United Methodist Church Newsletter

April

2021

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
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

April 2021 Newsletter: The Resurrection Hope

This month, we commemorate the victory of Jesus over sin and death at Easter. This is the season when a special hope is born in us as we celebrate the resurrection. Hope is a gift of God to God's people. Humanity cannot earn it, it is given. When humans try to find their hope in other areas apart from God, it becomes elusive and scarce because they are searching in all the wrong places. Some try to find it in power and influence, in money and possessions, or in fame and a great name. But true hope is found only in Jesus.

Jesus comes and enters the human situation in very unlikely ways. He comes in meekness or what some might consider to be weakness. Jesus is the humble friend who is not deterred by people's animosity and resentment. He persists and offers more grace. Paul nevertheless cautions that Christ followers should not imagine that they could sin more to make the grace abide more. The grace of God is given to help us to trust and hope in God even when the situation is dire.

When Jesus appeared to his disciples on that Easter evening, he reassured them with the words, "Peace be with you! He further breathed the Holy Spirit on them and empowered them to be his true disciples. This reminds us that Jesus never abandons his own in their difficulties. He gave the fearful bunch of disciples hope in him. This was proof that he is life and was willing to give life to them. Because of the resurrection, the disciples could hope again. He was not going to give up on them until he accomplished the mission, and no matter how doubtful and unbelieving they were, he kept on, he endured all to the cross. Until he made it possible for them to trust again!

For those going through a tough situation like having hard decisions to make, failing relationships or marriage, terrible addictions, consuming illness personally or in the family, there is hope. The resurrection reminds us that even in the darkest moments, Christ comes to life and gives us life. When you are at the end of your rope, God shows up and carries you through the season. For those still in a dark corner, God has not forgotten you, nor is he incapable of saving you. He did not forget Jesus but brought him to life through the resurrection. So, friend, trust in God and peace be with you. Amen.

Pastor Susan Murithi

Flower orders

If you ordered flowers for Easter, they will be placed in the sanctuary for the Easter service on April 4th. They will be available to take home that day or any day after.
Thank you for filling our sanctuary with spring for Easter!

February Attendance

Feb. 7th:	30 In-person 175 views/FB
Feb. 14th:	30 In-person 114 views/FB
Feb. 21st:	66 In-person 88 views/FB
Feb. 28th:	55 In-person 102 views/FB

February Offering Totals

Feb. 7th:	$1,268
Feb. 14th:	$2,232
Feb. 21st:	$2,933
Feb. 28th:	$6,753

Certified Lay Ministers (CLM), Lay Speakers (CLSp), Lay Servants (CLS), and Local Church Lay Leaders

You are invited to journey with others in a book study "Time Management for the Christian Leader or How to Squeeze Blood From a Turnip" by Ken Willard. Ken is the Director of Congregational Vitality for the West Virginia UMC Conference. CLM's we encourage you to invite your Mutual Ministry Team Mentor to journey this study and retreat with you.
This online gathering book study will challenge us to grow, seek and identify where and how God is calling us to manage one of our most valuable assets – Time! As we read, study and talk, we each can glean a deeper sense of purpose about our Mission, Vision and Passion. This book has "Coaching Corners" in each chapter that help process what we actively work through, so that we can cultivate our own new habits in time management, all while leading others to discover their own potential.
This book study will culminate with an in-person retreat at the St. Benedict Retreat Center near Schuyler, Ne. Friday, July 23rd through Saturday, 24th. In this serene setting, the author, Ken, will be present to lead us through a time of learning and discerning!
Will you join us in this journey?
Zoom Book Study dates: Thursday, April 15th from 7:00pm CT and will continue every other week through July. Or Friday, April16th from 1:00pm CT and will continue every other week through July
Retreat Space is limited to please register early. Register for Online Book Study and/Or Retreat –use the following link or go to the Great Plains Website.
https://gp-reg.brtapp.com/TimeManagementfortheChristianLeader.

