

# SAINT PAUL'S UMC

WELCOME. SHARE. SERVE.



MARCH  
2024



## Holy Week

Hallelujah for the resurrection and new life that comes from following Christ! As Christians, we are an Easter people, focused on the celebration of Christ rising from the tomb and the assurance that through faith in him, we also will rise again to new life. It is the tradition of the church to celebrate the last week of Christ's earthly life in the observance of Holy Week: beginning with Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, remembering the giving of the Great Commandment and the institution of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, Christ's death on the cross on Good Friday, and the resurrection of Christ on Easter morning. Please join us for service and worship experiences for Holy Week at Saint Paul's UMC:

- Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am
- Maundy Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm
- Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm
- Easter, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 10:30 am

There will also be an opportunity to pack food at *Feed My Starving Children* in Eagan on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:30—11:15 am.

In what areas of your life are you experiencing new life as Easter approaches? Praise God for those glimpses of new life around us!

*(continued on page 2)*

A welcoming community  
sharing Christ's love in  
service through relationships.

700 Wesley Lane/Mendota Heights MN/55118  
Phone: 651-452-5683 Email: [info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org)  
Website: [www.stpaulsmn.org](http://www.stpaulsmn.org)

Join us for worship  
on Sundays! 10:30 am

### Changes on the Horizon: Changing Districts

At this year's annual conference, there is legislation proposing reorganization of the annual conference, reducing from five districts into four districts. This is part of an overall move to streamline the annual conference structure. In this new organization, the districts are four geographical quadrants, and our congregation would move from the Twin Cities District into the district for the southeastern part of the state, with Rev. Michelle Hargrave as our District Superintendent. Whether we are in five districts or four, it is my hope that we continue to passionately follow God together in our ministries and mission. Names for the new districts are still being selected. If you have good ideas for our new district name, please pass them on to Pastor Amy Jo.

### Changes on the Horizon: Closing the Gap

The last few years have seen an increasing gap between the church budget and financial contributions at Saint Paul's UMC. As a result, we are moving in three areas in order to close that gap. 1) Focus on Outreach. The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, so it is natural that we are already focusing on outreach as a congregation—it is our mission. In addition to our current efforts in inviting others, outreach, and evangelism, we have also received an annual conference grant this year to help expand some of the behind-the-scenes efforts in outreach. For example: to support efforts to improve our website and social media presence which are the first contact many people have with our congregation, and to coordinate planning of events and travel for Christian education and service in which we may reach out and include our neighbors. Growing in numbers fulfills our evangelism mission for Christ, while also expanding the number of potential financial supporters in the congregation. 2) Reducing Budget Expenses. The Saint Paul's UMC budget has been reduced significantly in many areas this year, including reducing staff expenses. Each of our church committees has given careful thought to reducing expenses, and with teamwork, the budget has been reduced. 3) Exploring options for leasing. To offset expenses for our church building (such as utilities, custodial services, and property insurance), we are looking for tenants to share use of our church building. We are giving careful attention to looking for tenants who will work together well with our congregation and care for our property respectfully. In addition to providing additional financial support, leasing church property during times when it is not in use is good stewardship of our resources, and we're always called to be good stewards! Greater use of the church building will probably result in some adjustments for our congregation, but will be a significant benefit overall. As more information becomes available, we will keep everyone up to date on leasing prospects, so that we can all welcome new people to our church building with warm hospitality. Thank you to all who are contributing generously with their financial resources and their leadership efforts in order to work toward a strong financial position for our congregation! ☚

## SAINT PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S 2024 LEADERSHIP LIST

**Central Leadership Team Chairperson:** Andrea Larson

**Lay Member of Annual Conference:** Chrisana Tripodi

**Finance:** Kae Jewell (Chairperson)

Dana Nyhus (Financial Secretary)

Curt Almberg (Treasurer)

Deanna Sellers (Memorials)

Mike Laguire

**Foundations:** Jan Marshall (Chairperson)

Barb Helmken

Chrisana Tripodi

Leslie Watkins

**Member Enrichment:** Rhea Nyquist (Chairperson)

Cecelia Burbach

Janice Frame

Walter Judd

Jude Rikala

Carol Rix

**Operations:** Deb Curran (Chairperson & President for Conference Forms)

John Grinager (Vice President)

Shirley Holmay (Secretary)

