

# Epistle

*A welcoming community  
sharing Christ's love  
in service  
through relationships.  
Welcome. Share. Serve.*

March 2019

## REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

### Healthy Church Initiative-- Growing Forward Together

The Healthy Church Initiative is an intentional, strategic process that helps already healthy churches to grow, become more vibrant, and reach out with a stronger expression of Christ's love. On February 10, Saint Paul's United Methodist Church voted (by 97%) to move forward with implementation of the Five Recommendations of the Healthy Church Initiative consulting team. The five recommendations are designed to help Saint Paul's UMC to grow forward together. A coach has been assigned to assist our congregation in this process, and our next step will be to meet with our coach to develop a timeline for the order of completing the recommendations, as well as our benchmarks (incremental goals on our way to the main goals.)

Thank you to all of our Healthy Church Initiative Team at Saint Paul's, and to all who participated in the self-study research, focus groups, training sessions, and leadership interviews! Your efforts are moving us forward together toward God's dream for our congregation and community.

Watch for news as we begin to work on each of the five recommendations during the coming months.

### General Conference 2019

As we print this newsletter, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church has just concluded a special session at St. Louis, Missouri. The special session was called in order to respond to the Commission on the Way Forward's recommendations for our denomination regarding human sexuality and homosexuality. For those who are not familiar with the governance processes of the United Methodist Church, the General Conference is the worldwide meeting of approximately 1,000 delegates (half of the delegates are clergy and half laypersons) who create policy for the United Methodist Church. The delegates are elected by their home areas, based on the number of United Methodists in the geographical area. Minnesota has four delegates, as well as a number of alternates. At this time, approximately 60% of the total delegates come from the United States, and the meeting is simultaneously translated into seven different languages. I traveled to the meeting as an alter-

nate, but was not needed to serve.

By the time you read this, many of you will have read the news reports regarding the outcomes of General Conference, and many of you may have questions, concerns, and/or emotional responses to the General Conference. For many longtime United Methodists, there can be fear, anxiety, anger, or sadness related to questions about the unity of the denomination. For GLBTQA persons, there can be pain, fear, anger, or sadness regarding the decision of the UMC to retain language in opposition to homosexuality. In the midst of this, I remind you that God loves us and vision for a future with hope for all of us. As your pastor, I am available to listen with care to how you are feeling in the midst of this and answer as many of your questions as I can. I will continue to welcome all people to Saint Paul's United Methodist Church, and I invite you to join me in a welcoming spirit of hospitality. Our warm welcoming spirit is one of the strengths of Saint Paul's UMC!

The doctrine of the United Methodist Church (our core beliefs about God) continues as it has been and is  
*(continued on page 2)*

(continued from page 1)

not open for change by the General Conference. However, issues of organizational policy and social principles may be changed by the decisions of the General Conference. It was the decision of the specially called General Conference to adopt the Traditional Plan in reference to denominational policy regarding human sexuality. This plan retains the UMC's position in opposition to homosexuality, same-sex marriage, and the ordination of self-avowed, practicing homosexual persons. The traditional plan also adds increased penalties for the violation of those rules. My summary provides simply a general idea about the plan. We will not know the exact details for quite some time, as the Judicial Council needs to review it again for questions of constitutionality. When a draft version of the legislation was reviewed by the Judicial Council, approximately half of the petitions were ruled unconstitutional and therefore unable to be implemented.

So, what will we do as we wait? Today, we take a deep breath and trust in God. We trust in God to care for us. We trust in God to provide wisdom for us. We trust in God to lead us forward to a future with hope. What else do we do as we wait? We welcome, share, and serve.

Saint Paul's UMC is a welcoming community  
sharing Christ's love in service through relationships.  
Welcome. Share. Serve.

We welcome new people into our community and congregation, baptizing new members. We share Christ's love with a world that needs it. We serve *all people* with the same love that Christ pours out to us. No matter what may be changing in the world around us or the structure of the Church, God's love for us does not change, and the great need of the world to receive Christ's love remains before us as mission. May God's Spirit give us the strength to continue to respond faithfully to a world in need. ☚

## NEW MEMBERS

A welcoming community  
sharing Christ's love  
in service  
through relationships.  
Welcome. Share. Serve.



