

Epistle

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

December 2022

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

Advent has arrived, and Christmas is coming soon! Recently, I was reading a United Methodist news article reminding us that the preparation season of Advent is not to prepare us for holiday gift giving, or even the birth of baby Jesus, but instead it is meant to prepare us for the future day when Christ will return. One of the musical pieces being prepared by the Chancel Choir sings about the day when Christ will come again with the words: "And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed!"

I often talk about Christmas as a celebration of Christ coming into the world. For me, that celebration includes past, present, and future: We remember the coming of Christ as a baby in Bethlehem years ago. We celebrate how the Spirit of Christ is at work in our hearts and lives right now. We look forward to the day when Christ will come again and the Kingdom of God will be fully revealed.

In celebration of all the ways that Christ comes into the world, Advent and Christmas are times of joyous celebration at Saint Paul's UMC. The sanctuary is filled with flowers. Our singers and ringers are preparing special beautiful

music for the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir. The children and youth are preparing a pageant, including children's bells, puppet choir, and giant camel. We are shopping for gifts for people in need through Neighbors Inc. and receiving a special offering in celebration of Christmas. We are offering fresh bread to our neighbors with the new Bread of Life Ministry. Please join us in celebration of Advent and Christmas! Here are some of the dates and times to mark on your calendar:



Sunday, December 4, 10:30 am:
Peace Sunday, Worship with Communion

Sunday, December 11, 10:30 am:
Joy Sunday, Worship with **Children's Pageant**

Monday, December 12: Sharing Tree Presents for Neighbors Inc. are brought in

Sunday, December 18, 10:30 am:
Love Sunday, Worship with Special Chancel Choir music

Saturday, December 24, 4:00 pm:
Candlelight Christmas Eve, Worship with Communion, special music by the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir and the lighting of candles during "Silent Night"

Sunday, December 25, 10:30 am:
Christmas Day, Worship including a Christmas story and special music

Sunday, January 1, 10:30 am:
Blessing Sunday, Worship with prayers for God's blessings during the new year.

Throughout the Advent season, we will be receiving the 2022 Christmas Offering. This year, half of the Christmas Offering will be directed to the **General Fund of Saint Paul's UMC** to celebrate the ministries and mission of the church. The other half will be directed to **Emma Norton Services for their new Restoring Waters campus**. Emma Norton Services is a United Methodist mission in Saint Paul with a long history of providing transitional housing and transformational support for women in need, including mental health and chemical dependency services.

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The Restoring Waters campus in Highland Bridge will allow the mission of Emma Norton to expand to 60 more women with small families, providing a place for healing and hope. Please consider a generous gift to this year's Christmas offering in celebration of Christ coming into the world. May the light of Christ shine brightly this Christmas! ☿



The Poinsettias were given to the Glory of God



... In loving Memory of...

Yeen Chong
Our parents

Ernest and Kathryn Mathes and Eleanor Guntzburger
Jim Fritsche, Jackie Fritsche Swanson
Parents, Marilyn and Michael Shaw
Ralph Jewell, Jack Lovaas
Parents, Bud and Arlyce Anderson
Spouses, Greg Ziemkowski and Janice LaGuire
Tom Lewis
Bill and Alice McCorkhill
Eric and Jim Nyquist
James Peterfeso
Our fathers
Eldon and Glenda Sellers
Wenzel Siebert
Parents, Bob and Ruth Nichols

by Curt Almberg
by Bob Brocklehurst and
Bev Momsen
by David and Mary Lou Dresbach
by Pat Fritsche
by Nancy Shaw Grinager
by Kae Jewell
by Barb Jorgenson
by Mike and Sherry LaGuire
by Beda Lewis
by Jan Marshall
by Rhea Nyquist
by Cynthia Peterfeso
by Dave and Carol Rix
by Deanna Sellers
by Diane Siebert
by Jeanette Wells

... In Honor of...

Agnes Lovaas

by Kae Jewell

... In Thanks for...

Family and friends, our guiding lights

by Jerry and Shirley Holmay

... With Love and Gratitude for...

The St. Paul's UMC family
Family and friends

by Jill Edelman
by Andrea Larson

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families
nurture lifelong
disciples of Christ



YOUTH GATHERING

St. Paul's UMC youth in 6th-12th grade have a gathering every fourth Wednesday from 5:00-8:00 pm for some guided faith, fellowship, and fun. Each youth gathering is focused on a combination of a faith topic, mission project, worship participation, fellowship building, and, of course, a fun activity. In October, youth met at the church to help with the annual Turkey Dinner by "checking in" the vehicles when they arrived and carrying the meals out to the cars.

In November they helped Faith United Methodist serve dinner with their Loaves and Fishes meal program. They also helped Union Gospel Mission organize and sort canned goods for their annual Thanksgiving take home meal kits for the hungry in the community.

