

# Epistle

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

June 2022

## REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

Many changes have taken place with the landscaping of the grounds of Saint Paul's UMC throughout the years. The expansion of the hike and bike trail on the Dodd Rd. side of the property, planting of trees and shrubs, development of rain gardens, and installation of a playground are all recent changes that have given Saint Paul's UMC a park-like and welcoming look. It is good that our property looks as welcoming as the spirit of the friendly people inside! This responds to one of our Healthy Church Initiative recommendations by improving guest readiness on our church grounds. Last month I wrote to you about the refresh of the sanctuary and ways of welcoming visitors to worship. This month, I wanted to say a word about welcoming the many visitors who we may receive in our front yard.

**Storytime:** Last summer, we began a weekly story time at the Saint Paul's UMC playground in order to share children's Bible stories, as well as meet and greet our neighborhood children and parents. This summer, we have expanded the reach of story time by advertising it through community

and family education. Lani will provide a consistent, welcoming presence by selecting inspiring stories and being our primary reader. But, all of us can help to welcome our front yard visitors by working alongside of Lani with hospitality.

**Welcoming/Encouraging:** Parenting can have its moments of difficulty, and the past two years have provided an extra measure of difficulty for parents of young children. Meeting the parents at story time and providing a listening ear and word of encouragement provides an opportunity to support

our families after they've experienced the unusual stresses of COVID. It helps us to build neighborly, caring relationships at a time when they are greatly needed, and it gives us an opportunity to remind both parents and children of God's love for them. If you can help with hospitality by welcoming and encouraging parents with children, please let Lani know which week(s) you may be able to be present in July and August.

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**Inviting:** Are you are thinking of a parent right now who would appreciate the supportive environment of story time? You can also help to welcome guests by inviting friends. Some of the best invitations I've received have started out with the words "I heard about this and thought of you. Do you want to come with me?" This summer will provide many opportunities for inviting.

**Reading:** Would you like to read a fun-filled story with pictures and cartoons? Please join in! Volunteers will be needed to share the reading with Lani.

**Vacation Bible School.** A vacation Bible school is being planned this year during MEA break in the fall. This year's curriculum will focus on good stewardship of the earth and will make use of the outdoor areas of Saint Paul's UMC (as well as indoors) as we teach about God our Creator. We hope that vacation Bible school will be another time that we welcome outdoor guests at Saint Paul's UMC.

Many people have been involved with the changes to the grounds of the church, including volunteers from our congregation, volunteers from the neighborhood, the City of Mendota Heights, a neighborhood association next door to our property, and master gardeners in the Mendota Heights area. Thank you to all who have served in every aspect of planning, planting, weeding, and watering! ☘

## PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



### JOY

Andrea Larson



### LIGHT

Deb Curran



### PHOTOGRAPHER'S CHOICE

Carol Egan



### NATURE

Dawn Everling



### SUNRISE/SUNSET

Diane Pelinka

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families  
nurture lifelong  
disciples of Christ



## ONE ROOM SUNDAY SCHOOL JUNE 5<sup>th</sup>

During the summer, we combine both of our children's Sunday School classes into one—One Room Sunday School (ORSS).

ORSS begins June 5<sup>th</sup> and starts at approximately 10:15 am, after Children's Chat in worship. On June 5<sup>th</sup> only, children will stay in worship for an activity.

We like to give our regular Sunday school teachers throughout the year a summer break. If you have an interest in helping teach one Sunday this summer, please contact Lani Thompson at [lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org).

## 3<sup>rd</sup> AND 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE BIBLES

On May 8<sup>th</sup> we presented Bibles and devotionals to Clark Jedlicka and Ella Nyhus. Greyson Howard and James Taurinskas, unable to join us in worship, will receive theirs at a later date.

Presenting Bibles to children in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade is a long standing tradition in the United Methodist Church. When the church gives children a Bible in worship it is not only a memorable and important faith milestone in their life, but a big part of the continuation of their lifelong faith journey. We present children with a new Bible at this age in the hopes that they will not only learn how to read scripture, but they will be able to use their knowledge of the Bible in order to deepen their faith and relationship with God.

