

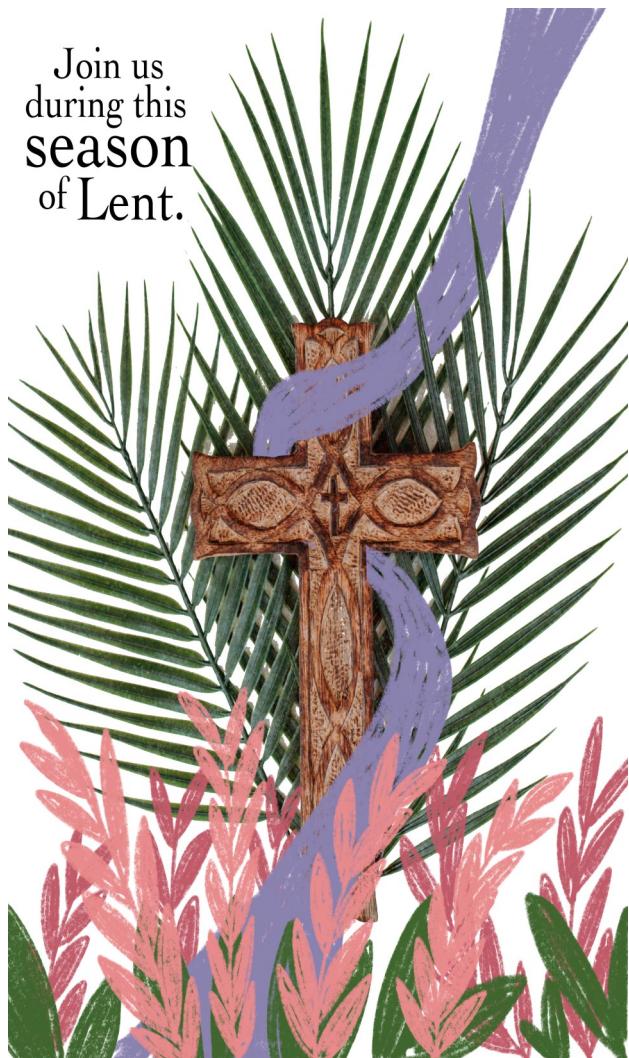
SAINT PAUL'S UMC

WELCOME. SHARE. SERVE.



FEBRUARY
2026

Join us
during this
season
of Lent.



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday worship on February 18th at 12:30 pm. In Lent, over 40 days, we walk in Jesus' foot-steps. He was tempted, as we are. He resisted by denying the power of the devil who offered him first bread and then all the kingdoms of the world. Jesus responded that you worship only God and do not put God to the test. (Matthew 4:1-11). Instead, he did as God commanded, meeting everyone at their point of need and providing healing that allowed them acceptance and new life.

Lent allows us to identify our purpose and deepen our faith through the Lenten practices of self-denial and repentance. Whether you take something up or put something down during Lent, we seek to imitate Christ and become more Christ-like. We seek to oppose the spiritual wickedness of the powers of this world and respond in a Christ-like way: healing, feeding, comforting, and accompanying people in their struggles and fears however we can.

Tuesdays in Lent, beginning February 24th at 4:00 pm, I will be leading a Lenten study looking at six Wesley sermons:

“Salvation by Faith”

“The Almost Christian”

“The Circumcision of the Heart”

“Upon our Lord’s Sermon on the Mount”

“The General Spread of the Gospel”

“On Zeal”

Videos and study guides will be provided. May these sermons give us sustenance, hope and courage for our Easter journey to the Cross and always.

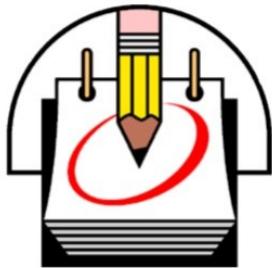
Peace,

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

Upcoming Events

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, February 18
12:30 pm
The beginning of Lent



RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, April 25
9:00 am—3:00 pm

*If any questions, please
talk to/contact
Nancy Pierson 612-965-6475*



Our congregation will have an **Ash Wednesday Observance on February 18th at 12:30 pm** including time for quiet reflection on scripture and imposition of ashes.

Ash Wednesday helps us to begin the Lenten season with repentance—turning away from those things that separate us from God and turning toward those life practices that draw us closer to God.

Lent is the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Those 40 days are set aside as **a time of reflection, repentance and spiritual growth**. 40 days are observed to represent the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert where he fasted and was tempted by the devil.

Think 'SPRING'! An all-church rummage sale is planned for the last Saturday in April. Everyone, including our neighbors, are invited to donate, shop and/or volunteer to help. Consider ways you can help. This is a big fundraiser and monies raised go towards missions!

There are many volunteer opportunities.

