

United Methodist Church

November

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

Most of us either ask or answer the same question each year around this time. "What are you thankful for?" This is a good exercise for us, and while Thanksgiving serves as a reminder to participate in it, it should happen at all times. Sometimes it is difficult for us to remember to be thankful in the midst of all that we encounter in life. Sometimes our difficulties, illnesses, financial situations, and even relationships seem to outweigh the blessings.

When Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica, it was in the midst of significant difficulties. A church had been founded there and faced such intense opposition from the Jewish community. Paul's response contained these words:

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

What does it mean to "give thanks in all circumstances"? Do we give thanks for hurts, struggles, inconveniences, accidents, or the many other things that seem to make us "un-thankful"? Instead, maybe we should recognize where God is working, even in those situations. We can give thanks for God's unfailing presence, love, and grace. We can give thanks for our opportunity to cling to God. We can give thanks for the challenges that we face and the growth that comes out of them. We can give thanks for the opportunities to work together and support one another. We can give thanks for so many things.

We are called to respond as the body of Christ out of our thankfulness, too. And, as I look around our community and our world, I continue to see many in need. There are people who are currently uncertain where their next meal will come from, who will have to make decisions between vital medications and groceries, who are worried about how the coming cold months will impact them with the rising costs of energy, and who are worried about their ability to afford healthcare and insurance coverage. These concerns are not limited to those who are receiving types of assistance. However, all of these are especially pertinent for families who rely on food assistance due to disability, insufficiency or insecurity of employment, caring for children of family members, because they are children, or a myriad of other reasons and needs.

In Acts, the church grew as it "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). Two verses later, scripture reminds us that the church would care for one another by "sell[ing] their possessions and goods and distribut[ing] the proceeds to all, as any had need."

The early church responded to the Gospel, the grace of Jesus Christ, by taking care of one another and all who were added to their number.

As we look around us, seeing the needs in our community and beyond, how will we respond? How will our thankfulness move us to care for our neighbors who are struggling? How will we speak up for their needs, but also their dignity? How will we offer our care? Through the food pantry? Through Christmas Cheer? Through a feeding ministry? Through using our voice as people of faith to speak for those without a voice. Through a new initiative or ministry that we have not yet dreamed of?

Blessings, Pastor Nicole



November

2nd	Adult Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am— Communion All Saints Sunday Children’s Church during Worship Daylight Saving Time ends	16th	Adult Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am Children’s Church during Worship Charge Conference 3pm at Grace UMC-Hastings
5th	Youth Group 6:30 pm	18th	UWF meeting 1:30pm
6th	Community Office Hours— Bedhead 8am-11am	19th	Youth Group 6:30 pm
9th	Adult Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am Children’s Church during Worship Harrington/Randall Home Group 11:30am Eck Home Group 5pm	20th	Community Office Hours— Bedhead 8am-11am
10th	Fairbanks Home Group 1pm	23rd	Thanksgiving Breakfast church in Fellowship Hall- Breakfast will be served starting at 9:30am, Worship at 10am Advent Decorating after worship Nursing Home services: 1:30pm Brookefield 2:30pm Matelyn
11th	Veteran’s Day	26th	Prayer Group 11am NO Youth Group-Thanksgiving Break
12th	Prayer Group 11am Youth Group 6:30 pm	27th	Thanksgiving Day
13th	Community Office Hours— Bedhead 8am-11am	30th	Adult Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am Children’s Church during Worship United Methodist Student Day-Special Offering 1st Sunday of Advent
15th	UMC helps at the Food Pantry 9-11am		

BE THANKFUL.
BE
Grateful
&
BE BLESSED.



November 23rd

The Men's Group will provide meat & eggs.
Bring a side or dish.

You can come early or eat during worship at 10:00!



A Note From Our Finance Chair:

Most of you have received a letter from me sharing information concerning the financial condition of our church. As mentioned in the letter, our giving has surpassed the previous years giving and a big thank you goes out to everyone of you for that. Once again we have had several unexpected expenses that always seem to put financial pressure on our church and for this reason a special fall offering was requested by me to meet our year-end obligations and to also better prepare our church for the upcoming year. Many of you responded immediately to this need and I wanted to thank you for your quick response. Others of us need to plan ahead to be able to help out the financial needs of our church, and this is very understandable. The form that was included with the mailing was designed to allow you to let us know any ways that you might be able to help our church out. Please return the form with any plans as soon as you can so that the financial committee can make plans for not only this year but for next year. If by chance we missed getting the information to you, please call the church office and Carrie will be glad to get it mailed out to you as soon as possible. As always, thank you for your continued support of our church.