Our next youth gathering is on **December 28th** and we will be having a youth Post Christmas - Christmas Party! It will be full of music and games to celebrate the season and delicious Christmas cookies and desserts!

CONFIRMATION

In November the confirmation class theme was "The Wesleyan Quadrilateral". We spent time talking about Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience. We watched videos, had discussions, and played games that helped us learn how to use the Wesleyan Quadrilateral to discern the big questions in our lives.

Our next class is on Wednesday, December 14th from 6:00-8:00 pm and the theme will be the "Prayers, Service, Witness, Gifts and Presence".



Turkey Dinner Runner



Youth serving at
Loaves and Fishes



Youth serving at
Union Gospel Mission



Youth serving at
Union Gospel Mission



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Peaceful and
heartfelt service



GARLOUGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Helping families,
students and
educators



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DECEMBER 11th

10:30 am

We will present our Christmas Pageant during the Kidz 2gether worship service on **Sunday, December 11th**. It will be heartfelt, traditional, funny and entertaining. You won't want to miss it!

ALL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please join us after the Christmas Pageant on December 11th for a Christmas party to celebrate all the hard work put into the pageant! There will be Christmas cookies, music and fellowship, and lots of activities for children and families including everything you will need to build an amazing gingerbread house for you to take home.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24th

4:00 pm

Join us for worship with Communion, special music by the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir and the lighting of candles during "Silent Night."

P.I.E. NIGHTS

P.I.E. (Parents In Education) Nights are a fun opportunity for Garlough families to come together to learn about reading and math while sharing a meal. Each child that comes to PIE Night leaves with a new book!

St. Paul's volunteers showed up with smiles for the first PIE Night of the year on Tuesday, November 16th and served pizza and apple pie to everyone who came to the school that night.

St. Paul's Outreach team is always looking to find volunteers to help at these events. Volunteer hours are approximately from 5:00-6:30 pm.

The next PIE Night is **January 10th**. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Lani at lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org.

FINANCE

Support of our church and its



NOVEMBER FINANCIALS

On November 10th the Finance Team held a successful discussion that offered ideas surrounding the intentional creation of a personal legacy. There were speakers that discussed 3 broad legacy areas of healthcare, faith and love of family and friends. The feedback was very positive. Barb Goin was especially interested in Deanna Sellers' discussion about deciding and communicating your wishes when illness happens. "I thought I had this handled well, but not all forms for this are created equal. There are better forms that give healthcare professionals more specific information for honoring your wishes." Rhea Nyquist also shared that "I already had a trust set up so I thought I knew everything, but I learned a lot, especially about the importance of a "Letter of Intent."

The Finance Team is considering repeating this session in the spring. There have been suggestions for additions such as providing ideas or a checklist for planning your church funeral service. But you don't have to wait for that to take action to implement an intentional legacy! Don't hesitate to connect with the Finance Team at any time if you have questions or need more information.

Your Finance Team: Curt Almberg, Barb Goin, Kae Jewell, Mike LaGuire, and Deanna Sellers

Below is a quick snapshot of our financial picture as of the end of October. If you've been considering a gift to St. Paul's, please do so prior to year-end. Just a reminder, that the last day for 2022 giving will be Saturday, December 31st, which is also New Year's Eve.

Christmas and New Year's will both be on a Sunday this year. Often, we have travel plans during the holidays and our normal giving patterns are disrupted. Please make your year-end gifts early.

*Grace and Blessings,
Kae Lovaas Jewell, Finance Chair*

Financials as of 10/31/2022

	<u>October 2022</u>	<u>2022 Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Gifts	\$ 13,084	\$ 162,384
Less General Fund Expenses	\$ 22,008	\$ 205,409
Balance	\$ (8,924)	\$ (43,025)
Less Unpaid Apportionments	\$ (2,277)	\$ (6,832)
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ (14,228)	\$ (49,857)

REACHING OUT

Living our faith
and connecting
with our
neighbors



NEIGHBORS' HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM

The *Neighbors* holiday gift program is a great way to spread joy to our community this holiday season. This program connects generous community members to families in need during the holiday season.

All the tags for this year's tree have been taken. The gifts do not need to be wrapped but please attach the tag and **return to the tree by December 12th**. Thank you to all who have spread joy to those in need.



