

United Methodist Church Newsletter

August

2020

stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com



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

Staff

Rev. Dr. Susan Murithi

Church Secretary
Carrie Hancock

Custodian
Integrated Life Choices
Call Office

Committee Chairpersons:

Admin Council
Mikaleh Esquatin

Board of Trustees
Brenda Starkey
Janet Thomsen

Finance

Staff/Parish Relations
Bob Rasmussen

Worship

Mission-Outreach
Mary Ann Rickertsen

UMM
Dave Snow
Tom Knutson

UMW

Education
Nancy Harrington

VBS
Vacant

Auditor
Larry Hurlburt

Family Representatives

I have been thinking lately about what it means to be a part of God's kingdom. What does it entail to be part of God's family? What does it mean for us as Christians to be faithful representatives of God's kingdom? How are we to act such that God knows that wherever we are we will embody kingdom character and behavior?

Part of our character expectation as children of God is to add good taste in all our interactions with people. Another character expectation is for us to bring healing wherever there is brokenness in the world. In other words, God calls us to be the salt of the world. According to Matthew 5:13, Jesus reminds his disciples; "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot." It means that like salt, the followers of Jesus are to add taste and bring healing among communities. They are also to preserve freshness in our society. Otherwise they would be like salt that is not doing its job.

Many might have seen individuals who misrepresent their communities or affiliated groups. When this happens, people whisper to each other, that person cannot be part of such and such a group. For example, it is expected that doctors and nurses are people who preserve life, they fight illnesses and diseases. A doctor or nurse who acts contrary to this might make people doubt if they are truly a doctor, same case with a nurse. Teachers on the other hand are known to love children and love knowledge. They live to provide knowledge and understanding to children. But what happens when a teacher behaves differently? People question whether this is a real teacher.

The same thing applies to us Christians. We can just say we belong to Christ but when people look at our character they wonder if we truly are Christians. It is possible to profess faith but not do a thing about it. Faith is an action. Having faith in God is more than accepting some truths in our minds. Having faith is about living a certain kind of a way. It is a lifestyle. There are some responsibilities and duties that go with our identity as God's children. This is why God invites his followers to be Christian witnesses.

So, as a representative of God's family, remember that we all have our thing to do. Eph 2:10 reminds us; For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. So what good work are you doing in the family, how are you contributing to the welfare of this family? Remember, you and I are family representatives. Amen

-Pastor Susan

Blessing of the Backpacks



Please join us for a Blessing of the Backpacks. This will be held during worship service on August 16th. Please feel free to bring your backpacks to church to be blessed for a new school year! We will pray God's blessings upon students, teachers, and all school staff for a safe and wonderful school year.

Just a note:

In-person worship has begun as of June 21st. Safety and social distancing precautions will be in place. Please see Re-entry document on pages 7-8 of this newsletter for more details. Also see the Safety video that has been posted onto the church's Facebook page for reference.

All other Sunday school classes, Youth Group meetings, Bible studies, UMW and UMM meetings are suspended until further notice. This includes any church or community related events that may have been previously scheduled with the church. We will keep you informed of any changes.

Kevin and Heidi Cheng will be performing during worship on Sunday, August 2nd. Please join us, either on-line or in-person, for this special event! Service begins at 10:00am.



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.



JUNE Attendance

June 7th:	146 views/FB
June 14th:	117 views/FB
June 21st:	123 views/FB
	30 In person
June 28th:	117 views/FB
	25 In person

JUNE Offering Totals

June 7th:	\$800
June 14th:	\$1687
June 21st:	\$1239
June 28th:	\$2467



Aug 1	Oakley Wemhoff	Aug 11	Janet Thomsen
Aug 2	Luke Porter	Aug 12	Larry Hurlburt
	Jayla Anderson		Dale Rasmussen
	Brian Clymer	Aug 19	Tom Knutson
Aug 3	Tom Mortimer	Aug 20	Darla Voigt
Aug 5	Nem Murithi	Aug 25	Joe Payne
	Susan Rasmussen		Blake Thomsen
Aug 8	Demi Rodocker		Jarold Jacobsen
	John McClellan	Aug 26	Stanley Edwards
Aug 9	Dan Fox	Aug 27	Teresa Pedersen
	Lonny Thomsen		Diane Knuth
Aug 10	Kent Payne	Aug 28	Ryan Krauss
Aug 11	Jean Christensen	Aug 29	Chris Meyer



