

# SAINT PAUL'S UMC



MARCH  
2026

***“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son***

***that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)***

For God so loved the world! Can you imagine? Loving the whole world? Even your enemies and those who hate you? Loving the whole beautiful, blooming, creation? Krister Stendahl famously defined God's agenda as “the mending of creation” and the Kingdom of God as “God's Creation Healed.” In other words, saying you love is not about you. It is about caring for the needs of others as much as you care about yourself. It's not tough, judgmental love, it's sacrificial.

For God so loved the world that God gave his only child. The gift was the Son. The resurrection of the Son was a rebuke of sin, especially the sin of Roman crucifixion and cruelty and all evil like it. The Gospel of John does not say that Jesus was God's first, or only attempt, to bring healing to our broken world. God has sent patriarchs and matriarchs, prophets and priests, chosen people, outsiders, foreigners and remnant communities. Jesus' coming was a new disclosure of a love present from creation.



***that he gave  
his only Son.***

John 3:16

life is not given by the world, and the world cannot take it away. This Lenten season, remember the Word: *“Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.”* (John 14:27)

Christ has Died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.

Peace,  
Pastor Josh

Whosoever believes in him should not perish. The text does not say FOR GOD SO LOVED PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE LIKE US. God creates and loves the whole wide world and all the diversity in it. The classic claim of Christian faith is not that God is confined to Jesus Christ, but that God's nature is revealed in the life, ministry, teaching and resurrection of Jesus. That is why those who “believe” in the Gospel of John are those who will do even greater works than Jesus did (14:12). God's grace does not perish.

**BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.** Eternal life is defined in John 17:3, as knowledge of God and Christ. It is not characterized by quantity but quality. Eternal life is present when healing reveals love's limitless saving potential. Eternal

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! 10:00 am



WELCOME

# 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 29<sup>th</sup>*

- ◆ 10:00 am Worship

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

*Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>*

- ◆ 6:30 pm Worship with Communion

### GOOD FRIDAY

*Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>*

- ◆ 4:00 pm Worship

### EASTER SUNDAY

*Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>*

- ◆ 10:00 am Worship

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

-In loving Memory of-

Yeen Chong  
Friends and family  
Sherry LaGuire  
Tom Lewis  
Charles Stanley and Marion Tribe;  
Karl and Grace Blau

By Curt Alberg  
By Kae Jewell  
By Mike LaGuire  
By Beda Lewis

By Melissa Dewey

-In Thanks for-

Our church family  
Family and friends  
Harold and Hilda McCorkhill  
7 grandchildren  
and 1 great grandchild

By Cecelia Burbach and Tom Good  
By Pat Fritsche  
By Jan Marshall

By Rhea Nyquist

-In Honor of-

Family

By Barb Jorgenson

-No Designation-

Happy Easter!

By Tim and Andrea Larson



## CHRISTIANS GATHERING TOGETHER

# Upcoming Events

## LENTEN STUDY

Tuesdays during Lent  
4:00 pm

A Lenten Study began on February 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm and will continue through Lent, with the last session on March 31<sup>st</sup>, led by Pastor Josh. It will look 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 can be found at

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/2023-lenten-study>

## IDES OF MARCH BRUNCH

March 15, 2026

Poor old Julius Caesar had a bad day at the Forum on March 15, 44 BC. Some 2,000 years later, Americans struggled to get their income taxes done by March 15. However, since the IRS recently changed tax day to April 15, we see no reason not to have a little fun on this much maligned historic date. The Member Enrichment Team is hosting a brunch following church this coming March 15<sup>th</sup>. We promise not to knife you or tax you, just bring yourselves and a good appetite. However Pastor Josh will give you a questionnaire concerning your ideas for future such events, so there will be a little paperwork. **So mark your calendars for Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> and we will attempt to rewrite a little negative history into a positive experience for all concerned.**

