

United Methodist Church



February

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

Our mission statement is: To Be Faithful Disciples Who Share Christ's Love with our Neighbors and the Whole World! I have been thinking about what our mission statement means and how we live that out as a church.

Our mission statement emphasizes our commitment to being faithful disciples. Faithful can be defined as steadfast in affection or allegiance or firm in adherence to promises or observances as well as full of faith. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to be faithful in following him in thoughts, words, and actions. Sometimes, this is straightforward, while at other times, it becomes challenging. Sometimes, we perform this without even realizing it, while on other occasions, we must be highly intentional about it. Being a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ is something that takes practice to become second nature. One of the places that we practice it is at church. When we come to church, whether it's for worship, a study, a small group, or a leadership meeting, we are practicing our faith. We are learning and growing, practicing seeing the world through the lens of Christ, and centering our lives on Christ.

One of the definitions of faithful is firm adherence to observances. Observing the Sabbath by attending worship is one way to be faithful. One of the things that I have been doing since I arrived in July is tracking worship attendance. This information is helpful for me in several ways. In the busyness of a Sunday, I may not always remember if someone was gone, but by looking at attendance I can notice if someone has missed for a period. I can reach out to visitors. I can see how the weather, the seasons, or even other realities of our community affect attendance. Those who work with our technology also try to keep me apprised of those who join us online as well as any prayer requests or updates they share. Some of you may remember when churches would give out attendance pins. You may even have yours from a "few" years back. Even the largest UMC, the Church of the Resurrection, still does. From July 2024 to the end of the year, 21 people had 80% attendance (B on a grading scale), including online attendance or bringing back a bulletin from another church. Six had 90% attendance (A). What grade would you give your attendance in 2024? I DO NOT share this to shame those whose attendance was not as consistent. There are many reasons why we might not make it to church. Illness, family commitments, travel, and many other things.

At the end of 2025, we'll have "attendance awards." We'll start tracking them the first Sunday of March, which is a great way to start Lent. If you miss church but attend online, let me know. If you travel and can attend another church, let me know and bring back a bulletin (I love to see what other churches are doing).

I also want to share that, since July, we have had 71 different visitors (not including Christmas Eve). Some of those have become people who attend our congregation regularly or have joined the church. Others have been visiting for special events or family gatherings. On Christmas Eve, we had 45 visitors join us for worship. Some of them had been visitors before, and others had not. We try to collect contact information for visitors so we can reach out to them, but they do not always leave it. You can help with that by encouraging them to fill out the attendance book and/or leading by example when you do it. But even more important is the way that you make them feel when they are here. I am thankful that you are intentional about welcoming folks and sharing the love of Christ with them.

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Finally, I said that I would come back to the season of Lent. Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday on March 5th. On Ash Wednesday, Christians put ashes on their foreheads for many reasons, including: to remind us of all those around the world who are mourning and suffering, to remind us that we all have sinned, we all need repentance, and we all must cling to the promises and love of Christ, to remind us that in the passage of time, we will all someday die, to remind us of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection, to remind us that in the midst of this, we are still called, named, claimed, and loved Children of God. We also remember that we enter a season of preparation to receive the one who conquered death and through grace gives those who love and believe in him everlasting life, Jesus Christ. Death does not have the last word because of God's love and gift of Christ.

Ash Wednesday morning, from 6:30-7:50 a.m., we will offer Ashes-to-Go remembering that our ashes are an outward symbol of our faith that is visible as we go about our day. At 7pm we will have an Ash Wednesday worship service. Our youth groups will help lead that service. Please join us for that service.

Our Lenten Worship Series will be "We Believe: Exploring the Apostles Creed." We are faithful disciples when we are true to our word. We will spend Lent looking at the phrases in the Apostles Creed, thinking not only about what they mean but how they shape our faith. We will begin the series on March 9th. —Pastor Nicole



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:

February 2– Amanda Hoshier, Tara Sjuts, Morgan Skibinski, Rochelle Stepanek

February 9– Robert Hazen, Heidi Hiebner, Kelli McClellan

February 16– Krystal Barg, Trish Berggren, Andrea Eacker, Kathy Herbig, Sue Knapp

