

# United Methodist Church

## March

2025

[stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com](http://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 we head into March, there are several things that are on my mind.

**Lent-** Just a reminder that Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on March 5. 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.

**Prayer Group-** There has been interest in resuming a prayer group. During Lent, we will resume meeting weekly to pray over the prayer requests from Sunday, the teacher prayer list, and other prayer requests we receive. We may explore different prayer practices as we do this. We will meet on Wednesdays at 11am beginning March 12.

**Time Change-** Don’t forget to “Spring Forward” on March 9th.

**Opportunities-** There are two trainings that I would like the congregation to attend.

\* The Caring Congregation- The Caring Congregation (TCC) believes that care is at the heart of every church and is an action word for kindness, compassion, connection, love and justice. This training would be a step in exploring the creation of a Care Team and include the why and how team members would give care. In some ways, it is similar to a Stephen ministry team. The Training is happening March 21-22 at Omaha Faith Westwood and is subsidized by our district apportionments so a team cost \$100 total for all materials. If you would be interested in attending the two day training with Pastor Nicole, please let me know.

\* Healthy Congregations Retreat- If you want to learn more about approachable, effective ways to connect, partner and engage to improve health in your congregation and community, you’ll want to attend this fun, inspirational retreat. This two-day, uplifting event will focus on connecting, learning, sharing and developing relationships with others who share a passion for congregational and community health. This training is free and includes free hotel accommodation. It is April 10-11 in Salina, KS. Please let me (Pastor Nicole) know if you are interested in attending by March 14th in order to register for included overnight accommodation.

**Confirmation-** Do you have youth that are ready for confirmation? I would like to see if there are enough youth ready to hold a confirmation class (at least 4 students enhances the experience, though it can be done with fewer). Confirmation is an opportunity for youth to gather with their peers, adult leaders, and their pastor and learn about their faith. On Confirmation Sunday, they will be “Confirmed,” making a public acceptance of their faith by answering the same questions for themselves that their parents answered at their baptism. They will also take the same vows of membership in the United Methodist Church and the local congregation that all who join are asked. Confirmation typically takes place at or around 6th grade, but according to denominational guidelines, readiness for confirmation is “not so much about a chronological age, but rather about one’s readiness to assume the vows of professing membership.” So, if you have a youth that, as a parent, you believe is ready for confirmation, let Pastor Nicole know.

**Summer-** The Great Plains Annual Conference Volunteers in Ministry is planning a Summer Family VIM Experience. We can join others in mission, ministry, and fun from June 16-20. If you would be interested, let me (Pastor Nicole) know!

Also, there are some great opportunities for our children and youth to attend church camp this summer!

—Pastor Nicole



# March



2 <sup>nd</sup>	Adult Sunday School-9am Worship 10 am Communion Children's Church during worship	17 <sup>th</sup>	Faitbanks Home Group 2pm
5 <sup>th</sup>	Ashes to Go- 6:30-7:50am Choir 4pm St. Paul Youth Group 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service 7pm	18 <sup>th</sup>	UWF meeting 1:30pm
6 <sup>th</sup>	Community Office Hrs 8:00-10:00am Location: Bedhead	19 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer group 11am Choir 4pm St. Paul Youth Group 6:30pm
9 <sup>th</sup>	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am Children's Church during worship	20 <sup>th</sup>	Community Office Hrs- 8:00-10:00am Location: Bedhead VBS Meeting 6:30pm
12 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Group 11am Choir 4pm St. Paul Youth Group 6:30pm	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am Children's Church during worship
13 <sup>th</sup>	Community Office Hrs- 8:00-10:00am Location: Bedhead	26 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Group 11am Choir 4pm St. Paul Youth Group 6:30pm
15 <sup>th</sup>	UMC helps at Food Pantry 9-11am	27 <sup>th</sup>	Community Office Hrs- <b>Cancelled</b> Pastor Nicole at Meeting in GI
16 <sup>th</sup>	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am Children's Church during worship Harrington/Randall Home Group- 11:30am Nursing Home services in the afternoon	30 <sup>th</sup>	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am Children's Church during worship Harrington/Randall Home Group 11:30am

## **World Day of Prayer**

A worship service has been planned for the yearly World Day of Prayer. It will be on **March 7th at 10:30am**, held at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic church here in St. Paul. A light lunch will be served following this service in the Parish Life Center. The program this year is called "*Do You Believe?*". This event is sponsored by St. Paul area churches.

