June 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

Happy June!



The highlight of June is that summer begins with the Summer Solstice on June 20 -- as well as the end of the school year, graduations, and Father's Day! This year the church also celebrates Pentecost Sunday in June (on June 8)! The image (right) is a Painting of the Pentecost Story in Museu Nacional de Machado de Castro, Coimbra, Portugal. The Pentecost story is a reminder to us that the Holy Spirit inspires us, as the early disciples were inspired, to share the love of Jesus with all people -- in words, yes, but also in actions that celebrate the diversity of humanity. May this reflection by Steve Garnaas-Holmes (unfoldinglight.net) prepare us for Pentecost Sunday. It is traditional to wear red on Pentecost so, if you like, please do so!

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages,
as the Spirit gave them ability. — Acts 2.4

Pentecost was not, as some say, "the undoing of Babel"—
now we all speak the same language!
No, it was the opposite: the blessing of Babel.
We learn one another's languages.
We embrace diversity, and learn to listen to each other,
to see from another's perspective,
to give voice to a life other than our own,
to make central a language that's not our own,
to communicate grace that's not on our own terms.
We acknowledge the differences in our lives,
honor one another's various home places and cultures,
cross over the boundaries of comfort and familiarity.

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On that Pentecost day I don't imagine they were eloquent.
They spoke in halting Phrygian, mangled Mesopotamian.
It probably took some back-and-forth, some double-checking.
It required not just proclaiming but listening, relating,
and patience on the part of the hearers,
and courage and humility on the part of the speakers—
willingness to be beginners, to risk, to appear foolish,
to forgo the safety of being in the dominant group.

Pray for such humility and courage, to risk for the sake of love,
to be foolish for the sake of relating,
to let other people's reality be real.
In such loving, the Holy Spirit will speak, loud and clear.

Blessings, Karla

Messages from the



Outdoor Worship / Ice Cream Social July 13

The Council thought it would be fun to have an outdoor worship service—not because we have to (Covid), but because we want to celebrate being in God's good creation while we sing and pray. We will combine this with a collection for local food pantries (Belleville, Oregon, and Verona).

Bring your lawn chairs and nonperishable food items that morning. Also, plan to stay after worship for an ice-cream social. This would be a great worship service to invite friends and family to join us!

If you'd like to help with the refreshments, please let Petra know by July 1.

Goodbye to the Monthly Newsletter

After much discussion, the council decided to not publish the monthly newsletter from now on. The Friday update has expanded to bring the information in the newsletter and is more timely. The extra time, effort, and expense put into the newsletter isn't necessary.

Everyone will continue to receive news and information from the church either by email or in a mailing. Prayer lists will be kept separate so that only church members receive them for privacy.

So, be sure to read your Friday email or mailing to keep up with insights, spiritual reflections, activities, programs, and events happening in the UCC and at Zwingli!!

Thank You from the Church Council

At our Council meeting in May we were able to realize and celebrate the many ways that our congregation gives to the vitality and functioning of Zwingli UCC.

On Sunday, May 4, we had many members who gave of their time and energy to help clean, sort, dig, organize and other activities that made our property—inside and out—look better and serve us better. We got an amazing number of projects accomplished while we also took time to enjoy the food and friendship that are offered often on Sunday mornings. Several members also tackled projects later that week. Thank you to everyone who joined in this effort! Together we are strong and united in faith and service!

Also, when we met in May we were happy to review the treasurer's report (thank you, Cole). Our offerings in March and April were up quite a bit from earlier in the year. Many thanks to all of you who made this happen! This is just what we needed. We were able to gain on the large deficit that was in progress. We do have some large expenses coming up yet during the year, but if we can keep up this increased giving level we will finish the year with less deficit than we were fearful of. Please continue to give as you're able. We have many ideas to let people know about us and offer programs and service to our communities. With strong giving to our budget, we can continue to worship and serve together for many years to come.