HOLIDAY LETTERS

We invite you to send a letter to our homebound family:

Phyllis Abrahamsen
6305 Burnham Circle #122
Inver Grove Heights MN 55076

Marilyn Anderson
8345 Atlas Ave.
Inver Grove Heights MN 55077

Darrell Butterwick
8725 Promenade Lane #134
Woodbury MN 55125

Vickie Corrigan
291 Kopp Dr.
West St. Paul MN 55118

Emaline Devereaux
Pioneer Care Center
1131 S. Mabelle Ave.
Fergus Falls MN 56537

Charles Duddingston
184 Stonebridge Ct.
Lilydale MN 55118

Diane and Willis Edgell
730 S. Plaza Dr. #307
Mendota Heights MN 55120

Carol Egan
2224 Alice Lane
Mendota Heights MN 55120

Mary Gaddy
Lilydale Senior Living
949 Sibley Memorial Hwy #412
St. Paul MN 55118

Chuck Garr
6305 Burnham Circle #112
Inver Grove Heights MN 55077

Deloris Kramer
233 10th Avenue South
South St. Paul MN 55075

Gerry Nicklaus
Homestead
2102 S. Market St. #170
Oskaloosa IA 52577

Marion O'Connor
316 23rd Court South
South St. Paul MN 55075

Della Relation
720 Linden St. #315
Mendota Heights MN 55118

Myrle Voynovich
6536 Chamberlain Rd.
Woodbury MN 55125

SMALL GROUPS

United with
purpose



A TIME OF NEW BEGINNINGS

Charles Dickens who wrote “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,” had a particular ring for St. Paul’s United Methodist Women who recently voted to disband and reassemble in a new image. We were finding that as our members age it was increasingly difficult to do all the things that were expected at the state and national level. Yet we were unwilling to forego the camaraderie, service to others and our work to fund our missions. You will find a list of many of missions we recently funded through our twice a year rummage sales and turkey dinner in this issue of the Epistle. We do not want that to end. We are now working to restructure and continue to make a difference in our church family and in our community. We are toying with names for our group that include “Disciples” or “Grace.”

Currently, we have decided to have a once-a-year rummage sale in the spring and our usual turkey dinner in the fall. We need to reach out to the full church to help us do these projects effectively, hence we plan on sponsoring potluck dinners a month prior to each event to attract men, women and children who wish to help out on occasion, but are unable to join a group. Look out for the first potluck to occur sometime in March prior to our April rummage sale when we will itemize all the little things needed to be done and hopefully to assign chores to those willing to help.

We also know we need to meet on

occasion to feed our souls with devotions, studies and good deeds. Currently we have assembled three teams who are delivering poinsettias to brighten the holidays for some of our local shut-ins. The old Hannah Circle hopes to meet together again in December to savor the friendships we have developed through the years and celebrate the joy of Christmas. Old ties should never be severed.

We could use your prayers and your ideas for effective ways to bring our Time of New Beginnings to a “Best of Times” future for all concerned.

Rhea Nyquist

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Due to all the generous support we received for our fund raisers from everyone throughout the year, including friends and neighbors, our local UMW unit is able to donate to the following charities this year:

- ◆ Neighbors Inc \$1,500
- ◆ 360 Communities \$1,000
(includes Robert B Lewis)
- ◆ Simpson Housing \$1,000
- ◆ Emma Norton \$1,000
- ◆ Every Meal \$500
(formerly Sheridan Story)
- ◆ Feed My Starving Children \$500

In addition, we have enough funds to donate an additional \$500 in March 2023 to *Neighbors Inc.* for Foodshare month!

Again, we very much appreciate the support as we could not have done it without you! Thank you.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Education Hour for All: 9:30 am
 Worship: 10:30 am
 Kidz 2gether Worship
 2nd Sundays of the month: 10:30 am
 Communion: 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 Schrandt,
lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org

Director of Music Ministry:

Lane Skoglund-Anderson,
laneskoglundanderson@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Diane Pelinka,
info@stpaulsmn.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

♦ ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are a beautiful addition to our service. Sign up sheets are also available on the narthex table.

♦ COFFEE HOUR

Volunteers are needed to host Sunday Coffee Hour. Sign up sheets are also available on the Fellowship Hall counter.



Kathy Detert

New Phone Number:
 651-330-2769 (h)



Jerry Hall

August 29, 1930—November 4, 2022

Memorials preferred to
 Alzheimers Association or
 Neighbors Inc.

Please keep the family in your prayers and if you would like to send his son and daughter cards of sympathy their addresses are:

Mark Hall

*2105 5th Avenue South
 Minneapolis MN 55404*

Wendy Hall

*1492 Charlton Avenue #205
 West St. Paul MN 55118*



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion	5	6	7 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	8	9	10
11 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Kidz 2gether Christmas Pageant Worship	12	13	14 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	15	16	17
18 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	19	20 6:00—7:30 pm Handbells & Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23	24 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
25 Christmas Day No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27	28 Youth Group 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	29	30	31

Italicized events are conducted by outside groups renting space at the church.

The office will be closed December 26th.

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®

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 24th
4:00 pm**

