

Epistle

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

April 2019

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

Peace Be With You

God's abiding presence has been a blessing to me throughout my life. Even during times of difficulty, God's Spirit has helped me to remember that I am not alone. During worship last week, we read the twenty-third psalm and talked about the way that God's Spirit is right there beside us, like a loving shepherd who cares for us and leads us along the path that leads to new life. This is especially comforting as we grieve the loss of several church members and former church members all within a short time period. Although we miss them greatly, we know that the hope of resurrection to eternal life is ever before us and the Holy Spirit is with us to bring comfort.



**The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in
green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the
still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths
of righteousness for
his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through
the valley of the shadow
of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they
comfort me.
Thou preparest a table
before me in the presence
of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with
oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and
mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the
house of the Lord for ever.**

Psalm 23

We are at a moment in the life of our congregation when many things are happening all at once: we have experienced an unusual number of deaths in this new year and we are grieving; we have an unusual number of baptisms scheduled for this spring and we are celebrating; we are beginning to move forward with our Healthy Church Initiative recommendations and we are eager to see how good things may unfold; we are seeing many media reports about the possibilities of change in our denominational life and are unsure about what is next for the United Methodist Church. Wow—so much, so quickly! Amidst it all, God is with us; we are not alone. And so we read the twenty-third psalm again and remember that we are tended by a shepherd who loves and cares for us, providing salvation, peace, and joy, no matter what circumstances may surround us. We remember also that Christ provides a future with hope to the Church. May the blessings of God's Spirit continue to be poured out upon us at Saint Paul's UMC.

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Healthy Church Initiative Updates

Saint Paul's UMC has begun meeting with our Healthy Church Initiative coach, Rev. Becky Jo Messenbrink to develop specific goals and a timeline regarding the implementation of our five HCI recommendations. The first recommendation on which we will begin work is to right-size the leadership and committee structure of our congregation. We are developing a new leadership structure that will result in our congregation having more people in ministry and fewer people in meetings.

As we began work on this goal, someone asked how our congregation ended up with such a large committee structure. Looking at United Methodist history, there was a time when much of our current committee structure was a requirement of the Book of the Discipline. However, in the last several General Conferences, a number of those requirements have been removed in order to allow smaller congregations the flexibility to structure themselves in a simpler and more efficient way. Our recommendation encourages us to make use of that freedom. Look for upcoming information on the new leadership structure that we will try out during the second half of 2019.



Committee Structure



GROWING THROUGH LOSS

Growing Through Loss provides support for adults who have experienced a loss, information about the grieving process, caring and support from others who are also grieving, and sharing of memories and feelings in a confidential setting.

Location:

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
12650 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd
Apple Valley MN 55124
952-432-6351

Time: Thursdays, 7:00—9:00 pm

Remaining Dates:

Apr. 4: *"Sensing the Presence of Our Loved Ones after Death"*

Apr. 11: *"Evening of Remembrance"*

All Sessions: Registration, 6:30 pm; Speaker, 7:00 pm; Support Groups 8:00 - 9:00 pm. Suggested donation: \$3.00 per session. You may attend one or all of the sessions. For additional information, contact 651-452-8261 or growingthroughloss@gmail.com

HOLY WEEK

The promise of
Easter



PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 14th

- ♦ 9:30 am Sunday School
- ♦ 10:30 am Worship
- ♦ 11:30 am Brunch

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 18th

- ♦ 7:00 pm Worship with
Communion and Music by
Chancel Choir

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 19th

- ♦ 7:00 pm Quiet, Solemn
Worship

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 21st

- ♦ 8:30 am Worship
- ♦ 9:30 am Coffee Hour and Egg
Hunt/Children's Activities
- ♦ 10:30 am Worship



EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING

In celebration of the resurrection of Christ, it has been the tradition of our congregation to receive a special offering. This year, that offering will benefit two recipients:

Neighbors, Inc. (50%)

Neighbors, Inc. is a collaborative ministry of many congregations in Dakota County that provides help with emergency needs of many

types. Saint Paul's UMC has been a longtime supporter of Neighbors, Inc., and we want to be especially generous in our support during this new calendar year, knowing that one major grant to Neighbors Inc. has not been renewed this year.

