

United Methodist Church Newsletter

August 2021



stpaulunitedmethodistchurch.com

**Summer Office
Hours**
Tues-Wed
9am -1:00 pm
Thursday
9am-3pm
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
Tom Powell

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

August Newsletter: About Those Annoying Daily Interruptions

There is a fascinating story in the gospel of Mark chapter five that outlines a day in Jesus' life and how he carried out his ministry. This story is about when Jesus was on his way to do serious kingdom business as he always did, healing people, sharing the good news, and restoring wholeness. A certain leader named Jairus had asked him to come quickly and help him because his daughter was seriously ill. He had agreed to go with him and heal the girl. But on his way there, he got interrupted. We are told that the whole crowd was tagging along, pushing, and jostling him. Additionally, a woman who had suffered a condition of hemorrhaging for twelve years added her story to the mix, she touched Jesus and got immediately healed. Jesus noticing that power had left him stopped to enquire on who had touched him. I imagine that by this time, Jairus was so anxiously impatient. "Will they stop for a minute with their many demands and let Jesus get on with the business of healing my daughter?" he must have grumbled.

Jesus' ministry comprised of interruptions. People wanted to be helped, to be healed and to be loved along the way. The same thing happened as Jesus was on his way to heal Lazarus. There were many interruptions on his way there until Lazarus died as they waited on Jesus to come heal him. In fact, Jesus arrived there four days later. But Jesus is not the only one who got interruptions. We all do. Some days you wake up with a set schedule of things you need to do. But just before you leave the house, you get a phone call. You grab the phone and listen to the caller, usually in dire need of your response promptly. Twenty minutes later, you have not yet started on what you set out to do. Then, a colleague needs to come in and get some assistance on a project they are doing. Someone needs help here or there. Neighbors, friends, strangers... By the end of the day, you are so tired and haven't completed the work you planned to do.

When this happens to me, I am tempted to complain and grumble. There are so many interruptions in life. Then I came to learn that maybe the work God calls us to do is not the neatly planned chores in the folder on top of my desk, maybe God's work is in welcoming the interruptions from those in need, and doing it with joy. Maybe the worth of our work is not always measured in our human metrics on quantity, but by some divinely calibrated metrics called grace for interruptions.

This however does not mean that we do not plan our day well, it does not mean that we become lax about our goals and deadlines, but it means that we should be keen enough when God takes us on a detour to serve one of his children in need, to bind a broken limb for a lost sheep, to offer a listening ear to one in distress, or to feed a hungry stomach crying out for help. This is having grace for interruption, and it is part of God's purpose for our lives. So next time before you complain about those annoying interruptions in your day, week, or summer, think about how God might be leading you to minister to someone in need. We therefore can learn to see these moments as opportunities for ministry.

Have an accommodating month and rest of the summer!

Pastor Susan Murithi

June Attendance

June 6th:	73 In-person 53 views/FB
June 13th:	63 In-person 57 views/FB
June 20th:	58 In-person 61 views/FB
June 27th:	58 In-person 57 views/FB

June Offering Totals

June 6th:	\$3,362
June 13th:	\$1,487
June 20th:	\$1,347
June 27th:	\$2,236

Youth Fellowship Collection

The church will be taking up a monetary collection starting this month for Youth Fellowship. This will go towards the Youth Group meals on Wednesday evenings and also will help to feed the kids going through Confirmation this Fall.

If you are interested in giving to this cause you may make a check out to the church, with a note or memo that it is for 'Youth Fellowship' or 'Youth Meal'.

Thank you!

School Children Milk Money



Our church is committed to give milk money 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.

July Attendance

July 4th:	49 In-person 48 views/FB
July 11th:	95 In-person 119 views/FB
July 18th:	45 In-person 79 views/FB
July 25th:	55 In-person No On-line service

July Offering Totals

July 4th:	\$1,756
July 11th:	\$2,605
July 18th:	\$863
July 25th:	\$1,798

thank
you!

Thank you for the prayers, cards and well wishes after my hip surgery. They were all very much appreciated.
-Brad Wells

Backpack Blessing

Join us for Worship on August 15th at 10am. Bring your backpack or briefcase!



There will be a blessing as kids go back to school, teachers go back to teaching, and all the supportive people along the way!

SAVE THE DATE!

We will be having a Neighborhood Mic Night again this year! We are collaborating with St. Mark's Lutheran and the Presbyterian Churches.

It is scheduled for September 12th, at 4:30pm in the St. Paul City Park. Please join us for some local talent and good food!

United Methodist Women

The UMW will be meeting in the church Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, August 10th at 1:30 pm.
All ladies are welcome!