April at a Glance

April 2	Good Friday Service 6:30 pm All are welcome!
April 4	Sunrise Service 7:15 am Church yard NO Adult Sunday School 9 am Worship Service 10 am NO Children's Sunday School after service
April 7	Youth Group 6:15 pm
April 11	Adult Sunday School 9 am Worship Service 10 am Children's Sunday School after service
April 13	UMW meeting 1:30 pm Fellowship Hall
April 14	Youth Group 6:15 pm
April 17	UMC helps with the Food Pantry 9-11 am
April 18	Adult Sunday School 9 am Worship Service 10 am Children's Sunday School after service
April 21	Youth Group 6:15 pm
April 25	Adult Sunday School 9 am Worship Service 10 am Children's Sunday School after service
April 28	Youth Group 6:15 pm

United Methodist Women

The UMW will be meeting in the church Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, April 13th at 1:30 pm. Pastor Susan will be speaking on the topic of bullying.
All ladies are welcome!

Good Friday service will be on Friday, April 2nd, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

In addition to our regular **Easter service at 10:00 am on April 4th,** we will also be having a **sunrise Easter service at 7:15 am** on the church lawn.
All are welcome! We hope to see you there!

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

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.*

Quilters and Crafters

Here are some of the 14 fidget quilts Quilters and Crafters made for residents at Brookefield Assisted Living here in St Paul. Pastor Susan blessed them during our recent UMW meeting and Ursula delivered them to Brookefield later that day. Pictured also are some of our UMW members.

On Monday, April 5th Quilters and Crafters will be meeting at 10:00 at the church to work on a couple of quilts for hospice. If you can thread a needle or tie a knot, we could use your help! You don't need to know how to quilt or even how to sew for this project. If you are interested in our group or just want to fellowship with us, please stop by. We'd love to see you and the coffee will be on!

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**

*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.

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.

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.
April 17th 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

April 1	Nancy Harrington	April 14	Susan Murithi
April 3	Russell Schwenk	April 17	Daylene Fox
April 4	Brock Nielsen	April 18	Harold Rickertsen
	Jami Wemhoff	April 22	Darlene Hansen
April 8	Geoff Murithi Iringo		Heather Pearson
April 9	Broc Porter	April 24	Marilyn Wall
April 10	Hunter Gravatt	April 25	Andrew Thomsen
April 13	Nick Pedersen		

April 1st	Lonny and Janet Thomsen
April 3rd	Don and Lynda Berggren
April 4th	Ryan and Erica Krauss
April 13th	Austin and Tracy Greenway
April 21st	Don and Tracy Dearmont

