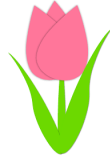


United Methodist Church Newsletter



APRIL

2023

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 Esquatin

Board of Trustees
Jared Rasmussen

Finance
Dave Harrington

Staff/Parish Relations
Bob Rasmussen

Worship
Darla Voigt

Mission-Outreach
Mary Ann Rickertsen

UMM
Tom Knutson

UWF
Charlene Craig
Carol Phillips

Education
Nancy Harrington

Auditor
Larry Hurlburt

If.

What a powerful, little word. It is only two letters long, but the very mention of it can dissolve the courage of the greatest saint. “If” you are really who you say you are, “then” things would or should be different.

While the devil is tempting Jesus, it is also clear that, like Israel before him, Jesus is facing a test—and the Spirit has led him into it. This can make us uncomfortable, but the implication is right here in our text. Israel was tested in the wilderness, and Jesus is tested as well.

If.

Every day, we hear some version of that word dancing in our own heads, putting a question mark between us and our blessing as the beloved of God—often to get us inwardly deciding once again if God is good, if we are precious, if we matter, and if we will ever find joy in this life.

If.

We must master the implications of this word so that, when it arrives in our mind like a lightning bolt on a stormy evening, we can deflect its power in our weakest and most insecure moments.

Like Jesus, when the enemy speaks an “if” word to you, and your internal answer leaves you feeling lost and without hope in the world, then you know it is not an if from the Lord (like, “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray” from 2 Chronicles 7:14).

And every “if” implies a “then,” even if it’s not explicit in the sentence. We compare ourselves to ourselves-as-we-dream-of being, and to others, and we despair. “If” we were really this, “then” that would happen. “If” God is in us, “then” why am I struggling with anxiety and mental health issues?

We struggle because we have not found our identity and vocation in the Father’s blessing as Jesus did; we listen to that if/then statement. Here’s a new one: “If” God loves you, “then” God loves you. Let’s hold on to that one when the clouds come rolling in.

If/then statements are called “conditional statements” in grammar for a reason; they are statements that cause us to consider our conditions and their outcome. Master the “if” coming at your own life right now and learn to discern from where it is emanating. When it’s coming from the enemy, and pride or despair begins to spike in your heart, see it for what it is—a word from the devil—and refuse its unsettling of your trust in your heavenly Father, or yourself, as you walk with Christ.

-Excerpt from *Jesus in the Wild* by Dan Wilt

APRIL

| | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|--|
| 2nd | Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10am– Palm Sunday Potluck after 10am worship Children’s Sunday School after 10am worship 11:30am– Healing Service | 15th | UMC to help at Food Pantry 9-11am |
| 4th | Bible Study at Ursula’s– 1pm-CANCELED | 16th | Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10am Children’s Sunday School– after worship |
| 5th | Prayer Group 11am– CANCELED Youth Group– 6:15pm Lent Study group 6:30pm– Last one! Choir 7:30pm | 18th | Bible Study at Ursula’s– 1pm |
| 7th | Good Friday Service– 6:30pm | 19th | Prayer Group 11am Youth Group– 6:15pm Choir 7:30pm |
| 9th | Sunrise Service– Voigt’s home– 7am Breakfast by the UMM– Church Worship 10am– EASTER! No Adult or Kids SS | 23rd | Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10am Children’s Sunday School– after worship |
| 11th | UWF meeting 1:30pm | 26th | Youth Group– 6:15pm Choir 7:30pm |
| 12th | Youth Group– 6:15pm Choir 7:30pm | 30th | Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10am High School Grads honored– Breakfast meal provided after worship to celebrate Children’s Sunday School– after worship |

March Attendance

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| March 5th: | 65 In-person 104 Views/FB |
| March 12th: | 49 In-person 114 Views/FB |
| March 19th: | 51 In-person 122 views/FB |
| March 26th: | 16 In-person 126 views/FB |

March Offering Totals

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| March 5th: | \$3,010 |
| March 12th: | \$5,560 |
| March 19th: | \$3,900 |
| March 26th: | \$800 |

Services this month....

***Healing service**— On April 2nd after the regular 10am worship service, a potluck is planned in the church Fellowship Hall. At approximately 11:30 a special healing service will begin in the sanctuary. This healing service will include prayers, music, and anointing of our bodies, minds and spirits.*

***Good Friday Service:** April 7th at 6:30pm*

Easter Services:

*A **sunrise service** will be held at Doug and Darla Voigt's home (1741 North Hill Estates, St. Paul) at 7:00am on Easter Sunday, April 9th.*

Please remember to dress warmly and to bring a lawn chair if you plan to attend.

The UMM will provide a breakfast for those interested at the church Fellowship Hall after this Sunrise service.

We would love to have you join us!

*The **regular Easter service** will be held at its normal time here at the church — 10:00am.*

High School Graduating Seniors Recognition



On April 30th, the 2023 High School Graduates who are UMC members will



be recognized and celebrated during Worship service.

After worship, a breakfast meal will be provided for the congregation, the honorees, and their family and friends.

