

United Methodist Church



AUGUST 2024



stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com

Office hours
Tues-Thurs
Summer Hours
9am –1:00 pm
754-4247

Staff

Rev. Nicole
Schwartz-Eck

Church Secretary
Carrie Hancock

Custodian
Integrated Life Choices
Call Church Office

Committee Chairpersons:

Admin Council
Bob Rasmussen

Board of Trustees
Doug Voigt

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

It's hard to believe that August is here and school is right around the corner. For many of us, it marks the beginning of new routines and the end of summer (maybe with one last hurrah for Labor Day).

As we begin our new routines, whether as parents, youth, grandparents, I encourage you to make your faith and church part of the plan. When we become part of a church, and especially when we join a church, we make vows. A vow is, by definition, a solemn promise. One of those vows is to faithfully participate in the life and ministries of our local congregation through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. We make these vows for two reasons. First, they help us grow in our faith and discipleship, they are directly related to what John Wesley called the means of grace. Second, through the church, they multiply our ability as disciples of Jesus Christ to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

The vow of prayer includes spending time in prayer. This includes confessing our brokenness and failings, listening for God's voice and the movement of the Holy Spirit, thanking God for the blessings large and small in our lives, and lifting your needs and those of the community and church. The vow of presence means showing up. Being present at church and being part of the community of faith. When we are present, we learn not only from pastors and other leaders, but from each other. We support one another. We build relationships. When we are not there, it becomes increasingly harder to do those things.

The vow relating to our gifts often gets relegated to our financial gifts. Our financial gifts are important to our church because they facilitate our presence in the community and multiply our ministries (building and resources). However, they are not the only gifts that we commit to the church. Our gifts also include spiritual gifts as well as God-given talents. There are lots of ways to discern your spiritual gifts. You can take an assessment like the one found on the UMC website (<https://www.umc.org/en/content/exploring-your-spiritual-gifts>), talk with folks who know you well, or reflect on things you enjoy doing. Your talents may simply be things such as decorating, playing or singing music, or something completely different. And, there are often ways that those can be used in the church.

The vow to being in faithful service has avenues within the church and outside of it. It can include leadership roles such as church boards and committees, teaching Sunday school, and also being the hands and feet of Jesus in our church. It can also include community in areas such as the food pantry and volunteer organizations.

The vow of witnessing is often one that I hear that folks are nervous about. We are called to witness to our faith through words. To talk about Jesus, to give glory to God. But it can be done in simple ways. Sharing a way that God has worked in your life, inviting someone to church and sharing how your church shapes your faith or why you call your church home are easy ways this can be done. We also witness to our faith with our actions. How we show up for folks, how we respond to life's challenges, our attitude and countenance toward and around others, and how we treat others (and ourselves- that love our neighbors as ourselves things) are all ways we witness to our faith.

So, please make living into these vows- within the church and in your every day lives- part of your routines this fall and beyond.

Now, on a personal note, I just want to say "Thank You." Thank you for the welcome that I and my family have received. Thank you to those who helped make preparations for our move here, who provided meals and lodging, who prayed for us, and who have encouraged us. We are excited to be here and to be part of the church and community. I look forward to continuing to get to know you and hear your stories. I look forward to sharing meals and coffee with you because you learn different things about people sitting around dinner tables than you do around meeting tables. I look forward to walking with you on this journey of faith. Thank you!

Pastor Nicole



AUGUST



1st	Community Office Hrs– 9:30-11:30am -Pastor Nicole will be at Bedhead Coffee Home Groups meeting 1:30pm	17th	UMC helps at the Food Pantry 9-11am
4th	Worship 10 am– Communion	18th	Worship 10 am- Blessing of the Backpacks Baptism
6th	Youth Group meeting– 11am SPPRC meeting 7pm	19th	Home groups– Fairbanks– at 5:30pm
8th	Community Office Hrs– 9:30-11:30am Pastor Nicole will be at Skyline	22nd	Community Office Hrs– 9:30-11:30am Location TBD
11th	Worship 10 am	25th	Worship 10 am Children’s Sunday school-during worship
13th	UWF Meeting– 1:30pm	29th	Community Office Hrs– 9:30-11:30am Location TBD
15th	Community Office Hrs– 9:30-11:30am Pastor Nicole will be at Bedhead		

June Attendance

June 2nd:	63 In-person 19 Views/YouTube
June 9th:	33 In-person 34 Views/YouTube
June 16th:	22 In-person 15 Views/YouTube
June 23rd: (Worship in the Park)	77 In-person NO Views/YouTube
June 30th:	33 In-person 15 Views/YouTube

June Offering Totals

June 2nd:	\$3,555
June 9th:	\$1,580
June 16th:	\$2,470
June 23rd: (Worship in the Park)	\$226
June 30th:	\$4,295

July Attendance

July 7th:	66 In-person 34 Views/YouTube
July 14th:	69 In-person 34 Views/YouTube
July 21st:	44 In-person 20 Views/YouTube
July 28th:	41 In-person 36 Views/YouTube

July Offering Totals

July 7th:	\$3,939
July 14th:	\$1,419
July 21st:	\$1,000
July 28th:	\$402



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 Klingensmith	750-0615	Mary Pearson	308-219-0060
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

Teacher's Prayers

At St. Paul United Methodist Church, we have made a commitment to our local schools. This has stemmed from both the commitment the Great Plains Annual Conference (Kansas and Nebraska) of the United Methodist Church made entering into partnerships with public schools in their communities to support schools, teachers, and students and our own desire to support the schools, teachers, and students to see our community and world transformed in positive ways.

