

Epistle

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

April 2022

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

During the end of March and April, my family prepares our garden beds for spring. In all of the beds, we remove the winter debris, and in the vegetable garden, we turn over the soil in preparation for the spring seeds. The perennial flower beds look very quiet right now, but under the ground, I know that the bulbs are gaining strength during their dormancy, preparing to shoot up and bloom in only a few weeks. Lent is a time of quiet preparation for our hearts. Much like the underground bulbs gaining strength, we spend Lent preparing our hearts for Easter. Our spirits gain strength through our practices of prayer, meditation, searching the Scriptures, and caring for our neighbors. How has your spirit grown and developed during this Lenten season? At Easter, we celebrate the way that our hearts overflow with Christ's love as we celebrate resurrection and new life.

Please join us in the joy-filled celebration of Holy Week at Saint Paul's, with both in-person and video worship.

Palm Sunday Worship with Communion. Sunday, April 10, 10:30 am. Kidz 2Gether **Worship** with Puppet Choir & Chancel Choir.

Maundy Thursday. Thursday, April 14, 7:00 pm. **Worship with Communion**, remembering the giving of the Great Commandment, and Christ's Last Supper with the disciples.

Good Friday. Friday, April 15, 7:00 pm. **Worship** with Chancel Choir focusing on the Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday. April 17
9:30 am. Egg hunt, Cookie Decorating, Photo Booth, Coffee Hour, and other fun children/youth activities
10:30 am. Easter Worship with Handbell and Chancel Choirs celebrating the resurrection of Christ



It has been the tradition at Saint Paul's UMC to receive a special Easter offering that goes beyond our regular gifts. This year, the Easter offering will be designated in the following ways: 25% to hunger alleviation through our youth group service projects, 25% to emergency humanitarian relief in the Ukraine through UMCOR, and 50% toward the general fund of Saint Paul's UMC. Thank you to all who are giving generously to these missions!

(continued on page 2)



Holy Week

(continued from page 1)

The season of celebration will continue after Easter at Saint Paul's. On May 1, we will gather for worship, and to celebrate the refresh of our sanctuary, narthex, building, and grounds. The crisp, clear images on the new video screens and clear sound quality are a joy to experience during worship, as are the aesthetic updates to our building. Outdoors, invasive species have been cleared from the property, and many hardy native trees and plants have been planted. Our rain gardens have become well-established, with deep roots to filter run-off water as it soaks down into the aquifer. All of these updates are worth celebrating!

Sunday, May 1, Celebration of the Refresh

10:30 worship

11:30 music, snacks, awards, and thanks

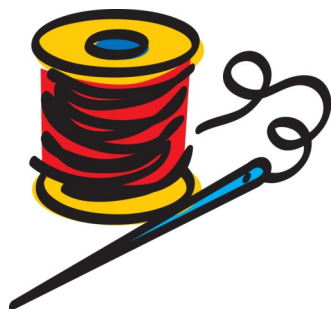
Following worship, there will be delicious snacks and beautiful music. Our guest musician will be the pianist, Don Irwin. We will take time to thank those who have been involved with the Refresh and see before-and-after photos of the updates. We will award prizes in the spring photo contest, and see the photo contest submissions on the new big screens. Please make plans to join in this festive day of celebration! ☚

SPRING PHOTO CONTEST

Have you captured beautiful photos while traveling or right in your own backyard? Let's share them with one another. Categories for submission are: 1) Joy 2) Sunrise/Sunset 3) Nature 4) Light 5) Photographer's Choice. E-mail submissions to the church office:

info@stpaulsmn.org. Limit of two submissions per category. Last day for submission is Monday, April 18, 2022. Friends and neighbors are welcome to submit photos. A winner for each category will be selected by a group of volunteer judges from Saint Paul's UMC. Submissions will be shared with the people of Saint Paul's

UMC and on our social media and website, so all those entering will be asked to grant permission to Saint Paul's UMC to publicly share their photos, and photos should be appropriate for viewing by all ages. (Please, no copyrighted photos.) Winners will be announced at the May 1 celebration!



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

CHURCH CONFERENCE

A church conference will be held on Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 11:30 am at Saint Paul's UMC for the purpose of approving the nominations for Lay Member of Annual Conference and Alternate Lay Member of Annual Conference.

