February 2025

The Good News Herald

Zwingli
United Church of Christ
1338 Cty Tk PB, Paoli, WI
Mailing Address:
PO Box 530, Belleville, WI 53508

www.paoliucc.com

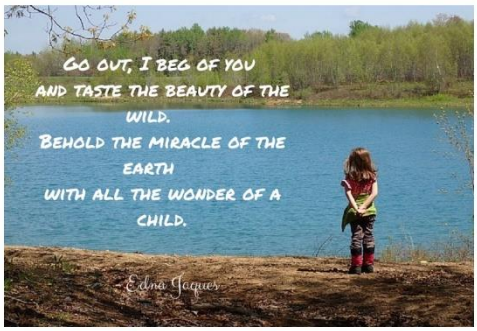


Pastor
Rev. Karla Schmidt
pastor.zwingliuccpaoli@gmail.com
608-572-4557

Admin Assistant: Kathie Wagner
Phone: 608-845-5641
zwingliuccpaoli@gmail.com

A Small Church with a Big and Open Heart!

Check out our Zwingli UCC - Paoli Facebook page! https://www.facebook.com/zwingliuccpaoli



https://greenacorns.wordpress.com/2015/05/20/987/

From the Pastor

It's already February! I love that the daylight is getting longer, even if it is still winter! In the church calendar we are still in the season of Epiphany so we are invited to still seek out the revelations of Christ in our world, including our church (which we've recently been reminded is the Body of Christ)! The season of Epiphany invites us to **Wonder**, so I share this poem by Steve Garnaas-Holmes with you as we enter February. *Blessings, Pastor Karla*

Wonder

Have you been saved by being told
to believe, and what, and how?
What we need is not
to believe what we haven't seen
but to see what we have.

Enough of shadowed pulpits,
enough of having to believe.
Let star-led magi instead
teach you to wonder—
to see with the eyes of your heart
what is before you, shining;
to look for grace and beauty,
and expect holiness;
to see this world as wrapping paper
with a divine gift within;

to seek the holy child,
the radiant Presence,
the Indwelling One,
in every moment.
You don't need a once-in-a-lifetime star:
any one will do.
Travel this wonder-spangled world
with a heart open to glory,
open to heaven on earth,
open to God among us.
Don't be surprised how many times
you fall on your knees and worship,
and open gifts from your treasure chest.
Could the very next moment
be the one of epiphany, of revelation?
I wonder.
(www.unfoldinglight.net)



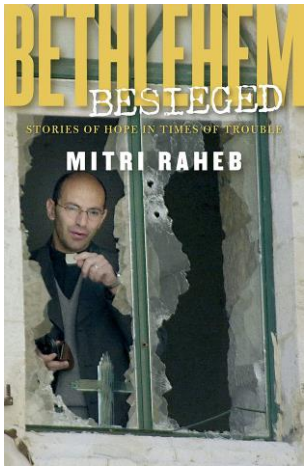
Thank you to the 2024 Council and Financial Volunteers

President: Petra Streiff, Vice President: Ken Bauman, Secretary: Larry Stuessy; Elders: Sue Bovre, Judy and Don Batker, Cindy & Dennis Hustad, Jerry Brown. Treasurer: Cole Leystra, Financial Secretary: Larry Brunkow

We appreciate our hard-working 2024 Council for all they did to support Zwingli this past year. Special thanks to those who are leaving Council (you will be missed): Ken Bauman, Cindy & Dennis Hustad, and Jerry Brown.



We are so grateful to those members who have stepped up to serve on Council for 2025: Faith Wittwer, Louise Brunkow and Brian Brown!



Feb – March Book Group to read: Bethlehem Besieged

Book Group will begin a new book in February! We will be reading Bethlehem Besieged: Stories of Hope in Time of Trouble, by Rev. Mitri Raheb.

Our meetings will start around 10:45 am (following worship) and end at 11:30 am on February 16, 23, and March 9. If you did not sign up but still want to join, check with Pastor Karla (asap) and she will try to get you a copy of the book.

DO NOT answer calls from spam phone #!

If you get a call from 217-825-8896 do not answer it. One of our members did not answer it and a text message was left for her claiming to be Pastor Karla. She called Karla at Karla's correct number and they realized it was spam. It is probably a phishing call and they probably want you to say 'yes' to something that will cause you problems . . . or some other scheme. Sigh. **So we suggest you put Karla's phone # in your phone and name her: 608-572-4557 so you know for sure it is from her if she calls you.** You might also want to put the phishing # in your phone with the name Pastor Phishing, so you know not to answer it, and then to report it.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



We are excited to welcome three new members who bring so much to Zwingli. Thank you to everyone for making them feel welcome! Check out their bio's to learn more about them!

