

# Epistle

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

October 2021

## REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

### OCTOBER AT SAINT PAUL'S

Fall has arrived, and Saint Paul's UMC is looking forward to an exciting month!

#### Turkey Dinner

Thank you to the UMW for hosting the annual Turkey Dinner on Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. The turkey dinner will be take-out only by reservation, and the delicious details follow within the *Epistle*. All of the proceeds from the turkey dinner go toward mission work, so thank you for supporting this great tradition that helps others!

#### Art Show

On Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, the theme for worship will be music and art, and we will be making a digital display of your original artwork for everyone to enjoy! We are hoping that we receive a wide variety of visual art, including: paintings, drawings, quilts, needlepoint, poetry, sculpture, etc. Some pieces may be something brand new, and some may be photos of art that has been saved from elementary school. Thank you for sharing the joy of your creativity with each other!



The Scripture encourages us to rejoice! The topic is so important to the Apostle Paul that he even repeats himself. There are many sources of joy and strength within the Christian tradition, and we are considering some of those sources during our fall sermon series, including: music, art, purpose, mission, generosity, friendship, the natural world, and the assurance of eternal life. Each week will help us to look deeper into one of these areas.

#### Sermon Series: Sources of Joy and Strength

The difficulties that surround us at this time in history make me long for more joy in my life. I hope that reflecting on sources of joy and strength during worship will help us to experience more of both!

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*“Rejoice in the Lord  
always.  
I will say it again:  
rejoice!”  
Philippians 4:4*

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# FINANCE

## Support of our church and its mission



### FINANCE UPDATE

I'm sitting down to write this article on the first day of fall. How did that happen? When I get over my shock of it actually being fall, I recognize what a precious time of year this is. Besides being a time of newness and renewed energy, fall is a time of letting go. The trees and plants let go of their leaves so they can turn inward and generate the required energy for new growth.

Fall is a new beginning with new growth for our church. We have Fall Kick-Off, get back to a school year schedule and we have a new mobile giving app. The GivingPlus app is going away on September 30<sup>th</sup> and will be replaced by Vanco Mobile.

You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App store or Google Play. The app is labeled "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement" with a purple "V" icon. Be sure to get the correct app. When you get into the app, our church will be labeled as Saint Pauls United Methodist. Note that there is not an apostrophe after the "l."

From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Just select your fund (such as General Operating Fund, Neighbors, UMCOR and others) and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation. I just used the

app for a donation to UMCOR and it was very simple.

A couple of other things to know:

- Using the app doesn't cost you anything. The church covers any fees associated with gifts created on the app.
- If you were a previous user of the GivingPlus app, you will be able to use your same login. In addition, any recurring gifts you had set up in the old app will automatically transfer to the new app.

**Please download Vanco Mobile by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Vanco will be retiring GivingPlus Mobile after this date.**

If you have questions, contact the office (651-452-5683) or me at [kaelovaas@comcast.net](mailto:kaelovaas@comcast.net)

Below is a summary of our financial status through the end of August. We have a positive balance for the year, before apportionments that have yet to be paid. This is a result of the 2021 PPP loan from the federal government.

*Grace and Peace, Kae Jewell*

	<u>August 2021</u>	<u>2021 Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Gifts	\$ 19,305	\$ 171,998
Less General Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 23,528</u>	<u>\$ 160,486</u>
Balance	\$ (4,233)	\$ 11,512
Less Unpaid Apportionments	<u>\$ ( 2,501)</u>	<u>\$ ( 20,008)</u>
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ (6,734)	\$ ( 8,496)

## EVENTS

What's  
happening and  
when



### TAKE OUT TURKEY DINNER OCTOBER 27<sup>th</sup>

We plan again this year to offer take-out turkey dinner on Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. The dinner includes mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, turkey, cranberries, vegetable and of course, pie! You may choose apple or pumpkin pie.

