

United Methodist Church Newsletter

Office hours
Tues-Fri
9am –3:00 pm
754-4247



MAY

2023

stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com



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Rev. Dr. Susan Murithi

Church Secretary
Carrie Hancock

Custodian
Integrated Life Choices
Call Office

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May 2023 Newsletter- A Season of Endings and Beginnings

It's the month of May — a time of many endings and new beginnings.

The cooler weather is disappearing, and we are getting into warmer weather.

Students are graduating from both high school and college. The school year is ending, and families are ready to take some downtime during the summer. In the tech world, the month of May has also earned an unofficial holiday referred to as "Star Wars Day" on the 4th. You might even be saluted on that day with the greeting,

"May the Fourth/Force be with you." The fourth day in May became Star Wars Day when the words "May the force be with you," used by Jedi masters in the Star wars movies, were converted to the phrase "May the Fourth be with you."

Back to the church, we celebrate Pentecost, at least in some years, in the month of May. In the Methodist tradition, the church celebrates John Wesley day on May 24. We are told that on that day in 1738, John Wesley experienced a conversion when he felt his "heart strangely warmed." He subsequently left the Moravians gathering and began his own ministry. He had attended a group meeting that evening at the Fetter Lane Society on Aldersgate Street in London.

While someone was reading from

Martin Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans, he felt that his heart was "strangely warmed." He describes it this way: I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.

That marked a day of new beginnings for Wesley.

Some of us are cultivating land, others are planting, and yet others are winding up school either as teachers or students. Some families are getting prepared for an early summer vacation or camping trip. Others will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo, Mexico's grand celebration of their victory over the second French empire. Whatever it is that is coming up for you, may you be aware of God's presence in the new things and new schedules. God's power is there to help us in our beginnings and aid us in having great conclusions. The calendar and the lifestyle in May might differ from what we have had in the past months, but we face the change with bravery.

Remembering that God is with us in the endings and also in the beginnings. He was with Paul, and Wesley, and us in seasons past, and he is faithful to do it again. Enjoy your season and trust that God goes with you! Amen

Pastor Susan

MAY

2nd	Bible Study at Ursula's 1pm	16th	Bible Study at Ursula's 1pm
3rd	Youth Group— 6:15pm Choir 7:30pm—Last Practice!	17th	Young Family's Group 6:30 pm at the church
7th	Worship 10am — Guest Pastor Dave Harrington Children's Sunday School— after worship	19th	Blessing of the Bikes after school at St. Mark's Lutheran Church
9th	UWF meeting 12 noon- Pot Luck Luncheon	20th	UMC helps at the Food Pantry 9-11am
10th	Youth Group— 6:15pm- LAST ONE!	21st	Worship 10am
14th	Worship 10am Children's Sunday School— after worship Mother's Day	28th	Worship 10am — Dorthea Fairbanks— Guest Pastor



April Attendance

April 2nd:	61 In-person
(along with Healing Service)	85 Views/FB
April 7th:	24 In Person
(Good Friday)	106 Views/FB
April 9th:	22 In-person
(Sunrise Service)	No Livestream
(10am Worship)	90 In-person
	101 Views/FB
April 16th:	63 In-person
	No Livestream
April 23rd:	60 In-person
	100 views/FB
April 30th:	69 In-person
	55 views/FB

April Offering Totals

April 2nd::	\$2,173
April 9th:	\$1,783
April 16th:	\$2,734
April 23rd:	\$3,941
April 30th:	\$970

High School Graduating Seniors Recognition

On April 30th during worship service, four UMC members were recognized as high school graduates! They officially graduate on May 7th from St. Paul Public School. They were celebrated during worship and also after with food and fellowship!

Congratulations!



Pictured above, from left: Faith Murithi, Nate Jameson, Luke Porter, and Aidan Anderson



Pictured below: 2023 Graduates with their families and sponsors (and kids from Children's time)



Blessing of the Bikes

There will once again be a Blessing of the Bikes this year! It is scheduled for the last day of school,

May 19th~

after school (dismissal at 1:30pm) at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in St. Paul.

