

United Methodist Church Newsletter



APRIL

2022

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
Darwin Lee

Finance
Dave Harrington

Staff/Parish Relations
Bob Rasmussen

Worship
Darla Voigt

Mission-Outreach
Mary Ann Rickertsen

UMM
Tom Knutson

UMW
Charlene Craig
Carol Phillips

Education
Nancy Harrington

Auditor
Larry Hurlburt

April 2022 Newsletter - Lesson's From a Confirmation Retreat

On Saturday March the nineteenth, we boarded our cars ready for a trip to St. Benedicts Retreat Center in Schuyler, Nebraska. The retreat was organized to offer the experiential part of learning in the process of their faith formation. We left St Paul at 9.30 am and arrived at the venue at 11.00am. As we set out to start the day, I did not know what to expect. Would the kids embrace and understand this part of their faith formation? Would the twenty-four hours be sufficient for the experiences we hoped for? It turned out that the time we spent at the retreat center was profound. We sensed God's presence with us throughout our stay.

One activity happened to be significant in our spiritual reflection that weekend. We had planned to visit the fifteen stations of the cross in the Center's premises. As we started with station one, we saw the plaque of Jesus as he was being condemned to death. The picture carries with it a heavy message. One gets to think about the innocent son of God as he gets condemned to death for things he had not done. Behind the plaque is the invitation to pray for all those who are condemned unjustly and those persecuted for their faith. We took time to pray and moved to the second station. There was a depiction of Jesus bearing the cross, the third with Jesus falling under the weight of the cross and so on. Behind every plaque was an invitation to pray, and we prayed for those who serve without murmuring, for those breaking down under the weight of their sin, for those who serve others without being recognized, and so on.

As we moved from one station to the other, we noticed that we will always have more than enough things that need our prayers in this broken world. One Mentor, who was with us, observed that none of the fifteen prayers was personal or selfish, they all were selfless prayers about other people especially those less fortunate and those who suffer.

During this lent season, we can learn a lot from Jesus' journey displayed at these stations of the cross, and the prayers written behind the plaques. We are called to pray for others rather than always praying for ourselves. Also, we can never lack on things to pray for, we only need to look with the compassionate eyes of Jesus to see that there is much brokenness in the world and many things that need our prayers. After all, it is what Christ did, he put humanity ahead of his own interest and died for us. He lives at the right hand of the father interceding for us. Have you prayed a selfless prayer lately, have you interceded for someone in need other than yourself and those close to you? It is the spirit of lent, and Jesus has already set us an example to follow. Have a selfless month.

Pastor Susan Murithi



APRIL



3rd	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am– Communion Children’s Sunday School– after Worship Confirmation class after worship	16th	UMC helps at Food Pantry 9-11am
6th	Youth Group 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm	17th	EASTER DAY Sunrise service– time TBD Worship 10 am
7th	Admin Council meeting 7 pm	19th	Bible Study– at Ursula Sorlie’s home- 1PM
10th	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am– Palm Sunday Profession of Faith & Baptism during Worship Children’s Sunday School– after Worship Confirmation class after worship	20th	Youth Group 6:15 pm Choir at 7:30pm
12th	UMW meeting at 1:30pm	24th	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am Confirmation class runs the service 2022 High School grads acknowledged Children’s Sunday School– after Worship
13th	Prayer Group 11 am Youth Group 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm	27th	Prayer Group 11 am Youth Group 6:15 pm Choir at 7:30pm
15th	Good Friday Service– 6:30 pm		



Want to join the Prayer Chain?

If you would be interested in joining the Prayer Chain, please let Jackie Cook or the church office know. We need you!
Please read on page seven to find out the details!



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE WILL BE ON APRIL 15TH
AT 6:30 PM.

PLEASE JOIN US IF ABLE!

Sunday

Worship time 10:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Study

Sunday morning 9:00 am

Children's Education

Sunday School 11:00 am.

-after Worship
during the school year

Confirmation Class

April 3rd and April 10th
11:15am

Youth Group

Wednesday evenings 6:15
pm during school year



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.



March Attendance

Ash Wed:	67 In-person 73 views/FB
March 6th:	66 In-person 73 views/FB
March 13th:	56 In-person 53 views/FB
March 20th:	40 In-person 54 views/FB
March 27th:	79 In-person 73 views/FB

March Offering Totals

Ash Wed:	NO offering taken
March 6th:	\$3,708
March 13th:	\$4,556
March 20th:	\$655
March 27th:	\$870

Support Epworth Village

Epworth Village, located in York, Ne., is a National Mission of the United Methodist Women and affiliated with the United Methodist Church. A Christ-centered mission, Epworth provides services to assist children, youth and families in crisis.

