

# Epistle

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

March 2021

## REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

### MARCH FOODSHARE MONTH

March is Minnesota FoodShare Month—a time during which food shelves statewide have matching grants available to help stock the shelves for people in need. Sharing what we have with those who are in need is one way that we follow Christ's example. We remember that Jesus fed the hungry, healed the sick, and set the oppressed free, so we do the same. This also fulfills our mission statement to be a welcoming community, sharing Christ's love in service through relationships. With many people facing unusual financial challenges during the pandemic, this year's food drive is especially important.

Due to our social distancing changes, the way that we will conduct our March FoodShare drive will be different from past years. There are several ways that you can contribute:

**Drop-off Drives.** Drop off non-perishable food during the collection drives at the St. Paul's UMC church building on: **Saturdays, March 13 & 20, from 9:00-noon**

**Picked Up Donations.** Contact the church office to have a volunteer pick up non-perishable food from your home. Messages on the church voicemail are checked frequently—don't forget to leave your name and a call-back phone number! (651) 452-5683 or [info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org).

**Financial Contributions.** Contribute financially, writing "March FoodShare" on the memo line of your check, or using the "March FoodShare" special gift category of the Give+ Mobile app on your smart phone.

**Transportation.** If you have a covered truck or large van and are available to transport food at the end of our collection drives, please contact the church office to let us know. (Please note that there is a lot of lifting involved in this transportation.) Or, if you have a smaller vehicle and want to pick up food donations from people's homes, please let us know.



**Expanding our Reach.** This year also brings another change to our Food Drive. 75% of our collected food and donations will go to Neighbors, Inc., the food shelf directly in our area. 25% of our collected food and donations will go to Keystone Food Bank, expanding our reach next door into Ramsey County. Because our church is located close to a county border, we receive emergency calls from people in both counties. This is a way that we can respond to both. The Outreach Team has carefully researched a number of food shelves and emergency service providers in the area to make sure that our donations are put to good use. Keystone is the largest food shelf in Ramsey County, with two permanent food shelves, two mobile food shelves, community center services, and other emergency services. Demographically, the Keystone food shelves serve 79% people of color, 37% children, and 9% senior citizens.

(continued on page 2)

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### Winter Storms- Helping Those in Need

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is already responding to the winter storms in Texas and neighboring areas. If you wish to donate in order to help those in need, please mark your checks on the memo line as "Winter Storm Relief" or "Advance #901670." As you know, 100% of all donations to Advance Specials (such as disaster response) go directly to the need. All administrative costs are funded by our denomination.

### Easter Video Worship

I am happy to share that our plans for video worship on Easter will include a number of special musicians, including a return visit from Don Irwin on piano! If you are available to read Scripture or lead a prayer by video on Good Friday or Easter, please be in contact with Pastor Amy Jo. We are monitoring both the weather and COVID rates to help us know if there will also be in-person, outdoor worship during Holy Week. Look for more information closer to time. In every way we gather, we know that God's Spirit will be present with us and that we will celebrate the resurrection with joy!

## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2021

### Central Leadership Team:

Chair: Leslie Watkins  
 Operations: Bob Brocklehurst  
 Foundation: Barb Jorgenson  
 Finance: Kae Jewell  
 Outreach: Cammie Evans  
 Membership Enrichment: Jan Marshall  
 Lay Member of Annual Conference: Carol Egan  
 Young Adult Representative: Katie Hamilton

### Operations:

Chair: Bob Brocklehurst  
 Class of 2021: Bob Brocklehurst, Steve Nyhus  
 Class of 2022: Deb Curran  
 Class of 2023:  
 IT Rep:

### Foundations:

Chair: Barb Jorgenson Class of 2021:  
 Class of 2022: Sam Young, Barb Jorgenson  
 Class of 2023: Jo Reck, Erin Jedlicka,  
 Youth: Catey Chastain Class of 2023

### Finance:

Chair: Kae Jewell (Class of 2021)  
 Financial Secretary: Rhea Nyquist  
 Memorials: Deanna Sellers  
 Payroll: Dave Morgan  
 Treasurer: Curt Almberg  
 Central Leadership Rep: Leslie Watkins  
 Foundation Rep: Barb Jorgenson

### Outreach:

Chair: Cammie Evans  
 Mission Coordinator: Carol Egan  
 Mission Coordinator: Sharon Grant  
 Marketing, Advertising and PR: Barb Goin  
 UMM: John Grinager  
 UMW: Chrisana Tripodi  
 New Member Programs:

### Member Enrichment:

Chair: Jan Marshall  
 Carol Rix  
 Andrea Larson  
 Caring Ministries :  
 Fellowship: Jo Baker  
 Events:  
 Funerals, weddings, new events  
 Education:  
 Adult: Charles Duddingston  
 Youth: Lindsey Bunting  
 Spiritual Growth and Discipleship:

(Note team has 2 volunteers to produce quarterly statements and coordinating counters. They are not voting members of this team.)

# REACHING OUT

Living our faith  
and connecting  
with our  
neighbors



## MN FOODSHARE STARTS MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>

*Here's how you can help!*

### 1. Donate Food—contact free

- A. Drop off your food donations on either Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, or Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm, at the church.
- B. Contact the church office, [info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org) or 651-452-5683, to arrange for a volunteer to pick up your food donations between March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup>. The church does not have regular office hours, so if you call, please leave a message and we will return your call. Email is checked regularly throughout the day.

