

# Epistle

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

May 2023

## REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

Spring is Here!

As spring arrives, our congregation is a hive of activity. There is a lot going on in addition to Sunday morning worship! For example, we just completed our spring rummage sale. Thank you to all of the volunteers who coordinated this event: preparing and pricing items for sale, donating items, working during the sale, posting special items on social media, and cleaning up afterwards. All of the proceeds from this sale support local mission partners in our community!

On the same day as the rummage sale inside of the building, spring plantings were also going into the ground, as a crew of volunteers continued with our process of removing invasive species and weeds from the outside of the church and replacing them with hardy native plants. Thank you to all of the volunteers who have been working on this project throughout the last several years. It is transforming the church property!

On May 14, we will celebrate confirmation! We give thanks to God that our youth are learning and growing in their faith, preparing them to profess their faith and become members of the church.

this mission trip yourself, perhaps you will be able to support the mission team who is traveling by being a mission trip sponsor. Contact Lani Schrandt for more information.



During confirmation class they are practicing the holy habits of prayer, Bible study, and serving others that will support their Christian journey throughout their lifetime.

Spring is also a time of preparation. We are preparing for our summer mission trip, during which we will be traveling in order to do all the good we can in all the places that we can. If you're unable to go on

We are also preparing for upcoming adult Christian education classes and coordinating a team to make phone calls and home visits with members who are homebound. If you have an interesting and uplifting suggestion for an adult Christian education study, please share your idea with the team who is preparing. Also, if you would like to be part of the group who makes caring phone calls or home visits to our members, please be

in contact with Rhea Nyquist. The kindness that is shared with these calls and visits is greatly appreciated.

We appreciate the many different ways that people are involved in the life of the Church and hope that you are finding some of your own favorite ways to serve in mission and grow in faith. May spring be a time of new life for all of us.

## MEMBERSHIP ENRICHMENT TEAM REPORT & PLEA FOR HELP

If you took the time to carefully read our church's recent Annual Report, you will find one page with six circles describing the duties of various committees. Our committee is in the lower right side and consists of some awesome responsibilities: Membership Enrichment (Internal Focus) includes Caring ministries, Fellowship events, Education, Spiritual Growth and Discipleship. Just how does one put a handle on all that and do a good job? Thankfully, we have a good group consisting of Cecilia Burbach, Janice Frame, Walter Judd, Jude Rikala, Carol Rix, Rhea Nyquist and our staff liaison is Lani Schrandt.

**Caring Ministries:** Jude Rikala has been a gem for our former UMW in sending, often beautiful hand-made, cards to members who need encouragement in troubling times. She will continue to do so, signing cards with "Your friends at St. Paul's." When our telephone directory was being updated, some of our callers noted that some people just needed to chat, particularly those who are shut-in or unable to come to church for some reason. **Needed: People who are willing to make personal visits and/or phone calls to our members. Home visits are usually done in pairs, while anyone can make a phone call. Call Rhea at 651-457-5623 if you would like to be a part of a team.**

**Fellowship/Events (funerals, weddings & new events):** Carol Rix has been doing a bang-up job making a caring fellowship experience for those going through the loss of a loved one. She has agreed to do so in future. Please respond to her calls for help when funerals take place. Fellowship time following church is always looking for more help. Lani and her youth have volunteered to take the third Sunday of each month. Our committee supplies coffee, juice, cream, napkins. Making coffee is a snap and can be learned with a simple question or two. Just supply the goodies. **Needed: People willing to serve their favorite goodies at least once or twice a year. See sign-up sheet by coffee machine in Fellowship Hall.**

**Education:** Thankfully, Lani is taking charge of getting teachers and molding the education program for our children and youth. **Needed: Teachers Let Lani know if you feel the call.**

While we have lost our good friend, Charles Duddingston, the good Lord sent us Walter Judd from Florida. Walter is a professor of botany and a long-time student/teacher of **Methodist Adult Studies**. He is more than willing to assume that leadership role for us. When he calls you to participate, please don't hesitate to do so. **Needed: ideas for studies or a new way to reach people, give Walter a call at 352-443-9077.**

