

Epistle

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

August 2021

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

Throughout the summer months, the grounds of Saint Paul's UMC have been a busy place. Volunteers from our congregation, as well as 4-H students, an Eagle Scout, and volunteer gardeners from the neighborhood have been working together in order to clear invasive species from the property, encourage the growth of hardy, native plants both in the wooded areas and in the rain gardens, and repair the sprinkler system. The playground has been busy too, with members of our own congregation and our neighbors stopping in to play and enjoy **Wednesday afternoon story times**. One of our benches has been moved nearer to the playground, and grown-ups are using it to enjoy books from the Little Free Library while their children/grandchildren are playing. The walking path has seen substantial use with people and pets from the neighborhood, and potted flowers welcome people at the entrances of the building. I thank all of the many volunteers who have worked to make the grounds of Saint Paul's UMC such a welcom-

ing place! Hospitality is a Christian virtue that we are practicing well when we improve the grounds to welcome the people, pets, and pollinators of our neighborhood.

Tuesday, August 3 is Night to Unite, and I hope that you're able to join in the neighborhood gathering at Saint Paul's UMC as

UMC, we have also begun planning indoor renovations related to guest readiness. We thank the Operations Team for leading this process, and their article in this Epistle gives many more details about the work (both indoors and outdoors). I am very excited for the improvements in audio and video quality that will come with these improvements, as

well as a refreshing update in aesthetics. It is my hope that these coming renovations will improve the indoor hospitality at Saint Paul's, making the interior of our building even more welcoming. Once again, it is good to be back together in person this summer, including back together in indoor worship! Christmas in July was a joy filled special worship service,

and I am already looking forward to our kick-off Sunday for Sunday School in September.

Have you been back to participate in the life of Saint Paul's UMC in person this summer? Your church family welcomes you home!



we meet more of our neighbors and thank our first responders for their work in Mendota Heights. It is good to be back together in person this summer!

At the same time that many volunteers have been working on the exterior grounds at Saint Paul's

OPERATIONS TEAM ACTIVITIES - WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Tree branches and mulch in the parking lot? Grass is a golden-brown desert? A bench from the front door has been moved to the playground? There are rumors how plans are going regarding the Healthy Church Initiative...

Let me update information about the challenges faced as we have reopened the church and are identifying actions in support of the Healthy Church Initiative.

There have been significant projects that have been enhanced through the multiple contributions from over 30 different individuals from congregation, neighborhood, and other volunteer sources!

Attention to the exterior grounds and siding from Fall, 2020 to present:

Pruning of tree limbs, shrubs around the church, and removal (cutting down, treating stumps, hauling and disposing) of invasive species of plants and trees from the areas behind the church. Installation and care of erosion control gardens. We received assessment/ guidance volunteered by county specialists and master gardeners. Volunteers from congregation members, plant specialists, and neighbors contributed many hours to many projects.

Invasive trees and shrubs were removed and shredded for use as mulch.

A 4-H group worked to lay cardboard and cover it with mulch along the church parking lot.

A young man from the group took on a project of shifting hoses and watering plants for many weeks.

A professional tree service was clearing trees along electrical lines and contributed chippings from their work.

The mulch distribution continues, and a wheelbarrow has been purchased.

Woodpecker damage to the siding on the back of the church: repaired/repainted

One of the benches from the front of the church was relocated to the playground.

Church volunteers repaired/ readied the multi-problem irrigation system; still being monitored.

Interior issues addressed:

Windows cleaned inside and outside via a significant donation by a member of the congregation.

A team of volunteers is assessing classrooms equipment/supplies and needs.

Plumbing repairs made in the men's and woman's bathrooms and to one of the faucets in the kitchen.

In the kitchen: the refrigerator was replaced, the stove and hood were certified clean of fire hazard, a hydro test was conducted to inspect and recertify the fire suppression components of the stove hood.

A background noise issue with the sound system has been

remedied.