St. Paul United Methodist Church has several ways that we hope to fulfill this commitment and find new ways to partner with our schools. This year, our congregation is praying for the teachers, administrators, and staff of schools by name, each for a week. If you know of teachers from our congregation that teach at other districts or substitute teachers that would not be listed on the St. Paul district website, please let

Pastor Nicole or the church office know so we can add them to our teacher prayers. Thank You!

Each Sunday, we will begin praying for the following teachers:

August 4 - Rob Wegner, Alex Egger, Richard Moore, Kim Schulte, Adam Patrick

August 11- Tanya Johansen, Mia Rasmussen, Brett Stamp, Heidi Stelk, Terri Townsend, Ryan Camden

August 18- Jami Wemhoff, Jaime Camden, Shayla Tibbetts, Chasity Dubbs, Chloe Younger

August 25 - Amanda Hoshor, Tara Sjuts, Morgan Skibinski, Rochelle Stepanek

September 1- Robert Hazen, Heidi Hiebner, Kelli McClellan



Many Volunteers Deserve Many Thank Yous

As some of you may remember, our church had two mission/service projects and one education event all occurring simultaneously during the third week of June. The chairman and several volunteers who helped with each activity should be recognized as follows:

1. **Lunch Bunch** food preparation and serving on June 4th and the 18th. Chairman- Mary Ann Rickertsen and volunteers- Ursula Sorlie, Theda Van Horn, Darla Voigt, Mary Pearson, Deb Wells, Cheryl Yoder, and Brenda Starkey.
2. **Parsonage Clean-up, Repairs, Painting.** Chairman- Doug & Darla Voigt, Jared Rasmussen. Volunteers- Carrie & Chad Hancock, Francine Rasmussen, Nancy & Dave Harrington, Brenda Starkey, Charlene Craig, Casie and Kaydence Olson.
3. **Vacation Bible School** hosted by the Methodist Church in collaboration with the Presbyterian and St. Mark's Lutheran Churches. Chairpersons- Knight Nancy Harrington & Pastor Steven Neal, Volunteer Teachers, assistants, Crafts, Music, and Game leaders-(from our church only)- Deb Wells, Ursula Sorlie, Darlene Klinginsmith, Faith & Beth Jameson, Audrey Anderson.

United Women in Faith- Chairperson- Charlene Craig, prepared and served lunch and furnished several dozen cookies along with many other women from all three churches. Volunteers- Carol Phillips, Cheryl Yoder, Mary Pearson, Ursula Sorlie, Deb Wells, Theda Van Horn, Mary Ann Rickertsen, Brenda Starkey; Work Group money helped with food costs.

Also, recognizing Tom and Pat Knutson, who hosted Pastor Nicole and her family while they were in transition.

Some of these volunteers worked on two or three committees. On behalf of the congregation, may we express many hearty thank-yous and sincere appreciation to the committee chairpersons and all the volunteers for your dedication and your numerous hours spent in the church's mission work.



VBS 2024



Vacation Bible School was held June 19th-21st this year from 9am-noon. On June 23rd there was a Worship in the Park where the kids got to show off a little of what they learned at VBS.

A thank you goes out to everyone who helped with this endeavor!



Pictured above: On Friday, June 21st, the VBS kid's families were invited into the church sanctuary to see what the kids had been learning at their time at VBS.

St. Paul Youth Group Family Kick-off Night

All community families are invited on Wednesday, September 4th for an evening of food, fellowship and fun!. Come find out about this year's Youth Group that will start on September 11th. Food will be served beginning at 6:30pm, followed by various activities for the whole family. We encourage all families to join us for a wonderful evening!



Fall Ministry Celebration

Mark your calendars for a ministry celebration to be held Sept. 15 during the Sunday service. During the sermon, some of the various church ministry leaders share the impact of their ministries. Some of these ministries are Sunday School (adult or school age), Youth Group, choir, home group communities, and UWF.

After the service, please join us for a free meal, catered by Kats Meat-N-Stuff and sponsored by the home group host couples.

Dessert will include brownies and soft serve ice cream. It's a time to relax, visit, and enjoy each other's company. Ministry area leaders will be on hand to visit with you or answer questions you might have about the ministries.



Lunch Bunch

The United Methodist Church provided meals on two separate dates for the St. Paul Lunch Bunch program.