All children are invited to this fun event.

There will be five stations for kids to stop at: Bike safety, obstacle course, bike decoration, bike tune-up, and of course, a station to have their bikes blessed!

This event is sponsored by UMC and St. Mark's.



VBS 2023

When:
July 5th-7th

July 5-6
will be from
5-8 pm

July 7th
will be from
9 am-12 pm

The theme this year is
'Knights of North Castle'.

For easy sign up, please go online to
register at: www.stpaulvbs.com

Any questions, please give the church
office a call!

Did you know.....

The UWF is still collecting *Best Choice* brand labels (bar codes)?

These are sent in for reimbursement after a certain amount has been reached. This helps the UWF in their ministry throughout the year.

Please consider cutting out and donating labels for this cause. There is a basket in the Narthex of the church to place these.

The UWF ladies thank you!

Online Giving

You now have the option to give online to the church! If you go to our website stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com, there is 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.

Youth meals

The church would like to thank all those that have helped with the Youth Meals this past school year. Whether it was to take the time (and money!) to bring in a meal to feed the youth on a Wednesday, or you gave to our Youth Meals fund, we wanted to let you know we appreciate your efforts.





May 1	Alyssa Swanson	May 20	Mikaleh Esquitin
May 2	Brad Wells	May 21	Loren Studley
May 7	Thaddeus Radke	May 26	Deidre Hurlburt
May 8	Linnea Vogel	May 27	Macy Porter
May 14	Linda Jacobsen	May 27	Easton Klassen
May 15	Vanessa Ritter	May 28	Aidan Anderson
May 18	Nathan Swanson	May 29	Brandon Starkey
May 19	Darwin Lee		

Happy Anniversary

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



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 6 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. **May 20th** 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)	

Sunday

Worship time 10:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Study

Sunday morning 9:00 am
(on Summer break!)

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 OR Mike McCarthy	750-2117-Nancy (775)-830-9521 -Mike	Vanice Bahensky	754-7873	Lory Thomsen	754-4286

United Women of Faith

United Women in Faith met April 11, 2023 at the church at 1:30. Charlene Craig called the meeting to order. Devotions were given by Marilyn Wall, "Thank God for the Day" by Dan Safaric, and Love is Paying the Bill.

All recited the UWF Purpose. We are to keep praying for Mike Phillips, Darwin Lee, Delcene, Susan Ross, Jeff Vogel, Harold Rickertsen and safe travels for Pastor Susan. Five members were present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Mary Ann Rickertsen.
They were approved as read.

Treasurer's report was given by Jackie Cook with a balance of \$1258.63.

Correspondence: Soul Care Retreat is April 28,29,2023 At the Aurora Leadership Center. Registration cost is \$75. Check e-mail address for RSVP.

Old Business: Congratulations to Jackie on Special Mission Award and Mary Ann Rickertsen on Dedicated Light Award. Big Garden school supplies and 4 sheets of stamps were taken to Trinity Methodist Church for District meeting.

New Business: We changed the table decorations. UWF will serve the lunch after church April 16th after two Guests from Nebraska City report on the work of the Midwest Distribution Center.

Extra Chores: Cheryl Yoder updated the lettering on the UWF bulletin board. Charlene Craig will update the pictures on the bulletin board. Mary Ann Rickertsen and Marilyn Wall will send cards. Meeting adjourned.

Mary Ann Rickertsen gave the lesson. Jackie Cook served lunch.

Next meeting: **May 9th at 12:00 with pot luck luncheon.**
Program Cheryl Yoder and Devotions Mary Ann Rickertsen.

Birthdays: Pastor Susan, April 14 and Marilyn Wall, April 24

Mary Ann Rickertsen

Secretary



United Women in Faith (UMW)

The next meeting of the UWF will be on
May 9th at 12:00 pm in the church
fellowship hall.

All ladies are welcome!



United Methodist Church

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