General Fund (50%) As Saint Paul's UMC continues to reach out with Christ's love to our community and to our world, we use the general, operating fund of our congregation to fund this ministry.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families
nurture lifelong
disciples of Christ



CONFIRMATION 2018-2019

In March our Confirmation class lesson was on *Ways of Discipleship*. We spoke about what it means to follow Jesus in today's times and took a deep look at the four parts of being a Christian disciple: Devotion, Worship, Compassion, and Justice. Pastor Amy Jo also joined us to give a lesson on UMC structure, Polity, and what happened at the General Conference special session.



Our next class is on April 10th and we will go to *Feed My Starving Children* as a Confirmation class mission project.

CHILDREN'S FAMILY GAME NIGHT APRIL 6th

On April 6th we are hosting a special game night for children in kindergarten through 3rd grade from 3:00—6:00 pm. Parents are welcome to drop off and pick-up or stay and join us in the fun!



We will end the night with a pizza dinner. Friends are always welcome!

GAME NIGHT

On February 23rd St. Paul's UMC hosted a Game Night for 3rd-12th graders. We enjoyed pizza and played a ton of high energy games. A great time was had by all!



FINANCE

Support of our
church and its
mission



*"I have found that among its other benefits,
giving liberates the soul of the giver."*

—Maya Angelou

May each of us enjoy a liberated soul through the giving of our talents, presence and gifts. One place to share our gifts is with our congregation. Here is an update on our financial position through the end of February.

General Fund Income	\$30,596
General Fund Expenses	(\$38,231)
Unpaid Apportionments	<u>(\$ 5,374)</u>
Deficit	(\$13,009)

These numbers look pretty overwhelming but let me provide a little context. Giving throughout the church year is not uniform and significant gifts are received in the last two months of the year. That being said, General Fund giving for the same period last year was \$38,871 so our level of giving this year is less than last year.

Our expenses on a monthly basis (including apportionments) run almost \$25,500. For the first two months we normally would have spent about \$51,000. Keeping expenses to \$38,231 has helped us with cash flow. As you consider your giving, think about whether you have given what you expected to give so far this year.

If you have questions on our finances, feel free to contact any of us on the Finance Committee. Grace and Peace, *Kae Jewell - Finance Chair*

REACHING OUT

Living our faith
and connecting
with our



NEIGHBORS, INC. NEWS

The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign wraps up on April 7th and Neighbors, Inc. would like to thank everyone who contributed by volunteering or by donating cash or groceries. Neighbors appreciates donations all year long and with the loss of their United Way funding, they (we) are very grateful for our ongoing partnership.

PIE NIGHT

On February 28th, St. Paul's UMC volunteers helped serve dinner at Garlough Environmental magnet school for PIE Night! (Parents in Education) The next PIE Night is April 9th and is the last one of the school year. Anyone is welcome to help serve. If you are interested in helping please speak to Carol Egan or Lani Thompson or sign up on the signup sheet on the bulletin board.

REACHING OUT

Living our faith
and connecting
with our
neighbors



SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO CHARLESTON WV NEWS

Fundraiser Dinner

The St. Patrick's Day Dinner, March 17th, was a huge success. The corned beef and cabbage/seasoned potato wedges were very tasty. The mission team was blessed with donations of \$815 for food and \$426 for silent auction items. The youth brought sample plates of food and cake into the Sanctuary during worship to entice all to stay and enjoy lunch together. The money raised will be used to fund the mission trip to Charleston this summer. Please thank the youth that were the servers for over 50 people. St Paul's is blessed daily with service and prayers.



Mission Trip Information

This July 20th-28th, 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 an inter-generational trip for youth who have finished 6th 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, a clothing distribution center, a soup kitchen, an elder care facility, and 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 would like to find out more info please speak to Lani Thompson or email her at lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org.

EVENTS

What's
happening and
when



WHAT?

Used adult and children's clothing, kitchen items, toys, books, linens, jewelry, and much more. Bring your objects to church Monday, April 22nd—to set up day, Friday, April 26th, at 9:00 am.

We will **not** accept furniture, Christmas trees, baby furniture, car seats, TVs, appliances, exercise equipment, mattresses, light fixtures, curtain rods, blinds, computers and other electronics.

WHY?

All funds raised support our year end giving to our local food shelf, Emma Norton, Lewis House, Simpson Shelter and more.

WHEN?

SATURDAY
APRIL 27th
9:00 am—1:00 pm

WHERE?

ST. PAUL'S UMC
700 WESLEY LANE
MENDOTA HEIGHTS

Please keep Christmas decorations until the Fall Rummage Sale.