Prayer Group!

The prayer group will resume on October 6th, 2021.

The church is in need of a guitarist to accompany along with some contemporary music during Worship service. If interested in helping, please let Pastor Susan or the office know!



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, Come and Go Coffee, and Prayer Group 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.



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



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 21st 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

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.

Confirmation and New Members Class

Confirmation class begins this September- please register!

Membership Class 2nd Cohort beginning in September also. Please let the office or Pastor Susan know it interested in joining either of these classes.

Happy Anniversary

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

St Paul UMC Administrative Council Minutes July 29th, 2021

In attendance: Pastor Susan Murithi, Mikaleh Esquitin, Carrie Hancock, DeEtte Lukasiewicz, Bob and Francine Rasmussen, Mary Ann Rickertsen, Dave Harrington, Janet Thomsen, Abby Fuller, Tom Powell, Darla Voigt and Dave Snow.

Mikaleh began the meeting at 7:05pm with a prayer. Mikaleh entertained a motion to accept the May 2021 minutes. Dave Snow made a motion to accept the May minutes, and Tom seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Susan reported that the collaborations with the Presbyterian and St. Mark's Lutheran churches have been going well. VBS went great along with the other churches. The Blessing of the Bikes and the Worship in the Park after VBS went very well also. UMC will be doing a Neighborhood Mic Night in September along with these two churches, and that planning is coming along nicely. The number of in person worship have been averaging around 58 people. With it being summertime, that is still a great number to have in church. Hopefully numbers will increase in the Fall and back to school time. Susan asked that people be proactive in asking people to come to church who either haven't been coming or who have never been to our church. The livestreaming is still reaching quite a few people.

Pastor has been meeting with potential new members, teaching them what it means to be a member of UMC.

Confirmation class will begin in September, so far there are about 5 kids who are interested. Pastor Susan thinks that she will plan to have this on Sundays after service, every other Sunday. She would like to have adult mentors for these children, just to offer them support and help guide them through this. She would also like to offer these kids a meal or snack as this is something that they would enjoy, especially as the meeting times would be around lunchtime.

Susan thought maybe we could take up a collection to help pay for these meals/snacks, and that perhaps this could be a part of the Youth Fellowship meal collection that we will speak about later in the meeting.

Pastor Susan will be taking the rest of her vacation time in August, but she is having Dorthea Fairbanks and Dave Harrington cover the 2 Sundays that she will be gone.

The Prayer Group has been doing well. They will not meet again until October 6th. It will then be the 1st and the 3rd Wednesdays at 11am. The first Wednesday will be a meeting here at the church, but the second will be the group going out to the community, most likely Matelyn, and visiting and praying with the residents there. They have done this once in the past, and the residents and the group really enjoyed that time.

Communion has been back to a more normal setting, but we will need to be diligent as the Covid cases seem to be rising again. We may need to adjust as we go along into the Fall.

Dave Snow just wanted to mention that he has spoken to Carol Phillips, and suggested speaking with the Presbyterian church about joining in and helping with the Christmas Cheer.

Finance: Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was given by Dave Snow:

Operating Checking account \$30,257, Trustees Maintenance Acct. \$2,621, Resources Available \$78,604, Giving \$6,988, Total Income \$26,197, Total Expenditures \$11,813, Current Month Gain/(Loss) \$14,748 and the Year-to-Date Gain/(Loss) is \$17,514. Dave Harrington asked if our Mission Shares were up to date. Carrie said that she assumed so, as she has not heard any different. Paul's office fills out a form and pays these monthly. Mikaleh entertained a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, Janet made the motion, and Francine seconded. Motion passed.

SPPRC: Bob said that he didn't really have a report for SPPRC, but he wanted to bring up that Susan has mentioned having a contemporary service once in a while. Pastor Susan knows that we have spoken about bringing in younger members/people from the community, and this may be a way to bring them to church. Susan was thinking more about having actual people come in and play an instrument and/or sing during these services, not just recorded music/videos. After discussion on this topic, the group thought maybe Susan could ask during service if anyone in the community would be interested in coming and performing. Susan asked that we think and pray on this, look around the community for people who might be interested in performing or being involved. There was a long discussion on this and how to go about this. It was decided to go about a contemporary service soon, if we cannot get a performer, to use contemporary music in some way. People thought it would be good to have someone leading the song, to help people get more involved.

