

Epistle

*Inspired by God's love, we:
offer a spiritual oasis,
teach one another to serve,
and reach out to encourage
others to know Christ.*

August 2018

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

Night to Unite

Night to Unite (formerly known as National Night Out) are community block parties and gatherings held on the first Tuesday of August. They are designed to help everyone get outside, meet their neighbors, and meet the first responders who serve our communities. This year, Night to Unite will be on Tuesday, August 7, and we will host neighbors in the front yard of Saint Paul's UMC from 5:00-7:00 pm. We will have games, food, visits from the police and fire departments, and a time for friendly conversation with all of our neighbors, so please stop by, if you can, to meet and greet the people living near Saint Paul's UMC, and say "thank you!" to the police officers and fire fighters who serve our community.

Some people have asked me why the Church participates in a secular event like Night to Unite and volunteers in service in secular places, like Garlough School and

Lewis House. There are a number of reasons, some of which I share with you in the following reflections:

Love Your Neighbor! The central commandments of the Christian faith are to Love God and Love Neighbor (Luke 10:27). The first



step in loving our neighbors is simply to meet them, and programs like Night to Unite help us with that. Many of us lead very busy lives, moving quickly from one group of friends to another, from work to school to home, to Church, to community groups, to musical

groups, to sports, etc. When we dedicate an evening to pause from our busy schedule, sometimes we meet neighbors that we haven't met before, or renew old friendships. Neighbors who have newly moved in to the area can meet everyone in the neighborhood and begin to build friendships. In other words, these events help us to build community and love our neighbors.

Seek Prosperity for the Community! (Jeremiah 29:7) When God's people are in exile, God instructs them to seek the prosperity of the communities in which they are living right now. No matter where we live, people of faith are called to be light to the world and build healthy communities.

Supporting community events like Mendakota Days and Night to Unite, and volunteering in our community schools are wonderful ways to build up the community fabric of Mendota Heights and help our communities to prosper.

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Go into the World! (Matthew 28:19-20) God sends us INTO THE WORLD to make disciples of Jesus Christ—this is the great commission. We are not called to wait patiently until people come to us and then make disciples. We are called to go to wherever the people are, which is often in secular places. This is part of our Methodist tradition, beginning with John Wesley, who preached in the streets and public parks, because that’s where the people were.

Similarly, we serve in mission and meet new people in many secular places in our communities today, including Garlough School, Lewis House, and community events. Meeting new people and making new friends are the first steps in being able to share our faith deeply and authentically.

Being Thankful! The Psalms are full of encouragement to give thanks and express our gratitude. Saying “thank you” to the first

responders of community (police, fire, ambulance) is a part of expressing our thanks. We are called to serve one another, and to be grateful/thankful for the others who join us in service.

These are a few of the reasons that we participate in community events and step outside of the walls of our church building to meet others and shine God’s light. . ☚

**NIGHT TO UNITE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7th
5:00—7:00 pm**

Night to Unite is coming.

Invite your friends!

Where: St Paul's United Methodist Church

When: August 7th, 5:00—7:00 pm

What: Meet your neighbors, enjoy some food and yard games/activities. The Fire and Police Departments will also be making a visit to the church.



**SUNDAY SCHEDULE STARTING
SEPTEMBER 9th**

Education Hour for All:	9:30 am
Worship:	10:30 am

**2nd SUNDAYS SCHEDULE STARTING
IN SEPTEMBER:**

Education Hour for All:	9:30 am
Kidz 2gether Worship	10:30 am
Brunch:	11:30 am

Communion will be offered the 1st and 2nd Sundays of every month.



WELCOME OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND MISSIONS LEILANI (LANI) THOMPSON!

Hi! My name is Leilani Thompson, but I prefer to go by the name Lani. (pronounced Lonnie) I am 35 years old and I live in Forest Lake Minnesota.

I was born and raised right here in central Minnesota and have been active in the United Methodist Church my entire life. I am a huge fan of church camps, and have been working with United Methodist children's and youth camps for 22 years now. Along with that I have spent the last 7 years serving as the Director of Youth Ministries at Minnehaha UMC in Minneapolis. I have a 12 year old daughter named Madison who is active in dance and she is looking forward to starting 7th grade this fall at Forest Lake Middle school. I also have 23 nieces and nephews! Many are in college all over the U.S., but most of them have always loved to come with me to worship and participate in the children's and youth activities, so I'm sure you will be seeing the younger ones around church here soon as well.

