



# United Methodist Church

April  
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

Yesterday, my dear husband let me know that there are “only” 200 days until Christmas. Maybe it’s because his birthday is Christmas Eve, or because he loves the Christmas season, or simply because he likes to pick on me that he does this. We often do that, though. We keep our eyes toward the next thing— especially if it is something that we enjoy. It’s not entirely a bad thing. Sometimes it simply gives us joy, and other times it can help us through difficult times.

Sometimes we think this way about “mountain top experiences” that we have in our faith life. We recently heard the story of Jesus’ mountain top experience found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, where some of his disciples see him transfigured, see him speaking with Moses and Elijah, then hear God speaking that Jesus is his son and should be listened to. It is shortly following this that Jesus sets his face toward Jerusalem. I often wonder if this “mountain top experience” sustained them through the hard things that were to come. As I write this, it is not lost on me that we will enter into Holy Week in a couple of weeks. We will walk with Jesus through those hard things— through righteous anger and flipping of tables, scheming and condemnation by religious leaders, a final meal, betrayal by his disciple, arrest and wrongful conviction, political persecution, abandonment, and crucifixion on a cross. It is tempting to skip all of this and head straight to Easter, not to spend time on the messy part in-between. To count the days until the holiday without a second thought about the events between now and then. We’re busy, it’s unsettling, ugly, scary, hard. It’s tempting, even for me, to sanitize this story for my son. For myself.

I want to challenge us not to do that. See, to understand the depth of God’s grace and the price that was paid, we must experience this week. We must hear the story, feel the sadness, sit in the pain. There is a darkness that we must experience during Holy Week to know the fullness of joy that Easter brings. We cannot rush past it, no matter how much we want to. Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor reminds us that “new life starts in the dark. Whether it is a seed in the ground, a baby in the womb, or Jesus in the tomb, it starts in the dark.”

This year, I invite you to worship not only on Palm Sunday when Hosannas ring out as Jesus enters Jerusalem and on Easter when we sing in praise and wonder at the empty tomb, but also on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as we remember Jesus’ life and his crucifixion.

On Maundy Thursday (April 17th), we will have Stations of Jesus’ Life from 4:30-6 p.m. You will receive a guide and be able to go through the stations at your own pace, taking as long as you want. At each station, there is a small action, a prayer, and an item to take with you. Parents and grandparents who have done it with children have said it is a very meaningful experience, as well.

On Good Friday (April 18th), we will have a Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m.

A Tenebrae service is a “service of light and darkness” or “service of shadows.” We will spend time in prayer, singing, and hearing the passion narrative once more, until at last the Christ Candle— the one we light on Christmas Eve to remember Jesus’ birth— is extinguished.

On Easter (April 20th), there will be two opportunities for worship. We will hold a sunrise service at 6:45 a.m. at the home of the Voigts with a coffee fellowship following. There will also be our regularly scheduled Easter worship service at 10:00 a.m. that morning. I look forward to experiencing the joy of the resurrection anew with you this year! Its exuberance will be amplified as we journey into the depths of Holy Week together! We will sing Alleluia together with joy!

