

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
426 Washington St. Wausau, WI 54403

Christopher Ewan—Visitation Minister (715) 680-0083

*(Emergency calls after office hours only)*

Kris Vraney—Office - [admin1@stpaulsuccwausau.org](mailto:admin1@stpaulsuccwausau.org)

Mary Anderes—Office - [admin2@stpaulsuccwausau.org](mailto:admin2@stpaulsuccwausau.org)

Tania Schwarze—Media Coordinator – [web@stpaulsuccwausau.org](mailto:web@stpaulsuccwausau.org)

William Day—Chancel Choir Director

Carol Seefeldt—Bell Choir Director

George Felty—Organist

Jacie Cieslek—Housekeeper

Pastoral Support Committee: Tamara Sillars, Nate Helke,  
Nora Schultz, Bill Panzigray, Carla Elliott

Search Committee Members: Marie Martens, Tamara Sillars,  
Matt Volhard, Rita Kellman, Nate Helke, Carol Seefeldt,  
Josh Reissmann, Nora Schultz, Kateland Sillars, Allison Dean,  
David Wilhams

**Church Council Officers:**

President- Nora Schultz

Vice-Pres- Colette Brill

Secretary- Allison Dean

Treasurer- Gail Rowell

Office Hours: 8:00 – 3:00 (Mon-Thurs) 8:00 – 12:00 (Fri)

Office Phone: (715) 842-3733

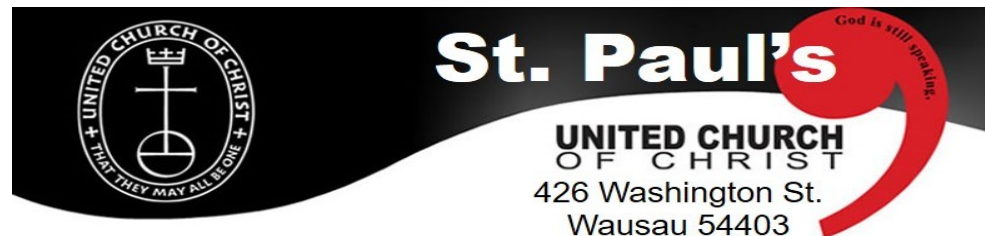
Our Website: [www.stpauluccwausau.org](http://www.stpauluccwausau.org)

**CCLI License: 3121320 & 20363711**

**One License: A-724784**

**CVLI License #505544354**

Please note: Sunday Services are available on Public Channel Spectrum  
980 or TDS 14. \*Weekly Sunday Services begin on Tuesdays at Noon;  
Wednesday at 5pm; Thursdays at 8am; and Sundays at 9:30 am.



## May 2026 COMMUNICATOR

Welcome to our New Minister

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

What a gift it is to be introduced to you. My name is Susie, and I have been in pastoral ministry for more than 20 years. Before moving to the Wausau area last June, my husband Tim and I planted a church in Denver, Colorado, where we served together for 14 years. We made the move to be closer to family — and honestly, it already feels like home.

Tim grew up right here in Wausau, and while I grew up in Waukesha, we met in the middle at UW-La Crosse and went on to attend Denver Seminary together. These days we live just five minutes from St. Paul's with our two kids — Russell, 14, and Lyla, 12, who both attend DC Everest IDEA School — along with our gaggle of animals: three dogs, a cat, and three chickens!

Ministry has been the great calling of my life, rooted in the conviction that every person is seen, known, and loved by God, and that the church is at its best when it reflects that truth in everything it does. I am passionate about preaching in a way that meets people where they are, about communities where questions are welcome and grace is generous, and about spiritual formation that shows up in both the sacred and the ordinary moments of life.

I am genuinely excited about the possibility of serving as your pastor. I look forward to being with you to worship together, to hear your stories, and to begin what I hope will be a rich and Spirit-led conversation about the future.

With anticipation and gratitude,

Susie



## Meet the Grade Family: Tim, Russell, Susie, and Lyla



### St. Paul's in May through the years...

The Guild Hall has been around for a long time!

Construction began in **May 1949** and cost \$258,000.

A new organ was installed in the sanctuary on **May 14, 1898**.

The Rev. William Kaseman began his pastorate here on **May 16, 1982**.

In **May of 1857**, the German Evangelical Synod of North America, St. Paul's original denominational identity, was established.

The brick steeple of the old St. Paul's church was taken down on **May 26, 1960**.

The opening of the new sanctuary also meant having a new organ. On **May 23, 1964**, the church hosted an organ dedication recital, given by Thomas Grieschen of Milwaukee.

