

SAINT PAUL'S UMC

WELCOME. SHARE. SERVE.



DECEMBER
2025

MAKE A JOYFUL Noise TO THE LORD

PSALM 98:4, NRSV

***"There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!"***

Music adds so much to our lives. It helps us express feelings we may otherwise have difficulty expressing. Charles Wesley is known for composing thousands of songs, but singing was important to John Wesley, as well. Here are (some of) John Wesley's Directions For Singing, From *John Wesley's Select Hymns*, 1761:

1. "Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up, and you will find it a blessing."
2. "Sing lustily and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength..."
3. "Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound."
4. "Sing in time...Do not run before nor stay behind it."
5. "Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing Him more than yourself ...attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve...and reward you..."

In these directions, Wesley gives us good advice for singing and for living! In Advent, there are radio stations playing Christmas music non-stop. There are Advent hymns we save especially for this time of year. There are special choir performances in our communities.

May music be a blessing to you this season. May the music of your heart be a blessing to others as well. Until we sing "Joy to the World the Lord is Come" together on Christmas Eve, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pastor Josh

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
Website: www.stpaulsmn.org

Join us for worship
on Sundays! 10:00 am



CHRISTIANS GATHERING
TOGETHER

Advent/Christmas

CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST



December 14

10:00 am

In celebration of the coming of Christ, on Sunday, December 14th, our Chancel Choir will present:
Christmas in Song.

December 24

4:00 pm

Christmas Eve worship with special music by the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir and the lighting of candles.

The Poinsettias were given to the Glory of God ... In loving memory of...

Yeen Chong
Godparents, Charles Stanley and
Marian Tribe; grandparents,
Karl and Grace Blau; and father, Arthur Dewey
Parents, Bud and Arlyce Anderson
Tom Lewis
Eric Nyquist and Jim Nyquist
James, parents, and brother
Eldon and Glendon Sellers, and
Tamara Boots
Husband, Wenzel Siebert

by Curt Almberg
by Melissa Dewey

by Barb Jorgenson
by Beda Lewis
by Rhea Nyquist
by Cynthia Peterfeso
by Deanna Sellers

by Diane Siebert

... In honor of...

Family
Our family
Parents, Jack and Agnes, and
husband, Ralph

by Pat Fritsche
by John and Nancy Grinager
by Kae Jewell

... In thanks for...

Our church family
Family and friends
Christian fellowship
My church family
Church family, what a blessing

by Deb Curran
by Shirley Holmay
by Andrea Larson
by Jan Marshall
by Diane Siebert



THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

Remember Our Homebound

Phyllis Abrahamsen

C/O Sue Abrahamsen
210 Old Ski Hill Rd
Grand Marais MN 55604

Marilyn Anderson

c/o Steve Sahl, Dakota Conservators
4686 Slater Rd.
Eagan MN 55122

Darrell Butterwick

8725 Promenade Lane #134
Woodbury MN 55125

Norma Deitner

14625 Pennock Ave.
House 2 Unit E2
Apple Valley MN 55124

Barbara Fillion

730 S. Plaza Dr. #204
Mendota Heights MN 55120

Mary Gaddy

Lilydale Senior Living
949 Sibley Memorial Hwy #224
St. Paul MN 55118

Chuck Garr

6305 Burnham Circle #136
Inver Grove Heights MN 55076

Dorothea Johnson

Lilydale Senior Living
949 Sibley Memorial Hwy #315
St. Paul MN 55118

Sue Kratsch

Harbor Crossing
4650 Centerville Rd. #204
St. Paul MN 55127

Sharon Monroe

Norris Square
6997 80th St. S. #244
Cottage Grove MN 55016

Lois Olund

7900 Austin Way #17
Inver Grove Heights MN 55077

Lynne Palmer

1631 Marthaler #225
West St. Paul MN 55118

Nancy Plath

The Commons on Marice
1380 Marice Dr. #413
Eagan MN 55121

Bettie Robinson

Willows of Ramsey Hill
80 North Mackubin
St. Paul MN 55102

Carol Samuelson

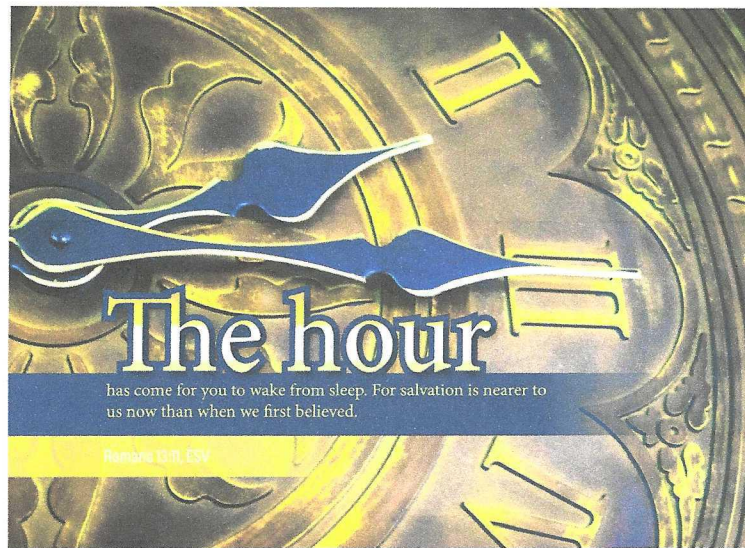
6309 Burnham Circle #118
Inver Grove Heights MN 55076

SMALL GROUPS

The Stitching Collective: Next gathering: December 10th, 9:30 am—noon. Bring your crafts to work on while sharing faith, fun and food with other creatives. Contact: Kathy Brooks.

The Men's Group: Activities designed for discipleship, fellowship and service. Next gathering: Sunday, December 7th at 5:30 pm. Guest Speaker: Randall Garcia.





“Kairos”

Advent is all about new time. Mostly when the first century people thought of time and future images it was of last things, end time, with fears and foreboding. The Gospels speak of signs of the end. People expected very little from this world except pain. The future was not friendly. People who lived in fear, cut off from hope, Paul rolls out his Christmas message. If Paul knows of angels and shepherds or wise men from the east, he doesn't go there. Paul will cut to the chase. He will simply say: “When the fullness of time had come (the word for time is *kairos*, meaning a pregnant moment or the right time), God sent a Son, born of woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those captive to the *law*--- *the old way of looking at life*-- so that we might be new adopted children of light. Gal.4: 4

Kairos is a pregnant moment, when something new appeared/appears to us humans. Mostly we live in *chronos* time--the daily ordinary ticking of the clock, empty pages on the calendar. “Another day older and deeper in debt” time—where nothing happens, no one comes. Breaking into that kind of time there was a special moment -- a birth -- and now we know that newness is possible for each of us, even for this old church.

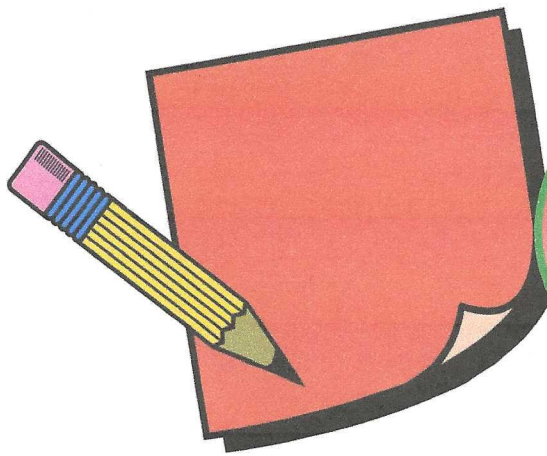
The *kairos* moment is for all who live between those two statements: “there is plenty of time” and “it's too late now.” To all who have given in to the old and said nothing new can happen. For all who feel too old, too young, too tired, or too frantic, the God of the second chance has come—the future is open, waiting for you, for me!

In the midst of “Jingle Bell Rock” and “White Christmas,” and all the rest, there are special times—*kairos* moments to be seized. Something happens -- the preacher finds new ways to say what needs to be said, it is heard—and the faint-hearted become brave.

Advent is a good time to look for the *kairos* moments. It was December 1 in 1955 when Rosa Parks seized the moment, refused to give up her seat to a white man, and that sparked the 382-day boycott that was the beginning of the end for segregation. That was a *kairos* moment.