Aug 1	Adam & Kerri Rensch
Aug 2	Jeff & Susan Murithi
Aug 7	Mike & Angie Eytcheson
Aug 8	Mark & Brenda Starkey
Aug 15	Gary & Charlotte Rasmussen
Aug 16	Mike & Carol Phillips
Aug 21	Brad & Deb Wells
Aug 22	Doug & Darla Voigt
Aug 23	Kurt & Jami Wemhoff
Aug 27	Dave & Marilyn Brehm
Aug 28	Don & DeEtte Lukasiewicz
Aug 30	Steve & Kassie Hancock

*Please watch services on-line on Facebook under *United Methodist Church in St. Paul, Nebraska*. These services are now a live-streamed service! If you can't watch on Sunday Morning, you can always watch anytime under the "videos" section. We encourage you all to do so! Also kindly 'like' our church Facebook page and share our services with friends.

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
Saturday 9:00-11:00 am **Tuesday 4:00-6:00 pm**
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. **August 15th** is our next work date. Precautions are taken to insure the health and protection of both the worker and the consumer.
Thank you, Theda Van Horn



The Lord's Prayer



During this time of no in-person worship Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr, presiding bishop of the Great Plains Conference, has asked for all Great Plains United Methodist to pray the Lord's Prayer at noon every day until all gathering restrictions are lifted. "This act of solidarity," he states, "will keep us prayerfully connected. It takes less than 30 seconds to pray the Lord's Prayer, but doing so will unite us with Christ, with each other, and it will change the world."

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



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.

Marilyn Wall	754-5100	Marlene Kremlacek	754-4876	Jackie Cook	754-9115
Deb Wells	754-5620	Martha Voigt	754-4666	Charlene Craig	754-5503
Nancy Harrington	754-5136	Rose Ross	754-4993	Mary Ann Rickertsen	754-4038
Theda Van Horn	754-4541	Darla Voigt	750-1401	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

United Methodist Church St Paul NE
COVID-19 Re-Entry Policy
(Updated) May 21, 2020

This document is for the purpose of setting forth general guidelines for resuming in-person worship services and other in-house ministries for the United Methodist Church located in St Paul, NE.

These guidelines are set forth by recommendations and guidelines of the Nebraska Directed Health Measures (DHM), the Great Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church (GP UMC) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

These guidelines are just steps that the church can take to ensure the health and safety of all members and visitors and are subject to periodic review, revision and change as the COVID-19 pandemic situation changes and evolves. These guidelines will be reviewed by an Ad Hoc group established from members of the church, hereon known as the Safety Team and will report to the Church Council at least monthly and updated as needed in consultation with the Church Council.

The goal of these guidelines is to provide, as safe and as healthy as possible, a way for the church to resume its ministries and in-person worship. The safety and the health of those coming to the church for gatherings, worship and other ministries, will take priority. These guidelines, when strictly followed and enacted, will help reduce the church's liability in the event anyone becomes infected.

Re-Entry to in-person worship.

The St Paul, NE. UMC will remain online through the end of May with a re-entry date following the established phases of re-entry below. These listed phases are subject to change as deemed necessary by the Safety Team.

Information about when in-person worship will resume will need to be disseminated through email, Facebook, website and by word of mouth. Encouragement is given to those who are 60 and above and in vulnerable groups to continue to worship online.

Guidelines for in-person worship to be considered and/or followed as determined as the COVID-19 pandemic continues and changes:

1. All persons coming to worship must wear a mask.
2. Individuals and family groups must maintain a six-foot distance between other individuals and family groups.
3. No Passing of the Peace/Time of Greeting with a hug or handshake can take place during, before or after worship.
4. No offering plates will be distributed by ushers and passed among the congregants. Instead an offering plate will be located just inside the main entrance (double doors) on a table for folks to place their offering in as they enter worship.
5. Communion servers will need to wear gloves and masks. Gloved and masked ushers will lead congregants row by row to come forward to receive the elements; people will need to maintain a 6 foot distance as they come forward in a single line; servers will hand a piece of bread to the congregants being sure not to touch hands; juice will be served in small individual cups by the communion server and handed to the congregants, being sure not to touch hands.

Measures to be taken for safety and over all better health of all.

