

Epistle

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

May 2019

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

What's New?

This spring and summer will hold a new look for the outdoor areas of our property at St. Paul's UMC. The long-awaited hike and bike trail is scheduled to be installed on our property this summer. This portion of the trail will connect with the existing trails at The Village and Marie Ave., taking community pedestrians right through our church yard. The riprap will be removed from the ditch on Dodd Rd. (making it easier to maintain!), and the new path will run near Dodd. All of this is a city project, occurring on St. Paul's UMC property.

There will also be some road resurfacing near the church. As part of that project, the City of Mendota Heights has met with the St. Paul's UMC trustees to discuss the possibility of installing rain gardens on church grounds. These would be areas of hardy perennial flowers and decorative grasses designed to filter run-off water from the road. The curbs would be engineered to include curb-cuts into the rain gardens to guide the water run-off. Rain gardens improve the overall water quality in the area.

They are designed to drain in less than 48 hours to prevent mosquito hatching. Some United Methodist congregations have made care of creation part of their regular mission work, and recently, the United Methodist Church has added a new class of missionaries for exactly this reason: they are called "earth keepers." The trustees of St. Paul's UMC are considering

whether or not maintenance of the rain gardens fits within St. Paul's UMC's mission to be a welcoming community sharing Christ's love in service through relationships. Isn't it interesting-- all of the different ways that our gifts, talents, and interests can be used for the common good?

(continued on page 2)



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Finally, you have probably already noticed the beautiful new urns filled with flowers and pussy willows at the doors to the church building. These are the first signs of a memorial gift, in memory of Dorothy Grinager, to be used for outdoor hospitality and improvements at St. Paul's UMC. This donation is very timely for two reasons: First, the new city walking trail will bring friends and neighbors through our church yard, and this gift will help us to show hospitality to those neighbors. And second, one of our Healthy Church Initiative recommendations was to improve guest readiness, including our building, grounds, and website, so we are planning on attending to that. As we determine how to improve guest readiness, we can give attention to outdoor hospitality and those guests that may come to us through the new hike and bike trail.

As spring arrives, we see the flowers, trees, and plants near our building beginning to show signs of new life. What a joy to consider all the new possibilities of change that have to do with blooming plants, beauty, and hospitality! Welcome neighbors; welcome spring!



PIE NIGHT

On April 9th we had six Saint Paul's UMC volunteers to help serve the final dinner at Garlough Environmental Magnet School for PIE Night! (Parents In Education) It was a great turn-out for a great night.



EASTER

Christ Has Risen! We had two amazing services, with a delicious cinnamon roll brunch and a ton of exciting children's activities in between. There were over 40 children and youth at church having a great time with an egg hunt run by our youth group, cookie decorating, tabletop coloring, games in the fellowship hall and a fun Easter photo booth with props for the whole family.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families
nurture lifelong
disciples of Christ



CONFIRMATION 2018-2019

In April our Confirmation class went to Feed My Starving Children as a confirmation class mission project. A lot of fun was had, and our group alone packed 3,240 meals which will feed eight kids for an entire year. Incredible!

Join us on Sunday, May 19th, as Mallory Brandecker is confirmed and received into membership at St. Paul's UMC!



CHILDREN'S FAMILY GAME NIGHT

On April 6th we hosted a special game night for children in kindergarten through 3rd grade from 3:00 -6:00 pm. 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'm sure we are all celebrating the end of tax season. This year has been particularly chaotic with the new tax law. As we finish our taxes for this year, we are beginning to plan for next year. One of the tools you may want to consider is a Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD.

The QCD allows you to make a contribution directly from your IRA to a qualified charitable organization, such as Saint Paul's UMC. The QCD is not considered income and is not subject to income tax up to a limit of \$100,000. In addition, the gift of a QCD will satisfy part or all of your annual Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA.

To make a gift to church, instruct your IRA custodian to make a QCD from your IRA and they will send a check directly to Saint Paul's UMC. As always, be sure to check with your financial advisers to understand how this law applies to you and your situation.

Below you will find a quick update on our finances through March 31st.

General Fund Income:	\$59,234
General Fund Expenses:	(\$60,313)
Unpaid Apportionments:	<u>(\$8,061)</u>
Deficit:	(\$9,140)

As you can see, we have closed the deficit gap from a month ago. We are early in the year but want to be sure everyone has a picture of our finances.

If you have questions, feel free to contact any member of the Finance Committee.

Blessings,
Kae Jewell - Finance Chair



UPDATE ON OUR EASTER OFFERING

As of April 21st, we have collected \$3,788 for the Easter Offering, half of which will go to Neighbors Inc. and the other half to support the work of Saint Paul's UMC.

