

United Methodist Church



MARCH

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

What is Good About Good Friday

On the 29th of this month, Christians will be celebrating Good Friday. This is a day that we commemorate the death of Christ on the cross. One may wonder what is good about this day that was filled with intense hatred by the accusers, mockery of an innocent person, and even death. At face value, everything about that Friday was terrible and dark. Good Friday, however, displayed something wonderful for the world to see. First, Christ displayed selfless love and compassion as he hung on the cross. He was willing to undergo the punishment that was rightfully ours to save us from the pain caused by our sin. Because the wages of sin is death, sinners had to die. But Jesus took the punishment for sin upon himself and set us free from sin and its consequences.

Having been freed from the power of sin, Christians endeavor to live righteously before God. So, throughout the Lent period, they prepare their hearts for Easter resurrection through fasting, repentance, sacrifice, and self-discipline. Some people give up something or take on something aimed at drawing them nearer to God. Believers, therefore, acknowledge their sin and turn back to God. In biblical language, it would also be called “taking up our cross” Luke 9:23-25 References Jesus’ use of this phrase. “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵What good is it for someone to gain the whole world and yet lose or forfeit their very self?.” During this season, we experience a heightened awareness of our need to take up the cross of Christ, to give up control of our lives so we can follow God's leading. We also remember Christ’s work for humanity and aspire to a deep commitment to him, who gave his all for us.

Good Friday gives us that excellent opportunity not just to be aware but also to do something. Seeing the ugliness of sin as displayed on the cross, Christians are challenged to break away any ties to sin. We, therefore, are nudged to repentance. Thankfully, we know that the story did not end with the horror events of the crucifixion; the story continued to a resurrection. As such, Good Friday is a profound testimony to the power of Jesus’ love and sacrifice. It invites us to pause, reflect, and be transformed as we draw inspiration from its timeless message of God’s incredible love for humanity.

I invite all to join us on the last Friday of this month, to come and worship with us here at St. Paul UMC. The incredible love of God will inspire us as we remember the sacrificial gift that Christ gave on that first Good Friday. Yes, it was a terrible day for our lord, but that ugliness bore a goodness for humanity that was unbelievably amazing. As we observe Lent this season and Good Friday on the last weekend of the month, let us strive to embody its spirit of repentance, selflessness, love, and forgiveness. And this makes it a GOOD FRIDAY for us who believe. Amen

Pastor Susan



MARCH



3rd	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am– Communion Children’s Sunday School-after worship	17th	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am Children’s Sunday School-after worship St. Patrick’s Day
6th	Lent Study– 11am and 7pm Youth Group 6:15pm	20th	Lent Study– 11am and 7pm Youth Group 6:15pm
10th	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am– UMCOR Sunday Children’s Sunday School-after worship Daylight Savings time begins– Spring ahead!	24th	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am– Palm Sunday Children’s Sunday School-after worship
12th	UWF meeting– 1:30pm	27th	Lent Study– 11am and 7pm Youth Group 6:15pm
13th	Lent Study– 11am and 7pm Youth Group 6:15pm	29th	Good Friday Service 6:30 pm
16th	UMC helps with Food Pantry 9-11am	31st	Easter Day Sunrise service: 7am at Voigt’s home Regular Worship service: 10am

February Attendance

February 4th:	37 In-person 20 Views/YouTube
February 11th:	65 In-person 24 Views/YouTube
February 14th: <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	36 In-person 11 Views/YouTube
February 18th:	38 In-person 21 Views/YouTube
February 25th:	69 In-person 19 Views/YouTube

February Offering Totals

February 4th:	\$5,812
February 11th:	\$1,297
February 14th: <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	\$114
February 18th:	\$3,059
February 25th:	\$11,022

March Worship Services

We have several special worship services coming up in March.

Please join us for:

Palm Sunday Service– March 24th at 10:00am

The children who are present that day will parade with palm leaves during some festive music (they will not need to learn a song for that day).

Good Friday Service– March 29th at 6:30pm

Sunrise Easter Service– March 31st at 7:00am at the home of Doug and Darla Voigt. They live at 1741 North Hill Estates in St. Paul. Please bring your own lawn chairs/blankets/warm mug of coffee or hot chocolate for this service.

Easter Service– March 31st at 10:00am– at the church
No Adult or Children's Sunday School will meet on Easter day

New Members and Baptisms

On February 11th, we had several new members join our church. It was a busy service with Baptisms, Confirmations, Transfers, and Professions of Faith.

Please welcome them all into our church family!





March 1	Nancy McCarthy	March 15	Dane Berggren
March 2	Briley Poss	March 16	Dave Brehm
March 6	Kylee Poss	March 18	Kerri Rensch
March 8	Les Rawlings	March 18	Gunnar Nyberg
March 10	Gary Rasmussen	March 18	Jaxton Thompson
March 12	Francine Rasmussen	March 19	Charlotte Rasmussen
March 12	Mike Coghlan	March 22	Jackie Cook
March 13	Alyssa Ritter	March 29	Loren Pearson
March 14	Jaylynn Thompson	March 29	Kristina Radke
March 15	Chris Pedersen		

UMC Scholarships

Do you know of a 2024 graduating senior (who is a member of the church) interested in a church scholarship?

