

**Office Hours**  
**Tuesday-Friday**  
**9:00 a.m.—3:00 pm**  
**754-4247**

Staff  
Rev. Dr. Russell  
Anderson

Church Secretary  
Carrie Hancock

Custodian  
Integrated Life Choices  
Call Office

Committee Chairs  
Admin Council  
Joe Swanson  
750-6063

Board of Trustees  
Buzz Todd  
Brenda Starkey

Finance  
Dave Harrington  
750-2551

Staff/Parish Relations  
Bob Rasmussen  
750-0151

Worship  
Lynda Berggren  
750-2324  
Becky Schwenk  
687-6483

Mission-Outreach  
Nancy Harrington  
754-4247

UMM  
Dave Snow  
Tom Knutson

UMW  
Carol Tjernagel  
750-2830

Education  
Nancy Harrington  
754-4247

VBS  
Vacant

Auditor  
Larry Hurlburt

## United Methodist Church Newsletter

# February



2020

[stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com](http://stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com)

Lent begins at the end of the month. During Lent, the focus tends to be inward on ourselves – how we can be better Christians or what steps do we need to take to refocus our lives. The following article on seeking inward contemplation from Franciscan monk, Richard Rohr I found to be very insightful, and hope you will too.

“When so much of our world is focused on making us feel like human “doings” instead of human beings, moving into solitude and silence is both a gift and a burden. Once we have overcome the external pressure to perform, we are left with our own interiority. The trouble—and the opportunity—in solitude is that there is no one around to blame for our moods and our difficulties. We are stuck with ourselves.

The desert abbas and ammas faced the same dilemma. In the tradition of Moses and Jesus, the Christians who entered into the desert found a wild, fierce, unknown place where they encountered both “demons” and “angels” (Mark 1:13)—their own shadowy selves which contained both good and evil, gold and lead.

My friend, wilderness theologian, and mystic Belden Lane helps clear away any romanticism we might associate with desert spirituality: The desert is, preeminently, a place to die. Anyone retreating to an Egyptian or Judean monastery, hoping to escape the tensions of city life, found little comfort among the likes of an [Abba] Anthony or Sabas. The desert offered no private therapeutic place for solace and rejuvenation. One was as likely to be carried out feet first as to be restored unchanged to the life one had left. . .

. Amma Syncletica refused to let anyone deceive herself by imagining that retreat to a desert monastery meant the guarantee of freedom from the world. The hardest world to leave, she knew, is the one within the heart.

A story from the Desert Fathers illustrates that even in the desert there is no escaping our own habitual responses: A brother was restless in the community and often moved to anger. So he said: “I will go and live somewhere by myself. And since I shall be able to talk or listen to no one, I shall be tranquil, and my passionate anger will cease.” He went out and lived alone in a cave. But one day he filled his jug with water and put it on the ground. It happened suddenly to fall over. He filled it again, and again it fell. And this happened a third time. And in a rage he snatched up the jug and broke it. Returning to his right mind, he knew that the demon of anger had mocked him, and he said: “Here am I by myself, and he has beaten me. I will return to the community.

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Wherever you live, you need effort and patience and above all God's help." And he rose up, and went back.

I have experienced similar frustration more times than I care to count. It seems that wherever we go, there we are, warts and all. The gift and grace of contemplation is in receiving God's gaze. Love sees our nakedness, accepts us unconditionally, and empowers us to change."

The Season of Lent is not so much about what we do or not do, but about who we become or allow ourselves to be.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Russ

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<sup>i</sup> Rohr, Richard, *Daily Meditation*, "The World Carried Inside", January 23, 2020.

# February Worship Services

## February Worship

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>**: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany  
with Holy Communion.

Liturgical Color: Green

Psalms 15; Matthew 5:1-12

"To Be Blessed"

First in the Upside Down, Inside Out worship series

**February 9<sup>th</sup>**: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

Liturgical Color: Green

Isaiah 58:6-11; Matthew 5:13-20

"Becoming Salty Again"

Second in the Upside Down, Inside Out worship series

## February Worship

**February 16<sup>th</sup>**: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

Liturgical Color: Green

Deuteronomy 30:15-16; Matthew 5:21-37

"Higher Standard"

Third in the Upside Down, Inside Out worship series

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>**: Transfiguration Sunday

Liturgical Color: White

Matthew 5:38-48

"It Begins with Love"

Fourth in the Upside Down, Inside Out worship series

## Confirmation

Pastor Russ will be starting a Confirmation class soon. If your youth, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and above, has not been a part of a Confirmation class, please contact the office or Pastor

Russ for more information or to sign-up. Classes will be held on Sunday afternoons 2:00-4:00 pm beginning on February 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be a total of nine sessions with

Confirmation Sunday being May 31, 2020.



