

Epistle

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

November 2019

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

Youth Serving

Thank you to the fourteen children and youth who have served God during the past two weeks at Saint Paul's UMC through our second Sunday brunch, Vacation Bible School, and turkey dinner. You have made our mission statement come alive by sharing Christ's love in service through relationships. We often speak of children and youth as the church of the future, but they are also the church of RIGHT NOW as they serve God together.

When reading about best practices in education, there are often statements about the benefit of teaching as a way to learn. I was thinking about that as I watched our older youth teach and mentor the younger children at Vacation Bible School. Not only did they appear to be having fun, but there was a benefit to their own spiritual growth by teaching Bible stories and Christian principles to the younger children. Teaching is both a wonderful way to learn and to share.

Many thanks to our children and youth!

Local Construction

As I write this newsletter column, we are nearing completion of the street repairs in front of the Saint Paul's UMC church building. It has been a busy summer for physical improvements to the church building and grounds. It's beginning to look very nice, and progress continues. These are a few notes regarding where we are:

The removal of the thin brick façade and repair of the roof gable has successfully prevented any further leaking in the roof of the narthex. By using hardy materials, we believe this will be a durable and lasting fix. The Dodd Rd. and Wesley Lane sides of the building are neat and tidy with a fresh coat of paint. (The cross was damaged by weather prior to the painting project and has been temporarily removed while we make decisions regarding a new cross for that side of the building.) The new playground has been thoroughly enjoyed by our children during Vacation Bible School and Sunday mornings. The playground is also a sign to all who drive past the church building that children are welcomed at Saint Paul's UMC.

When the road construction, walking path construction, and rain garden preparations are completed in the coming days, our church grounds will have a whole new look. We hope that guests will feel especially welcomed by these improvements. The construction will prepare us well to take some of the next steps for Healthy Church Initiative by examining the guest readiness of our church building, grounds, sound system, and website.

Thank you to all of the members of Saint Paul's UMC who have carefully navigated the construction zone in order to participate in worship, music rehearsals, Vacation Bible School, turkey dinner, book club, and all of the other church events that we have had at Saint Paul's UMC during the road construction. Your patience is appreciated.



2019 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DURING MEA BREAK

A fantastic time was had by all who came and participated in Vacation Bible School in October over MEA break. With 14 children, 8 youth, and a great group of adults, the church was a bundle of energy all day. The children went in depth with the stories of Daniel and the Lion's Den and The Good Samaritan. They sang songs, made fun crafts, played games, and conducted some cool science experiments like making glow-in-the-dark slime. Thank you to all who came to help lead this great experience for our kids!



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Deadline: November 17th

Make checks payable to: St. Paul's UMC/ "Poinsettias" in the memo section

White or red 8.5" Poinsettias with antique gold pot/ \$18 each

Purchased by: _____

List name(s) in honor of/ memory of/ thanks for (circle one)

<u>How Many</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total Order Cost</u>
White _____	_____	_____
Red _____	_____	
Pink _____	_____	

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families
nurture lifelong
disciples of Christ



CONFIRMATION 2019-2020

In October the confirmation class theme was *Creation, Sin & Reconciliation*. We discussed and learned:

- ◆ God created all things, and declared all of creation good.
- ◆ The scriptures that tell us the story about creation teach us about God and ourselves, and our relationship with God. They illustrate God's love and creativity and remind us that, as beings created in God's image, we too have the capacity to love and create.
- ◆ Stewardship of creation is much more than just being eco-friendly. It involves how we use all that God has entrusted to us including our gifts, our relationships with others, our time, our ability to love, and all other resources God has provided for us.
- ◆ The story of the first sin: Adam and Eve.
- ◆ All people sin. And even though sin disrupts our relationship with God, no sin removes us from God's presence. God's grace will always surround us.

Our next class is on November 13th from 6:00-8:00 pm and the theme will be *Salvation and Grace*.

