

Epistle

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

January 2022

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

NEW BISHOP AND DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Beginning on January 1, we will welcome both a new resident bishop and a new district superintendent. Bishop Lanette Plambeck is the new resident bishop of Minnesota. Bishop Lanette comes to us from the Iowa Annual Conference. The people from Minnesota's delegation describe her as a lively, enthusiastic, spiritually grounded, and spirit-filled leader. They believe that her warm inclusion and her gifts in strategy, implementation, and church growth will be a gift to the Minnesota Annual Conference. Welcome, Bishop Lanette, and many thanks to Bishop David Bard for serving as interim bishop after the retirement of Bishop Ough.



Bishop Lanette Plambeck

District Superintendent Cynthia Williams is the new Superintendent of the Twin Cities District, moving from the River Valley District, where she was serving as the District Superintendent. You may remember hearing Rev. Williams guest preach by video at Saint Paul's UMC. She brought us an inspiring word of hope as a guest preacher, and we look forward to her superintendency.

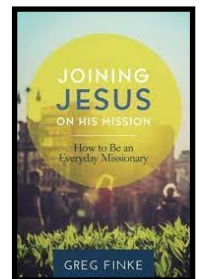


DS Cynthia Williams

JOINING JESUS ON HIS MISSION

I've just finished reading an interesting book: *Joining Jesus on his Mission* by Greg Finke. The book doesn't focus on group mission programs or group mission trips, but instead it focuses on ways that we can individually join the mission of Jesus in our day to

day life by watching for the movement of God's Spirit and joining in by loving and praying with our neighbors. In many ways, the book seemed to remind us of how to be good friends to the people we encounter in our everyday lives. It made me think of Proverbs 17:17a "*A friend loves at all times.*" There are many reports on the loneliness and isolation that is experienced by many people in the United States at this time. While the problem of loneliness was already extensive prior to the pandemic, it has increased even more over the last two years. Friendship (and especially the friendship that can be found in Christian community) naturally decreases loneliness. During the new year, I am hoping to develop new friendships with the people I see each day, and I am looking forward to reading



Joining Jesus on his Mission again with the Adult Education class on Sunday morning. May your new year be filled with new friends and the joy of loving your neighbors!

WORSHIP

Experience the
presence
of God



BLESSING WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, JANUARY 1st 10:30 am

We will welcome guest preacher,
Rev. Cindy Yanchury as we pray
for God's blessings in our lives
during the new year.



Rev. Cindy Yanchury

FINANCE

Support of our
church and its



FINANCIALS AS OF 11/30/2022

Happy Year of the Rabbit!
In Chinese tradition this will be a
year of longevity, peace and
prosperity. I buy into all three of
those traditions for the coming
year. I wish you all a Happy New
Year!

Due to the timing of the
newsletter, I am writing this as we
all prepare for Christmas and
since we live in Minnesota, the
coming blizzard. I hope this
season of family, joy and
celebration enlightens you and
offers you an opportunity for the
time to reflect and plan for 2023.
Hopefully your plans and
resolutions include your church
and church family.

In December and January we will
be busy closing the books on
2022. Our newsletter article for
next month will provide details on
the financial health and well-being
of our congregation. In addition
we will be preparing our report for
the annual Church Conference.

I can't wait to see what new and
exciting adventures and
opportunities are presented to our
congregation in the coming year.
May we use our days to celebrate
all that is good and make plans to
assure that our world is a better
place each and every day.
Happy Year of the Rabbit!

Grace and Blessings,
Kae Lovaas Jewell, Finance Chair

| | November 2022 | 2022 Year-to-Date |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| General Fund Gifts | \$28,034 | \$190,418 |
| Less General Fund Expenses | \$21,424 | \$225,484 |
| Balance | \$ 6,610 | \$ (35,006) |
| Less Unpaid Apportionments | \$ (2,277) | \$ (11,385) |

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families
nurture lifelong
disciples of Christ



2022 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: 'Twas the Evening of Christmas

On December 11, the children and youth of Saint Paul's UMC led worship with a joy-filled Christmas pageant. The pageant of the birth of Jesus included Scripture, poetry, youth handbells, rainbow ringers, puppet choir, giant camels, and many other costumed participants.

Thank you to Lani Schrandt, Lane Skoglund-Anderson, Barb Jorgenson, Nancy Pierson, parents, and many other volunteers who made this pageant a success.

A Christmas party with crafts, gingerbread houses, and gingerbread mangers followed worship. What a joy!
(See pictures on pages 4, 5 and 6)



THANK YOU

Messages of
Gratitude

Dear St. Paul's United Methodist,
Neighbors Inc. recognizes and thanks you for your ongoing support. The time and energy you invest into your community is truly special. May your Christmas and New year be filled with laughter, joy, and lots of love. God bless you all!

Sincerely, *Neighbors Inc.*



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AFTER PARTY





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.



Please keep these families in your prayers as they grieve.

Della Relation

July 13, 1935—November 21, 2022

Charles Duddingston

December 24, 1935—December 12, 2022

Memorials preferred to:

Courage Center, Jewish Community Center or
 St. Paul's UMC

Sympathy cards may be sent to his son:

Chuck Duddingston

2436 Girard Ave. S.

Minneapolis MN 55405

Carol Egan

September 26, 1952—December 20, 2022

Memorial service will be held at St. Paul's UMC

Monday, January 16, 2023, 2:00 pm

Visitation will begin at 1:00 pm

Sympathy cards may be sent to her husband:

Peter Egan

2224 Alice Lane

Mendota Heights MN 55120



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|-----------|-----------|---|
| 1 No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Blessing Sunday w/ guest preacher, Rev. Cindy Yanchury | 2 Office Closed | 3 | 4 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9:30 am Youth/Children Education Hour 10:30 am Kidz 2gether Worship w/Communion | 9 | 10 4:45 pm PIE Night Garlough Elementary | 11 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9:30 am Education Hour for all 10:30 am Worship | 16 2:00 pm Carol Egan Memorial service (1:00 pm Visitation) 5:45 pm 4H | 17 | 18 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 9:30 am Education Hour for all 10:30 am Worship | 23 | 24 | 25 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Youth Night | 26 | 27 | 28 <i>2:30 pm Piano recitals</i> |
| 29 9:30 am Education Hour for all 10:30 am Worship 2:30 pm <i>Piano recitals</i> | 30 | 31 | Pastor Amy Jo will be on vacation from Dec. 25– Jan. 7. If there is a pastoral emergency between Dec. 25-28, please call Pastor Amy Jo at 507-341-1760. If there is a pastoral emergency between Dec. 29– Jan. 7, please call Rev. Cindy Yanchury at 651-261-1594. | | | |

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

The office will be closed on Monday, January 2nd.

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®



SUNDAY, JANUARY 1st
10:30 am