion quickly popped down to FH to get "sugar" for his friend who was "resting" outside due to the 4-mile walk. His blood sugar was low. You prayed for others. You provided a safe place for those who were quiet.

You are part of some wonderful memories that will be related to friends and family. You provided hope, to those we will not meet, through your efforts under the umbrella of CWS Crop Hunger Walk.



CHURCH NEWS



My personal thank you is a long list as I think of this past month and all the help and support received. I can picture you, recall most of our conversations, and as I reflect, I smile and lift you up in prayer. Thank you for blessing me.

Thank you to Pastor Dave Inglis for being with us during the registration time and leading us during our kickoff time in the sanctuary. Pastor Dave, you captured the spirit beautifully in your words and prayer during this time. Kristin Sheets led us in song and filled our sanctuary with such beautiful music. The festive atmosphere of the quilts, streamers and balloons were brought to you by the Mary Circle ladies, Wendy Domanico, Carla Voss, Karen Hansen. Behind the scenes taking photos were Brian Click and Regina Lombardo. Hostesses Jane Dawson with her sister Marjie, Janet Bucher and Sharon Dieball welcomed all into our church pointing the way to where individuals needed to be. Once the walkers started, Fred Mullard drove the 4-mile and 1-mile route checking on the walkers with extra water and a first aid kit just in case. He kept reporting back, "All the 1-mile walkers are back, the 4-mile walkers are spread out on Pomeroy Avenue" and finally, "the last two walkers are on their way in!" Thank you to Fred and Ann Mullard for updating all our first aid kits at St. Paul's as well.

But the help it took to get that far in the actual walk day would not have been possible without the time spent on Saturday partially setting up. Saturday, we had a team of Gary and Sheryl Gee, Gary Voss, Kevin Kruse, Ken and Karen Hansen, Jim Henneman, Jan and Michael Czosnyka, Sondra Matterness, Wendy Manser and Justin. Outside banners and flags hung, yard signs set, corn stalk, pumpkin and scarecrow decorations up, we were ready. Well, almost.

Sunday last minute set up help after coffee hour was a bit of a blur, so if I forgot anyone, please let me know! We had help from Nancy Bellis, Karen and Ken Hansen, Gary and Sheryl Gee, Kevin Kruse, Wendy Domanico, and Carla Voss. This was last minute set-up due to work needed to be done in the sanctuary and narthex. Wendy Domanico was my go-to help along with Karen Hansen and Carla Voss. What can we do next, they kept asking. Without all this help it would have been chaotic. Their kindness and patience with me were appreciated.

Karen Radovich and Toni Meyers helped register our walkers. I think they had fun writing out CWS/Crop Hunger Walk checks from my signed checkbook, converting cash into checks for our walkers and a few walkers from other congregations. This took focus. They rocked it!

Toni Meyers greeted the walkers back with enthusiasm; I almost wanted to walk out the door just to be greeted back by Toni. She directed them down to Fellowship Hall where they enjoyed the A/C, a snack and water. By the time the 4-mile walkers returned all the CWS

CHURCH NEWS



Kits were assembled! Snacks were spearheaded by Sondra Matterness and snacks and water provided by Sondra, Nancy Bellis, Trina Kurowski and Nancy Schmidt.

Talk about a team effort on the CWS KITS! Jan and Michael Czosnyka organized the items and the volunteers. Volunteers Nancy Kendall, Debbie Patterson, Shirley Berghorn, Wendy Manser, Carla Voss, Marsh Britt, Jane Dawson and her sister Marjie, helped to keep the items organized and, in the end, quality checked! WHEW! That was quite the job.

Clean up, break down, put away all the tables, chairs, outside banners, signs, and the list goes on was done before I knew it! Thank you, Gary G., Jim, Ken, Bill D. Sondra, Karen, Wendy D., Toni, Carla, Sheryl and I think I am missing someone! It all happened so fast!

And before the event could take place I had help from Lena Vocalino, John Whetham, Eric Domanico, Ken Thrun and Mary Katenhusen. Lena helped me to get the word out about the fundraisers, provided printed materials, and gave me a lot of grace in my missing deadlines. John helped with the videos throughout the past month and mic set up the day of event. Eric picked up our donation of corn stalks and pumpkins from Stade Farm Market. Ken fixed the outside banner a few times due to the high winds, and Mary jumped right in with the bulletin board and saying "YES" to making the decorative photo prop

Please let me know, if I have forgotten a name or a thank you.