### KATHY DETERT

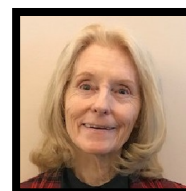
8345 Atlas Ave.  
Inver Grove Heights MN 55077  
612-263-6123  
CLRLKE0722@yahoo.com



### JANE SPAULDING

730 S. Plaza Dr. #313  
Mendota Heights MN 55120  
651-846-9127  
jane.spaulding100@yahoo.com

Jane is a life-long Methodist, having been baptized at First UMC of St. Paul, confirmed at Centennial UMC of Arden Hills and attended a Methodist college in Sioux City IA. She was a teacher and received an M.A. in art education. She enjoys outdoor activities and has a son who lives in Mankato.



# LENT AND HOLY WEEK

## The promise of Easter



### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE MARCH 6<sup>th</sup>, 12:30—1:00 pm

Ash Wednesday is the day which begins the season of Lent, a forty day time of fasting and repentance that prepares us for the celebration of Easter. We will observe Ash Wednesday with the imposition of ashes (tracing the cross on the forehead or back of hand) as a symbol of repentance and mortality.

The word repentance means “turning,” and Lent is a season for turning *away from* mistakes, sins, and bad habits and *turning toward* a focus on love of God and neighbor and healthy practice of spiritual disciplines. In preparation for Lent, please reflect on your life and consider ways that God may be directing you to turn. Are there things that you need to set down during Lent? Are there holy habits on which you need to begin? Please join us at 12:30 pm for this time of making a new start.



### 2019 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINISTRY TEAMS

Chairperson:	Leslie Watkins
Secretary:	Chrisana Tripodi
Adult Ministries:	Charles Duddingston
Children's Ministries:	
Fellowship:	Jo Baker
Finance:	Kae Jewell
Membership:	Deb Curran
Memorial:	Beda Lewis
Mission Outreach:	Bev Momsen
SPRC:	Shirley Holmay
Trustees:	
UMW:	Barb Jorgenson
Worship:	Sam Young
Lay Member to Annual Conference:	
Clergy and Ministry Staff:	Rev. Amy Jo Bur, Lani Thompson, Lane Skoglund-Anderson

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families  
nurture lifelong  
disciples of Christ



## CONFIRMATION 2018-2019

Confirmation is open to all 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders as well as any older youth who have not been confirmed yet. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 6:00-8:00 pm. And our program is still growing as we had two new students sign up to join us this month. Hooray!

In our February class we talked

about the themes "Renounce, Reject, and Repent" and we read the Scripture, Acts 9:1-18, and discussed how Saul's life had changed after having experienced God and how following God creates change in all of us.

Our next Class is on March 13<sup>th</sup> and we will be talking about the "Way of Discipleship and Salvation" as well as work on a local mission project.

## SCOUT SUNDAY

On February 10<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Scout Sunday during our Kidz 2gether worship service that had a theme of "Leadership". We had nine scouts of all different levels and lots of scout leaders present and active during worship.



# FINANCE

## Support of our church and its mission



### A LETTER FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

A section of scripture that is very familiar comes from 2 Corinthians and says “. . . for God loves a cheerful giver.” I know that God loves St. Paul’s UMC as we are definitely a family of cheerful givers.

Our giving last year associated with benevolence activities was fantastic. Our congregation contributed over \$18,000 in gifts to UMCOR, Neighbors, Garlough, and various other conference benevolent projects. And of course that is only a measurement of the cash gifts. We have given much in the way of time, effort and goods. We are a very giving congregation.

Part of our giving is to contribute to the general fund of our church. This is the budget that pays salaries, heat and all the other expenses necessary to keep our church operational. Our 2019 general fund budget is \$277,633. This compares with a 2018 budget of \$277,634. That’s amazing. The committees did a great job of budgeting and kept us at a flat budget. Even better, actual expenses came in at \$269,925 or about 2.5% below expected.

The issue that we are dealing with is that in two of the last three years our general fund giving has been less than our general fund expenses. As we look at the projections for the current year, we believe that we will be short by about \$17,000 to cover our general fund expenses.

Here are some key numbers from 2018, the last three years and estimates for 2019.

