

Epistle

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

March 2023

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

Loving God and Neighbor During Lent

Recently, the adult education classes of our congregation have been studying a book called *Joining Jesus on His Mission: How to Be an Everyday Missionary* by Rev. Greg Finke. This book expands our usual thinking about mission to speak to how we can be in mission for Jesus in our daily lives and our own neighborhoods. I am preaching a sermon series related to the five daily practices of discipleship referenced in this book: 1) Seeking the Kingdom of God, 2) Hearing from Jesus, 3) Talking with People, 4) Doing Good, and 5) Ministering through Prayer. As we consider the practice of talking with people, we remember how Jesus stopped to talk with the Woman at the Well about living waters. We also remember how Jesus called Zaccheus down from a tree in order to visit his home and talk with him. In both cases, Jesus chose to spend relational time connecting with people over the efficiency of staying on schedule. The author of the book describes this type of relational mission as "inefficiently effective." I hope that we are all considering the ways that we can be "inefficiently effective" in our own

lives.

During a recent sermon, I challenged us each to look for a specific time when we could decide to choose relational conversation above efficiency in our own lives. We have started celebrating these moments in the sanctuary with a wall of hearts. Each heart we put up records one of these moments in our lives. How about you?



Do you have a moment of your own to add to the hearts? Perhaps you paused in the grocery store aisle to listen to the response of a friend who answered the question "How are you?" from their heart. Or perhaps you took a phone call at an inconvenient time because you valued your relationship with the person. Maybe you took a meal to a grieving friend/neighbor and

stopped to listen and share memories. As part of our Lenten practice this year, I encourage each of us to value our relationships with each other and make time to have caring conversations. This is one way to show love for our neighbors.

As we began Lent, I also appreciated Bishop Plambeck's Ash Wednesday meditation. (If you haven't had the opportunity to view it, you can find a link in our mid-week announcements.) Ash Wednesday (and the Lenten season) is a time for turning toward God. Often people think of the ways that they might turn away from specific sinful behaviors, and that is definitely appropriate for Lent. Further, we can also consider the ways that we can grow deeper in our faith: experiencing rich spiritual growth as we turn toward God. Even for people who have been life-long Christians, God continues to call us toward increasing spiritual growth and depth. John Wesley's Aldersgate experience of having his heart strangely warmed was not his first introduction to Christianity, but rather continuing spiritual growth. God's sanctifying grace shapes our lives and opens our heart to this kind of continued spiritual growth.

(continued on page 2)

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In addition to showing love of God and neighbor by turning toward God for spiritual growth and positive, relational time with our neighbors, we can also show love of our neighbors through works of mercy. It has been the tradition at Saint Paul's UMC to host a food drive during March. There will be collection bins available throughout March this year for non-perishable food items to stock the food pantries at both Neighbors, Inc. and Keystone (these are the food pantries in Dakota and Ramsey counties.) More information follows on page 7 of this newsletter regarding specific food items needed. Thank you for your generosity.



May God bless our Lenten journeys as we seek to love God and neighbor. ☚

SMALL GROUPS

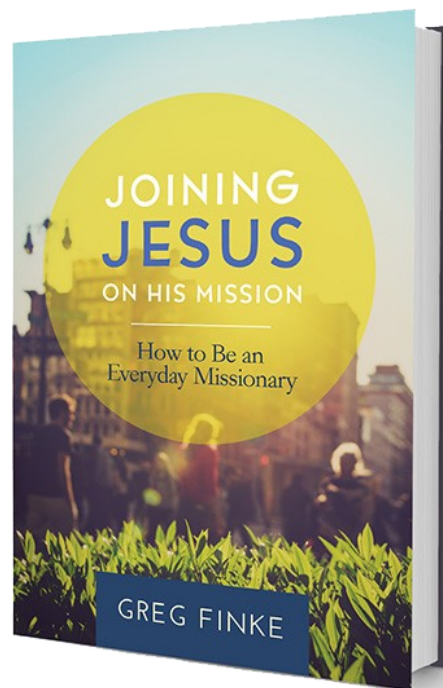
United with Purpose



ADULT EDUCATION GROUP

Pastor Amy Jo is leading a discussion of the book *Joining Jesus on His Mission: How to Be an Everyday Missionary*, by Greg Finke, on Thursdays at 10:30 am and Sundays at 9:30 am in the Bertelsen Library.

Books are available on the narthex table for \$16 each.



ORDER SPRING PLANTS TO DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR EASTER

Hydrangea (blue) _____ x \$20.00 each = _____

Hydrangea (pink) _____ x \$20.00 each = _____

Azalea (pink) _____ x \$20.00 each = _____

Lily (white) _____ x \$20.00 each = _____

Your Name _____

Circle one—In memory of honor of thanks for

Last Date to Order: March 5, 2023

Please fill out this slip and drop it in the collection plate with your check made out to St. Paul's UMC or drop it off at your convenience in the church office.