Thank you everyone, for the many, many ways you give to the vitality and faithful service of Zwingli in Paoli!!

Graduation Celebration!

We celebrate the graduation of Ruby Dahlk from Mt. Horeb High School. Ruby is the youngest granddaughter of Doug and Gail Dahlk, and was baptized at Zwingli by Pastor Sara. Ruby plans to attend UW La Crosse to study dermatology.

Zwingli celebrated Rural Life Sunday, May 25



Many thanks to the Brown family for bringing their tractors to church and for all those who provided something for our Rural Life Table in Worship.



Zwingli's Trial Repair Cafe' - No to Landfill and Yes to Repair!



Our Church Council and the Repair Cafe Planning Team (Sue Bovre, Debbie Versnik, and Pastor Karla) are excited to welcome you (and your family and friends) to our Trial Repair Cafe' on Saturday, June 28 between 10 am - Noon! We thank all the volunteer repairers and hospitality team!

This is a trial run so only open to our members and friends (and your family and friends) with the hope of publicizing it in the future so that we can offer it as a free program for the community! Bring your broken items (see image to know what our volunteers can repair) and enjoy refreshments and social time with others!

We invite you to read more about the Repair Cafe' Movement at the international Repair Cafe website (and watch the videos) and this UCC article about a Repair Cafe in Colorado! You can also ask the Planning Team any questions you might have! If you or someone you know would like to volunteer to be a repairer or hospitality volunteer at this or future Repair Cafe's please let us know (they do not have to be a member of Zwingli to volunteer)!



Flicker Wild Church Invites You!

One of the new ministries our Strengthen The Church Offering supports is Flicker Wild Church -- which happens right here in the Madison area! Consider attending their Summer Solstice Worship at Holy Wisdom Monastery!

Summer Solstice – June 20 – Holy Wisdom Monastery. Holy Wisdom is an innovative, ecumenical, net-zero community of Benedictine sisters who have been tending their beautiful restored prairie lands overlooking Lake Mendota for decades

The **Solstice Circle** will be held at the fire-pit-perch atop the hill not far from the upper parking area. **Circle to begin at 6pm. Bring chairs or blankets.**

Items of Note

June Birthdays

Ella Beloungy

Caiden Boley

Cindy Hustad

Dwight Spring

Sandra Spring

Connie Urfer

June Anniversaries

Andy & Katie Beal

Douglas & Gail Dahlk

Dennis & Cindy Hustad

Cole Leystra & Sarah Quade

Larry Stuessy & Petra Streiff

# # #

Summer Council Meetings
June 22 and August 24

Please let any member know of concerns or issues you'd like us to discuss.

Verna Lange Bergmann
Memorial Service and Celebration of Life

There will be a memorial service for Verna Lange Bergmann at 2pm on Saturday, June 21, at the Zwingli Church in Paoli with a celebration of life to follow immediately at the old Lange family farm, 6610 Sun Valley Parkway. Food will be provided.

Please RSVP by text or call to Jeannie Eichelkraut at 608-279-8462. Verna's obituary can be viewed here.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the April 13, 2025, meeting are now available in the wall pockets near the mailboxes.
Contact the church office to request an electronic copy.

Financial Report

April income:	$ 7,195
April expenses:	$ 6,070
	$ 1,125
Year to date income:	$18,274
Year to date expenses:	$30,690
	-$12,416

The Holy Spirit gathers us together. From across the country and the spectrums of human experience, we become united in Christ. And, united, the Spirit commissions us to work for a more just world for all.



The Strengthen the Church Offering supports congregations and leader across the United Church of Christ as they respond to the Spirit's call to be united in Christ for a more just world for all. The challenges our congregations face vary:

- Some seek ways to strengthen youth ministry
- Some hope to start new congregations
- Some look for innovative ways to renew existing congregations
- Some need help developing leaders

Watch for more information in the bulletins in May. We will bless offerings for Strengthen the Church on **Pentecost, June 8**. Your gifts can ensure congregations get the help they need from their conference and the national ministries of the UCC. Together we can answer the Spirit's call to be united in Christ for a just world for all.

