

SAINT PAUL'S UMC



JUNE
2026

Welcome. Share. Serve.



As summer approaches, I pray you enjoy vacations, beautiful weather, cabins, family, and all else that summer brings. June is the halfway point in the year. Please endeavor for your church giving to be at fifty percent if you can. Summer is a slower time for attendance and giving.

With warmer weather, summer does not have to be a slower season for prayer and meditation. You can enjoy prayer in nature, at parks, while exercising, gardening, mowing, weed pulling, seed planting, enjoying shade or while on or near water. Jesus responded to his imminent crucifixion with prayer. In John 17 he asks God to protect the people, saying, *“Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”*

The next day, on what we call Good Friday, he prayed for his enemies from the cross, *“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”*

We are also called to pray. We pray as acknowledgement that God is Immanuel, with us, and cares deeply about what is happening to each one of us. We pray because we experience God doing amazing and extraordinary things and are both grateful and in awe. We pray to help others and to not lose heart as Jesus encouraged. In Luke 18 Jesus introduces us to a judge – who *“neither feared God nor had respect for people.”* Injustice benefits people like this judge. He’s not ashamed to use his power for his own benefit. Jesus also introduces us to a widow who comes to this shameless judge repeatedly and asks, *“Grant me justice against my opponent.”* We do not know who the opponent is or what happened that the widow needs justice. Women did not usually appear in courtrooms, so we assume this widow had no male family to appear on her behalf. It is her persistence that is triumphant. The judge says he will give her what she wants so she does not wear him out.

With the persistence of this widow as our model, prayer is meant to fortify us in our love and care of others. It is meant to fortify us in our pursuit of justice. It is meant to help us find peace and trust that faith, hope and love abide.

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



SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Landscaping



Tim Larson



Rich Brooks



New service berry plantings



John Grinager, Rich Brooks



SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Landscaping



**Dave Rix, Tim Larson, Andrea Larson,
John Grinager**



**Andrea Larson, Kathy Brooks
John Grinager**



**Dave Morgan, Dave Rix,
Tim Larson**

OPERATIONS TEAM UPDATES

- All service berries are planted.
- All perennials are in along the southwest side of the parking lot.
- Deb Curran, assisted by Shirley Holmay and Nancy Grinager, did a wonderful job on the planters on the east side and added some shrubs. (see page 10).
- The irrigation system has been hooked up.
- We are now irrigating four areas. 1. East Side 2. Parking Lot perennials 3. Southwest Side service berries 4. West Side plants (including some new service berries)
- The Jedlicka boys started weeding and will get additional training on weed identification.
- Our neighbor, Phil, mowed the lawn. Randy Garcia and Dave Rix have also volunteered.
- Lawn has been fertilized and treated for weeds with weed and feed as well as a spray herbicide.
- Leslie Pilgrim will continue to manage the rain gardens.

Overall, we have had a good survival rate for previous plantings. Please take a walk around the church as many are in the back and not visible to the general public.

John Grinager
Operations Chair



IN APPRECIATION

Thank You

The all-church rummage sale demonstrated how many folks each doing a small part resulted in a 'best ever' total of \$4,200 raised for missions! There were those who helped set up and helped 'tear down' at the end and those who posted signs and flyers. There were many generous donations not only from Saint Paul's members but from friends and relatives and even our neighbors! On the day of the sale, there were those who manned areas such as checkout, jewelry, kitchen and outside and those who roved, who answered questions, who helped sell items and who helped during the bag sale. Thanks also to all who helped in any way to dispose of rummage that did not sell. Rummage sale attendees always tell us how they look forward to the sale each year. A heartfelt thanks to all who played a part. It takes a village!

Nancy Pierson
Outreach Chair



Saint Paul's UMC received a Certificate of Appreciation from Neighbors Inc. for our generous support of the MN March Foodshare Campaign. The certificate is displayed in the narthex.



Stop by and read the kind words of appreciation from our partner, Neighbors Inc.