HOLY WEEK

The promise of
Easter



PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 2nd

- ♦ 9:30 am Sunday School
- ♦ 10:30 am Worship with Communion

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 6th

- ♦ 7:00 pm Worship with Communion

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 7th

- ♦ 7:00 pm Worship

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 9th

- ♦ 10:30 am Kidz 2gether Worship

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

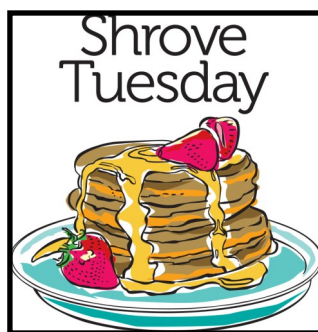
Helping families
nurture lifelong
disciples of Christ



YOUTH GATHERING

St. Paul's UMC youth in 6th-12th grade are 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 February we planned to meet a day early to celebrate Shrove Tuesday/Fat Tuesday/Pancake Tuesday, but due to weather we had to postpone. Instead we will meet a week later on February 28th. We will get together to learn what Shrove Tuesday/Fat Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, and Lent are and why we celebrate them, as well as where and how Easter baskets and bunnies are involved. We will do all this while enjoying some delicious pancakes, of course.



Our next youth gathering is on **Wednesday March 22nd** from 5:00 -8:00 pm and we will be working on a few mini church projects in preparation for Easter, as well as a mission project helping organize food for the March Food Drive.

CONFIRMATION

In February our confirmation lesson was *Ways of Discipleship*. We spoke about what it means to follow Jesus in today's times, and took a deep look at the four parts of being a Christian disciple:

- ◆ Devotion
- ◆ Worship
- ◆ Compassion
- ◆ Justice

We also discussed what was done alone as an individual, and what is done as a group and how we can all participate.

Our next class is on **March 8th** from 6:00-8:00 pm and our theme of the night will be *Renounce, Reject, and Repent*. Weather permitting, we will be outside with a fire pit, so please dress accordingly.



CONFIRMATION



FINANCE

Support of our church and its mission



FINANCIALS AS OF 1/31/2023

Do you remember that “to do” list you had at the end of the year or the resolutions you made at the beginning of the year? I’m going to be the needling little thought in your mind about the things that you wanted to do but may not have gotten to yet.

Last November, the finance team sponsored an event titled “*What is My Legacy?*” We focused on how our faith and church are a part of the process to create a conscious legacy. We share that plan with those we love and document it with the necessary legal papers. Many of us left that meeting with intentions to either develop a legacy plan or improve on the work that we had already completed.

One of the tools we discussed was a letter of intent. This idea came from the recently released book by Pat Miles, the former TV news anchor. *Before All Is Said and Done* is the book she wrote after she found herself dealing with her husband’s sudden and unexpected death. The letter of intent is not a legal document but a personal letter to your family, reviewing your wishes and sharing your thoughts about why you made the decisions you did about your legacy and your wishes after your death.

Where are you at with the goals you set that are associated with your legacy? Recently, Rhea Nyquist stopped me at church and told me she had both written her letter of intent and shared it with her kids. She told me how rewarding it was to write down and share her plans and the reasoning behind those plans with her family. The kids even reminded her of things she had forgotten to include in the letter of intent! The letter of intent accomplished its purpose. It started a family dialogue. Way to go, Rhea.

We still have a couple of months of Minnesota winter. Now is the time to start the process of creating and documenting your legacy. If you need copies of any of the materials used during the meeting, let me know and I’ll get copies to you. Happy Legacy Planning!

Grace and Blessings,
Kae Lovaas Jewell, Finance Chair

	<u>January 2023</u>	<u>2023 Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Gifts	\$ 14,488	\$ 14,488
Less General Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 22,063</u>	<u>\$ 22,063</u>
Balance	\$ (7,575)	\$ (7,575)
Less Unpaid Apportionments	<u>\$ 2,289</u>	<u>\$ 2,289</u>
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	<u>\$ (9,864)</u>	<u>\$ (9,864)</u>

REACHING OUT

Living our faith
and connecting
with our
neighbors



MN FOODSHARE MARCH CAMPAIGN

The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign is almost here! Join us in collecting as much food and funds as we can during the month of March. This annual food and fund drive helps Neighbors Inc. stock the shelves for the busy summer months ahead. In addition, the amount they raise plays a role in how much FoodShare funding they receive later in the year – so a donation now goes even further.

Most needed items currently include:

- ◆ Protein items: canned meat/fish, dried beans, lentils, nut butters
- ◆ Breakfast foods: pancake mix and syrup
- ◆ Canned fruit: mixed fruit, fruit cocktail, peaches, pears, etc.
- ◆ Peanut butter
- ◆ Cooking & baking supplies: especially oil & flour
- ◆ Cans of soup & baked beans

SUMMER 2023 MISSION “ROAD” TRIP

This June 24th-July 1st, St. Paul's UMC will be going on a Road Trip-Mission Trip. With the mindset of going out and making disciples of the Lord while doing all the good we can, by all the means we can, in all the places we can, the team will be traveling by train across the country volunteering and

discovering how we can be missionaries everywhere from small farm towns to large cities. This will be an inter-generational mission trip for youth who have finished 6th grade through adults.