*Source: The 125th Anniversary Calendar of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 1988.*

## Ministries Schedule



### Ushers

5/3 Team 3  
5/10 Team 4  
5/17 Team 5  
5/24 Team 6  
5/31 Team 7

### Scrip Sales

5/3 Kurt Seefeldt  
5/10 Andy Witt  
5/17 Jerry Woller  
5/24 Gerry Brummond  
5/31 Carla Elliott

### Readers

5/3 Craig Clausen  
5/10 Cathy Taschler  
5/17 Craig Clausen  
5/24 Cathy Taschler  
5/31 Gail Rowell



### Communion Setup & Cleanup

May 17 9:00 am Gary & Pam Helke



### Worship Leaders

5/3 Chris Ewan  
5/10 Chris Ewan  
5/17 Pastor Jill  
Christopherson  
5/24 Michael Loomis  
5/31 Michael Loomis

### Media

5/3 Chuck Romanowski  
5/10 Travis Schubring  
5/17 Jim Maguire  
5/24 Chuck Romanowski  
5/31 Gerry Brummond

(WI Conference Continued)

### Future Meeting:

There will be another meeting online in the fall to discuss the budget for 2027 and other year-end issues. The next spring gathering will be April 9-10, 2027 at the Green Lake Conference Center. We hope you will give prayerful consideration to attending. There are multiple opportunities to attend workshops, worship services, performances by some of our leading UCC recording artists & the Gospellers choir, and chances to connect with other church members from across the state. It is also an opportunity to check out the many organizations supported through the United Church of Christ.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to attend and represent St. Paul's UCC.

Blessings, Sally Scinto and Bob Reinertson

## CONGRATULATIONS!

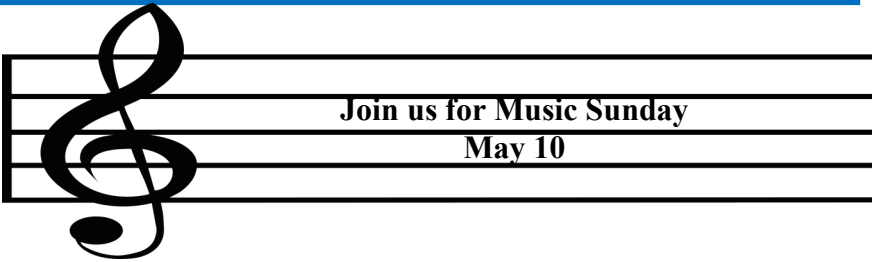
St. Paul's UCC was recognized as:

A 5 for 5 Church  
and an

OCWM Wisconsin Impact Champion

Thank you to everyone who supports these special offerings!

OCWM WI Impact – One Great Hour of Sharing – The Christmas Fund – Strengthen the Church – Neighbors in Need



Join us for Music Sunday  
May 10

## Thank you! Gracias! Danke! Дякую!

There are so many people to thank for making April's many activities happen here at church!

We thanked him in last month's Communicator, but thanks again to **Gary Helke** for cooking and organizing the Easter morning brunch. **Gail Rowell** and **Carol Baker** read parts in the tri-congregation Good Friday service at Grace UCC. The **Chancel Choir** and **Bell Choir** performed at the Maundy Thursday service at Peace UCC.

**Nancy Junkerman** dusted off her calculator and counted the offering one Monday. **Bob Reinertson** and **Sally Scinto** represented St. Paul's as delegates to the Wisconsin Conference UCC Annual Meeting in Green Lake. And finally, thank you to **Aly Seefeldt**, **Haydyn Krause**, **Elise Kulas**, **Vivienne Reissmann**, **Riley Gwidt**, and **Finn Helke** for leading us in worship and sharing their Statements of Faith with us at the April 26 service.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time and talents in April!

## St. Paul's Annual Brewer Game Trip!



VS.



**Sat., July 18, 2026**

Raffles on Bus!

**\$100/Person**

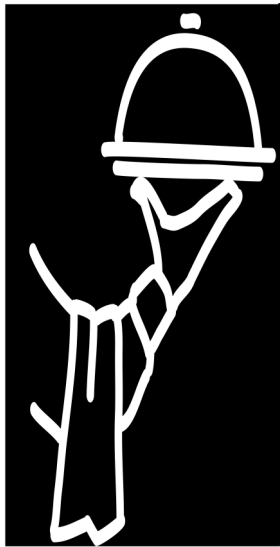
Limited Seating!