Update on projects of the Healthy Church Initiative: (Ongoing)

Options to refreshing/updating of the church have been explored and we hope to have recommendations to Leadership Team considerations by Fall.

A Color and Carpet Ad Hoc Team has agreed on color options for paint and flooring.

We have researched: paint colors; flooring options; installation of T-Loop technology (improves listening for hearing impaired); installing a ramp to the altar level; audio-vVisual sound, camera, projection and recording systems; and pew/seating options.

Potential vendors have been identified in each project area. No Request for Bids has occurred as each project is to be defined as to scope, quality, timeliness and cost.

Among the many teams supporting this church, we are responsively linked with other Teams of the Church to refresh and maintain this welcoming oasis of spiritual learning, sharing and caring.

Let us know as you have ideas for projects and would like an opportunity to help.

Blessings and thanks,
*Bob Brocklehurst, on behalf
of the Operations Team and
its many volunteers*

REACHING OUT

Living our faith
and connecting
with our
neighbors



OUTREACH UPDATE

Our theme for outreach this summer is “our building is our best billboard,” and we have several activities in the works to help welcome the people to the church. In partnership with the Operations team, we have relocated a bench to provide seating for people whose children are playing on the playground. Based on feedback from neighbors we will also be installing a simple “All Are Welcome Here” sign so that people in the community know that the playground space is available for their use.

Many of you know that John Grinager and many others have been doing amazing work on the church grounds, and we’ll be showcasing these improvements during **National Night Out** on Tuesday, August 3rd. Those improvements include removing buckthorn and diseased trees and noxious weeds, and working with a Master Gardener to introduce more native plants and build biodiversity. They have been important for both curb appeal and ecological restoration, and by showcasing them we hope to both inspire congregation members and spark interest with community members.

We’ve also been considering a Weeding and Watering class as an opportunity for congregation members - and the community at large - to learn more about how to care for our green spaces in support of the Methodist “Earthkeepers” mission. Expect more details soon!

Cammie Evans
Outreach Team Chair

GARLOUGH SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEWS

Summer is winding down and that means it's time to collect school supplies for Garlough Environmental Magnet School, with whom we have a partnership. The list of supplies they need is very long. Please see the full list on the bulletin board at church and carefully watch for specific brand names or descriptions of their requests. Here is a summary list to help you get started shopping:

- ♦ **backpacks** (large) - the kids are small, but they need large backpacks! Please do not buy the mini size backpacks.
- ♦ **headphones** that cover the whole ear
- ♦ **glue sticks**
- ♦ **bottle of Elmer's School glue**
- ♦ **24-count Crayola crayons**
- ♦ **Clorox wipes**
- ♦ **Broad Tip Classic Color Markers** (10 count)
- ♦ **Solid Color Pocket Folders**
- ♦ **1-inch three-ring binder**
- ♦ **Fiskar brand scissors** - child size
- ♦ **full size box of Kleenex**
- ♦ **dry erase markers**
- ♦ **spiral notebooks, solid color, wide ruled**
- ♦ **wide ruled loose leaf paper**
- ♦ **erasers**
- ♦ **colored pencils, 12 count**

These items are due to church by **Sunday, August 29th**. A collection bin is in the narthex.

EVENTS

What's
happening and
when



NIGHT TO UNITE

Night to Unite is coming! Bring the whole family and invite your friends!

Where: St Paul's United Methodist Church

When: August 3rd, 4:00—7:00 pm

What: Join us for *Night to Unite on Tuesday, August 3rd*! It will be a grand community get together from 4:00 pm-7:00 pm. Bring your whole family and invite your friends as we enjoy some food and yard games, water activities including an inflatable Splash pad for the kids (bring swimsuits and towels), and tours of the newly developed rain gardens. Our Fire and Police Departments will also be making an appearance. Hope to see you there!