St Paul UMC Administrative Council Minutes
Zoom meeting
March 11th, 2021

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

Mikaleh began the meeting at 7:00 pm. Mikaleh entertained a motion to accept the January 2021 minutes. Tom made a motion, and Mary Ann seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Susan reported she is grateful for the good weather, and the in-person attendance has started to increase slightly. A couple baptisms were done in January, which hasn't been able to happen for a while because of Covid, so this is a good thing also, moving forward. The Lent Bible study by Zoom is going well, with many church members joining, but also some from other areas as well. Pastor said this has been one of the blessings of having meetings by Zoom, as more people are able to join that would otherwise not be able to. The Prayer group on Wednesdays is going well, they may take a break in a couple of weeks. Pastor asked the group's opinion on starting up in-person meetings again, instead of Zoom. After discussion, it was decided to start meeting in person again for future meetings, unless Zoom is needed.
Finance: Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was given by Tom Powell as Dave Snow's microphone was not working: Operating Checking account $14,820, Trustees Maintenance Acct. $2,912 Resources Available $61,366, Giving $9,058, Total Income $11,250, Total Expenditures $14,471, Current Month Gain/(Loss) ($1,931) and the Year-to-Date Gain/(Loss) is ($3,575).
Tom also reported that the PPP2 loan paperwork is done. Bob made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, and Darwin seconded. Motion passed.
SPPRC: Bob reported that the church is needing to increase the wages for both the Pastor and Carrie. 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. Bob entertained a motion to accept these increases. Dave Harrington made a motion, and Darla seconded. Everyone was in agreement and motion passed.
Bob also brought up that the kids from the Youth Group that are helping with the livestreaming will need to be paid for their services. Pastor said that her daughter, who is one of the Youth group, is one of these youths who was interested in doing this job. Because she is a daughter of an international, she cannot go through the same channels as those other youths. A lengthy discussion on this topic followed. This included if we thought an adult needed to be up working with a youth and that probably only 2 people need to do this job, one for the Easyworship slides and one to run the livestreaming.
After this discussion, it was decided to look into this issue further before anything was done. Darla later mentioned that she would get the Worship committee together and see if they could work on getting some sort of schedule worked out for the Audio/visual on Sunday mornings.
Trustees: Darwin reported that he received an estimate from McCarty Construction for putting an egress window into the parsonage. This estimate came to $2,200 for one egress window. He also reported that he contacted Roger Goetsche about the sprinkler system at the parsonage. Roger's estimate came up to $3,800. This is contingent on whether or not we are able to use the well that is on the property or if it is city water. Darwin contacted Greg Rasmussen(plumber) to come and take a look at the well to see if it is usable, but he hasn't heard back from him yet. Darwin also spoke to Roger about grass being planted, but that is something that will be decided on later. He also ordered the shower materials, but this will not be in until around the middle of May. A floor will need to be chosen and put in before the shower goes in.

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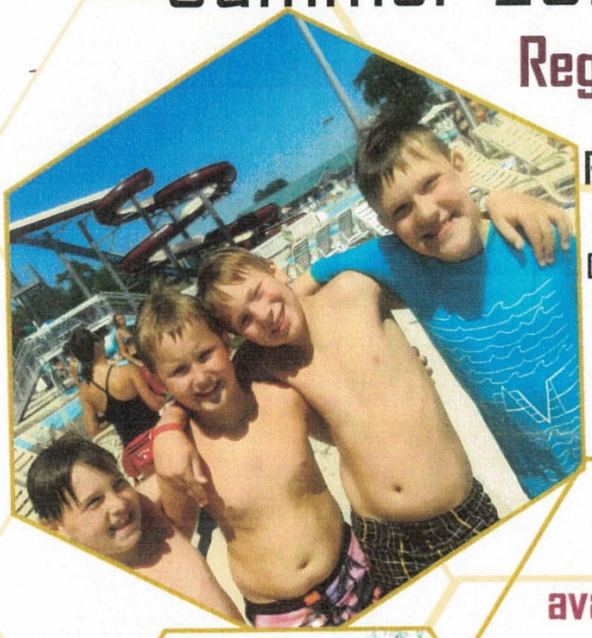
Education: Nancy reported that they have asked for candy to be donated for stuffing the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on March 27th. They are going to try and do 4 dozen eggs to be returned to the Chamber by the 24th. She thought maybe she may have the Youth Group or Mission/Outreach help. She said that Youth Group is going well, she has been going to help out on some Wednesdays.
She also said that Sunday School has been going good too.
Memorial: Deb reported that between more being added into the Memorial account, and the Advent Candle money finally being taken out of the account, that they still increased the Memorial money by about $500. She spoke to Theda Van Horn who said that some more banners may need to be ordered for Fall. She is also working on Scholarships for our seniors. The applications are due next week, so Deb will be receiving these completed apps from the school soon and the committee will need to meet to go over them.
Worship: Darla discussed the many events coming up soon- Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter. She asked if palms can be ordered or how to go about that, and Carrie said she would order about 60 palms from Teresa's next week. We are planning a Good Friday service, and we decided the time at 6:30 pm on Friday for this service. After discussion, it was decided not to have a breakfast on Easter. It sounds like most would still like to have a sunrise service on Easter. Darla will contact Milleta Vista to see if we can use their outside area to do this as we have done in the past. This will be about a 30 minute service and was decided to begin at 7:15 am as sunrise is at 7:32 am that morning.
Darla has ordered gifts for Mother's Day to hand out to all the mothers, and she said that after some looking, she has found some gifts in the church storage room for Father's Day also.
Office: Carrie brought up that it had come to her attention that Pastor Russ Anderson was still listed on the accounts at Citizen's bank. Pastor Susan was not listed. Bob made a motion to remove Pastor Russ and to add Pastor Susan Murithi to our accounts at Citizen's bank. Mary Ann seconded. Motion passed.
Mission/Outreach: Mary Ann reported that she received a letter from the organization in Kenya that the church gave to from our Christmas offering. She read some of this letter, and said that this money helped buy uniforms for some of the children. It sounded like a real blessing to them, as clothing is not a priority there. Mary Ann is hoping to have the committee meet soon.
Old Business: The Emergency Contact list that was created and Carrie sent out, there were still three lists left for a volunteer to claim and call. She asked that if anyone needed to be added to a list to please let her know.
New Business: With the changes in Covid and how it is now being handled in our community, Pastor wanted to bring up maybe bringing back hymnals and bibles into the sanctuary. That way the congregation could go back to regular singing, not just 'mumbled' singing. In order to fully sing, we will need to keep masks, at least until the end of the school year.
Nancy asked if we wanted to do Blessing of the Bikes this year. Mary Ann said that she is trying to contact Pastor Steven at St. Mark's to try and start coordinating with them. Hopefully in the next week she can get ahold of him and between Nancy and Mary Ann, start to plan this event.
Bob made a motion to adjourn, Tom seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm. Pastor ended the meeting with a prayer.