OCTOBER YOUTH OUTING

On October 6th the youth went to Sever's Corn Maze and Park for the afternoon. We teamed up with partners to race each other through the maze, checked out the exotic animal petting zoo, fed and held birds in the giant bird cage, jumped around on the giant inflatable hill, rolled around and buried each other in the huge corn pits, and took lots of silly pictures. What a great afternoon!



NOVEMBER YOUTH OUTING

On November 21st our youth group will be partnering with five other local church youth groups to go to the Union Gospel Mission to make Thanksgiving meal bags for families in need. After our work is complete the families will be able to pick up a bag of food so they can have a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner together. This is a youth oriented event, but families and all ages are welcome to join us in helping the community. Please contact Lani at lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org to sign up or get more details.

REACHING OUT

Living our faith
and connecting
with our
neighbors



NEIGHBORS' HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM –

The Neighbors holiday gift program is a great way to spread joy to our community this holiday season. We have participated with Neighbors for many years, and have been asked to focus on adopting a single Family this year.

St. Paul's UMC has not yet received the info on our family or their requests yet, but on Sunday, November 10th, there will be a small Christmas tree in the narthex with tags listing gifts that the family has asked for that you might like to purchase. Black Friday is a great time to be on the lookout for deals! Gifts will be delivered to Neighbors' on December 6th, so please have everything turned in before then. You have a few weeks now to be a secret shopper to make Christmas a miracle for a needy family. You can also adopt a family, individual, or senior by calling 651-306-2140 or email holiday@neighborsmn.org.

NEIGHBORS' FOOD SHELF - MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Jelly
Baking Supplies (Oil, Flour, Sugar)
Canned Meats
Soup
Cereal (hot and cold)

Collection bins are in the narthex.



HOLIDAY EVENTS



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th

Our church Christmas pageant will be during Kidz 2gether worship again this year on Sunday, December 8th. We will be rehearsing music for the pageant with children during the beginning of the Sunday school hour throughout November, so please try to get your children there to practice. We have a whole new script this year with complete news coverage of the entire story of Jesus birth. It will be heartfelt and traditional, but will also be funny and entertaining. You won't want to miss it!

ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please join us after the Christmas pageant on December 8th for a Christmas party to celebrate all the hard work put into the pageant! There will be good food, music and fellowship, and lots of activities for children and youth including everything you will need to build an amazing gingerbread bread house for you to take home.

HOLIDAY LETTERS

We invite you to send one to our homebound family:

Marsha Knuth: Coventry of Mahtomedi, 720 Mahtomedi #301, Mahtomedi MN 55115

Gerry Nicklaus: 2065 Park Center Dr. #206, Eagan MN 55122

Del Nicklaus: 9889 Penn Ave. S., #217, Bloomington MN 55431

Ernest and Alice Peitso: Hill-top Manor, 595 Hwy 110, Mendota Heights MN 55118

Della Relation: 720 Linden St. #315, Mendota Heights MN 55118

Jackie Swanson: The Willows of Ramsey Hill, 80 N. Mackubin St. #100, St. Paul MN 55102

Myrle Voynovich: The Waters, 7088 11th St. N. #308, Oakdale MN 55128

Bob Wilson: Southview Senior Living, 1984 Oakdale Ave. #414, West St. Paul MN 55118

Duane and Emaline

Devereaux: 3475 Crestmoor Dr. Woodbury MN 55125

Brad Paulson: Capitol View #8104, Regions Hosp., 640 Jackson St., St. Paul MN 55106

Mary Gaddy: c/o Linda Freiling, 638 Cresthaven Dr., South St. Paul MN 55075

If you are not personally acquainted with all of our homebound family, just sign "St. Paul's UMC family" under your name!

CAROLING THURSDAY

DECEMBER 5th

You are personally invited to be a "Christmas Caroler" on Thursday, December 5th, as we share the spirit of Christmas.