- Monday, April 20, 9:00 am - noon - Set up (tables need to be set/re-arranged in the Fellowship Hall, Bertelsen Library, narthex and Wiggles and Giggles Room.
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, April 21 - 23, 9:00 am - noon - start the process of placing rummage received in the appropriate areas, marking rummage as practical and posting signs for navigating the sale.
- Friday, April 24, 9:00 am until done - finish the process of posting signs and placing/marketing rummage accordingly
- Saturday, April 25 - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm - lots of ways to participate and help...look for future communications

Other ways to help:

- 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 - talk to your friends and neighbors, post on your Facebook page, post on your community page, look for opportunities to post on event boards, talk to your friends and neighbors!

Small Groups

The Stitching Collective

Next gatherings: February 11th and 25th, 9:30 am—noon.
Bring your crafts to work on while sharing faith, fun and food with other creatives.
Contact: Kathy Brooks.



Mark your calendar! Precinct caucus voting is Tuesday, February 3rd

It's time to vote! Precinct caucus voting is Tuesday, February 3rd. The 2026 precinct caucuses for the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) and Republican parties are scheduled to be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 7:00 pm. You can find the caucus location for their address with the [Caucus Finder](#) tool.

Precinct caucuses are the first in a series of meetings where parties may endorse candidates, select delegates, and set goals and values (called party platforms). The precinct caucuses are the first step that political parties take to determine who will be on the ballot in November 2026. The precinct caucus is followed by district and statewide conventions and, often, a primary.

Please consider attending, especially if it will be your first time. Your voice matters! In November 2026 Minnesota voters will elect: a U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Governor & Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, judges, school board members and more.

FYI, you have the right to take time off work to be at a precinct caucus or political party convention (if you're a delegate or alternate). You must give your employer ten days' written notice.

Major political parties must attempt to make the precinct caucuses accessible. They can provide you with an interpreter by request, if you are deaf, blind, or hard-of-hearing. If you are visually impaired, you also have the right to get written caucus materials ahead of time, by request.

Check the office of the Minnesota Secretary of State website for more information: [Voting Information](#).



MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

About Us

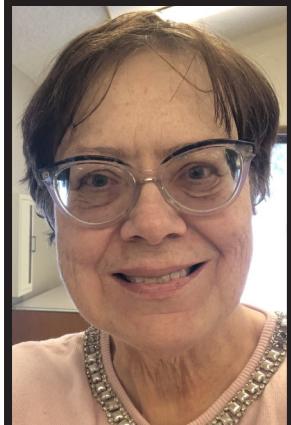
Baptized
with
the
Holy
Spirit

NEW MEMBERS



Cohen Olson

Son of Skyler Green and Brayden Olson
January 11, 2026



Cynthia "Cindy" Jackson

1370 Smith Ave. South
West St. Paul MN 55118
612-735-1853
cindyloves2read@gmail.com
January 18, 2026



Melissa Dewey

300 East 4th St. #310
St. Paul MN 55101
860-967-8600
MDewey1004@aol.com
January 18, 2026

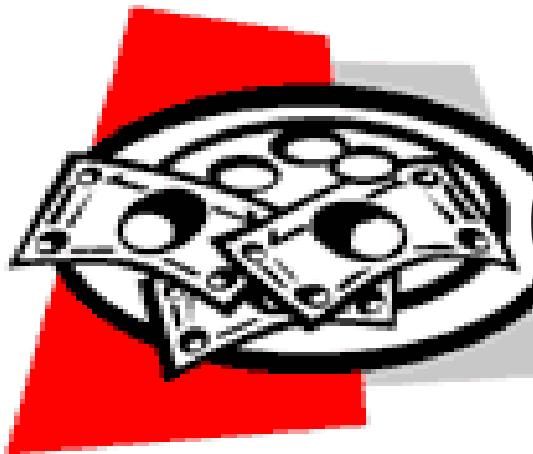
Saint Paul's United Methodist Church's

2026 Leadership List

This is the list of leaders we will be voting on at our Annual Church Conference.