Keep your heart on the right path.

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

Pathfinders

PATHFINDERS

THE PATHFINDERS ALWAYS FIND A WAY

“The Good Book is always a book of travel; it is about a life’s journey.”

H.M. Tomlinson

Tomlinson was right, the scriptures give us the story of many journeys and many experience along the way. The Pathfinders of Saint Paul’s gather once a month to share their lives’ journeys together with a dash or two of scripture to make sense of the roads they are on. In May we had a potluck luncheon which was attended by ten of our members. We not only shared delicious food but our stories. Who needs a psychiatrist when you have Christian friends?

While we will not have scheduled meetings over the summer, we agreed to continue praying for our families,

churches, country and missionaries. The missionary chosen during the month of June is Ferdinand Akoka Akoka. We were drawn to him because of the recent outbreak of Ebola in Africa. He is currently serving as a medical lab technician at the Kayero Hospital in Burundi. Ferdinand grew up in the Democratic Republic of Congo and graduated with honors from Africa University in Zimbabwe, which was started by the United Methodist Church. Service is in Akoka’s DNA. He strives “to follow the example of Jesus by sharing the fruits of the Holy Spirit mentioned in Paul’s letter to the Galatians (5:22-23)” It was suggested that each of you take the time to print out this page of our newsletter and say a little prayer for this young man when you do your daily devotions. It’s much easier to pray for people when you can picture them.

As long as we are quoting, George Bernard Shaw comes to mind who said, “We don’t stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we

stop playing.” Not wanting to grow old, and still enjoying play, most of the Pathfinders in attendance decided they would love to attend a matinee performance of “Church Basement Ladies – Second Helping” at the Plymouth Playhouse on August 7th at 1:00 pm. The whole church is invited, so do watch for more news in future mid-week announcements, but many of us are already onboard. The cost is \$45 and Kae Jewell suggested we make our checks payable to “Saint Paul’s UMC” and put “Play” in the memo line. Contact Andrea Larson to make your reservation. Either email her at talanson1@juno.com or phone her at 651-264-2579.



THE WIRED WORD

Sundays, 9:00 am, Bertelsen Library (Adult Education During the School Year)

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 class has been suspended during the summer months and will resume in the fall.

SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION

Finance

GROWING IN GENEROSITY



I often spend time roaming around the internet to get ideas for the monthly newsletter. This month, I found a piece from St. Paul's UMC in Tucson, AZ. (Maybe the name was what got me to read the article.) It was titled, "Growing in Generosity." Since spring is planting season in our area of the country, this piece caught my attention.

Each spring, farmers buy their seed, plant their crops, and have faith that they will have a harvest come fall. Is that what we do when we provide our resources as disciples of Christ? You could argue that we give of our resources with the faith that those gifts will bless others. Stewardship and regular giving are acts of faith.

Pastor Josh often quotes John Wesley. In Wesley's sermon, "The Use of Money," he detailed three key steps for Christ-centered giving.

1. Gain all you can, through diligent and honest work, so long as it is not at the expense of life or health, either our own or a neighbor's.
2. Save all you can, by avoiding idle expenses and unnecessary indulgences. Wesley articulated caring for the needs of oneself and one's family but warned about the dangers of superfluous or expensive pursuits.
3. Give all you can. Wesley articulated caring for the needs of oneself and one's family first, then doing "good to them that are in the household of faith," and then, "as you have opportunity, do good unto all people."

During this season of planting your garden, take a moment to be thankful for the ability to give, and know that our gifts are a blessing to many.

(Inspiration from article by Rev. Ron Bartlow, St. Paul's UMC, Tucson)

Blessings,
Kae Lovaas Jewell
Finance Chair

	<u>April 2026</u>	<u>2026 Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Gifts	\$ 9,257	\$ 68,429
Less General Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 19,060</u>	<u>\$ 78,423</u>
Balance	\$ (9,803)	\$ (9,994)
Less Unpaid Apportionments	<u>\$ 2,066</u>	<u>\$ 8,264</u>
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments.	\$ (11,869)	\$ (18,258)



REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

Mission Accomplished

GATHER.
SERVE.

