

United Methodist Church Newsletter

September

2021

stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com



Office Hours
Tues-Fri
9am –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
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

September Newsletter: Covid-19 Has Lingered Longer than we Expected, Now What?

In March 2020, the world was brought to a halt by a virus that permeated all areas and brought life as we know it to a standstill. Schools were suspended for a while, churches stopped meeting in buildings, even businesses stopped operating the usual way for some time. We all knew how it was going to be, or did we? We thought we would stop meeting for a few weeks, maybe two or three and then we would resume and continue as usual. Little did we know that the changes we were seeing were going to be prolonged.

More than a year down the line, we are still hearing of the lingering virus. But there is much more hope than we had last year. People have changed how they live their lives and become more attentive to their health. Vaccines are being administered all over the country. Boosters are also available to those with underlying medical conditions.

As I pondered about these things, I asked myself a question, now what? How do we live as disciples of Christ during an ongoing pandemic?

- *Invite people back to church.* We all know a family or an individual who hasn't worshipped with us since the onset of the pandemic. Some have worshipped virtually, but we also have known over the past one year that virtual isn't quite the same as in-person. We need the fellowship, the togetherness, and the presence as we encourage each other in the journey of faith.
- *We live as people of hope.* We never give up because we know that God never gives up on us. He is with us, watching over us. He is kind and he cares. So, when we talk with others, let us speak words filled with hope, not in ourselves, but in what God can and will do.
- *Love each other.* We know that a crisis can stir anxiety and worry in us. Everyone is trying to process and understand what is going on. Some people will have very different opinions from yours, be kind. We do not have to agree on everything, but we can love each other in our varied opinions.
- *Protect those who are vulnerable.* When visiting areas with vulnerable people, those with health struggles, please be mindful of their limitations and do whatever it takes to protect them. It is what Christ would have us do. We are not requiring masks in our church at this time, but we are also monitoring the ongoing situation.

May God carry us through this moment in time. Have a month full of hope, love others, and remember to invite your friends back to the house of the Lord where we all get to meet with God and each other as we worship. Amen

Pastor Susan Murithi



August Attendance

August 1st:	69 In-person 62 views/FB
August 8th:	43 In-person 60 views/FB
August 15th:	43 In-person 65 views/FB
August 22nd:	51 In-person 111 views/FB
August 29th:	55 In-person 63 views/FB

August Offering Totals

August 1st:	\$4,860
August 8th:	\$2,635
August 15th:	\$1,611
August 22nd:	\$2,226
August 29th:	\$1,722

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.

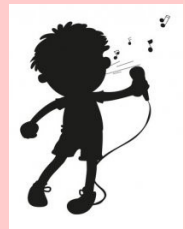
Neighborhood Mic Night

There will be a Neighborhood Mic Night on September 12th at

4:30 pm at the St. Paul City Park. This event is being brought together by the United Methodist, St. Mark's Lutheran and Presbyterian Churches of St. Paul.

This is a neighborhood event showcasing local talent. These talents can range from singing, dancing, acting, etc.

Food will be served.



A free will donation will be collected on this day and 100% will go to the Community Assistance Fund (Ministerial Association)

Come and enjoy this community event!

Start date for Sunday Schools:

Our Sunday School classes, both the adult and children ages Pre-K to 4th grade, will begin on September 12th. Adult S.S will be at 9 am and Children's S.S will be after worship, starting at approximately 11 am.

Start date for Youth group:

Youth group will begin on September 8th at 6:15 pm

The Goodwill donation trailer will be in St. Paul again from Sept. 21st until the 28th. This will be located in the City lot at 6th and Grand. Please consider donating your gently used items to help support this wonderful cause.



United Methodist Women

The UMW will be meeting in the church Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, September 14th at 1:30 pm.
All ladies are welcome!

Prayer Group!

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

Our church is planning to have a contemporary Worship service once in a while. If interested joining a worship band as a singer or instrument player, please let Pastor Susan or the office know- we would love to have you join us!

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 have been suspended until further notice. Prayer group to resume in October.**

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 |



Sept 1	Connie Nickel	Sept 15	Colin Winkler
Sept 5	Bob Rasmussen	Sept 24	Kyle Thomas
Sept 8	Loretta McDowell	Sept 25	Tjade Rodocker
Sept 8	Sue Nielsen	Sept 27	Angie Eytcheson
Sept 8	Stacy Vogel	Sept 27	Pearl Jensen
Sept 9	Buzz Todd	Sept 28	Joy Risor
Sept 10	Chip Coslor	Sept 29	John Gebhardt
Sept 11	Sheryl Mortimer	Sept 30	Tom Powell
Sept 12	Marian Odabasi		

Confirmation

Confirmation class begins in October- please register if you have not done so. We are also needing adult mentors for these children going through Confirmation. Please consider helping with this time worthy cause.