Thank you everyone for your participation!

As I write tonight, a friend texted me this. "Was praying for you yesterday for the crop walk. Well done faithful servant. Hope all went well." And this past Friday I was given the Bible Verse Colossian 2:6.

I share this; for you.

In his letter to the Ephesian church family, Paul expressed his unceasing gratitude to God for the good news he heard about them. He assured them that he regularly interceded for them, and then he pronounced a wonderful blessing on his readers:

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. (Ephesians 1:15-17, NIV)

Peace,

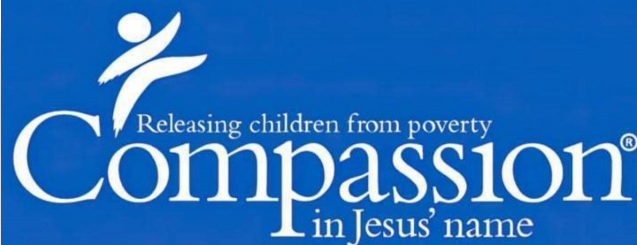
Linda Ticknor

St. Paul's Church Member

Event Coordinator

McHenry County Crop Hunger Walk 2024

CHURCH NEWS



We have been praying for Compassion International Children. We are looking for an update on these children. This list was compiled a few years ago when we asked our congregation if anyone was sponsoring a child through Compassion International.

If you are or were a sponsor could you provide your name and sponsored child? Perhaps your child has graduated out of the program, could you also provide that information?

Drop Lena an email at info@stpaulsucccl.org

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)

Peace

Linda Ticknor

CHURCH NEWS



After discussion with the Worship Committee, the Altar Guild has decided to return to pew communion the first Sunday in October. It was discontinued during COVID, but many people have asked to go back to the way it was done prior to COVID.

For those who are new to the church, the bread tray will be brought to your pew first, followed by trays of grape juice and wine. The grape juice will be in the outer row, and the wine will be in the inside rows. We will be including some of the current cups of communion for those of you who

Jan Czosnyka	815-459-5911
Karen Hansen	815-455-1385
Wendy Manser	815-245-0058
Cheryll Triefenbach	815-382-9367
Sondra Matterness	815-482-7922
Bev Tychsen	847-987-4599

REMINDER

On October 20th, 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.

Wendy Manser
Council President



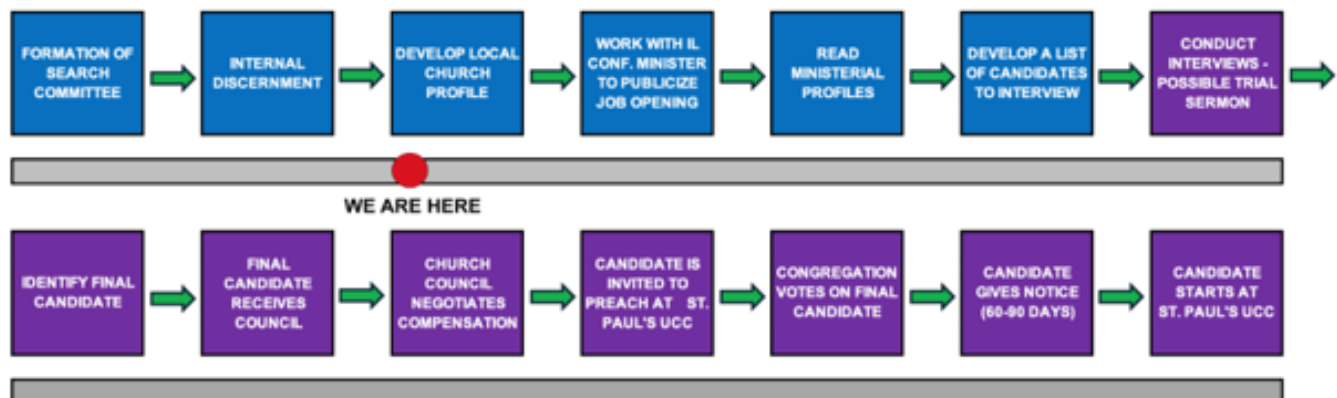
CHURCH NEWS

Pastor Search Process

The Pastoral Search Committee is a group of congregants who have volunteered their time and talents to help our church in this important mission and are the group most involved in the search for a new minister. The committee's first big job will be to complete a Local Church Profile that reflects who we are and what our priorities are as a congregation. Once our profile is published on the UCC Ministry Opportunities web page, the committee will begin to receive and review profiles of potential candidates.