We are living in *kairos* time—God's new time. “*You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far-gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.*” Romans 13:11-14.

This article was originally printed as a “Memo For Preachers” by Rev. Bill Cotton, December 1, 2013: iaumc-email.brtapp.com/view archive/4290



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

At Church

OOOPS! MEA CULPA

Our trusty finance lady, Kae Jewell, told me about a year ago that *Upper Rooms* were no longer selling at the \$1 Depression Era prices my mother paid, but more like \$3. I wrote an article for the newsletter urging people to pony up a little more to cover the understandable price increase. However, and this was the problem; I overlooked the fact that there was a large sign by the rack of *Upper Rooms* saying they cost \$1. No wonder we continued to lose money on this part of our budget. The sign has now been changed to reflect the real price. If you think it is too much for your budget and you are technically able, you can get the *Upper Room* online. See the page 3 of the current issue to see various ways to connect or submit a meditation.

Membership Enrichment Team

MANNA FROM HEAVEN THAT LOOKS LIKE BEANS

I think our Lane has more connections than our telephone system. He is friends with musicians and composers all over the country, performers, and lots of just regular folks. Fortunately for us, he has a dear friend at Caribou Coffee who has provided us with a huge bag of Scandinavian Blend coffee beans which we have almost used up. Then this Sunday Lane brought another huge bag of Espresso beans. Life is good. Thank you so much, Lane, for keeping our gang caffeinated. Also, thank you to all of those dear members who have been bringing such delicious goodies to share at coffee time. John Wesley believed that breaking bread together was a vital part of a strong Christian community. It is restorative to our body and our souls to have a little time to communicate with our friends and fellow believers. Sometimes manna comes in the form of a cookie, too! *Coffee Hour Team*



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 prevent the church from having to pay extra fees for returned mail.



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.



SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION

Finance

FINANCIALS

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” – Acts 20:35

December is the season of giving. It is a time filled with family visits, wrapping paper and festive food. With the busyness of the season, giving can become another task on the “to do” list. But for Christians, Christmas giving is more than a tradition; it is the celebration of God’s precious gift to us, His Son. God’s gift was an act of love. When we give, we echo that love.

As you consider your Christmas giving, please remember the families we will support through Neighbors Inc. with Christmas gifts, our Advent offering that will support Emma Norton and Neighbors Inc. food shelf and gifts that will support the mission of our congregation. Our church has a history of generous giving at this time of year, which each year allows us to meet our annual obligations. We welcome your gifts in the mail, the Sunday offering plate and by use of the QR code in the pews. In addition, you may want to consider some tax-efficient ways to support our church. If you haven’t completed your required minimum distribution (RMD), consider using those funds to make a QCD (qualified charitable distribution). You can also donate appreciated stock that has been held for more than a year and avoid capital gains taxes while you may also get a charitable tax deduction for the stock’s market value.

Here are a couple of details on how to use these tools:

- **QCD**
 1. Work with your IRA administrator to send this gift directly from your IRA as a part of our annual RMD.
 2. The gift is not counted as taxable income, which may lower your overall tax liability.
- **Donating appreciated stock**
 1. You may transfer a selected appreciated stock (that has appreciated in value and that you have held for more than a year) directly from your brokerage account to the church.
 2. You can avoid paying long term capital gains tax on the appreciation and you may receive a tax deduction for the stock’s market value.

All gifts must be received by the church by 12/31/2025 to be considered a 2025 gift. Start the process early, as it can take time. Contact me for assistance or questions. (Please note that this is not meant to be legal or financial advice. Please work with your financial advisor and/or legal representative.)

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may our giving be joyful and follow in the spirit of God’s gift to us – his Son. Merry Christmas.

Below is the church financial information as of the end of October.

Blessings,
Kae Lovaas Jewell, Finance Chair

	<u>October 2025</u>	<u>2025 Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Gifts	\$ 44,099	\$ 187,563
Less General Fund Expenses	\$ 8,459	\$ 188,327
Balance	\$ 25,640	\$ (764)
Less Unpaid Apportionments	\$ 2,146	\$ 8,584
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ 23,494	\$ (9,348)



GET READY,
GRAB YOUR MORAL COMPASS,
ON YOUR MARK AND GO

Pathfinders

KEEP ON THE PATH

Thursday, 1:00 pm
December 18th

*Pathfinders take
another look at
their vows*

At Pathfinders' November meeting we had a discussion of the vows we took when we joined the church which were to support our church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. We explored all the ways we and others acted on these vows, and ways that we could do more to make these goals for Christ and our church come more alive in our daily lives.

