

# United Methodist Church Newsletter



## DECEMBER

2020



[stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com](http://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 Esquitin

Board of Trustees  
Brenda Starkey  
Janet Thomsen

Finance

Staff/Parish Relations  
Bob Rasmussen

Worship  
Lynda Berggren  
Darla Voigt

Mission-Outreach  
Mary Ann Rickertsen

UMM  
Dave Snow  
Tom Knutson

UMW

Education  
Nancy Harrington

VBS  
Vacant

Auditor  
Larry Hurlburt

It is officially the advent season of the year 2020. This is the time when Christians all over the world celebrate the arrival of the King, Lord Jesus Christ. Four Sunday before Christmas, we set our hearts in a waiting mode, in a preparation mode so that we can make our hearts ready for God to do something new in us. Many times, however, we get so busy with other things that we fail to heed this invitation. We prepare everything else except our hearts for his coming. There is no time to look at the heart because our time is consumed by other things.

It is not uncommon to find people completely overwhelmed by Christmas. There is intense preparation to do so that we can have the “perfect Christmas”. Then we end up with no Christmas at all. We have completely been swamped... decorating, cooking, shopping, wrapping gifts, sending cards and .... Oh! Christmas passes just like that. Christ’s birthday goes without us giving much attention to him, because, you know, we were getting ready to celebrate his birthday. Kevin Alton in his study “A Different kind of Christmas” talks about a story he wrote of a lady who got shipped to heaven accidentally during the Christmas hype. She was very tired and declared that Christmas is exhausting. She explained all the things that she had to do for Christmas.

The angel asked her why she does that. She explained that it was important because it reminded her how much she loved the *peace and goodwill* of Christmas. She then noticed that no one had decorated in heaven and inquired why. Jesus explained, “we do not need decorations because we do not need to be reminded... peace and goodwill are all that anyone does here. It’s not a time of the year. It’s not a thing you can forget. Its who we are. Here, the time you used to spend reminding yourself about peace and goodwill you just spend doing it.”

Wow! Isn’t that beautiful? Isn’t it wonderful to remember that the *peace and goodwill* that we spend so much time preparing ourselves for and reminding ourselves about, might not need such effort to remind if our life focused on being and doing it? That the spirit of Christmas should be the spirit of life for a believer and not a season. That we do not have to spend ourselves preparing for Christmas, rather we should live the season, worshiping Christ the coming king? Important as it is to prepare outwardly and get a beautiful visual, the real significance is in the living the Christmas out... i.e. in peace and goodwill. In other words, instead of spending the whole season preparing to celebrate, we can actually celebrate Christ and be ready for his arrival, his advent. Allow him to change our hearts and transform us to his likeness. Have a meaningful Christmas 2020. Amen

*Pastor Susan*

## Did you know.....

**The children of the church have been collecting money for Heifer International?** Heifer International is a global nonprofit working to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable, values-based holistic community development. Currently the children are working toward a goal of buying a heifer for a family in need. Anyone is able to give to this cause!

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### October Attendance

Oct 4th:	39 In-person 131 views/FB
Oct. 11th:	44 In-person 70 views/FB
Oct. 18th:	41 In-person 142 views/FB
Oct 25th:	28 In-person 73 views/FB

### October Offering Totals

Oct 4th:	\$2,543
Oct 11th:	\$3,117
Oct 18th:	\$599
Oct 25th	\$3,133

### **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.



### **Online Giving**

Exciting news! You now have the option to give online to the church! If you go to our website [stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com](http://stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com), there is now an option on the menu bar to 'Give Online'. Once clicking on this button it will redirect you to a secure site in which you can enter in your information and give the amount you are interested in giving. This can be a one time offering or you may set up a recurring amount.

### **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.

### **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.



# Christmas Scavenger Hunt

Please join the United Methodist Church for a socially distanced, Christmas themed, vehicle scavenger hunt!

When: Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>,  
3:30-5:00pm.