REACHING OUT

Living our faith
and connecting
with our
neighbors



GARLOUGH ELEMENTARY Sheridan Story

Volunteers for Garlough are needed to put food in back backs on May 2nd, 9th and an early date in June (TBD). The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the Bertlesen Library.

Teacher and Staff Recognition Luncheon June 6th

Garlough's Teacher and Staff Recognition luncheon is on Thursday, June 6th. We need volunteers to serve and clean up, as well as bakers or shoppers to contribute dessert bars or cookies. Contact Carol Egan at merryhands@gmail.com or 651-238-6812, or Bev Momsen at momsenb@comcast.net or 651-505-9192.

LOVE OFFERING MAY 19, 2019

The theme of the 2019 Annual Conference session—taking place June 18th–20th in St. Cloud—is “*Dare to Reach: Love Boldly*”. Funds will go to three projects.

- ♦ Lao Samphan (United) Methodist Church, Laos (60 percent)
- ♦ Volunteer Lawyers Network (20 percent)
- ♦ Volunteers in Mission Scholarships (20 percent)

Mark “Love Offering” on your check memo and/or giving envelope and experience the joy of participating in this miraculous outpouring of the Living Water.

NEIGHBORS INC.

We are thrilled to report that our congregation donated 781 pounds of food and contributed \$600.00! Neighbors raised 98% of its pound/dollar goal!

FOOD SHELF'S MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- Peanut Butter
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Jelly
- Bar Soap
- Canned Pasta or Chili
- Financial donations always welcome!

The donation bin is in the narthex.

MISSION TRIP

JULY 20—28, 2019

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 a inter-generational mission 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, 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, lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org

EVENTS

What's
happening and
when



TEACHER APPRECIATION SUNDAY, MAY 19th

Along with welcoming our newest confirmand to the congregation, we will also recognize our Sunday School Teachers. Come and help us celebrate!

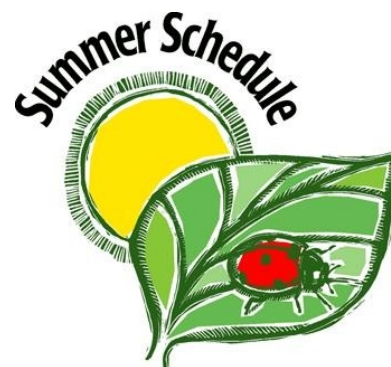
Jo and Jack Baker, Lindsey Bunting, Nancy Grinager, Lyndsay Howard, Justin Jedlicka, Barb Jorgenson, Andrea Larson, Nancy Pierson, Jude Rikala, Jade Roper, Chrisana Tripodi, Leslie Watkins, Hailey Whitledge and all of our parent volunteers.



*Hooray for our
Teachers!*

MENDAKOTA PARK CELEBRATION SATURDAY, JUNE 1st

Join us as we reach out to connect with people in the community at the annual Mendakota Parks Celebration on June 1st. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Lani Thompson, lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org if you can help.



SUMMER WORSHIP HOUR JUNE 2nd

Starting June 2nd, worship hour will begin at **10:00 am**. Mark your calendars!

ONE ROOM SUNDAY SCHOOL JUNE 2nd

We know what summer means at church. People travel, family activities going on, etc. We get it. We make a shift, too, to One Room Sunday School. We combine both of our children's Sunday School classes into one. Youth Sunday School is canceled for the summer months although there will still be opportunities to gather, hang out and learn.

ORSS will begin June 2nd and starts at approximately 10:15 am, after Children's Chat in worship.

We like to give our regular Sunday school teachers throughout the year a summer break. If you have an interest in helping teach one Sunday this summer, please contact Lani Thompson, lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org

SMALL GROUPS

United with Purpose



MEN'S GROUP

Details were unavailable for the next Men's Group meeting at the time of publication. Any questions please call Dick Robinson at 651-207-8643 or email him at dickrobinson2@msn.com.

UMW CIRCLES

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on Monday, May 20th, at 12:30 pm at church. Questions? Contact Annie McGuire, 651-254-7265.

Rebekah Circle

Rebekah Circle will meet on May 15th at 11:00 am at church. Questions? Call Beda Lewis at 651-554-3600.

Rachel Circle

Rachel Circle will meet on Monday, May 20th, 7:00 pm at Deb Curran's house. Contact Barb Jorgenson, 651-414-0054.

UMW Executive Team Meeting

May 6th, 6:00 pm, at church.

UMW Picnic

June 3rd, 6:00 pm, Cecelia Burbach's Community Building

MEDITATION GROUP

SUNDAYS, 9:00—9:20 am

WIGGLES AND

GIGGLES ROOM

Join with Jane Spaulding for 20 minutes of silent meditation on a Bible verse from the day's worship reading. Allow God to speak to your heart during a time of silent listening.