Dave Harrington
308-750-5310





Nov 1	Spencer Poss	Nov 16	Megan Ohde
Nov 5	Steve Hancock	Nov 19	Adam Rensch
Nov 7	David Randall	Nov 19	Melissa Butt
Nov 9	Shana Berggren	Nov 22	Landon Schmidt
Nov 11	Jeanne Bruntz	Nov 26	Kent Naylor
Nov 13	Eric Spilinek	Nov 28	Mary Ann Rickertsen



Nov 25	Dan & Daylene Fox
Nov 30	Loren & Sheila Studley
Nov 30	Gary & Charene Craig

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



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

Confirmation

Do you have youth that are ready for confirmation? I am working to plan Confirmation for the Winter/Spring of 2026. At least 4 students enhances the Confirmation 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, those who have not previously been baptized will be baptized. Those who have previously been baptized will also make a public acceptance of their faith by answering the same questions for themselves that their parents answered at their baptism. They will all 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 and/or sign them up at the following link:

<https://fs30.formsite.com/pastornicschwartz/PFUMCCConfirmation26/index>

United Women of Faith

Meeting minutes
October 21st, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Deb Wells at 1:30 pm. Those in attendance were Deb, Charlene, Carol, Mitzi, Rose, Darla, Jackie, Cheryl and Ursula.

Devotions by Ursula- "How to be the hands, feet and eyes of Christ".

Prayer concerns: Indy, Angie, Doug's brother and wife, Matthew, and friend of Charlene with cancer.

The Purpose was recited by all.

Minutes of September 16th meeting read and approved.

Treasurer's Report by Jackie -Previous balance \$1,052.12. Current balance \$1,119.12.

Jackie will send check for \$250.00 to Epworth Village.

Correspondence: Information from Fall District Meeting, End of Year reports, letter from President Janelle Erb.

2 Courtesy cards sent out, all Children's bibles gone, more bought.

Old business: Silver tea set sold for \$250.00 which is to be placed in the General Fund.

Motion by Carol, seconded by Cheryl, approved by all.

Chrismons-will fix old ones that need it and use what we have for now.

New business: Will check feasibility of having Christmas Meeting at Brookefield so Mary Ann can join us.

Fellowship- UWF will do this 1/month every 3rd week starting in December.

All Faiths Christmas Luncheon to be held December 3rd at 12pm at the Catholic Church.

We will provide the meat. Will discuss further at the next meeting.

Church activity reminders: All Saints Sunday-Nov. 2nd, Prayer Group meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday, UMC help at Food Pantry every third Saturday, Community Office hours at Bedhead every Thursday at 8:00 am to 11:00 am.

Today's Lesson given by Darla- "The Pumpkin Prayer".

Lunch was served by Deb.

Next meeting is Nov. 18th at 1:30pm with Devotions by Charlene, Lesson -Chrismons, Lunch by Ursula. Bring Thank Offerings to this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ursula Sorlie



United Women in Faith (UMW)

The next meeting of the
UWF will be on

November 18th at 1:30pm.

All ladies are welcome!



October Attendance

October 5th:	39 In-person 17 Views/YouTube
October 12th:	58 In-person 15 Views/YouTube
October 19th:	44 In-person 17 Views/YouTube
October 26th:	39 In-person 26 Views/YouTube

October Offering Totals

October 5th:	\$3,525
October 12th:	\$1,685
October 19th:	\$691
October 26th:	\$15,444



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	750-4319	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 Pearson	308-219-0060
Theda Van Horn	754-4541	Cherri & Scott Klinginsmith	750-0615	Brenda Starkey	750-7967
Cleo Edwards	754-4853	Charlotte Rasmussen	308-968-3375	Becky Schwenk	750-4590
Nancy OR Mike McCarthy	750-2117-Nancy (775)-830-9521 -Mike	Susan Hartley	(641)-485-7349	Lory Thomsen	754-4286
Sheila Studley	750-6973	Robyn Dvoracek	754-8468		