## CONFIRMATION

In May we had our final Confirmation class of the 2021/2022 school year. We spent time reflecting on all the lessons and topics we had discussed over the year and then played a version of Confirmation Jeopardy that covered all those lessons. The youth had a lot of fun with it and it was a great way to recap all that they had learned.

Our Confirmation program will be paused for the summer but will start back up with an exciting kick-off on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

## YOUTH GATHERING

In April our group went to *Feed My Starving Children* for their mission project. A ton of fun was had, and our group packed and prayed over **11,664 good healthy meals** which will help feed kids overseas for an entire year.

## MAY DAY CELEBRATION

On May 1<sup>st</sup> the children and youth made flowers during Sunday School and delivered them to the neighbors on our block. The children had a great time spreading the love and joy of spring and learning about this tradition. Lots of neighbors came out with smiles to thank them.

## CHILDREN'S SUMMER STORY TIME AND PLAY HOUR

Starting on July 6<sup>th</sup>, and every Wednesday throughout July and August at 2:00 pm, St. Paul's UMC will host a story time and play hour on our front lawn. Bring the family and a blanket or a chair to sit on to enjoy the outdoors and listen to a couple of stories together followed by an hour of outdoor fun and fellowship on our playground. All ages are welcome! If you would like to get involved and either volunteer to read or help with hosting this weekly event at church please contact Lani Thompson at: [lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org)

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DURING MEA

This MEA (October 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>) St. Paul's UMC is offering a special Vacation Bible School Camp to help accommodate working parents and offer our kids a fantastic camp experience where they can learn and grow together. This VBS will help kids learn how they can be God's EarthKeepers, by learning all about his creation and how we can help take care of it. Every day is guaranteed to be filled with fun, laughter, fellowship, friendships, learning, music, crafts, singing and games.

We are still looking for adult chaperones to join us! You can volunteer for both days or for part of a day—whatever works for you. We would also love any 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth to join us as camp counselors! If you are interested please let Lani Thompson know at [lanithompson@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:lanithompson@stpaulsmn.org)





## YOUTH AT FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN



## SMALL GROUPS

United with  
Purpose



### RACHEL CIRCLE

At our circle meeting, we finished our discussion from the book *Kindness* by author Raje S. Airey. Deb Curran led the discussion on *Fruits and Seeds: Spreading Kindness*. The book highlights how we need to see the good in all and pray for everyone regardless of whether we like their actions or not. The secret to happiness and a healthy outlook is to turn our anger into forgiveness. Deb's 'act of kindness' was to send everyone home with homemade chocolate chip cookies! Thanks, Deb!

Rachel Circle's next meeting is scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Location to be determined.

*Nancy Pierson, Chair*

### HANNAH CIRCLE

Hannah Circle will be a happy participant in the United Women in Faith's June picnic on June 13<sup>th</sup> at Bettie Robinson's residence's meeting room (170 Emerson Ave. E., West St. Paul). We always look forward to the excellent fried chicken and delicious salads and desserts we will be enjoying with Rachel Circle and any other interested ladies who would like to join us on this festive evening. We are particularly happy to have Sharon Folland join us to discuss her interest in and painting of religious icons. Sharon is a friend of Hannah Circle's Diane Siebert. Some of us were privileged to hear her speak some time ago. We think everyone will enjoy her talk and enjoy seeing some of her icons.

We will not meet in July or August but will be re-grouping in September for another year of study, fellowship and good works.

# FINANCE

## Support of our church and its mission



### FINANCE UPDATE AS OF 4/30/2022

Now introducing . . .

I would like to take an opportunity this month to introduce you to the members of the Finance Team. These folks manage the financial foundation of our congregation so that we can carry out our Christian mission

**Curt Almberg – Treasurer:** Curt is our longest serving team member. He faithfully pays our bills and manages cash flow for the organization. In retirement Curt is often spending his days on his farm in southern MN but he always prioritizes the work of the church and returns to Mendota Heights to assure that all bills are paid in a timely manner.