RUMMAGE SALE PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER 18th

9:00 am—1:00 pm

Now is your opportunity to get rid of all your treasures you no longer need but someone else may find delightful! Please leave your good rummage in the Fellowship Hall, September 13 - 16. We need your rummage before 9:00 am on Friday, September 17, so we can sort items dropped off. Note: because the charity who picks up will NOT take artificial Christmas trees, baby furniture, TVs, computers, computer equipment, exercise equipment, mattresses, curtain rods, blinds or furniture, please do not bring those items to sell. As always, we need help sorting on Friday, September 17, starting at 9:00 am in preparation for the sale, and very much appreciate any and all help starting at 1:00 pm on Saturday for packing up. Strong arms are always appreciated for the heavy lifting. A special note - all funds raised support our year end giving to local charities, e.g. Neighbors (our local food shelf), Emma Norton, Lewis House, Simpson Shelter and more so thanks for the support!

Note: Our fall bake sale is on hold. We will reassess the feasibility of a bake sale for our spring rummage sale. However, if you are one of those who always enjoyed baking for the sale, please consider a donation to the UMW in lieu of your baked items. Again, thanks for supporting our local charities!

Nancy Pierson

FINANCE NEWS

FINANCE

Support of our church and its mission



“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

Hebrews 13:16

We are a congregation that values good work and sharing what we have. Thanks be to God! Recently you received a record of your giving for the first half of the year by email or USPS if you don't have email. Please review your statement. We strive for accuracy but mistakes can be made. Please contact Rhea Nyquist, our Finance Secretary, with any questions. (rheajn34@gmail.com)

Thank you to all who gave generously during the month of June. We are getting back into our old habits and supporting the church with our prayers, gifts and time is rewarding. Previously I mentioned that we were blessed to receive a PPP loan as a part of the CARES act. That loan was forgiven and that is now a gift from the government. You will see those funds reflected in the next month's financial report.

Grace and Peace,
Kae Jewell

Finance Update as of 6/30/2021

| | <u>June 2021</u> | <u>2021 Year-to-Date</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| General Fund Gifts | \$ 28,521 | \$ 113,750 |
| Less General Fund Expenses | <u>\$ 19,473</u> | <u>\$ 114,191</u> |
| Balance | \$ 9,048 | \$ (441) |
| Less Unpaid Apportionments | <u>\$ (2,501)</u> | <u>\$ (15,008)</u> |
| Balance After Unpaid Apportionments | \$ (6,547) | \$ (15,449) |

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families nurture lifelong disciples of Christ



SUMMER YOUTH GATHERING

Youth going into 6th-12th grade are invited to join us for our 2nd Summer Youth Gathering on Wednesday, August 25th from 5:00-8:00 pm.

We will do a small mission project, play a few games, and do a little catching up while eating s'mores or snow cones (depending on the weather).

Those who can make it to this gathering will help plan the mission project for next month!



The Magi



The Shepherds



The Angels



The Candles



The Cookies



The Animals



[L to R] Allie Eggen, Hailey Whitledge,
Nick Eggen
Not pictured: Abby Brandecker



The Christmas in July Flowers were given to the Glory of God

-In loving Memory of-

Yeen Chong
Grayce Wilcox, she loved a white lily
Eleanor Guntzburger
Don Halver and Franklin Rutherford
Lewis B. Powell, Jr.
My father, Mike Shaw
Margaret and Bert Hall
Ralph Jewell and Jack Lovaas
Parents
Bill and Alice McCorkhill
Judith Moffitt
Yvonne Momsen, 8-29-29 – 2/6/19
Eric Nyquist
My children, Mitchell and Britany Larson
Our fathers, Don Deitner and Marvin Rix
Eldon and Glenda Sellers
Bob and Paul Wiessner

by Curt Almberg
by Brent and Christie Cuttell
by Mary Lou Dresbach
by Loye Eckman
by Janice Frame
by Nancy Grinager
by Jerry and Wendy Hall
by Kae Jewell
by Sue Kratsch
by Jan Marshall
by Jerry Moffitt
by Bob Momsen
by Jim and Rhea Nyquist
by Jo Reck
by David and Carol Rix
by Deanna Sellers
by Priscilla Wiessner

-In Thanks for...