**Spiritual Growth & Fellowship** – This category includes some of the things already discussed. Please send your prayer concerns to the church office. Diane sends these to our Prayer Chain, mails them to the home-bound, emails them in the mid-week announcements every week, prints them in the Epistle and makes printed copies available on Sunday mornings. We also provide the Upper Room for pickup in the church narthex. Our committee is thinking of a study on Prayer and if you have any other ideas how to make our collective spiritual life richer, **call Rhea at 651-457-5623.**

**Picture Directory** – Our committee was approached by a company that would print a picture directory for us. But we must assemble our entire congregation in a limited time period of several days and participants are urged to buy the resulting photos. This is a huge logistical problem and, perhaps, a financial burden on some. The plus side is those photos have often proved to be the only decent ones we have of our families. Candid shots are great, but usually not frameable.

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 3)

Could we do it in-house? Yes, Lani has the camera equipment, backdrops and lighting. Furthermore, picture taking sessions could take place over a longer time frame. There would be no need to buy a picture, unless you thought your photo unusually good and wanted one. In such case, Lani could provide it and it could be printed at a very reduced cost. All good, but there is a downside. Who will assemble it with names beneath into a computer format for printing? Computer programs are available for this type of formatting, but we currently have no one with these skills. ***Needed: Some folks with computer skills who would take on this responsibility.*** Meanwhile we are blessed to have Diane in the office who updates our names and addresses as needed. **Please call Rhea at 651-457-5623 if you have the skills or know of someone who could do this necessary job. This would be strictly in-house and no one would have their pictures posted on the internet.**

Our committee agrees that our Sundays have largely been hi-jacked by our current culture. We hope to push back with wit, wisdom and the help of God Almighty. Can we hear an AMEN?

*Rhea Nyquist, Chair*



## SMALL GROUPS

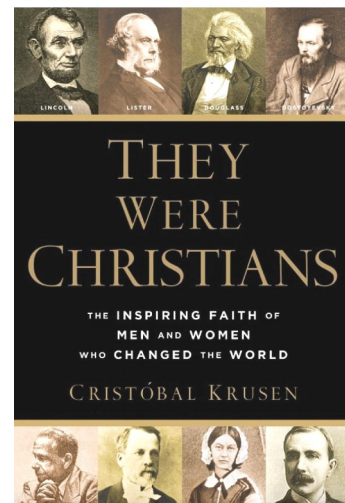
United with  
Purpose



## ADULT EDUCATION

Pastor Amy Jo is leading a discussion of the book *They Were Christians* by Cristobal Krusen on Sundays at 9:30 am in the Bertelsen Library.

Books are available on the narthex table for \$12 each.



# FINANCE

## Support of our church and its mission



### FINANCIALS AS OF 3/31/2023

Looking at the forecast, it is hard to imagine that summer is right around the corner. We're still focused on "ice out" dates, not summer vacation plans. But summer is about to sneak up on us. And with it comes the age old "summer giving slump." And what, you ask, is the summer giving slump? During the months of June, July, and August many of us are traveling more, off at the cabin or busy with other summertime activities. Thus, we are less likely to follow our normal church giving patterns.

But giving doesn't have to take a vacation just because *we* are vacationing. There are things you can do today to develop a personal giving plan that will help our congregation avoid the summer giving slump.

- ◆ Set up electronic giving. You can set up your giving to draw from your checking account or use your credit card. You also have an option for a one-time or recurring giving. Beat the summer giving slump with recurring giving. (Contact our financial secretary, Barb Goin, for information on electronic giving. 612-424-4648 or bjgmsp@gmail.com)
- ◆ Mark your calendar for a reminder to send a regular gift to the church office, regardless of where you are during the summer months.
- ◆ Stay engaged with the summer activities of the church.

The mission of our congregation doesn't take a summer break. We continue with activities such as the mission trip, assuring that the food banks are stocked and ministering to all those in need. Be sure that your giving doesn't take a summer break!