	2018	2016 - 2017	2019 Estimate
GF Income	\$252,701	\$774,946	\$255,000
GF Expense	(269,925)	(805,213)	(277,000)
Transfer from savings*	5,000	18,000	5,000
Grants	350	2,950	0
Balance	(\$11,874)	(\$9,317)	(\$17,000)

\*Income from investments can be transferred at year-end, dependent on investments having shown a gain.

So as the year progresses, please consider continuing and possibly increasing your financial support of the mission of Christ through St. Paul’s UMC. Your generosity and financial commitment to the ministry of our church are much appreciated.

Please feel free to contact me or any member of the Finance Committee to discuss our finances. We are here to serve you. *Kae Jewell, Finance Chair*  
*Kae Jewell*  
*Finance Committee Chair*

# REACHING OUT

Living our faith  
and connecting  
with our  
neighbors



## NEIGHBORS INC NEWS

Neighbors Inc. was not selected to receive a subsidy from United Way and the loss of \$90,000 is huge. The Board and staff are currently exploring options. The need is still there, but the money is not. Any contribution to programming is most welcomed.

The Christmas gift program served 1,697 children and 117 seniors. The teens loved the movie gift cards!



The Minnesota FoodShare Campaign brings together various community organizations, businesses, and faith communities to help stock nearly 300 food shelves statewide. St. Paul's UMC is currently collecting food and money for FoodShare March Campaign. Last year we filled five storage bins. Pancake mix and syrup are needed but all food is welcome! Collection bins are located in the narthex. Imagine what five bins of groceries will do for families in need!

## ORDER SPRING PLANTS TO DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR EASTER

Hydrangea (blue)	_____	x \$15.00 each =	_____
Hydrangea (pink)	_____	x \$15.00 each =	_____
Azalea (pink)	_____	x \$15.00 each =	_____
Lily (white)	_____	x \$17.00 each =	_____
Order Total			\$ _____

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

What would you like to put in the bulletin? Circle one - In memory of      honor of      thanks for

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### Last Date to Order: March 17, 2019

Please fill out this slip and drop it in the collection plate with your check made payable to St. Paul's UMC or drop it off at your convenience in the church office.

Plants may be taken home after worship on Easter Sunday.

## EVENTS

What's  
happening and  
when?



### ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER SUNDAY, MARCH 17<sup>th</sup>

Join us on St. Patrick's Day, March 17<sup>th</sup>, for an authentic corned beef and cabbage dinner at church from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm to help raise funds to support St. Paul's Summer Mission Trip. Cost is \$10 a plate and \$5 for kids 10 and younger. Take out will also be available. Bring the friends and family and wear something green!



### UMCOR SUNDAY MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>

Gifts to UMCOR Sunday (previously known as One Great Hour of Sharing) lay the foundation of all United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the costs of doing business.

This means all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100% to those programs because UMCOR'S basic expenses are covered.

Look for special giving envelopes in the pews.

### MISSION TRIP JULY 20<sup>th</sup>—28<sup>th</sup>, 2019

This July 20<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, St. Paul's UMC will be going to Charleston, West Virginia for a week long Mission Trip through YouthWorks, to help serve in a community struggling through poverty. This will be a inter-generational mission trip for youth who have finished 6<sup>th</sup> grade through adults. During our week in Charleston, our group will have the opportunity to learn firsthand about the people, history, and the culture of the city.

We will serve and build relationships with a variety of people in Charleston through local organizations like the Boys and Girls Club, Union Mission, Covenant House, and local senior centers. We will help at a food shelf, volunteer at a clothing distribution center, serve a meal at a soup kitchen, work at an elder care facility, and help at the local community children's camp. During the evenings we will worship with a local congregation and feast with friends old and new at a community potluck.



If you are interested in joining us or have questions, contact Lani Thompson, [lanithompson@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:lanithompson@stpaulsmn.org)

# SMALL GROUPS

United with Purpose



## MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will not meet in March. Any questions please call Dick Robinson at 651-207-8643 or email him at dickrobinson2@msn.com.

## UMW CIRCLES

### Rachel Circle

Rachel Circle will meet on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at church. Contact Barb Jorgenson, 651-414-0054.

## UMW CIRCLES (continued)

### Rebekah Circle

Rebekah Circle will meet on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at church. We are looking for new members. Questions? Call Beda Lewis at 651-554-3600.

### Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 pm at church. Questions? Contact Annie McGuire, 651-254-7265

### UMW Officers

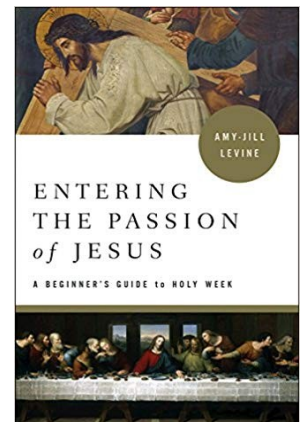
UMW offices will meet on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm at church.

## ADULT EDUCATION

SUNDAYS, 9:30 am

### BERTLESEN LIBRARY

Starting March 10<sup>th</sup> and continuing through Lent and culminating on Easter Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, we will study *Entering the Passion of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine. We will delve into the history and literature of the last days of Jesus' life. The book is not required but you may contribute \$10 for a copy of the book, on the narthex table. Money will benefit the students at Garlough Elementary. Do join us in this adventure! Charles Duddingston will convene.

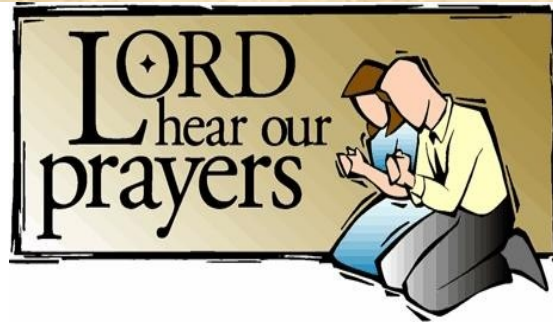


## ADULT EDUCATION BOOK GROUP

WEDNESDAYS, NOON

### FELLOWSHIP HALL

We will continue *Grounded: Finding God in the World* by Diana Butler Bass including *Forty Days with Grounded: A Devotional*, taking us day-by-day through Lent. The meeting on Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> will begin at 11:30 am to allow attendance at the 12:30 pm worship service. If you wish to donate \$10 for the children of Garlough School, we can get a book for you. See Charles Duddingston.

**Joys:**

Baptism of Cade Seymour and Emmalina Hannigan  
New members, Kathy Detert and Jane Spaulding

**Deaths:**

Jim Fritsche, February 28<sup>th</sup>  
Yvonne Momsen, February 6<sup>th</sup>

**Health Concerns:**

Nancy Grinager, recovering from pneumonia  
Lois Gydesen, for speedy healing  
Bob Momsen dealing with major swallowing difficulties  
Brent Cuttall's 18 year old cousin, Lincoln, gaining physical strength and cognitive awareness after traumatic brain injury  
Wendy Hall, needs physical therapy for her left foot  
Nancy Grinager's sister-in-law, Dedra, fighting lung cancer  
Deb Curran's brother-in-law, Stan, recovering from a stroke  
Dawn Everling's friend, Judy, with breast cancer  
Sherry Ziemkowski-LaGuire, undergoing chemotherapy for uterine cancer  
Sharon Medjanyk, healing from surgery  
Jerry Moffitt, recovering from back surgeries  
Barb Helmken's son, Brian, on medication for blood clots and experiencing anxiety; for John; Phil, with leukemia  
Kae Jewell's uncle, Bob Grich, with a re-occurrence of lung cancer  
Friends of Dan and Barb Hamilton: Barb's co-worker with breast cancer, and Mike needing a lung transplant  
Jo Reck's mother, struggling with near blindness  
All homebound with health problems

**Additional:**

Those affected by the decisions of the General Conference  
Everyone that has to drive in the snow  
Neighbors Inc.

*Please call the office with joys and concerns*



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS**  
**MARCH 10<sup>th</sup>**

Remember to turn your clocks ahead!

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - noon

**LANI'S OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday  
10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Tuesday, 12:00—8:00 pm

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAYS SCHEDULE**

Education Hour for All: 9:30 am  
Kidz 2gether Worship: 10:30 am  
Brunch: 11:30 am  
Communion will be offered the 1<sup>st</sup>  
and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of every month.

**CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR:**

Leslie Watkins

**ST. PAUL'S STAFF:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Amy Jo Bur,  
[pastor@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsmn.org)

**Director of Children, Youth and Mission:**

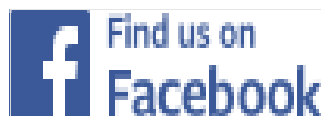
Lani Thompson,  
[lanithompson@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:lanithompson@stpaulsmn.org)

**Director of Music Ministry:**

Lane Skoglund-Anderson,  
[laneskoglundanderson@gmail.com](mailto:laneskoglundanderson@gmail.com)

**Administrative Assistant:**

Diane Pelinka,  
[info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org)



## Thank you to the Counters in February:

Brent Cuttell  
Barb Goin  
Kae Jewell  
Barb Jorgenson  
Jude Rikala  
Bob Walker  
Melissa Wilson

On behalf of Emma Norton, I would like to thank you for your total contributions of \$500 in 2018. Thanks to donors like you, we provided affordable housing and critical wrap around services to over 300 individuals and families last year.....(full letter on bulletin board) Sincerely,

*Tonya Brownlow, Exec. Dir.,  
Emma Norton*

Thank you for partnering with the United Methodist Committee of Relief (UMCOR). Through your gift, you are helping to provide humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupts life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own. (as of 12/31/2018)....

UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery	\$7,485
UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery	\$5,080
UMCOR—Where Most Needed	\$ 616

(full letter on bulletin board)  
Grace and Peace,  
*Roland Fernandes, Gen. Treasurer,  
General Board of Global Ministries*

**Cynthia Peterfeso**

no longer has a landline.

**Jo Daugherty**

Died: January 27, 2019

At the time of her passing, Jo held the distinction of having been a St. Paul's UMC member the longest of all current members.

If you would like to send her daughter, Julie Kirkwood, a card of sympathy, her address is:  
976 Seminole Ave.  
West St. Paul MN 55118

**Yvonne Momsen**

Died: February 6, 2019

Yvonne and Bob recently celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. She was a talented cook and pianist and volunteered for many organizations.

Sympathy cards may be sent to  
Yvonne's husband:

Bob Momsen  
1900 Victoria Road South #P  
Mendota Heights MN 55118  
and  
daughter and son-in-law:  
Bev Momsen and Bob  
Brocklehurst  
1279 Palisade Circle  
Woodbury MN 55129



# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> 9:30 am Education Hour for all w/ Adult Ed 10:30 am Worship w/ Baptisms & Communion 5:00 pm Music Together	<b>4</b> <i>10:00 am Music Together</i> 6:00 pm UMW Executive Board Mtg and SPRC Meeting	<b>5</b> <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	<b>6</b> 11:30 am Book Group 12:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
					<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
<b>10</b> Daylight Saving Time Begins 9:30 am Education Hour w/ Adult Ed 10:30 am Kidz 2gether Worship w/Communion 5:00 pm Music Together	<b>11</b> <i>10:00 am Music Together</i>	<b>12</b> <i>6:00 pm Last Yoga (winter session)</i>	<b>13</b> 12:00 pm Book Club 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>14</b> <i>10:00 am Quilters</i>	<b>15</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>16</b> <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
<b>17</b> 9:30 am Education Hour w/ Adult Ed 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser Dinner 5:00 pm Last Music Together (winter session)	<b>18</b> <i>10:00 am Last Music Together (winter session)</i> 12:30 pm Ruth Circle, church 6:45 pm 4H 7:00 pm Rachel Circle, church	<b>19</b> <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	<b>20</b> 11:00 am Rebekah Circle, church 12:00 pm Book Club 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
<b>24</b> 9:30 am Education Hour w/ Adult Ed 10:30 am Worship	<b>25</b> 5:00 pm Church Council Mtg	<b>26</b> <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	<b>27</b> 12:00 pm Book Club 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
<b>31</b> 9:30 am Education Hour w/ Adult Ed 10:30 am Worship 5:00 pm Music Together						

*Italicized events are conducted by outside groups renting space at the church.*

**St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

700 Wesley Lane  
Mendota Heights MN 55118

Phone: 651-452-5683  
Email: [info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org)

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

**ASH WEDNESDAY  
SERVICE  
March 6<sup>th</sup>  
12:30—1:00 pm**