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

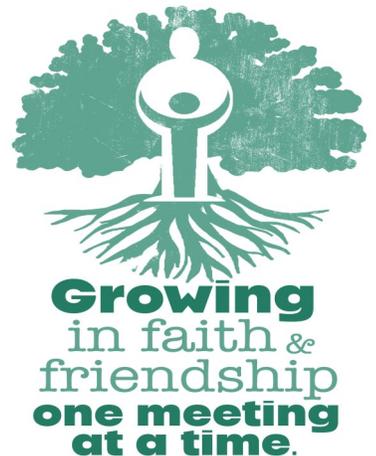
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays  
of the month

9:30 am—noon

*Our small groups are a place  
of connection, growth, and  
support*

•**The Men's Group:** Stay tuned for upcoming dates: Contact John Grinager.

•**The Stitching Collective:** Spend some creative time with other makers. Quilt, knit, embroider, whatever your craft interest—all are welcome to bring your own project We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 9:30-11:30 am. March meetings will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Contact Kathy Brooks.





# Mission Accomplished

**GATHER.**

**SERVE.**

## NEIGHBORS INC. MARCH FOODSHARE

**March 1 - April 6, 2026**

Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help stock and support food shelves. 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. Saint Paul's UMC is one of Neighbors Inc. faith partners so consider donating during March when your dollars make a big difference! Just write your check to Saint Paul's with "Neighbors Food Share" in the memo line. If you would like to donate needed items, collection bins are in the narthex. Saint Paul's donated **\$5,545 AND 828** pounds of food to Neighbors Inc. in 2025! Let's continue our generosity in 2026!

## RUMMAGE SALE

**Saturday, April 26  
9:00 am—3:00 pm**

*If any questions, please  
talk to/contact*

**Nancy Pierson 612-965-6475**



Think 'SPRING'! The all-church rummage sale is planned for the last Saturday in April. Everyone, including our neighbors, is invited to donate, shop and/or volunteer to help. This is a big fundraiser and monies raised go towards missions! Please share now with family, friends and neighbors so as they are closet cleaning, they can consider setting aside a box or two to donate to Saint Paul's.

### 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/marking 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.

- 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
- Save brown paper bags needed during the sale
- Collect copy paper size boxes (15" x 12" x 10") needed for sorting clothing and packing up items not sold



*Keep your heart on the right path.*

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

# Pathfinders

## PATHFINDERS

**March 19<sup>th</sup>**

**1:00 pm**

***Keep your heart on the right path***

At our February meeting we were updated on Neighbors Inc., what is being planned by both our church's Outreach Team and our Membership Enrichment Team and we had a most interesting study of the story of Ruth and Naomi by our own Barbara Jorgenson.

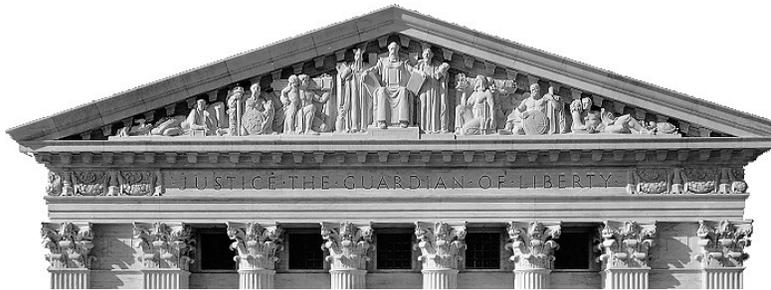
Since the start of the year we have included a 250 Minute, since it is the 250<sup>th</sup> year of our existence as a country. We have been studying some of the federal buildings in Washington D.C. and their ties to

the Christian faith. In January we touched on a number of the Biblical quotes inscribed in the Library of Congress and in February we featured the Supreme Court with its art work and inscriptions focusing on Moses and the Ten Commandments – our first and most important rule of law. It was especially meaningful as the architect for the U.S. Supreme Court also designed our State Capitol. His name is Cass Gilbert and he was raised in St. Paul.

