

United Methodist Church



January

2025



stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com

Office hours
Tues-Thurs
9am –3:00 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
Jeremiah Eck

UWF
Deb Wells

Education
Nancy Harrington

As I sit here writing this, I am thinking about the connectional system. It's not something we think about as often in the daily life of the church when we are focused on the ministries of our local congregation. It comes up occasionally during appointive season when we hear about our new pastor and where they've been or where our current one is going to. Sometimes we hear about the organizational structures of the church when the District Superintendent shows up, we hear a message from the Bishop or Council of Bishops, the pastor and lay representative return from annual conference, when a pastor is a delegate (or in Pastor Susan's case, interpreter) for General Conference, or an activity or article from elsewhere in the connection is shared.

But, what is the connectional system really. According to the article "Organization: The Church as Connection on UMC.org, "The United Methodist structure and organization began as a means of accomplishing the mission of spreading scriptural holiness. Methodism's founder, John Wesley, recognized the need for an organized system of communication and accountability and developed what he called the "connexion," a network of classes, societies, and annual conferences. Today, our denomination continues to be organized in a "connectional" system, which "enables us to carry out our mission in unity and strength" (Book of Discipline, ¶ 701). Every local church is linked to an interconnected network of organizations that join together in mission and ministry, allowing us to accomplish far more than any one local church or person could alone." So, structure, accountability system, and mission network. All of these are important pieces of it. As a cradle roll United Methodist I find all of these pieces important.

The structure and accountability system, while very important, are not the parts of the connectional system that make me love the UMC. As I sit here today, it's the mission network that makes me proud to be United Methodist. This morning as I was drinking my coffee and checking Facebook while watching the morning news, I was watching the devastation in California due to the wildfires, I saw a post from United Methodist Committee on Relief asking for prayers and offering ways to support disaster relief there, as well as in other places. Because we are part of a connection, we already have "boots on the ground" who can aid with relief quickly.

I also have a more personal reason that I am thinking about the connectional system today. With my mother in the hospital and the impending snowstorm last weekend, my husband decided to contact a couple of United Methodist Churches in St. Joseph, where the hospital is, to see if a pastor would be available to visit her. Pastor Doug of Ashland UMC answered the call to action. As my aunt said, "I know if I look for the cross and flame, I will find a church in ministry." It makes me think of all the pastors and prayer lists that are lifting up my mom, many of whom she has never met. It also makes me think about our church and the care and support that we show to one another.

One last thing, as I reflect on 2024 with the coming of the new year, I also want to take a minute once more to say thank you. Thank you for the joy of celebrating Christmas together this year. Thank you for your generosity and ministry. Thank you for your prayers, patience and support as we navigate this health crisis with my momma. Thank you for being the church in St. Paul, NE. Thank you for BEING church.

