

United Methodist Church Newsletter

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 Esquitin

Board of Trustees
Janet Thomsen
Darwin Lee

Finance
Dave Snow

Staff/Parish Relations
Bob Rasmussen

Worship
Darla Voigt

Mission-Outreach
Mary Ann Rickertsen

UMM
Dave Snow
Tom Knutson

UMW
Charlene Craig
Carol Phillips

Education
Nancy Harrington

Auditor
Larry Hurlburt



FEBRUARY

2021

stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com



February Newsletter: A Month of Love

February is a month of many celebrations. We celebrate the black history month; an attempt to remember all the great heroes of the African descent. We celebrate valentines' love, with stores in full display of teddy bears and roses. We celebrate lent, the Christian journey to the cross with Jesus. And although lent does not have fixed days every year, it usually falls into the month of February. As such, trying to write a reflection this month makes me wonder what area I might need to emphasize. Maybe I do not need to choose one or the other. Maybe all these celebrations synchronize together into one theme.

The three celebrations are about love, love of the other, love of neighbor/friend, and love of all people. The Bible reminds us that God is love. It is not that God has love, but that He is love itself. In fact, God has been laboring to remind humanity that He loves them, and desires for them to love each other in return. Lent is the season when we remember how Jesus overcomes every obstacle in his pursuit of those he loves. Jesus is going to do what all of us are exhorted to do in Philippians 2:5-8

“Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human!* Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—
a crucifixion.”

And so, in this month, whether you celebrate the Black History Month, honoring our brothers and sisters who even though they had been enslaved, overcame all odds and did great things in our country. Or you are celebrating the month of love as displayed by St. Valentine, believed to have been a Roman saint who was martyred for defending persecuted Christians. Or you are celebrating lent, the absolute sacrificial love of Christ that will have him crucified by Roman authorities as he pursues his goal to save humanity from their sin and lead them to their ultimate love, the trinitarian God. Whatever angle you look at this from, February is ultimately about loving each other, valuing others above ourselves, and loving God with our whole hearts. Have a loving month. ~Pastor Susan

Zoom Lent Bible Study

There will be a Zoom Lent Bible Study beginning on February 23rd at 6:30 pm. If interested in joining, please let the office or Pastor Susan know and materials can be ordered for you.



Ash Wednesday is on February 17th. There will be a service at 6:30 pm. Anyone is welcome!

Prayer Group

A prayer group has started on Wednesdays, from 11am-12pm in the sanctuary of the church.

Pastor Susan strongly encourages us to find time to join with other believers for prayer within the week. We will pray for each other, our families, our community and God's world. Anyone is welcome to be apart of this group!

Please join us if you can!



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 6:15 pm
during school year

Thursday

Come 'n Go Coffee 10:00-11:00*

***Fellowship and Come and Go
Coffee time have been suspended until
further notice.**

United Methodist Church of St. Paul

MISSION STATEMENT

'Making and Nurturing Disciples'

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, the Pastor 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 us a call (Church 754-4247) if you or someone you know is in the hospital or desires a call. Thank you for your help.*

St Paul UMC Administrative Council Minutes January 27th, 2021

In attendance: Pastor Susan Murithi, Mikaleh Esquitin, Carrie Hancock, Janet Thomsen, Darwin Lee, Bob Rasmussen, Tom Powell, Mary Ann Rickertsen, Darla Voigt, Dave and Nancy Harrington, and Dave Snow.

Mikaleh began the meeting at 7:40 pm and Pastor Susan said a prayer. Mikaleh entertained a motion to accept the December 2020 minutes. Dave Harrington made a motion, and Dave Snow seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion on future of parsonage: Mikaleh read through some of the December minutes in regards to the parsonage. The group reviewed some of what was already discussed in the previous meeting to clarify some issues, including what would be required to make an existing house ADA compliant if the church was to buy one to renovate for a new parsonage. The group thought the best way to go forward from here was to fix some of the more needed things in the current parsonage and wait to build new or find an existing house and renovate. Pastor Susan wanted to formulate a more long-term decision for the parsonage. She stressed the different ways that District Supervisor Lance Clay said the plan for the parsonage could go. This includes buying an existing house and remodel, build on our church lot to make it cheaper, or find a lot to build a new house. Susan said that she found out that if the money required for buying or building a parsonage exceeds 20% of our annual giving average from the last 3 years, we would need to have a church conference. This would mean the DS Lance would have to come and have a conference at our church with all available members as this would be such a money commitment. It was decided to deal with the immediate needs at the parsonage at this time. Darwin Lee said he will plan on putting in the new master shower. This will definitely help with the cost.

