

Monthly Newsletter



United Methodist Church



August 2026

Last fall, I took part in a clergy health initiative. We spent time looking at ten areas of health ranging from the “usual suspects” of nutrition, movement, and mind to areas we don’t often think about such as spirituality, environment, and intellectual development. And, while we will revisit these ideas this fall when we think about stewardship, as we step into a new season, I am thinking about one of the themes that became an area of focus during our time together— creating sustainable rhythms of life that would support us in our wellness and goals. These rhythms are created and intentional, encompassing many areas of our lives.

I always feel like new seasons are opportunities to reevaluate our rhythms of life. We look at our schedule, our commitments, the seasonal activities, the places where we want to grow, the things we want to do more or less of, and we create a rhythm, a plan, that works for us. As you are considering your fall rhythms of life, I encourage you to make worship, prayer, studying scripture, service, and fellowship part of your plan. When our church gathers for these things, we grow in faith and in relationship to God and to one another. When we give of our service, our gifts, and our resources, it reorients our thinking toward generosity, abundance, and compassion. When we spend time in scripture and prayer, we are reminded that we are not alone because God is with us. There are even studies that show that when we sing together, there are benefits to our health and our communal relationships.

Maybe the United Methodist Church was on to something when discerning the commitments in our membership vows, which not only include things like renouncing spiritual forces of wickedness, confessing Jesus Christ as Savior and trusting his grace, and receiving and professing the Christian faith as contained in Scripture, but also the very practical commitments of strengthening the ministries of the church and faithfully participating in the ministries of the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. These areas all impact our wellness in varying ways. And, as we remember our lessons about the fruit of the Spirit from our summer sermon series, the fruit of faithfulness grows when we live into the commitments that we have made.

Finally, as I encourage you to make church part of your rhythm for the upcoming season, I want to give you some updates. First, Children’s Church will resume on August 16th after children’s moment during worship. We will also bless backpacks and bags on that Sunday. I am inviting students, teachers, and even folks in the workforce to bring your backpacks, bags, and briefcases to be blessed. I think it would be very cool for the kids to see the adults carrying their faith into their daily life, too. What an example to set! Second, youth group starts on August 19th, meeting each Wednesday night at 6:30 with a meal provided. Encourage youth 5th-12th grade to get involved. Adult Sunday School will resume after Labor Day. I would like to encourage you to get involved in worship and beyond, too. There are many ways that you can do that. Our children can sign up to be candle lighters. It is an important job to carry the light of Christ into worship and back out into the world. If there are children who have not done it before, let me (Pastor) know, and we can have a training. Folks of any age can sign up to read scripture or usher. You can serve fellowship, which can be as simple or elaborate as you want. Are you celebrating a birthday or anniversary? What a great time to sign up for fellowship— just like bringing treats to school when you were younger! Do you like to cook? You could make a meal for the youth group? Do you have a musical gift? You could provide special music during worship. These are just a few of the ways that you can get involved in church. Most of the sign-up lists are in the narthex (church entryway), and if there isn’t one for your particular gift, talk to me (Pastor).

Blessings,

Pastor Nicole

Summer
Office hours
Tues-Thurs
9am –1:00 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

UMM
Jeremiah Eck

UWF
Deb Wells

Education
Nancy Harrington



August



Aug 2nd	Worship 10:00am- Communion Nursing Home Services: 1:30pm Brookfield and 2:30pm Matelyn	Aug 19th	Youth Group Resumes- 6:30pm
Aug 6th	Community Office Hours: 8am-11am at Bedhead	Aug 20th	Community Office Hours: 8am-11am at Bedhead
Aug 9th	Worship 10:00am	Aug 23rd	Worship 10:00am- Dave Harrington Guest Pastor Children's Church during Worship
Aug 13th	Community Office Hours: 8am-11am at Bedhead	Aug 26th	Youth Group 6:30pm
Aug 15th	UMC helps at Food Pantry 9am-11am	Aug 27th	Community Office Hours: 8am-11am at Bedhead
Aug 16th	Worship 10:00am Children's church resumes during worship	Aug 30th	Worship 10:00am Children's Church during Worship Nursing Home Services: 1:30pm Brookfield and 2:30pm Matelyn
Aug 18th	UWF Meeting 1:30pm		

2026-2027 United Methodist Church School/Youth Group

Our Church School will begin August 16th. We will have a 45 minute time during regular church service for our children to learn about Bible stories and the life of Jesus. Church services are from 10:00am-11:00am with Church School from 10:20-11:00.

Children ages 4-Grade 4 are welcome to attend.

Grades 5-12 are invited to Youth Group on Wednesdays from 6:30pm-7:30pm with a meal provided. Our start date for Youth Group is August 16th.