We will meet at St. Paul's at 6:00 pm and then return to St. Paul's around 8:00 pm for hot cocoa and cookies. All ages and singing levels are welcome!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 8th

CHOIR PROGRAM

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 15th
Inspiring music!



CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

SERVICES
TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 24th

3:30 pm
and
5:00 pm
Candlelight,
readings,
& carols!



November is Stewardship Drive month in our congregation. To belong to our congregation is to be a steward. It has been said that “stewardship” is just a polite way of referring to financial giving to the church. But it’s far more than that.

As a Christian, stewardship is a three-part process.

- ♦ *Receiving:* We receive with joyful thanksgiving the many gifts that God showers upon us – time, talent, treasure, our bodies, our friendships, natural resources and the beauty around us.
- ♦ *Managing:* We take good care of what we have received. We manage these resources wisely for our own good and the good of others.
- ♦ *Giving:* Out of our gratitude in receiving so abundantly, we want to share with others. We share our time, our abilities and our resources.

In November you will receive a mailing on the Stewardship efforts for our congregation. In addition, during Sunday services you will hear from fellow members as they share their giving experiences. Our stewardship goal this year will be to increase our pledging families by 10%, from 63 to 70. When you receive your 2020 pledge card, please prayerfully consider your pledge, your giving and your stewardship responsibility.

Grace and peace,
Kae Jewell

Finance Update Through 9/30/2019

General Fund Income	\$163,128.39
Less General Fund Expenses	<u>\$181,861.72</u>
Balance	\$ (18,733.33)
Less Unpaid Apportionments	<u>\$ 24,180.75</u>
Deficit After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ (42,914.08)



CELEBRATION OF ABUNDANT BLESSINGS- PLEDGE SUNDAYS

November 10th
November 17th
November 24th

We are blessed to be a
blessing to others!

EVENTS

What's
happening and
when

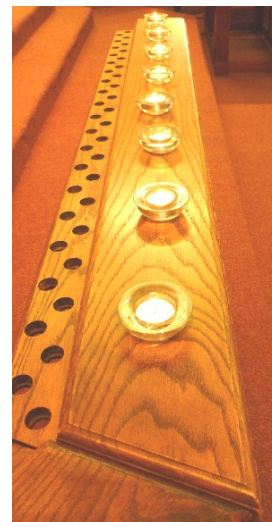


ALL SAINTS' DAY SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 3rd

We will commemorate All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 3rd.

During this meaningful service, all will be invited to light a candle in memory of family members, relatives and friends who have gone on to be with the Lord since last year's service.



UMW SAFARI PARTY!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd, 10:00 am

All women are invited to St. Paul's UMC for brunch and to enjoy a presentation about Kae Jewell's trip to Africa!

RSVP by October 26th to: bjorgens51@yahoo.com

Please reference "November 2nd Event" in the subject line and

Indicate if childcare is needed.

You do **not** need to be a UMW member to attend!



SMALL GROUPS

United with
purpose



UMW CIRCLES

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet Monday, November 18th. **NOTE:** Meeting time is changing to 10:00 am. Questions? Contact Annie McGuire, 651-254-7265.

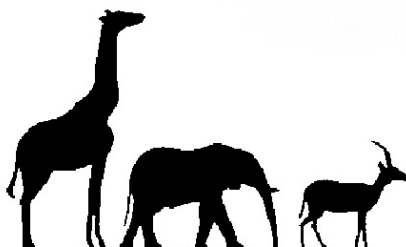
Rebekah Circle

Rebekah Circle will meet on November 20th at 11:00 am at church. Our activity will be making table decorations for the fellowship room. We will continue reading the Bible, devotions, and fellowship time. Dessert will be served. Please join us. Questions please call Beda Lewis at 651-554-3600.