—Pastor Nicole



# APRIL



2 <sup>nd</sup>	Prayer Group 11am Choir 4pm St. Paul Youth Group 6:30pm Trustees meeting 8pm CANCELED	17 <sup>th</sup>	-Community Office Hrs 8:00-11:00am Location: Bedhead -Maundy Thursday— Stations of the Cross 4:30pm-6:00pm (Come and Go)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Community Office Hrs -8:00-11:00am Location: Bedhead VBS meeting 6:30pm	18 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday service 7pm
6 <sup>th</sup>	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am— Communion Rev. Dortha Fairbanks—Guest Pastor Children's Church during worship	19 <sup>th</sup>	UMC helps Food Pantry 9-11am
7 <sup>th</sup>	SPRC meeting 6:00pm	20 <sup>th</sup>	NO Adult Sunday School 9am Easter Sunrise Service 6:45am-Voigts home Worship 10 am Children's Church during worship
8 <sup>th</sup>	Nominations meeting 6:00pm	21 <sup>st</sup>	Fairbanks Home Group 2pm
9 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Group 11am Choir 4pm St. Paul Youth Group 6:30pm	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Choir 4pm St. Paul Youth Group 6:30pm Trustees meeting 8pm
10 <sup>th</sup>	Community Office Hrs—8-11am -Location: Bedhead	24 <sup>th</sup>	Community Office Hrs—8-11am -Location: Bedhead
13 <sup>th</sup>	-Adult Sunday School 9am -Worship 10 am- Palm Sunday -Children's Church during worship -Harrington/Randall Home group— 11:30am to meet in the Fellowship Hall	27 <sup>th</sup>	-Adult Sunday School 9am -Worship 10 am -Children's Church during worship -Harrington/Randall Home group— 11:30am to meet in the Fellowship Hall -Nursing Home Services-1:30pm Brookefield, 2:30pm Matelyn -Voigt/Craig Home Group 6pm— at Voigt's home
15 <sup>th</sup>	UWF meeting 1:30pm VBS meeting 6:30pm	30 <sup>th</sup>	Choir 4pm St. Paul Youth Group 6:30pm
16 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer group 11am Choir 4pm St. Paul Youth Group 6:30pm		

## March Attendance

March 2nd:	56 In-person 27 Views/YouTube
March 5th: <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	38 In-person 18 Views/YouTube
March 9th:	48 In-person 22 Views/YouTube
March 16th:	52 In-person 29 Views/YouTube
March 23rd:	52 In-person 26 Views/YouTube
March 30th:	60 In-person 26 Views/YouTube

## March Offering Totals

March 2nd:	\$3,453
March 5th: <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	No Offering taken
March 9th:	\$1,802
March 16th:	\$475
March 23rd:	\$1,241
March 30th:	\$2,063

## 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

## Camp Fontanelle Summer Camps and Retreats

It's beginning to feel like spring finally!  
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!



### 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:**

**April 6–** Tracy Anderson, Shelly Lukasiewicz, Sarah Nilson, Kayla Hawkins

**April 13–** Janessa Slattery, Angela Crone, Anna Thede

**April 20–** Madi Brown, Kurt Harders, Dustin Nilson

**April 27–** Matt Koehn-Fairbanks, Chip Bahe, Cody Wheeler



## United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men have scheduled a meeting time for May 18th after worship service in the Fellowship Hall. This is an opportunity to learn more about this group and also to join if interested. Please take a look at the following flyer for a Golf Scramble being offered in July. Any questions on the Methodist Men or the Golf Scramble, please contact Jeremiah Eck.

ENTRY BLANK TO:

### **4 PERSON GOLF SCRAMBLE**

**TO BENEFIT THE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS OF UMM**

**Hosted By The Great Plains and McPherson UMM  
HESSTON GOLF COURSE – HESSTON, KANSAS**

**SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2025**

**7 a.m. Driving Range/Putting Practice Open**

**7:45 a.m. Group Meeting Near Club House**

**8 a.m. TEE TIME**

**\$70 Per Participant/\$280 Per Team**

**LADIES ARE WELCOME**

**ENTRY FEE INCLUDES: GREEN FEES**

**PRIZES AWARDED AFTER LAST TEAM FINISHES**

**PRIZES AWARDED FOR:**

**CLOSEST TO PIN - LONGEST DRIVE – LONGEST PUTT**

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS JULY 1, 2025**

**FULL TEAM ENTRIES RECEIVED BY JUNE 21, 2025**

**ARE ELIGIBLE FOR \$2.50 PER TEAM MEMBER DISCOUNT**

**Corporate Hole Sponsor---\$200.00**

*(This fee entitles the hole sponsor to paid entry for one player and a sponsor hole sign)*

**Gold Corporate Sponsor--\$400.00**

*(This fee entitles the hole sponsor to paid team entry fee and a sponsor hole sign)*