## Wednesday Night Youth Group

Look at what the Youth have been up to! A game of Cornhole with bags made just by them.



## December Offering Totals

Dec. 1st:	\$2,808
Dec. 8th:	\$3,671
Dec. 15th:	\$5,662
Dec. 22nd:	\$6,295
Dec. 24th:	\$695(flood fund)
Dec. 29th:	\$0(cancelled service)

## December Attendance

Dec. 1st:	82
Dec. 8th:	82
Dec. 15th:	80
Dec. 22nd:	98
(22nd includes Nursing Home services)	
Dec. 24th:	176
Dec. 29th:	Cancelled service



## Holy Land pilgrimage: Lands of the Bible Cruise.

Pastors Russ and Trudy invite you to join them on a 12-day pilgrimage, October 24 – November 6, 2020, exploring the very places where Christianity began and flourished. We will walk in the land Jesus called home and step foot in the places Paul traveled on his missionary journeys.

This all-inclusive (round-trip airfare, transfers, cruise, most excursions, fees and taxes) pilgrimage begins and ends in Rome aboard Royal Caribbean's Explorer of the Seas as it sails to ports in Greece, Turkey, Italy and Israel. While aboard the ship you can take in Broadway style shows and Ice-skating extravaganzas. When docked in port we will visit such places as Bethlehem, the place of Jesus birth; Jerusalem where Jesus gathered his disciples in the Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed, Caia-phas' house where Jesus faced trial, and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher built over the site of his crucifixion. We'll also travel to the Sea of Galilee for a boat ride; visit Capernaum where Peter lived; the Mount of Beatitudes and Tabgha where the feeding of the 5,000 occurred. Plus, we will sail to some of the places Paul visited on his journeys such as Corinth, Ephesus, Athens and Cyprus.

This pilgrimage to the Holy Land and ancient ports will undoubtedly enrich the way you read and experience the Bible. So, we invite you to come sail with us on this faith adventure for spiritual renewal and awakening. We are hosting several informational meetings so you can learn more with several dates and locations to choose from for your convenience, The next available dates for these informational meetings are Sunday, February 9th at 3:00 pm at First Faith UMC in GI, and also on Sunday, February 23rd at 3:00 pm also at First Faith in Grand Island. Register early and save.



## February at a Glance

Feb 1	Robyn Rasmussen	Feb 15	Mark Starkey
Feb 2	Logan Berggren	Feb 17	Rose Ross
Feb 11	Marlene Kremalcek		Carol Tjernagel
	Julian Cole-Kalt	Feb 19	Doug Voigt
Feb 13	Ryan Rasmussen	Feb 26	Alexis Berggren
Feb 14	Adam Feeney	Feb 27	James Hansen
	Kelby Feeney		

2	9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00am (After Worship service) Sunday School-kids
3	UMM Meeting 8:00am Sweet Shoppe
4	Listening Event 6:30 pm
5	Disciple Study with Pastor Russ 6:00 pm Youth Group Gr. 5-12 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm
9	9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00am (After Worship service) Sunday School-kids
11	UMW meeting 10:00 am Finance meeting 7:00 pm
12	Disciple Study with Pastor Russ 6:00 pm Youth Group Gr. 5-12 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm
15	UMC helps with Food Pantry 9-11 am
16	9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00am (After Worship service) Sunday School-kids UMM Sunday
18	Admin Council Meeting 7:00 pm
19	Disciple Study with Pastor Russ 6:00 pm Youth Group Gr. 5-12 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm
23	9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service (Youth Sunday) 11:00am (After Worship service) Sunday School-kids
26	Disciple Study with Pastor Russ 6:00 pm Youth Group Gr. 5-12 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm



Feb 4	Paul and Toni Bentz
Feb 14	Gordon and Diane Knuth Chip and Jennifer Coslor
Feb 25	Russell and Becky Schwenk



We are starting a new prayer request list. If you would like your name added to this list, please let the church office know.

