

United Methodist Church



JANUARY

2024



stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com

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

Staff

Rev. Dr. Susan Murithi

Church Secretary
Carrie Hancock

Custodian
Integrated Life Choices
Call Church Office

Committee **Chairpersons:**

Admin Council
Bob Rasmussen

Board of Trustees
Jared Rasmussen

Finance
Dave Harrington

Staff/Parish Relations
Tom Knutson

Worship
Darla Voigt

Mission-Outreach
Mary Ann Rickertsen

UMM
Tom Knutson

UWF
Charlene Craig
Carol Phillips

Education
Nancy Harrington

Trust God's Guidance in the New Year!

I remember growing up and the traditions that surrounded the arrival of a new year. Among those was the gathering together of Christians in our local church for an evening of singing, dancing, and praising God for the past years' blessing. On New Year's Eve, we would assemble at 9:00PM. There would be good music, both special individual presentations and cooperative singing by the congregation. People would share testimonies of the miracles of God throughout the ending year and we would encourage each other with scripture about God's promises for the upcoming year. At 12:00 midnight, we would do the countdown to the new year amid great cheering and jubilation. In the morning, my siblings and I propped the new calendar on the wall and turned on that first page of January. It was officially a new day in a new month of a new year!

The turning of the calendar page is not merely a symbolic gesture but an opportunity to reset, recalibrate, and recommit ourselves to the journey that lies ahead. However, recommitting and resetting ourselves for the new year can easily be hindered by the realities of what we are experiencing at this time. The world has seen darkness in the past few years. There has been the Covid pandemic which almost crashed the global economy and healthcare, the world political scene is in such a sorry state with selfish ideas being propagated by those who are supposed to lead selflessly. Lots of talk from world leaders but little impact in terms of peace and justice. Many countries are experiencing terrorism, strife, or a full-blown war. How can we hope for better times while we see so much death and suffering in people's lives? As people of faith, Proverbs 3: 5-7 reminds us of these words "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not in your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes: fear the Lord and depart from evil." Our trust is in the Lord's guidance. In a world marked by division and strife, the idea of being guided by God invites us to join him in his redemptive work by cultivating kindness, forgiveness, and empathy. It prompts us to extend a helping hand to those in need, to foster understanding in the face of differences, and to be a source of light in the lives of others. It is essential to anchor our hopes in a deeper, more enduring source. God's power will uplift and sustain us through life's challenges. As we navigate the terrain of the coming year, we can find solace in the belief that we are not alone – that a higher power walks with us, offering guidance, wisdom, and grace. Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not in your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight in 2024.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Susan



JANUARY



3rd	NO Youth Group	20th	UMC helps with Food Pantry 9-11am
7th	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am— Communion and Covenant Renewal Service Children's Sunday School-after worship	21st	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am— Rev. Dorthea Fairbanks Children's Sunday School-after worship
9th	UWF meeting— 1:30pm	24th	Soup Supper—Volunteers needed with bake sale, soups and salads needed
10th	Youth Group 6:15pm	28th	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am Children's Sunday School-after worship
14th	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am— Rev. Dorthea Fairbanks Children's Sunday School-after worship	31st	Youth Group 6:15pm
17th	Youth Group 6:15pm		

December Attendance

December 3rd:	54 In-person 23 Views/YouTube
December 10th:	58 In-person 23 Views/YouTube
December 17th:	53 In-person 19 Views/YouTube
December 24th(AM):	37 In-person 21 Views/YouTube
December 24th(PM):	70 In-person 18 Views/YouTube
December 31st:	35 In-person 23 Views/YouTube

December Offering Totals

December 3rd:	\$4,213
December 10th:	\$2,643
December 17th:	\$13,589
December 24th(AM):	\$2,404
December 24th(PM): (Special school offering)	\$679
December 31st:	\$4,421

Christmas Cheer 2023



Pictured above, from left to right, Linda McKnight, Carol Phillips, Ursula Sorlie, Barb Lepper, and Sheryl and Allan Kuszak. Cheer committee members not pictured: Claude Sorlie and Cherri Klinginsmith

Christmas Cheer is in the books for 2023! With your donations we were able to help 21 families, including 39 children. Distribution day was a beautiful winter day and it was fun to finally see the families that were being helped. They expressed sincere gratitude for the gifts received. The community of St. Paul, and particularly our church members, were very generous this year. We couldn't have done it without your help. The money collected goes towards purchasing gift cards from Hometown Market as well as many other things. Your help in purchasing gifts makes our part that much easier. As we are putting closure on another year, we pray that a seed may have been planted in the hearts of these families and come to know God's love for them.

