

# Epistle

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

November 2021

## REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

***“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,  
give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”***

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NRSV

### GIVING THANKS FOR COMMUNITY

As I was preparing to preach about friendship last week, I found myself pausing to give thanks for the wonderful friends who have loved and supported me throughout my life. I'm stopping to write a card of appreciation to one of those good friends tonight. The month of November is a time when many of us reflect with gratitude and thanksgiving on all of our blessings, and one of those blessings is the community of the saints. Good friends are a part of the community of saints—those people of faith who shine Christ's light brightly in our lives.

I am also giving thanks for many other people within the community of saints, including teachers. Recently, I received the sad news of the death of one of the outstanding teachers who taught me during junior high school. As I wrote a

note of sympathy to his family, I thought of the blessings I received from my teachers. They provided education, inspiration, and encouragement to me, helped me to develop strong character, and nurtured my gifts. In addition to the classroom teachers who have taught me so much, there have been many mentors throughout my life who have encouraged me to be a lifelong learner. Some of those mentors have been coaches, Sunday School teachers, scout leaders, colleagues, and church family. I give thanks for the neighbor who was a “bonus grandmother” to me, reading me stories and teaching me to identify each of the trees, flowers, and butterflies on our property. I give thanks for the camp counselor who patiently taught me how to dive and paddle a canoe and for the Sunday School teacher who taught me the Lord's Prayer. I give thanks for the colleagues who mentored me and

prayed with and for me as I began ministry as a pastor. One of the blessings of the church is the way that it introduces us to the Christian community who sustains us.

Who are the saints that you are remembering as we approach All Saints' Day? Who are/were the friends, teachers, and mentors who are a blessing to you? We give thanks to God for their roles in our lives. As we pause to light a candle in their memory on All Saints' Day, we remember the way that they shined Christ's light for us. May God guide us all to be good friends, mentors, and teachers to others.



# FINANCE

## Support of our church and its mission



### FINANCE UPDATE

The lowly penny. Much maligned by all. You can find them in piggy banks, on the ground or for free next to many cash registers. Our government spends millions to produce pennies that aren't even worth a penny. So why a penny?

As people of faith, we need to think about the penny with more meaning than that little copper coin that weighs down our pockets and purses. We are all familiar with the story of the widow's mite. The widow's two mites added up to a penny but in the eyes of Jesus her gift was so much more than a penny. The widow gave all that she had. Many gave much larger monetary contributions but they had more wealth. The widow gave all she had to live on. In Luke 21:1-4 we hear Jesus' awe and feeling of inspiration as he shares the

following teaching with his disciples. "He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.'"

The woman worshipped God with all that she had. The widow's penny had the power to inspire. Inspiration leads to change. As we approach the season of Stewardship, how do you want to use your penny to worship God and be an inspiration to others?

Grace and Peace,  
*Kae Jewell*

	<u>September 2021</u>	<u>2021 Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Gifts	\$ 12,099	\$ 171,998*
Less General Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 19,688</u>	<u>\$ 160,486</u>
Balance	\$ (7,589)	\$ 11,512
Less Unpaid Apportionments	<u>\$ ( 2,501)</u>	<u>\$ ( 22,511)</u>
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	\$(10,090)	\$ (10,999)

\*Includes \$36,382 PPP loan

### HEALTHY CHURCH INITIATIVE UPDATE

Relative to objectives of our Healthy Church Initiative for guest readiness identified in 2019, I am happy to communicate a significant action step relative interior renovation.

- ◆ A new color theme for the church was identified some months ago. That theme will be applied through projects of painting, flooring, and other changes.
- ◆ A few weeks ago we issued a formal request for bids to replace rug floorings throughout the church. The last date for bids to be submitted was October 14. We have received five bids sent by three different companies.
- ◆ The bids will be reviewed. Vendor selection and specific action steps will be recommended to the SPUMC Leadership Team. We will provide updates as approved actions are identified and scheduled.

*Bob Brocklehurst, Operations Team Lead*

## EVENTS

What's happening and when



### ALL SAINTS' DAY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7<sup>th</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.



### THANKSGIVING VIDEO WORSHIP

Join in prayer together with your Saint Paul's UMC church family, as we follow the guidance of Scripture to "give thanks in all circumstances." A video worship service filled with prayers and hymns of gratitude will be available on the morning of Thanksgiving Day. Whether you are traveling to be with family or celebrating Thanksgiving in your home, video worship is available for you on our website, [stpaulsmn.org](http://stpaulsmn.org).



