

# Epistle

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

September 2019

## REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

### Relevant

"Relevant" is one of the key words that people use when they describe to me what they're looking for in the teachings of the church. How are the teachings of our historic faith relevant to our current time and culture? How is our faith relevant to the way in which we live our day-to-day life and make decisions for the ethical good?

At the beginning of each week, a new piece of curriculum will be sent to address a current social question that is making headlines. The curriculum is designed to help us think deeply about how our relationship with Christ and the teachings of the Church speak to the things that are happening right here and right now. I invite you to join Charles Duddingston and the

leading throughout their adult life. If you haven't yet confirmed your faith and become a full member of the Church, I invite you to join our confirmation class on their faith journey. You are invited to grow in faith together at Saint Paul's UMC.

### Roof

Many of you have noted the presence of construction workers with a lift over the office entrance to the church building. A roof leak in the narthex this summer was traced back to the thin brick façade on the highest roof gable above the office entrance. The same area was patched nine years ago. Rather than attempt another patch at this time, the thin brick was removed from this area of the roof and replaced with a durable material that could be more securely attached. This should be a strong and lasting solution to roof leaks in this area. We are very fortunate to have a capital/building fund at Saint Paul's UMC which allows us to pay for this repair and lasting improvement to our building. We celebrate a solid building from which to be in ministry in the years to come.



How is Christianity relevant to the way we communicate and relate to one another? All of these are very important questions as we live our lives in relationship with Christ.

The Faith Link curriculum, which will be used in our adult Sunday School class beginning in September, is specially designed to answer the question of relevance.

adult Sunday School class to experience this new curriculum and to grow in your faith.

Our confirmation students will also be exploring the question of relevance. As they seek to develop and strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ and learn the stepping stones of faith, they are building Christian practices that will help them listen to God's

## EVENTS

What's  
happening and  
when



## FALL KICK-OFF CELEBRATION Sunday

### September 8<sup>th</sup>

Join us at St. Paul's UMC on September 8<sup>th</sup> for a day of fun and celebration.

Our fall schedule starts with Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 am and Kidz 2gether worship at 10:30 am - lively and

interactive singing and child-friendly worship with pieces for adults, too.

There will also be a special blessing of backpacks, students, teachers, and staff during worship.

Afterwards, join us for walking tacos, live music from the *Methodicals*, snow cones, yard games, face painting, large bounce house and slide and a small bounce house and ball pit for our littlest folks!

There will also be a Flu Shot Clinic. See details below.



## FLU SHOT CLINIC

### Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>

### 10:00 am – noon

Cub Pharmacy will offer a flu vaccination clinic at St. Paul's UMC.

**Please bring your health insurance card**, so that Cub Pharmacy can bill your insurance company for the cost of the flu shot.

If your insurer does not cover the cost of the vaccination when billed, then Cub Pharmacy will pay for the cost.

## ST. PAUL'S SCRAMBLE GOLF TOURNAMENT

- ♦ InverWood Executive Course
- ♦ Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ Tee times start at 2:08 pm
- ♦ Cost: \$15, payable to Dawn Everling

If you want a cart, you will pay Inver Wood for that the day of the tournament (carts \$7 seniors/\$7.50 non-seniors). Sign up sheet is on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

## EVENTS RUMMAGE

What's  
happening and  
when



## AND BAKE SALE

Saturday  
September 21<sup>st</sup>  
9:00 am-1:00 pm

Start looking in closets, drawers and garages for items! Please leave your good rummage in the Fellowship Hall by 9:00 am on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>.

We will **not** accept **artificial Christmas trees**, baby furniture, TVs, computers, computer equipment, exercise equipment, mattresses, bikes, curtain rods, blinds or furniture.

The bakery goods should be at church by 8:30 am on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

We need help sorting rummage at 9:00 am on Friday and 1:00 pm on Saturday for packing up. Strong helpers appreciated for heavy lifting! Money raised will go towards local missions.



## BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday  
October 5<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Donors for whole blood collection – schedule at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 866-236-3276.

Volunteers are needed to make the drive successful.