1. A Safety Team has been developed from church members – two of which are health care workers. The Safety Team will look into implementation of a cleaning team responsible for cleaning and disinfecting/sanitizing all surfaces after a worship service that have or have had the potential to be touched using a product known for killing the coronavirus. This list of surfaces include but are not limited to all entrance doors, door handles, grab bars, pews, offering plates, communion serving altar ware, microphones used and/or held, bathroom doorknobs and surfaces, tables and chairs in the fellowship hall if used. Please note: It is virtually impossible to sanitize pew cushions or padded chairs adequately, so cushions should be removed. The Safety Team will also need to a.) determine how many persons can be seated with a minimum of 6 feet between persons (side to side and front to back). b.) Determine how many services the church will need to have to accommodate everyone. c.) Determine overflow space in the fellowship hall for persons to view and hear the service maintaining a six-foot distance between individuals and family groups.
2. All pew Bibles, hymnals, prayer books, paper, and pencils including pew pads, if possible, shall be removed from the sanctuary. With the use of monitors/screens in the sanctuary, no bulletins will be printed.
3. Attendance will be recorded by the Ushers. No passing of the registration pads. Ushers will count and record worship attendance and will be encouraged to get the name and information from a visitor.
4. No singing.
5. Suspend use of the nursery because of the difficulty of sanitizing all surfaces and items.
6. Access to other areas of the church, other than the Sanctuary and closest bathrooms, will be restricted. If possible, prop doors open to avoid unnecessary contact with door handles.

Cont'd onto next page.....

....Cont'd from previous page

7. Entrance will be limited to the main front doors only. The entrance doors will need to be either propped open, or one Greeter wearing gloves and mask to open the door for each arriving congregant. Tables will be set up to guide flow into the main sanctuary doors. People will be asked to exit the building directly from the sanctuary main doors as directed by an Usher dismissing row by row, allowing for 10 seconds between people. Family groups can exit together. Ushers/Greeters will open and hold open and/or prop open doors for persons to exit. No congregating in the foyer, hallways, or fellowship hall before or after worship. No coffee time/fellowship time before and after worship will be allowed.

Responsibility of the church.

1. Provide gloves, masks, and hand sanitizer for workers and volunteers.
2. Require workers and volunteers to use hand sanitizer or wash their hands often.
3. Remind workers and volunteers to avoid touching their eyes, nose or mouth and to cover coughing and sneezing with a Kleenex which is subsequently thrown away.
4. Require workers and volunteers to remain at least 6 feet away from each other and congregants.
5. Provide proper disposable gloves to workers and volunteers for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces.
If reusable gloves are used for cleaning, they should be used for cleaning purposes only and used by the same person only.
6. Do not allow persons to bring in outside food or share food, dishes or utensils.
7. Take extra precaution assigning duties for persons at higher risk.
8. Advise any at risk person to stay home.

Phases for implementation of a re-entry plan.

These phases of re-entry are dependent upon DHM and the CDC guidelines at the time of implementation and the continued risk threat of Howard/Hall Co.

Phase 1.

June 1, 2020

1. Resume regular office hours. Visitors to the office must wear a mask.
2. All visitors to the office will need to sign a sign-in sheet by the entrance door to keep record of who came to the office. Signage placed in the foyer and hallways reminding persons to maintain a six-foot distance between themselves and others.

Phase 2.

June 21, 2020

1. Resume in-person worship following the guidelines set forth above. Highly encourage vulnerable populations to continue worshipping on-line and add signage to the door stating persons are welcome to participate in worship but do so at their own risk of contracting COVID-19.
2. Resume in-person meetings if this is determined to be a better option than continuing Zoom meetings. Zoom should be offered as an alternative for those who are not comfortable with gathering. No more than 10 people should gather together, and the six-foot distance rule should be followed.
3. Resume weddings and funerals following the guidelines set forth above. Highly encourage vulnerable populations to participate on-line.

Phase 3.

Date TBD (late summer/early fall)

1. Ease restrictions listed above on in-person worship, fellowship times and in-house gatherings.
2. Resume choir and congregational singing during worship.
3. Resume Sunday school, Bible studies, Youth Group.
4. Allow the church to be used by outside groups following the guidelines set at that time.

Phase 4.

Date TBD

1. Resume all ministries, swing wide the doors and celebrate God's goodness.



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.

Fellowship, Adult Bible Study, Children's Sunday School, Youth Group or Come and Go coffee time have been canceled until further notice.

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.



CIRCLE MEETINGS

Circle meetings have been canceled until further notice



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

MISSION STATEMENT

'Making and Nurturing Disciples'

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ST. PAUL



United Methodist Church
1320 Baxter Street
St. Paul, NE 68873
308-754-4247
stpaulneumc@gmail.com



AUGUST