Heifer International Christmas Donation

Yes, FINALLY an update on the Heifer Internation Project donation!!!!

Through the years our Zwingli UCC-Paoli Sunday School faithfully supported sending all our coins collected to the non-profit agency Heifer International. In November of 2024 our congregation accepted the challenge to bring coins in from November through January towards this donation effort. The endeavor was a HUGE success. By Christmas we collected $350.00 which was sent directly to Heifer International with no designation, meaning they could use it wherever the greatest need was. We had originally designated those funds towards specific animals however in depositing them immediately I forgot to tell Cole to hold them until the end of our campaign and he did what we did in the past which was deposit it and get it to them as soon as possible. So.....the second amount that we raised was $347.34. This we were able to designate so we purchased one goat for $120 and one sheep for $120 and five flocks (each flock was $20) of chicks for $100 and $7.34 was left over which went as undesignated.

All total we raised $697.34!!!!! This was all done during the Christmas season of giving and paying heat bills and light bills, buying Christmas "Gathering" groceries, purchasing poinsettias to adorn the sanctuary etc. Thank you as always for your wonderful support for this effort. We ARE a little church with a big HEART.

Submitted by Kriss Ace

Reflections on our Earth Day Service . . . Exploring Possibilities at Zwingli!

"Before we even learn the name Adam,
we learn his purpose.
God placed him in the garden
not to rule over it or exploit it,
but to till it and keep it-
to care for it, protect it,
and help it flourish.
That's the very first task
ever given to humanity.
Before there were commandments,
before there were laws,
before there was even community-
there was a garden.
And a calling to be its steward.

God poured care and intention
into every part of creation-
each tree, each river, each creature-
and then chose us to take care of it.
That wasn't an afterthought.
It was the foundation.

God didn't place the first human
in a palace or temple made of gold.
God placed us in a garden.
Our first home was full of
life, growth, and beauty.
We were surrounded by the
purest form of God's presence-
nature itself.
Caring for the earth isn't a side note
in the story of faith.
It's central to who we are.
From the very beginning,
God entrusted creation to us-
not just to live in it, but to protect it."

~Lizzy Burkhalter





On April 27, we were blessed with a special speaker who has a bachelor's degree in environmental sciences and Conservation Biology from UW-Madison. She was active in the campus ministry program where Pastor Karla served as campus minister.

In her message, *The Garden Still Grows*, Lizzy inspired us with stories of her farmer Grandpa (who founded the Pringle Nature Center in Bristol, WI) and her own experiences in Community Gardening. All these experiences have blessed her spiritual life. She told us:

"*Caring for creation doesn't have to mean changing your whole life overnight. It can start small. You can begin by noticing. By taking a walk and saying a quiet prayer of thanks for the beauty around you. By turning off lights when you don't need them. Recycling. Composting. Supporting local farmers. Using less plastic. Talking with your family or neighbors about why the earth matters. Or maybe it's something bigger. Maybe you feel called to plant a pollinator garden, speak up at your local city council meeting, or volunteer with an organization working to protect our natural spaces. Every action, no matter the size, is part of restoring what God made good. And when we do this- when we care for the earth- we're not just being responsible citizens. We're being faithful disciples. We're honoring God. We're answering that ancient, holy call that was given in the very first garden. So let us go out today as gardeners- caretakers of creation. Let us look for God in the world around us, and let us respond with love, reverence, and action. Because the garden is still here. And it's still ours to tend.*"

At Zwingli, there has been talk about planting a pollinator garden in our backyard, knowing we can get grants to support us in this effort. We are excited that Lizzy has agreed to use her knowledge to help us explore this idea. If you would like to be part of this exploration Team, please let Pastor Karla know soon (as we hope to meet soon).