## February Attendance

February 2nd:	62 In-person 26 Views/YouTube
February 9th:	60 In-person 28 Views/YouTube
February 16th:	39 In-person No views recorded as this was on Facebook
February 23rd:	66 In-person 24 Views/YouTube

## February Offering Totals

February 2nd:	\$6,945
February 9th:	\$16,924
February 16th:	\$740
February 23rd:	\$2,345



## 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.**

<b>Marilyn Wall</b>	<b>754-5100</b>	<b>Martha Voigt</b>	<b>750-4319</b>	<b>Jackie Cook</b>	<b>754-9115</b>
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	308-968-3375	Brenda Starkey	750-7967
Nancy <b>OR</b> Mike McCarthy	750-2117-Nancy (775)-830-9521 -Mike	Susan Hartley	(641)-485-7349	Becky Schwenk	750-4590
				Lory Thomsen	754-4286

## United Methodist Men

As the new United Methodist Men leader and co-director of the Great Plains Conference United Methodist Men, I am wanting to see what we can locally become as a men's group. My hope for our men's group is to grow in that the younger generations can see men who are growing in faith, engaged in their church, and helping others grow, especially the young men so that Cole's generation is strong in their faith. I want to have a gathering to see what ideas you have and to begin getting organized. I need some input from you to find a date that works best for a potluck.

Follow the link to a DoodlePoll to find the best time to meet:

<https://doodle.com/group-poll/participate/aOL4M8Lb>

*- Jeremiah Eck*

## 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:**

**March 2**– Tamie Tomlinson, Melody Becker, Daylene Fox,  
Jenna Wilshusen, Macken Loofe

**March 9**– Lacey Bowder, Kylie Mohling, Kellie Seward, Jacquelyn  
Fitzgerald, Kali Volk, Allyson Wilson

**March 16**– Stephanie Palacz, Chris Thede, Rayann Wales, Marcia  
Kauk, Janet Stamp, Ashley Weber

**March 23**- Rebecca Bentz, Jordyn Lindsay, Ashley Lynch, Tonya An-  
derson, Chris Elstermeier, Elaine McCarty

**March 30** - Connor Bolling, Don Kleinsasser, Andrea Zulkoski



## February Baptism

On February 23rd, Milo Benjamin Syring was baptized during worship service. Milo is the son of Levi and Rebecca Syring.

Please welcome him to our congregation!



## 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/>





## **Sunday**

**Worship time 10:00 a.m.**

### **Adult Bible Study**

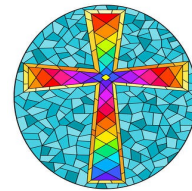
Sunday morning 9:00 am

### **Children's Education**

Children's Church  
-during Worship service

## **Nursing Home services**

On Sunday, **March 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*

March 1	Gentry Ross	March 15	Dane Berggren
March 1	Nancy McCarthy	March 16	Dave Brehm
March 2	Briley Poss	March 18	Kerri Rensch
March 6	Kylee Poss	March 18	Gunnar Nyberg
March 8	Les Rawlings	March 18	Jaxton Thompson
March 10	Angela Feeney	March 19	Charlotte Rasmussen
March 10	Gary Rasmussen	March 20	Cheryl Yoder
March 12	Francine Rasmussen	March 22	Jackie Cook
March 13	Alyssa Ritter	March 29	Jessica Jacobsen
March 14	Jaylynn Thompson	March 29	Loren Pearson
March 15	Chris Pedersen	March 29	Kristina Radke

March 28 Rick & Suzy Peters



**United Methodist Church  
of St. Paul**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

**'Making and Nurturing  
Disciples'**

# Around our Connection

Take a look at what's happening around us!  
Just click on the links to learn more.

## **Missionaries leave mark on agriculture, education**

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/missionaries-leave-mark-on-agriculture-education>

## **Great Plains United Methodist Men Newsletter**

<https://gp-email.brtaapp.com/files/gpconnect/.2025/02.19.25/gp+ummen+newsletter+2025.02.16.pdf>

## **UM Book of Discipline online**

[https://issuu.com/cokesbury/docs/the\\_book\\_of\\_discipline\\_of\\_the\\_united\\_methodist\\_church?fr=xKAE9\\_zU1NQ](https://issuu.com/cokesbury/docs/the_book_of_discipline_of_the_united_methodist_church?fr=xKAE9_zU1NQ)

## **Briefing day celebrates 50 years of seeking justice**

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/newsdetail/briefing-day-celebrates-50-years-of-seeking-justice-18919026>

## **Civil Rights Immersion trip to Alabama scheduled for June 18-22**

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/civil-rights-immersion-2023>

## **Baltimore County church fights to preserve history as Underground Railroad safehouse stop**

<https://www.cbsnews.com/baltimore/news/baltimore-emmarts-underground-railroad-tribute-black-history/>

## **Keeping Out the Cold**

<https://www.moumethodist.org/newsdetail/keeping-out-the-cold-18890744>

## **23 missionaries commissioned**

<https://umcmmission.org/story/sent-forth-to-serve/>

## **Unsung heroes of Methodism: Richard Allen**

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/unsung-heroes-of-methodism-richard-allen>

## **Surprising Spiritual Practices that deepen faith**

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/surprising-spiritual-practices-that-deepen-faith>





# 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.

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.