The Central Leadership Team has nominated John Grinager as this year's Lay Member of Annual Conference, and Bob Brocklehurst as the alternate. If you are unable to be present in-person, please contact the church office for a video link to the church conference.



HOLY WEEK

The promise of
Easter



PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 10th

- ♦ 9:30 am Sunday School
- ♦ 10:30 am Kidz 2gether Worship with Communion, Puppet Choir and Chancel Choir

The Puppet Choir rehearses every Sunday at 9:30 am during Sunday school if your child or youth (3rd grade and older) would like to participate.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 14th

- ♦ 7:00 pm Worship with Communion

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 15th

- ♦ 7:00 pm Worship focusing on the Stations of the Cross, with Chancel Choir

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 17th

- ♦ 9:30 am Coffee Hour and Egg Hunt/Children's Activities
- ♦ 10:30 am Worship with Chancel and Handbell Choirs

The Easter Flowers were given to the Glory of God

-In loving Memory of-

Yeen Chong
Our parents
Ernest and Kathryn Mathes
Jim Fritsche and
Jackie Fristche Swanson
Our many loved ones
Don Kratsch
Tom Lewis
Parents, Roger and Hazel Sherburne
Our parents
Eldon and Glenda Sellers
Parents, Fred and Coralie Homan

by Curt Almberg
by Bob Brocklehurst and Bev Momsen
by David and Mary Lou Dresbach
by Pat Fritsche

by Jerry and Shirley Holmay
by Sue Kratsch
by Beda Lewis
by Rhea Nyquist
by Irv and Carol Samuelson
by Deanna Sellers
by Claire Zobel

-In Thanks for...

Family
God's grace

by Barb Helmken
by Tim and Andrea Larson

-In Honor of...

Our parents
St. Paul's UMC staff

by Nancy Shaw Grinager
by Barb Jorgenson

-No designation...

by Debra Curran
by Jan Marshall

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families
nurture lifelong
disciples of Christ



YOUTH GATHERING

In March the youth were encouraged to participate and help with the March Food Drive for *Neighbors Inc* and *Keystone* to help feed the hungry in our communities. On the evening of our youth gathering they helped carry all the food up to the front of the sanctuary so it could be blessed during worship the following Sunday. Afterwards the youth had a variety game night where they tried out some new games. “*Speak to Text – Pictionary-Telephone*” was the overall group favorite!

Our next Youth Gathering is on Wednesday, April 27th from 5:00-8:00 pm and they will be going to *Feed My Starving Children* as part of their 100,000 Meals goal for the year.

CONFIRMATION

In our March Confirmation class we talked about:

- ♦ John Wesley - his life and the Methodist movement.
- ♦ The history of the United Methodist Church - how it came to be after years of splits and mergers and the social stances they fought for along the way.

- ♦ The history of St. Paul's United Methodist Church - how Methodists first met for worship in the Mendota area and the buildings and congregational mergers that have happened while forming our current church.
- ♦ How our current church helps our community and lives up to John Wesley's saying: “*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.*” - John Wesley

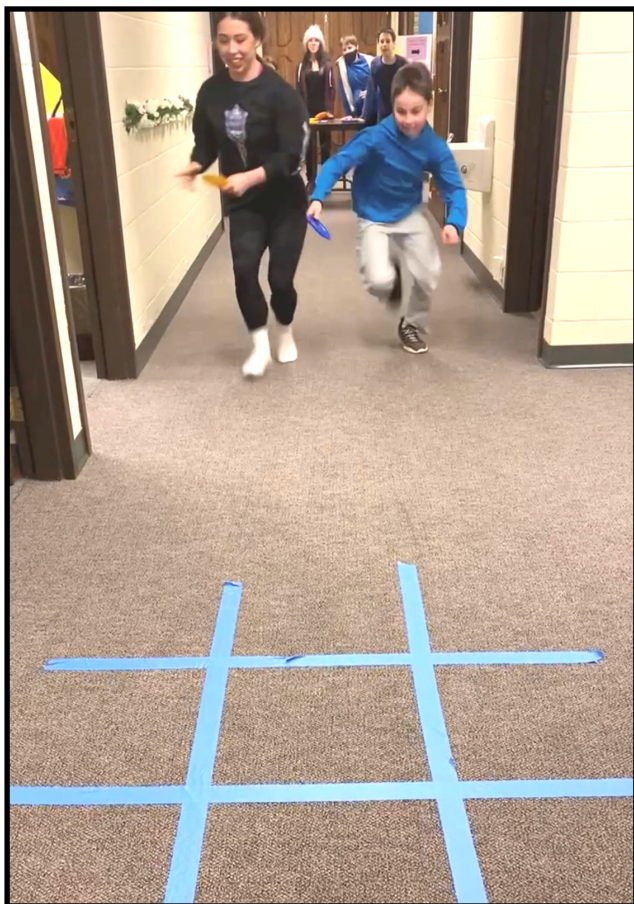
The Confirmands then had to put their knowledge to the test by entering an "Escape Room" type activity where they clues and puzzles to help them get out.