SUNDAY ADULT

EDUCATION, 9:30 am BERTLESEN LIBRARY

Beginning on May 5th, we will discuss William Willimon's *"Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love."* What about those who are not only strangers, but people who live completely different lives? There will be five sessions with DVD. No books are needed. You are invited! Please join us!

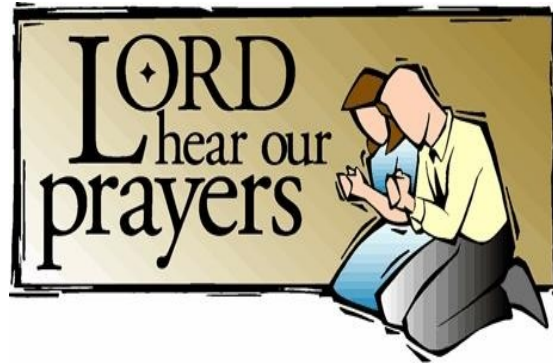
WEDNESDAY ADULT EDUCATION BOOK GROUP, NOON

BERTLESEN LIBRARY

Beginning May 1st, we will read *"Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life"* by Richard Rohr. In the first session we will read and discuss the introduction to the book. Books are available on the narthex table for a contribution of \$10 to Garlough Elementary. Charles Duddingston will convene the event.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WEEDING

Volunteers are needed to commit to weeding this summer. Hopefully we will have enough volunteers to cover the entire growing season. Please contact the office, 651-452-5683, or mark your Sunday blue card if you are interested.



Please pray for the following:

Joys:

Baptism of Charlie Roper

Deaths:

Patty K., friend of Carol Egan

Health Concerns:

For peace and comfort for Mary Bell

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

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

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

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

Jo Reck's mother, struggling with near blindness

All homebound with health problems

Additional:

Those affected by the Sri Lanka bombings

For Landen, the boy who was severely injured at the MOA

Children anywhere who find themselves in places of violence or abuse

Safety for all

Guidance during parenting teens

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

**grat-i-tude**

[grat i tood]

noun

the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness

Thank you for supporting the Brownies and Girl Scouts by buying cookies!

*Johanna Hannigan, Ella Nyhus
and Brynn Taurinskas*

Thanks for the many, many expressions of kindness during Jim's illness and death.

Pat Fritsche and family

Thank you for your financial contribution of \$205.38 on March 23, 2019 to The Sheridan Story. Your partnership will enable The Sheridan Story to continue to make a positive impact in the fight against child hunger.

(full letter on bulletin board)
Rob Williams, Exec. Dir.

Thank you so much for being a part of MN FoodShare campaign yet again and for raising \$600 and 781 pounds of groceries! When you make a donation to Neighbors, you do so without ever knowing the names or the faces of the people that you've helped, but the impact of your generosity is immediate and far reaching.....
(full letter on bulletin board)

*Beth Skwira
Dir. Of Mission Advancement
Neighbors, Inc.*

**OFFERING COUNTERS****THANK YOU TO THE COUNTERS IN APRIL**

Brent Cuttell,
Shirley Holmay
Kae Jewell
Rhea Nyquist
Bob Walker
Leslie Watkins
Melissa Wilson



April 7, 2019

Charlie Roper

Son of:

David and Jade Roper
2256 Alice Lane
Mendota Heights MN 55120



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12:00 pm Book Club 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	2	3	4 <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
5 9:00 am Meditation 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion and Baptisms <i>2:00 pm Private piano recital</i>	6 <i>10:00 am Music Together</i> 6:00 pm UMW Executive Board Mtg	7 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	8 12:00 pm Book Club 2:00 pm Memorial Mtg 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	9 <i>10:00 am Quilters</i>	10	11 <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
12 Mother's Day 9:00 am Meditation 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Kidz 2gether Worship w/Communion 11:30 am Cinnamon Rolls fellowship	13 <i>10:00 am Music Together</i>	14 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	15 11:00 am Rebekah Circle, church 12:00 pm Book Club 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	16	17 Newsletter Deadline	18 <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
19 Confirmation, Teacher Recognition and Love Offering 9:00 am Meditation 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship	20 12:30 pm Ruth Circle, church <i>10:00 am Music Together</i> <i>6:45 pm 4H</i> 7:00 pm Rachel Circle, Deb Curran's	21 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	22 12:00 pm Book Club 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	23 6:00 pm Church Council Mtg	24	25 <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
26 No Sunday School, SPLAT or Adult Ed 9:00 am Meditation 10:30 am Worship	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28	29 12:00 pm Book Club 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	30	31	

The church office will be closed on
Monday, May 27th

*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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Address Service Requested

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


CONFIRMATION
S U N D A Y
MAY 19, 2019