Below is an overview of where we are at in the pastor search process, and what to expect as we move through the various steps. We will be updating our progress in upcoming Beacon articles with new information and details as the search continues.

PASTORAL SEARCH PROGRESS



Pastoral Search Committee

Jim Henneman	Bill Eich
Shirley Berghorn	Jennifer Good
Cathy Schmidt	Kevin Kruse
Mary Katenhusen	Regina Lombardo-Click
Lauren Henneman	Ken Thrun
Steve Tobin	

CONGREGATION HOMEWORK RESULTS

Following are the results that were collected from the Congregation Homework. I was disappointed that only seven people turned in their homework! This was very low input from a congregation of our size. If we are trying to grow our church we must do better! However, with the seven people, we did receive much needed information and with that I am very pleased. Several people talked to more than just one person. These are the questions and answers that I received. Keep in mind, these are people outside our church and their comments.

Are you currently affiliated with a church?

4 - yes 10 - no

What do you like about the church you attend?

- Faithful and friendly people
- Low pressure for joining activities
- Gatherings for social interaction
- Good sermons, meaningful
- Inspirational music, a variety of standard hymns and contemporary
- Social activities
- Minister is very good
- Social activities outside church
- Good youth program
- Grief group

In what way does your church help grow your faith?

- Good sermons
- Outreach programs for the aging and needy
- Good community
- Bible study group
- Community prayer group

Things you do not like about your church

Habit of expected to shake hands. Worried about risk of Covid or similar virus germs.

What was your reason for leaving your former church?

- Left for college and never went back
- Felt no connection after college
- Catholic handling of the abuse
- Moved too far away
- Too many people familiar with me pre-transition and afraid of being judged
- People were nasty to me
- No pastor to relate to me
- Sunday my only day off
- Not interested in other churches
- Haven't found the right fit
- Feel more connected to God in nature than I do at church
- It is too much commitment both financial and volunteering
- People are hypocrites and do not act Christian
- No activities for my age group

What might inspire you to get back to church?

- Energetic UCC pastor – 21st century
- Young adult get-togethers for coffee and/or food
- Family commitment
- Supportive church community
- Parents
- Familiarity
- More contemporary music – rock band playing Christian music
- Families with children with similar to my children
- People in my age bracket
- Music that speaks to me
- Groups to attend
- Ways to make a difference

Thank you all for sharing your conversations.
Karen Hansen

CHURCH NEWS

Can you believe it's time to start thinking about Christmas Poinsettias?

Get your order in early and have one less "to do" item on your list.



It's time to order your
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS!

You have your choice of
red or white, please choose below.
All plants have 5-8 blooms per 6" pot.
November 10th, 17th, 24th

___ Classic Red 

___ White 

Name: _____

Phone: _____

I would like to order ___ Poinsettias at \$12.00 each.
Enclosed is my check/cash for \$ _____.

MEMORIAL LISTING

HONOR LISTING

**Deadline for Ordering
November 24th, 2024**

Please return your order form with payment to an
Altar Guild member or the Church Office.
Thank you.

All plants are available to be taken home after the
Christmas Eve service.

THANK YOU



I want to thank everyone who sponsored me in last week's CROP Walk for Hunger.

I had an overwhelming number of people who helped me raise money for this fundraiser.

Love and Friendship
Jean Hautzinger

USHER SCHEDULE

October
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

USHERS

October 6th

Jim Henneman - Captain
Lauren Henneman & Elizabeth Speros
Greeter: Bill & Michelle Eich
Liturgist: **Fred Mullard**

October 13th

Sheryl Gee - Captain
Gary Gee & Jane Dawson
Greeters: Sharon Dieball
Liturgist: **Kevin Kruse**

October 20th

Ken Hansen - Captain
Karen Hansen & Wendy Domanico
Greeters: Donna Butler
Liturgist: **Kevin Kruse**

October 27th

John Whetham - Captain
Wendy Manser & Bill Eich
Greeter: Donna Butler
Liturgist: **TBD**

Updated 10/9

ST. PAUL'S PRAYER LIST



St. Paul's Members

Donna Reber, Marianne Deacon, Ruth Costello

St. Paul's Homebound Friends

Warren Spencer, George Heck

Deceased Members and Friends

N/A

Friends

N/A

Military - Stateside

Leland, 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 60014

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. - 3:30 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

Interim Pastor: Jim Benzing
benzing310@comcast.net

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

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!