Summer Office Hours Tues-Wed 9am -1:00 pm Thursday 9am-3pm 754-4247

Staff

Rev. Dr. Susan Murithi

Church Secretary
Carrie Hancock

<u>Custodian</u> 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

<u>Worship</u> Darla Voigt

<u>Mission-Outreach</u> Mary Ann Rickertsen

> <u>UMM</u> Dave Snow Tom Knutson

<u>UMW</u> Charlene Craig Carol Phillips

Education
Nancy Harrington

<u>Auditor</u> Larry Hurlburt

United Methodist Church Newsletter



June-July



stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com

June 2021 Newsletter: Happy Summer

Summer holidays are here. Although not officially launched yet, we are already experiencing warmer days, people are planting their gardens, and some have had the first harvest of vegetables. Farmers with fruits like strawberries have had a healthy snack a few times. Flower lovers have not been left behind. My family and some friends recently visited the Sunken Gardens in Lincoln. The place is such an amazement with different kinds of flowers displaying the most beautiful color array there ever was. I understand that these gardens have been listed among the best gardens in North America. And for a place that used to be a dumpsite for the community, it is such a pleasant transformation.

Most children are home from school. They managed to complete one of the most challenging school years in history. Some schools introduced online studies, others did a hybrid of online and in-person attendance, yet others had in-person attendance with mandatory masks and social distancing within the school premises, taking off the masks only to eat lunch. No wonder kids are enjoying this break than previous ones. They are enjoying time at the pool, helping on the farm, participating in summer activities, attending camps, and indulging in various sports.

Parents are busy scheduling different events and hustling to fit them into each family member's schedule. Most are juggling work, planning vacations, visiting parents that they haven't seen in a year. Visiting siblings and friends, cleaning and renovating homes, and all this while trying to rest and rejuvenate. We are planning a few events at the church level, including Vacation Bible School in July, which will be done in collaboration with St. Mark's Lutheran and Presbyterian church. We also plan to have prayer walks with the prayer group and visits to the retirement home. The city is gearing up for GCA days celebration. These activities are happening after such a long time of being indoors while masked to avoid the deadly pandemic, so excuse us if we sound a little excited. But we are glad that we can get out, see each other and enjoy some time outdoors.

So, we have permission. We have clearance to go and fully embrace these coming months of summer. But as we do that, we will proceed with the awareness of God's grace. Having seen people, maybe even a friend or a family member struggle with oxygen limitation due to Covid-19 makes us realize that breathing free air from the environment is a gift. Visiting families after quarantine last year makes us remember that we should be grateful for time with family. Being together in gathered places makes us know that only God's favor enables us to socialize freely. If there is something 2020 and partly 2021 has taught us, it is that life is a gift, and nothing of the free blessings we enjoy should be taken for granted. As you enjoy your summer, pause from the busy schedules to smell a flower, to visit a friend, to connect with your spiritual self, and to worship God. All that you have is truly a gift. Happy summer 2021

Pastor Susan Murithi

Masks

Beginning on May 16th, masks were made *optional* during worship service. We will once again start a sign up sheet for *Ushers and Greeters*, along with *Scripture Readers* and *Acolytes.* Please let the office know if you would be interested in helping with any of these!

ndance	May Offering Totals		
67 In-person 56 views/FB	May 2nd:	\$5,961	
62 In-person 36 views/FB	May 9th:	\$1,618	
66 In-person 147 views/FB	May 16th:	\$1,012	
61 In-person 77 views/FB	May 23rd:	\$1,017	
62 In-person 79 views/FB	May 30th:	\$805	
	67 In-person 56 views/FB 62 In-person 36 views/FB 66 In-person 147 views/FB 61 In-person 77 views/FB	67 In-person 56 views/FB 62 In-person 36 views/FB 66 In-person 147 views/FB 61 In-person 77 views/FB May 2nd: May 9th: May 16th: May 23rd: May 23rd: May 23rd:	

Youth Group got to enjoy one last Wednesday meeting on May 19th in the Fellowship Hall here at the church.

They enjoyed a movie, popcorn and root beer floats!

Enjoy your summer!



Summer Lunch Bunch!