I feel the most connected to God while in nature, and because of that I absolutely love everything about the outdoors and camping. My favorite place to get away is Lake Superior, and I try to get up there at least once a year. I really enjoy playing games, everything from card games like Apples to Apples and Spoons to active games like The Amazing Race and Photo Scavenger Hunts. As a true Minnesotan, I prefer cold weather over hot, and I love all the activities that go along with it like hockey, ice fishing, sledding, building snow forts, broomball, and snowmobiling.

I consider myself kind of artsy and genuinely enjoy doing craft projects with kids, especially the really messy ones. I also love to bake even though I might not be the greatest at it. Everything normally turns out looking nice, but taste is another topic.

I am truly looking forward to working with the children, youth, and mission teams here at SPUMC, and am excited for a fantastic year of faith, fun and fellowship.





Thank you to all
the volunteers who
made Vacation
Bible School 2018 a
success!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Hero Central! was this year's Vacation Bible School theme. We spent a week with our children learning about how we can be super heroes for God. Our theme verse was from Psalm 43: *"Do good, seek peace, and go after it!"* Over the five days we learned five different Bible stories, focusing on the themes of:

God's heroes have heart!
God's heroes have courage!
God's heroes have wisdom!
God's heroes have hope!
and
God's heroes have power!

The super hero puppet, Flame the super hero raccoon, and the super hero person, Captain Shield, led our time together, and we learned through stories, games, music, crafts, and science. Thank you to all of our Vacation Bible School volunteers: Jo Baker, Catey Chastain, Deb Curran, Barb Helmken, Barb Jorgenson, Andrea Larson, Beda Lewis, Rhea Nyquist, Diane Pelinka, Carol Rix, Carla Taurinskas, Jill Taurinskas, and Mary Taurinskas!

SUCCESSFUL LEARNING

Helping young
students
find success



OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH GARLOUGH ENVIRONMENTAL MAGNET SCHOOL (GRADES K-4)

August is our month to concentrate on collecting school supplies for Garlough Elementary. There are copies of the supply list in the church narthex. We need everyone who can help to do so.. the list is very long, and we know some families will struggle to provide all that they are asked to purchase. In addition, this year they are asking for specific snacks for the Hoot Hike which takes place about a month after school begins. They need small bags of dried fruit, 6.6 oz bags of Goldfish crackers, small bags of pretzels, and large bags of plain M&Ms.

Last Day to Bring in School Supplies: Sunday, August 26th. Thanks so much for your generosity.

Class Supply List:

Backpacks (no wheels)
Headphones that cover ears (no ear buds) – at their Open House, PTO will have some for sale for \$5.00. Date TBA
Five-Star plastic folders with prongs
Folders, sturdy, solid colors: green, yellow, red, blue, purple (and a few with “any design”)
Glue sticks
Elmer’s School glue, bottle
Fiskars child-size scissors
Medium size scissors
Crayola 8-count water color paints
Crayola crayons: 8-count and 24-count
EXPO dry-erase markers: black, blue, green, red
Thin dry-erase markers (not fine-tip)
Crayola Classic color broad-tip markers
#2 pencils, yellow
Colored pencils: 10-count, 12-count, 16-count, 24-count
Pink erasers
Pencil-tip erasers
Spiral notebooks 1-subject, wide-ruled
Loose-leaf paper, wide ruled
Composition notebooks
1-inch 3-ring binders, heavy duty with pockets
3-ring binder dividers
12-inch ruler with cm and inch marks
8 oz hand sanitizer
Full-sized box Kleenex
Clorox wipes (not baby wipes)
Zip-lock bags: gallon size, quart size, sandwich size, snack size (with sliders – easier for kids)
Wild bird Seed

Optional but Appreciated:

Small or large Band-aids
Paper plates
Paper towels
Wet wipes
Playdough

For Hoot Hike:

Dried fruit in individual bags or large bag for the whole class
6.6 oz bags Goldfish crackers
Small bags pretzels
Large bag plain M&Ms

All Kids:

Tennis shoes for hiking and for gym
Rain coat, rain boots
Winter boots
Warm winter jacket that zips
Hat, scarf
Snow pants
2-3 pair waterproof mittens (not the little knit gloves)
Extra socks
Extra pants, shirt for kindergarten
Extra undies for kindergarten

SHERIDAN STORY

As soon as we can coordinate with Sheridan Story and Garlough, we will begin to provide the weekend food bags which go into the backpacks of those who get the service. Date TBA. We will need more volunteers for this service this year. The work takes about 45-60 minutes. Please see the dates on the bulletin board outside the Bertelsen Library.