Our next Confirmation class is on Wednesday, April 13th from 6:00-8:00 pm in St. Paul's UMC Fellowship Hall and it will be our confirmation service project night. We will be assembling sandwiches for the homeless through the *363 Sandwich Program*.



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FINANCE

Support of our church and its mission



FINANCE UPDATE AS OF 2/28/2022

We are in the middle of Lent and about to enter Holy Week. One of my favorite hymns at this time of year (actually any time of year) is “The Old Rugged Cross.” The chorus just makes my heart sing with joy.

“So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross Till my trophies, at last, I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged Cross And exchange it some day for a crown”

What a simple message of hope, hope that is the key message of Easter. The resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday is not only the conquering of death but also the redemption of our sins. The chorus of “The Old Rugged Cross” is a poem that acknowledges the faith that we as Christians experience because we know that Jesus died and rose again for the forgiveness of our sins.

Because I tend to be curious, I had to look up the origin of the hymn. It seems that it was written by a Methodist evangelist (George Bennard) in 1912 in response to criticism he had received at a revival meeting. I'm sad that Mr. Bennard had to endure criticism but I feel blessed that he wrote a hymn that so touches my heart.

As we consider our blessings during this Easter season, please keep in mind the various needs that our church supports; we are collecting money for UMCOR and the work they are doing in Ukraine, we collect funds throughout the year to assist individuals in our local community who struggle with food insecurity and right now we are taking a special Easter offering. If you wish to give to any of the above, or to the general fund to support the overall mission work of the church, you can do so in a variety of ways. The VANCO mobile faith app for your smart phone can be used to give to all of the above causes and you can make a one-time or recurring gift. The gift can be a deduction from your bank account, debit card or credit card. Gifts in person during worship are always welcome. In addition, feel free to mail a gift to the church office.

Wishing you the joy and faith of the season as we reflect on the old rugged cross.

Grace and blessings,
Kae Jewell, Finance Team

<u>February 2022</u>	<u>2022 Year-to-Date</u>	
General Fund Gifts	\$ 17,566	\$ 48,017
Less General Fund Expenses	\$ 20,505	\$ 40,204 *
Balance	\$ (2,939)	7,813
Less Unpaid Apportionments	\$ 2,277	\$ 4,554
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ (5,216)	\$ 3,259

*Some of the refresh expenses are still sitting in general funds expenses.

SMALL GROUPS

United with
Purpose



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW) HAVE A NEW NAME

United Women in Faith is the new name replacing UMW. In the 150+ years since this organization was established the name has changed more than 25 times. The last name change occurred in 1972 signaling a change in the life of the church and in the lives of women.

"Adopting the name United Women in Faith and introducing new and improved programs acknowledges the great changes that have occurred in the lives of U.S. women over the past four decades and in the ways they're engaging their faith. It acknowledges the changes you need to continue to grow in your faith and make the differences you want to make."

(Response|March April 2022)

HANNAH CIRCLE

Hannah Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 20 at 1:00 pm in the church Fellowship Hall. It will be a busy meeting as we will be nailing down our work plans for both our Spring Rummage Sale and Emma Norton's Opening Doors Silent Auction and Gala. Not to be missed

is our study of the parables -- focusing on the Prodigal Son and his Elder Brother.

