

Epistle

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

March 2022

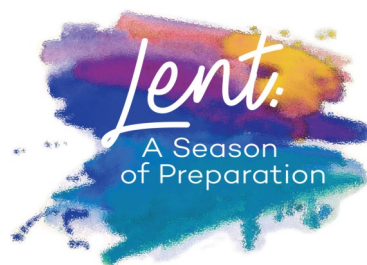
REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

LENT

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. We will observe the beginning of the Lenten season with an in-person Ash Wednesday worship service at 12:30 pm. (An Ash Wednesday video worship service will also be available and ashes may be picked up at the front door of the church.) Lent is a time of preparation for Easter, during which we traditionally focus on repentance. The word repentance comes from the idea of "turning." So, we are to reflect on what sins and difficulties that we are turning away from and instead turn our focus to those Godly things that we are turning toward for our spiritual health and growth. The Ash Wednesday worship service will offer a quiet time of reflection for these spiritual questions. The service will conclude with the imposition of ashes, a traditional sign of repentance, to mark the beginning of our spiritual journey of Lent. The service will be prayerful but brief, allowing those who are on a lunch hour to return to their workplace for the afternoon.

The sanctifying grace of God is the season of grace that supports us as we continue to grow in our faith

throughout our life. During the season of Lent, we pray for God's sanctifying grace to help us grow in spirit. While much of the Lenten season focuses on personal piety and how we are growing in love of God, we also continue to grow in social holiness and love of our neighbor. Saint Paul's UMC will be hosting a March food drive as a way of loving our neighbors. More details follow. At Easter, we will celebrate the transforming spiritual growth and new life that has been the result of God's sanctifying grace working in our lives.



CHRISTIAN INSPIRATION FROM THE NATURAL WORLD

Many of the people of Saint Paul's have shared with me that being in nature often inspires them and helps them feel close to God. Our music sings the praises of God with metaphors from the natural world, including the psalmist who wrote:

"When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" (Psalm 8:3-4) and the words for "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee": "Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain praising you eternally!" During the season of Lent, I will be preaching on a series of themes related to the natural world and inspiration we find there related to the Christian faith. The sermon series will also consider how God calls us to be good stewards of the natural world that surrounds us, caring dutifully for the world into which God breathed life. On March 26, we will have a guest speaker with us in worship, Rev. Susan Mullin. Rev. Mullin is the leader of a group of Minnesota missionaries called Earthkeepers, who are specifically commissioned by the United Methodist Church to ministries of social justice related to environmentalism. I hope that you find fresh inspiration in this Lenten theme.

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LENTEN PHOTO CONTEST

Do you love to capture art and beauty with your camera? Do you have an inspiring photo to share with your church family? Watch for upcoming details on a Saint Paul's UMC photo contest.



SAINT PAUL'S UMC LEADERSHIP 2022

Central Leadership Team 2022

Chairperson: Andrea Larson
 Finance: Kae Jewell
 Foundation: Barb Jorgenson
 Lay Member of Annual Conference: TBD
 Member Enrichment: Jan Marshall
 Operations: Bob Brocklehurst
 Outreach: TBD

Foundation

Chairperson: Barb Jorgenson		
Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:
Barb Jorgenson	Erin Jedlicka	Barb Helmken
Sam Young	Jo Reck	

Finance

Chairperson: Kae Jewell
 Financial Secretary: Barb Goin
 Memorial Representative: Deanna Sellers
 Treasurer: Curt Almberg
 At-Large: TBD
 Andrea Larson & Barb Jorgenson (In communication and attending meetings as needed)

Operations

Chairperson: Bob Brocklehurst (2022)
 Deb Curran (2022)
 John Grinager (2024)

Member Enrichment

Chairperson: Jan Marshall
 Carol Rix, Fellowship/Caring Ministries
 Lindsey Bunting, Children/Youth Education
 Charles Duddingston, Adult Education
 Spiritual Growth & Discipleship: TBD

Outreach

Chairperson: TBD
 Mission Coordinator: Carol Egan
 Mission Coordinator: Sharon Grant
 Men's Group Rep.: John Grinager
 UMW Rep.: Chrisana Tripodi
 Marketing, Advertising & PR: TBD
 New Member Programs: TBD

Communion Volunteers:

Barb Helmken, Corrine Mahoney, Cynthia Peterfeso, Diane Siebert
 Counter Coordinator: TBD
 Greeter Coordinator: Pat Fritsche
 Membership Secretary: Pat Fritsche
 Sound System Volunteers: Curt Almberg, Alex Bur, Chuck Everling
 Visual Volunteers (PowerPoint): Dawn Everling, Kae Jewell

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 provides almost a million pounds of food to people in our community each year and a good portion of this total comes from larger food and fund drives held by businesses, churches and organizations. You'll not only help to stock their shelves for these busy times of need, but you'll also be helping them secure funding for distribution later in the year. That means any donation now goes even further! Will you help us feed our neighbors?

Most needed items right now are:
pancake mix and syrup

Other highly needed items 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

UMW SPRING RUMMAGE SALE APRIL 23!

During this cold weather and when looking forward to spring, are you or anyone in your circle of friends thinking about down-sizing, right-sizing or just busy cleaning out drawers and closets? If so, please consider saving the goods for the spring UMW Rummage Sale planned for April 23 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. What sells well in the spring are items folks need for the summer months.

UMCOR SUNDAY MARCH 27th

Gifts to UMCOR Sunday (previously known as One Great Hour of Sharing)
lay the foundation of all
United Methodist
Committee on Relief
work by covering the
costs of doing business.

Generous donations on UMCOR Sunday
mean that all
contributions designated to
specific programs can go 100% to those
programs because
UMCOR'S basic expenses are covered.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families
nurture lifelong
disciples of Christ



CALLING ALL SEAMSTRESSES!