Thank you



**Note:** We can only publish prayer concerns with the permission of the people involved. Also, Pastor Russ often does not find out about hospitalizations. HIPPA regulations do not allow the hospital to call unless they are requested to do so. Please give him a call (Church 754-4247). if you or someone you know is in the hospital or desires a call. Thank you for your help.

**Sunday**



**Worship time** 10:00 a.m.

**Fellowship** 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

**Adult Bible Study**

Sunday morning 9:00 am

**Children's Education**

Sunday School 11:00 am.

\*New time –after Worship

**Youth Group**

Wednesday evenings 6:30 pm during school year

**Thursday**

Come 'n Go Coffee 10:00-11:00 a.m.

**Come, meet your church family.  
You will like us!**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

'Making and Nurturing Disciples'

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ST. PAUL**

**CIRCLE MEETINGS**

**No Circle Meetings this month**



**February**

**Epworth Village Needs:**

Monetary gifts
Gift Cards to Walmart, Walgreens
Bosselman's or Casey's gas purchase cards
Menard's gift cards for maintenance needs
Reams of plain white copy paper
Antibacterial soap, hand pump or refillables
Alcohol-free hand sanitizer
Hand lotion-unscented
Generic hygiene products-hair products, body wash, feminine hygiene products
Infant-toddler hygiene products
Infant-toddler baby wipes and disposable diapers
Paper towels, toilet tissue, napkins
Medium laundry baskets
Large duffle bags for foster care belongings
Basic cleaning supplies for a home
Letter/brochure folding machine
Manila folders and label stickers



# Woman's Ministry



## UMW Sunday

UMW Sunday was on January 19th, 2020. There was a slide show with some of the history of our church's UMW, and some awards given out to some outstanding ladies of the church.

Pictured at right: Connie Snow, Marion Odabasi, and Charlene Craig.



## *Soup's On!*



### Soup Luncheon

The St. Paul Senior Center will be having a Soup Luncheon on Sunday, March 1st. This will be at the Civic Center here in St. Paul from 11am-2pm. There will be a raffle and some homemade noodles to buy.

This is a Free Will Donation event.

## *Thank you!*

Thank you to everyone who collected Best Choice labels this last year.

The UMW made \$210 from those labels that were donated in 2019!

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## **Rekindle the Fire, Reclaim the Call Prairie Rivers District**

**Laity and clergy** are invited to this annual gathering on February 7-8, 2020 at York, NE First UMC to reflect on mentorship and leadership. Come enjoy an informal time of preliminary conversations on ministry, mentorship and connections. The keynote speaker is Kay Kotan, director of the Center for Multiplying Disciples for the Arkansas UMC Conference. Gather your network teams—you don't want to miss this!

Cost is \$25, which includes lunch and the book, "Impact! Reclaiming the Call of Lay Ministry." (For scholarship inquiries, contact Tonja Read, Prairie Rivers administrative assistant.)

Questions? Please contact: Jeanie Leeper: 308-380-7223 or Mary Plock: 402-366-5473

Schedule: Friday, February 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m. – informal time of preliminary conversations on ministry, mentorship and connections. Saturday, February 8, 9:00 a.m.-4 p.m. – welcome and training

### Event Lodging:

Hampton Inn by Hilton, 309 West David Drive, York, NE 68467 - 402-362-0222

· Room Type : 2 Queen, Rate \$99

· Room Type 1 Queen, Rate \$89

Attendees can book directly on line: <https://hamptoninn3.hilton.com> York NE using special rate code: LCG



**\*Usher-Greeter Monthly list\***

These duties have been assigned to those who have shown interest in volunteering to do these things.

If you would, at any time, be interested in being added to this list, please let Carrie in the office know and she can add you! You can either be added in the regular monthly calendar as an Usher or Greeter, or you may choose to be added to the Alternates list. Remember, it is your responsibility to find a replacement from the alternates list if you are unable to help at the times listed below. We truly appreciate all the hard work that our volunteers are willing to do!

Don't forget, the clipboards to sign up for Fellowship, Candle lighters and Scripture are still located in the Narthex. Please continue to volunteer, we need your help. There are opportunities to usher, greet, and light candles as well as host fellowship. Also pastor could use your help in reading scripture, and if you are musically blessed, we have a sign up sheet for that too!