My loving family and caring neighbors
My family

by Darrell Butterwick
by Barb Helmken

-In Honor of...

Agnes Lovaas
Family
Our grandchildren, Corbin and Tabitha

by Kae Jewell
by Tom and Beda Lewis
by John and Beth Schmidt
by Deanna Sellers





Thank you for your June donation of 38 pounds of groceries! Summer is a slow time for donations and we are grateful for your support throughout the year!

Neighbors Inc

Thank you to all of the St. Paul's UMC family who so generously expressed their appreciation for the work done by all the staff during the pandemic. Your words touched my heart and the gift card will be put to good use—probably buying gifts for my first granddaughter due in November! You all are a blessing.

Diane Pelinka

Thank you so much for the kind card and the good wishes for me in the future! I am getting used to going to church in person again and so hopefully I'll see some of you guys more often.

Nick Eggen

Thank you for the warm wishes and the gift card! I plan on attending Augsburg University and majoring in music education. Thank you again for your continuing support!

Allie Eggen

Thank you very much for your kind words and gifts on staff appreciation Sunday! They were a great uplift and encouragement to me. I am sharing this picture of the bike I bought with your gifts (replacing my current bike which is well-worn at more than 30 years old!) This is the nicest bike I've ever owned—thank you!

Peace, Pastor Amy Jo





Please pray for the following:

Joys:

Healthy birth of Siena Rae Gaviorno, July 16, daughter of Jessica Kamish and Matt Gaviorno, Seattle, and granddaughter of Sheila Kitzman

Jude Rikala, successful surgery and continuing prayers for recovery

Melissa and Luke Wilson expecting a baby

Deaths:

Barb Helmken's brother-in-law, Erv, June 10

Health Concerns:

Jo Reck's friend, Dan, with throat cancer

Bob Wilson, healing and good health

Jerry Holmay, recovering at home after hospitalization

Marilyn Anderson, healing for health concerns

Loye Eckman's daughter in Oregon, Patricia, recovering from two strokes

Barb Helmken's friend's great grandson, Joseph, born early at 3 pounds 15 ounces

Shirley Holmay's friend's daughter, Rachel, recovering from a stroke

Unspoken prayer requests

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

Dick Robinson, in home hospice care

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

Bob Mahoney, Corrine's brother, healing

All homebound with health problems

Additional:

For an end to violence and racism in our communities



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

Rev. Donald Day

former pastor at St. Paul's UMC
December 5, 2020

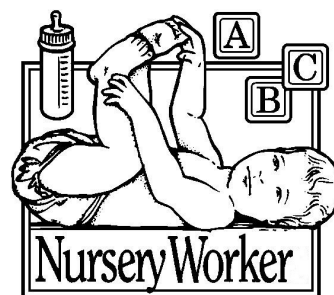
A Celebration of Life service will be held
at 2:00 pm on September 11, 2021 at
Riverside UMC
105 Park Ave. S.
Park Rapids.

Visitation will be held at the church one
hour prior to the service.

Cards of sympathy may be sent to his
wife, Virginia Day, at:
21224 County Rd. 80
Nevis MN 56467.

Siena Rae Gaviorno

daughter of
Jessica Kamish and
Matt Gaviorno, Seattle,
and granddaughter of
Sheila Kitzman
Born July 16, 2021



Gerry Nicklaus

Homestead
2102 S. Market St.
#170
Oskaloosa IA 52577
641-676-8691

Deanna Sellers

No longer has a landline.
Her cell phone is:
651-335-2881

HELP WANTED - NURSERY WORKER

Saint Paul's UMC is looking
for a loving and caring per-
son 18 years or older to hire
as a nursery worker for every
other Sunday. If you are
interested or know anybody
who would be interested in
applying please contact the
church office at
info@stpaulsmn.org.

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®

NIGHT TO UNITE AT ST. PAUL'S UMC
AUGUST 3rd
4:00—7:00 pm