Nancy brought forth a motion to fix the most immediate needs of the current parsonage. This includes putting in egress window(s) in the basement, the master bathroom shower, and to put in sprinklers and a new lawn. Dave Snow seconded. All in attendance were in agreement. The Trustees will work on getting a list of needed items along with bids/costs. After this is done, the council can look again at everything involved and decide in what way to go forward for a more long-term goal.

Finance: Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was given by Dave Snow: Operating Checking account \$20,288, Trustees Maintenance Acct. \$2,912, Resources Available \$69,458, Giving \$9,928, Total Income \$15,478 Total Expenditures \$13,622, Current Month Gain/(Loss) \$1,856 and the Year-to-Date Gain/(Loss) is \$20,017. Tom spoke up and mentioned that the church is applying for a second Payroll Protection Plan from the government. Mikaleh entertained a motion to go along with applying for this PPP loan. Mary Ann made a motion, Janet seconded. Motion passed. Pastor Susan mentioned that the Deininger family gave some more memorial money recently also. Carrie reported that Francine stopped by and dropped off the End of Giving statements. There are between 70-75 givers from 2020 and should be mailed out soon.

SPPRC: Bob reported that the custodians have been doing well. He is planning on doing a review with them soon.

Trustees: Janet had nothing new to report, as most was discussed when we spoke about the parsonage. Carrie wanted to thank Darwin for fixing a bathroom sink off the kitchen and the outside lights. It was very much appreciated!

Memorial: No report

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Education: Nancy went through a yearly report/plan for 2021. This involves K-4 Sunday School, 5th-12th grade Youth Group, presenting 3rd grade bibles, Christmas program, Chamber Easter egg hunt, End of the Year Celebration, Bible School (which is now sending the kids to camp), Baptisms, Blessing of the Bikes, and having a Promotional Sunday (This is for 5th-6th graders moving from Sunday School onto Youth Group). She mentioned that people are needed on Wednesday evenings to help with the Youth Group as there is quite a group now.

Mission/Outreach: Mary Ann went through the ideas they came up for their committee for the new year. These ideas involved doing another Neighborhood Mic Night, helping with Blessing of the Bikes and Christmas Cheer, Supporting the orphanage in Africa, getting new updated church pamphlets made, Boo Bash, and Milk Money.

Worship: Darla discussed her plan for this year. She is a new chairperson of this committee, so she is putting together a binder with all things Worship in it. Not only will this help her as she works this committee, but in the future, it will help keep track of things. She is still in the process of putting everything together. In this binder is a collection of the different aspects for Worship, including Communion, Baptisms, changing banners in the sanctuary, anything during the Worship service. Nancy asked where the video/livestreaming people fall. Pastor said yes, they are a part of Worship. Pastor said she has 5 Youths signed up to help with the Audio/Visual and Livestreaming. This will be a paid position.

Office: Carrie reported that she received a new church insurance binder for 2021 from Christensen's Insurance. The yearly premium went up \$87 for the year, and the church properties assessed 35,000 more this year.

New Business: Pastor mentioned that she would like to know what the plan was for service when there was inclement weather. The church can post on FB for cancellations, but it was also decided to have a calling tree to make members aware of a cancellation. Pastor Susan wanted to have someone else to contact to help her determine when to cancel. Dave Harrington and Bob Rasmussen, along with Pastor will decide if church needs to be cancelled.

Pastor mentioned that the District and the Conference have some events/training coming up that any lay member can join. These will be placed on the bulletin board if interested.

She also mentioned that the church is starting a Lent Bible Study starting on February 23rd in the evening. This will be done by Zoom.