Rachel Circle

Rachel Circle will meet November 18th at Barbara Fillion's residence, 730 South Plaza Drive. 7:00 -9:00 pm. This is south of Walgreen's. We will meet on the main floor. Refreshments will be served. Questions? Contact Barb Jorgenson, 651-414-0054.

UMW SAFARI PARTY



SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 2nd, 10:00 am

Please see details on page 7.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will meet Sunday, November 24th at 6:30 pm at church.

SUNDAY ADULT ED

Bertelsen Library

Sundays, 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 November 27th, noon

Light of the World: a beginners guide to Advent by Amy-Jill Levine. This book highlights the role of women and men in first century culture.

Dates:

November 27

December 4, 11 and 18

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:**

Successful Turkey Dinner

Successful surgery for John Schmidt

Deaths:

Virginia Houg, Sherry LaGuire's mother, died October 1st

Health Concerns:

Mary Gaddy as she recovers from a stroke

Del Nicklaus, for a full recovery after successful surgery

Loye Eckman's cousin Anne with depression and Anne's husband, Joern, with lung cancer

Cheryl Anderson's nephew, Dan, having cancer surgery

Brad Paulson recovering from a broken vertebrae in his neck from a fall

Barb Helmken, health issues

Jerry Moffitt will be able to have a successful hip replacement in October

Chrisana Tripodi's husband, Greg, for ongoing health concerns

Chuck Everling's sister, Betty, fell and broke her hip

Mike LaGuire's daughter, Cheryl, healing from breast cancer

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, finished 3rd round of chemo with more to come

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

Jo Reck's mother, struggling with near blindness

All homebound with health problems

Additional:

Peace, healing and joy to all

Please call the office with joys and concerns

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - noon

LANI'S OFFICE HOURS:

Please contact Lani at
lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org or
612-412-6663 to make an
appointment.

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.

CENTRAL LEADERSHIP

CHAIR: Leslie Watkins

ST. PAUL'S STAFF:

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

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

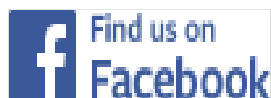
Lani Thompson,
lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org

Director of Music Ministry:

Lane Skoglund-Anderson,
laneskoglundanderson@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Diane Pelinka,
info@stpaulsmn.org



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
SEPTEMBER COUNTERS**

Brent Cuttell
Barb Goin
Barb Jorgenson
Patricia Lamski
Rhea Nyquist
Jude Rikala
Bob Walker
Leslie Watkins

Thank you very much for your
September donation of 47 pounds
of groceries for our Food Shelf!
We are so grateful for your
partnership!

The team at Neighbors Inc.

Thank you to the many people
who prayed for me, sent cards and
well wishes during my recovery
from surgery. Your thoughtful-
ness was greatly appreciated and I
am on the mend.

Pastor Amy Jo



Jack and Jo Baker
twotogetherstill@outlook.com



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 3rd <i>Remember to turn your</i> <i>clocks back one hour!</i>					1	2 UMW Safari Party, 10:00 am
3 All Saints Sunday 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 4:30 pm & 5:30 pm Music 2gether	4 10:30 am Music 2gether	5 6:30 pm Yoga	6 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	7	8	9
10 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Kidz 2gether Worship w/Communion 4:30 pm & 5:30 pm Music 2gether	11 10:30 am Music 2gether	12 6:30 pm Yoga	13 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16
17 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship 4:30 pm & 5:30 pm Music 2gether	18 10:00 am Ruth Circle, church (NEW TIME) 10:30 am Music Together 6:45 pm 4H 7:00 pm Rachel Circle, Barbara Fillion's	19 6:30 pm Yoga	20 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 11:00 am Rebekah Circle, church	21 Youth to Union Gospel Mission	22	23
24 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship 4:30 pm & 5:30 pm Music 2gether 6:30 pm Men's Group	25 10:30 am Music Together	26 No Yoga	27 12:00 pm Book Club 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	28 Thanksgiving Day Office closed	29 Office closed	30

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®