

# United Methodist Church Newsletter



## AUGUST

2023



[stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com](http://stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com)

**Summer  
Office hours  
Tues-Thurs  
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  
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

### August 2023 Newsletter: Transcendent Love

I recently took a vacation and travelled with my family to my motherland Kenya. It was fun spending time with parents, siblings, nieces, nephews, cousins, aunties, and uncles.

We got to see old friends and ministry colleagues. We took a safari to an animal park near the Kenyan coast called the Tsavo national park to see Kenyan wildlife. It was truly amazing! Some of the animals we saw were elephants, lions, giraffes, gazelles, Zebras, Hippos, and Baboons. We also visited Haller Park, a nature park in Kenya's coastal city of Bamburi. This space was a limestone quarry wasteland which has been transformed into an ecological area. Haller Park holds a variety of plant and animal species and serves as a recreation spot for tourists and locals.

In this park lives two animals with an incredible story. Owen the Hippo and Mzee the tortoise. Owen was a young hippo in a river near the Kenyan coast. In December 2004, a large earthquake in the Indian ocean caused a big Tsunami with mammoth waves up to 100 feet high. This saw Owen's hippo family swept into the sea. Owen was rescued and put in Haller park. In the same enclosure was a hundred-and thirty-year-old tortoise called Mzee, which means a wise old one. At first, Mzee was not very interested in the young hippo Owen, but after some time, the two completely different animals formed a bond like no other and became inseparable friends.

Owen and Mzee spent most of their days together, they would follow each other as they went to feed or to take a swim in the pond. Incredibly, Mzee started treating Owen like a fellow tortoise, and Owen likewise treated Mzee like a fellow hippo. Their story became a sensation and a musical was done in their honor. More recently, the two animals were separated both for their safety, and also to give Owen a chance to bond with a fellow female hippo.

As I thought about the story of Mzee and Owen, I thought of the bond that the love of God creates amid people of different cultures, ethnicities, and back grounds. God's love is so powerful that wherever a Christian goes in the world, they can find friendships with other believers no matter how different their cultures, philosophies, and perspectives in life. Jesus is the exemplar of this reality. He left his throne and came down from heaven to live with us human beings. He learned the human culture and language and embraced us as his own people. Not only did Jesus come to live with humans, he became a specific human being in the Jewish culture. Jesus always crossed over to go and minister to people labeled as "other", a Samaritan woman, a leper, a sinner. He always left his comfort zone to embrace those that society had put a boundary on.

So, what about us? Who in our midst do we need to cross over to go meet? Which boundary do we need to cross? Might it be the imaginary boarder placed by different economic status, by race, or by culture. One way to show Christ's love to the world is to cross whatever borders and boundaries that separate us as God's people. It is what Jesus modeled. Even animals like Owen and Mzee demonstrated that it can be done.

May our love as God's children be extended to whomever God places on our paths.

Amen

Pastor Susan

# AUGUST

6th	Worship 10 am
8th	UWF meeting 1:30pm
13th	Worship 10 am Blessing of the Backpacks
19th	UMC helps at Food Pantry 9-11 am
20th	Worship 10 am
27th	Worship 10 am

## **Blessing of the Backpacks**

Blessing of the backpacks will be held during Worship Service on August 13th. Please feel free to have your kids of all ages bring in their backpacks for a blessing for a wonderful new school year. Teachers, feel free to bring in briefcases/totes to be blessed also!

**Adult Sunday School** will begin on **September 10th**. This is held every Sunday before worship service at 9am. Any adult is encouraged to be a part of this study. If you are interested in joining, please let Darla Voigt or Mary Ann Rickertsen know. Please let them know if you have any ideas on a study they can do in this group, they would love to have your input!

## **United Women in Faith (UMW)**

The next meeting of the UWF will be on **August 8th at 1:30 pm** in the church fellowship hall. All ladies are welcome!

## **Kunene Special School**

As many of you may or may not know, Pastor Susan had the opportunity to visit the special school UMC has been helping on her visit to Kenya. Susan got to spend time with the staff members and also many of the individuals that go to this school.

The picture shows Pastor Susan presenting the staff with a certificate from UMC. The certificate states that a gift of \$500.00 was given to the school to help continue with their ministry.



## June Attendance

June 4th:	53 In-person 61 Views/FB
June 11th:	50 In-person 64 Views/FB
June 18th:	43 In-person 58 Views/FB
June 25th:	39 In-person 64 views/FB

## June Offering Totals

June 4th:	\$3,138
June 11th:	\$2,857
June 18th:	\$535
June 25th:	\$661

## Lunch Bunch

The church helped out with the Lunch Bunch again this year. Our dates to help provide a meal to community kids were June 15th and July 13th.