- ♦ Registration desk; 8:45 am - 2:00 pm
- ♦ Post-donation attendant; 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (provide water and observation)

- ♦ Kitchen volunteer to give out food to donors and staff ; 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Times may be split shifts—example 8:45 am -11:15 am and 11:15 am - 2:00 pm

Contact Jude Rikala for further info at 651-529-5560 (cell).





## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families  
nurture lifelong  
disciples of Christ



### CONFIRMATION 2019-20

Starting September 11<sup>th</sup>, first and second year confirmands will meet on the second Wednesday of every month from 6:00-8:00 pm. We will continue with our program *Credo*, a United Methodist confirmation curriculum. For some this is the beginning of a journey of faith; for others it is the continuation of that journey. It is a fun time when we can explore who God is and what that has to do with our lives, as well as get to Grow, Honor, Discover, and Connect in new ways—in bigger ways—with each other and with God. Questions? Contact the Director of Children, Youth and Mission Ministries, Lani Thompson, at [lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org).

### JOIN THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH TEAM!

We are always looking for new volunteers to help with our expanding children's and youth program! Together we will help our children and youth grow and learn about Jesus while teaching them how to Welcome, Share, and Serve by example. If you are interested in participating in any way or capacity, contact Lani Thompson at [lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org) and we will get you involved right away!

### SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- October 6: Pizza and Corn Maze for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade
- October 9: Confirmation class 6:00-8:00 pm
- October 17 & 18: VBS during MEA - with the theme: *Mission to Mars*
- October 18: Neighborhood picnic and party from 5:00-7:00 pm
- October 23: Youth help serve at Annual Turkey Dinner

## SUCCESSFUL LEARNING

Helping young  
students find  
success



### P.I.E. NIGHT

P.I.E. (Parents In Education) 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 26<sup>th</sup>. St. Paul's mission team is looking to find volunteers to help serve dinner. Volunteer hours will be approximately 5:00-6:30 pm. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Lani at [lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org).

### READING BUDDIES

St. Paul's UMC is partnering with Garlough Elementary for another year of Reading Buddies! This is a fun and beneficial activity for all involved, and reading to students is a fun and rewarding way to volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering and helping with early readers once a week, contact Carol Egan, [merryhands@gmail.com](mailto:merryhands@gmail.com)

# REACHING OUT

Living our faith  
and connecting  
with our  
neighbors



## NEIGHBORS' DUCK RACES, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5<sup>th</sup>

**11:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Location:** Southview Blvd  
South St. Paul

**Activities:** In addition to the races – which will run approximately every 15 minutes – check out the meet and greet opportunities with 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 (on the narthex table closer to the date of the event), [www.neighborsmn.org](http://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 to a local retailer of the winner's choice!

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

## MISSION TRIP TO WEST VIRGINIA

Our mission trip team arrived back safely and full of smiles from an incredible trip to Charleston, West Virginia. Some of their favorite experiences during the eight day adventure were:

- Serving at a Children's Camp and Boys & Girls Club
- Helping at a Senior Center and Rehabilitation Home
- Worshiping at Dale Fletcher & Janet Clegg's United Methodist church in Indianapolis with all their youth
- Participating at an evening worship service at a local Baptist church in Charleston, WV
- Winning a church group photo scavenger hunt in downtown Charleston and eating REAL deep dish pizza in Chicago

**Mission participants were:** Beth Schmidt, Lani Thompson, Andy Lopez, Bailey Hudella, Hailey Whitledge, Nick and Allie Eggen, Catey Chastain, & Maddie Hudella.

**We were supported by an incredible group of sponsors:** Chuck & Dawn Everling, Nancy & John Grinager, Barb Helmken, Jan Marshall, Bill Gydesen, Rhea Nyquist, Kae Jewell, Marisa Zimmerman, Leslie Watkins, Irving Samuelson, Laurie McFaul, Deb & Larry Hudella, Vicki & Dave Nelson, Jude Rikala, Bob Momsen, Shirley Holmay, Barb Jorgenson, and Roxy Crane. Thank you to our sponsors as well as everyone who gave prayers and/or financial support. Together we were able to make a world of difference.