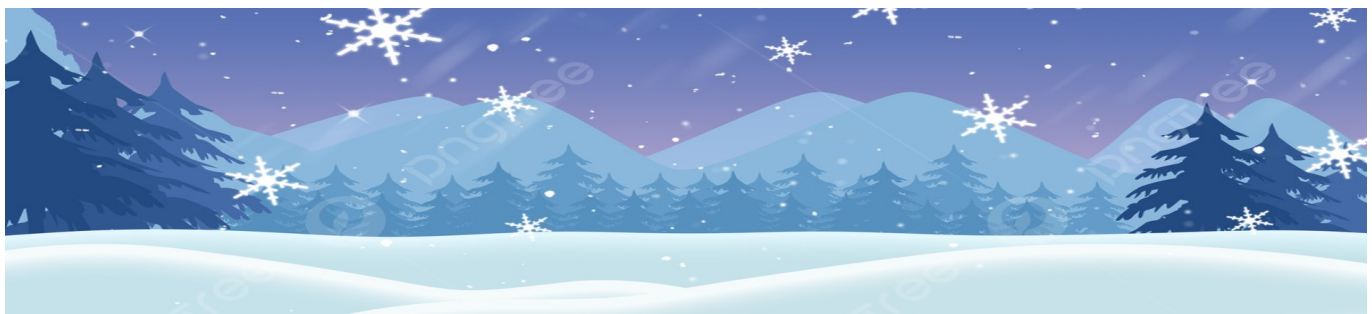
Pastor Nicole



January



5th	Adult Sunday School– Canceled Worship 10 am– Canceled Communion Children’s Church during worship-Canceled	19th	Adult Sunday School Worship 10 am Children’s Church during worship Baptism during worship Nursing Home services in the afternoon Craigs/Voigts Home Group– 6pm
8th	St. Paul Youth Group 6:30pm	20th	Fairbanks Home Group– 2pm
9th	Community Office Hrs– Canceled 8:00-10:00am Location: Bedhead	22th	St. Paul Youth Group 6:30pm
12th	Adult Sunday School Worship 10 am Children’s Church during worship Harrington/Randall Home Group– Noon in the Fellowship Hall	23rd	Community Office Hrs– 8:00-10:00am Location: Bedhead
14th	UWF Meeting– 1:30pm Admin Council 7pm	26th	Adult Sunday School Worship 10 am Children’s Church during worship
15th	St. Paul Youth Group 6:30pm	29th	St. Paul Youth Group 6:30pm
16th	Community Office Hrs– 8:00-10:00am Location: Bedhead	30th	Community Office Hrs– 8:00-10:00am Location: Bedhead
18th	UMC helps at the Food Pantry 9-11am		



December Attendance

December 1st:	52 In-person 27 Views/YouTube
December 8th:	53 In-person 30 Views/YouTube
December 15th:	55 In-person 28 Views/YouTube
December 19th: <i>Blue Christmas</i>	6 In-person 19 Views/YouTube
December 22nd:	55 In-person 29 Views/YouTube
December 24th: <i>Christmas Eve</i>	141 In-person 33 Views/YouTube
December 29th:	45 In-person 16 Views/YouTube

December Offering Totals

December 1st:	\$3,267
December 8th:	\$4,764
December 15th:	\$3,885
December 19th: <i>Blue Christmas</i>	None taken
December 22nd:	\$6,502
December 24th: <i>Christmas Eve</i>	\$663
December 29th:	\$6,315



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	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			Lory Thomsen	754-4286

Intergenerational Christmas Program

On December 22nd during worship, there was a program that involved the whole congregation, all ages. It was a fun and different way to get everyone involved!



Christmas Cheer

Christmas, it's the most wonderful time of year! There were 28 families and 66 children this year that had a very Merry Christmas! This could not have happened without your help. Thank you so much for your prayers, your generosity and your help purchasing gifts. Each family may not be able to thank you individually, but we certainly will. I personally can't thank our committee enough. They do a great job and went above and beyond helping make distribution day go smoothly.

Again, thank you so much! We look forward to continuing to help Howard County families in 2025.

If you are interested in helping with this outreach, please contact Pastor Nicole or one of our committee members . We can always use your help. *Thank you!*- Carol

Carol Phillips

Claude and Ursula Sorlie

Dave Harrington

Cherri Klinginsmith

Linda Jacobsen Powell

Untied Methodist Church



Linda McKnight
Sheryl and Alan Kusak
St. Mark's Lutheran

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:

January 12– Rob Wegner, Alex Egger, Richard Moore,
Kim Schulte, Adam Patrick

January 19– Tanya Johansen, Mia Rasmussen, Brett Stamp,
Heidi Stelk, Terri Townsend, Ryan Camden

January 26th– Jami Wemhoff, Jaime Camden, Shayla Tibbetts,
Chasity Dubbs, Chloe Younger



New Member

*On December 8th
2024 Susan Hartley
joined our church as
a Profession of Faith.
Please take time and
welcome her to our
congregation!*

WELCOME!





Sunday

Worship time 10:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Study

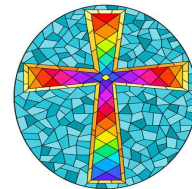
Sunday morning 9:00 am

Children's Education

Children's Church
-during Worship service

Nursing Home services

On Sunday, January 19th, Pastor Nicole will visit both Brookefield and Matelyn in St. Paul to do worship services. Brookefield service is at 1:30 and Matelyn is at 2:30pm. Anyone is invited *and encouraged* to come to these services.