**\*Includes Round-Trip Bus Transportation, Tailgate Food, & Game Ticket.**

*Leave Lamer's at 10am. Game at 3pm.*


*\*Bring A Snack to Share on Bus.*

Please contact Gordie at (715) 301-3709 to Signup. Your PAYMENT Is Your CONFIRMATION!



Diner's Club  
 Friday, May 15  
 6:00 Dinner  
 5:30 Refreshments  
 at Memories Ballroom  
 142475 County Rd. NN  
 Marathon City, WI  
**Please sign up or call the  
 office at 715-842-3733 if you  
 plan on attending.**

To celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our country, we would like to display pictures of veterans in uniform in the showcase. They can be members of St. Paul's, past members, or members of your family. Please drop off your pictures in the church office or give them to Gerry Seidler. Note the name of the veteran and what war or area they served in, relationship to you, name of person to return picture to, and a phone number. Pictures will be displayed through August and will be changed out monthly. Thanks!

**Bethany Lutheran College Choir Concert**  
**Tuesday, May 12 at Zion Lutheran Church**  
**709 N. 6th. St. Wausau at 7:00 pm.**  
**Enjoy their full Concert Choir, Handbell Choir,**  
**and Mary-Martha Singers. Free admission.**

Churches have done harm to those who have felt excluded. Those impacted see who isn't speaking up and who is not there to support them. Churches have done harm to those who have felt excluded.

So, we must consistently nurture and tend to these initiatives. Bridges need to be built and strengthened on a regular basis. It is crucial that the foundational work continues. It is our responsibility to sincerely do all we can to be a safe place, and a truly welcoming place for all of God's children.

**Got a great idea for a new ministry?**

Catalyst grants are looking to support new initiatives in congregations that

- 1) transform lives through community-based initiatives,
- 2) stretch or deepen a congregations commitment to working for justice, or
- 3) expand a congregation's ideas about what constitutes ministry.

If there is something new that you would like to try out, please check out the



Conference Minister  
 Franz Rigert

Wisconsin Conference website for an application. Grant applications are due by June 30.

**Listening Sessions:**

The Conference Staff wants to learn more from our local churches. A goal has been set that conference representatives will hold listening sessions with every church in the Wisconsin Conference within the next 18 months. Sessions can be with the entire congregation or only church leadership.

**Business notes from the Annual Meeting:**

\*Elected Rev. Franz Rigert to another four-year term as our conference minister.

\*Re-connected with our new Associate Conference Minister Rev. Shannon Joshi who will begin as our Northern Region Associate Conference Minister on June 22.

\*UCC Camps has retired significant amounts of debt, after the COVID impacted years of 2020, and 2021.

\*80% of OCWM donations stay within the Wisconsin conference. 20% are remitted to the national level for administration and ministries.

*(Continued next page)*

# Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting Report April 2026

We bring you greetings and well wishes from our siblings in Christ from the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ. The first of two meetings was held on the shores of Green Lake in early April.

Our theme was “Cultivating Community” based on the scripture from John 15:5 *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*

Our keynote speaker was Dr. Edith Guffey, who served the United Church of Christ for over 30 years, including as secretary of the UCC, Associate General Minister, and Conference minister of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference. The theme of her message was “Cultivating Community by Building Bridges.”



She shared that no one should feel marginalized in the United Church of Christ; we are all God’s children. However, the heated political divisions within our country have created a lack of community. At times we can no longer agree as to who we are or who we want to be. As a church we are reminded of our shared values and structure; a sense of belonging; our common interests; mutual support & interaction; and trust.

As we all strive to be multi-racial, and multi-cultural churches, she brought to our attention the reasons why we may have difficulties in doing so:

\*Racism was supposed to be addressed in the 1960’s; then again with the George Floyd protests; but now people are being referred to as DEI hires.

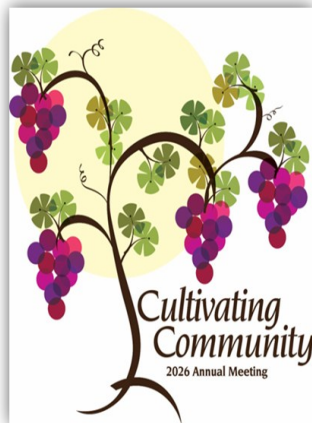
\*The country gets distracted by different crises in the 24 hour news/social media cycle.

\*Those institutions supporting LGBTQ+ and anti-racism efforts in the 2000’s rescinded that support in wake of recent pressure against DEI initiatives.

**Therefore, it is important that churches build bridges to these communities.** We should not make promises we do not intend to keep.