**ALL FUNDS OVER EXPENSES WILL BE USED FOR UMM PROJECTS and PROGRAMS**

**Make Check Payable To United Methodist Men**

**Cut along line and mail. Payment Must Accompany Entry Form**

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Captain \_\_\_\_\_ Team Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Team Member #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Team Member #3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Team Member #4 \_\_\_\_\_

Send Entries to: John Reimer  
2253 Frontier Rd  
Galva, KS 67443

or

McPherson FUMC-UMM  
1200 E Kansas Ave.  
McPherson, KS 67460

Questions - Call John at 785-383-1670 or email to [jandjreim@att.net](mailto:jandjreim@att.net)

2025 GOLF





## **Sunday**

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

### **Adult Bible Study**

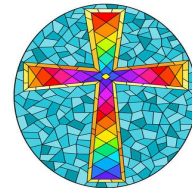
Sunday morning 9:00 am

### **Children's Education**

Children's Church  
-during Worship service

## **Nursing Home services**

On Sunday, **April 27th**, 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.



<b>Apr 1</b>	Nancy Harrington	<b>Apr 18</b>	Harold Rickertsen
<b>Apr 3</b>	Russ Schwenk	<b>Apr 21</b>	Jordan Ross
<b>Apr 4</b>	Brock Nielsen	<b>Apr 22</b>	Darlene Hansen
<b>Apr 4</b>	Jami Wemhoff	<b>Apr 22</b>	Heather Pearson
<b>Apr 8</b>	Audrey Anderson	<b>Apr 23</b>	Rikki Thompson
<b>Apr 12</b>	Jackson Ohde	<b>Apr 24</b>	Marilyn Wall
<b>Apr 13</b>	Jason Hawkins	<b>Apr 24</b>	Kingston Sack
<b>Apr 13</b>	Nick Pedersen	<b>Apr 25</b>	Andrew Thomsen
<b>Apr 17</b>	Daylene Fox		

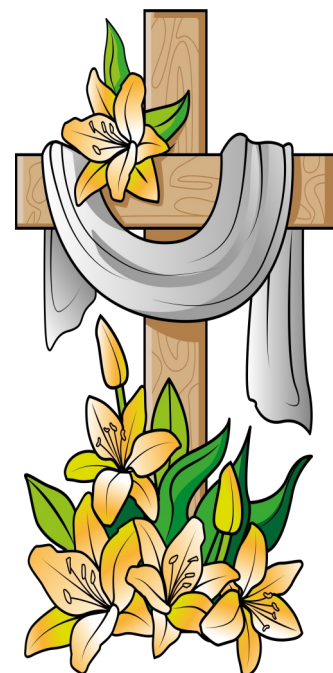
## *Happy Anniversary*

<b>April 1</b>	Lonny & Janet Thomsen
<b>April 3</b>	Don & Lynda Berggren
<b>April 21</b>	Don and Tracie Dearmont

*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.

Global Young People's Convocation 2026, Dublin, Ireland- Join youth (12-18yrs), young people (19-35yrs), leaders, and advocates in worship, learning, and equipping the church to make disciples in years to come.

[https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/experience-gypc-2026-in-dublin-a-global-gathering-for-young-methodists?mc\\_cid=9ea2a657b3](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/experience-gypc-2026-in-dublin-a-global-gathering-for-young-methodists?mc_cid=9ea2a657b3)

**Great Plains Annual Conference**-Our conference has more clergy than laity that attend Annual Conference. They are looking for youth and adult lay equalization members to attend Annual Conference to balance the number of laity and clergy.  
**Talk to Pastor Nicole if you might be interested.**

**Ministry in Motion Workshops**- A Digital Marketing for Churches Workshop series is being offered online for those who are interested in working in the church in this way. Other workshops will be offered at later dates. Talk to Pastor Nicole if you are interested. Register by April 18th at:  
[https://gp-reg.brtapp.com/MissioninMotion\\_DigitalMarketing](https://gp-reg.brtapp.com/MissioninMotion_DigitalMarketing)

**Cabinet collects cheesesteaks after victory in Sacking Hunger Challenge-**

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1Y45zyEgdG/?mibextid=wwXIfr>