NATIVE PLANT CLASS 2

Tuesday
June 2
6:30 pm



It is a free community event and there will be a wildflower offered as a door prize!

We are excited that Leslie Pilgrim is returning to St. Paul's UMC to present what pollinators to plant in small spaces or container gardening and identifying weeds versus native plants - Weeds 101. Leslie has been recognized by Mendota Heights in service of natural resources, including water resources. Some of the community efforts she has created, led, and volunteered for include: Neighborhood Greening dedicated to community environmental education and stewardship, Roots in the Ground initiative with a goal to plant 5,000 trees in Mendota Heights in five years, and serves as a member on the board of the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization. **Please share this class with neighbors and friends and support us by attending on Tuesday, June 2 @ 6:30 pm.**

FREE CONCERT

Thursday
September 10
6:30 pm



Jennifer Grimm (vocalist) and Dan Chouinard (pianist) will be performing Thursday evening, September 10 @ 6:30 pm. Some of Jennifer's credits include performing at Carnegie Hall; Johnny Mercer Songbook Series at the Ordway; Steerage Song at the Fitzgerald Theater; performing on Garrison Keillor's (creator of A Prairie Home Companion) Rhubarb Show. For four decades, Dan Chouinard has been pianist and accordionist of choice for a who's who of Twin Cities performers. He's been a writer and host of shows, having created many live programs for Minnesota Public Radio, the MN Historical Society, Twin Cities Public Television and others. Jennifer, supported by Dan, will be performing pop tunes from the 60's/70's/80's. Those who have heard her and Dan perform say they are marvelous! This is a free community event so share this with friends and neighbors!

Coffee With a Cause

When enjoying treats on a Sunday morning, consider donating a few dollars to UMCOR US Disaster and Response Recovery. In the MN-Dakotas, recently UMCOR has helped folks recover from disasters such as the flooding in Southern Minnesota in 2024 and in 2025, UMCOR responded with a grant to Bemidji UMC when they experienced serious damage to their roof during a storm. We are helping our neighbors!



HAVE YOU HEARD?

Celebrations

CONFIRMATION



Clark Jedlicka
May 3, 2026

Clark's Faith Statement

"I believe that being a Christian is not just reading the Bible. Being a Christian is also following Jesus's teachings. The Bible tells you how to be a good person all around, but taking actions is the next step. God is love, not a book."

GRADUATION NEWS

High School Graduates

Jacob Basney, grandson of Barb Jorgenson, is graduating from Bloomington Jefferson High School and will be attending the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in the fall.

Talia Steward Bruning, niece of Pastor Josh, is graduating from Roosevelt High School in Des Moines, IA. She will attend the College of Saint Benedict in Saint Joseph MN, majoring in psychology.

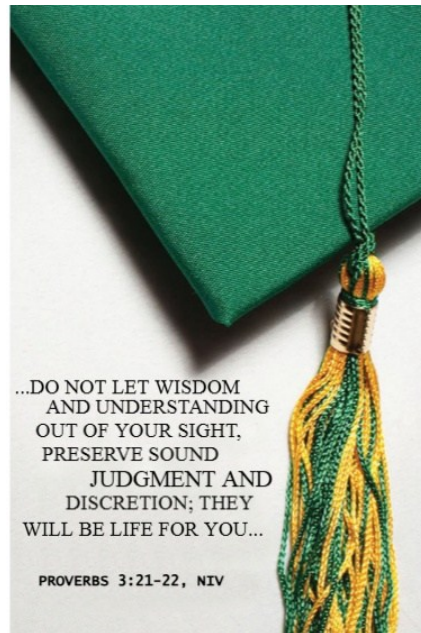
Maddy Hill, niece of Diane Pelinka, is graduating from Eagan High School. She will attend St. Olaf College in Northfield MN in the fall.