Our next meeting is Thursday, December 18, 1:00 pm and we are thinking of celebrating the holiday by going out to lunch. Keep watch on the weekly announcements to see more specifics. As ever, all are invited and we would welcome your presence.



LEARNING FOR ALL AGES

Adult Education

THE WIRED WORD

Sundays, 9:00 am
Bertelsen Library

*Biblical commentary and
discussion questions related to
a topic in the news*

The mission of *The Wired Word* is to supply churches with solid scriptural material to help in facilitating group discussions about important matters of faith raised by news of the week. The lessons encourage class dialogue on how to apply God's word to everyday life and engage class members with thought-provoking, stimulating discussions on messages contained in the Bible.

Adult education meets on Sundays at 9:00 am in the Bertelsen Library. Walter Judd leads *The Wired Word* discussions.

If you would like an email sent to you on Thursday with that upcoming Sunday's topic, please contact the church at info@stpaulsmn.org with your name and email address.



SPREADING THE WORD

Mission Accomplished

**GATHER.
SERVE.**

Coffee with a Cause

During this Christmas season, as you enjoy a cup of coffee during fellowship time, consider donating to Emma Norton's Corner Store! The store is a deeply discounted "corner store" for residents where they can purchase items using "Emma Bucks" earned through community involvement rather than cash. During the holidays, residents will have an opportunity to use their 'bucks' not only for celebrating but gift giving, too. Be generous!



♥ Thank you ♥
VOLUNTEERS!

Neighbors Inc. Thanksgiving Appeal

A heartfelt 'Thank You' to all who donated so generously to the Neighbors Inc. request for items to help provide a warm and dignified holiday meal to our neighbors. Your donations helped to keep costs down and extend the budget!

And, a big 'thank you' to Jude Rikala who made timely deliveries to Neighbors Inc. of all the items our congregation donated for the food shelf this summer and fall!