United Methodist Volunteers in Ministry trip to Sager Brown United Methodist Committee on Relief planned for January 31-February 7, 2026. Cost is \$340. **Let Pastor Nicole know if you would be interested.**

**For this Nebraska church, the pies have it-**

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/newsdetail/for-this-nebraska-church-the-pies-have-it-19017943>

**Coffee and Conversations at Watertown First UMC supports caregivers-**

<https://www.dakotasumc.org/news/coffee-and-conversations-at-watertown-first-umc-supports-caregivers>

**United Methodist Men Website and resources-**

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/united-methodist-men-new-website>

**Belong: Involving Children in Holy Communion-**

[https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/belong-involving-children-in-holy-communion?mc\\_cid=d4a49015d2](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/belong-involving-children-in-holy-communion?mc_cid=d4a49015d2)

**How Grace UMC is Redefining Faith and Community-**

<https://www.sgaumc.org/advnewsdetail/how-grace-umc-is-redefining-faith-and-community-18999205>





# 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.

**April 19th** 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.

**April 6th-** Bristow/Lynch First/Spencer

**April 13th-** Bruning/Davenport

**April 20th—** Central City/Chapman

**April 27th—** Norfolk First/ Winside



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

The next meeting of the UWF will be on

**April 15th 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!*



# UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH



The meeting on March 18th was called to order by Deb Wells.

**Present:** Charlene Craig, Deb Wells, Darla Voigt, Rose Ross, Cheryl Yoder, Dorteia Fairbanks, Pastor Nicole Schwartz-Eck, Jackie Cook

**Devotions:** Deb Wells—theme was Jesus is our refuge in a storm.

Call for prayers for Mary Ann Rickertsen and Marilyn Wall.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the last meeting of January 14 were read by Cheryl Yoder in the absence of the secretary. One name correction was made to change the attendance to reflect that Darla Voigt was present instead of “Darlene.” No other corrections were made.

**Treasurer Report:** Jackie Cook gave the Treasurer’s report. The previous balance was \$556.68. The present balance is \$858.68. Income came from a donation of \$250.00, lunch of \$75.00, and \$1.00 from the Corsage for Mission. \$24.00 was paid out for the subscription for Response magazine.

**Correspondence:** Deb Wells presented a form to sign up for the District Spring event which will be held in Albion, NE on April 26<sup>th</sup>. A letter from Epworth was received as a request for donations for general support.

**Old Business:** Deb Wells and Charlene Craig presented information on the World Day of Prayer and how it went. It was also stated that Carol Phillips had suggested since there are few quilters active in the church at this time that the tubs of the fabric scraps stored at the church could be donated to a group in GI that quilts for Grain Train. There are also two bolts of upholstery type fabric that could be disposed of from our storage.

It was moved by Dorteia Fairbanks and seconded by Rose Ross to donate the fabric as suggested.

Cheryl Yoder and Darla Voigt presented on the Children’s Bible presentations. Two of the Bibles have been given out but there are still several left to present to families already identified. Scheduling this has been difficult, and a more casual approach is to be taken such as catching the families at church and providing the Bibles to them at that time.

**New Business:** World Day of Prayer is March 23. Darla moved that we send \$25 to the United Women of Faith Legacy Endowment Fund. Charlene seconded the motion.

Pastor Nicole notified the group that there is a Congregational Care Ministry training on Friday March 21 & Saturday March 22. She stated they have these at different times, but this one was close for us.

She was presenting it if anyone was interested.

Pastor Nicole also advised that she would be having her regular Community hours at Bedhead this Thursday, but not on the 27<sup>th</sup> as she has other commitments.

The Business Meeting was adjourned by Deb Wells.

Charlene Craig presented the lesson today on Cook Islands based on World Day of Prayer that was presented in St Paul.

Lunch was served by Darla Voigt.

The next meeting will be on **April 15**. Next month: Lesson—Mary Ann Rickertsen (alternate: Cheryl Yoder). Lunch—Marilyn Wall (alternate: Deb Wells). Devotions—Ursula Sorlie.



—Reported by Cheryl Yoder



**United Methodist Church**  
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# APRIL