## SMALL GROUPS

United with purpose



### RACHEL CIRCLE

Rachel Circle will meet Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm at church.

**THANK YOU** to all who made the turkey dinner successful by purchasing meals, donating pies, roasting turkeys, cooking, carving, organizing, and serving! A special thank you to Carol Rix for coordinating.

All of the turkey dinner proceeds go towards mission, helping others in our community.



# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families  
nurture lifelong  
disciples of Christ



## OCTOBER 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 a Faith topic, Mission project, Worship participation, Fellowship building, and of course a fun activity. In October the youth met at the church to help with the annual Turkey Dinner by "checking in" the vehicles when they arrived and carrying the meals out to the cars. Our next youth gathering is on **November 24<sup>th</sup>** and we will be making Christmas cards for homebound members and families that are still worshipping from home for health and safety reasons, and playing around with Zoom backgrounds for this year's Christmas pageant.

## 2021 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Our Christmas pageant will be during Kidz 2gether worship this year on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be choosing parts, rehearsing, and doing some filming for the pageant with children during part of the Sunday school hour throughout November. There will also be a sign up form going out to all parents for those who cannot make it to Sunday school to sign up or would like to participate and film from home. Please be on the lookout for that and encourage your children and youth to participate. It is so much fun to see everyone have a role no matter if you are in person or on video!

## CONFIRMATION

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 10<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00-8:00 pm and we will be discussing *The Importance of Church Participation and Finding your Place in the Church*.

## 2021 Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

**Deadline: November 14, 2021**

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

**HOLIDAY  
OUTREACH**  
Providing gifts  
to those  
in need



### NEIGHBORS' HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM

Neighbors' holiday gift program is a great way to spread joy to our community this holiday season. This program connects generous community members to families in need during the holiday season. If you would like to help make joyous holiday memories for a family this year, please consider signing up to adopt a family or senior.

St. Paul's UMC has not yet received the info on our family or their requests yet, but soon 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 13<sup>th</sup>**, 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](mailto:holiday@neighborsmn.org).

## 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 next PIE Night is Tuesday, **November 16<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).

### 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.

### 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).

### PEN PAL UPDATE

When I wrote my last article for the Epistle regarding my pen pal, I noted that my pen pal's mother was first generation Slovakian. As an update, this summer Natalia visited her grandparents in Selce, Slovakia, which she stated they do most years. She talked about staying at the hotel Titris and hiking the High Tatras, a mountain range along the border of northern Slovakia in the Prešov Region. She sent me a picture of Tatranský Národný Park. I found it fun to look these places up on the map and hope you do, too. She also noted her grandfather always hiked with them but on one of the hikes, they had a little excitement when her grandfather got sick and they had to call a helicopter! She went on to say her grandfather is fine now. She had an eventful summer although she thought my family camping trips in Minnesota sounded more fun.

*Nancy Pierson*

# Help Wanted

St. Paul's is looking for people to serve on various committees in the church. Please see what interests you and contact the church office or Leslie Watkins, at [dlek.mn@comcast.net](mailto:dlek.mn@comcast.net).  
We Need You!

## FINANCE

Do numbers and investments catch your attention? This is the place for you if your expertise and interests lie in reports, cash flow, processing financial gifts and managing financial resources.

Discretion, confidentiality and attention to detail are key skills for this team.

## MEMBER ENRICHMENT

St Paul's wants to take care of our members with caring ministries, fellowship gatherings, and education.

If you have a calling to work with all kinds of people, and enjoy coordinating events and projects, you could serve on this team.

Education of all our members from toddlers to adults is also a focus of this team.

We need people who have a deep caring for our members!

## OUTREACH

Are you a people person, with creativity, compassion and interest in Missions? Outreach designs new member programs and guides the current programs including UMW, UMM, blood drives and Garlough School activities.

If you enjoy marketing, advertising, and public relations to publicize St.

Paul's work and events in the community, come join this group.

The focus is on projects reaching beyond the church walls.

The ability to prioritize and discern activities reflecting the church's goals is an asset.

## FOUNDATIONS

Do you have experience in people management and human resources policies? Foundations is responsible for all facets of staff, music and worship.

If you have an interest in our worship service, music and special events relating to the service, Foundations could use you.