Our prayer focus for March is a Methodist missionary from Texas who works in Cambodia. His name is Patrick Booth. With a background in counseling, Mr. Booth has worked with young adults dealing with substance abuse and human trafficking. Booth says "the church helped my family financially, socially and emotionally. After receiving such a blessing, helping others became very important to me."

We invite every person at Saint Paul's to join us in praying for this fellow American who is working so hard to improve the lives of those he serves. We also invite you to join us at our next meeting on Thursday, March 19.

*Rhea Nyquist*



Courtesy of the Supreme Court

## 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. A rotating group of volunteers lead *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](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org) with your name and email address.



## SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION

# Finance

## FINANCIALS

### *Finding Abundance in Lenten Detachment*

I'm sitting in church, listening to Pastor Josh and thinking about his sermon points related to "grass is greener . . ." This turned my thoughts toward my tendency to wonder about the greener grass during this time of Lenten reflection. In a world that equates happiness with purchasing power, Lent provides an opportunity to detach ourselves from the relentless urge to consume, refocusing our energy on what truly matters. An internet search results in three pillars of Lenten financial contemplation.

### **Fasting from Consumerism**

Lent is an ideal time to practice "financial fasting." This isn't about being miserly; it is about intentionality. Consider cutting back

on "little treat culture"—the mindless daily spending that drains our accounts and rarely brings lasting joy. By reducing unnecessary expenditures, we not only free up resources but also break the addiction to instant gratification. For me, this is the ease of Amazon orders. Do I really need all those boxes from Amazon that land on my doorstep?

### **Almsgiving as Reorientation**

The second pillar of Lent is almsgiving, which directly combats the excessive attachment to money. Instead of keeping all our resources for ourselves, we are called to share. This is a powerful, active way to declare that money does not rule our lives.

### **A Time for Financial Contemplation**

Lent is, ultimately, an annual retreat while living in the world—a time to step back and steward our finances more wisely. As you sit in quiet contemplation, ask yourself:

- *Does my spending reflect my deepest values?*
- *Am I relying on my investments for security, or on a higher purpose?*
- *Is my "why" for saving rooted in fear, or in preparation for blessing others?*

Let this Lenten season be a time to move from a mindset of scarcity to one of stewardship, aligning your financial journey with your spiritual growth. Wishing you a blessed and reflective Lenten journey.

*Kae Lovaas Jewell,*  
Finance Chair

	<u>January 2026</u>	<u>2026Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Gifts	\$ 9,646	\$ 9,646
Less General Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 19,768</u>	<u>\$19,768</u>
Balance	\$ (10,122)	\$(10,122)
Less Unpaid Apportionments	<u>\$ 2,066</u>	<u>\$ 2,066</u>
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	(12,188)	\$(12,188)

## 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, Garlough Elementary is one, especially over weekends when they are not able to eat school meals. It will make your heart feel warm and those dollars do add up!



## UPDATE ON THE APPOINTIVE CABINET AND DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

# Conference Superintendents

Our district, the River Bluffs District, will be welcoming two half-time leaders into the role of Conference Superintendent starting July 1, 2026. Rev. Gordon Deuel and Rev. Kirkland Reynolds will share oversight of our District as half-time superintendents while continuing half-time in their current church settings. Bishop Plambeck believes they bring collaborative leadership, complementary gifts, and strong grounding in congregational life to this shared role.

With gratitude, we honor Rev. Laurie Kantonen, who will be rotating off the Cabinet after completing a seven-year term of faithful service to the Aurora Sky district. Rev. Laurie Kantonen was Pastor Josh's superintendent when he moved to Minnesota in 2023. He experienced Laurie's leadership as being a blessing to clergy care and congregational vitality. We give thanks for her wisdom, dedication, and deep love of the Church.