PIE NIGHT (PARENTS INVOLVED IN EDUCATION)

PIE Nights are a fun opportunity for Garlough families to come together to learn about reading and math while sharing a meal. Each child that comes to PIE Night leaves with a new book!

The first PIE Night is September 20th. We will need volunteers to help serve dinner. Volunteer hours will be approximately 5:00-6:30 pm. Look for a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the Bertelsen Library as the date gets closer.

SMALL GROUPS

United with Purpose



UMW CIRCLES

All UMW Circles are suspended during the summer months.

Questions?

Rachel Circle: Contact Barb Jorgenson, 651-414-0054.

Rebekah Circle: Contact Beda Lewis at 651-554-3600.

Ruth Circle: Contact Nancy Kane, 651-457-8376.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will not meet in August. Questions? Contact Dick Robinson, 651-207-8643 or dickrobinson2@msn.com

ADULT EDUCATION, SUNDAYS, 9:30 am

We are on a summer break.

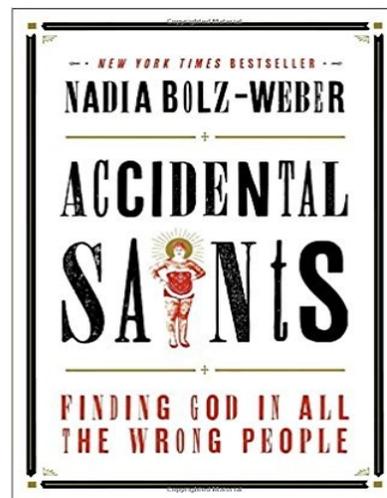
ATTENTION KNITTERS/ CROCHETERS

Our local group, Yarning for Community, is no longer meeting. Baptism blankets and prayer shawls, however, can still be given to Pastor Amy Jo at any time.

You may, if you wish, help knit or crochet scarves for the UMC General Conference which will take place in Minneapolis in 2020. The hope is to give everyone who attends a purple scarf celebrating Minnesota. They will need nearly 10,000 scarves! Scarves must be 6 inches wide and 60 inches long (before adding optional fringe). Use acrylic yarn. It must be purple, not lavender, and do not use variegated yarn. Use any pattern you like. When scarf is done, launder it, and give it to Carol Egan. Carol must turn in scarves at next year's Annual Conference in June, 2019.

ADULT EDUCATION WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP IN AUGUST

We will be finishing up with our look at *"Accidental Saints"*, author Nadia Bolz-Weber's encounter with what she calls, "a religious but-not-so-spiritual" life. Bring a sandwich and a friend and join us in the fellowship hall at noon.



REACHING

OUT

Living our faith
and connecting
with our
neighbors



NEIGHBORS INC.

11th ANNUAL GREAT NEIGHBORS' DUCK RACES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th

2:00 - 6:00 pm

Location: Harmon Park
(230 Bernard Street W.
West St. Paul, MN 55118)

Activities: In addition to the races – which will run approximately every 15 minutes – check out the meet and greet opportunities Delbert the Duck mascot, play games, make crafts and get your temporary duck tattoo! Youth coloring contest winners will also be announced.

Cost*: Ducks are \$5 each and can be purchased by completing a duck adoption certificate available at St. Paul's UMC (narthex table), www.neighborsmn.org or at the event. Most of the kid's activities are free, although some games may require a fee to play.

Prizes: This year's grand prize is a \$500 shopping trip at the Mall of America.

*All proceeds go to Neighbors, Inc., for programs serving low-income people in northern Dakota County.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Neighbors thanks everyone for donating excess vegetables to their food shelf. Everyone loves fresh produce.

Volunteer opportunities are available in many areas. On Neighbors website, www.neighborsmn.org, click on "volunteer", and then self-schedule volunteer.

- ◆ School summer meals continue into August.
- ◆ Food shelf and thrift store shifts have many openings.
- ◆ Looking for other opportunities? Call 651-306-2145 or email volunteer@neighborsmn.org.

Food Shelf Needs

- Pancake Syrup
- Juice
- Toilet Paper and other hygiene products
- Jelly
- Kid-friendly foods (fruit cups, EasyMac, etc.)
- Baking items (flour, oil, sugar, seasonings)

HCI UPDATE

What is HCI?

Healthy Church Initiative

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Over the past few months the HCI Leadership Team(s) have been busily preparing for the fast approaching SPUMC's Consultation Weekend with Consultants from the MN UMC Conference, Office of Congregational Development scheduled for November 9-11, 2018.