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



	<u>March 2023</u>	<u>2023 Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Gifts	\$ 12,390	\$ 37,486
Less General Fund Expenses	\$ 22,098	\$ 66,574
Balance	\$( 9,708)	\$ (29,088)
Less Unpaid Apportionments	\$ 2,289	\$ 6,867
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ (11,997)	\$ (35,955)

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families  
nurture lifelong  
disciples of Christ



## EASTER

He is risen! At Saint Paul's UMC! Easter fell on our traditional Kidz 2Gether 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday this year, and the children and youth worked hard to put together a great service. We had amazing music all morning with performances from our Youth Bell Choir, Adult Bell Choir, and the Youth Puppet Choir and was very much loved by all watching and participating. 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 and games in the fellowship hall for the whole family. Thank you to everyone who helped organize and run activities!

## YOUTH GATHERING

In April the youth went to Rockin' Jump Trampoline Park for a fun "Bring a Friend Night." Their evening included open trampolines, rock climbing walls, slack lines, ninja warrior course, stunt bag areas and so much more. They all agreed they had a Rockin' time.

Our next youth gathering will be a special "Children and Youth Together" event on **Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>** from 3:00—7:00 pm. We will be hosting a Minecraft themed night. Do you know any kids who like Minecraft? Join us in the fellowship hall for Minecraft themed snacks, a chance to show off your favorite creations, and in-person Minecraft themed games (not video games). Your Minecraft fan will love it!

## 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 a lot of people volunteer to serve food to their community on two days of the year, Thanksgiving and Christmas, but this program helps the other 363 days). Together the class made **260 Sandwiches** in just over an hour! Incredible!

Our next confirmation class is on **Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>** 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, as well as a final wrap up

night for this year's confirmands.

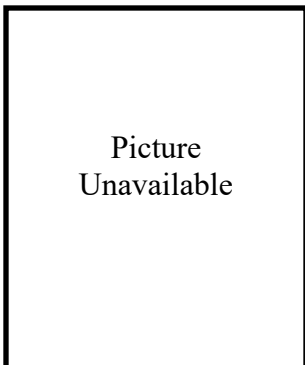
**Important Date: May 14<sup>th</sup>** is Confirmation Sunday for SEVEN youth at St. Paul's UMC this year. See the list on page 6!

## ONE ROOM SUNDAY SCHOOL—JUNE 18<sup>th</sup>

Our final day of regular Sunday school will be Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, and our **first day of One Room Sunday School will begin on Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup>**.

We know what summer means at church. People travel, family activities going on, etc. We get it. We make a shift too, to One Room Sunday School (ORSS). We combine all of our children's Sunday School classes into one, and instead of being before worship it will start approximately at 10:15 am, after Children's Chat in worship. One Room Sunday School will be every Sunday throughout the summer except for on our Kidz 2gether Sundays which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month as we like to keep the children involved with the whole worship on those Sundays.

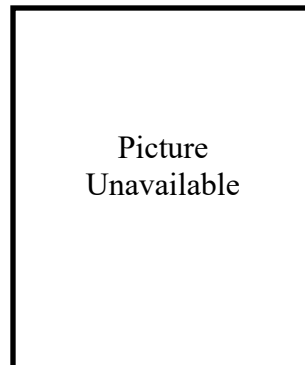
We like to give our regular Sunday school teachers throughout the year a summer break. If you have an interest in helping teach one Sunday this summer, there will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex or you may indicate your interest by contacting Lani in person or emailing her at [lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org).