Several additional Cabinet transitions will also take place effective July 1, 2026:

-Rev. Michelle Hargrave, our current superintendent, will move to oversight of the Prairie Winds District. She has excelled at clergy support, missional alignment, and adaptive leadership.

-Rev. Woojae Im will move from the Prairie Winds District and assume oversight of the Aurora Sky District, replacing Rev. Kantonen.

-Rev. Becky Jo Messenbrink will continue her faithful service as superintendent of the Headwaters District.

The Bishop believes that, by blending full-time and co-vocational superintendency, district leadership is remaining close to congregational life while ensuring strong connectional oversight. These changes are made by the Bishop and Cabinet after much prayer and consideration of the needs of our Conference in this moment. As always in the UMC, we trust the Holy Spirit to guide our shared work, enlivening our capacity to respond to God's grace with love and faithful service.

*(continued on page 8)*

FROM THE  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE



## UPDATE ON THE APPOINTIVE CABINET AND DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

# Conference Superintendents

*(continued from page 7)*

### Rev. Gordon Deuel



Rev. Deuel had this to say about the new appointment: “The Apostle Paul’s words from Ephesians 3:20 often have rung true in my life and ministry. We serve a God who is faithful, doing ‘immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine according to God’s great power at work within us.’ Time and time again, I have been reminded just how dependent we are upon God...God has been faithful and desires great things for us. I have great hope for the church as we respond to the work God has called us to, and I believe the United Methodist Church has a great witness to share in our communities.”

### Rev. Kirkland Reynolds



Rev. Kirkland had this to say about the new appointment: “I am hopeful whenever I see people and congregations discerning and pursuing their call... I see hope coming alive when neighbors are loved, truth is spoken, space is made...I believe the Spirit invites the church to continue growing in courage, accompaniment, and (as we Wesleyans understand it) a faith that is both personal and social, changing us from within and causing something good to be done... In this moment where fear and crisis are being experienced across Minnesota, I find hope in the ways communities and congregations are standing with neighbors, seeking justice, and working for compassion and mercy.”

Peace,  
*Pastor Josh*

Entire message from Bishop Plambeck may be found at:

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/an-update-on-the-appointive-cabinet-and-district-leadership-19581361>

Take Note!

A LITTLE BIT OF INFORMATION

News

## VISITING THE HOMEBOUND

Currently we have three teams of two people each to visit our home bound members. We really could use an additional team or two. I would particularly encourage some of our men to think about doing this. I will always remember the many visits I made to my mother and auntie at my hometown nursing home, but who did they talk about? They beamed with excitement when my husband turned up and surprised them. Widows love to talk to a fella now and again, and widowers even more. How about a husband and wife team? Now that would really be a pleaser. Call Rhea Nyquist at 651-457-5623 if you feel the nudge to try it.

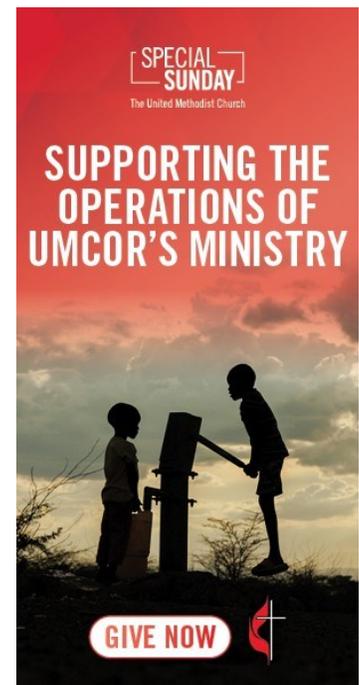
## Visitation Team



## UMCOR SUNDAY

March 15<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.