College Graduates

Benjamin V. Hickey, grandson of Rhea Nyquist, received his Masters in Public Health from the University of Minnesota.

Military School Graduates

LT Sean Knight USN, son-in-law of Diane Pelinka, graduated from Surface Warfare Officer's School (Department Head School) in Newport RI. He is stationed in Jacksonville FL on the destroyer USS The Sullivans.



...DO NOT LET WISDOM
AND UNDERSTANDING
OUT OF YOUR SIGHT,
PRESERVE SOUND
JUDGMENT AND
DISCRETION; THEY
WILL BE LIFE FOR YOU...

PROVERBS 3:21-22, NIV



TALK WITH GOD

Lord Hear Our Prayers

Deaths:

Carol Samuelson, May 14th

Health Concerns:

Lane Skoglund-Anderson and Don Irwin, both with injuries from a rear end car collision

All homebound with health problems

Additional:

We pray for true peace in the Middle East: That local populations have self-determination. Where civilians and the vulnerable are protected. We grieve the lives already lost and the many yet caught in violence. We pray for a day when war is no more, when resources for unlimited war go instead to caring for those in need.

Missionary Ferdinand Akoka Akoka, currently serving as a medical lab technician at the Kayero Hospital in Burundi

Healing for complicated and fractured family relationships

For the lonely

For an end to violence and racism in our communities

Please contact the church office, 651-452-5683, with joys and concerns



Minnesota Educators Giving Groceries (MN EGG Mutual Aid)

Saint Paul's UMC is currently sharing our space with a small group of public school teachers, staff, and school parents who continue to provide barrier-free support to students and families affected by ICE activity. Every week they shop, pack and deliver groceries and other necessities to make sure their students and families stay fed and housed during this time of crisis in Minnesota.



MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

About Us

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Adult Education: 9:00 am
(suspended during the summer)
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

PASTOR: Rev. Dr. Joshua Steward

CENTRAL LEADERSHIP

CHAIR: Deb Curran

ST. PAUL'S STAFF:

Director of Music Ministry:
Lane Skoglund-Anderson,
laneskoglund@icloud.com

Administrative Assistant:

Diane Pelinka, info@stpaulsmn.org

SAINT PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Death

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

Carol Samuelson

May 14, 2026

Cards of sympathy may be sent to her daughter:

Terri Chavie

758 Saddlewood Dr.

Eagan MN 55123

Service to be held at Saint Paul's UMC

June 27th, 2:00 pm



Thank you to Deb Curran, Shirley Holmay, and Nancy and John Grinager for picking out and planting annuals for the planters by the parking lot door and hydrangea bushes for the east side of the church.

Also, we want to give a shout out to Lilydale Garden Center (941 Sibley Memorial Hwy) who graciously gave us a 25% discount! This is a wonderful locally owned source of gardening supplies practically in our backyard. Please consider visiting them for your gardening needs!



June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:30 pm Plant Class	3	4	5	6 <i>Recitals</i>
7 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship 3:00 pm Recitals	8	9	10 6:30—8:00 pm Nueva Esperanza gathering	11 5:30—7:30 pm <i>Recitals</i>	12	13
14 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship	15 6:00 pm 4H	16 Annual Conference St. Cloud	17	18	19	20
21 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27 2:00 pm Carol Samuelson Memorial Service
28 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship	29	30				

In recognition of Independence Day, the office will be closed, Monday, July 6th.



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

Saint Paul's UMC invites you to a presentation by Leslie Pilgrim, founder of *Neighborhood Greening* and certified in ecological restoration.

NATIVE PLANT CLASS 2

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026 | 6:30 PM

- Learn “*What pollinators to plant in small spaces and how to identify weeds .*”

Free Community
Event with
Wildflower
Doorprize!



SAINT PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | 700 Wesley Lane
651-452-5683 | stpaulsmn.org