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.** Call Jude Rikala (651-454-6885) to make your reservation. Reservations will be limited to 150. Cost: Adults - \$15; Children (3-10) \$6. Dinners must be pre-paid to avoid the handling of cash. Send your checks to: Barb Goin, 8840 Aviary Path, IGH, MN 55077. Reservations close Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Pick-up instructions are the same as last year: Stay in your car, drive under the canopy in the front of church and food will be brought to you at a time slot chosen at your reservation: 4-4:30, 4:30-5, 5-5:30, 5:30-6 pm.

Special Note: Deliveries are possible for the homebound.

### ALL SAINTS' DAY SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>

We will commemorate All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

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.

## SMALL GROUPS

United with  
purpose



### RACHEL CIRCLE

Rachel Circle met and our topic for the evening was *Inspired Living: Challenge Yourself to Connect More* by Diana Aydin, *Guideposts* contributing editor. A few of the circle members' favorites were:

- Pray for someone you know well for a week, dedicating your prayers to one person.
- Make your small talk bigger so when someone asks, "How are you?" add a little something extra such as "I just completed a 3 mile walk."

- Send postcards to different people in your life.

We had an enjoyable chat.

**Note:** Rachel Circle will not meet in October and instead we will allot our time to helping with Turkey Dinner.

*Nancy Pierson,  
Rachel Circle Chair*

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families  
nurture lifelong  
disciples of Christ



## SEPTEMBER YOUTH GATHERING

St. Paul's UMC youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade have started gathering every fourth Wednesday from 5:00 -8:00 pm for some guided Faith, Fellowship, and Fun. Each youth gathering will be focused on a combination of either a faith topic, mission project, worship participation, fellowship building, and of course a fun activity. On September 22<sup>nd</sup> we gathered to talk about the individual gifts and talents we have to share while making s'mores around a campfire. We then enjoyed a high energy game night outdoors.

Our next youth gathering will be on October 27<sup>th</sup>. We will be helping with St. Paul's annual Turkey Dinner.

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is open to all 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders as well as any older youth who have not been confirmed yet. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 6:00-8:00 pm.

In September we welcomed new youth to our Confirmation group and celebrated the start of an all new year. We started off with a few get-to-know-you games and mixers, discussed "What is Confirmation?" and the importance of why we do it, and had a presentation of the Confirmation program for 2021-2022.

Our next class is on October 13<sup>th</sup> and will be in the fellowship hall.



## FALL KICK-OFF

Our Fall Kick-Off celebration was on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and was a huge success! With the theme of *Grandparents* we had children and youth leading worship in all kinds of ways while also celebrating grandparents and sharing what they taught us.

We had great weather for our outdoor carnival Fall Kick-Off celebration! The day ended with carnival games, spin art, a colorful photo booth, and live music from the *The Methodicals*. . How fun!



## GARLOUGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Helping families,  
students and  
educators



### 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 was September 30<sup>th</sup>, and our next one will be on November 16<sup>th</sup>. St. Paul's UMC is looking to find volunteers to help serve dinner in the school cafeteria that evening. 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)

### EVERYMEAL (FORMERLY SHERIDAN STORY)

Everymeal is a local organization that works in tandem with Garlough elementary as well as many other local schools with a goal to ensure that all children have access to healthy food. Since they began in 2010 they have provided 7,942,349 meals to hungry children and families in our community. All financial donations can be sent in to the church office, and if you are interested in volunteering at the school by helping place bags into backpacks contact Lani at [lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org) to get signed up.



# REACHING OUT

Living our faith  
and connecting  
with our  
neighbors



## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3<sup>rd</sup>

World Communion Sunday is a celebration observed by various Christian denominations. Your generous gifts fund graduate racial-ethnic World Communion Scholarships, with at least one-half of the annual amount reserved for ministries beyond the United States. Donations also provide for undergraduate U.S. Ethnic Scholarship and Ethnic In-Service Training programs.

Special offering envelopes will be available in pews or you may just write "World Communion" in the memo section of your check.