# MISSION TRIP

## 2019

### TESTIMONIALS

“Therefore go and  
make disciples of  
all nations”

Matthew 28:19



Going into this as my first mission trip I wasn't sure what to expect. After the trip was over though I knew it was well worth going. The most beautiful part of the trip to me was when we visited another church for an evening. Everyone was clapping, snapping, dancing and singing together and the atmosphere in the room was honestly just pure happiness. It was so uplifting to grow spiritual together with all the new friends I created.

This trip was fun because I could feel God through the people there and the people that I worked with by the way that they welcomed each other. One of my favorite parts was going to the worship service at the Baptist church.

The mission trip showed me that I need to slow down and take my time building my relationship with God. One of my favorite times of the day was morning devotional when I got to read and go through the devotional. I'll always remember the people I met and the kids I worked with.

The mission trip is definitely one I will never forget, one of my favorite moments that connected me to God was the fact that I had to get my feet washed, and it might seem weird but since one of the stories in the Bible is Jesus washing the disciples feet I kind of felt connected in a way, and what really made it real for me was after (Lani washed my feet) she also did a prayer and it really made me connect to God, it made me feel like I was connected to my dad that he was there, so much that I was full out trying to hold my tears in but they just kept coming. Also what made the trip wonderful was the people and friends I got to meet. The people I came with just became my friends instantly, so yeah I have to say it's trip I'll never forget.

The mission trip to West Virginia helped me feel like a disciple of Jesus as I was helping people any way I could. We served different

kids groups, while other churches helped at a community garden.

During the mission trip to Charleston, West Virginia I felt that I got to reconnect with God by helping some of the children and senior citizens there and I also got to meet a lot of new people that were closer to my age too. I got phone numbers and I plan to stay in touch with all the friends I made on this trip. I also thought it was eye opening to worship in a smaller church that was full of soul and stories and a lot of fun. I definitely stepped out of my comfort zone by going on this trip but I had a blast and I would go again.

The trip was a great adventure for me, I learned a lot and made new friends! My favorite parts were working at the Boys and Girls Club worksite and the morning and evening gatherings we had all together.

This trip really showed me how God puts us in the right place, with the right people, at just the right times. My trust and faith that God has a path for me (and everyone else) grew each day, and it was like God was shining a light directly on us the whole time. A favorite moment of mine was sitting and playing cards with some people from the senior living home. They were so happy and excited to see us, and to just sit with us and chat or play games, it reminded me that I need to slow down and try to enjoy every moment. And not worry so much about what is next.

# FINANCE

## Support of our church and its mission



### WHAT'S NEW?

Happy New Year!! Yes, I know it is not January but it seems like we have two beginnings each year. One new beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup> and the other at the beginning of the new school year. The new school year also coincides with the launch of new activities at our church. With a new year comes resolutions and new commitments. Part of my commitment is to do a little financial self-audit. Where am I at this year with my commitments? I have four more months to meet my goals. What will I need to do to assure that my personal goals are met?

If you have similar thoughts, now may be the time to look at your financial gifts to St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Are you where you want to be in September? In October third quarter giving statements will be mailed and it will provide information on our current giving. If you have any questions, prior to then, feel free to contact Bob Walker, our Financial Secretary. ([rawalkbob@gmail.com](mailto:rawalkbob@gmail.com) or 651-340-0231).

Here is an update on our finances through July. As you can see, we are running at a slight deficit (excluding apportionments) through the first seven months of the year. Throughout the year we have been just at or just below breakeven prior to paying apportionments. Expenses are in good shape and being well managed. Our operating budget for the year is \$277,633. Excluding apportionments, we have paid about \$3500 less than the budget indicates we should have spent at this point in time. One other note on spending. You have seen the work going on to repair the façade and the roof at the front entry to the church. This expense was funded from the capital fund that we have available for major property expenses. This is for things beyond everyday maintenance. We are very blessed that we have a capital fund that we can draw on when these unexpected events occur.