Cherry Pulver has roots in Zwingli! Her paternal grandparents, Karl and Anna Pulver, were charter members of Zwingli and are now buried in the Paoli cemetery. Her Dad, Armin Pulver, Sr, took Cherry and her siblings to Zwingli Sunday School and other activities. Her Uncle, Fred Pulver, Sr was a member of Zwingli. His son, Fred, Jr, did a lot of repair work for Zwingli. Cherry's father's sister is Ruby Pleva's mother - which makes Cherry and Ruby cousins! Cherry has been a registered nurse since 1975. Although retired, she still works part-time in home care for Madison based Manky Community Living. She has three children (Joshua, Melissa and Stacy) and four grandchildren. Cherry enjoys gardening, canning, cooking, camping, sewing, and international travel (Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, and Bolivia where her daughter Melissa served in the Peace Corps). Over the years, Cherry has been involved in UCC (Paoli and Verona), Catholic, and United Methodist Churches. She looks forward to getting back into actually belonging to a church and participating in community.

Clint Zettle began attending Zwingli when his friend, Calvin Hageman, invited him to a Christmas Eve service. Zwingli is a church where he already feels a part of the community and people. Clint and Pam were married in 2000. He has 4 adult children (Belinda, Roberta, Darrel, and Timothy), 9 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren (teenager to 21+). He was a dairy farmer in Green County for many years and now has a small farm in Brooklyn where he raises hay. Over the years he also drove the school bus (for 40 years), had a trucking business, ran a repair shop in Brodhead, and participated in exhibition plowing with mules (including Paoli Plow Days -- with Jack Everson). He served in the Army from 1954-56. He also belongs to the American Legion in Orfordville. He especially enjoys working with his mules and taking wagon train adventures with his wife Pam. He was baptized and confirmed at Staver Evangelical Church south of Monroe, and through the years has been active in Evangelical and United Methodist Churches in southern, WI. Clint likes to stay busy in support of his community.

Karla Schmidt was called as the new settled pastor of Zwingli in June 2024 so has been with us for seven months. She grew up in a small farming/mining town in southern Illinois: Marissa. She grew up in the United Church of Christ and attended Eden Seminary in St. Louis. Since then, she did an internship with PrairieFire in Iowa to support farmers during the farm crisis, and served churches in Peoria Heights, IL, Madison, and Whitewater. She spent the last 22+ years of ministry serving a campus ministry in Madison. She has 4 siblings who live in Illinois, Missouri and Michigan (and their families include her 10 nieces and nephews and 7 great nieces and nephews). Karla enjoys time with family and friends, reading, listening to podcasts, walks in nature, games, dancing, singing, and laughter! She looks forward to the ways the Holy Spirit will help us to grow individually and as a community as she journeys with Zwingli.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMOncmeHzwk

Zwingli is exploring a Repair Cafe' Ministry!

The purpose is to bring people together who know how to repair electrical appliances, clothing, furniture-toys-and other wireless items, technology devices (or people just need help understanding how to do something on their device).

1. We are looking for people who have repair skills in any of these areas (our planning team of Sue Bovre, Debbie Versnik, and Karla Schmidt will be talking with those of you we know have skills -- but if we don't contact you, please contact one of us). We welcome people you might know who are not affiliated with Zwingli as well. Please ask them if they would be interested and give us their contact info. If any of you want to join our planning team, we welcome you!
2. We plan on holding a Zwingli-Centered *Repair Cafe* to test the idea out (so that Zwingli folk - and family and friends -- can bring the things they need fixed to that first event). We won't publicize it.
3. We also want to provide baked goods -- even sell them to those who come (we might not do this for our first trial event, but eventually -- so those who like to bake or even make barbecue, . . . will also have a chance to volunteer)
4. During and after the test event, we will invite your feedback so we can tweak this and make it better if we choose to offer it to the larger public in the future.
5. Once we have enough repair volunteers, we will find a good date that works for as many of our volunteers as possible -- and let Zwingli know. So, hang on to those items that need fixing and plan to bring them to our Trial *Repair Cafe* at Zwingli!