You don't need to be a professional – even basic sewing skills can help! We are currently looking for a few people to get together to make minor fixes and touch-ups to our current Christmas pageant costumes as well as hopefully help us make a few more (particularly new Wise men/Magi costumes). If you are interested in volunteering or have larger pieces of fabric that you think would work well for our costumes please talk to Lani or email her at lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org

CONFIRMATION

For confirmation in February our lesson was on *Seasons of Faith*. We discussed how as we grow we pass through different phases of faith development; how it is different for every person, and how we can stay in a particular phase of faith development for a long time or even revert back to a previous stage. One is not better than the other. It is all about how we are connecting with God and responding to His grace. We also covered the seasonal liturgical calendar and colors and all of the what/how/whys that go along with it.

- **Experienced Faith:** Common in younger years or at the introduction into a faith life, involving the imitation of actions. For example: children may pray the Lord's Prayer without grasping the full meaning of all the words, but since it is something that everyone else is doing they learn how to say it.

- **Affiliative Faith:** The dominant characteristic is belonging to a group. The individual identifies with a faith community where he or she feels a sense of belonging, and in which his or her beliefs and actions are rooted. Many confirmands, especially at the start of their confirmation journey are in this stage.

- **Searching Faith:** Connected with the formation of identity. A stage where we begin an internal and external dialog of what we believe and why. This stage of faith adds a cognitive dimension to a person's faith journey, and a person going through the stage of searching faith begins to integrate head and heart.

- **Owned Faith:** It can come about

only as a result of growing through Searching Faith. This is a stage of strong, vital faith that one lives by, stands by, and expresses to others. Growing into this stage does not mean one stops having or asking questions, but instead, that one has learned to embrace questions as a means to further and deepen one's spiritual connection with God and others.

Our next Confirmation class is on Wednesday, March 9th from 6:00-8:00 pm in St. Paul's UMC Fellowship Hall and the theme will be "*Redemption and Reconciliation*".

YOUTH GATHERING

In January, instead of meeting in person, we decided to have an online game night! Youth called in to a teleconference so we could chat while playing in a way that freed us from worrying about strangers joining us. We logged in to play a detective-style role playing game called "*Among Us*" on a private server. What a fun way to join each other in community and have fun while staying safe at home.

In February the youth brainstormed, voted on, and planned a large group mission project for the year. They also worked on pieces of the kindness quilt to help it grow, wiped down the chairs in the fellowship hall as a mini service project, and afterwards had a high energy game night inside the church. What a Night!

Our Next Youth Gathering is on Wednesday, March 23rd. We will be working on a few pieces of their large group mission project. More details to be announced soon!

FINANCE

Support of our church and its mission



FINANCE UPDATE AS OF 1/31/2022

We are about to enter into the season of Lent. It appears that Lent is an old English word meaning “lengthen” as in the coming of spring and the lengthening of days. In our Christian tradition, we have specific areas of focus during Lent.

- ♦ Prayer
- ♦ Fasting or abstaining so as to reduce distractions and focus on God
- ♦ Giving or charity

Giving or doing for others is a way to reflect God’s grace and generosity. May we all find ways to be generous during the season of Lent.

Below is a summary of our financials for the first month of the year.

Grace and blessings,
Kae Jewell, Finance Team

	<u>January Financials</u>	
	<u>January 2022</u>	<u>2022 Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Gifts	\$ 30,451	\$ 30,451
Less General Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 22,328</u>	<u>\$ 22,328</u>
Balance	\$ 8,123	\$ 8,123
Less Unpaid Apportionments	<u>\$ 2,277</u>	<u>\$ 2,277</u>
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ 5,846	\$ 5,846

ORDER SPRING PLANTS TO DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR EASTER

Hydrangea (blue) _____ x \$20.00 each = _____
 Hydrangea (pink) _____ x \$20.00 each = _____
 Azalea (pink) _____ x \$20.00 each = _____
 Lily (white) _____ x \$20.00 each = _____
Order Total \$ _____

Your Name _____

Circle one - In memory of honor of thanks for

Last Date to Order: March 13, 2022

Please fill out this slip and drop it in the collection plate with your check made payable to St. Paul's UMC or drop it off at your convenience in the church office.



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: Andrea Larson

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 for your financial contribution of \$2,000 on 1/7/22 to Every Meal. Your partnership will enable Every Meal to change the story of child hunger in Minnesota. The pandemic has put more strain on families, pushing 100,000 more children in Minnesota into food insecurity. This means over 300,000 Minnesota children don't have enough to eat. And when children are hungry, they get sick more often, perform lower in school, and have more social and behavioral problems. Yet child hunger is very solvable. Your financial partnership plays an integral role in closing the gaps in food access that children face during weekends, summers, and extended breaks, and ensures that every child gets every meal.

THANK YOU! I truly appreciate your support. Sincerely,

Rob Williams, Exec. Dir. Every Meal

Happy New Year from all of us here at Neighbors, and thank you for your recent gift! (\$715 and 24 pounds of food).Thank you for being a part of the Neighbors family, and thank you for ensuring that Neighbors will be able to continue serving those in need in your community and during these changing and challenging times.

With gratitude,

Beth Skwira, Dir. Of Mission



Norma Deitner

Home phone: 651-330-3552

Cell: 651-261-9460

RACHEL CIRCLE UPCOMING MEETING DATES

March 21 @ 7:00 pm

April 18 @ 7:00 pm

May 16 @ 7:00 pm

Meeting locations have yet to be determined.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS



MARCH 13th

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

700 Wesley Lane
Mendota Heights MN 55118

Phone: 651-452-5683
Email: info@stpaulsmn.org

NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
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Address Service Requested

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

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2
12:30 pm