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**ALEX BUR**

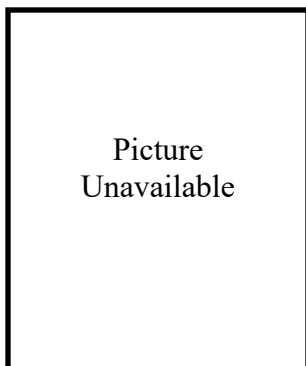
Parents:  
Scott & Rev. Amy Jo Bur  
Scott



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**ARCHER JEDLICKA**

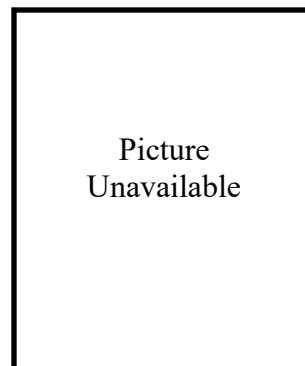
Parents:  
Justin & Erin Jedlicka



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**GRANT JEDLICKA**

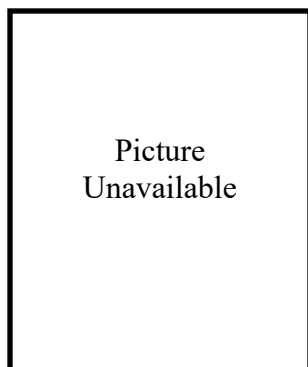
Parents:  
Justin & Erin Jedlicka



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**SAM LOFGREN**

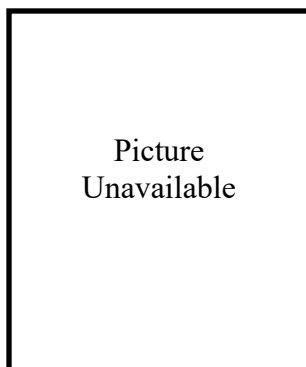
Parents:  
Dan & Kerri Lofgren



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**MATTI NYHUS**

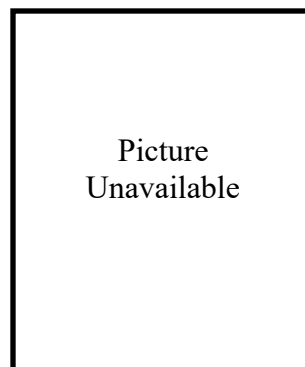
Parents:  
Steve and Dana Nyhus



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**RAY RENARD**

Parents:  
The late Ron Renard &  
Monica Thompson



Picture Unavailable

**BEN SATTLER**

Parents:  
Nick & Brenna Sattler

# REACHING OUT

Living our faith  
and connecting  
with our  
neighbors



## SUMMER 2023 MISSION “ROAD” TRIP

This June 24<sup>th</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade through adults.

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

## P.I.E. NIGHT

Our final P.I.E. Night (Parents Involved in Education) for this school year was on April 4<sup>th</sup> and St. Paul's volunteers helped serve over 120 meals! Thank you to everyone who came out during Holy Week to help! If you are interested in volunteering this fall please contact Lani at: [lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org) and she will put you on the email list for the upcoming year.

## LOVE OFFERING MAY 14<sup>th</sup>

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 2023 Annual Conference, May 31-June 1, is “*Encounter. Transform. Respond. The Emmaus Experience.*”

Our Love Offering this year will tangibly share God's extravagant love with a hurting world by addressing the growing mental health needs in Minnesota.

- ◆ Sixty percent of the Love Offering will fund a new grant that will support churches that have partnerships with mental health services offered in local schools or communities.
- ◆ Thirty percent of the Love Offering will go to three Minnesota nonprofits engaged in mental health education and advocacy: Mental Health Connect, Mental Health Minnesota, and Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health.
- ◆ Finally, 10 percent of the Love Offering each year goes to Volunteers in Mission scholarships, which support first-time mission trip participants.



## EVENTS

What's  
happening and  
when



### PENTECOST SUNDAY MAY 28<sup>th</sup>

Pentecost is a Christian holiday which takes place on the 50<sup>th</sup> day (the seventh Sunday) after Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentecost>



Pentecost marks the beginning of the Christian church and is often referred to as the birthday of the church. The main sign of Pentecost in the West is the color red.

Please wear the color red to worship—it symbolizes joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit—and you will help celebrate our church filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit!

### SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS BEGIN ON JUNE 4<sup>th</sup>

Remember to set your clock for worship at 10:00 am during the summer! Adult Sunday School will be suspended until fall. See page 5 for information regarding children/youth Sunday School.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE BIBLES AND DEVOTIONALS

#### MAY 14<sup>th</sup>

On May 14<sup>th</sup> we will be presenting Bibles and children's devotionals to our children in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Presenting Bibles to children 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 lives, 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.