TALK WITH GOD

# Lord Hear Our Prayers

## **Prayer Concerns**

### **Joys:**

### **Deaths:**

David Jackson, Cynthia Jackson's brother, February 5<sup>th</sup>

Deanna Sellers, January 27<sup>th</sup>

### **Health Concerns:**

All homebound with health problems

### **Additional:**

Patrick Booth, a missionary in Cambodia

For those affected by the shootings in Minneapolis

For those affected by natural disasters – hurricanes and earthquakes

For those affected by the recent shootings

Healing for complicated and fractured family relationships

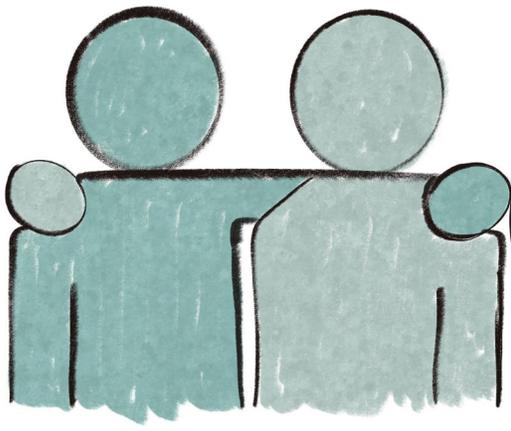
For the people in the Middle East and the cease fire

For the lonely

For an end to violence and racism in our communities

## **Coffee Hour Fun**

It is such fun to hear the laughter and feel the warmth of friends sharing a good story at our coffee hours after church. However, it would not be possible without the fine people who sign the coffee sheet and bring the goodies we enjoy. You know who you are. Give yourselves a pat on the back.



MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

# About Us

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Adult Education: 9:00 am  
Worship: 10:00 am  
Communion: 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

**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



**MARCH**  
8<sup>th</sup>



St. Paul's received a letter from ISD 197 School Board thanking us for our donations in 2025 totaling \$1,885 to GEMS (Garlough Elementary Magnet School). Our donations are needed, appreciated, and recognized. Good work team! (see portions of letter below) *Nancy Pierson*

Dear Congregants,  
On behalf on the Independent School District 197 School Board, I would like to thank you for your generous donation (\$1,885.75) to our school district which will be a benefit to our students.....Your donation will greatly benefit our school district students, and specifically, our support of Garlough Families, so we truly appreciate your generosity!

*Britini Osmonson*  
Exec. Asst. to the Superintendent and School Board

# Death

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

**Deanna Sellers**  
January 27, 2026

Cards of sympathy may be sent to her partner:  
Matt Towle  
1088 Seminole Ave.  
West St. Paul MN 55118



# March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion <i>12:00 pm Nueva            Esperanza Worship</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 4:00 pm Lenten Study	<b>4</b> 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal  7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 Daylight Saving            Time Begins</b> 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva            Esperanza Worship</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 4:00 pm Lenten Study	<b>11</b> 9:30 am Stitching Collective Group  6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal  7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 UMCOR Sunday</b> 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship 11:00 pm Ides of March Brunch <i>12:00 pm Nueva            Esperanza Worship</i>	<b>16</b> 6:00 pm 4H	<b>17</b> 4:00 pm Lenten Study	<b>18</b> 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal  7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 1:00 pm Pathfinders	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva            Esperanza Worship</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4:00 pm Lenten Study	<b>25</b> 9:30 am Stitching Collective Group  6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal  7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva            Esperanza Worship</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 4:00 pm Lenten Study	<b>April 1</b> 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>April 2</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 6:30 pm Worship w/ Communion	<b>April 3</b> <b>Good Friday</b> 4:00 pm Worship	<b>April 4</b>
<b>April 5</b> <b>Easter</b> 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion <i>12:00 pm Nueva            Esperanza Worship</i>	<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

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®

**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 29<sup>th</sup>*

- ◆ 10:00 am Worship

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

*Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>*

- ◆ 6:30 pm Worship with  
Communion

**GOOD FRIDAY**

*Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>*

- ◆ 4:00 pm Worship

**EASTER SUNDAY**

*Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>*

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