Baked goods: Bring your baked goods to church by 9:00 am on Saturday, April 27th.

Volunteers are needed on Friday, April 26th, starting at 9:00 am to prepare for the sale and on Saturday, 1:00 pm to clean up and prepare for worship the next day. Strong arms are always appreciated for the heavy lifting.

SMALL GROUPS

United with Purpose



MEN'S GROUP SUNDAY, APRIL 28th 6:30 pm

All men are invited to meet with District Superintendent Dan Johnson to discuss possibilities for a vital Men's Group. Pizza will be served. This is a key event for men! Any questions please call Dick Robinson at 651-207-8643 or email him at dickrobinson2@msn.com.



District Superintendent
Dan Johnson

UMW CIRCLES

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on Monday, April 15th, at 12:30 pm at church. Questions? Contact Annie McGuire, 651-254-7265.

Rebekah Circle

Rebekah Circle will meet on April 17th at 11:00 am at church. We are looking for new members. Questions? Call Beda Lewis at 651-554-3600.

Rachel Circle

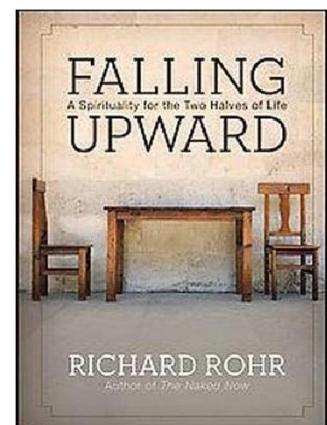
Rachel Circle will meet on Monday, April 15th, 7:00 pm at Deb Curran's house. Contact Barb Jorgenson, 651-414-0054.

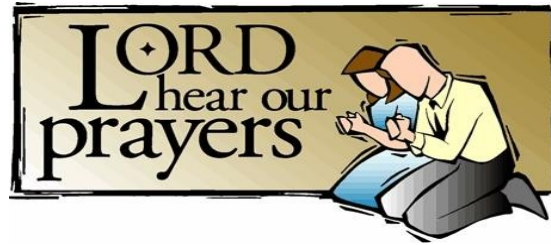
ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAYS, 9:30 am, BERTLESEN LIBRARY

Starting March 10th and continuing through Lent and culminating on Palm Sunday, April 14th, 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. Charles Duddingston will lead us.

ADULT EDUCATION BOOK GROUP WEDNESDAYS, NOON, BERTELSEN LIBRARY

Beginning May 1st, we will read *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr which deals with those in "the second half" of life and how what seems like losses are really gains. Books will be available on the narthex table for a contribution of \$10 to Garlough Elementary.





Please pray for the following:

Joys:

Carol and Peter Egan's son, Kevin, back to MN after 4 years in Korea

Jerry Moffitt, for cards and well wishes for successful back surgery

Deaths:

Don Halver, March 23rd

Sharon Holmes, March 21st

Tracy Morgan, March 12th

Bob Brocklehurst Sr., March 6th

Jim Fritsche, February 28th

Health Concerns:

Jerry Moffitt's twin, John, recovering from neck surgery

Jerry Hall's friend, Dwight, heart valve replacement

Barb Goin's friend, Laurie, recurrence of brain cancer

Thomas, with kidney stones that require extra attention

Barb Jorgenson's friend, Gail, with a fractured vertebra

Lois Gydesen, for speedy healing

Brent Cuttell's 18 year old cousin, Lincoln, gaining physical strength and cognitive awareness after traumatic brain injury

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

Barb Helmken; for Lisa with breast and ovarian cancer, 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 responding well to breast cancer treatment, and Mike recovering from a lung transplant

Jo Reck's mother, struggling with near blindness

All homebound with health problems

Additional:

Safety for all

Guidance during parenting teens

Those affected by the mosque attack in New Zealand

Those affected by the floods in NE Nebraska

United Methodist Church

Those affected by the decisions of the General Conference

Neighbors Inc.