Last Fall in Oct., they held their annual fund raising event to supplement their needed funding with an online auction. Their goal was to raise \$25,000, but they only received \$12,000. They are asking for donations from generous supporters and others to "fill in the gap". If you can help support this cause, donations can be sent online

to: www.epworthvillage.org by clicking on: *Donate Now* tab. Or mail your donation to:
Epworth Village
PO Box 503
York, NE 68467-0503

Did you know.....

The UMW is still collecting *Best Choice* brand labels?

These are sent in for reimbursement after a certain amount has been reached. This helps the UMW in their ministry throughout the year. Please consider cutting out and donating labels this coming year. There is a basket in the Narthex of the church to bring these to. *The ladies thank you!*

The 2022 High School Graduates from the church will be recognized on April 24th during worship.



There will be a baptism and two Profession of Faith's during worship on April 10th. Join us for this joyous occasion!

Confirmation Retreat

The Confirmation retreat on March 19th-20th was a success! The group went to the St. Benedicts Center in Schuyler, NE. They had a variety of activities planned, both fun and meaningful on their journey of faith.



This is the group as they went through the stations of the cross that is located on the grounds at St. Benedicts.



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



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



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 16th 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

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

Brownie mixes

Applesauce

Pork and Beans

Salad Crackers

Laundry Soap

Paper Towels

Chocolate Pudding

Jello-Not Strawberry

Mandarin Oranges

Frosting

Dish Soap

Shampoo

Toilet Tissue

Food Pantry hours

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

February is the month for United Methodist Church to donate to the Food Pantry.

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	Charlotte Rasmussen	308-863-2281	DeEtte Lukasiewicz	750-0246
Cleo Edwards	754-4853	Vanice Bahensky	754-7873	Brenda Starkey	750-7967
Ashley Meyer	308-627-2808			Lory Thomsen	754-4286



United Methodist Women

The United Women met March 8, 2022 at 1:30 pm. The meeting was called to order by Charlene Craig. Ursula Sorlie gave the devotions about Hope from the book Vision of His Glory. Closing with prayer for the Ukraine people.

Charlene gave a prayer for Carol Phillips, Joe Payne, Jerry Hawley Family, Becky Schwenk's relatives, Harold Rickertsen, People of the Ukraine and a Successful Confirmation retreat. Welcomed DeEtte Lukasiewicz.

The minutes were read and approved as read. The Treasurer's showed a balance of \$909.88. Darla Voigt made a motion for our Mission pledge be \$500. Ursula Sorlie seconded. Carried. Marian Odabasi sent a check for \$100 to be divided \$50 for our UMW and \$50 for Legacy Fund Endowment.

Correspondence: Thank you's from Heifer International and Epworth Village regarding their Heart of the Matter Fundraiser. The raised \$35,866 with a goal of \$25,000.

Old Business: Thanks to Darla Voigt, Carol Phillips, Theda VanHorn and Mary Ann Rickertsen for completing the vegetable, flower tags. World Day of Prayer was well attended March 4th.

New Business: Those serving Confirmation snacks are Ursula Sorlie April 3rd, Rose Ross April 10th and May 15th?. Assure Women's Center- DeEtte Lukasiewicz gave information on Right to Life.

Next meeting April 12, 2022 at 1:30 pm. Lesson Ursula Sorlie, Devotions Charlene Craig and lunch Darla Voigt

Meeting adjourned.

Dorthea Fairbanks gave the lesson Prayer and Self- Denial. The theme highlighted the ministries of love and service by Deaconesses and Home Missioners. Theda Van Horn served refreshments.

Theda Van Horn, Secretary ProTem

Leader Appreciation and Installment Service

On March 27th during worship, the outgoing leaders from 2022 were appreciated for their service to the church. The Installment of new members in each committee for 2022 were also acknowledged. The current DS Rev. Dr. Charles Murithi was in attendance to help with the service. Afterwards, everyone was invited to share a meal in the Fellowship Hall.



Pastor Susan shakes Janet Thomsen's hand, thanking her for being a Chairperson on the Trustees Committee (see above)



DS Charles Murithi shakes Tom Powell's hand in appreciation of Tom's service as the previous Finance Chairperson (see right)



Jason Porter, as a current member of the Lay Leadership/Nominations committee, shakes Dave Snow's hand, thanking him for his service to the church (see left).



Young Family's Group

This group has concluded it's first session. They are planning on meeting for a social date this summer.

The Bible Study that has been held at Ursula Sorlie's home is planning on meeting on **April 19th at 1pm.**

Prayer Group!

The Prayer Group will meet on the **13th and the 27th at 11am.** Please know that if at any time a member of this prayer group or any other individual would like to use the church chapel, it is open for prayer, meditation or silent reflection. Please feel free to use it during church hours.

Save the Date!

Coming up on May 15th during worship is the **Confirmand's Reception and Baptism!**

These kids have worked hard on their faith journey. Please join us in celebration of this wonderful time!



He is not here;
he has Risen!
Luce 24:6

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