Every Tuesday and Thursday 11:30 am to 12:30 pm Starting June 1st thru July 29th Grades Preschool- 11th grade Pick up from the north door of the Sts Peter and Paul Parish Life Center. Parents, Siblings and babysitter's welcome! For more info call 308-750-6439





The Good Will trailer will be at the City Lot, at 6th and Grand here

in St. Paul. They will be there from June 2nd-9th and again on July 22nd-28th.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will be meeting in the church Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, June 8th at 1:30 pm.

All ladies are welcome!

Prayer Group

There is a Prayer Group that meets weekly. It will be held every Wednesday at 11am at the church and will run May-July.

All are welcome!

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. -after Worship during the school year

Youth Group

Wednesday evenings 6:15 pm during school year

Thursday

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

Prayer Group

Wednesdays at 11:00am

*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.

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

If you are unable to come to in person worship, please feel free to 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.



June 2	Bailey Coslor	June 30	Kiaya Radke	
June 3	Jamie Anderson	July 3	Jared Rasmussen	
June 4	Vanice Bahensky	July 12	Anna Gebhardt	
June 5	Zachary Berggren		Theda Van Horn	
June 8	DeEtte Lukasiewicz	July 14	Bowen Rudolf	
June 9	Faith Murithi		Mark Feeney	
June 10	Ray Risor	July 18	Stacie Swanson	
June 11	Dave Snow	July 19	Dylan Krauss	
June 12	Lynda Berggren	July 20	Toni Bentz	
June 15	Erika Voigt	July 22	Rebecca Bentz	
June 20	Connie Snow		Landon Vogel	
June 23	Brandon Nyberg	July 23	Mike Phillips	
June 24	Jennifer Coslor	July 27	Tracie Dearmont	
June 26	Mike Eytcheson	July 29	Jaedon Cole-Lopez	
	George Wall	July 31	Jordan Coslor	



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.

June 19th and July 17th are our next work dates.

Precautions are taken to insure the health and protection of both the worker and the consumer.

Thank you, Theda Van Horn

Food Pantry hours

Saturday Tuesday 9:00-11:00 am 4:00-6:00 pm

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

Happy Anniversary

June 1	Anthony and Mikaleh Esquitin		
	Mick and Loretta McDowell		
June 6	Chris and Teresa Pedersen		
June 7	Bob and Francine Rasmussen		
June 10	Tom Powell and Linda Jacobsen		
June 11	George and Marilyn Wall		
	Tjade and Demi Rodocker		
June 12	Harold and Mary Ann Rickertsen		
	Stan and Cleo Edwards		
June 13	Tom and Pat Knutson		
June 15	Larry and Deidre Hurlburt		
June 17	Claude and Ursula Sorlie		
June 23	Jon and Brittni Meyer		
June 24	Clayton and Nikki Gravatt		
June 30	Jason and Lisa Porter		
July 6	Kent and Pam Payne		
July 12	Dave and Nancy Harrington		
July 14	Buzz and LuAnn Todd		
July 18	Kent and Machell Naylor		
July 24	Vincent and Emily Christensen		
July 27	Loren and Heather Pearson		

St Paul UMC Administrative Council Minutes May 6th, 2021

In attendance: Pastor Susan Murithi, Mikaleh Esquitin, Carrie Hancock, Deb Wells, Bob and Francine Rasmussen, Mary Ann Rickertsen, Dave and Nancy Harrington, Janet Thomsen and Dave Snow.

Mikaleh began the meeting at 7:05pm with a prayer. Mikaleh entertained a motion to accept the March 2021 minutes. A clarification on a portion of the minutes was needed. In the SPPRC portion it was stated that there would be a wage increase for both Pastor Susan and Carrie Hancock. A clarification was made in the March 2021 minutes. The minutes earlier read; "This would be an increase to Carrie's of \$500/year and Pastor Susan to what our previous Pastor (Russ) was making, which adds up to approximately an increase of \$2,000/year." Dave Harrington made a motion to amend the statement to read as follows "This would be an increase to Carrie by 500 \$ and to Pastor Susan by 2,000 \$ per year for 2021" Mary Ann seconded to have this change made. Dave Snow made a motion to accept the updated March minutes, and Bob Rasmussen seconded. Motion passed.

<u>Pastor's Report:</u> Susan reported the numbers for worship have been good, with an average of 56 in March for attendance, and 62 an average in April. She stated that a few new families have been attending. She was wanting to have an interactive session with these families, where she can explain what it means to be a member of the church, and see if they might be wanting to join. She proposed a Fellowship time with them and some members of the Ad Council for a shared meal. Most members proposed the 23rd at 6pm would work best. Carrie will work on getting a Sign-up Genius to the group to sign up for different food items.