Parents, grandparents, if you have children in these age groups and are interested in bringing them to either of these groups, please feel free! Any questions, you may ask Nancy Harrington, Pastor Nicole, or give the church office a call.

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!*

August 2nd: Marcia Wardyn, Rob Wegner, Alex Egger, Dalton Pettera, Adam Patrick, Tamie Tomlinson

August 9th: Jaime Camden, Kim Schulte, Gayle Bremer, Brett Stamp, Tess Jerabek, Megan Stapel, Shayla Tibbetts

August 16th: Lacey Bowder, Kylie Costello, Mackenzie Loofe, Melody Becker, Daylene Fox, Ashlyn Lukasiewicz, Abigail McGowan

August 23rd: Jacquelyn Fitzgerald, Kali Volk, Allyson Wilson, Stephanie Palacz, Chris Thede, Rayann Wales

August 30th: Janet Stamp, Rebecca Syring, Ashley Weber, Chasity Dubbs, Tara Sjuts, Morgan Skibinski, Brenda Thompson



August Birthdays

Aug 2	Chris Klassen	Aug 19	Tom Knutson
Aug 5	Susan Rasmussen	Aug 20	Darla Voigt
Aug 8	John McClellan	Aug 22	Alex Egger
Aug 9	Aiden Lukasiewicz	Aug 25	Jarold Jacobsen
Aug 9	Dan Fox	Aug 25	Blake Thomsen
Aug 9	Lonny Thomsen	Aug 25	Dean Egger
Aug 11	Janet Thomsen	Aug 26	Stanley Edwards
Aug 12	Dale Rasmussen	Aug 27	Teresa Pedersen



August Anniverseries

Aug 1	Adam & Kerri Rensch
Aug 7	Mike & Angie Eytcheson
Aug 4	Dennis & Angie Jameson
Aug 8	Mark & Brenda Starkey
Aug 15	Gary & Charlotte Rasmussen
Aug 21	Brad & Deb Wells
Aug 22	Doug & Darla Voigt
Aug 27	Dave & Marilyn Brehm
Aug 28	Don & DeEtte Lukasiewicz
Aug 30	Steve & Kassie Hancock

UMM Breakfast Church

Sunday, July 19th the United Methodist Men once again served a delicious breakfast for our church service. All of the food provided was delicious and we appreciate it very much. Yes, Food, Fun and Fellowship can be combined for a delightful morning. Thank you!



A big thank you to those that came to help remove the old rock from the east and north side of the church building and unloaded the new rock. Looks wonderful! Thanks to Doug and Darla Voigt, Adrian Anderson, Lauren Studley, and Daryl Teter(friend of the Voigts').



June

July

Attendance

Offering

Attendance

Offering

June 7th:	32 In-person 16 Views/YouTube
June 14th:	44 In-person No Views/YouTube
June 21st:	47 In-person 24 Views/YouTube
June 28th:	46 In-person 26 Views/YouTube

June 7th:	\$4,312
June 14th:	\$1,822
June 21st:	\$463
June 28th:	\$726

July 5th	36 In-person 23 Views/YouTube
July 12th:	55 In-person 18 Views/YouTube
July 19th:	34 In-person 10 Views/YouTube
July 26th:	40 In-person 9 Views/YouTube

July 5th:	\$3,536
July 12th:	\$1,869
July 19th:	\$303
July 26th:	\$1,492



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	Nancy-750-2117 Mike (775)830-9521	Susan Hartley	(641)-485-7349	Lory Thomsen	754-4286
Sheila Studley	750-6973	Robyn Dvoracek	754-8468		



Sunday

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

**Adult Bible Study
Sunday morning 9:00 am
(begins Sept. 13th)**

**Children's Education
Children's Church
-during Worship service
(begins Aug. 16th)**

Thank you!

A special thank you goes to Robyn Dvoracek for the donation of 15 lbs of hamburger for the Lunch Bunch! With this donation, the kiddos got yummy sloppy joes!

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.

Aug 2nd– GI Trinity

Aug 9th – Guide Rock/Red Cloud

Aug 16th – Harvard First/Inland

Aug 23rd– Hastings First

Aug 30th - Hastings Grace

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.

Jello– Strawberry	Juice
Ketchup and Mustard	Pork & Beans
Laundry Soap-small bottles	Pudding-Instant-Chocolate Syrup
Mayo	Shampoo
Sugar	Conditioner
Brownie mixes	Toilet Paper
Jelly	Salad Dressing- (Ranch,Dorothy Lynch)
Cookies	Frosting
Cereal	Cake Mixes
Crackers–	Spaghetti Sauce
**Salad & Soup- (Saltines)	Toothpaste
Dish Soap	Canned Fruit
Flour	
Hamburger Helper	
Pancake Mix	

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.

August 15th will be the next work date.