Trustees: Janet reported that the Trustees had a meeting not too long ago. The sprinklers are in at the parsonage, working well. A plumber is going to come in August when the Pastor and family are on vacation and clean tree roots out of pipes. This needs to be done when water will not be in use for 12 hours after. After this is completed, the parsonage basement will be evaluated and cleanup will need to be done. After the sewer backed up into the basement, it needs carpets cleaned, etc. Pastor and Carrie looked in some old Trustees minutes and found that the roots in the pipes at the parsonage have been a problem in the past. Most likely it will be a problem in the future, so what we are doing right now to clean them out may need to be done on a more regular basis, so that the sewer doesn't back up and create this issue. Janet said that this is something that the Trustees will need to be aware of in the future.

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Janet reported that the fridge seems to be working okay. Carrie mentioned that on some days when she checks it, it seems high (45 degrees). Carrie will check on it on the days she is here and make a log of the temps. Janet said she would check on Grossarts in Wolbach who might know how to work on this fridge, if needed.

Janet also said the Trustees are planning a church clean-up day, to be in late September, early October. She also said that several people have mentioned that the shrubs need to be trimmed, or even replaced. That is something that the Trustees will look into soon also.

Memorial: DeEtte reported that the church has gotten the sprinkler bill from Roger Goettche for the parsonage sprinklers. Carrie said that she sent it to Paul's office to be paid out of Memorial.

DeEtte also said she wasn't sure on the status of the banners that were supposed to be ordered. Theda and Pastor Susan had chosen some banners, 2 for Fall and one for Pentecost. Carrie said that she and Susan had just gone through the order and those should be purchased in the near future, it was just getting everyone on the same page on what to be ordered.

Education: Dave H. reported for Nancy. He said that they will need to order new curriculum for K-4th Sunday School. She was tentatively thinking of starting Sunday School the Sunday after Labor Day. VBS was a success with an average of 50 kids/day. They will use the same curriculum next year for this as they did this year (Rocky Railway). The 3rd grade bible presentation should be done soon after school starts. Pastor Susan was thinking maybe the last week of August or the first of September. Susan was also thinking the Blessing of the Backpacks will need to happen right before school starts, which is the 19th of August this year. She will speak with Dorthea about doing this on the 15th of August during service.

Mission/Outreach: Mary Ann reported that they did two of the Lunch Bunches this summer. They averaged over 80 people each time. There was quite a few more that in years past.

Neighborhood Mic Night will be September 12th, starting at 4:30 pm at the city park. She mentioned that they are going to limit the number of individuals performing and also limit the time (around 2-5 minutes) they are giving to performers to help shorten the whole thing. It went a little long last year. This time they will have food available. She thought maybe pulled pork will be made. Dave Brehm agreed to be MC of the event, as long as he is here. Mary Ann thanked everyone for their prayers when she went on her mission trip to Alabama. She spoke for a while on what she did there. We are thankful to her to be able to go and help with this need.

Worship: Darla reported on 'Glows' and 'Grows' in Worship audio/visual. Some of the glows are the wonderful equipment that we have to do our livestreaming and slideshows for service. Another glow was Mike Coghlan, who helps work the livestream and Easy Worship slides needed for Sunday Service. Jamison Rawlings and CaLee Thomsen have also helped with these technical things upstairs. Darla reported that CaLee will not be able to continue helping with the service on Sunday. She reported that they still have the calendar for them to sign up for the audio/visual spots that need to be filled upstairs on Sunday. After meeting with Mike and the Pastor, Darla felt like the communication was really good and that this is definitely a team effort, and as long as we can keep up the communication it should all work as planned.

She was thinking that maybe next year for VBS, they might try and livestream some of it onto our Facebook page.

Mike C. told Darla that he would like to make a manual for the livestream equipment so when he is unable to be there someone can step up and run it.

Darla was also thinking that maybe the flow of equipment just needs to be rearranged to make it easier to run things, so that may be something they look into.

Jamison will be there for another year, and there was a mention that Dennis Jameson might be able to help upstairs also.

Darla thanked the Rasmussens and the Harringtons for their help in ushering the last few months during Covid.

She has begun a list of Ushers, and she is working to fill this out. She will send out this list to the people on the Usher list so they are aware of who is doing what month, and if they need a substitute, they can go off this list to find a replacement.

Pastor brought up that on the livestream, before the service starts, there is a lot of "fellowship" (visiting) going on, and that it goes over our livestream. She said that she thinks that after the Prelude, there needs to be a minute countdown where there is quiet time. Darla said she would get up and tell people what needs to be done and why at service on Sunday.

Office: Carrie reported that Carol and Mike Phillips came in and went through all the books that are in the storage shed. Carol counted approximately 2,718 books. Something needs to be done with them, and Carol had done some research and she couldn't find anyone to donate them to. Susan thought that there were some places in Kenya they could be sent, but the problem is how to get them there, and the cost to send them. It was questioned if these books were good enough books to spend the money to mail them somewhere. We will think on this and see what could be done with these.