The Memorial Committee offers scholarships to graduating seniors who qualify. Applications are available in the church office. For more information contact Deb Wells at 308-754-5620.

Happy Anniversary

March 28 Rick & Suzy Peters



FOOD PANTRY

Please consider donating items for the Howard Greeley 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. **March 16th** 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- Saltines)	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)	

St. Paul Home Group Communities!

Welcome to St. Paul Home Group Communities! Growth as disciples of Christ best happens in the context of community. Doing life together with a group of people who are on the same journey is vital. Our congregation is starting Home Group Communities starting this Month (March 2024). The groups will meet monthly for fellowship and to learn from scripture and each other. These groups will afford every member a belonging and bring authenticity in sharing life's joys and struggles. They will also build community through fellowship, support, and friendships while deepening discipleship through God's word.

Special thanks to our Pilot volunteer Hosts: **The Craigs, The Harringtons, and the Fairbanks.**

Group Themes (These are tentative and evolving)

Harringtons Family- RightNow Media Discipleship Study

This group will do their study by watching a topical video in the Christian Video Library RightNow Media and then discussing their insights with each other. The group will also focus on reaching out to people and therefore will be invitational for new members from time to time.

Meeting time: Second Sunday **4:30PM** Starting March 10th

Fairbanks family- Books of the Bible Study

This group will go through the books of the Bible chapter by chapter. They will pick an Old or New Testament Book and go through it together digging deeply into the background and the message of the book. The starting Week will cover "The Final Week of Jesus" as reflected in the gospels.

Meeting time: Third Monday **5:30PM** Starting March 18th

Craigs Family- Seasons Study

This group will handle various topics including the liturgical calendar covering topics like advent, Christmas, epiphany, and lent. The Group will begin with ice breakers for their meeting session. They will pick a book on any Christian topic of study as agreed by the leaders and members.

Meeting time: Third/Fourth Sunday **5:00PM** Starting March 24th



Food Pantry Month a Success!

As a church we collect year round for the Howard Greeley Food Pantry, but in February we always make an extra effort to gather more as it is our 'Food Pantry Month'. This year a friendly competition, led by Great Plains Conference Bishop David Wilson, in conjunction to the Super Bowl, was happening at the same time as our Food Pantry month. By February 15th, our church had gathered a little over 231 pounds of food! (This did not include paper goods, etc.) **WOW!**



Pictured above, and to the right and left
- some of our Youth Group helping
move all items collected into our
Fellowship hall as it was overflowing
in the church Narthex.
Thanks for the help!

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

The Women in Faith met February 13, 2024 at 1:30 pm at the church. Charlene Craig called the meeting to order. Prayer concerns—Delcene, new members of church.

The December minutes were read and approved as corrected.

The treasurers report shows a balance of \$1003.73.

Correspondence: Fall Great Plains Annual Church wide conference in Sept. at York. Jan.-Feb. Response is on the back cupboard if you want to read it. Mary Ann Rickertsen made motion to renew the Response magazine for one year at \$24.00. Seconded by Carol Phillips. Carried. News from UWF on Podcast Feb.15 at 1:00pm, must preregister.

Old Business: Church Soup Supper raised \$2040.25 and Bake Sale \$250.00. Mary Ann Rickertsen volunteered to send a thank you the Larry and Darlene Bahensky for the beautiful aqua blue ornament made from the stained glass windows in the old church. Lyle and Vanice Bahensky had it made and was in their home. Cheryl Yoder volunteered to try to repair two chrismons from the church Christmas tree.

New Business: World Day of Prayer is Friday March 1st at 12:00 at St. Marks Church. The program is on Christian Palestinian Women. Darla Voigt and Cheryl Yoder volunteered to furnish 3 dozen cookies each for the lunch. Theda Van Horn volunteered to be a reader in the program. It was decided to clean the kitchen and fellowship room Feb.27th starting at 9:00.

Reminders: Ash Wednesday Feb.14th. Two sessions of the Lenten study Feb.21, 11:00am led by Dorthea and 7:00pm led by Pastor Susan. Bring items for Food Pantry in Feb. Sign up for small groups for the months of March, April, and May. The lesson was given by Charlene Craig titled "God Speaks". Carol Phillips, Jackie Cook, Dorthea Fairbanks, Theda Van Horn, Darla Voigt did a skit about women finding time in their lives for God time. Then discussion on when we find time for God and how. She closed with prayer including the prayer concerns. Our next meeting is March 12th at 1:30pm Mary Ann Rickertsen devotions, Dorthea Fairbanks lesson, Rose Ross lunch. Meeting adjourned. Rose Ross served lunch.

Mary Ann Rickertsen

Secretary



United Women in Faith (UWF)

The next meeting of the
UWF will be on
March 12th at 1:30pm.
All ladies are welcome!



United Methodist Church
1320 Baxter Street
St. Paul, NE 68873
308-754-4247
stpaulneumc@gmail.com

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