

Epistle

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

May 2022

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

With spring weather arriving and improving public health, people are out-and-about in Mendota Heights. I've noticed more people out walking, having coffee with friends and gathering with neighbors. Saint Paul's UMC has been happy to welcome visitors to our worship services, too.

On May 1, we celebrate the refresh to the Saint Paul's UMC sanctuary with worship at 10:30 am, and music and snacks at 11:30. Our members have been very happy with the improved audio and video, and the aesthetic updates with fresh flooring and color. The hearing loop has provided crisp, clear sound for digital hearing aid users who have t-coil function. We thank all of the volunteers and professional contractors who were part of these updates, especially the Operations Team, led by Bob Brocklehurst, the aesthetic advisory committee, led by Deb Curran, and Chuck Everling for the donation and installation of the narthex screen. In addition to the refresh in the sanctuary, we have seen improvements to the outdoor grounds of the church, too, with new trees planted, and invasive species removed. (Watch upcoming newsletters for more

information on outdoor improvements as the weather warms.) All of these updates were undertaken at the recommendation of the Healthy Church Initiative consultants, who noted that the people of our congregation were very warm and welcoming and that it would be helpful if our building and grounds were also welcoming. The refresh of the sanctuary was done for the purpose of guest readiness.

With our sanctuary and grounds ready to welcome guests, I want to pause and remind us of some of the ways that we can welcome guests with our words and actions, too.



Greet guests warmly. Our greeters share our first words of welcome as people enter the building. Welcoming words and a warm smile get us off to a good

start! If you would like to volunteer as a greeter, please contact Pat Fritsche, who schedules greeters each week.

Introduce ourselves and wear a nametag. The nametag tower has been updated (some of the name-tags were frayed from much use!) Sharing our names helps visitors feel like they are connecting and making friends. If you don't have a nametag, just let the office or Pastor Amy Jo know, and one will be printed.

Invite guests to sit with us. Sometimes walking into a big room can make people hesitate and feel shy. Are they taking anyone else's seat? If they sit in the wrong place will they suddenly be singing with the choir? When guests are invited to sit with someone who has greeted them, it continues the welcoming and reduces the hesitancy.

Offer a cup of coffee. Inviting guests to stay for a cup of coffee and making introductions at the table where we are sitting is another opportunity for connecting and making friends.

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Notice children. If visitors include children, please point out any age-appropriate things that may be helpful: children's bulletins, children's Bibles, activity bags, changing table in the wiggles-and-giggles room, nursery, etc. We want to make people of all ages feel welcome.

Thank you for all that you do to welcome guests and provide hospitality at Saint Paul's UMC. We are truly glad for each person who is visiting our congregation because they are seeking out God. Our scriptures remind us of both the importance and blessings of providing hospitality:

***“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”***

Hebrews 13:2



SPRING PHOTO CONTEST DISPLAY

Thank you to all who participated in the spring photo contest! It was a pleasure to see all of the uplifting photos that were shared. The winners are being displayed as posters in the fellowship hall throughout the month of May, and you may see the entries again as they are used from time-to-time in the PowerPoint displays during worship.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families
nurture lifelong
disciples of Christ



CONFIRMATION

For confirmation in April the class had a Service Project Night and the class voted to make sandwiches for the homeless in our community through a program called “*Love One Another 363*”. (The concept is that a lot of people volunteer to serve food to their community on Thanksgiving and Christmas, but this program helps the other 363 days). Together the class made 160 sandwiches in just over an hour! Incredible!

Our next Confirmation class is on Wednesday, May 11th from 6:00-8:00 pm in St. Paul’s UMC Fellowship Hall and it will be a class review night of all of this year’s lessons played “Jeopardy Style”.

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 a lot of good healthy meals which will help feed kids overseas for an entire year.

Our next Youth Gathering is on Wednesday, May 25th from 5:00—8:00 pm. We will be working on a few pieces of their large group mission project. More details to be announced soon!



PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday fell on our traditional Kidz 2Gether Sunday this year, and the children and youth worked hard to put together a great service. The All Puppet Choir came back for two different songs and was very much loved by all watching and participating.



EASTER SUNDAY

He has risen! Kids arrived in large numbers and had a great time with an egg hunt run by our youth group. There was cookie decorating, an Easter craft table, tabletop coloring, games in the fellowship hall and a fun Easter photo booth with props for the whole family. All of the fun was followed with a wholesome and uplifting worship service. Thank you to everyone who helped organize and run activities!



REACHING OUT

Living our faith
and connecting
with our
neighbors



LOVE OFFERING MAY 15th

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session. The theme of the 2022 Annual Conference—which will take place May 24-25—is “*Jesus: Healer.*” The Love Offering will be received May 15th at St. Paul’s UMC.

The funds from this year’s offering will go to:

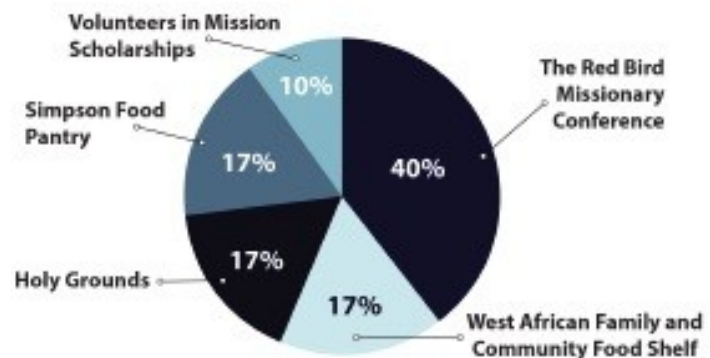
- ♦ The Red Bird Missionary Conference in Appalachia (40 percent)
- ♦ Food insecurity across Minnesota (50 percent, divided among the three ministries)
 - Holy Grounds at Centenary UMC, Mankato (17 percent)
 - Simpson Food Pantry, Minneapolis (17 percent)
 - West African Family and Community Food Shelf, Brooklyn Center (17 percent)
- ♦ Volunteers in Mission scholarships (10 percent)

P.I.E. NIGHTS AT GARLOUGH ELEMENTARY



Our final P.I.E. Night (Parents In Education) for this school year was on April 12th and St. Paul’s volunteers helped prep, pack, and serve over 115 meals! Thank you to everyone who came out during Holy week to help! If you are interested in volunteering next fall please contact Lani Thompson at lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org and she will put you on the email list for the upcoming year. Future P.I.E. Night dates are: November 15, 2022; January 10, 2023, and April 4, 2023.

Where the Love Offering will go



FINANCE

Support of our church and its mission



FINANCE UPDATE AS OF 3/31/2022

As you are reading the May Epistle, we will be celebrating the refresh of our church property. Our church is very blessed to have a capital fund that provides resources to keep our building welcoming and inviting. All the amazing work that was completed over the last few months cost \$88,127. Here is a breakdown of the expenses paid by the capital fund.

Carpet	\$45,700
Painting	\$11,315
Audio/Visual	\$28,297
Misc., electrical, upholstery	<u>\$ 2,815</u>
TOTAL capital fund expense	\$88,127

We were also blessed with a gift that was designated for the audio visual work. This gift was used during the refresh project.

Thanks to the Operations team for balancing the need for a beautiful refresh of our property and using the gifts we receive competently and thoughtfully.

We are blessed to be able to worship in such a celestial environment.