Pastor Susan also suggested to have a couple people who could stand at the door when people are leaving church, and make contact with new people/families and welcome them/give them a church brochure, etc.

Susan stated that she is planning on having a Confirmation class in the Fall, and that she has approximately 5 kids interested in joining this. She pressed to please let her know if anyone else would be interested as soon as possible so the correct number of materials can be ordered. She wants to have mentors (adults) available for these children, so if you may be interested in this please let her know.

Good Friday and Sunrise service went very well, with quite a few people showing up.

Pastor said that the Prayer Group will start up again this Wednesday, May 12th. They will be doing things a little different, with different leaders and activities. For example, maybe a prayer walk or visiting the nursing home.

<u>Finance:</u> Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was given by Dave Snow:

Operating Checking account \$15,067 Trustees Maintenance Acct. \$2,912 Resources Available \$62,669, Giving \$12,029, Total Income \$12,452, Total Expenditures \$14,481, Current Month Gain/(Loss) (\$2,029) and the Year-to-Date Gain/(Loss) is (\$1,151).

Dave stated that he received an updated number for the UM Foundation balance- the available balance being \$15,786 and the total is \$69,176. Deb had a question about the Memorial account and the \$100 dollars that were added into the Memorial and also an expenditure of \$100. Francine will check with her records at home and see if she can see any correspondence between the two things. She will be in contact with Carrie on this. Dave Snow entertained a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Dave Harrington made a motion and Janet seconded. Motion passed. Francine let everyone know that \$1,500 went to the Rudolf family after the death of Josh Rudolf. Francine and Carrie will get together on this also to see what additional money needs to go to the family, as an amount of \$1,300 had already been given to help with an unexpected bill and to the Rudolfs (Jannea).

<u>SPPRC:</u> Bob let everyone know that Carrie's hours will change with summer. She will now work Tuesday-Wednesday from 9am-1pm, and Thursday 9am-3pm (with an hour lunch).

<u>Trustees:</u> Janet reported that she herself didn't know exactly where it is with the parsonage lawn and well, but assumes it is progressing. The egress window is in, and Darwin Lee has himself paid for this. He also will be helping with the master bathroom installation in the parsonage. Our thanks go to him for his generosity!

Janet also mentioned that the church fridge has not been cooling correctly for some time. Midwest Restaurant supply was up on Tuesday, May 4th to look at it. She said that the repairman said the coils need to be replaced. The coils are under warranty and are ordered, but we would still need to pay for the service call, mileage, etc. She wanted to know everyone's opinion as to where to go from there. Pastor said she had spoken to the repairman and said that this was a big disappointment. She told him we did not want this fridge anymore, as it is a faulty piece of equipment and what could they do to replace it? The repairman said he would bring this back to their marketing director to see what could be done. He also said that he has had this happen before and the manufacturer replaced the entire equipment. Janet said she would call the next day and see where this is at with the company.

Cont'd onto next page.....

.....Cont'd from previous page

Pastor stated that she could report on the well for the parsonage. She said that Greg Rasmussen came to look at the well and he said the motor was good, but he said he would need to put in a bigger one to take care of the whole lawn. He also said that the parsonage didn't have a reservoir tank. There was discussion that maybe it would not need a reservoir tank. It was also discussed that the sprinklers could be put in even while waiting on the new motor. Janet will check with Darwin and maybe Roger Goettsche (who we had a bid from to do sprinklers) and see the progress of this.

<u>Memorial:</u> Deb reported that two scholarships were given from the church, one to Logan Vogel and one to Gunnar Nyberg. These will not go out to them until next semester (next year). There was an additional graduate that may have turned in a scholarship, but the application didn't' make it in in time, at least to Deb. She will look into this and see if it needs to done yet. There is time, since it isn't awarded until second semester.

Deb also reported that they are looking at buying some more banners for the sanctuary. They said they paid for the care of the Memorial circle- like pruning of the plants and additional mulch.

Dave H. mentioned maybe the Memorial could help pay for the parsonage sprinklers. Deb said that she could bring it back to the Memorial committee and see what they thought. Nancy asked if the purchase of a feather flag could come out of Memorial. This flag could be used for a lot of things done in the community.

