

United Methodist Church Newsletter

MAY
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

May 2022 Newsletter – May and Farming

Last night it rained. It is long since I celebrated the rains that much. I think being around a farming community makes me appreciate the importance of moisture on the ground. Farmers have been talking about rain for a while and praying for it no less. In early April, people were starting to wonder whether the rains will ever come, especially because there was almost no snow this year. But farmers did what they always do, they worked hard in their farms. They worked the soil, planted the seeds, put fertilizer, and then waited for the rains. Of course, there are those who knew that they had irrigation capacities, but many farmers know that good rains are unrivaled in how the crop turns out. They love that unlimited outpouring of goodness on the earth that comes in the name of rains.

I see some spiritual resemblance with what happens in human souls. When God pours his presence in our lives, we are able to thrive in all aspects. If we do not allow God's life-giving presence through the work of the holy spirit, our hearts become like hard ground, parched and wilting. After the rains, one starts to notice a difference on the ground. We see flowers sprouting and the environment is graced with some greenery. In fact, life comes back to the plants. Even the air we breathe smells clean and fresh.

Sometimes we as Christians allow our souls to go through an arid stretch. In our busy lives we just operate on survival mode. Errands to run, deadlines to meet, things to take care of, and before we know it, we are running on empty. Our souls are deprived and our general temperament changes. It is after such episodes that one may start to evaluate their lives. They then realize that they have gone for long stretches without prayer, without reading God's word and without good fellowship with other believers. The Psalmist had such a moment of thirst, as stipulated in Psalm 42:1-2. He says, "As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. I thirst for God, the living God. When can I go and stand before him?" When we realize our need for God as the psalmist did, we seek him with intensity, and desire to spend time with him.

In this coming month of May, let us endeavor to water our souls and make them soft and tender, like a ground that has enjoyed good rains, ready to be planted by God. May we all desire to be like well-watered ground in the rainy season where crops thrive with nourishment. May we allow flowers to grow on us so that we can be a pleasant sight for God and those around us. Have a well-watered soul this month.

Pastor Susan Murithi



MAY



1st	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am– Communion and 3rd Grade bible presentation Children’s Sunday School– after Worship Confirmation class after worship	15th	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am Children’s Sunday School– after Worship Confirmation Day
3rd	Bible Study– at Ursula Sorlie’s home-1PM	17th	Bible Study– at Ursula Sorlie’s home-1PM
4th	Prayer Group 11 am Youth Group 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm	18th	Prayer Group 11 am Choir 7:30 pm Blessing of the Bikes-after school until 4pm at St. Mark’s Lutheran church
8th	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am Children’s Sunday School– after Worship Mother’s Day	21st	UMC helps at Food Pantry 9-11 am
10th	United Women of Faith meeting at noon at church-salad luncheon Speaker at 1:30pm	22nd	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am- Hymn sing service
11th	Youth Group 6:15 pm—last night! Choir 7:30 pm	29th	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am



Palm Sunday singers

On April 10th,
Palm
Sunday,
the Children’s
Sunday School class
performed a song for
the congregation.



Confirmands helped run the service on April 24th. They did everything from Opening prayer, the Youth Choir sang, and they even had two kids preach for the sermon.

Wonderful job!



'Pastors' for the day-
Nem Murithi (*left*) and Lilly Sazama (*right*) helped
preach the sermon on April 24th during the
Confirmands Sunday

Celebrate! Baptism and New Members



Baptism of Dean Thomas Egger and the Professions of Faith of both
Alex and Sarah Egger
4/10/2022



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

May 1st
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.

April Attendance

April 3rd:	74 In-person NO Livestream
April 10th:	101 In-person 81 views/FB
Good Friday service:	37 In-person 74 views/FB
April 17th: <i>Sunrise service:</i> <i>10 am service:</i>	41 In-person 99 In-person 77 views/FB
April 24th:	96 In-person 140 views/FB

April Offering Totals

April 3rd:	\$4,381
April 10th:	\$4,145
Good Friday service:	No offering taken
April 17th:	\$803
April 24th:	\$1,910

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 High School Graduates from UMC were recognized on April 24th, 2022 during worship service.

Pictured from left to right is: Jamison Rawlings, Coy Ruzicka, Thaddeus Radke, and Dawson Fox.

Congrats to you all!