Dave Morgan

Steve Nyhus

**Outreach:** Nancy Pierson (Chairperson)

John Grinager (Mission Trip Coordinator)

Nancy Grinager

Barb Jorgenson

Bettie Robinson

Diane Siebert

Representative from Adult Fellowship: Barb Jorgenson

**Communion Volunteers:** Barb Helmken, Cynthia Peterfeso,

Diane Siebert

**Greeter Coordinator:** Pat Fritsche

**Membership Secretary:** Pat Fritsche

**Sound System Volunteers:** Curt Almberg, Chuck Everling

**Visual Volunteers (PowerPoint):** Dawn Everling, Kae Jewell



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

# Holy Week

### HOLY WEEK

*Holy Week is a sacred time  
for Christians to remember  
Jesus' final week as he  
journeyed to the cross.*

#### **PALM SUNDAY**

*Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>*

- ♦ 10:30 am Worship

#### **GOOD FRIDAY**

*Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>*

- ♦ 4:00 pm Worship

#### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

*Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>*

- ♦ 7:00 pm Worship with  
Communion

#### **EASTER SUNDAY**

*Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>*

- ♦ 10:30 am Worship

### The Easter Flowers are given to the Glory of God

Yeen Chong  
Butterwick family  
Parents, Ben and Florence Everling and  
Don and Lucille Curtis  
Jim Fritsche  
Jerry Holmay; parents, Florence and  
Vernon Carlson and Eleanore and John Holmay  
Parents, Bud and Arlyce Anderson  
Don Kratsch  
Tom Lewis  
Bill and Alice McCorkhill  
June Medernach  
Mother, Mary Ann; and sister, Ellen  
Tamara Boots

Our family  
Loved ones

Friends and family  
Grandson, Rudy Michael Zobel

#### —In loving Memory of—

by Curtis Almberg  
by Darrell Butterwick  
by Chuck and Dawn Everling

by Pat Fritsche  
by Shirley Holmay

by Barb Jorgenson  
by Sue Kratsch  
by Beda Lewis  
by Jan Marshall  
by Shelly Medernach  
by Nancy Pierson  
by Deanna Sellers

#### —In Thanks for—

by Doug Larson and Leslie Watkins  
by Tim and Andrea Larson

#### —In Honor of—

by Kae Jewell  
by Claire Zobel

#### —No Designation—

by David and Mary Lou Dresbach



# Pathfinders

## **PATHFINDERS:** **We are on the march!**

**Your ears will hear a word  
behind you, “*This is the way,  
walk in it,*” whenever you  
turn to the right or left.**

**Isaiah 30:21**

Despite the snow, we had 13 in attendance at our February meeting. There were four sets of two volunteers who signed up to visit our home bound, and we had a good sign-up for the March 23<sup>rd</sup> *Feed My Starving Children* outing. Walter Judd led an excellent study and we did a little soul searching about our future as well as enjoyed the fellowship of some truly great people.

We have decided on a dual prayer focus for each month, one international, the other domestic.

In February we prayed for the Belize Methodist High School, which was our international focus and domestically, we prayed about child poverty in the USA – praying particularly for children in our community and their parents who are struggling to parent well. In March we will pray for the Tansen Methodist Hospital in Nepal and our own nation’s opioid problem. We will pray for the addicted and their families, as well as peace to those who have lost loved ones to this menace in our society.

Our next meeting is **Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

## *Photo* **DIRECTORY**

**Is there a budding  
photographer  
in our midst?**



With cell phone cameras, you don’t have to be a genius to come up with some good photos and we’re looking for the right amateur to help us out. Many church members would like to have a photo directory, but trying to get every body together in a tight time frame is one of the problems with a professional group – not to mention the pressure to buy their expensive prints. Prior to Lani leaving her job, she

had volunteered to take pictures of our members. Our current church software has a photo section which can be used and Justin Jedlicka has agreed to do the heavy lifting on the computer to organize it into a printable fashion. We even have a nice backdrop to use for the photos. We just need someone willing to be the photographer. If you think you’d like to try, call Rhea Nyquist at 651-457-5623.





## SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION

# Finance

### FINANCIALS

In the midst of grief, finding ways to honor the memory of a loved one can bring solace and comfort. One meaningful way to commemorate their life is through memorial donations. These contributions not only pay tribute to the departed but also offer support to fulfill special requests not accounted for in the church budget. In our community, memorial donations have become a cherished tradition, serving as a beacon of hope and remembrance. Not often enough do we get to celebrate and mourn in the same

breath but the 2023 summary of memorial gifts gives us that opportunity. We lost many loved ones last year and deeply appreciate gifts given in celebration of the lives of Jerry Holmay, Priscilla Wiessner, Ken Knowlton, Agnes Lovaas, and Eleanor Tsung totaling \$3,515.

We were excited to help support two significant expenses this year with memorial gift donations. The first is the lovely new wall art found in the fellowship hall, and the second was a sizable gift to support St Paul's UMC mission trip taken last summer. These two expenses totaled \$4,575.

In closing, let us remember that while our loved ones may no longer be with us in body, their spirit lives on through the kindness and generosity we extend to others in their memory. Through memorial donations, we not only honor their legacy but also reaffirm the bonds of love that connect us across time and space.

Blessings,  
*Deanna Sellers*  
Memorials Representative  
Finance Team

#### January 2024

#### 2024 Year-to-Date

General Fund Gifts	\$ 11,714
Less General Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 16,592</u>
Balance	\$ (4,880)
Less Unpaid Apportionments	<u>\$ 2,325</u>
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ (7,205)

\$ 11,714
<u>\$ 16,592</u>
\$ (4,880)
<u>\$ 2,325</u>
\$ (7,205)



SPREADING THE WORD

# Mission Accomplished

**GATHER.  
SERVE.**

## Food Share Month

March is FoodShare Month! St. Paul's has been very generous supporting both *Neighbor's Inc* and *Keystone* food shelves. Both food and dollars donated during March to food shelves make a bigger impact because the more donated, the more support is received from MN FoodShare after the month-long campaign ends. As has been noted, child poverty has grown significantly so please consider adding a few extra items to your grocery cart for the food shelves. There is a donation box in the narthex. Gifts of cash are also appreciated.

## March Service Event

On Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:30 am-11:15 am, join us for a group event to support *Feed My Starving Children* in their efforts to feed those that go hungry around the world. Ages 5 and up may be registered. Young children must be accompanied by an adult/parent. From their site:

*"FMSC offers volunteers a one-of-a-kind experience. You'll hand-pack rice, soy, dried vegetables and a nutritionally complete blend of vitamins and minerals into bags which are then sealed, boxed, placed on pallets and shipped to our incredible partners working hard to reach the neediest children around the world. Through volunteering at FMSC, you'll get the chance to impact hundreds of kids in just two hours per packing shift. You'll experience what it's like to make a tangible difference today."*

Our packaging event will be at the Eagan FMSC location, 990 Lone Oak Rd, Ste 136. Please arrive by 9:15 am.

The registration JOIN code to use for the group reservation at [www.fmssc.org](http://www.fmssc.org) is NKLI1PX. You may also register using the link: <http://www.fmssc.org/join-group?joincode=NKLI1PX>

If you have any questions, please reach out to Janice Frame at 651-276-9252.

## Future Mission Trip 2025

Based on demographic studies of our neighborhood consisting of a majority of Gen Xers and boomers, ecotourism is known to appeal to this age group. In looking for ways to connect with and engage our neighbors, John Grinager is in the early stages of exploring organizations offering mission trips to Puerto Rico. Some of the advantages of Puerto Rico are the warm temperatures and one does not need a passport to visit the country. The trip is for anyone but the target audience is Gen Xers and Baby Boomers. If you are, or you know of friends, family or neighbors who may be interested in a mission trip to Puerto Rico in 2025, please chat with John Grinager.

## Coffee with a Cause

The January, February, and March donations from Coffee with a Cause will purchase diapers for *Neighbors Inc*. With increasing child poverty rates, Neighbors has an increasing need for diapers as well as child-friendly foods. Thank you for helping those in need!



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

# Saint Paul's UMC Spring Rummage Sale

## SATURDAY

## APRIL 27

## 9:00 am—3:00 PM

The Outreach team is planning an all-church rummage sale for the last Saturday in April. Again, we will invite our neighbors to donate, shop and/or volunteer to help if interested. There are many volunteer opportunities so please consider helping...