Dave Snow made a motion to adjourn, Janet seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Recording Secretary, Carrie Hancock



December Attendance

Dec. 6th:	50 In-person 153 views/FB
Dec. 13th:	47 In-person 133 views/FB
Dec. 20th:	64 In-person 183 views/FB
Christmas Eve:	72 In-person 109 views/FB
Dec. 27th:	43 In-person 148 views/FB

December Offering Totals

Dec 6th:	\$2,404
Dec 13th:	\$1,827
Dec. 20th:	\$3,136
Christmas Eve:	\$477
Dec. 27th:	\$2,257



Here's a shoutout to the *Quilters and Crafters* and *UMC youth group*. They were awarded the **Best Handmade Ornaments** at the Stuhr Museum Fantasy of Tree display. The decorations were made for the Aseracare Care tree. I hope you were able to visit the museum and admire all the beautiful trees that were on display.

*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.



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



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

FEBRUARY

is United Methodist Church's month to **donate food for the Food Pantry!**

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.

Hamburger Helper	Chocolate Pudding
Brownie mixes	Jello-Not Strawberry
Applesauce	Mandarin Oranges
Pork and Beans	Frosting
Salad Crackers	Dish Soap
Laundry Soap	Shampoo
Paper Towels	Toilet Tissue

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.

February 20th 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



United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met January 23, 2021 at the 1:30 pm with nine members present. The meeting was called to order by Carol Phillips. Marian Odabasi gave the devotions, 26 Little Soldiers by Jay Breck. Everyone recited the purpose.

The minutes were read and approved as read. Treasurers report balance on hand \$1037.69, income \$318.54, expenses \$720.00, leaving a balance of \$676.23. Mary Ann Rickertsen moved to accept the report, Marian Odabasi seconded, carried.

Old business: Filled out the UMW report forms.

New business: Next UMW meeting Feb. 9th. Mary Ann Rickertsen will do devotions, Marian Odabasi the lunch and Pastor Susan the program. World Day of Prayer March 5th at Grace Baptist Church. Christmas luncheon will be at Grace Baptist church. Feb. is the month for our church to supply food for the Food Pantry. Becky Schwenk birthday is tomorrow. Meeting adjourned.

Marilyn Wall served lunch.

Mary Ann Rickertsen

Secretary



Another shoutout to our Youth Group here at the United Methodist Church. In January, they wrote out cards to the residents of Brookfield Park here in St. Paul. What a wonderful gesture!
Great job!



United Methodist Church Prayer Chain

Marilyn Wall	754-5100	Martha Voigt	754-4666	Jackie Cook	754-9115
Deb Wells	754-5620	Rose Ross	754-4993	Charlene Craig	754-5503
Nancy Harrington	754-5136	Darla Voigt	750-1401	Mary Ann Rickertsen	754-4038
Theda Van Horn	754-4541	Lory Thomsen	754-4286	DeEtte Lukasiewicz	750-0246
Cleo Edwards	754-4853	Charlotte Rasmussen	308-863-2281	Brenda Starkey	750-7967
Ashley Meyer	308-627-2808	Vanice Bahensky	754-7873	LuAnn Todd	308-380-5022

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.

We are in need of more people joining the prayer chain. All you have to do is pray for someone as the requests are made. Please consider this request to help.

Just a note:

We are currently having in person worship. Social distancing precautions are still in place. A Safety video has been posted onto the church's Facebook page for reference. *Masks are still required at this time* for in-person worship.

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.

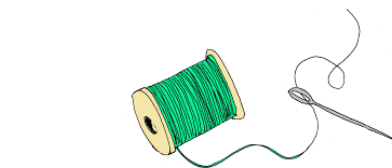


Busy hands are happy hands! Our hands have been busy and we are happy to be able to help! **Quilters and Crafters** have been working on two projects for Aseracare, prayer shawls and fidget quilts. Prayer shawls are a symbol of God's unconditional love. They wrap, comfort, cover, give solace, a hug or even shelter. These can be used as comfort after a loss, during stressful times or for anyone needing to feel God's love.

A fidget quilt is a lap size quilt that has a lot of different elements and textures to it. These could be used by dementia and Alzheimer's patients as well as people with autism. It soothes their fidgeting by busying hands and fingers and stimulates their senses. Please pray for our group as we continue this outreach and also the recipients of these quilts and shawls.



Prayer Shawls above were made by Ursula Sorlie



Fidget Quilts to the left were made by Mary Ann Rickertsen



Fidget Quilts to the right were made by Carol Phillips



*And do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

Hebrews 13:16

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