- At 3:30, drive through the awning at the United Methodist Church (1320 Baxter St.) to get your scavenger hunt list. (Must finish and return by 5:00!)
- After you complete your scavenger hunt, return to the UMC with your completed list to get your prize!
- Each vehicle that participates will get a candy cane! First few vehicles to return with their completed list will receive CHAMBER BUCKS!

\*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.

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|-----------------------|--------------|
| Jelly                 | Syrup        |
| Pancake Mix           | Dish Soap    |
| Cake or Brownie Mixes | Laundry Soap |
| Puddings              | Pie Fillings |
| Jello                 | Ketchup      |
| Toilet Tissue         | Cereal       |
| Mustard               | Fruit        |



Dec 2	Lory Thomsen	Dec 16	Dave Harrington
Dec 3	Don Lukasiewicz	Dec 17	Joe Swanson
	Brittni Meyer	Dec 18	Wilbert Potter
Dec 4	Ursula Sorlie	Dec 19	Susan Ross
	Deborah Rasmussen	Dec 20	Mac Killinger
Dec 5	Brenda Starkey	Dec 21	Jon Meyer
Dec 9	Ryley Schulte	Dec 22	Wade Berggren
Dec 10	Carrie Thomas		Dawson Fox
Dec 11	Zachary Rasmussen	Dec 24	Vincent Christensen
Dec 13	Rick Peters	Dec 29	Deb Wells
Dec 14	Charlene Craig	Dec 30	Ethan Coslor

**Food Pantry hours**

<b>Saturday</b> 9:00-11:00 am	<b>Tuesday</b> 4:00-6:00 pm
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**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.

**December 19th** 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



Dec 4	Ray and Joy Risor
Dec 14	Mike and Liz Rawlings
Dec 21	Mark and Angela Feeney
Dec 24	Josh and Jannea Rudolf
Dec 26	John and Kelly Gebhardt
Dec 27	Chris and Ashley Meyer
Dec 28	Arlan and Kori Johnson

**Adult Sunday School**

will be starting a new book, *The Ten Commandments from the Backside*, by J. Ellsworth Kalas. They will begin this new study in January. If interested in joining, please let the office know so that a book can be ordered for you!

## Quilters and Crafters



The Quilters and Crafters along with the youth group have been keeping busy. Here are some of the ornaments that we made and are displayed on this gorgeous tree at Stuhr Museum. The tree, decorated with a patriotic theme is for Aseracare (hospice). Plan on making Stuhr's Fantasy of Trees display part of your holiday celebration. You won't be disappointed. The show runs now through January 3, 2021.



Thank you to the Youth Group for making these Button Tree ornaments!



### 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.

<b>Marilyn Wall</b>	754-5100	Martha Voigt	754-4666	<b>Jackie Cook</b>	<b>754-9115</b>
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
				Dorothy Jorgensen	754-4126

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.

Christmas Cheer is well underway. The application deadline has now passed and gift tags are available at multiple locations. We will be serving about the same number of families as last year. Once gifts are purchased they will be returned to our church. On December 14<sup>th</sup> the Cheer Committee will meet and wrap gifts, if necessary, and sort into family groups. They will then be distributed on December 18<sup>th</sup> from our church. If you would like to purchase a gift or make a financial donation please contact either Snows or Phillips. Another way you can help is to donate stocking hats, gloves/mittens or socks. There will be a box available for these donations in the Narthex of the church. All sizes, for youth as well as adults, are needed.



Thank you so much for your continued support of this community outreach. Because of you several families will have a much merrier Christmas!

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. HIP-PA 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.

**\*Youth Group, Fellowship and Come and Go Coffee time have been suspended until further notice.**

**\*Adult Sunday Bible Study has started!  
9:00am Sunday mornings**

**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.\*



**MISSION STATEMENT**

**'Making and Nurturing Disciples'**

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ST. PAUL**

The United Methodist Women will be gathering for a meeting this month on Tuesday, December 8th at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting will be more of a social gathering than meetings of the past. No refreshments will be served. Please bring your 'Thank' offering if able. *Masks and social distancing will be in place for this meeting.*



**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

**United Methodist Church**  
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# *December*

