

# The Messenger

**St. Paul's**

*A progressive community of faith with ancient roots.*



**FEBRUARY**  
**2024**  
**Volume 27**  
**Number 6**

## Looking Ahead *by Marna*

1. Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday. St. Paul's has been invited by St. John's Church in Negaunee to attend a Pancake Supper on Tuesday, **February 13<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 5:30 p.m. Hope that lots of folks from St. Paul's will participate.
2. Ash Wednesday is the same day as Valentine's Day this year. St. Paul's will be having a service on Ash Wednesday. Please watch This Week at St. Paul's for further information.
3. Contemplative Prayer and Noonday Prayer: **every Monday at 11:30**, Marna will be in the church for 30 minutes of Contemplative prayer followed by noonday prayer at 12 o'clock. Come join in this practice of prayer. Feel free to come at 11:30 or at 12 noon.
4. History, History, History, History. *The History of the Christian Church*, a six-part series produced by the BBC will be shown in the Great Room on Tuesday afternoons between now and the end of April. The DVDs will also be made available to watch at other times. Come join in the fun. See This Week at St. Paul's for the schedule.
5. *The Philadelphia Eleven*, a film commemorating the ordination of the first women to the Episcopal priesthood, will be shown on Sunday, **April 13<sup>th</sup>**. Please reserve that afternoon for a reception/celebration and the showing of the film. More details to come.
6. Aging Resource Fair, etc. Would you like to join the team to plan this year's Week of Focus on Ministry to Older Adults? Please contact Marna, Arlene, Kris, or Jan Edwards. We look forward to bringing a lot of creativity to our hospitality around this ministry and welcome more hands on deck.
7. Liturgy Planning for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter is underway. Contact Marna if you would like to help or have any suggestions.
8. The Big Provincial Gathering of Province V will be held in South Bend, Indiana on Friday, **April 26<sup>th</sup>** and Saturday, **April 27<sup>th</sup>** with interesting Pre-Conference Workshops on Thursday, **April 25<sup>th</sup>**. Who would like to attend.
9. Peace Camp will be happening at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls. An intergenerational camp focused on intercultural understanding. A great opportunity to bring kids or grandkids into the conversation in a beautiful natural setting. More details available upon request. Just ask Marna.

## Upcoming Annual Meeting

by Kris Mowafy

Our next annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, **February 18**, following the service. We will be highlighting some of the important and exciting things that have happened over the past year, in addition to the required financial report and election of new Vestry members. We are changing up the menu also. Because we want this to feel like a feast, we are hoping that members will bring their favorite dishes to set up as a potluck buffet. So ... come one, come all!! See you there!

## Spring Quarter Schedule

by Bob Railey

The usual display of April through June schedule and the associated activity rosters will be posted on the sign-up bulletin board in the chapel hallway from **February 18** through **March 17**. Please use the schedule to sign up for particular role(s) on particular date(s). Use the appropriate roster(s) to tell me what new activities you want to participate in and/or when not to schedule you. Completed schedules will be distributed beginning **March 24**.

Questions — ask Bob Railey.

## Using tithe.ly

by Charlie West

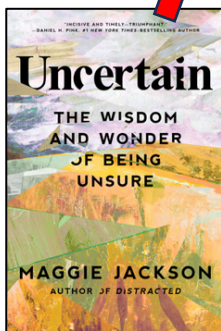
There are two possible ways to give directly from your bank account or credit card in support of the mission and ministry, the people and programs, at St Paul's.

1) You can check to see if your bank offers a “bill payment” option. You tell the bank when, how often, and how much and they either transfer the money electronically or they create a paper check and mail it to the church.

2) You can use tithe.ly. This is either an app that you can download to your phone (from “wherever you get your apps”! - (Google Play or the Microsoft store).

Or you can go to this website – <https://tithe.ly/give?c=5527881>.

In either case, you will be asked to create an account with password. Once you have done that, you will be taken to St Paul's giving page where you can make a one-time donation, or set up a recurring (weekly, monthly) donation from either your bank account or a credit card.



Using tithe.ly, you can give to the general fund or make a special gift to the monthly mission focus. If you click on the “cover the fees” box, you would pay a little bit more but the church would get the full amount you wanted to give. Note: credit card fees are a little bit more, bank account fees are pretty reasonable. If I give \$10 from my bank account to the monthly mission focus, it's a little over 50 cents to “cover the fees” – cheaper than mailing in a check!

If this sounds confusing and you would like someone to walk through it with you, check with Charlie. Thanks.

## First Wednesday Reading Group Begins in March

By Charlie West

We (so far, Charlie and Margie!) are going to read a book a month and get together on the first Wednesday (which will be **March 6**) at 1 p.m. to talk about it. You are invited to join us.