People may not flock to our church to attend just because we declare ourselves to be welcoming.

*(continued next page)*



**We are so excited to honor our St. Paul’s Graduates for 2026! Parents, Graduates, even Grandparents**—please take a few minutes and fill out the form and return to the office by **May 31** so we can honor our St. Paul’s Graduates by name on **Sunday, June 7 at 9 am.**  
**Thank you!**

Name of Graduate \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Names and Siblings \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Received \_\_\_\_\_

Honors or Recognition you received \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Clubs or Organizations you have been involved with during school \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Future Plans or Goals \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Will you be attending the service and reception on Sunday, June 7th at 9:00 am in your honor?**

YES—I am honored to attend  
NO-I am unable to make it-but please list me and my accomplishments in the church bulletin.

*Please check yes or no on whether or not you will be attending, and return form to the office. Thank you!*



### **\*Attention\***

**St. Paul's Food Pantry will be  
Open Every Thursday in May!**

**\*\*Volunteers Needed\*\***

**Hours of Operation: 9:00 am-Noon**

**Walk-up:** Welcome all operational days

**Drive-up:** Limited to twice per month

**Diaper Distribution:** Once per month per family.  
*In person distribution only. NO carry-outs for others.*

## **Treasure Sale Announcement!**



**Are you in the midst of your spring  
cleaning? Are there some nice as  
new, gently used items that you  
believe others would purchase?**

If so, please consider donating them to the  
Ladies of St. Paul's Treasure Sale. They have  
begun collecting items for their sale during  
Harvest Fest on October 3 and 4.

If you are going to need assistance bringing your  
items into church, please call ahead at 715-842-  
3733, so we can arrange a volunteer to assist you.



**Tuesdays in June!**

**6pm- 7:30pm**

**June 9: Cookout at Peace  
UCC & VBS Launch  
June 16: At Grace UCC  
June 23: At St. Paul's UCC  
June 30<sup>th</sup>: At Peace UCC**

**\* All Are Welcome!**

**Ages 3 & under must be supervised by adult.**

**\*SIGN UP TODAY!**

**(715) 842-3733**

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**  
426 Washington Street, Wausau WI 54403

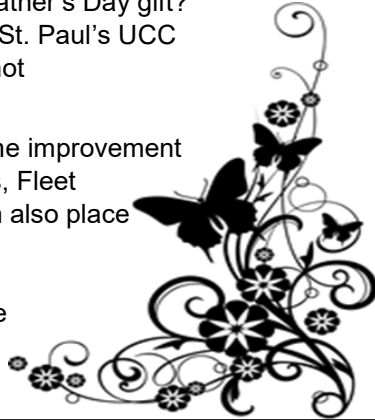
**Dollars and Sense from the Finance Committee:**

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to everyone for their donations and loose offerings to go toward Ringle disaster relief. We raised \$605 on our first Sunday (4/19), and made our first disbursement that week. It went directly to a family related to our congregation who lost their home. The gift was greatly appreciated. With dedicated offerings, loose offerings, and a mission donation the second week, we collected an additional \$1,888.25. Thank you for your generosity!

Are you looking for a Mother's Day gift? Father's Day gift? Graduation gift? Please consider giving a St. Paul's UCC scrip card. They are easy to use, and do not require dusting!

Also, do you have some gardening or home improvement projects? We have scrip cards to Menards, Fleet Farm, Home Depot, and Walmart. We can also place an order for Ace Hardware cards as well. It's a great way to grow your flowers and grow the church accounts at the same time! Please see a scrip volunteer to get your cards today.



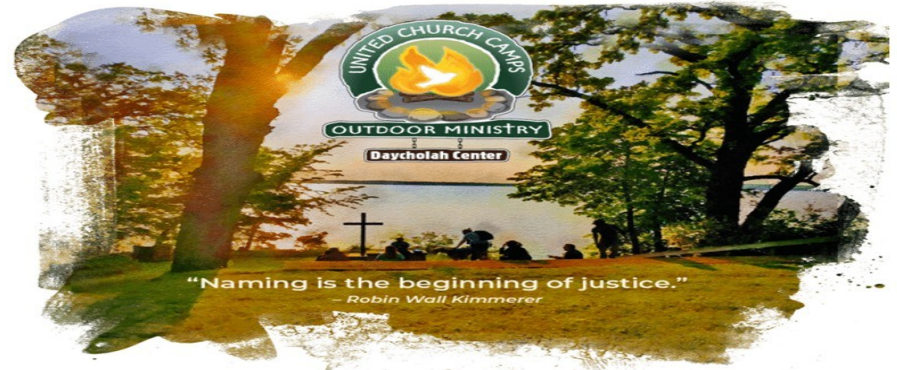
**Financial Report for March 2026:**

**Current Giving:**

March 2026	\$27,880.75
Monthly Goal	\$19,167.00
Year to Date:	\$58,057.25
Year to Date Goal:	Over budget by \$556.25

