

Epistle

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

February 2022

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

IN-PERSON WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

On Sunday, February 6, we will joyfully return to in-person worship at Saint Paul's UMC, in our refreshed church building. We will still be masked and socially distanced for COVID safety, but we will be back together in our sanctuary! Here's a bit about worship in February . . .

I Love to Read Month

When my children started school in Minnesota, I found out that our schools celebrate "I Love to Read Month" in February. There are read-a-thons, times to share your favorite story with the class, and all kinds of fun activities related to literacy. The focus on stories reminded me of how Jesus used to teach in parables because people of all ages love a good story. This February, we'll join in the "I Love to Read Month" by reading a children's story book at each of our worship services in addition to biblical passages. No matter what your age, I believe that you will be blessed by the inspirational themes and illustrations in the stories as we prayerfully consider kindness, beauty, reconciliation, and the golden rule during worship in February.



Refresh

Part of the recommendations of the Healthy Church Initiative for our congregation included specific improvements for guest readiness in the church building and website of Saint Paul's UMC. As a result, we have been working to refresh the church building, including paint, flooring, and improved sound and video systems. I think that these changes

will not only beautifully welcome guests, but also bring joy to our members. Please save the date for a celebration of the Refreshed sanctuary, church building, and grounds on May 1.

Thank you to Bob Brocklehurst (Chairperson of Operations) for his leadership in this process! Bob shared with me his reflections on the Refresh, and I wanted to include part

of his reflections in the newsletter for you. In addition to what I share, Bob also reminded me that we all could use a refresh of our spirits, and Jesus can provide that type of transformation in our lives. Bob writes the following regarding the refresh of the church building:

(continued on page 2)

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It has been a pleasure for me to have been in a position of availability to help in facilitating this first major project of refreshing the physical infrastructure of Saint Paul's United Methodist Church and the grounds upon which the physical church stands.

My role has been a small one as it deals with the physical structure and appearance of the facilities. The real leaders in sustaining and refreshing us through the years have been the many, many members, staff, vendors, and non-members volunteering their ideas and services. Their contributions have continually sustained the spirit and faith of the church and its services for all of us and for its outreach.

When the church reopens its doors for Sunday services on February 6, 2022, all will experience the physical outcome of ideas, vision, and mission enabling of the Healthy Church Initiative facilities enhancements. There remains much more to be achieved as opportunities for growth, social gatherings, and funds are enabled.

For now, you are encouraged to enjoy the many actions of refresh throughout the past year:

- ◆ Changes of wall paint colors in the sanctuary, narthex, hallway to the Fellowship Hall, and the church kitchen
- ◆ Flooring changes in the sanctuary, narthex, all hallways, and the Fellowship Hall
- ◆ Plumbing repairs in both the women's and the men's bathrooms and in the kitchen
- ◆ A new refrigerator in the kitchen
- ◆ A new copier in the church office
- ◆ TV monitors on both sides of the church that will be a change from the on-the-wall-projected images by projector
- ◆ A new technology that lies under the carpet in the sanctuary and enables improved hearing by those wearing hearing aids
- ◆ 12 audio speakers in the sanctuary in the place of the two speakers previously. The new speakers are positioned to effectively focus balanced sound to different locations within the sanctuary
- ◆ Reupholstered altar chairs
- ◆ Landscaping to include the removal of invasive trees and shrubs, the planting of many new trees, and the on-going work on the rain gardens.

We are very thankful to those who have contributed of their time, energy, and special funding to enable these refreshing changes. ☚

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

How are
we doing?