	Term
Central Leadership Team Chairperson: Debra Curran	1/1/26-12/31/26
Lay Member of Annual Conference: Nancy Shaw Grinager	
Finance: Kae Jewell (Chairperson)	2/9/25-12/31/27
Dana Nyhus (Financial Secretary)	
Curt Almberg (Treasurer)	1/1/17-12/31/26
Deanna Sellers (Memorials)	
Mike Laguire	
Julie Morgan	
Foundations: Jan Marshall (Chairperson)	1/1/24-12/31/26
Nancy Shaw Grinager	
Sheila Kitzman	1/1/25 -12/31/27
Leslie Watkins	-12/31/28
Member Enrichment: Rhea Nyquist (Co - Chair)	1/1/26-12/31/26
Andrea Larson (Co – Chair)	1/1/26-12/31/28
Cecelia Burbach	
Janice Frame	
Carol Rix	
Operations: John Grinager (Co- Chairperson)	1/1/25-12/31/27
Steve Nyhus (Co-Chair)	
Shirley Holmay (Secretary)	1/1/25-12/31/27
Dave Morgan	
Rich Brooks	
Outreach: Nancy Pierson (Chairperson)	1/1/24-12/31/26
Barb Jorgenson	
Diane Siebert	
Randy Garcia	
Neighbors Inc. Mission Coordinator: Jude Rikala	
Mission Trip Coordinator: John Grinager	
Communion Volunteers: Barb Helmken, Cynthia Peterfeso, Diane Siebert	
Greeter Coordinator: Pat Fritsche	
Membership Secretary: Pat Fritsche	1/1/26-12/31/26
Sound System Volunteers: Curt Almberg, Dave Morgan, Justin Jedlicka	
Visual Volunteers (PowerPoint): Dawn Everling, Iype Kuruvilla	

Pastor Josh assumes you are continuing on your ministry team unless you tell him otherwise. We don't have terms for everyone, so if the dates for your term are not listed, please let Pastor Josh know when you think you started.



Finance

FINANCIALS

Celebrating God's Provision in 2025

As we close out 2025, we give thanks to God for the faithfulness and generosity of this congregation. Because of your continued stewardship, our church ends the year on strong financial footing and well-positioned for ministry in the year ahead.

Our General Fund remains healthy, with a balance of \$84,096 in checking and \$73,584 in our short-term investment fund. These reserves allow us to meet ongoing ministry needs while responding wisely to future opportunities.

All our investment funds performed well this year, resulting in \$52,541 in unrealized gains. While markets fluctuate, this positive performance strengthens the long-term stability of our congregation and supports future ministry.

Your generosity also made a meaningful impact beyond our walls. Benevolence gifts totaling \$21,014 were shared with both local community needs and conference-supported charities, extending Christ's love to those near and far.

Several important facility and ministry needs were met in 2025. The Capital Fund provided \$30,139 to repave the parking lot, improving safety and accessibility for all who gather here. In addition, Memorial Funds were used to purchase a new kitchen range for \$3,197, supporting fellowship and hospitality ministries.

We are also pleased to report that all apportionments (\$25,755) were paid in full, reflecting our commitment to shared ministry and connectional giving.

None of this would be possible without your faithful giving. Thank you for your generosity, your trust, and your commitment to God's work through our church. As we look ahead to 2026, we encourage continued prayerful stewardship so that together we may grow in mission, service, and witness in the year to come.

Thanks be to God for all that has been accomplished through you in 2025.

Blessings,
Kae Lovaas Jewell, Finance Chair



	<u>December 2025</u>	<u>2025 Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Gifts	\$ 37,049	\$ 249,038
Less General Fund Expenses	\$ 19,172	\$ 226,546
Balance	\$ 7,877	\$ 22,492
Less Unpaid Apportionments	\$ 0	\$ 0
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ 7,877	\$ 22,492



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

Pathfinders

KEEP ON THE PATH

Thursday, 1:00 pm

February 19

Following the Pathfinders....

Our January meeting started with a thorough reading of the 23rd Psalm with supporting scriptures by Cecilia Burbach. This was followed by sharing some of our personal resolutions for the new year. Our Queen of greeting cards, Jude Rikala, made some beautiful Valentines which she allowed each of us to share with someone we love. She also brought us up to date with the cards she routinely sends to our ill members and those that are home-bound. Rhea announced that she and Andrea Larson will co-chair the Member Enrichment Team, and asked those present to let them know of any ideas

they might have.

Nancy Pierson reported on the programs the Outreach Team is working on, with particular emphasis on the upcoming Rummage Sale, scheduled for April 25. This is an “all hands on deck” for our congregation as it is our chief fund-raiser of the year and is responsible for much of the mission work our congregation does. A recent example is the Pathfinders gift of \$2,500 to Emma Norton to support the cost of a family’s move to Restoring Waters.

Since this is our country’s 250th birthday, we are including a reading each month about how important the Christian faith was in the formation of our country. The January reading was about the many quotes from the Bible that are inscribed within the Library of Congress, which also houses an original Gutenberg Bible as well as a hand-copied Giant Bible of Mainz.

We were so taken by the quotes and being bombarded daily by the political dramas that seem to be playing out here and abroad, we felt we should focus on scripture, along with our prayer concern for February. We will pray for PEACE AND TRANQUILITY, but, individually, we will cling to that scriptural gem found in Micah 6:8 *“What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”*

Nancy Pierson presented our lesson, giving us a historical perspective on how the liturgical year developed over time. Helen Kuruvilla treated us with her mother’s recipe for carrot cake, which was delicious. The next meeting is February 19th and the meeting is open to all. Come – find out what’s happening in our church – learn a little at the study – fellowship with some wonderful people – and hopefully, grow spiritually.