**Pastor Amy Jo Bur:** Pastor Amy Jo is the staff representative on our team. She assures that our work aligns with the goals and mission work of the church. In addition, she brings her expertise and insight to the table.

**Barb Goin- Secretary:** Barb joined our team this year. As Secretary she is responsible for managing all gifts, recording them and providing each giver with a quarterly statement reflecting their gifts. She also organizes the individuals who count the offering each Sunday. Although Barb is new to the role, she comes with significant experience in many other church functions and most recently served as the treasurer for the UMW. Welcome to the team!

**Kae Lovaas Jewell – Chair:** I went on the Finance Team in 2017 as Secretary. In 2018, I assumed the role of co-chair with Dale Fletcher as he and Janet were moving to Indiana. For the last three years I have been the team chair. I provide oversight of our investments and report monthly the financial status of the church. I also prepare the budget and required Conference reporting.

**Mike LaGuire – At large member:** Mike joined the team this year. Previously we had an individual on the team that handled payroll. As of 1/1/22, payroll has been outsourced. The payroll position rolled into an at-large position. Mike brings his years of experience in many leadership roles in our congregation to the team. Welcome Mike!

**Deanna Sellers – Memorials:** Our congregation is blessed with many memorial gifts. Deanna tracks the gifts, thanks the giver and makes recommendations for appropriate uses of the memorial funds. We all know how demanding Deanna's nursing career is and we greatly appreciate her ability to perform these important duties.

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# FINANCE

## Support of our church and its mission



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In addition, Andrea Larson, as Chair of the Central Leadership Team, and Barb Jorgenson, as Chair of the Foundation Team, are invited to participate in all of our meetings.

If you would like to consider being a future member of the Finance Team or would like to help count

the offering, please contact one of the team members to discuss your interest. It is rewarding to assist in the management of the finances of the church to assure that we can continue our work as Disciples of Christ.

*Grace and Blessings,  
Kae Lovaas Jewell*

	<u>April 2022</u>	<u>2022 Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Gifts	\$ 20,973	\$ 85,402
Less General Fund Expenses	\$ 19,573	\$ 80,742
Balance	\$ 1,400	4,660
Less Unpaid Apportionments	\$ 2,277	\$ 9,108
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ (877)	\$ (4,448)

# EVENTS

## What's happening and when



### DAY OF PLANNING EVENT JUNE 5<sup>th</sup>

Do you have an event you would like to get on the church calendar? Or would you like to start volunteering in new ways but you aren't sure of everything that goes on at St. Paul's UMC every year? This meeting is for you!

Starting after coffee hour (11:20 am) on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, St. Paul's UMC is hosting a "Day of Planning Event" - a guided planning and sharing experience for those

responsible for your faith formation ministries. We will be working together to get all important dates on the calendar for the next year, as well as hoping to stir up some interest with new volunteers, and share ideas on how to get our community involved.

Please come with dates and ideas prepared. If you have any questions please contact Lani Thompson at [lanithompson@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:lanithompson@stpaulsmn.org)

## EVENTS

What's  
happening and  
when



### PENTECOST SUNDAY JUNE 5<sup>th</sup>

One of the principal days of the Christian year, Pentecost is celebrated on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Easter. The Greek word "pentecoste" means "fiftieth day."

Pentecost is the day on which the Christian church commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and others assembled in Jerusalem. It marks the beginning of the Christian church and is often referred to as the birthday of the church.

Please **wear red** to worship to symbolize the fire of God's spirit! A field of red filling the pews will surely have an impact, creating lasting memories for everyone, memories of the fire of the Holy Spirit.

### GRADUATION SUNDAY JUNE 12<sup>th</sup>

Graduation Sunday will be celebrated in worship on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. If you are a graduate, or if you know a graduate from high school, college, post-graduate or other training institution, please contact the church at (651) 452-5683 or [info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org) with the following information: name, school, degree, and future plans. We will recognize and pray for these students on Sunday, June 12th, during our Kidz 2gether worship service.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer opportunities are available on Sign Up Genius. Go to [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com), click on the magnifying glass in the upper right hand corner and type in the church email, [info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org) to find the following sign ups.