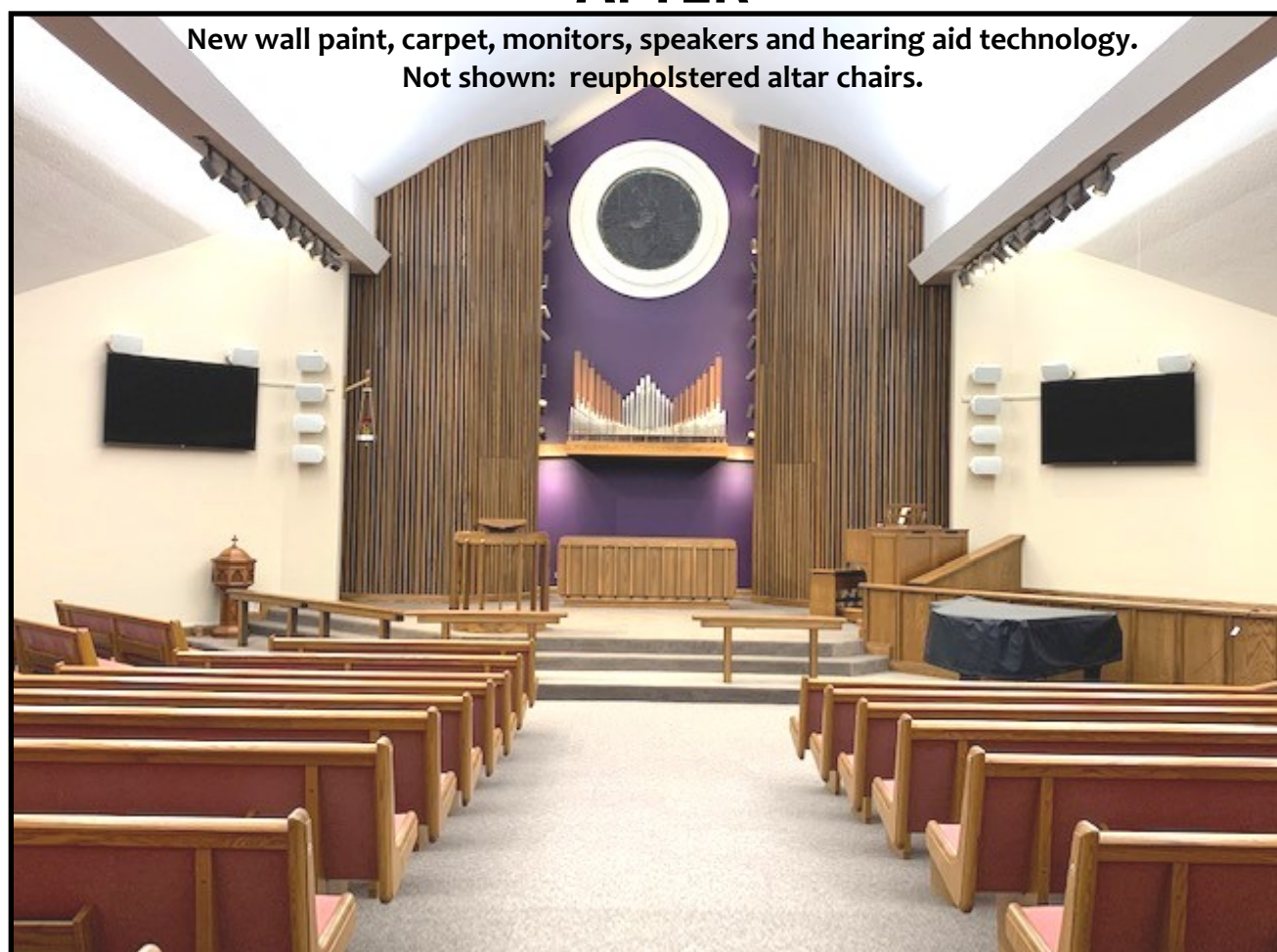
St. Paul's UMC
Annual Church Conference
will be held
Sunday, February 6th
at 11:30 am.



**PROJECT:
REFRESH
2022!**
Revitalizing
the church



AFTER



FINANCE

Support of our church and its mission



FINANCE UPDATE AS OF 12/31/21

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:23-24

During January we look back at our 2021 work and evaluate our success in working toward the mission of St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Our financial gifts are one of many ways that we support the mission of our church. I believe that we were able to "work heartily" and I hope that we always remember that our work is for the Lord.

You will receive a full report of our 2021 financial status at the upcoming February 6, 2022 Annual Church Conference Meeting. In the meantime, this is a spoiler. Here are some financial highlights from the last year.

- ♦ Our 2021 apportionments of \$31,015 were paid in full. These dollars support the world-wide mission work of the UMC and the work of the Minnesota Conference.
- ♦ We contributed \$20,526 to benevolence efforts. \$11,007 was sent to the conference for projects such as UMCOR and Love Sunday. \$9,519 supported local benevolence activities such as Neighbors, Inc. and Garlough School.
- ♦ We ended the year with a positive balance in the General Fund, those dollars that support the day-to-day operation of our congregation.
- ♦ Our investment accounts grew by \$40,609 or about 7.5%.
- ♦ The refresh of the church building is being fully funded from existing capital funds.

We are truly very blessed people. We have carefully managed our financial resources so that we are able to continue our work for the Lord.