*There is money available to help purchase food items for fellowship. Please contact the church office.*

<u>Month</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
August 2019	Bob and Francine Rasmussen	Connie Snow/Carol Phillips
September 2019	Harold and Mary Ann Rickertsen <b>Sept 29th</b> – Youth Sunday	Doug and Darla Voigt
October 2019	Dave and Connie Snow	Mike and Carol Phillips
November 2019	Martha Voigt/Karen Killion	Larry and Deirdre Hurlburt
December 2019	Lefty and Jolene Wolfe <b>Dec. 29th</b> – Youth Sunday	Bob and Francine Rasmussen
January 2020	Mike and Carol Phillips	Dave and Connie Snow
February 2020	Gary and Charlene Craig	Diane Johnson/ Mary Ann Rickertsen

**Note: The United Methodist Men** will be ushers and greeters **every 3rd Sunday** of every month. On **Youth Sundays**, the Youth Group will be ushers, greeters, and scripture readers.

**See next page for list of Alternates for Ushers and Greeters.**



## Alternates list: (for Ushers and Greeters)



### Greeters Only:

Martha Voigt	754-4666	mevoigt@hotmail.com
Karen Killion	754-2070	
Lefty and Jolene Wolfe-	308-687-6175	jolene.killinger@gmail.com
Harold Rickertsen	754-4038	rick@hamilton.net
Gary Craig (Feb-May only)	754-5503	ccflowers.craig8@gmail.com

### Greeters or Ushers:

Charlene Craig (Feb-May only)	754-5503	ccflowers.craig8@gmail.com
Dave and Connie Snow	754-4023	dpclsnow@charter.net
Diane Johnson	308-379-8716	djohnson27@msn.com
Mary Ann Rickertsen	754-4038	hrick@hamilton.net
Larry and Deidre Hurlburt-	750-0995	titanic.hurlburt@yahoo.com
Doug and Darla Voigt	750-3973	dvoigt00@gmail.com(Darla) dvoigt332@gmail.com(Doug)
Carol and Mike Phillips	308-380-9127	cjmphillips4@gmail.com
Bob and Francine Rasmussen	750-2594	rasfamily2011@hotmail.com
Theda Van Horn	754-4541	



An exciting engagement opportunity for laity is officially happening for our conference. The Laity Summit will take place on Saturday, March 21, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at First UMC in Kearney, NE. This is for all lay persons, lay servants, lay leaders, and laity discerning a call for more of a leadership role. It will be a one-stop leadership gathering with worship, workshops, childcare, and food! We are aiming for all in attendance to network and obtain learning and resources for leadership. Keynote speaker:



David C. Teel is the director of laity and spiritual leadership at Discipleship Ministries in Nashville, Tennessee. A writer, editor, and Christian educator, David is a graduate of Vanderbilt Divinity School and served United Methodist Churches for 15 years before joining Abingdon Press as the Covenant Bible Study project manager and senior academic book editor. David also serves on the board of the Vanderbilt Wesley Foundation.

Enthusiastic about creatively equipping lay leaders for engaged ministry within and beyond the local church, David is driven by a passion for intentional and relational discipleship. His vocation as a Christian educator is expressed in a longing to help all people connect with sacred power by interpreting the significance of faith for everyday life. Last year he contributed a short piece to the 2018 Fall Yale Reflections Magazine. A fan of the Tennessee Titans, eclectic Spotify playlists, and indie filmmaking, David is married to Alecia Krisle Teel and has two daughters, Anastasia and Eliana (and a yellow Labrador Retriever named Digby).

Register by going to the Great Plains website, [greatplainsumc.org](http://greatplainsumc.org). The cost is \$15 per person and that includes lunch, materials from workshops and walk-away resources for opportunity. Registration closes March 7, 2020. Child care is available on-site, but you must register by February 21, 2020. There will be no child care registration at the event.



### This and That . . . .

We still have a couple jackets, coats and sweaters that have been with us for awhile. If you are missing something, please check to see if one of these is yours. The Lost and Found is located in the office. Please ask Carrie to see the items we have located around the church. **Please take note that Carrie from the office will be taking things to the Goodwill/ Thrift store in the next month. If you think you may be missing something, please come and check out our lost and found!**

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### Box Tops for Education

Even though we are no longer collecting these for Epworth Village, please continue to bring these coupons to church. We will donate them to the school.