98 kids were served on June 15th and 76 were served on July 13th!

Great job to Mary Ann Rickertsen of our Outreach committee on planning and preparing this meal!

Thank you the people who came to help serve on these days also.



July 13th UMC Lunch Bunch Crew (pic courtesy off of Howard Greeley Food Pantry Facebook page)

## July Attendance

July 2nd:	45 In-person 81 Views/FB
July 9th: <i>Worship in the Park</i>	58 In-person 94 Views/FB
July 16th:	45 In-person 65 Views/FB
July 23rd:	42 In-person 78 views/FB
July 30th:	36 In-person 54 views/FB

## July Offering Totals

July 2nd:	\$5,363
July 9th:	\$630
July 16th:	\$2,491
July 23rd:	\$706
July 30th:	\$1412



## VBS Fun!

VBS was held on July 5th, 6th and the 7th.

Three fun filled days of learning about Jesus!

This was a tremendous collaboration along with St. Mark's Lutheran and the Presbyterian churches.



*The picture above and to the left are from the kids during VBS classroom time.*



*The picture below is a group learning the songs along with the actions that they learned during VBS.*





*Happy Anniversary*

Aug 1	Oakley Wemhoff	Aug 12	Dale Rasmussen
Aug 2	Chris Klassen	Aug 19	Tom Knutson
Aug 2	Luke Porter	Aug 20	Darla Voigt
Aug 5	Nem Murithi	Aug 22	Alex Egger
Aug 5	Susan Rasmussen	Aug 25	Jarold Jacobsen
Aug 8	John McClellan	Aug 25	Blake Thomsen
Aug 9	Aiden Lukasiewicz	Aug 25	Dean Egger
Aug 9	Dan Fox	Aug 26	Stanley Edwards
Aug 9	Lonny Thomsen	Aug 27	Teresa Pedersen
Aug 11	Janet Thomsen	Aug 29	Chris Meyer
Aug 12	Larry Hurlburt		

Aug 1	Adam & Kerri Rensch
Aug 2	Jeff & Susan Murithi
Aug 4	Dennis & Angela Jameson
Aug 8	Mark & Brenda Starkey
Aug 15	Gary & Charlotte Rasmussen
Aug 16	Carol & Mike Phillips
Aug 21	Brad & Deb Wells
Aug 22	Doug & Darla Voigt
Aug 23	Kurt & Jami Wemhoff
Aug 27	Dave & Marilyn Brehm
Aug 28	Don & De Ette Lukasiewicz



## 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. **August 19th** 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.

<b>Hamburger Helper</b>	<b>Pudding</b>
<b>Brownie mixes</b>	<b>Jello</b>
<b>Cookies</b>	<b>Canned fruit- any kind</b>
<b>Bar Soap</b>	<b>Cereal</b>
<b>Pork and Beans</b>	<b>Frosting</b>
<b>Crackers(Salad &amp; Soup)</b>	<b>Dish Soap</b>
<b>Laundry Soap</b>	<b>Shampoo/Conditioner</b>
<b>Paper Towels</b>	<b>Toilet Tissue</b>
<b>Flour</b>	<b>Ketchup/Mustard</b>
<b>Juice-any kind</b>	<b>Pie Crusts</b>
<b>Mayo</b>	<b>Pancake Mix/Syrup</b>
<b>Spaghetti Sauce</b>	<b>Toothbrushes/Toothpaste</b>
<b>Salad Dressings(Ranch/Dorothy Lynch)</b>	



## Worship in the Park

Worship service was held at St. Paul City Park on July 9th, 2023. This was a joint venture along with St. Mark's Lutheran and the Presbyterian Churches. The kids from VBS got to show off many of the things they had learned during the previous week at VBS.



*Pictured above: the VBS kids along with the youth leaders singing (with actions) during Worship in the park*



*Pictured at left: Nancy Harrington as a knight for VBS  
Pictured above: VBS kids standing in front of some of the props made by Erik Williams for 'Knights of North Castle' VBS*

# 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.**

<b>Marilyn Wall</b>	754-5100	<b>Martha Voigt</b>	<b>754-4666</b>	<b>Jackie Cook</b>	<b>754-9115</b>
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 <b>OR</b> Mike McCarthy	750-2117-Nancy (775)-830-9521 -Mike	Vanice Bahensky	754-7873	Lory Thomsen	754-4286



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# August