Why a Repair Cafe? Well, it is a ministry that can contribute to a more sustainable way of living that saves items from landfills and people from always buying new products. The International *Repair Cafe* movement writes:

> "Western society revolves around consumption. We increasingly buy more things and throw away more than ever. We use the luxury items we own for shorter times. As soon as these items show the slightest defects – such as a stool with a wobbly leg, a CD player with a lid that won't open or a woolen jumper with a hole in the elbow – we throw them away and buy a new product. Many things get thrown away within the space of one year. Very few people even think about the possibility of repairing the old product. Most people no longer know how to repair things. This type of knowledge is noticeably on the decline. People still in possession of this practical know-how (such as craftspeople, the elderly and non-skilled workers) are often not adequately appreciated by society and even find themselves standing on the sidelines against their will. Their know-how is never used, or hardly ever. Yet it is these people who could greatly contribute towards making our society more sustainable."

If you want to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Sue, Debbie or Karla!

Items of Note

February Birthdays

Jason Ace

Jack Everson

Kathy Johnson

Ethan O'Dair

Jackie Schulting

Petra Streiff

Tex Urfer

Clint Zettle

February Anniversaries

Dale Kahl
&
Eileen McCormick

Lee & Becky Stilwell



Liturgists needed

We are scheduling Liturgists for the months of February and March. It would be most helpful if you would sign up now for a Sunday or two.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

February 2 -- Worship and Friendship time
Deadline to sign up for Book Group

February 9 -- Book Group

February 14 -- Happy Valentines Day!

February 16 -- Council Mtg following worship

February 23 -- Book Group



Financial Report

December income	$ 9,576
December expenses	$10,977
	- $ 1,401
2024 annual income	$53,945
2024 annual expenses	$90,533
	- $36,588

CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the December 15, 2024, meeting are now available in the wall pockets near the mailboxes.
Contact the church office to request an electronic copy.

WI Conference Israel-Palestine Just Peace Study Report

At the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting last June, the delegates voted to study a resolution from our Palestine Justice Working Group. This resolution calls for a “Just Peace Between Palestine and Israel” and refers to a resolution that was passed at the United Church of Christ General Synod in 2021. This resolution recognizes that all people living in Palestine and Israel are “created in the image of God and that this bestows ultimate dignity and sacredness to all. It also rejects any theology or ideology including Christian Zionism, antisemitism or anti-Islam bias that would privilege or exclude any one nation, race, culture, or religion within God’s universal economy of grace.”

What was voted on by the Conference delegates was to ask churches to study this resolution, in whatever way they choose, to prepare our delegates for a vote at our 2025 meeting on whether to also adopt this resolution for peace with justice in Israel and Palestine.



On Sunday January 12 we showed and discussed two videos as part of our programming for the Wisconsin Conference Study. One is about the life and work of Father Elias Chacour, a Melkite (similar and related to Roman Catholic) priest. If you were unable to attend, you can view the video Undaunted: Father Elias Chacour. He grew up in Galilee, northern Palestine, and at the age of eight his quiet Christian village was raided by Zionist (later Israeli) soldiers and they were told they had to leave or be killed. Most of them left, with nowhere to go, and this begins his story of learning to be a peacemaker and teacher.



The second video is a short talk by Mark Braverman, an American Jew (he says he loves being a Jew) entitled How to Be a Jew After the Nakba, which we also invite you to watch. Born in 1948, he says he was taught that the whole world was their enemy but especially the German people and the Arabs. He goes on to tell of how he had an identity crisis as he learned, by going to Palestine, that these things are not true.

Both of these men are remarkable and faithful voices for peace with justice between Israel and Palestine.



Happy 82nd Birthday to Michael Bovre!

Sue Bovre, Debbie Versnik, and Pastor Karla
enjoyed celebrating with Michael on his birthday.
(and Debbie's birthday too -- she is Michael's birthday buddy)!

From the United Church of Christ National Office:

Faith expressed freely: Statement on congressional response to Bishop Budde's sermon
by **Staff Reports** | published on Jan 31, 2025

*In the wake of the House of Representatives drafting legislation condemning the message of Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde at the National Prayer Service, **where she spoke directly to newly inaugurated President Donald Trump**, the United Church of Christ President and General Minister Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson offers the following statement*.

***Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow*. Isaiah 1:17**

Preaching at the National Prayer Service, the **Right Reverend Mariann Budde** offered a **sermon** that was timely and prophetic following the inauguration of the 47th president. Her message offered a vision of hope and unity that is not easily lived and is needed now.

Unity is not partisan. Rather, unity is a way of being with one another that encompasses and respects differences, that teaches us to hold multiple perspectives and life experiences as valid and worthy of respect; that enables us, in our communities and in the halls of power, to genuinely care for one another even when we disagree.