Save brown paper bags - needed during the sale

Collect copy paper size boxes (15" x 12" x 10") - needed for sorting clothing/packing up items not sold

Advertise the sale, starting the middle of April

Post on your Facebook page

Post on your community page

Look for opportunities to post on event boards

- Tuesday, April 23 - Friday, April 26, from 9:00 am - noon

Sort donated clothing by size

Move/consolidate like items by assigned room

Help display/price non-clothing items

- Saturday, April 27

Greet shoppers as they enter the church

Assist shoppers at the jewelry display in narthex bagging small items

Staff each room keeping rummage sorted

Volunteer to cashier/assist at the premium table

Packing at the end of the sale

Volunteer to take left over rummage not accepted by Epilepsy to other charities

Tear down table, boxes, vacuum and reset church for Sunday morning



You are making a difference today and every day!

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$369.31 to Keystone's food shelf programs.....We are grateful for your support. Thank you! Happy New Year!

With heartfelt appreciation,

*Adero Riser Cobb, Pres., Keystone Community Services*

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation to Every Meal. Your support is critical as we work tirelessly to eliminate child hunger through community and school partnerships. On January 9, 2024, you donated \$934.59 to Every Meal, and it is already making a significant impact....

*Rob Williams, President and Founder, Every Meal*

Thanks to all those who sign up for coffee hour.

It's easy to do – sign the yellow sheet by the coffee machine or hit the coffee sign-up bar in the weekly email announcements.

Like all acts of kindness, you usually get more back than you give.

*Rhea Nyquist*



HELPING FAMILIES NURTURE  
LIFELONG DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

# Children & Youth

## CONFIRMATION AND YOUTH

### Confirmation

The confirmation class will meet on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00-7:30 pm, with dinner provided. We will focus on the church history of the Saint Paul's UMC congregation and of our denomination, the United Methodist Church. We will also plan for our April service event.

### March Youth Group- *Feed My Starving Children*

For our March youth group activity, we will join with the all-ages church service event, packing meals at *Feed My Starving Children* on Saturday, . March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:30 - 11:15 am. See page 6.



THANKS FOR THE ANIMALS  
THAT GIVE US JOY

## Pet Blessing

**PET BLESSING  
SUNDAY  
MAY 3  
11:00 am**

Blessings for the pets who add  
companionship to our lives

The Outreach and Foundations team is planning a 'pet blessing' May 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am outside our church doors under the portico/in the parking lot. We are inviting the neighborhood so in the next couple months as you are out walking or talking to your neighbors or

spending time at the dog park, think about those you can offer an invitation to.

There will be a prize drawing, too, for our furry friends. We want to build on our sense of community and roll-out the welcome mat!





MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

# About Us

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Adult Education Hour 9:30 am  
Worship: 10:30 am  
Sunday School 10:45 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 Music Ministry:**  
Lane Skoglund-Anderson,  
[laneskoglundanderson@gmail.com](mailto:laneskoglundanderson@gmail.com)

**Administrative Assistant:**  
Diane Pelinka, [info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org)

**Daylight Saving Time  
Begins March 10<sup>th</sup>**



## UMCOR SUNDAY

**MARCH 10<sup>th</sup>**

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.



## Cancellation Notice

If Sunday services need to be cancelled due to the weather, we will put a message on the church's answering service, 651-452-5683, along with a post on our Facebook and website pages.



If you leave Minnesota for parts of the winter, please let the office know where and when to forward communication from Saint Paul's UMC.

This will allow us to stay in touch and prevent the church from paying extra fees for returned mail.



# March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> 9:30 am Adult Education Hour 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal  7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
					<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:30 am Adult Education Hour 10:30 am Kidz 2gether Worship w/ Communion  Daylight Saving Time Begins	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal  6:00 pm Confirmation  7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30 am Adult Education Hour 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	<b>18</b> 6:00 pm 4H	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal  7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 1:00 pm Pathfinders	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:30 am Feed My Starving Children, Eagan
<b>24</b> Palm Sunday 9:30 am Adult Education Hour 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> Maundy Thursday  7:00 pm Worship with Communion	<b>29</b> Good Friday 4:00 pm Worship	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Easter 9:30 am Adult Education Hour 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School					<i>Italicized events are conducted by outside groups renting space at the church.</i>	

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

700 Wesley Lane  
Mendota Heights MN 55118

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

## **HOLY WEEK**

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for Christians to remember  
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journeyed to the cross.*

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Communion

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