February 23– Jessica Usasz, Connie Lothrop, Mandy Richter, Courtney Griebel





February



| | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|--|
| 2nd | Adult Sunday School-9am Worship 10 am Communion Children's Church during worship | 17th | Faitbanks Home Group 2pm |
| 5th | Choir 4pm St. Paul Youth Group 6:30pm | 18th | UWF meeting 1:30pm– NOTE new day– 3rd Tuesday of the month |
| 6th | Community Office Hrs 8:00-10:00am Location: Bedhead | 19th | Choir 4pm St. Paul Youth Group 6:30pm |
| 9th | Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am Children's Church during worship Harrington/Randall Home Group– 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall | 20th | Community Office Hrs– 8:00-10:00am Location: Bedhead VBS Meeting 6:30pm |
| 12th | Choir 4pm St. Paul Youth Group 6:30pm | 23rd | Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am– Baptism Children's Church during worship Harrington/Randall Home Group 11:30am |
| 13th | Community Office Hrs– 8:00-10:00am Location: Bedhead | 26th | Choir 4pm St. Paul Youth Group 6:30pm |
| 15th | UMC helps at Food Pantry 9-11am | 27th | Community Office Hrs– 8:00-10:00am Location: Bedhead |
| 16th | Adult Sunday School 9am Brunch served starting at 9:30am Worship 10 am– Fellowship Hall Children's Church during worship Nursing Home services in the afternoon Voigt/Craig Home group - 6pm | | |



January Attendance

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| January 5th: | NO SERVICE -Weather |
| January 12th: | 51 In-person 27 Views/YouTube |
| January 19th: | 68 In-person 41 Views/YouTube |
| January 26th: | 54 In-person 25 Views/YouTube |

January Offering Totals

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| January 5th: | NO SERVICE |
| January 12th: | \$4,913 |
| January 19th: | \$2,903 |
| January 26th: | \$2,507 |



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 |

I ♥ My Church Celebration

Please join us for a special service on February 16th, 2025 to celebrate the many reasons why we LOVE our church! Starting at 9:30am, brunch will be served in the Fellowship hall. Come, grab a bite to eat, and then at 10:00am Worship Service will begin. Brunch and Worship will all be held in the Fellowship Hall! If you plan on coming to brunch and worship this day, please give the church office a call or email stpaulneumc@gmail.com to let us know you can make it! This is a celebration of our accomplishments and the people who make it happen.

Here is the menu for that morning:

Scrambled Eggs

Sausage Links

Breakfast Potatoes

Cinnamon Rolls/Muffins

****There is no cost for the meal this day****

January Baptism

On January 19th, Spencer Jean Poss was baptized during worship service. Spencer is the daughter of Damon and Kylee Poss. Please welcome her to our congregation!





Sunday

Worship time 10:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Study

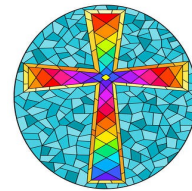
Sunday morning 9:00 am

Children's Education

Children's Church
-during Worship service

Nursing Home services

On Sunday, **February 16th**, 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

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------|--------|--------------|
| Feb 1 | Robyn Rasmussen | Feb 14 | Kelby Feeney |
| Feb 2 | Logan Berggren | Feb 15 | Mark Starkey |
| Feb 2 | Addison Ruzicka | Feb 17 | Rose Ross |
| Feb 11 | Marlene Kremlacek | Feb 19 | Doug Voigt |
| Feb 13 | Ryan Rasmussen | Feb 27 | James Hansen |
| Feb 14 | Adam Feeney | | |

| | |
|--------|----------------------|
| Feb 4 | Paul & Toni Bentz |
| Feb 25 | Russ & Becky Schwenk |



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

Around our Connection

Take a look at what's happening around us!

Sacking Hunger Challenge goes for its own three-peat

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/newsdetail/help-sack-hunger-for-the-third-year-in-a-row-18895096>

Church responds to humanitarian crisis in Congo

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/church-responds-to-humanitarian-crisis-in-congo>

GP Leadership Lab experiences Greece in life-changing tour

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/newsdetail/leadership-lab-experiences-greece-in-life-changing-tour-18895193>

Great Plains Laity Summit is February 23, 2025 from 1:30-5pm and open to all

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/laity-summit>

Disaster Response Training, Saturday April 5th at Grand Island Trinity UMC

<https://gp-reg.brtapp.com/ERTGrandIsland040525>

Newsletter from the Big Garden (Omaha)

<https://gp-email.brtapp.com/files/gpconnect/.2025/01.29.25/bigarden.pdf>



Camp Fontanelle Summer Camps and Retreats

Even though the weather doesn't feel like it, summer will be here before you know it!

That means lining up kid's activities, and one of those could be Summer Camp!

Camp Fontanelle is an excellent choice.

To see the types of kid's camps and/or to register, please go to:

<https://www.campfontanelle.com/summer-camps/>

Scholarships are available!