Up to this point much of the preparation has been behind the scenes, but during the upcoming November weekend the consultants will be on site and interacting with the congregation as well as the HCI team and staff. They will conduct interviews with the pastor, staff and lay leaders, and, will also meet with a Focus Group of other church members to gain a full spectrum of SPUMC's attitudes and readiness.

The purpose of this information gathering by the consultants is to assess our strengths and weaknesses, learning what changes members would like to see, how we see our congregation growing in the future, and how we see changes that may be necessary to facilitate that growth. From this the Consultants will offer five (5) recommendations which will be submitted to SPUMC for review, discussion, and finally acceptance or rejection.

HOW DID THIS HCI STUFF GET STARTED AND WHY SHOULD SPUMC EMBARK UPON THIS JOURNEY?

As we move into a future with a

trajectory of seriously declining church membership and attendance, we were invited by the MN UMC Conference to consider partnering with the Conference to embark upon an intentional strategic process for growth and for widening the scope of our ministry. This does not mean that SPUMC is unhealthy. On the contrary, we are an active, welcoming and friendly church community with energy and potential to reach out with Christ's love to fellow human beings not currently connected with that faith.

IN THE BEGINNING

This began with a delegation of our members attending an information session describing the lengthy process. Recognizing the serious degree of involvement necessary by this congregation as well as the well as the importance of continuous renewal and revitalization to sustain the church community, the delegation brought the matter to the Church Council for discussion and final approval to move forward.

Since that time the following steps have been taken:

- ◆ **HCI Teams Formed**— February 2018
Vision/Leadership Team & Prayer Team
- ◆ **Monthly Pastoral Training Sessions**
December 2017 – June 2018
Topics – Missional Urgency, Coaching, Change, Discipleship, Leadership, Generating Resources
- ◆ **HCI Team Leadership Training Sessions**
1st session 2/3/18; 2nd session 8/11/18 (upcoming)

- ◆ **Breakthrough Prayer**
Introduced to congregation
- ◆ **Prayer Team Initiated**
- ◆ **Natural Church Development Inventory (NCDI – survey)**
distributed (March 11, 2018)
- ◆ **HCI Vision/Leadership Kick-Off Meeting**
March 26, 2018 – HCI team & Council members
- ◆ **HCI Vision Team Conducts Self-Study**
Review & report church history, congregational structure, demographic statistics. Conduct community study (interviews of various community leaders), examine & assess our prominence. Document SPUMC core values, basic beliefs, commitments (financial & otherwise) and practices characteristic of SPUMC; collect documents (budgets, newsletters, digital presence etc.); learn leadership principles and principles of being “outwardly focused”.

AUGUST – OCTOBER

FINAL PREPARATIONS

- ◆ **Saturday, August 11, 2018,**
10:00 am–4:00 pm, Mora UMC- HCI team to attend 2nd leadership training session
- ◆ **Thursday, October 4, 2018,**
5:00 pm–8:00 pm, SPUMC – HCI team, Council, Pastor, Staff, Focus Group.
Consultant meet to discuss strengths, weaknesses, identify 3 changes most wanted, how we envision growth in future, what we are willing to change in order to grow.

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- ♦ **October 5-11, 2018,**
Submit Self Study materials,
report to MN UMC Conference
Congregational Development
Office, recruit for Consultation
Weekend Focus Group
- ♦ **October 24-25, 2018,**
Submit final detail to
Conference for scheduling the
Consultation Weekend events.

Matthew 28: 16-20

“Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for the reunion. The moment they saw him, they worshipped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about worship about risking themselves totally. Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge. “God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in the way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day, right up to the end of the age.”



Please pray for the following:

Joys:

Shirley Holmay’s cousin, Jean, now in transitional care after ICU
Lani Thompson, our new Director of Children, Youth and Missions
For the successful rescue of the Philippine soccer team
Birth of Danny and Juanita Morgan Karas’ premature twins, Ayla
Kimberly and Hayley Sue

Deaths:

Elizabeth Sershen, July 23rd
Jack Kirkwood, July 5th

Health Concerns:

Jude Rikala’s sister, Barb, in hospital receiving antibiotics
Kae Jewell’s uncle, Bob Grich, with lung cancer
Danny and Juanita Morgan Karas’ premature twins, Ayla Kimberly
and Hayley Sue
Brent Cuttell’s 17-year old cousin, Lincoln, in Mayo Clinic ICU
after car accident
Nancy Grinager, recovering from breast cancer surgery
Loye Eckman recovering from hip surgery April 30th
All homebound with health problems
Jo Reck’s friend, Sherry, who had her kidney removed and for Jo’s
mother, struggling with near blindness
Barb Jorgenson’s brother’s sister-in-law, Jane, needs a liver
transplant. For friends dealing with mental health issues
Ben Pressnall as he undergoes radiation treatments for cancer
Barb Helmken’s friends, Phil, diagnosed with a cancer that can lead
to leukemia; Mary, recovering from heart valve surgery and
breast cancer and Zonnie with neuropathy
Diane Edgell’s sister and Willis’ sister-in-law, Darlene, diagnosed
with pancreatic cancer
Willis and Diane Edgell’s niece, Tracy, with cancer
Yeen Chong’s co-worker, Clara, with leukemia
Jo Daugherty and Della Relation for health concerns and continued
healing

Additional:

Safe travels
For Nathan for guidance and strength
For Roxy Crane as she prepares to move to Texas
For families who are struggling
For addicts still suffering
Please call the office with joys and concerns



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship: 10:00 am
 One Room Sunday 10:15 am
 School

2nd SUNDAYS SCHEDULE

Kidz 2gether Worship: 10:00 am
 Brunch: 11:00 am

Communion will be offered the 1st
 and 2nd Sundays of every month.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - noon

CHRIS' OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am -
 5:00 pm

CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR:

Leslie Watkins

ST. PAUL'S STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Amy Jo Bur,
pastor@stpaulsmn.org

**Director of Children, Youth and
 Mission:** Lani Thompson,
lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org

Director of Music Ministry,
 Lane Skoglund-Anderson,
laneskoglundanderson@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Diane
 Pelinka, *info@stpaulsmn.org*



Liberty Rosabelle Wilson

Daughter of
 Luke and Melissa Wilson
 July 15, 2018

Thank you to the Counters in July:

Sarah Arnold
 Barbara Goin
 Shirley Holmay
 Jerry Moffitt
 Rhea Nyquist
 Jude Rikala
 David Roper
 Bob Walker
 Leslie Watkins
 Melissa Wilson

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

If Dodd Rd. is closed on a
 Sunday morning, you should be able to access the church by the following
 route:

- ◆ Hwy 110 E to Delaware Ave.
- ◆ Turn left on Delaware Ave. and go north to the Highway Frontage Rd.
- ◆ Turn left on the Highway Frontage Rd (west) to South Lane.
- ◆ Turn right on South Lane (north) to Wesley Lane.
- ◆ Turn left on Wesley Lane (west) until you reach the church.

Pastor Amy Jo will be on vacation August 20th -26th.



Death in Our Church Family

Jack Kirkwood

July 5, 2018

Elizabeth Sershen

July 23, 2018

From Neighbors' Inc.

Our sincere thank you for the
 generous donations you made to us
 in June 2018. Your contribution of
 38 pounds of groceries to our food
 shelf is greatly appreciated. Many
 of your neighbors will benefit as a
 result of these gifts given from your
 heart. Thank you for being part of
 the Neighbors' family! With
 Gratitude,

*Beth Skwira
 Director of Development*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Italicized events are conducted by outside groups</i>			1 <i>10:00 am Music 2gether</i>	2	3	4 <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
5 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15 am One Room Sunday School <i>5:00 pm Music 2gether</i>	6 <i>10:00 am Music 2gther</i>	7 5:00 pm Night to Unite <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	8 <i>10:00 am Music 2gether</i>	9 <i>10:00 am Quilters</i>	10	11 <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
12 10:00 am Kidz 2gether Worship w/Communion 11:00 am 2 nd Sunday Brunch <i>5:00 pm Music 2gether</i>	13 <i>10:00 am Music 2gther</i> 6:00 pm SPRC Mtg	14 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	15 <i>10:00 am Music 2gether</i>	16 2:00 pm Investment Meeting	17 Newsletter Deadline	18 <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
19 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am One Room Sunday School	20 <i>10:00 am Music 2gther</i>	21 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	22 <i>10:00 am Music 2gether</i>	23	24	25 <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
26 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am One Room Sunday School	27 6:00 pm UMW Officer Mtg	28	29	30	31	

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

700 Wesley Lane
Mendota Heights MN 55118

Phone: 651-452-5683
Email: info@stpaulsmn.org

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Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
The People of the United Methodist Church®



NIGHT TO UNITE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7th
5:00—7:00 pm