On June 4th, 72 kids were provided a meal, and on June 18th, 98 kids were fed a meal. A big thank you to all those that helped assist in serving, providing food, or helped in any way with this outreach to our community.

It was very much appreciated!

Thank
You



Aug 1	Oakley Wemhoff	Aug 11	Janet Thomsen
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	Stan Edwards
Aug 9	Lonny Thomsen	Aug 27	Teresa Pedersen

Aug 1	Adam & Kerri Rensch
Aug 4	Dennis & Angie Jameson
Aug 7	Mike & Angie Eytcheson
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 & DeEtte Lukasiewicz
Aug 30	Steve & Kassie Hancock

United Methodist Church of St. Paul
MISSION STATEMENT
'Making and Nurturing Disciples'



Blessing of the Backpacks

A Blessing of the Backpacks will be done on August 18th during the 10am Worship service. Kids, please bring your backpack to be blessed. This blessing isn't just for the kids, though. We will take this time to bless the teachers and families as we start a new school year!



Sunday



Worship time 10:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Study
 Sunday morning 9:00 am
 -starts Sept 8th

Children's Education
 Sunday School 11:00 am.
 -during Worship service-
 starts Aug. 25th

Remember Church Home Groups??

Our church home group communities started meeting back in March as a pilot program. Members of the three groups met monthly for two hours in the home of volunteer/host families as follows:

Dave/Nancy Harrington - St. Paul, Dorteia Fairbanks - St. Libory, Gary/Charlene Craig with co-hosts Doug/Darla Voigt - rural St. Paul. About 30 church members attended the various meetings in smaller groups.

The host couples met for an evaluation meeting in late Spring. There were many positive comments from home group members including: good fellowship times and getting to know church members on a more personal basis, good food, and a chance to deepen our discipleship from spiritual lessons, scripture study and learning from each other. A few issues needing changes or updates: couples or single persons who could host the Sunday night gatherings to relieve the host couples, and maybe shorter lesson times.

Due to the positive comments, it was decided to start the home groups again beginning in August or September with the same host couples or other volunteers as mentioned above. We're also planning a fall kick-off with a BBQ or picnic type meal plus explanations or discussion about the home group communities.

Please see page 6 for more information on the Fall Ministry Celebration.

If you wish to join a home group or have questions, please contact Charlene Craig at 750-6377, Darla Voigt at 750-1401, or the church office - 754-4247. We would love to have you join us.

-Charlene Craig



FOOD PANTRY



Please consider donating items for the Howard Greeley 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)	
Laundry Soap	Shampoo/Conditioner
Toothbrushes/Toothpaste	Toilet Tissue
Flour	Ketchup/Mustard
Juice-any kind	Pie Crusts
Mayo	Pancake Mix/Syrup
Spaghetti Sauce	
Salad Dressings (Ranch/Dorothy Lynch)	
Dish Soap	

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 17th 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	Tuesday
9:00-11:00 am	4:00-6:00 pm

February is the month for United Methodist Church to donate to the Food Pantry.



UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

United Women in Faith met June 11th, 2024 at 1:30pm at La Pena Restaurant for lunch. We talked about different types of fellowship with family and friends during lunch.

Co-president Charlene Craig called the meeting to order. Cheryl Yoder was welcomed as a church member. Mary Ann Rickertsen gave the devotions.

Everyone recited the UWF Purpose.

Minutes of the May meeting were read and approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Showed a balance of \$953.73.

Correspondence: Our new pastor will be Nicole Schwartz-Eck from Pratt, KS. Husband Jeremiah, son Cole, 5 years old.

May-June Response Magazine Note/Mission Work. Bible Study with highlighted verses on Mission U, 2024 theme. Drawing closer to God and One Another in the Kin-dom.

Old Business: Chrismon repair– Cheryl Yoder is looking for glue that will work or just make a new one.

New Business: Bible School is June 19-21, at our church. Menu: chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese and fruit. Volunteers to prepare, serve food: Cheryl Yoder, Mary Pearson, Charlene Craig. Volunteers for cookies: Theda Van Horn and Mary Ann Rickertsen. May Ann Rickertsen reported they served 72 the first Tuesday of Lunch Bunch and they will serve the second time on June 18th. They will be cleaning Pastor's house after June 18th.

Birthdays: June 4th Vanice Bahensky, June 20th Connie Snow

Anniversaries: June 11th– Walls, June 12th Rickertsens, June 12th Edwards, June 17th Sorlies

July meeting will be July 9th at 1:30pm. Lesson: Mary Ann Rickertsen, Devotions: Ursula Sorlie
Lunch: Cheryl Yoder

Charlene Craig gave the lesson on Community Fellowship using the scripture Acts 2: 42-47

Meeting adjourned.

Mary Ann Rickertsen, Co-Secretary

PLEASE NOTE– NO JULY UWF MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME



United Women in Faith (UMW)

The next meeting of the
UWF will be on
August 13th at 1:30pm.
All ladies are welcome!



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