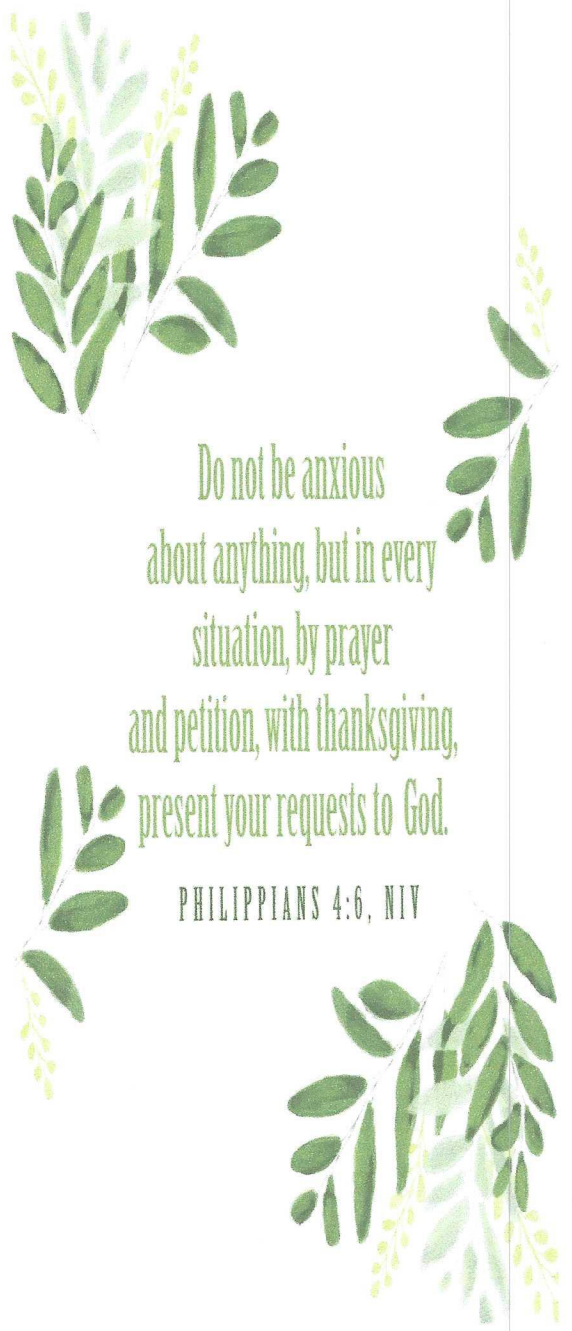
Garlough Elementary School P.I.E. Night

Saint Paul's volunteers, Barb Jorgenson, Linda Leicht, Nancy Pierson and Shirley Holmay, again helped serve over 200 folks for P.I.E. (Parents in Education) night and provided apple and cucumber slices to accompany the meal.



TALK WITH GOD

Lord Hear Our Prayers



Do not be anxious
about anything, but in every
situation, by prayer
and petition, with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6, NIV



MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

About Us

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Adult Education: 9:00 am
(during the school year)
Worship: 10:00 am
Communion: 1st Sunday of the month

LIVESTREAM VIDEO

WORSHIP

Available on Facebook
(www.facebook.com/stpaulsmn),
YouTube (St. Paul's UMC Mendota Heights) and the church's website,
www.stpaulsmn.org

CENTRAL LEADERSHIP

CHAIR: Andrea Larson

ST. PAUL'S STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Joshua Steward
Office Hours: 9:30 am—12:00 pm
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and
by appointment
ministerjosh@gmail.com

Director of Music Ministry:

Lane Skoglund-Anderson,
laneskoglundanderson@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Diane Pelinka, info@stpaulsmn.org

SAINT PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

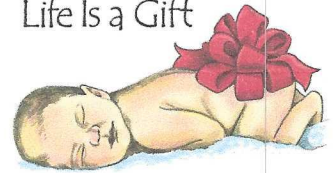
700 Wesley Lane
Mendota Heights MN 55118
651-452-5683

Annie Jean Schmidtke

Born: October 28, 2025

daughter of
Kelsey (Larson) and Jackson Schmidtke
and granddaughter of
Leslie Watkins and Doug Larson

Life Is a Gift



Irv Samuelson

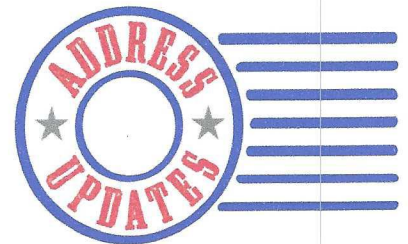
Died: November 10, 2025

Send cards of sympathy to his daughter and
she will bring them to Irv's wife, Carol:
Terri Chavie
758 Saddlewood Dr.
Eagan MN 55123

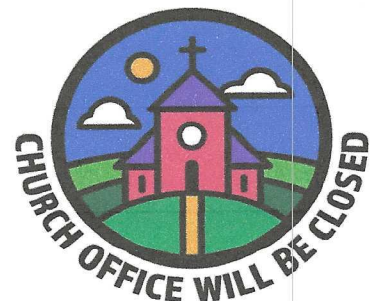


Diane Edgell

Norris Square
6995 80th St. S. #142 (new apt. #)
Cottage Grove MN 55016
651-425-2107 (new #)



The office will be closed,
Thursday, December 25th





December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 4:00 pm Advent Book Group	3 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal <i>7:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Study</i>	4	5	6
7 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i> 5:30 pm Men's Group	8 12:00 pm Central Leadership Meeting, Andrea Larson's home	9 4:00 pm Advent Book Group	10 9:30 am Stitching Collective Craft Group 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11	12	13
14 Christmas Choral Worship 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i> <i>1:45 pm Nueva Esperanza Potluck</i>	15 <i>6:00 pm 4H</i>	16 4:00 pm Advent Book Group	17 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	18 1:00 pm Pathfinders	19	20
21 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i>	22	23 4:00 pm Advent Book Group	24 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26	27
28 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i>	29	30	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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Address Service Requested

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

**CELEBRATE
THE BIRTH
OF CHRIST**



December 14

10:00 am

In celebration of the coming of
Christ, on Sunday, December 15th,
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Christmas in Song.

December 24

4:00 pm

Christmas Eve worship with
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candles.