**March 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**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
<b>9:00-11:00 am</b>	<b>4:00-6:00 pm</b>

**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.

**March 2nd-** Bellwood/David City St. Luke's

**March 9th-** Bladen/Blue Hill/Pauline

**March 16th-** Boelus Grace/Cairo

**March 23rd-** Madison Trinity/Norfolk Westridge

**March 30th-** Brainard/Rising City



## **United Women in Faith (UMW)**

The next meeting of the UWF will be on

**March 18th at 1:30pm.**

All ladies are welcome!

## ***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!***



# *I My Church Celebration*

On February 16th, the congregation enjoyed worship in the Fellowship Hall. Brunch was provided and enjoyed by all. There are plenty of reasons to be thankful for our church family. The worship and fellowship that day was just one of many! The following information is from the bulletin insert from that day.

**The Education Committee celebrates...** 1. Children's Church- celebrating all the adults who teach our children on Sunday mornings. They include Darcie Rasmussen, Brenda Thompson, Elizabeth Rudolf, Sarah Egger, and Nancy Harrington. We have had a steady attendance of 5-9 children each Sunday!

2. Youth Group- This year 3 churches came together to form the St. Paul Youth Group! The Presbyterian Church, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, and our United Methodist Church all contribute to our youth experience for the youth in St. Paul. All 3 churches actively participate each Wednesday evening to provide a meal and a lesson. We are thankful for the young people who come to learn how to follow in Jesus' footsteps. Leaders include Doug and Darla Voigt, Nancy Harrington, Pastor Nicole, Janet Rasmussen, and Heidi Stelk. We are all thankful for the many people who volunteer to make and serve the meals.

3. Vacation Bible School- The amazing team of the Presbyterian, St. Mark's, and our church are making plans for our 5th VBS! We have our own website for registrations, music, and general information. Each year we have children come for 3 hours to participate in games, crafts, lessons, singing, and eating! This is truly a work of God that brought us all together to serve Christ and our children. Mark your calendars for this year's VBS- May 21st-23rd.

**The Christmas Cheer Committee celebrates...** As part of the Christmas Cheer committee, I'd say generous and supportive would be the two words that immediately come to mind. And when I say generous, I don't mean in just the monetary way. That's definitely important but this year was an especially stressful one for me. There were several church members that stepped up to offer help on the day before we distributed gifts as well as the actual distribution day. Purchasing gifts is also important. We had some last minute applications with a large number of children involved. Several members again said, no problem, and purchased gifts and made sure that all involved had a gift to open on Christmas. We touched 106 lives this year, including 28 families and 66 children. We couldn't have done this without a wonderful group of generous and supportive church members. - *Carol Phillips*

**The Worship Team celebrates...** 1. Worship Service- Continuing to offer relevant, experiential worship. Being willing to try new things, incorporate visuals and chancel atmospherics/visuals to draw us in, and participate in worship in different ways. 2. Technology- Continue to update to provide a quality experience in-person as well as on-line. We've had to replace some technology as follows: new CD player was added for sound system, new lapel microphone, new over-ear microphone for Pastor. Many of these help with our streamed worship service, as well. Live streaming our worship is an important ministry to reach those unable to attend in person. We reach 25- 30 individuals/households per well on average. 3. Involvement of the Church People a. Those who have served in the past. b. Those individuals who step out in faith for the first time to read scripture, usher, acolyte, or help with technology. We celebrate all of our membership as we strive together to grow a deeper relationship with God on our journey together as a church family. May the Holy Spirit guide each of us as we work together to serve God as we serve others in our community and our world.

**The Staff/Parish Relations Committee celebrates...** Several members of our church rose to the occasion as a new pastor was given the opportunity to serve our church this past summer. Special thanks to all members involved in making our parsonage a better place for our pastor and family to live. A extra special thanks goes to Tom & Pat Knutson for going above and beyond the call of duty to host Pastor Nicole and her family for several days until the parsonage was available for them to move in.

**The Trustees Committee celebrates...** 1. Improvements to the parsonage- painted inside, installed new flooring, poured patio and installed new door, put in new sewage line 2. Improved landscaping around the church 3. HVAC system in sanctuary replaced

**The Finance Committee celebrates...** 1. Special fall giving exceeded \$30,000 2. Our church paid 100% of our Mission Shares in 2024 3. \$8000 in CD to help cover cost of HVAC unit in Sunday School Wing 4. Endowment fund value increased over \$10,000 in 2024.

**United Methodist Church**  
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# *March*