Please call the office with joys and concerns

**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

2nd SUNDAYS SCHEDULE

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR:

Leslie Watkins

ST. PAUL'S STAFF:

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

Director of Children, Youth and Mission:

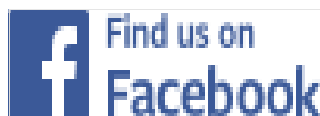
Lani Thompson,
lanithompson@stpaulsmn.org

Director of Music Ministry:

Lane Skoglund-Anderson,
laneskoglundanderson@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Diane Pelinka,
info@stpaulsmn.org

**Thank you to the
Counters in March:**

Brent Cuttell, Barb Goin
Kae Jewell, Barb Jorgenson
Patricia Lamski, Rhea Nyquist
Rude Rikala, David Roper
Bob Walker, Melissa Wilson

Your generosity of financial support to our Spanish reading/speaking families for the purchase of Spanish books to add to the library's collection is greatly appreciated. I have purchase highly sought out books that students frequently ask . They will be THRILLED to finally see their requests on the shelves. These books help our students learn to love reading and learning! Thank you! *Kim Benton*

Garlough Elementary School

Our sincere thank you for the generous donation you made to us in January and February. Your donation of 22 pounds of groceries to our food shelf is greatly appreciated.....(full letter on bulletin board) With gratitude,
Beth Skwira, Dir. of Dev. Neighbors, Inc.

BAPTISMS

March 3, 2019

CADE SEYMOUR

Son of:
Phil and Brittany Seymour
3778 Linden Lane
Eagan MN 55123

EMMALINA HANNIGAN

Daughter of:
Mike and Heather Hannigan
1171 Oakdale Ave.
West St. Paul MN 55118

**JIM FRITSCHÉ**

Died: February 28, 2019

Cards of sympathy may be sent to his wife:

Pat Fritsche
470 W. Emerson
West St. Paul MN 55118

TRACY MORGAN

Died: March 12, 2019

Cards of sympathy may be sent to his wife:

Carol Morgan
14950 Colorado Avenue
Rosemount MN 55068

his brothers:
David Morgan
7476 Carmen Avenue East
Inver Grove Heights MN 55076

Ron Morgan
538 18th Avenue North
South St. Paul MN 55075

and parents:
Ron and Juanita Morgan
P. O. Box 2
Chisago City MN 55013

SHARON HOLMES

Died: March 21, 2019

Cards of sympathy may be sent to her sister:

Janeen Hollenkamp
2242 Burma Lane
South St. Paul MN 55075

DON HALVER

Died: March 23, 2019

Cards of sympathy may be sent to his partner:

Loye Eckman
115 9th Ave. S.
South St. Paul MN 55075



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>10:00 am Music Together</i>	2 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	3 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	4	5 Don Halver 10:00 am Visitation 11:00 am Service 12:00 pm Luncheon	6 <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i> 3:00 pm Game Night
7 9:30 am Education Hour w/ Adult Ed 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion and Baptism <i>5:00 pm Music Together</i>	8 <i>10:00 am Music Together</i>	9 5:00 pm PIE Night <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	10 6:00 pm Confirmation, FMSC 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	11 <i>10:00 am Quilters</i>	12	13 <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
14 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Education Hour w/ Adult Ed 10:30 am Kidz 2gether Worship w/Communion 11:30 am Brunch <i>5:00 pm Music Together</i>	15 <i>10:00 am Music Together</i> 12:30 pm Ruth Circle, church 6:00 pm Finance Mtg <i>6:45 pm 4H</i> 7:00 pm Rachel Circle, Deb Curran	16 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	17 11:00 am Rebekah Circle, church 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	18 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm Worship w/ Communion & choir	19 Good Friday 7:00 pm Worship Newsletter Deadline	20 <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
21 Easter 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Activities 10:30 am Worship	22 Office Closed <i>10:00 am Music Together</i>	23 <i>No Yoga</i>	24 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	25	26 9:00 am Rummage Sale Set Up	27 9:00 am—1:00 pm Rummage Sale
28 9:30 am Education Hour w/ Adult Ed 10:30 am Worship <i>5:00 pm Music Together</i> 6:30 pm Men's Group w/ D.S. Johnson	29 <i>10:00 am Music Together</i>	30 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	The church office will be closed on Monday, April 22 nd .			

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

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PERMIT #2316

Address Service Requested

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

RUMMAGE /BAKE SALE

Saturday, April 27th
9:00 am—1:00 pm

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 14th

- ♦ 9:30 am Sunday School
- ♦ 10:30 am Worship
- ♦ 11:30 am Brunch

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 19th

- ♦ 7:00 pm Quiet, Solemn
Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 18th

- ♦ 7:00 pm Worship with
Communion and Music by
Chancel Choir

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 21st

- ♦ 8:30 am Worship
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Hunt/Children's Activities
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