Thanks again!

Christmas Cheer Committee

See next page for more pics!

Christmas Cheer cont'd....



Pictured:

Row of gifts ready for distribution for Christmas Cheer. Gifts were given to participating families on Dec. 22nd, 2023. Pictured below is the Christmas tree in our Fellowship Hall that held some of the gift tags for Cheer individuals.



The Howard Greeley County Ministerial Association presents: Family Enrichment Series



Everyone is welcome to join in these presentations. These are FREE events.
The next one coming up in February 2024 will be held here at the church.

Upcoming Events:

Feb 19, 2024 - Dealing with Dependency & Addiction held at
St. Paul UMC— 1320 Baxter St. - 6pm

Apr 15, 2024 - Better relationships, connections and boundaries held at
Christ Lutheran— 1022 Elm St - 6pm

Questions? - eric@stpaulgrace.org



Happy Anniversary

No Anniversaries

Jan 1	Claude Sorlie	Jan 13	Emily Christensen
Jan 2	Russ Swigart	Jan 14	Ashley Meyer
Jan 5	Diane Johnson	Jan 14	Jeff Vogel
Jan 7	Carrie Hancock	Jan 18	Martha Voigt
Jan 8	Marvin Schwenk	Jan 19	Anthony Esquitin
Jan 10	Austin Starkey	Jan 19	Cash Wemhoff
Jan 11	Tim Ross	Jan 23	Lisa Porter
Jan 12	Becky Schwenk		

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!



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. **January 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

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

The UWF met on December 12th, 2023 at 1:30pm at the church. Charlene called the meeting to order. Devotions were given by Deb Wells about human time vs. God's time and Behold Jesus.

Present were Theda, Carol, Deb, Dorthea, Charlene, Darla, Jackie and Marilyn.

UWF Purpose was recited by all.

Prayers continue for church couples with ongoing medical conditions, Susan Ross, Cheryl Yoder-knee surgery, Mary Ann-tests, Pastor Jeff's sister, Powell family, Virginia Munyon, decline in church membership and funding.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved with an addition of \$50.00 sent to Heifer at the end of year.

Treasurer's Report: Balance on hand \$917.73. No bills presented. Nov. thank offering was \$369.67. Total year end distributions of \$797.67. Prairie District UWF on hold as no officers. Helen Cox will continue to collect money from church units.

Correspondence: Epworth Family Resources review, will continue with pledge of \$500. Deb Wells made motion and Carol Phillips 2nd. Approved. Prairie Rivers Newsletter request for volunteers to help with Annual Conference in September, 2024 at York UMC. Will discuss further next year. Summary minutes of District fall meeting in Wood River. Issues of Fall Response magazine on back cupboard.

No new website news.

New Business: Darlene Bahensky presented glass star belonging to Vanice Bahensky to church. This comes from our old church windows. This will be forwarded to the Memorial committee to be registered.

Will have to find a special place for this.

Christmas Cheer update was given by Carol, All Faith's Luncheon and Christmas church decorating reports also given. Darla suggested gift bags to kids after Christmas Eve Service, UWF will donate \$100 and Darla, Dorthea, and Deb will meet to work on this.

Lesson on Christmas given by Ursula.

Next meeting January 9th, 2024 at 1:30pm. Devotions- Marilyn, Lunch- Darla, Lesson - - we will perform a skit.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm and lunch served by Dorthea.

United Women in Faith (UMW)

The next meeting of the
UWF will be on

January 9th at 1:30pm.

All ladies are welcome!



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