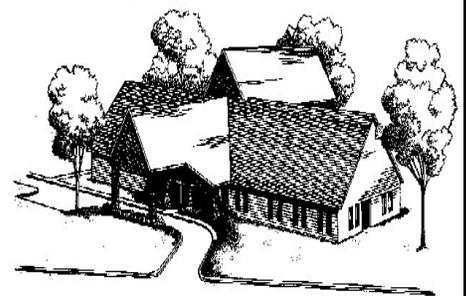
Diplomacy, tact, conflict management, discretion and confidentiality are important qualities.

## OPERATIONS

If maintenance and upkeep are important to you, let us know. Operations is responsible not only for the look of the property and buildings but also technology equipment, HVAC, and all parts of the church property.

For those who aren't so knowledgeable with the physical workings of the building, this team is also responsible for insurance, risk management, and service as the legal representative of the church.

Any experience in hardware, software, carpentry, HVAC would be a great asset when serving on Operations.





**Please pray for the following:**

**Joys:**

Another successful Turkey Dinner!

William Daniel Wilson, son of Luke and Melissa Wilson, born October 7

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

**Deaths:**

Patty, Beth Schmidt's father's wife, October 24

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

Patty Ostoff, Jo Reck's friend, September 21

**Health Concerns:**

Phyllis Abrahamson, for a peaceful heart as she faces an illness

Steve Nyhus, continued resilience and recovery from stroke

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

Diane Pelinka's daughter, Katie, in her last month of an at-risk pregnancy

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

Barb Helmken's friends, Rhona, with melanoma; Diane, with breast cancer; Judy, with many health issues and a friend's daughter, Shelly, with critical liver disease

Bob Wilson, healing and good health

Jerry Holmay, healing and good health

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:**

The 17 missionaries kidnapped in Haiti

Barb Helmken's friend, Nancie, having family issues

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

For the people effected 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 contact the church, 651-452-5683, with joys and concerns.*

## **ALL SAINTS' DAY**

The members of Saint Paul's UMC who have died and experienced God's resurrection since last year's All Saints' Day.



**Marsha Knuth**  
January 2, 2021



**Corinne Strand**  
May 17, 2021



**Thomas Lewis**  
May 26, 2021



# Birth

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY



**William Daniel Wilson**

October 7, 2021; 12:10 pm

8 lb 10 oz; 21 1/4"

Son of

Luke and Melissa Wilson

2130 47th Street East

Inver Grove Heights MN 55077



**Ralf Eckardt**

has moved. His new contact info:

1745 Graham Avenue #432

Saint Paul MN

(402) 312-9167

**Beda Lewis**

has moved. Her new contact info:

6309 Burnham Circle #216

Inver Grove Heights MN 55076

651-554-3593

**Mary Gaddy**

has a new phone number:

651-253-0110.



## 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](http://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)

## HOLIDAY LETTERS

We invite you to send a letter to our homebound family:

**Phyllis Abrahamsen**

6305 Burnham Circle #122  
Inver Grove Heights MN 55076

**Marilyn Anderson**

8345 Atlas Ave.  
Inver Grove Heights MN 55077

**Darrell Butterwick**

8725 Promenade Lane #134  
Woodbury MN 55125

**Emaline Devereaux**

3475 Crestmoor Drive  
Woodbury MN 55125

**Gerry Nicklaus**

Homestead  
2102 S. Market St. #170  
Oskaloosa IA 52577

**Marion O'Connor**

316 23rd Court South  
South St. Paul MN 55075

**Ernest Peitso**

P.O. Box 32902  
Minneapolis MN 55432

**Della Relation**

720 Linden St. #315  
Mendota Heights MN 55118

**Dick Robinson**

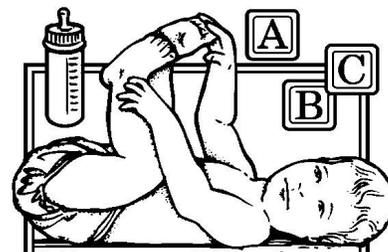
170 Emerson Ave. E. #103  
West St. Paul MN 55118

**Myrle Voynovich**

6536 Chamberlain Rd.  
Woodbury MN 55125

**Bob Wilson**

Southview Senior Living  
1984 Oakdale Ave. #414  
West St. Paul MN 55118



## 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).

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

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

*Remember to turn your  
clocks back one hour!*



**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)

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

ALL SAINTS' DAY



NOVEMBER 7, 2021