Rhea Nyquist

Image by [Ernst Zeeh](#) from [Pixabay](#)





REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

Mission Accomplished

**GATHER.
SERVE.**

Coffee with a Cause

When enjoying fellowship on cold winter Sunday mornings, please consider donating a dollar or two for Every Meal, a nonprofit dedicated to fighting child hunger by providing food to kids, especially over weekends when they are not able to eat school meals. It will make your heart feel warm!



MN March FoodShare Campaign

The MN March FoodShare Campaign is 'just around the corner'. Plan to join in to provide as much food and funds as we can during March for Neighbors Inc., our local food shelf serving primarily West St. Paul, South St. Paul, Inver Grove Heights, Mendota Heights, Mendota, Sunfish Lake, and Lilydale.

Watch for further updates.

June 2026 Garden Class

The Outreach team is planning on hosting a class highlighting flowers to plant in your garden that attract pollinators, and also, to identify those 'pesky' weeds that need to be removed!

More details coming.

I would like to thank the members of Saint Paul's, Nueva Esperanza, our sister church, as well as community members, who participated in our first food distribution effort which will bring food to some 65 families who have been afraid to leave their homes considering recent events in our community. We are also grateful to the DHH church in Minneapolis that provided most of the food.

In the photo, our workers are re-bagging beans and rice provided by St. Paul's. We hope to continue these efforts until community members once again feel safe.

John Grinager



TALK WITH GOD

Lord Hear Our Prayers

Prayer Concerns

Joys:

Baptism of Cohen Olson

New Members, Melissa Dewey and Cynthia Jackson

Deaths:

Former member, Carrie Bird, January 6th

Walter Judd, January 4th

Health Concerns:

All homebound with health problems

Additional:

For peace and tranquility

For those affected by the shootings in Minneapolis

For those affected by natural disasters

Healing for complicated and fractured family relationships

For the people in the Middle East and the cease fire

For the lonely

For an end to violence and racism in our communities

*Please call the church office, 651-452-5683, with
prayers and concerns*

ORDER SPRING PLANTS TO DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR EASTER

Hydrangea (blue)	<input type="text"/>	x \$21.00 each =	<input type="text"/>
Hydrangea (pink)	<input type="text"/>	x \$21.00 each =	<input type="text"/>
Azalea (pink)	<input type="text"/>	x \$21.00 each =	<input type="text"/>
Lily (white)	<input type="text"/>	x \$23.00 each =	<input type="text"/>
		Order Total	\$ <input type="text"/>

Your Name

Circle one - In memory of honor of thanks for

Last Date to Order: Sunday, February 22, 2026

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



MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

About Us

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Adult Education: 9:00 am
(during the school year—currently suspended)
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: Deb Curran

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

Thank you

Thank you to St. Paul's 2025 P.I.E. (*Parents In Education*) night volunteers. Thank you for the time, energy and care you give to our *Garlough Elementary Magnet School* P.I.E. Nights. We appreciate your help preparing and serving food to our school families. We also appreciate the food you contribute to the meals.

In gratitude, GEMS Staff
Maria, John, Heather and Gretchen

Due to all the support received from our community for the rummage sale and turkey casserole Sunday, \$3,775 was sent to Neighbors Inc. Food Shelf and \$2,500 to Emma Norton Services from the Pathfinders account in 2025. Thank you!

Thank you to all who gave so generously in 2025! Our benevolence giving for the congregation was significant as \$21,013 was donated, surpassing both 2023 and 2024. Benevolence giving for 2024 was \$11,238 and for 2023 it was \$14,116. Thank you for supporting all the ministries of Saint Paul's UMC.

Just to let you know, those few dollars you drop in the box as you enjoy your Sunday morning coffee do add up! Your generosity totaled \$698 for 'Coffee with a Cause' in 2025. Recipients were Garlough Elementary, Neighbors Inc. and Emma Norton. Thank you.

Nancy Pierson, Outreach Chair



Walter Judd

January 4, 2026

Cards of sympathy may be sent to
his daughter:
Cherith Judd
844 Winslow Ave.
St. Paul MN 55107



February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i> 2:30 pm Recitals	2	3	4 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7
8 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Church Conference <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i>	9	10	11 9:30 am Stitching Collective Craft Group 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12	13	14
15 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i>	16 6:00 pm 4H	17 2:30 pm Outreach Meeting	18 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	19 1:00 pm Pathfinders	20	21 2:00 pm Irv Samuelson Celebration of Life
22 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i>	23	24	25 9:30 am Stitching Collective Craft Group 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	26	27	28

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

Address Service Requested

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



**ASH
WEDNESDAY
WORSHIP**

Wednesday, February 18

12:30 pm
The beginning of Lent