There will be a New Members reception and a Baptism taking place during worship service on Sept. 19th. We would love to have you join us!



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.

September 18th 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.

Our church would like to encourage everyone to come back to in person worship. Masks are not a requirement at this time but we do have them available if you choose to wear one. Our sanctuary is large which helps to make it easy to social distance.

If you are still 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.

Happy Anniversary

Sept 8	Brandon and Jennifer Mitteis
Sept 14	Ed and Jamie Anderson
Sept 18	Kyle and Carrie Thomas

September Calendar

Sept 1	SPPRC meeting 6:15 pm Choir Organization Meeting 7 pm
Sept 5	Worship 10 am -Holy Communion
Sept 6	Labor Day
Sept 8	Youth Group 6:15 pm NO Choir practice
Sept 12	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am– Farmer’s blessing and Mary Ann Rickertsen to speak on Mission trip, Presentation of Youth Bibles Children’s Sunday School– after Worship Neighborhood Mic Night– 4:30 pm City Park
Sept 14	UMW meeting 1:30 pm
Sept 15	Youth Group 6:15 pm Choir at 7pm
Sept 18	UMC helps with Food Pantry 9-11 am
Sept 19	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am– New members reception and Baptism Children’s Sunday School– after Worship
Sept 22	Youth Group 6:15 pm Choir at 7pm
Sept 26	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am Children’s Sunday School– after Worship
Sept 29	Youth Group 6:15 pm Choir at 7pm

Things to be aware that are coming in **October**:

Oct. 3rd-Confirmation begins– after worship, approximate time 11:20am-12:30 pm. These meetings are planned for twice a month throughout the school year.



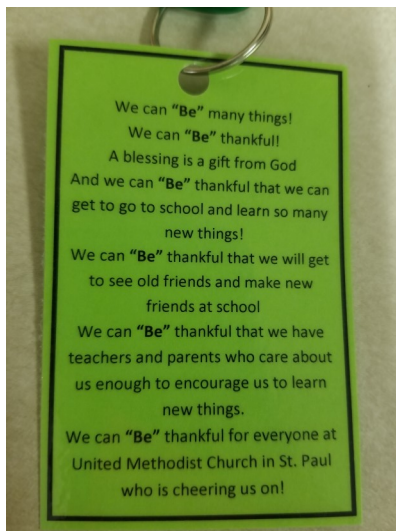
Oct. 24th– Charge Conference at the Wood River UMC at 3pm

Also, there will be a **Women’s Bible Study** beginning in early October. This will be led by Ursula Sorlie and will take place in the afternoon at her home. For more information or to be a part of this group, please contact Ursula at (308)754-2086.

Blessing of the Backpacks



A Blessing of the Backpacks was done on August 15th during worship. Pastor Dorteia Fairbanks, covering for Pastor Susan, not only blessed backpacks but students, current and past teaching staff as well as support staff. The students were presented a cross with an attached blessing to attach to their backpacks. God's blessings on a happy, healthy, and fun new school year!



⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6



United Methodist Women August Minutes

The United Methodist Women met August 10, 2021. Charlene Craig called the meeting to order. Theda Van Horn gave devotions called "Give your troubles to God-you will be up all Night Anyway". The minutes of the July meeting were read and approved as read. Jackie Cook gave the treasurer's report. Balance on hand at the end of July was \$1,125.23.

Charlene Craig reviewed news from the Epworth newsletter. Donations for the Epworth fundraiser auction in October were discussed. We do have some school supplies on hand that perhaps can be donated to Epworth Village. Charlene will check on this.

Report from Lunch Bunch- served 68 kids plus adults. Goulash was served.

Carol Phillips showed items for donating to Epworth Auction. Two gift bags, two pillows and leftover school supplies for the students to use.

Theda Van Horn moved that \$50.00 be donated for school supplies. Carol Phillips seconded. Motion carried.

Special Mission Recognition recipient was discussed. Possible person to be honored would be Carol Tjernagel.

September meeting planning.

Meeting—Carol Phillips

Lesson—Charlene Craig

Devotions—Ursula Sorlie

Lunch—Marilyn Wall



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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September