Grace and Blessings,
Kae Lovaas Jewell

	<u>March 2022</u>	<u>2022 Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Gifts	\$ 16,413	\$ 64,430
Less General Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 20,555</u>	<u>\$ 60,693</u>
Balance	\$ (4,142)	3,737
Less Unpaid Apportionments	<u>\$ 2,277</u>	<u>\$ 6,831</u>
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ (6,419)	\$ (3,094)

SMALL GROUPS

United with Purpose



UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH (UWF)

Rummage Sale Update

We had a record setting rummage sale—\$2,680 with a few dollars still coming in! Thanks to our congregation, surrounding neighbors and many friends, we had quality items for sale, and with the 'not so nice' weather, we had lots of folks shopping and buying. We also want to thank all those who worked to make it a success and to Tim Larson, Bob Brocklehurst and Wayne Rikala for the heavy lifting. Thanks to everyone's generosity with both their time, talents and goods, we will be able to give generously to the missions our United Women of Faith support. Good job, everyone!

Nancy Pierson

Annual Picnic

When: June 13th at 6:00 pm

Where: Party Room at 170 Emerson Ave East, West St. Paul (Bettie Robinson contact)

Program: Sharon Folland - making religious icons



Rachel Circle

At our circle meetings, Rachel Circle is reading and discussing *Kindness* by author Raje S. Airey. At our meeting last month, Rachel Circle practiced kindness by spending the first 10 minutes laughing together after sharing 'interesting' incidents in our lives. Shirley Holmay then led the April discussion on Kindness: Branches. We discussed as individuals that we need to step back, reflect and be good to our selves by focusing on the positive, not the negative, and telling ourselves we are doing the best we can. Our next meeting will be May 16th at 7:00 pm with Deb Curran as host. It will be our last meeting until the fall and we will focus on Fruit and Seeds: Spreading Kindness; Relationships, Kindness and Society, Kindness and the Earth.

Rachel Circle also donated a 12" herb planter for the annual Emma Norton auction in April. The herb planter was filled with French lavender, English thyme, chocolate mint, Italian parsley, rosemary, and cilantro. It also included a Brompton stock plant representing love and everlasting beauty. Thanks to Sheila Kitzman and Deb Curran for leading the effort assembling the planter for the silent auction.

Nancy Pierson, Rachel Circle Chair

Hannah Circle

Hannah Circle will meet Wednesday, May 18th in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 pm. Come to enjoy devotions, a study on the Parables and fellowship.



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



You are truly making an impact in our community today! Thank you for your generous gift of \$232.50 to Keystone Community Services for our food shelf programs.....Your gift arrived at such a critical time: more people are turning to Keystone for food support while the cost of food continues to rise.....

*Mary McKeown, Pres.
 Keystone Community Services*

Dear St. Paul's United Methodist Church (and United Women in Faith),

Thank you for being a part of the 2022 Minnesota FoodShare Campaign. The need is great, as each day we see many working adults who do not earn enough to feel their families and they look to us for help.

Your contribution (St. Paul's UMC: \$697.50 and 444 pounds of food) and (UWF: \$500) was immediately put to use to support our programs and services for your neighbors in need.

Thank you for your donation, and for being part of the Neighbors Family,

*Beth Swira,
 Dir. Of Mission Advancement
 Neighbors Inc.*



The office will be closed Monday, May 30th, for observance of Memorial Day.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship with Communion 11:30 am Refresh Celebration	2 5:00 pm UWF Executive Board Mtg 6:00 pm Central Leadership Mtg	3	4 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	5	6	7
8 Mother's Day 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Kidz 2gether Worship with Communion and 3 rd Grade Bibles	9	10	11 6:00—8:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	12	13	14
15 Love Offering 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship	16 6:00 pm Finance Mtg. 7:00 pm Rachel Circle, Library	17	18 1:00 pm Hannah Circle 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	19	20	21
22 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship	23	24 <i>Annual Conference</i>	25 5:00—8:00 pm Youth Gathering 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	26	27	28
29 No Education Hour 10:30 am Worship	30 Memorial Day Office Closed	31				

NOTEWORTHY DATES

- There will be no Sunday School or SPLAT May 29th for Memorial Weekend
- One Room Sunday School starts June 12th

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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



REFRESH CELEBRATION MAY 1

Worship with
guest pianist, Don Irwin: 10:30 am

Celebration with music, snacks,
awards, and thanks: 11:30 am