RACHEL CIRCLE

At our March meeting, continuing with the kindness theme Pastor Amy Jo has highlighted in her sermons, Rachel Circle met and began the discussion from the book *Kindness* by author Raje S. Airey. The book has three separate sections. Sheila Kitzman led the March discussion on *Roots: The Foundations of Kindness; Being Happy, Wired to be Kind, How we Become Kind, Wisdom and Compassion*. It was an engaging, informative session. We learned that kindness physically and emotionally contributes to a happy, healthy, fulfilled life. Thanks, Sheila! Our April 18 meeting will be held in the Bertlesen Library and will continue with *Branches: Pathways to Kindness; Developing Self-Compassion, Be Kind to Your Body, Compassionate Mind, Befriending Feelings, Food for the Soul*. Our May 16 meeting will conclude with *Fruit and Seeds: Spreading Kindness; Kindness and Relationships, Kindness and Society, Kindness and the Earth*.

Nancy Pierson, Rachel Circle Chair

GROWING THROUGH LOSS

Growing Through Loss provides support for adults who have experienced a loss, information about the grieving process, caring and support from others who are also grieving, and sharing of memories and feelings in a confidential setting.

All Sessions: Registration, 6:30 pm; Speaker, 7:00 pm; Support Groups 8:00 - 9:00 pm. Suggested donation: \$4.00 per session. You may attend one or all of the sessions. For additional information, contact 651-452-8261 or growingthroughlossstcsouth@gmail.com

Location:

Mary, Mother of the Church
3333 Cliff Rd. E.
Burnsville MN
952-890-0045

April 21:	"Understanding Grief" Mary Marcoux
April 28:	"Grief: Self Care" Bob Bartlett
May 5:	"Myths of Grief" Brenda Demotte
May 12:	"How Grief Affects Our Minds" Mark Hammerstrom
May 19:	"Service of Remembrance" Rev. Dr. Verlyn Hemmen



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,
lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org

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

Administrative Assistant:
Diane Pelinka,
info@stpaulsmn.org



Harold Schnarr

March 26, 2022

Cards of sympathy may be sent to his wife:

Sharon Monroe
3385 Discovery Rd. #137
Eagan MN 55121



Our family is very thankful and grateful to the members of St. Paul's for the donation to the Memorial Fund. We feel so blessed to be a part of such a loving church.

Bettie Robinson

Thank you so much for supporting our mission of fighting child hunger in our community....Since March 2020, when our pandemic response began, we've provided over 4.4 million meals to children and families in Minnesota....Your contributions to our multiple food gap programs have eased the unrelenting worry that so many families have faced and allowed them to put food on the table.....On behalf of our entire organization, I thank you for your generosity and for joining our efforts toward our vision of ensuring **every child gets every meal.**

Gratefully, Rob Williams,
Executive Director, Every Meal

Garlough is so appreciative of your continued support to our library! This year, we were able to expand our animal nonfiction section which students love!

Thank you, Kim Benton

Thank you for your February donation of 13 pounds of groceries! You are providing help and hope to your neighbors. We are so grateful for your ongoing partnership!

The team at Neighbors, Inc.

Thank you for your generous gift to Emma Norton! (\$500) We greatly appreciate your partnership!Gifts like yours allow us to help residents find stability and healing on their journey out of homelessness.....

In gratitude,
Tonya Brownlow,
Exec.Dir., Emma Norton



Sharon Monroe
3385 Discovery Rd. #137
Eagan MN 55121

*The office will be closed,
Easter Monday, April 21st.*



APRIL 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship with Communion 11:30 am Church Conference	4 <i>10:30 am Music 2gether</i>	5	6 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	7	8	9
10 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Kidz 2gether Worship with Communion	11 <i>10:30 am Music 2gether</i>	12	13 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	14 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service with Communion	15 7:00 pm Good Friday Service	16
17 EASTER 9:30 am Coffee Hour, Egg Hunt and other activities 10:30 am Worship	18 Office Closed <i>10:30 am Music 2gether</i> 7:00 pm Rachel Circle, Bertelsen Library	19	20 1:00 pm Hannah Circle, Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	21	22 9:00 am Rummage Sale Set Up Newsletter Deadline	23 9:00 am—3:00 pm Rummage Sale
24 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship	25 <i>10:30 am Music 2gether</i>	26	27 5:00—8:00 pm Youth Gathering (FMSC) 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	28	29	30

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®

RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, April 27th
9:00 am—3:00 pm

PALM SUNDAY

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