#### ♦ ALTAR FLOWERS SIGN UP

Altar flowers are a beautiful addition to our service and usually last for a two-week period of time. An acknowledgement of your donation along with your personal designation (in memory of/thanks for/celebration of) will appear on the PowerPoint presentation projected on our wall during worship. Sign up sheets are also available on the narthex table.

#### ♦ WEEDING SIGN UP

Volunteers are needed to weed the Memorial Garden and the beds around the church. Thank you to those who have already volunteered! We appreciate all of your efforts to keep Saint Paul's UMC looking beautiful! Sign up sheets are also available on the narthex table.

#### ♦ COFFEE HOUR SIGN UP

Volunteers are needed to host Sunday Coffee Hour, fellowship time enjoyed by all! Sign up sheets are also available on the Fellowship Hall counter.





## SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE BEGINS JUNE 5

Worship: 10:00 am  
One Room Sunday 10:15 am  
School (June 5<sup>th</sup> only, children will stay in worship for an activity)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAYS SCHEDULE

Kidz 2gether Worship: 10:00 am

Communion will be offered the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of every 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:** Andrea Larson

## ST. PAUL'S STAFF:

**Pastor:** Rev. Amy Jo Bur,  
[pastor@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsmn.org)

**Director of Children, Youth and Mission:**

Lani Thompson Schrandt,  
[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)



**Steven Schrandt  
and Lani Thompson**  
were united in marriage on  
May 14, 2022.

Cards of congratulations  
may be sent to:  
22287 Cameo Ct.  
Forest Lake MN 55025



Dear Church Family,  
Thank you for all the cards,  
phone calls, prayers and very  
comforting well wishes. Thank  
you!

*Diane Siebert*

Thank you for your donation of  
9 pounds of groceries on April  
14 and April 28. We are very  
grateful for your partnership in  
helping our neighbors.

*The Team at Neighbors Inc.*



**Mike & Sherry LaGuire**  
do not have a land line.

**Norma Deitner**

New address:  
Ecumen Centennial House  
14625 Pennock Avenue,  
House 2 Unit 2E  
Apple Valley MN 55124  
Phone: 952-431-8858.

## PHOTOS

If you have photos that you think would add inspirational beauty to our Sunday PowerPoint presentations go to: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/OYiy6S7dIUU8gPacQtgf>. This will allow you to upload them directly to the church's files without needing any additional apps or websites. Photos submitted may also be used on the website and video worship, so the photos must be photos that you have taken and that are NOT copyrighted. We have so many talented and well-traveled members and friends of St. Paul's and look forward to sharing your photography skills!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Italicized events are conducted by outside groups renting space at the church.</i>			<b>1</b> 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir (last practice until fall)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5 Pentecost</b> <b>New Summer Worship Schedule Begins</b> 10:00 am Worship with Communion with children staying in worship for an activity for the beginning of One Room Sunday School 11:20 am Day of Planning	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:00 pm Handbell Choir (last practice until fall)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 12:30—6:30 pm <i>Piano recitals</i>
<b>12 Graduation Sunday</b> 10:00 am Kidz 2gether Worship with Communion 2:00—6:30 pm <i>Piano recitals</i>	<b>13</b> 6:00 pm UWF Picnic @ Bettie Robinson's party room	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19 Father's Day</b> 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am ORSS	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am ORSS	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

Pastor Amy Jo will be on vacation June 13<sup>th</sup>—18<sup>th</sup>.

**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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**SUMMER SCHEDULE  
BEGINS JUNE 5<sup>th</sup>**

**WORSHIP: 10:00 am**

**ONE ROOM SUNDAY SCHOOL : 10:15 am**

Children will stay in worship on June 5<sup>th</sup> for a special activity

There will be no One Room Sunday School on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of the month when the children and youth are in  
Kidz 2gether worship