Birthdays of the Month

May 1	Alyssa Swanson	May 19	Darwin Lee
May 2	Brad Wells	May 20	Mikaleh Esquitin
May 3	Jeovany Cole-Lopez	May 21	Loren Studley
May 4	Machell Naylor	May 25	Mick McDowell
May 7	Thaddeus Radke	May 26	Deidre Hurlburt
May 8	Linnea Vogel	May 27	Gordon Knuth
May 13	Kelly Gebhardt	May 27	Macy Porter
May 14	Linda Jacobsen	May 27	Easton Klassen
May 16	Kent Meyer	May 28	Aidan Anderson
May 18	Alex Coslor	May 28	Chrysta Naylor
May 18	Nathan Swanson	May 29	Brandon Starkey



May 13	Jarold and Linda Jacobsen
May 20	Buck and Dixie Buxton
May 25	Jeff and Stacy Vogel
May 28	Dave and Connie Snow



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.

May 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 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.

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

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 Women in Faith

United Women in Faith met April 12, 2022. Charlene Craig gave the devotions "Forging Ahead in These Turbulent Times" and "Be Still and Know" closing with prayer for the Ukraine Victims, rangeland fires in western Ne., Linda Jacobsen and parents, Stacy Vogels mother, Carol Philips, Joe Payne, Becky Schwenk and family, Theda's sister.

Charlene Craig opened the meeting with everyone reciting the Purpose and the new Mission Statement.

Minutes were read and approved as read.

The treasurers report showed a balance of \$920.88.

Correspondence: Prairie Rivers News explained the new name, the Purpose will remain the same and the Mission Statement was changed. The Spring meeting in Aurora was canceled for lack of reservations

Calendar of Events: UMC annual conference June 8-11, at LaVista. July 15-16 Mission U at Grand Island Trinity Church. September 17 Great Plains UMW annual meeting in Kearney, NE.

Old Business: Carol Tjernagel recognized in church March 27 as our outstanding Mission honoree for 2021. Charene Craig and DeEtte Lukeasewicz visited Marian Odabase in Lincoln and gave her Mission honoree for 2021.

New Business: April 24 there will be a pot luck meal to honor the Confirmation Class the Senior graduates after church. Mary Ann Rickertsen will serve snacks for Confirmation class on May 1st. Discussion on the 150th anniversary of Methodism in Howard county and St Paul. Everyone thought we should do something. May 10th meeting will start at 12:00 o'clock with a salad luncheon Lesson ?. Devotions Marilyn Wall.

Birthdays this month Pastor Susan and Marilyn Wall.

Meeting adjourned.

Ursula Sorlie gave the lesson on Joyful Easter. She shared some of the customs of Countries and closed with the Stations of the Cross.

Mary Ann Rickertsen
Secretary

St Paul UMC Administrative Council Minutes April 7th 2022

In attendance: Pastor Susan Murithi, Mikaleh Esquitin, Carrie Hancock, Bob Rasmussen, Mary Ann Rickertsen, Tom Powell, Darla Voigt, Dave and Nancy Harrington, Rusty Fuller, Charlene Craig, Deb Wells, Darwin Lee, and Don and DeEtte Lukasiewicz.

Mikaleh began the meeting at 7:05pm with a prayer.

Mikaleh entertained a motion to approve the Jan. 25th 2022 meeting minutes. Dave Harrington made a motion to accept, and Tom Powell seconded.

Mikaleh then made a motion to approve the Jan. 31st 2022 meeting minutes. Dave Harrington made a motion to accept, and Darla Voigt seconded.

Both sets of meeting minutes were approved.

Pastor's report: Pastor reported that The Confirmation Class has 11 kids. These kids will graduate on May 15th from Confirmation. She thanked everyone who helped with the Retreat that was on March 19th -20th at the St. Benedicts Center in Schuyler, NE. She also wanted to thank both the UMW for helping feed the kids throughout the year for their Confirmation classes and also all the mentors, not just the ones that came on the retreat. On April 24th, this class will help with the entire service. She encouraged committees to think of these kids in the future, and ask for their help with different ministries to make them feel a part of the church.

There has been a Baptism and a Profession of Faith recently, and there are two Professions of Faith and another Baptism scheduled for April 10th.

In March there was an Appreciation and Installment during the service. This was for all the committee members who were leaving in 2021 and all those new members for 2022. The DS attended and preached on this day. There was a meal afterwards to help celebrate this wonderful event.

Pastor Susan welcomed Rusty Fuller as the Member at Large for 2022. An email vote was done and he was voted in as the new Member at Large. Welcome Rusty!

The District sent an email wondering if we were planning a celebration for the church's 150 Years. Charlene will present this later in the meeting and we can discuss.

The Young Families Group has ended its first session recently, and it went well. Pastor just wanted to encourage anyone within this age group to come to this group in the future. They will meet for a social day in the summer, and at that time choose a new topic for the next sessions.

Susan reported that the Lent Bible study is going well. It has been on Steve Cordle's book The Jesus Shaped Life. The average of participants has been 6-10 people, with up to 13. These sessions will end soon on the Tuesday of Holy week.

The Prayer group is still meeting about twice a month at the church and is going well also.