Grace and Peace, *Kae Jewell*

General Fund Income	\$138,023.39
Less General Fund Expenses	<u>\$139,613.41</u>
Balance	\$ (1,590.02)
Less Unpaid Apportionments	<u>\$ 18,807.25</u>
Deficit After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ (20,392.27)



# SMALL GROUPS

United with purpose



## MEN'S GROUP

*Money Matters*

Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

How often have you wished for free answers to money questions with no strings attached - investment ideas, retirement planning, basic questions regarding stocks and bonds, etc.?

Chuck Duddingston, son of Charles, will be with us to discuss these matters and take all questions. He will not be here to open accounts or conduct business – purely to advise. Chuck is a Senior Vice President and Wealth Management Advisor at Merrill Lynch, with C.I.M.A. credentials and 35 years experience. We invite all men and women to an interesting and informative evening. Pizza will be served. Questions? Contact Dick Robinson, 651-207-8643 or dickrobinson2@msn.com.

## UMW CIRCLES

### Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 pm at church. Questions? Contact Annie McGuire, 651-254-7265.

### Rebekah Circle

Rebekah Circle will meet on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will be planning our activities for the year. We welcome new members. Dessert will be served. Questions please call Beda Lewis at 652-554-3600.

### Rachel Circle

Rachel circle will meet on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at Leslie Watkins' home. Questions? Contact Barb Jorgenson, 651-414-0054.

## SUNDAY ADULT ED

Bertelsen Library

Beginning September 8<sup>th</sup>

9:30 am

The world is complicated. Let's work through it together. Using *Faithlink*, a weekly curriculum, each Sunday this fall we will address a current event and discuss it, along with a Christian point of view, with as many viewpoints as possible. Topics will be fresh every Sunday! Join us as we connect faith and life. Charles Duddingston will convene.

## WEDNESDAY ADULT ED BOOK GROUP

Bertelsen Library

Beginning October 2<sup>nd</sup>

Noon

*Mountaintop Moments* by Ed Robb Starting on Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, you are invited to discuss with Charles Duddingston "mountain top moments", when Old Testament history and God's revelation are made relevant to our daily living.

- ♦ Oct. 2: Mount Sinai, Mount of God's Law
- ♦ Oct. 9: Mount Carmel, Mount of Decision
- ♦ Oct. 16: Mount Olivet, Mount of Blessing.

Books are available to purchase on the narthex table for a \$10 donation to Garlough School but they are not required for participation.

Bring a sandwich and a friend!





**Please pray for the following:**

**Joys:**

Irv Samuelson's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and Carol and Irv's 69<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!

Bob Momsen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 25<sup>th</sup>

For the process of healing for John and Nancy Grinager's niece, Natalie

**Deaths:**

Lisa, Barb Helmken's friend, August 22<sup>nd</sup>

Bob Grich, Kae Jewell's uncle, August 13<sup>th</sup>

Mark, John and Beth Schmidt's neighbor, Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> while watering his lawn

**Health Concerns:**

Larry Brandenburg, Dana Nyhus' dad, for quick recovery after hip surgery

John Schmidt surgery for wrists and ankle, basal cell skin cancer on ankle

Mike LaGuire's daughter, Cheryl, with a new breast cancer diagnosis

Barbara Fillion, healing from a broken arm

Daniel Berntsen, Shirley Holmay's friend and former co-worker,

very seriously injured when hit by a vehicle while riding his bicycle to work

Kathy Detert's neighbor, Mary, with bone cancer

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

Nancy Grinager's sister-in-law, Dedra, fighting lung cancer

Jo Reck's mother, struggling with near blindness

All homebound with health problems

**Additional:**

For the violence in Chicago

For those affected by the shootings in Gilroy, CA, El Paso, TX, and Dayton, OH

For the family of Chrisana Tripodi, guidance and wisdom

For Tom and Beda Lewis' grandson, Tommy, as he joins the army on August 14<sup>th</sup>

For Janelle Hamilton, who began basic training with Army National Guard on August 5<sup>th</sup>

For all parents who have lost a child/children as the hidden tears are the most painful