Camp Fontanelle

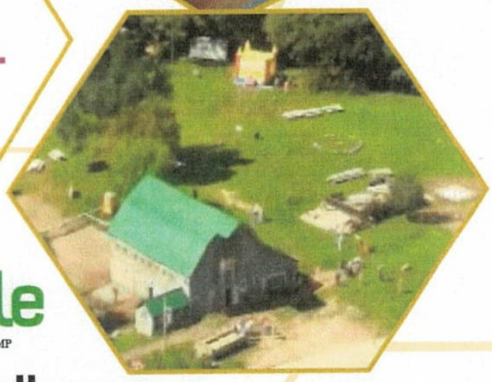
Summer 2021 - Check us out!

Register today!



Resident Camps
Family Camp
Child & Adult Camps
Day Camp
Fun and Faith

Discounts available for Multi-week registrations. Scholarships available!



CAMP Fontanelle
A Great Plains UNITED METHODIST CAMP

Campfontanelle.com (Come to Camp tab)

9677 County Road 3
Fontanelle, NE 68044

402-278-0526

fontanelle@greatplainsumc.org

BEE GREATER

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	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

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 March 9, 2021 at 1:30 pm. Carol Phillips opened the meeting.
Theda Van Horn gave the devotions. Everyone recited the UMW Purpose.
The minutes were read and approved as read.
The treasurers report was given for two months. January balance $676.23, income $15.75 for a balance of $791.98, February income $236.25 for a balance of $1028.23.
Theda Van Horn reported on the food collected for the Food Pantry. The youth group helped to load it up and unload at the Food Pantry.
Marian Odabasi made a motion to pledge $500 to the district for the year 2021-22. Theda VanHorn seconded .Carried
Old Business: World Day of Prayer was cancelled. The greeting card that are left will be donated to the Thrift Store.
New Business: John McClellan gave Elaine's books to the church for people to take what they want. There will not be a spring district meeting. Carol Phillips will check on the Mission School and Health and School Kits. Marlene Kremlacek will hold at coffee at the Sweet Shop on Tuesday March 16th at 1:30, everyone is welcome.

Marian Odabasi gave the mission minute.

Mary Ann Rickertsen gave the lesson.

Pastor Susan Blessed the fidget quilts made for Brookefield.

Meeting adjourned.

Mary Ann Rickertsen, Secretary

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April