Old Business: At the last Admin Council meeting (May 2021) we had discussed having a collection for Youth Meals. This was for the Youth Group Wednesday night meal. We discussed this again, and it was decided we should still offer this for Youth Group. The church will offer this to anyone helping with the Youth meal, whether they want to use this money or not towards a meal.

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We will start a collection in the next month for this. Also included in this collection will be money to go towards a meal/snack for the kids coming to Confirmation this Fall. The Pastor estimates there will be around 8-10 kids in Confirmation. Darla mentioned that maybe we need to bring up the milk fund again, since school is getting close to starting.

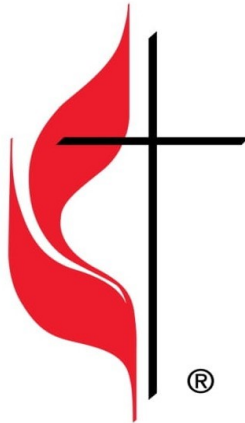
New Business: The group spoke about Covid restrictions going forward. Pastor Susan had said previously in the meeting that the Bishop had sent out a letter, recommending that each church be diligent with the change in Covid cases again. After discussion, it was decided that we would not require masks, but will watch cases in the county to see if that needs to change. It was also decided to not have Fellowship yet, and to see how the next few months go.

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



*You are cordially invited to the
Service Celebrating the Appointment of*

*Rev. Dr. Charles Murithi
Prairie Rivers/Elkhorn Valley District
Superintendent*



*Saturday, August 28, 2021
2 P.M.
Bassett United Methodist Church
300 W. Florence St
Bassett, Nebraska 68714*

*Sunday, August 29, 2021
2 P.M.
Aurora United Methodist Church
1104 A St
Aurora, Nebraska 68818*

*Please share this invitation with your church family.
All clergy and laity are welcomed to attend.*

Great Success! This year's Vacation Bible School was held on July 6th, 7th and 8th. This was held here at the United Methodist Church. There was an average of about 50 kids each of those days! The theme this year was "Rocky Railway- Jesus' Power Pulls us Through". A huge thank you to all the volunteers from all three churches involved- UMC, St. Mark's Lutheran, and the Presbyterian church. Without them we couldn't have pulled this off! Also thanks to all those who helped with decorating, preparing the snacks and lunch, and all those little things in between.

On July 11th, the Sunday after VBS, there was a Worship in the Park that involved all three churches again. Quite a few people were there to watch the VBS kids perform some of the songs that they learned from VBS the week before.



United Methodist Women

July 13, 2021 minutes

The meeting for the United Methodist Women was called to order by Charlene Craig at 1:35 pm. Charlene gave the devotions, reading from Patchwork Devotional titled With Thanksgiving, she then led us in prayer. We recited the Group Purpose followed by Theda Van Horn reading the minutes from the June meeting. They were approved as read. Jackie Cook gave the Treasurer's report, beginning balance was \$1,248.23, receipts \$142.00, disbursements \$420.00, leaving an ending balance of \$1,030.23. This was also approved.

Charlene shared some news from Epworth and their spring newsletter. They were proud of their accomplishments during covid, adjusting as necessary and yet helping families with much needed items. She also shared that May was Foster Care Month and relayed a story of a child in foster care for much of her life. She was placed with a family that initially worked on her self esteem as well as other areas and gradually ended up adopting her. More foster families are always welcome. They are also trying to decide how to best utilize several empty buildings on their campus. Any one wanting more information can contact Charlene or go online and see the newsletter.

Old Business: Charlene reported that she, Connie Snow, and Claude Sorlie helped Mary Ann with Lunch Bunch. They served approximately 92 children. July 22 is the next date that Mary Ann needs help. Please contact her if that is something you are interested in.

VBS was an interesting, fun and exciting week. Our church served lunch on July 6th. There were approximately 55-60 children participating, Several members from UMW supplied food, help serve lunch and helped with crafts. Books that had been donated from Elaine McClellan's family and Dave Snow were donated to Brookfield.

New business: A total of \$250 was donated for Christian summer camps, \$100 from UMW. Faith is attending camp this week.

We need to be thinking of a dollar amount we want to donate to Epworth for their fall fundraiser. Carol is making some placemats and tablerunners to donate also.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30, Marian gave the lesson titled Knit Together with the Earth. This was from the UMW program book. Her lesson was based on Genesis 7:1-16

Next meeting is August 10th at 1:30 pm Program or Lesson: Carol, Devotions: Theda, Refreshments: Marian

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.

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.

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

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August