The first book is *Uncertain, the Wisdom and Wonder of Being Unsure*, by Maggie Jackson. The blurb says “In an era of terrifying unpredictability, we race to address complex crises with quick, sure algorithms, bullet points, and tweets. How could we find the clarity and vision so urgently needed today by being unsure? *Uncertain* is about the triumph of doing just that. A scientific adventure tale set on the front lines of a volatile era, this epiphany of a book by award-winning author Maggie Jackson shows us how to skillfully confront the unexpected and the unknown, and how to harness not-knowing in the service of wisdom, invention, mutual understanding, and resilience.”

We'll meet at The Crib Coffeehouse on Third Street in their upstairs room. (If this would be a problem for you let Charlie know and we can make other arrangements.)

Future books include -

*Grounded* by Diana Butler Bass

*On Earth As It Is On Television* by Emily Jane

*How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others*

*Deeply and Being Deeply Seen* by David Brooks

*Eve: How the Female Body Drove 200 Million Years*

*of Human Evolution* by Cat Bohannon

Interested?

**Questions? More info – call Charlie (906-360-9216) or email [mqtchaz@gmail.com](mailto:mqtchaz@gmail.com)**

## Liturgical Leadership

Sundays:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Preside</u>	<u>Preach</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
February 4	Epiphany 5	Bob R.	Arlene	Mary
February 11	Last Epiphany	Jim S.	Jim S.	Mary
February 18*	Lent 1	Marna	Marna	Coralie
February 25	Lent 2	Marcia	Bob P.	Coralie

\*Annual Meeting

### Ash Wednesday

February 14 noon                      Leaders not decided.  
 (February 14 7:00 p.m.              At St. John's, Negaunee)

## February Birthdays

Sue Micensky	3
Cory Hambleton	4
Louise Pearson	8
Suzanne Harding	15
Mary Mikhael	26
Meg Goodrich	27

## The Messenger Team

**Editor Meg Goodrich**

**Copy Editor - Jane Ryan      Lay-out - Jim Edwards**  
**Reporter - Bob Railey        Copier - Sierra Larson**

## Team Brownsville *by Sue Micensky*



It wasn't like our usual Christmas Day celebrations. Instead of having snow and being with our family, we were fortunate to be able to help others who had nothing. We drove down to Brownsville to welcome asylum seekers. Frank and I handed out plates of hot dogs and chips. We also had boxes of decorated cupcakes. Other volunteers gave out shoes, jackets, and clothing. Santa Claus had piles of donated toys for the children. Over and over, we heard the announcement, "We have another bus." At the end of an exhausting day, we had helped over 400 people! There was a tiny baby born far from home. He and his parents were now refugees seeking safety. It was definitely a memorable Christmas!

# Sound Meditation In The Church

*by Craig Kitchen*

First of all, thank you to the members and staff at St. Paul's for letting me be part of the community of the church both in letting me use the chapel for singing bowls as well as periodically bringing part of the church service.

To begin with sound meditation is nothing new to the church. Examples of the ways that sound meditation is part of the church and has been for a long time is the singing of hymns, music of different types, and prayer. In the service at St. Paul's, there is a gong used to begin silent prayer and to end it.



My use of bowls and gongs has been related to meditation until recently when I have had the pleasure of being part of the service. I look at this in much the same way as meditation. Doing the Prelude is a way of preparing for worship and the Postlude as a way of signaling the end of the period of worship.

Singing Bowls take place on the **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday** of each month. The sessions take place from 7:00pm to around 8:30pm or 9:00pm. Individuals are welcome to participate as well as encouraged to try out playing the bowls or gongs. A goodwill offering is encouraged at the end on the evening. I look forward to seeing you there.

# February Outreach Collection

*by Bob Potrzuski*

One of the many worthy organizations that St. Paul's sponsors is Camp New Day, the February 2024 giving focus.

Held annually in nearby Michigamme, the camp is open to children who have an incarcerated parent. Having spent time with campers before and after their experience, we can speak with some authority of the extraordinary value this time has with the kids. Generally quiet and sometimes sullen on the ride to camp, they are always open and effervescent afterward as we drive them home.



Members of St. Paul's have helped in the past with cash donations which go directly to support campers and by joining together to create soft, tied blankets. Each child gets a blanket, backpack, and other useful items as a camp reminder and to help them move forward with their lives.



We encourage all members of our church to find it in their hearts to share from their abundance with Camp New Day this coming month. Please feel free to ask Bob and Carol Potrzuski about this cause and about other ways to contribute.



**A NEW DAY  
DRAWS NEAR**

Conference on Collaborative  
Leadership & Shared Ministry



**September 16-19, 2024**  
**Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota**

Drawing on the collective wisdom of those gathered, we invite you to join us for a *Church-Wide Conference on collaborative leadership and shared ministry, nurturing and equipping leaders for new ways of being church.*

***More details coming soon...***

*hosted by the Living Waters Cooperative*

**March Messenger Deadline**  
**Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6pm.**