Please join us for this celebration!



| | | | |
|----------|----------------------|----------|-------------------|
| April 1 | Nancy Harrington | April 17 | Daylene Fox |
| April 3 | Russell Schwenk | April 18 | Harold Rickertsen |
| April 4 | Brock Nielsen | April 22 | Darlene Hansen |
| April 8 | Audrey Anderson | April 22 | Heather Pearson |
| April 8 | Geoff Murithi Iringo | April 23 | Rikki Thompson |
| April 13 | Jason Hawkins | April 24 | Marilyn Wall |
| April 13 | Nick Pedersen | April 25 | Andrew Thomsen |
| April 14 | Susan Murithi | | |

Happy Anniversary

| | |
|---------|-----------------------|
| April 1 | Lonny & Janet Thomsen |
| April 3 | Don & Lynda Berggren |



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 7 to find out the details of how it works!



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 15th** is the 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 | Pudding |
| Brownie mixes | Jello |
| Cookies | Canned fruit- any kind |
| Bar Soap | Cereal |
| Pork and Beans | Frosting |
| Crackers(Salad & Soup) | Dish Soap |
| Laundry Soap | Shampoo/Conditioner |
| Paper Towels | Toilet Tissue |
| Flour | Ketchup/Mustard |
| Juice-any kind | Pie Crusts |
| Mayo | Pancake Mix/Syrup |
| Spaghetti Sauce | Toothbrushes/Toothpaste |
| Salad Dressings(Ranch/Dorothy Lynch) | |

United Women of Faith

The United Women in Faith met March 14, 2023 at the church at 1:30 pm. Charlene Craig called the meeting to order. Charlene gave the devotions on "A Hope and a Future". We are to continue praying for Mike and Carol Phillips, Connie Snow, Harold Rickertsen and Pastor Susan. Everyone recited the UWF Purpose. Mary Ann Rickertsen read the previous minutes and they were approved as read. Jackie Cook gave the Treasurer's report with a balance of \$973.13 We need to make our pledge for 2024 and send it to the District. We will do that in a future meeting.

Correspondence: Annual Spring meeting of the UWF will be April 1st at Trinity Methodist Church in Grand Island. Registration is at 9:30. Reservations need to be to them by March 24 so let Charlene know and give the lunch money to Jackie Cook to send in for all that are going. Charlene reported that Epworth Village met their Fall Fundraising ending up with \$25,000. UWF will have a Web store opening soon. Theda Van Horn made a motion to send \$150.00 to the Legacy Fund. Mary Ann Rickertsen seconded. Carried.

Old Business: World Day of Prayer was canceled this year. Big Garden stakes are due and Charlene Craig will send them to Omaha.

New Business: We will have a Salad Luncheon for our May meeting. Details will be worked out at the April meeting. Cheryl Yoder will do a lesson on her current and past job responsibilities at the May 9th meeting. Dorthea Fairbanks will give a lesson on her work at the Midwest Distribution Center in Pawnee, Illinois she attends in June. Cheryl Yoder volunteered to make the letters to change from United Methodist Women to United Women in Faith. Marilyn Wall and Mary Ann Rickertsen will share sending Get Well cards etc. Birthdays this month are Jackie Cook and Cheryl Yoder. Meeting adjourned.

Dorthea Fairbanks gave the lesson "Prayer and Self Denial", explaining the meaning of prayer and denial.

Next meeting- April 11th at 1:30pm. Program-Mary Ann Rickertsen, Devotions-Marilyn Wall, Lunch-Jackie Cook.

Lunch was served by Theda Van Horn
-Mary Ann Rickertsen, Secretary

United Women in Faith (UMW)

The next meeting of the UWF will be on
April 11th at 1:30 pm in the church
fellowship hall.

All ladies are welcome!



On March 19th, Jackie Cook and Mary Ann Rickertson were honored by St. Paul UWF for their dedicated and faithful service to UWF and the Methodist church.

Jackie received a Special mission Certificate and gold cross pin.

Mary Ann received the Dedicated Light Award certificate.

A monetary gift for ministries with women, children and youth was forwarded to United Women in Faith National Office in their honor.

The Howard/Greeley County Ministerial Association

Presents:

The Family Enrichment Series

Resiliency & Coping

April 17, 2023 @ 6 pm

Christ Lutheran Church

1022 Elm St. - St. Paul, NE

“Life is pain, “ . . “ Anyone who says differently is selling something.” Dread Pirate Roberts

Come learn how to deal with the pain life brings - From:

Dr. Sarah Griess — Licensed Psychologist with Rising Hope Counseling

Along with - **Dr. Angie Brennen & Julie Moore**

FREE

Ages 10+

Meal @ 5:30pm w/ drinks & snacks

If you have any questions please contact Pastor Eric Townsend

ERIC@STPAULGRACE.ORG - (402) 699-6064



St. Paul
CARE Team

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



United Methodist Church of St. Paul

MISSION STATEMENT

'Making and Nurturing Disciples'

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 | Darla Voigt | 750-1401 | Charlene Craig | 754-5503 |
| Nancy Harrington | 750-0279 | Rose Ross | 754-4993 | Mary Ann Rickertsen | 754-4038 |
| Theda Van Horn | 754-4541 | Cherri & Scott Klinginsmith | 750-0615 | DeEtte Lukasiewicz | 750-0246 |
| Cleo Edwards | 754-4853 | Charlotte Rasmussen | 308-863-2281 | Brenda Starkey | 750-7967 |
| Nancy Rudolf OR Mike McCarthy | 750-2117-Nancy (775)-830-9521 -Mike | Vanice Bahensky | 754-7873 | Lory Thomsen | 754-4286 |
| | | | | | |

United Methodist Church

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APRIL