The Good Friday service this year will be on April 15th at 6:30 pm. Sunrise Easter Service on the 17th will begin at 7am. The UMM will provide breakfast for people in between this Sunrise service and the regular service at 10am. Thanks to the men fellowship for this breakfast.

Finance: Treasurer's Report: the Treasurer's report was given by Tom Powell:

Operating Checking account \$20,729, Trustees Maintenance Acct. \$2,621, Resources Available \$124,511, Giving \$8,470, Total Income \$12,532, Total Expenditures \$13,076, Current Month Gain/(Loss) (\$544) and the Year-to-Date Gain/(Loss) is (\$11,327). Tom noted that the Organ Fund is now the Music Fund. The Music Fund is now at \$7,501. Tom also reported that he compared the 12-31-21 balance sheet to now and our General checking account is down about \$4,000 in the last few months. He noted that this is not unusual for this time of year. Our UM Foundation amount is down also, and that reflects in our total General fund amount.

Mikaleh entertained a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Darwin made the motion, and DeEtte and Mary Ann seconded. Motion passed.

SPPRC: Bob mentioned the topic of Fellowship after church and if it will begin again soon.

It was decided to talk on this during the New Business section of the meeting.

Trustees: Darwin reported that the parsonage basement bathroom is a work in progress. He said getting the plumber there has been an issue as he gets called out to emergencies. From the sounds of it, Darwin has this project moving along nicely.

Memorial: Deb reported that they had two applicants for the UMC scholarships this year. The committee decided to give out a \$500 scholarship to each of them. There are 4 UMC graduates this year. They will all be recognized on April 24th during worship.

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Education: Nancy reported that Blessing of the Bikes will be May 18th, pending approval from the school board as the last day of school. This will be at St. Mark's Lutheran church again at around 2:15ish. They will hopefully have 5 stations for the kids as they have had in the past. She is working on getting people to help with this. She reported that they did not purchase anything new for this year, everything was too expensive. She also decided not to advertise this year. She will go to a couple of morning meetings to let the kids know, as well as place some flyers around the school also.

A celebration for the Confirmands was discussed. It was decided to have a celebration for both the Confirmands that will graduate from their class in May, and also for the 2022 High School graduates. This will be a potluck after church on April 24th.

Mission/Outreach: Mary Ann reported she filled 93 eggs and got them to the Chamber office. This is for the Easter Egg hunt on April 9th.

There have also been donations for a Palmer family that lost a member of their family and also had a house fire within the same week. This will be given to them in the near future.

Worship: Darla reported that the bulletins that have begun again since Covid are being used, but not many. We will continue with the same amount of bulletins at this time.

Darla also reported that Mike Coghlan resigned from his position in the Audio/visual upstairs (helped with the Livestream and Easy worship). Carrie has agreed to help with the Easy worship slides at this time, since she is familiar with the software. Darla said that she has been looking at who can train for both the Livestreaming and the Easy worship.

She reported that Palm Sunday is coming up, and she has asked the Sunday school kids to come a little early to learn a song to sing during worship. She stated again the times for the upcoming services: Good Friday at 6:30pm, Sunrise service at 7am, and the regular worship time for Easter at 10am. The UMM will serve breakfast on Easter after the Sunrise service. Darla is planning for something for Mother's Day also.

UMW: Charlene reported that she and Carol Phillips have stepped up to be Co-chairs of the UMW. She just found out from a District newsletter that they will now be called "United Women in Faith". Their mission statement has changed also, but it is still very similar to the old. Charlene reported that there used to be about 20 active members, but they have lost about 9 people in the last couple of years, making it about 11 active members. They decided to scale down their officers with less people being involved. They have the two co-chairs- Carol P. and Charlene, a treasurer- Jackie Cook and a secretary- Mary Ann Rickertsen. They also have had to scale down their giving with less members. They still give to quite a few organizations, just not large amounts. She mentions that the Quilters and Crafters have met here and there, but their members have decreased also. Another project they work on is changing out the table décor in the Fellowship Hall on a seasonal basis. They have occasional speakers come to meetings also.

Nancy H. mentioned that on the tables that have been pushed together in the Fellowship hall to make a big table, that maybe there shouldn't be any decorations on them at all. The Youth group likes to play with the décor and sometimes breaks some things off of them. Nancy asked to bring up something else that pertains to Education. She says the Youth Group has been going well, and she has been impressed by the Youth. They are enthusiastic about learning while in Youth Group. The topic of Youth Bibles came up. After discussion, it was decided to purchase bibles for the Confirmation kids in May 2022. Mikaleh entertained a motion to buy the 2022 Confirmation class bibles as a gift this year. DeEtte made a motion and Dave Harrington seconded. Motion passed. In the future, the church may buy Confirmation classes bibles at the beginning of the sessions in order to use it during classes. It may also be decided to buy new Youth bibles for the Youth Group in the future also.