If you are interested in joining us or would like to find out more info please speak to Lani (Thompson) Schrandt or email her at lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org

UMCOR SUNDAY MARCH 19th

Gifts to UMCOR Sunday (previously known as One Great Hour of Sharing) lay the foundation of all United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the costs of doing business.

This means all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100% to those programs because

UMCOR'S basic expenses are covered.

If you would like to contribute, use the special envelopes in your pew and mark “UMCOR” in the memo section of your check. A pew card with a QR code is also available for those who prefer online giving.

EVENTS

What's
happening and
when



ST. PAUL'S UMC ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE SUNDAY, MARCH 12th

11:30 am

IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP

All members of the congregation are invited to participate in this annual Church Conference meeting.



ST. PATRICK'S POTLUCK MARCH 13th

*Are you tired of again dining "in"
Midst complaints from your closest
kin?*

*Potluck would be good,
Get out of your hood
Dinner at church is surely no sin.*

March 13th promises to be a light-hearted fun evening at St. Paul's and we hope to see a lot of fresh faces to celebrate St. Patrick's with a potluck dinner at 5:30 pm.

During the meal, we will have a little fun with trivia questions about St. Patrick, followed by dessert and a time for our Rummage Sale Team to let us know what needs to be done and where our special talents might fit in. In other words, it would be great if you sign up for duties but it is not mandatory, it is informational. There are a lot of duties like bringing rummage, PR, sorting rummage, selling rummage, buying rummage, cleaning up and taking the leftovers away.

The actual date of the sale is Saturday, April 29th, but it is a good idea to get started now in thinking

what closets need to be cleaned and circling the date on your calendar, so you don't get lured away with other social events.

Actually, we have found that our Rummage Sale is a wonderful way to bring the community together, have some fun, get your house cleaning done and make money, which is so beneficial to spend on mission work. Most of us don't get to be philanthropists like the Gates or the Rockefellers but when you have a stack of money to distribute to local missions like Neighbors Inc., Emma Norton Services, Simpson, or the 350 Communities, it gives all involved a bit of a rush. It's really exciting, especially when we do it together. P.S. It helps you sleep better at night.

St. Patrick

Bone up with
St. Patrick
trivia :

What was his
birth name?





WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

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,
lanithompson@stpaulsmn.org

Director of Music Ministry:

Lane Skoglund-Anderson,
laneskoglundanderson@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Diane Pelinka,
info@stpaulsmn.org



Walter Judd

844 Winslow Ave.
 St. Paul MN 55107
 352-443-9077
lyonia@ufl.edu

Walter and his daughter, Cherith, come to us from Gainesville FL. Walter is a retired botanist from the University of Florida, where he worked for about 40 years! He was born in Alaska and grew up in Michigan.

Walter and Cherith moved to Minnesota to be close to his son, daughter-in-law and grandkids. His hobbies include oil painting, reading, hiking and botanizing. He enjoys the services at St. Paul's and the friendly congregation.



Cherith Judd

844 Winslow Ave.
 St. Paul MN 55107
 352-281-1877

quiltinmama1951@yahoo.com

Cherith was born in Gainesville FL and moved to Minnesota with her dad to be close to her brother and his family. She has two miniature black poodles and enjoys dog agility and crafts.

Thank You!



March 12!

Spring Ahead

Thank you Thank you for your generous gift! (\$200 and 279 pounds of food). Because of you, we can continue providing food, clothing, and financial counseling to those struggling in our community.....

Thank you for helping us start the new year strong. On behalf of everyone at Neighbors, I'd like to wish you a happy and healthy 2023. With Gratitude, *Charlie Thompson, President and CEO, Neighbors, Inc.*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARK THIS DATE: APRIL 23rd UMW SPRING RUMMAGE SALE			1 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	2 10:30 am Adult Ed Book Group	3	4
5 Last Day for Flower Orders 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion	6 <i>9:30 am Music Class</i>	7	8 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	9 10:30 am Adult Ed Book Group	10	11
12 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Kidz 2gether Worship w/Communion 11:30 am Annual Church Conference Daylight Saving Time Begins	13 <i>9:30 am Music Class</i> 5:30 pm St. Patrick's Day Potluck Dinner	14	15 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	16 10:30 am Adult Ed Book Group	17	18
19 UMCOR Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	20 <i>9:30 am Music Class</i> <i>4:45 pm 4H</i>	21	22 5:00—8:00 pm Youth Group: 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	23 10:30 am Adult Ed Book Group	24	25
26 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	27	28	29 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	30 10:30 am Adult Ed Book Group	31	

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

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®

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ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE
SUNDAY, MARCH 12th
11:30 am**

**ST. PATRICK'S
POTLUCK DINNER
MONDAY, MARCH 13th
5:30 pm**