Christmas Cheer Underway



* Long before any of us wanted to think about Christmas, the Christmas Cheer committee * met and started planning for this years gift giving. We are well underway with 9 families already having filled out their application. Applications are due back to our church on **November 13th**. After that we will meet to get the gift tags ready. The tags for our church will be available after the November 23rd service. If you are unable to shop, another way to help is to purchase some stocking hats, caps, gloves and socks. We need all sizes, particularly larger sizes for older boys and adult men. Also you can make a donation at Citizens Bank, we have a Christmas Cheer account set up there. There will be more information shared during the November 23rd service. Please pray for these families as well as for our committee to make this a blessed Christmas for families that have less than we do.



You're Invited to Once Upon a Manger December 7th at 10:00 a.m.

St. Paul UMC's
No Rehearsal Christmas Play

ALL children can come at
9:40 a.m. to choose a
character to be part of the
Christmas Play!



Teacher's Prayers

At St. Paul United Methodist Church, we have made a commitment to our local schools. As we have done in the past, we will start our weekly prayers for the teachers and school staff for the school year.

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:

Nov 2– Stacy Vogel, Trisha Hedman, Travis Brouillette, Connor Klecan, Libby Beck, Don Kleinsasser, Luke Thompson

Nov 9 – Doug Voigt, Boyd Bowder, Joel Shafer, Maria Montemagni, Alex Lindsay

Nov 16– Jady Branson, Nolan Reilly, Cory Valasek, Danelle Spencer, Diane Bennett, Andrea Zulkoski, Connor Bolling

Nov 23– Marcia Wardyn, Rob Wegner, Alex Egger, Richard Moore, Tess Jerabek

Nov 30 - Bryan Donohue, Dean Burkhardt, Dezarae Gay-Cole, Franklin Bell, Tanya Johansen, Gayle Bremer, Brett Stamp



Around our Connection

Take a look at what's happening around us!
Click on the links in blue to learn more.



Mission Agency, Churches work to fill gaps

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/mission-agency-churches-work-to-fill-gaps>

Food ministries sound alarm on rising needs

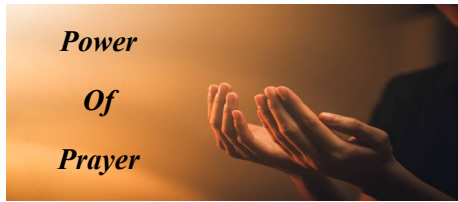
<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/food-ministries-sound-alarm-on-rising-needs>

Laity Summit 2026 expanding to three nights: March 23-24, 26

The 2026 Laity Summit Planning Committee is thrilled to announce next year's Great Plains Laity Summit, coming March 23, 24, and 26, 2026 — and this time, we're bringing the Spirit straight into your evenings! That's right — the Summit will now take place from 6 to 8:30 p.m. CT each night, making it easier than ever for laity across Kansas and Nebraska to join in, whether from home or together in community. We're inviting churches across the Great Plains to host watch parties — gather your congregation, small groups, or leadership teams to experience the Summit together. Picture sanctuaries and fellowship halls filled with laughter, prayer, music, and renewed purpose as laity connect across the miles in one shared Spirit. Next year's Laity Summit will feature inspiring worship, dynamic speakers, and powerful impact sessions designed to equip and empower laity for ministry in every setting. These engaging sessions will help you turn inspiration into action, connect with other passionate laypeople, and discover new ways to make a real difference in your church and community. Whether you're a Lay Leader, a Lay Servant, or just beginning to explore your call, this is your opportunity to grow in faith, deepen your discipleship, and discover how God is calling you to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously. Stay tuned for more details, impact session topics, and registration information coming soon in GPconnect and across the Great Plains Conference!

-- The 2026 Laity Summit Planning Committee

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.

Nov 2nd– Hispanic Ministries

Nov 9th– District Offices

Nov 16– Belgrade, Cedar Rapids,
Albion First, Loretto

Nov 23– Schuyler Christ

Nov 30 - Campus Ministries

Sunday

Worship time
10:00 a.m.



Adult Bible Study

Sunday morning 9:00 am

Children's Education

Children's Church
-during Worship service



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.

November 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.



United Methodist Church
1320 Baxter Street
St. Paul, NE 68873
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stpaulneumc@gmail.com

November