Office: Carrie reported that after speaking to Citizen's bank, she discovered that Janet Thomsen is still listed on the bank accounts. Mary Ann made a motion to remove Janet Thomsen from all Citizen's bank accounts, and Darwin seconded. All in favor, and motion passed.

Old Business: Mikaleh brought up the topic we have spoken about, the proposed daycare here at the church. Pastor Susan said she met with the DS in February and discussed it.

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She said he was excited about this for our church. He did have some advice for the church. He recommended getting ahold of Scott Brewer, the Conference Treasurer, and ask about the Safe Gatherings here at the church and how that would apply to this daycare. Scott said it would be important to have the Early Childhood Foundation give us a copy of the policies and procedures that they have related to background checks and training that is similar to Safe Gatherings. It was noted by Scott Brewer, that if the Early Childhood Foundation is running the daycare, it would not be required that those employees go through Safe Gatherings, as long as they had their own background checks and training in place (similar to Safe Gatherings). She also reported on contacting Christensen Insurance on the liability of the church should a day care come in. From the sound of it, as the church council had already decided to not run the daycare, but have the Early Childhood foundation run it, we would need to be added onto their policy, and the church would not need any additional coverage on their own policy. The other thing that the DS said was that if we decided to go ahead with the plan, the leaders of the church (Ad Council) could be the ones to decide if we get the daycare. But if some leaders feel like they need to engage the whole congregation, not just Ad Council, we need to notify the DS and he will call a Charge Conference and set a time to have an education meeting with the congregation. Pastor had a summary of what information she had gathered from not only the DS, but other Pastors: If we decide to have a daycare here, we should be fully aware that it will be inconveniencing in some ways. This would be a decision to help serve the community. There will be some noise from the kids, coloring of the walls, other damage that we need to consider. The utility bill will most likely go up. We will need confirmation of how much the bill will go up. The challenge will be also be if the city decides to only hire one teacher and various volunteers. There may be times when one teacher will not be enough for 10-12 kids.

The group discussed and reviewed several issues that could come up with a daycare in the church. One of the major questions was if Mandy Anderson would be involved with the daycare here at the church. She has the knowledge to help make this daycare run smoothly, as she runs the biggest daycare/preschool in St. Paul. The group decided that we should compile the groups questions and have Mike Coghlan come back to discuss these things. The main questions from this meeting were:

1. Find out whether or not Mandy Anderson will be involved, and if so, in what capacity?
2. Also if a fire inspection can be done at the church to see if anything major would need to be done to the building to have a daycare in the building before we even begin the process?

It was decided to try and find a time to meet again with Mike Coghlan to answer more questions. Hopefully before we meet with Mike again, the above questions can be addressed so we have those answers to bring to the group. The dates April 19th or May 2nd were decided to try and meet again, whichever would work the best for Mike. We will let the group know if one of these dates will work.

New Business: Charlene went through some of UMC's history and celebrations. This year, 2022, marks 150 years for the United Methodist Church in St. Paul. Charlene was wondering if this group thinks we should have a celebration for it. The consensus of the group was to do something to celebrate, but it will be planned at a later time.

Several people have asked if Fellowship after church will start up again soon. The group thought that is would be a good time to begin meeting again. Susan stressed that there is a lot of things planned through the middle of May, including Confirmation classes that are held in Fellowship Hall after church. The group decided that Fellowship should start up in June.

Mikaleh entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob made the motion and Deb seconded, all in agreement. Bob ended the meeting with a prayer.

Carrie Hancock, Secretary



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!

Blessing of the Bikes

All children are invited to participate in the Blessing of the Bikes. This event will be held May 18 at St. Mark's Church after school. Kids may walk their bikes across Howard Avenue to the church after the buses leave. Five stations will be around the church lawn. Kids may take their bikes to each spot to learn about bike safety, ride through an obstacle course, decorate their bike, have a bike tune-up, and have their bike blessed. Blessing of the Bikes will be held until 4:00. This event is being sponsored by the United Methodist and St. Mark's Churches.



United Women in Faith (UMW)

The next meeting of the UMW will be on **May 10th starting at 12:00 pm** in the church fellowship hall. This will be a salad luncheon, so please bring a dish to share. Guest Speaker Cindy Paustin will be there at 1:30pm to make a short presentation on healthy living. All ladies are welcome!

Young Family's Group

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

The Bible Study that has been held at Ursula Sorlie's home is planning on meeting **May 3rd and 17th at 1pm.**

Prayer Group!

The Prayer Group will meet on the **4th and the 18th 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 office hours.

Please Remember:

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!

United Methodist Church
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St. Paul, NE 68873
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