### School Children Milk Money

Our church is committed to the St. Paul Public Schools for those children who otherwise would not have it available. Please keep this mission in your prayers and consider donating to this wonderful cause. Make sure and note it on your check. Thank you!



Goodwill Industries will be having a donation drive in St. Paul beginning on Monday, January 27th, 2020 until Monday, February 3rd, 2020.



This drop off trailer will be located in the City Lot, 6th and Grand.

The **Food Pantry** here in St. Paul is always looking for food donations. Please help us stock the shelves. Any food or paper item is accepted but these items are in high demand every month.

- |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Jelly                 | Syrup        |
| Pancake Mix           | Dish Soap    |
| Cake or Brownie Mixes | Laundry Soap |
| Puddings              | Pie Fillings |
| Jello                 | Ketchup      |
| Toilet Tissue         | Cereal       |
| Mustard               | Fruit        |

### Food Pantry hours

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
<b>9:00-11:00 am</b>	<b>4:00-6:00 pm</b>

**Beginning in 2018, February will be the month for United Methodist Church to donate to the Food Pantry.**

### Food Pantry

The United Methodist Church is responsible for operating the Food Pantry every third Saturday from 9-11 am. If you could volunteer to help any one of these Saturdays, it would be greatly appreciated.

**February 15th** is our next work date.

Thank you, Theda Van Horn



## United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met January 14, 2020. The meeting was opened with reciting the UMW Purpose. Marlene Kremlacek moved that we let the Baptist Church host the All Faith Christmas Luncheon in December. Seconded. Carried.

Denise Deitz will be the speaker for UMW Sunday January 19. Carol Phillips moved we give her \$50.00. Jackie Cook seconded. Carried. Members volunteered for different parts of the service.

Charlene Craig gave the devotions "Where Is The New".

The minutes were read and approved as read.

The yearend treasurers report was given with a balance of \$782.13.

We will give to Epworth Village but not pledge this year.

Marlene Kremlacek moved we pledge \$500 to the district for 2020. Carol Phillips seconded. Carried.

Soup spoons were discussed and decided not to order more.

Planning for World Day Prayer will be done at the February meeting.

Volunteers were asked for the February meeting. Charlene Craig will do the lesson. Carol Tjernagel will order the lesson book. Ursula Sorlie will do the treats. Reviewed the rest of the UMW yearly calendar. Marlene Kremlacek will get a speaker for the spring tea, probaby April 21<sup>st</sup>. Committee for the tea Marlene Kremlacek, Ursula Sorie, Marilyn Wall and Carol Phillips to plan food and invitations.

Meeting adjourned.

Marlene Kremlacek and Ursula Sorlie served lunch.

Mary Ann Rickertsen

Secretary



### United Methodist Church Prayer Chain

The purpose of the prayer chain is to offer special prayers for individuals in critical need. The chain cannot be activated without the permission of the family in need. Call prayer requests to the church office 754-4247. The prayer request will be called to the first person on these lists. Each caller then calls the next person on the list. If that person is unavailable, a call should be placed to the following name and contact made with the first party later in the day. Last name on list does not call anyone. We are in need of more people joining the prayer chain. Praying for each other is an important ministry that we can do for our church family. If you would be interested in becoming part of this mission, please contact the church office.

<b>Marilyn Wall</b>	754-5100	<b>Rae Lee</b>	<b>754-5209</b>	<b>Jackie Cook</b>	<b>754-9115</b>
Deb Wells	754-5620	Marlene Kremlacek	754-4876	Charlene Craig	754-5503
Nancy Harrington	754-5136	Martha Voigt	754-4666	Mary Ann Rickertsen	754-4038
Theda Van Horn	754-4541	Rose Ross	754-4993	DeEtte Lukasiewicz	750-0246
Cleo Edwards	754-4853	Lory Thomsen	754-4286	Brenda Starkey	750-7967
Ashley Meyer	308-627-2808	Charlotte Rasmussen	308-863-2281	LuAnn Todd	308-380-5022
		Vanice Bahensky	754-7873	Carol Tjernagel	750-2830
				Dorothy Jorgensen	754-4126



The people of The United Methodist Church™

1320 Baxter Street - Saint Paul, NE 68873  
308-754-4247 or [stpaulumc@qwestoffice.net](mailto:stpaulumc@qwestoffice.net)

Address Service Requested