Check out the available **Spring Retreats** at Fontanelle:

District Youth Retreat Spring 2025 April 4th-5th

Men's Retreat on March 21st- 22nd

Women's Retreat on March 7th-8th

<https://www.campfontanelle.com/year-round-retreats/>

FOOD PANTRY



February is United Methodist Church Food Pantry Month!
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.

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Brownie mixes | Pork & Beans |
| Jelly | Pudding |
| Cookies | Syrup |
| Cereal | Shampoo/Conditioner |
| Crackers (Salad & Soup) | Spaghetti sauce |
| Dish soap | Toilet paper |
| Flour | Toothpaste |
| Hamburger Helper | Canned fruit |
| Jello | Salad Dressing- (Ranch, Dorothy Lynch) |
| Ketchup/Mustard | Frosting/Cake Mixes |
| Laundry soap-small bottles | |
| Mayo | |
| Pancake mix | |

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.

February 15th 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.



Churches Praying for Churches

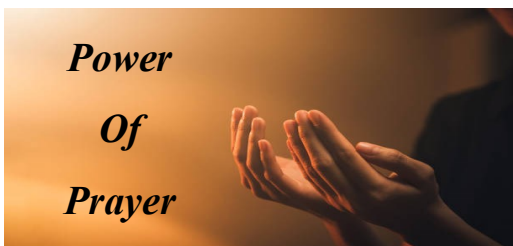
Every year each church receives a list of UMC churches to pray over each week. Please join us in lifting these churches up in prayer this month.

Feb. 2- Alda/Wood River

Feb. 9th- Archer Zion/Fairview

Feb. 16th- Aurora

Feb. 23rd- Greeley/North Loup/Scotia First



Want to join the Prayer Chain?

If you would be interested in joining the Prayer Chain, please let Jackie Cook or the church office know.

We need you!
Please read on page 4 to find out the details of how it works!

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

Meeting on Jan. 14th 2025 called to order by Deb Wells.

Present: Charlene, Deb, Mary Ann, Marilyn, Theda, Cheryl, Pastor Nicole, Carol,
Darlene, Jackie and Ursula.

Devotions: Charlene Craig Purpose read by all.

Minutes of previous meeting read without correction.

Treasurer report by Jackie: previous balance \$886.68. Present balance \$556.68. District dues of \$250 paid for first quarter. No outstanding bills or checks. Motion made by Cheryl to renew our subscription of the Response magazine. Seconded by Mary Ann. Approved by all. We receive it every month at a cost of \$24.00 per year. Often has valuable information on how UWF supports other women.

Correspondence shared by Deb. Thank yous from the Howard Greeley food pantry and the Big Garden.
Note from Marlene K. with check.

Mission report by Charlene regarding support for women in India starting their own businesses
for self-help.

Call to prayer and self denial discussed. This is a special offering to help women. Not determined at this time
when this will take place.

Old business: Christmas cheer report given by Carol. It was a successful year.

Pastor Nicole comments: Thank you to all for the support and prayers during this time of her mother's illness.

Will continue with community office hours 8:00 to 10:00 AM at Bed head coffee every Thursday. Would
appreciate help with nursing home services January 19th, Brookefield at 1:30 PM and Matelyn at 2:30 PM.

One baptism this Sunday and another one in February.

Outreach committee: Darla and Cheryl say they have a plan and concept and will be presenting children's
bibles. Need to revisit how and who to give bibles to. Pastor suggested meeting with committee members to
discuss sending out cards to shut-ins and people with other needs.

New business: Mary Ann Rickertsen has resigned from the Work Group committee. Motion made by Theda
Van Horn and seconded by Darla Voigt to change name on UMC work group committee account at Citizens
Bank from Mary Ann Rickertsen to Cheryl Yoder who will then be designee to sign checks. Approved by all.
Virginia Munyon's puzzle will remain on table where it is right now. Motion made by Darla to change date of
meetings to third Tuesday of the month at 1:30 PM, seconded by Charlene. All in favor.

Lesson by Ursula - *Life is like a puzzle*. Lunch served by Theda.

Next meeting February 18th at 1:30 PM. Devotions: Ursula, Lesson: Mary Ann, Lunch: Marilyn.

Secretary, Ursula Sorlie



United Women in Faith (UMW)

The next meeting of the
UWF will be on
February 18th at 1:30pm.
All ladies are welcome!



United Methodist Church
1320 Baxter Street
St. Paul, NE 68873
308-754-4247
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February