Bishop Budde also warned about the normalization of a culture of contempt, of purposeful polarization manufactured to benefit a few while threatening to tear our country apart. The entirety of her message was lost in the response of the president of the United States, which focused on vilifying Bishop Budde's appeal for mercy on the oppressed of our day. The prophetic plea was weaponized, and the message of unity presented went unheard.

Bishop Budde's words and actions are consistent with many faith leaders over the centuries and today who have provided voice in the call for justice. The voice of faith leaders must be heard in the public square calling truth to power in all times. We commend the courage and wisdom of Bishop Budde and other faith leaders who bring a message of justice and hope for the oppressed.

The introduction of **H. Res. 59** — "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the sermon given by the Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde at the National Prayer Service on January 21st, 2025, at the National Cathedral was a display of political activism and condemning its distorted message" — is problematic as is the condemnation of the Bishop by the President. Our country's rich history of religious freedom prohibits elected officials from dictating the message of religious communities, so their characterization of her sermon as "distorted" is deeply troubling.

Faith leaders must be able to speak freely from the convictions of their faith, uncensored by threats of political retribution, following in the prophetic tradition, calling for justice in their communities. People of all faiths must be able to express their faith without fear of government harassment, coercion, or duress.

As ministers of word and sacrament, we have a responsibility to seek justice for all. Our voices join with Bishop Budde and others defending the oppressed. This is a time to learn to do right, as the prophet Isaiah exhorts. The call for unity is before us. For the sake of the vulnerable with whom we are called to care and for the free expression of our faith, may we continue to center Jesus' work and God's vision for a just world for all.

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson
General Minister and President / CEO
United Church of Christ



Dear Zwingli United Church of Christ:

Thank you for being a part of our donor community. Your 2024 gifts, totaling **$145**, made a big difference.

In the past 12 months, BPNN distributed ingredients for more than 1.9 million meals to over 87,000 neighbors facing food insecurity – more than double the number of people as in 2022. Most families we helped had wage earners – but paychecks often just don't go far enough in Dane County to cover even basic needs. Recurring gifts like yours allowed us to provide enough food to make a difference, and implement a culturally familiar foods program focused on distributing nutritionally rich and culturally relevant products that would appeal to the increasingly diverse population of BPNN guests.

Because you're such a big part of the progress we're making here at BPNN, we want to keep you posted on all the good stuff going on in the coming months. We hope you will subscribe to our monthly newsletter at https://bpnn.dm.networkforgood.com/forms/email-submissions. Just enter your name and email to receive updates about our 12,000 square foot expansion, new programs, special volunteers, and upcoming fun events you might like to attend. We'd also welcome an opportunity to meet you at BPNN and show you around the place. If interested, reach out to our Business Director, Marcia Kasieta, at mk@bpnn.org. She will be happy to schedule a visit.

With your help, we remain an all-volunteer organization, keeping the focus on our mission instead of full-time fundraising. Thank you for your generosity and your trust that we will use these funds wisely and with impact.

Warm regards,

Bob Kasieta
BPNN President

A Church World Service Report on how Zwingli's Donations are Helping Others

Do you ever wonder about the impact of your gifts to Church World Service through the Wisconsin Conference Disaster Relief Fund? This video provides an update on CWS' work in North Carolina, which was devasted by Hurricane Helene last fall. The bottom line: Your contributions matter. To donate, you can give directly to Zwingli (marking it for CWS) or to the Conference Disaster Relief Fund, at https://tinyurl.com/wcuccdisasterrelief. https://vimeo.com/1051543262?share=copy#t=0

(When) the Weather outside is frightful . . .

. . . please use your best judgement in determining whether it is safe for you to venture out to worship or another church event. In the event of inclement weather, Pastor Karla and Council President Petra Streiff will decide whether to cancel worship no later than 7 a.m. on Sunday morning.

In the event of a cancellation, the Council will send out an email, and post it on social media, and those without email will be called. If the church event is on a school day, we will follow guidelines of the local school district. If you have any concerns for your safety, please stay home! And if you are stuck at home during a storm, and are in danger or need assistance, please let us know so we can get you the help you need.



At one time or another, we all experience grief and loss. Learn about the grieving process and ideas for coping and healing in a safe, supportive setting. Six-week sessions are free and open to anyone 18 years or older.

(Please note: Zwingli UCC does not have a relationship with this group and is only providing this information as a courtesy to our members.)

February 12 – March 19, 2025

Wednesdays from 10:00 – 11:30am

Monroe Engraving, 1005 30th St., Monroe

Registration is requested for all support groups at ssmhealth.com/events or by calling Monroe's Hospice Office at 608-324-1143.