Staff Support Expenses: Under budget by \$5,921.83  
Administrative Expenses: Over budget by \$2,966.94  
Program Expenses: Under budget by \$478.23  
Property Expenses: Over budget \$4,002.79 (had large expense this month with a new garbage disposal)

Are you going to be up a river this summer (hopefully with a paddle, instead of without one...)? Don't forget to register for electronic giving. It will continue your gifts to the church no matter where you are throughout the summer. To set up your donations, please click "Give Online" at our website [www.stpauluccwausau.org](http://www.stpauluccwausau.org), or check with the office today.



**Summer Camp Registration Is Open!**



Registration for Summer Camp at Daycholah Center opened on January 12. Camp Daycholah offers a joyful, unplugged experience where children and youth build friendships, grow in confidence and spirit, and connect with nature. Families are encouraged to register early at: [WWW.UCCI.ORG](http://WWW.UCCI.ORG)

**Steffen Camp scholarships are available!**  
**See the office for an application today.**

**Communion Services**

In **May, June, July, and August**, we will continue to offer **communion on the third Sunday** of the month to accommodate the worship schedule. Christopher Ewan, Rev. Elizabeth Hazel, and Pastor Jill Christopherson will continue leading us in worship. Rev. Susie Grade will also be with us a few Sundays throughout the summer.

# MAY



# BIRTHDAYS

Sheila Czerwinski	5/1	Jacalyn Volhard	5/16
Jack Ferg	5/1	Michael Anderes	5/17
Diane Matuszak	5/1	Matthew Mattila	5/17
Carol Baker	5/2	Gordon Hintze	5/18
Kia Bohn	5/2	Tyler Clausen	5/19
Lindsay Hafner II	5/2	Cameron Kissinger	5/19
Janice Johnson	5/4	Kendra Kissinger	5/19
Crystal Suchon	5/4	Jeffrey Thiel	5/19
Kaleigh Ferber	5/5	Riley Graham	5/20
Todd Liebelt	5/5	Sheila McGivern	5/20
Joelene Scheibe	5/5	Mariah Endres	5/21
Kaden Nelson	5/6	Harper Kasten	5/22
Bryher Schwarze	5/6	Linda Morrow	5/22
Ruth Schreiber	5/8	Deborah Brown	5/23
Sally Scinto	5/8	Alan Richards	5/24
Logan Urban	5/8	David Schuh	5/24
Taylor Konkol	5/9	Dana Ferge	5/25
Karen Larson	5/10	Gerald Jung	5/25
Tessa Konkol	5/11	Allison Dean	5/26
Taylor Kutzt	5/11	Luke Riiser	5/26
Nola Lotzer	5/11	Russell Gilbertson	5/27
Gary Thiel	5/12	Chris* Hoepfner	5/27
Alexander Witt	5/12	Gwen Powell	5/28
Glenn Gohdes	5/14	Chuck Romanowski	5/28
James Kemerling	5/14	Thomas Feck	5/29
Donald Marcis	5/14	Austin Graham	5/29
Breann Osterbrink	5/14	Tamara Sillars	5/29
Chet Doescher	5/15	Jaidyn Magrecke	5/30
Jody Jaecks	5/15	William Marcis	5/30
Jaikas Trzcinski	5/16	Danny Graham	5/31
		Tera Ruenger	5/31

May God bless you on your birthday and always!



**We have four tickets remaining for Clauson's brand new show:**

**ALL TIME FAVORITES!**

The trip is on June 18th, departing at 10:30 am. Only 4 seats remain. Reserve your seat soon!

## Statistics from Our Media Ministry Team

Last week our website was visited by 62 unique individuals. A total of 199 pages were viewed on our website.

In April, 273 unique visitors viewed 777 pages on our website.

By Wednesday, 4/29/26, our April 26<sup>th</sup> worship service had 25 views on YouTube.

We generated 18 Facebook posts and gained 43 followers.



## Volunteers Needed

### Join Our Media Ministry Team!

We are Looking for Members to Represent St. Paul's UCC on Various Social Media Platforms.

**\*TikTok \*Facebook \*Instagram**

**\*See Tania in the Church Office – Or Email Tschwarze@stpaulsuccwausau.org**