Grace and blessings, *Kae Jewell Finance Team*

	<u>December Financials</u>	
	<u>December 2021</u>	<u>2021 Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Gifts	\$ 56,939	\$ 287,495*
Less General Fund Expenses	\$ 24,188	\$ 244,470
Balance	\$ 32,751	\$ 43,025
Less Unpaid Apportionments	\$ 0	\$ 0
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ 32,751	\$ 43,025

*Includes \$36,382 PPP loan

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families
nurture lifelong
disciples of Christ



YOUTH GATHERING

With rising COVID-19 cases and many local schools moving temporarily back to distance learning along with large renovation projects happening inside the church, we decided to hold off on January's Confirmation Class and Youth Gathering. **Our next Youth Gathering is on Wednesday, February 23rd** and the youth will be brainstorming, voting on, and planning a group mission project of their choosing. Afterwards they will have a high energy game night inside the church. If anyone has some great mission project ideas to bring up to the youth please contact Lani Thompson at: lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org

CONFIRMATION

2021-2022

Our next Confirmation class is on Wednesday, February 9th from 6:00 -8:00 pm in St. Paul's UMC Fellowship Hall. The theme will be "*Seasons of Faith*". We will spend a good amount of time talking about how our personal faith grows as we grow older and how we can continue to nurture it even after confirmation. We will also be covering the seasonal liturgical calendar and colors and all of the what/how/why that go along with it.

REACHING OUT

Living our faith
and connecting
with our
neighbors



MINNESOTA FOODSHARE MARCH CAMPAIGN

Join us in collecting as much food and funds as we can during the month of March. Neighbors has entered into a friendly state-wide food drive competition during March for the annual Minnesota FoodShare Campaign. You'll not only be helping to stock our shelves for the busy times of need, but you'll also be helping us secure funding distributed later in the year. Which means any donation now goes even further! Will you help us feed our neighbors?

Items needed include:

- ♦ Protein items- canned meat/fish, beans, nut butters
- ♦ Rice: white, wild, brown and Hamburger Helper, all types

- ♦ Gluten-free flour and flour blends
- ♦ Personal care items: shampoo/soap, toothpaste, diapers, toilet paper
- ♦ Household supplies: laundry and dish detergent, paper towels
- ♦ Breakfast foods: pancake mix and syrup

GARLOUGH SCHOOL

This year we once again secured some grant money from the Conference -- \$400. Using Mission Committee funds we decided to match that money. We gave Garlough \$800, earmarked for their library. They were very thankful and appreciate our on-going support. Thank you for your support of St. Paul's mission work.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School: 9:30 am

Worship: 10:30 am

Kidz 2gether worship: 2nd Sundays of the month

Communion on 1st and 2nd 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

Director of Children, Youth and Mission:
 Lani Thompson,
lanithompson@stpaulsmn.org

Director of Music Ministry:
 Lane Skoglund-Anderson,
laneskoglundanderson@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:
 Diane Pelinka,
info@stpaulsmn.org



Thank you so much for letting us borrow the chairs for my cousin's baby shower. It was a hit and everyone had a place to sit. I also appreciate all the work and effort you put in to help coordinate everything. I truly am thankful for St. Paul's United Methodist Church.
Sara Donnay

Thank you to everyone who donated groceries to us in November and December! The 67 pounds we received will help many of your neighbors. What a great way to end the year! We look forward to partnering with you in 2022!

The Team at Neighbors

As a bell ringer, it was exciting to have the refurbished and repaired hand bells back! It was even more exciting to see them. They look new! You will see us wearing gloves and that helps maintain the shiny new look. I play the bass clef bells (middle C and lower) and what fun to ring them. Prior to being repaired, the clappers did not always give one a solid ring but now they do. I want to thank those who have donated monies over the years to the memorial fund and thank the memorial committee for saying 'yes' to allotting funds for the refurbishment of the hand bells at St. Paul's. What a joy to have shiny "new" hand bells to ring!

Nancy Pierson



Richard "Dick" Robinson

November 13, 1938-
 December 30, 2021

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Cards of sympathy may be sent to his wife, Bettie, and daughter, Debbie at:
 170 Emerson Ave. E. #103
 West St. Paul MN 55118



Norma Deitner

Home phone: 651-330-3552
 Cell: 651-261-9460

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

700 Wesley Lane
Mendota Heights MN 55118

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Email: info@stpaulsmn.org

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

FEBRUARY 6, 2022
RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT 10:30 AM
AND
THE ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE AT 11:30 AM