### 2. Donate Money

- A. Write a check to St. Paul's UMC with "FoodShare" in the memo section from March 1<sup>st</sup> through March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Your contributions will be distributed to Neighbors, Inc. (South St. Paul) and Keystone Food Bank (Ramsey County).

*Thank you for helping to provide food for our local food shelves and helping those in need!*



## FILL A BAG FOR OUR LOCAL FOOD SHELF

**Respond to food insecurity in our community by filling a grocery bag with much needed food and household items for our local food shelf.**

**Proteins** – canned meats, chicken, tuna, nuts, nut butters

**Spices** – fresh and dried

**Rice** – white, brown, wild

**Flour and gluten free flour**

**Personal Care items** – shampoo/soap, deodorant, diapers, feminine hygiene, toothpaste, toilet paper

**Household** – dish/laundry detergent, cleaners



**Please pray for the following:****Joys:**

Baptism of Owen ("Opy") Patrick Young

Baptism of Emma Kae Hamilton

Birth of Brooks Johnson, great-grandson of Mike and Sherry LaGuire, to parents Matt and Alyssa Johnson, December 28

Birth of Wren Beda May Goodchild, Tom and Beda Lewis' first great granddaughter, to parents Lindsey and Cody Goodchild, February 4

Birth of Joseph Ronald, Doug Larson and Leslie Watkin's second grandchild, to parents Eric and Jaimie Larson and brother, Jack, January 29

**Health Concerns:**

Dawn Everling's niece, Patty, diagnosed with breast cancer and recovering from double mastectomy

Chrisana Tripodi's husband, Greg, whose ongoing medical issues are affecting his work

Chuck and Dawn Everling's great niece, Emilee Arriaga, recovering from heart surgery

For those testing positive for COVID-19

Dick Robinson, in home hospice care

Sam Young, undergoing treatment for a detached retina

Tim and Andrea Larson's friend, Laura, recovering from surgery for a brain tumor

John and Beth Schmidt's friends, Jerry, battling undiagnosed health issues, and Tom, recovering from a stroke

Jim and Rhea Nyquist's neighbor, Robert, with lung cancer

Curt Almberg's cousin, Loren, undergoing long-term cancer treatments

Jo Reck's friends, Charlotte, healing after leg amputation and Angie, continued healing

Bob Mahoney, Corrine's brother, healing

All homebound with health problems

**Additional:**

For those in Texas and other states dealing with winter weather

For peace in our country and throughout the world

For an end to violence and racism in our communities

Those in recovery from addiction without in-person meetings

For healthcare professionals, including those affiliated with our congregation: Arin, Carrie, Deanna, Greg, Heidi, Jade, Kevin, Mary, Nikki, and Reed

For those who are unemployed

For those affected by COVID-19 and wisdom for our public health officials

For peace and safety in our communities

Please e-mail the office with joys and concerns at [info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org) or call Pastor Amy Jo at (507) 341-1760.

**EMMA KAE HAMILTON**

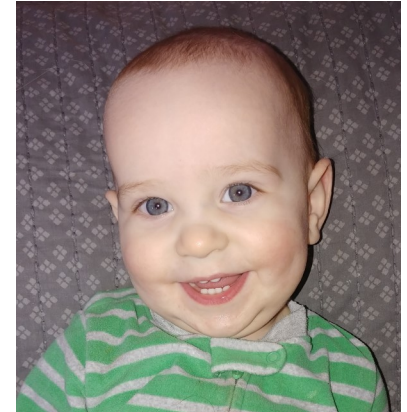
February 6, 2021

**Parents:**

James and Katie Hamilton  
8859 89th St. Cir. A  
Cottage Grove MN 55016

**OWEN PATRICK YOUNG**

February 13, 2021

**Parents:**

Justin Conrad and Kirsten  
Young  
159 Dale St. E.  
South St. Paul MN 55075

**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,  
[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)

**FINANCE**

Support of our  
church and  
its mission



***“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”***

2 Corinthians 9:6

I have a hard time not dreaming about spring, gardens and beautiful green grass at this time of year. And yes, I know it is still March in Minnesota and we have a lot of winter yet to experience. But as I was thinking about spring and planting my garden, I couldn't help but think of the very familiar bible message in which Paul reminds the Corinthians that sowing generously will reap generous rewards. Paul knew that God loves a cheerful giver. We are directed to give as our hearts direct and not with reluctance. Following through with our commitments is meaningful to both us as the giver but also to the receiver. Our gifts are our evidence of love, given in the name of Jesus.

So just as we approach our spring garden with a cheerful heart, may we also give with a generous heart. Giving with delight and sincerity will reap amazing rewards. Our gifts of good works, friendship, and lending a helping hand all please God. They are also our way of sowing generously. As you too dream of a Minnesota spring, blessed with abundance, may we all sow generously in all that we do.

Blessings,  
Kae Jewell, Finance Chair

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

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



**HOLY WEEK**  
**PALM SUNDAY: MARCH 28**  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY: APRIL 1**  
**GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 2**  
**EASTER: APRIL 4**