Education: Nancy reported that the Blessing of the Bikes is, for the most part, in place. It is planned for May 21st at 2:00(the kids get out at this time) at St. Mark's Lutheran Church across from the school. There will be 5 stations like what had been done in 2019. Safety, the Blessing, Obstacle Course, Decorating, and Tune up. Joe Swanson will be helping with the safety again, and a fire truck and ambulance will be there. Help is needed at the obstacle course. The streets will be blocked off to help for this event. Dave and Nancy H. will work on a half-sheet pamphlets to hand out to the kids at the school, for both Blessing of the Bikes and for VBS. Nancy ordered 212 lights that attach to the bike handlebars. These cost \$338, which will be split with St. Mark's. The only other cost for this event will be if anything needs ordered for the 'Blessing' part of the Bike Blessing. They will be making quite a few sheets to hand out at school, so they will need colored paper for this. Carrie suggested seeing what the office has to use for these. Pastor asked where the money for these things should come from. It was decided to take it out of Outreach. Nancy mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce sent out an email requesting donations as a part of this event that will go to the bike shop, as he(John Rogers) donates not only his time, but he buys helmets, tubes, etc. In this email they also asked for volunteers if anyone wants to help.

Nancy also reported that May 16th would be the last day for Sunday School, and the Youth group will be done the 12th. She also asked where the money for scholarships to camp came out of in the past. Mary Ann thought the UMW. It has been a while since anyone went to camp.

Mission/Outreach: Mary Ann reported that the Neighborhood Mic Night will be on Sept.12th. She was told by Steven Neal, the pastor of St. Mark's, that they have \$350 'seed' money from their church to go towards this, whatever is needed. Mary Ann also reported that she will be going on a mission trip this year to the Alabama coast. This will be June 5th-13th. She was asked if our church could furnish some things. It's a list of mostly paper and plastic items. It was decided to make a list and see what people could supply. There will also be a basket if anyone wanted to donate any money to this cause. Thank you Dave H. for making the needed items list and the flyers!

Mary Ann also reported that at the Nyambene Child Ministry in Kenya, where our Christmas offering went in 2020, that the kids performed really well on the testing they needed to do to get into secondary school. Pastor Susan reported that High school in Kenya is not free, and most of them are boarding schools. These tests help in their placement in the schools. Mary Ann said that the Ministry was able to place 8 out of the 20 kids that tested, but 12 are still needing help. It costs \$300/ child to get into these schools. She knows that we cannot pay all of the amount for all the students, but that we could definitely figure out a way to raise money to help them out with these costs.

Worship: Darla had sent her report to Nancy as she was unable to make it to the meeting. Nancy reported for her on several items. See Darla's report as follows:

<u>Media:</u> Mike has done a great job of preparing the audio visuals for our worship service. After Doug and I visited with Mike this is our current plan:

- *At this time, Mike and Calee use a calendar as a schedule. They write down on each date if they will be in attendance or if they will be gone on that given Sunday. Then we can determine the needs accordingly.
- *Mike will train Calee and Doug to run the Live Stream equipment in case there is a Sunday that Mike has to be gone.
- * Calee, Doug, and Carol Phillips can currently run the easy worship system.

<u>Acolytes</u>: We have six youth that are currently interested in serving the church as acolytes. They are a very important part of the worship service so it is great that we have these youth to serve in this role. Darla has provided instruction for those new acolytes.

Cont'd onto next page.....

.....Cont'd from previous page

Paraments: The changing of paraments and flowers will occur at the end of the Easter season. Carrie will change the alter and the worship committee will put in new floral arrangements in the vases. June 6th will the first Sunday in the beginning of the next church season.

Banners: Theda Van Horn will change as needed. We will assist if she needs it.

<u>Ushers, Greeters:</u> We will continue to assist Carrie with filling these roles when the council determines it is safe to do so. <u>Scripture Reader:</u> There is still a sign-up sheet for this role on the table by the entrance. The worship committee will need to find a way to encourage more ways to get people to volunteer for this role in our service.

At the end of this report, Dave H. asked if there was a way that the Communion verbiage on the slides instead of having to read from the hymnals. This will be looked at and see if it is possible to place these words on slides so that it will flow easier in worship. Dave H. also asked if the communion elements were available to the people in the nursing home/assisted living. Pastor Susan said she thinks that with the lifting of some of the Covid restrictions that this will be taking care of itself.