## World Communion Sunday

## RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE

Thanks to some very nice donations from both our congregation and neighbors, we had a very successful sale! Jewelry was very popular. We raised \$2,400 for missions so far and still have a few more dollars coming! Many of our customers commented on how much fun they had shopping and were thrilled we had a sale. We expanded our hours, added some rooms and changed our entrance and exits. We want to give a very heartfelt thanks to those who dedicated many hours to helping. We very much appreciated the 'strong arms' that came and helped Friday morning move tables and post signs in addition to those who helped sort as well as the help on Saturday at the end of the sale to pack items for donating. Also, thanks to Diane for the set up details and all the signs she printed for us. And, as we were not able to find a charity able to pick up anything that did not sell other than clothing and linens, we want to acknowledge and say thanks to anyone who took some of the multiple boxes stacked in the narthex with them to deliver to their favorite charity.





**Please pray for the following:**

**Joys:**

Successful Rummage Sale that raised \$2,400 for missions

Dave and Carol Rix's son, Clint, home from hospital and prayers for continued recovery from COVID

Charles Duddingston's first great grandchild, Jackson Charles, son of Andy and Lauren Kovalik, born September 9

**Deaths:**

AJ Moya, Mike LaGuire's brother's grandson, September 26

Patty Ostoff, Jo Reck's friend, September 21

Dan Stiles, Jo Reck's friend, September 2

Michael Binet, Julie Morgan's cousin's son, August 7

Paul Kronschnabel, Julie Morgan's cousin, August 25

**Health Concerns:**

Carol Egan's sister-in-law, Shelley, still struggling after multiple surgeries

Diane Siebert, prayers for recovery after surgery

Dona Murry, aunt of John and Beth Schmidt and sister of Corrine Mahoney, fell and broke her hip

Sheila Kitzman, recovering from hip surgery

Diane Pelinka's daughter, Katie, in her 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester of an at-risk pregnancy

Andrea Larson's sister's granddaughter, Kaia, for continued healing from respiratory and cardio issues

Barb Helmken's friend, Judy, with many health issues and a friend's daughter, Shelly, with liver disease

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

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, for strength after benefiting from brain surgery but dealing with compromised abilities and strength for her circle of support

Bob Mahoney, Corrine's brother, healing

All homebound with health problems

**Additional:**

Jo Reck's friend, Nancy, as she struggles to cope with the aftermath of her husband's stroke

For the people affected by Hurricane Ida

Safety for Diane Pelinka's son-in-law, Sean, deployed on the USS Portland

For an end to violence and racism in our communities

*Please call the office, 651-452-5683, with joys and concerns.*



## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**Sunday School:** 9:30 am

**Worship:** 9:30 and 10:30 am

**Kidz 2gether worship:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of the month

**Communion** on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of the month

## VIDEO WORSHIP

Available on Facebook, YouTube (St. Paul's UMC Mendota Heights) and the church's website:  
www.stpaulsmn.org

## 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:**

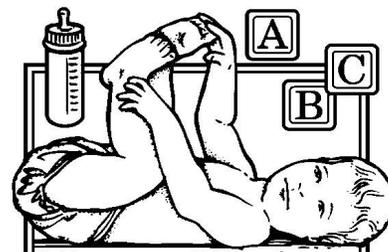
Diane Pelinka,  
[info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org)



Thank you so much for the donation to our Garlough library. I was able to purchase some new and exciting titles that are ready for kids! *Kim Benton, Garlough*

Your financial support (\$650) is enabling Global Ministries to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ to a world in need of God's grace....(full letter on bulletin board)

*Roland Fernandes, General Secretary*



## HELP WANTED - NURSERY WORKER

Saint Paul's UMC is looking for a loving and caring person 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](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org).

## JOIN THE ST. PAUL'S UMC 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!

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

**NOVEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>**

*Remember to turn your clocks back one hour!*



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

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

**TAKE OUT  
TURKEY DINNER  
OCTOBER 27<sup>th</sup>**