### GRADUATION SUNDAY

#### JUNE 11<sup>th</sup>

We want to celebrate with you! If you or someone in your family is graduating this year from any level of education, please let us

know. Email Lani at: [lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org) with their name, school graduating from, and any degree information or future plans you would like to share by **Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**. We will recognize, honor, and pray for these students on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> during our Kidz 2Gether worship.





## Epistle



### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Education Hour for All: 9:30 am  
Worship: 10:30 am  
Kidz 2gether Worship  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of the month: 10:30 am  
Communion: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of the 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)



## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS

**JUNE 4<sup>th</sup>**

Worship 10:00 am

## ONE ROOM SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

**JUNE 18<sup>th</sup>**

One Room Sunday School 10:15 am

### 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.

Thank You!

### RUMMAGE SALE

Thank you to all who helped make our rummage sale a success. It takes many hands to advertise, to arrange tables/bookshelves, to pack, sort, clean, notify family and friends, to bring rummage, to shop and to clean up when the sale is done! More to come in the next Epistle on monies raised for missions. Again, thank you for your support for this all church endeavor.

*Nancy Pierson and Barb Goin,  
Co Chairs*

Thank you to John and Nancy Grinager for the beautiful potted pansies that flank our front doors. What a lovely way to welcome people to Saint Paul's UMC!

Thank you for all your kindness following the sudden loss of our family pet, Zippy. It was a comfort to us during a time of sadness.

*Pastor Amy Jo*

## WEEDING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Calling All Gardeners! Please lend a hand— Or a green thumb!

Whether you are a master or novice gardener, we need your help in caring for our gardens, shrubs and lawn. This year, we are trying something new by asking volunteers to sign up in pairs and weed/tend to only one section of the property. That way, the job won't feel so overwhelming when it's your turn to volunteer. Once we have our list of volunteers, we will assign pairs to a section and also provide instructions, including identification of weeds, if needed. Gardening pairs might even consider choosing a twice monthly day of the week where multiple pairs come together, help each other out and share a glass of lemonade. This could be an excellent way for new/young gardeners to acquire life-long gardening skills.

Our outdoor spaces are an important investment and the face of our church to the community. If you are able to help, please call the office by May 15<sup>th</sup> and give your name or names if you already have found your gardening partner. Section assignments and instructions will follow.



New Address:  
**Luke and Melissa Wilson**  
P.O. Box 128  
Harrison NE 69346



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Italicized events are conducted by outside groups renting space at the church.</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion  <i>1:00—3:00 pm Tree Give-a-way in parking lot</i>	<b>8</b> 6:00 pm Central Leadership Mtg	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Confirmation Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Bibles, Love Offering & Mother's Day 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Kidz 2gether Worship w/Communion	<b>15</b> <i>4:45 pm 4H</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>22</b> 6:00 pm Finance team Mtg	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 5:00 pm Youth Gathering
<b>28</b> Pentecost 9:30 am No Sunday School/SPLAT 10:30 am Worship	<b>29</b> Memorial Day  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6:00 pm Last Day of Handbells Practice 7:00 pm Last Day of Chancel Choir Practice	<b>Minnesota Annual Conference: St. Cloud MN May 31—June 1</b>		

**PLANNING AHEAD**

- Confirmation Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup>
- 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be receiving children's Bibles and devotionals on May 14<sup>th</sup>
- There will be no Sunday school or SPLAT May 28<sup>th</sup> or June 4<sup>th</sup>
- Summer Worship Hours (10:00 am) begins June 4<sup>th</sup>
- Graduation Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>
- One Room Sunday School begins on June 18<sup>th</sup>
- Summer outdoor Friday Night movies in July & August

**St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

700 Wesley Lane  
Mendota Heights MN 55118

Phone: 651-452-5683  
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*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*  
The People of the United Methodist Church®