Office: Carrie just asked how everyone was liking the newsletter. She stated that if anyone would like to see any changes/additions to please let her know. She said that she will probably be putting June and July together since the summer is slower at the church. Old Business: The Fellowship Hall audio seems to be working now. There was a problem with it during a funeral and it wasn't working. It was mentioned that the speakers in the kitchen worked but not in the Fellowship Hall. It may be that the speakers are getting old.

New Business: Nancy brought up that maybe a fund needs to be available for the Youth Meals. It takes a lot of money and time to make these meals as it is such a large group. A meal could easily add up to being \$100/meal. Everyone thought that \$50/meal would be a good amount to help them with it. It was decided that this would be a good idea and a fund should be available through the office. This info should be in the email asking for meal sign up so that people know this is available. A campaign may be started this summer to collect money from individuals who would like to give to this cause, but they themselves don't want to do the meal. Any money for this will be kept in Education.

Francine spoke on Covid restrictions. She didn't know of anything new recently on restrictions. Pastor said there was nothing new on the Conference website. She was thinking that on May 23rd masks would be made optional, and a sign up for Usher/Greeters could start up again. We will set out the Registration booklet and have people sign either on the way in or the way out, with a hand sanitizer nearby to use after signing. The topic of Communion was discussed in depth, and it was decided to hold off on doing anything differently until maybe in July. Carrie brought up Fellowship a while later in the meeting and it was decided to look at it later in the summer also (August).

Nancy reported that they have decided on having a Vacation Bible school. This would be on July 6th,7th, and 8th. They would try to incorporate GCA days, which is the following weekend, and have the kids help decorate a float for the parade on Saturday. This would be in conjunction with St. Mark's once again. It would work well with each church taking a day to plan. This would most likely include some kind of snack and perhaps a small breakfast item. Nancy asked if the UMW might be able to help supply some food items. She stressed that if anyone is willing to help with this, please let her or the pastor know. An announcement in church will be made and some volunteers are needed.

Dave S. mentioned that the Annual Conference will be happening at the end of May, and this will be done by Zoom. The General Conference will be next year sometime.

Mikaleh entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave S. made a motion, and everyone was in agreement to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm. Pastor ended the meeting with a prayer.

Vacation Bible School

The church is planning on having a Vacation Bible School this summer! We will be needing volunteers, please let the church know if interested in helping!

This will be July 6th,7th, and 8th From 9am until Noon Ages 4-11 years



Held here at UMC, in collaboration with St. Mark's Lutheran Church and the Presbyterian church

Volunteers needed:

Teachers

Music

Crafts

Decorating

Lunch supervision

Lunch will be provided all three days
You may call the churches: UMC 308-754-4247
or St. Mark's 308-1318 to register your child
or you may go to *stpaulvbs.com*and click on the register link
Please register by June 15th!

Blessing of the Bikes

Blessing of the Bikes was on May 21st (the last day of school!) at 1:15pm.

This event was well attended by kids of all ages. It included 5 stations for the kids to go to, including one "blessing of the bikes" station.

Great start to summertime!















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	Martha Voigt	754-4666	Jackie Cook	754-9115
Deb Wells	754-5620	Rose Ross	754-4993	Charlene Craig	754-5503
Nancy Harrington	750-0279	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

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.

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met May 11, 2021 at 1;30 pm. Carol Phillips opened the meeting. The devotions were given by Mary Ann Rickertsen. Everyone recited the UMW Purpose.

The minutes were read and approved as read.

The treasurers report was given. April receipts were \$144.00, no expenses, leaving a balance of \$1070.23.

Correspondence: Journey In Faith will be a zoom meeting June 5th. The books left from Elaine McClellan should be mentioned in the bulletin. UMW Assembly will be May 2022, early registration begins in September.

New Business: Marilyn Wall made a motion to serve the lunch for Vacation Church School on July 6th. Seconded by Deb Wells. Carried. Deb Wells made a motion to spend \$100.00 to help youth to attend camp. Seconded by Theda Van Horn. Carried.

Connie Snow gave the lesson showing and telling about their daughter Deb Snow's helping an orphanage in Africa. Marilyn Wall will give devotions in June, Mary Ann Rickertsen refreshments, and program: sort the books in the book-

Meeting adjourned. Charlene Craig served lunch. Mary Ann Rickertsen, Secretary

United Methodist Church

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