Happy Anniversary

NO January Anniversaries

Jan 1	Claude Sorlie	Jan 14	Ashley Meyer
Jan 2	Russ Swigart	Jan 14	Jeff Vogel
Jan 5	Diane Johnson	Jan 18	Martha Voigt
Jan10	Austin Starkey	Jan 19	Anthony Esquitin
Jan 11	Tim Ross	Jan 19	Cash Wemhoff
Jan 12	Becky Schwenk	Jan 24	Cole Eck
Jan 13	Emily Christensen		



United Methodist Church of St. Paul
MISSION STATEMENT

'Making and Nurturing Disciples'

Around our Connection

Take a look at what's happening around us!

Converge 2025- Converge 2025 is an opportunity for 8th-12th grade youth to have an impactful weekend that will strengthen their faith and build meaningful connections with other United Methodist youth. **Talk to Pastor Nicole if you are interested.**

More information and registration can be found at <https://convergeumc.com/converge/>

METour 2025- The four-day trip, for young women ages 15-20, will provide hands-on mission experiences at several United Methodist mission sites. More information at <https://www.greatplainsumc.org/metourmissioneducationtour>

Disaster Response Ministry- Make plans now to become a part of our Great Plains United Methodist Conference Disaster Response Ministry. Training April 5th at Grand Island Trinity UMC. Sign up at <https://gp-reg.brapp.com/ERTGrandIsland040525>

Pray-grounds multiplying- Parents wanting to keep an eye on their children during worship are being accommodated in some Dakotas Conference churches by installing "Pray-grounds." Read more at <https://www.dakotasumc.org/news/pray-grounds-engage-children-during-worship>.

Pillowcase Project brings comfort to cancer patients- three members of Oakdale United Methodist Church established the Pillowcase Project donating bright, cheery pillowcases to the UMASS Pediatric Oncology Unit. Read more at <https://www.neumc.org/blogdetail/pillowcase-project-brings-comfort-to-pediatric-cancer-patients-18755357>

Hurricane Helene recovery in N.C.- UMC Early Response Teams have been working since October 8th. Read more at <https://new.express.adobe.com/webpage/lmt48fXz50jDE>



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.



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.

January 18th 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

The meeting was opened by Charlene Craig, Co-chair at 1:45 PM on December 10th.

Lunch was enjoyed before meeting at *La Pena* Restaurant.

Present were Jackie, Mary Ann, Cheryl, Deb, Theda, and Pastor Nicole.

Devotions given by Deb Wells. Purpose read by all.

Minutes of previous meeting– need to add distribution of funds information to these minutes.

Treasurer's report given by Jackie: BOH \$886.68

Correspondence: Final letter from Roberta Cool, past District President.

National News by Sally Vonner, National CEO/Sec. "A Time for Bold Action".

A plea for extra giving. Giving Tuesday, Dec. 3rd.

Carol Phillips can no longer serve as Co-Chair but will continue as local contact person for district and webinar news.

2025 Call to Prayer and Self Denial– Could observe in February or March. Epworth Wings November Newsletter– Oct. activities of Childcare Center, 2024 Heart of the Matter Donation campaign successful.

Nov. was World Adoption Month, Wings Newsletter going digital starting January, 2025.

Contact her at 402-362-3355 or email at jtroy@epworthfamilyresources.org.

Old Business: Not many came to help decorate the church. Baby's Bible– list of children 2 yr old– 1 bible per family. Charlene moved to donate 1 bible per family, Deb seconded. Motion carried.

Cards were discussed– who to send to– new members, death in family, special requests– sign St. Paul UWF.

New Business: December Church Activities Reminders. Program today presented by Cheryl Yoder. Cookie Social after the program.

Plans for next meeting

Jan. 14th, 2025 at 1:30pm. Lesson– Ursula, Devotions– Charlene, Lunch– Theda.

Secretary, *Ursula Sorlie*



United Women in Faith (UMW)

The next meeting of the
UWF will be on
January 14th at 1:30pm.
All ladies are welcome!



United Methodist Church
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St. Paul, NE 68873
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stpaulneumc@gmail.com