For guidance in search for new job and relief from financial hardship

For guidance for our President

For young people in bad relationships

For recovery for those experiencing an overdose

*Please call the office with joys and concerns*

**NIGHT TO UNITE**

On August 6<sup>th</sup> St. Paul's UMC hosted the neighborhood block party also known as *Night to Unite* for a fantastic evening of fun, food and fellowship. A great mix of

church members and neighbors joined us for delicious food put together by the Baker family, water activities and a giant slip-n-slide for the kids (and the kids at heart), crafts, and a visit from the local police and fire department who

taught everyone all about the equipment in their vehicles and even let them climb inside to check it out. We can honestly say that fun was had by all ages who attended.

**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

**SUMMER SUNDAY  
SCHEDULE**

Adult Education: 9:00 am  
Worship: 10:00 am  
One Room Sunday School 10:15 am

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

Adult Education: 9:00 am  
Kidz 2gether Worship: 10:00 am  
Brunch: 11:00 am  
Communion will be offered the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of every month.

**CENTRAL LEADERSHIP**

**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:**

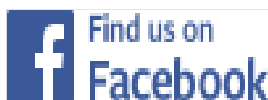
Lani Thompson,  
[lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org)

**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)



651-452-5683 [info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org) | [www.stpaulsmn.org](http://www.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 TO THE  
COUNTERS IN JULY**

Barb Goin  
Shirley Holmay  
Barb Jorgenson  
Patricia Lamski  
Jude Rikala  
Melissa Wilson  
Leslie Watkins

Thank you to everyone for your generous gifts of school supplies for the kids at Garlough Elementary. You have helped get many kids prepared and feel ready for the 2019/2020 school year. We will continue to partner with Garlough and strive to make a difference as we can.

**David & Jade Roper**

918 Upper Valley Dr.  
Blue Earth MN 56013

**Bill Gydesen**

651-552-2799

**Roxy Crane**

1384 A Avalon Ave.  
Eagan MN 55121  
651-261-0557

**Bob Momsen**

1984 Oakdale Ave. #402  
West St. Paul MN 55812  
(as of Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>)

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE STARTING SEPTEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>**

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAYS SCHEDULE STARTING SEPTEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>**

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.

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion—  No One Room Sunday School	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 4:30—8:00 pm Fletcher wedding rehearsal	<b>7</b> Fletcher Wedding
<b>8 Fall Kick-Off Sunday with Flu Clinic</b>  9:30 am Education Hour and  10:00 am Flu Clinic  10:30 am Kidz 2gether worship w/Communion  11:30 am 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Brunch (walking tacos), games	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>        <i>6:30 pm Yoga</i>	<b>11</b>  6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>12</b> <i>10:00 am Quilters</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>  9:30 am Education Hour  10:30 am Worship  2:00 pm Golf Tourney, Inverwood Course	<b>16</b>  12:30 pm Ruth Circle, church  6:00 pm Finance Mtg  7:00 pm Rachel Circle, Leslie Watkins' home	<b>17</b>        <i>No Yoga</i>	<b>18</b>  11:00 am Rebekah Circle, church  6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Newsletter Deadline	<b>21</b>  9:00 am—1:00 pm Rummage Sale
<b>22</b>  9:30 am Education Hour   10:30 am Worship  <i>4:30 pm Music Together</i>	<b>23</b>  <i>9:30 am &amp; 1:30 pm Music Together</i>	<b>24</b>        <i>6:30 pm Yoga</i>	<b>25</b>  6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>26</b>  5:00 pm PIE Night at Garlough Elem.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>  9:30 am Education Hour   10:30 am Worship  <i>4:30 pm Music Together</i>  6:30 pm Men's Group, Finance Talk	<b>30</b>  <i>9:30 am &amp; 1:30 pm Music Together</i>	<i>Italicized events are conducted by outside groups renting space at the church.</i>				

**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)

NON PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
TWIN CITIES MN  
PERMIT #2316

*Address Service Requested*

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

**FALL KICK-OFF  
AND  
FLU SHOT CLINIC**  
*September 8<sup>th</sup>!*