Precautions are taken to insure the health and protection of both the worker and the consumer.

Food Pantry Hours

Saturday
9:00-11:00 am

Tuesday
4:00-6:00 pm

February is the month for United Methodist Church to donate to the Food Pantry.



United Women of Faith

2 months of meetings minutes



June 16th at 1:30pm

The meeting was called to order by Deb Wells. Those in attendance were Dorothea, Theda, Mary, Ursula, Jackie, Deb, Pastor Nicole, Carol and guest Dee Hedman.

Carol gave devotions reading from Calm Your Anxious Mind. The selection was titled "Accept Your Season". Prayer requests were for Mary Stepanek, Deb Wells shared her cousin passed away and asked for prayers for her family, Mary's friend Lisa, her cancer has returned, Ursula's elderly neighbor, Pastor asked for prayers for her friend April, who has recently had a shoulder replaced, also Les Mittes.

The Purpose of the United Women of Faith was read aloud by the group

Minutes from the May meeting were read, with no corrections or additions, approved as read.

Jackie gave the **treasurer's report**, balance on hand is \$546.51. There were no bills presented.

Jackie will issue a check to Ursula from the Work Group account to help pay for food served for Lunch Bunch.

Old Business: Deb gave a brief description of what Lunch Bunch is for our visitor. They will be serving hot dogs this week. She also asked for helpers.

New Business: Deb said our Lunch Bunch date for July will be Tuesday the 14th. That day the menu will be sloppy joes.

Carol will update names and numbers of members for membership booklet.

Carol asked about the multiple plates that we have left of the old church. There is around 40 of them.

She will contact a lady that makes mosaic items to see if she could make a gazing ball and perhaps some stepping stones using these plates. She'll report at our next meeting on cost, etc

Pastor Nicole's comments: Pastor reported that things are finally slowing down and settling in for the summer months. The United Methodist Men are planning on serving breakfast church this summer.

Dates are yet to be announced. Ursula gave a fun lesson on Fruit of the Spirit, plus we did a special craft.

Next meeting is July 21. Devotions by Theda, lunch served by Mary. Instead of having a lesson, it will be a cleaning day.

-Submitted by Carol Phillips

July 21st at 1:30pm

The meeting was called to order by Deb Wells. A brief business meeting was held prior to cleaning. The group recited the Purpose of the United Women in Faith.

Theda read devotions from God's Little Devotional Book for Women, Faith, Hope and Hilarity and Help Lord, I'm having a senior moment. Prayer requests were for Gary and Charlotte Rasmussen, Gary and Charlene Craig, Dee Hedman, and Deb Wells' family.

Minutes from the June meeting were read. There were no corrections, approved as read.

Treasurer's report: Jackie reported the current balance on hand is \$876.51. There were no outstanding checks and no bills were presented. Jackie also reported the The Big Garden in Omaha is being sold and will no longer be a National Mission Organization. There will be an annual meeting of Great Plains UWF held in North Platte on Sept 11-12th. Registration is \$40. Contact Jackie or Deb Wells for more information.

Old Business: Deb reported that 64 children were served on July 14th for Lunch Bunch. She also reminded those who had signed up for August 16 Fellowship. Carol reported that to have a gazing ball made out of the old Methodist Church plates the charge will be \$75. The group decided to proceed with this.

Personal donations from the group will cover the cost.

New Business: Deb also shared there will be a Central Nebraska Fall meeting held on October 12th in Hastings. That fee is \$20. UMC will help at the Food Pantry on July 25th from 9-11.

Pastor Nicole's comments: Fall planning has already started for youth group as well as many other activities. The United Methodist Men will have another Breakfast Church possibly in September and November. We are almost through the Fruits of the Spirit sermon series. August 2nd will be the next care facility service.

No dates have been set yet for the Home Group gatherings. At this time there is nothing planned for the Wednesday Prayer Group.

Some dates have been set for a wedding and a memorial service in our church, Community Office Hours will continue at Bedhead on Thursday mornings.

The next meeting is **August 18th**. Devotions by Ursula, lunch served by Jackie. Instead of having a lesson, we will have a craft day. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. If you have a hobby to share, please bring it. We will have some crafts available for those that would like to learn or just to come for fun and fellowship.

- Submitted by Carol Phillips

Baptism



Ivy Kaye Hawkins was baptized on July 12th, 2026. Present along with her were her parents, Jason and Kayla Hawkins, her sister, Oakley and many other family and friends. Welcome Ivy!



Happy Birthday!

Also on July 12th, the church celebrated a long-time member in a big way—her 90th birthday!

Happy Birthday to Theda Van Horn!

It was celebrated after worship with cake and fellowship.



Thank you for reading!

United Methodist Church

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stpaulneumc@gmail.com

August

