

Thank You Notes

Thank you to Tim Hankens for the painting he created and donated in memory of his father, Dan Hankens.



Thanks to Meribeth Adams and Glenda Parrish for the stickers for the *HomeTouch* mailing.

Thanks to Betty Point for playing the piano for worship at The Gardens on March 10th.

Thanks to Rick and Vicky Blair (Jennifer's parents) for cutting, sorting, and organizing the stickers for our weekly *HomeTouch* mailings and for helping with the Easter College/Military Care packages.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Sermons Ala Carte meal at Memorial Presbyterian Church on March 20th.

Dear St. Paul's Friends and Family,

Thank you so much for letting us host our annual soup dinner here at the church again this year. We also would like to thank you for the support you continue to show us.

With love,

Tasha Timmerman & the Cavaliers 4-H Club



Thank you to Deb Samuelson for the cupcakes for Pastor Mike and Jennifer.

Thank you for all the prayers and cards.

Sharon Bennink

Thank you to Lois Eggerth for the stamps for the weekly *HomeTouch* mailing.

A big "thank you" to all of you who support our youth ministries here at St. Paul's. We were all able to enjoy the movie *Ordinary Angels* at the theater on February 28th, and on March 9th, the junior high and high school youth enjoyed a day of skiing at Mankato. We all appreciate all of you who donate on behalf of good times for youth as well as for our fellowship times.

God bless you,

Craig & Monica Schmidt & Teen Time Youth



Thank you to the Trustees for installing larger bulletin boards at the north and west entrances and for all the other work they have been doing.

Thank you to everyone who donated Easter lilies. A list of donors will be included in the Easter bulletin. If you would like a copy, please contact the church office.



A huge "thank you" to all our Teen Time youth and their families for participating in selling cookie dough and pies for our annual fundraiser. Thank you, also, to everyone who purchased these items. The nearly \$750.00 profit will be used to help provide for those

in need. We are so grateful for all the support. The delivery date for the items you purchased will be April 20th. We will be in touch with you when they arrive.

God bless you, and thank you!

Craig and Monica Schmidt, Teen Time leaders

Thank you to Joanne Lundquist for donating *The Book of Rosy* by Rosayra Pablo Cruz and Julie Schwieter Col-lazo to the church library for the United Women of Faith reading program.



Thanks to the Sunday School children for the cute Valentine.

Della Wolf

ST. PAUL'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
God's Love in Action
531 W. Main Street
Cherokee, IA 51012

April
2024

Non-Profit Org.
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Bingo de Mayo

Sunday, May 5, 2024

5:20 p.m. Doors open

5:30-6:00 p.m. Taco in a bag & desserts (freewill donation)

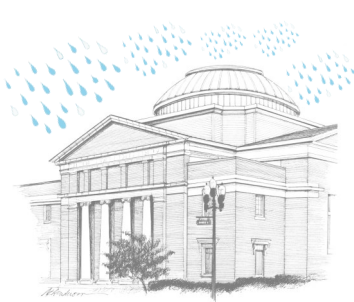
6:00-7:00 p.m. Bingo (prizes provided)

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
531 W. Main Street, Cherokee
Schuldt Dining Hall

Everyone is welcome! Bingo is FREE!

Questions? Contact us!
cherokeespmc@gmail.com
(712) 225-3955





THE DOME

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 2024

A Moment With Mike

A More Christlike God - Part 2

You may recall that in last month's newsletter article, I wrote about the problems with a view of the death of Jesus that many people have. I explained that in the scenario described, God isn't forgiving us of anything, because he got paid for our sin by Jesus. If you need to refer to that article again, you may find it on our website (cherokeemethodist.com). This month, we will continue this train of thought.

It is good to know that the way of understanding salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus described last month is not the only way to understand the Gospel, and it may not be the best way if it makes God out to be a monster. It turns out that there are many ways of understanding Jesus' death and resurrection. We call these *atonement theories*. What I described last month is called the penal substitutionary atonement theory. There are too many atonement theories to explain here, but the bottom line is, however we understand the death and resurrection of Jesus, we must maintain the unity of the Trinity.

The penal substitutionary atonement theory puts the Father in conflict with the Son. In this scenario, the Father is full of wrath (bad temper) due to our sin, and somebody has to take the punishment to satisfy him, similar to the way people used to believe they needed to sacrifice people to their gods to appease them in ancient religions. Jesus, the Son, volunteers as tribute, taking one for the team by offering himself to take the brunt of the Father's bad temper. He becomes the sacrifice. The problem with this is that it pits the Father against the Son. We believe in the Trinity, referring to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit being one God in three persons, and these three persons are in a mutual relationship of perfect harmony. Therefore, no atonement theory that pits one person in the Trinity against another will do. So, how are we to understand Jesus' work on the cross?

The best way to describe the cross is to say that at the cross, "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself" (2 Cor. 5:19). In other words, the Father and the Son were in complete harmony with one another. God is not the enemy here. The enemies God wants to save us from include sin and death. God never left his Son on the cross. In fact, he didn't put him there—we did. Religious people made sure Jesus would get crucified, all in the name of politics, religion, and a sense of self-righteousness. People killed Jesus, but God raised him from the dead (Acts 5:30).

The death of Jesus was a tragedy. There is no way around it. Nonetheless, it was a tragedy that God was going to use in his plan to save us all. You see, when Jesus hung on the cross, the sight was like a mirror reflecting back to us the immensity of our sin and the immensity of God's grace. First, it shows us the immensity of our sin. God came down to us, and what did we do? We killed him. Jesus on the cross is a sign of judgment against the sin of humankind. Jesus took the brunt of our sin, the fullness of sin, upon himself. And what did he do when this all was done to him? He took it and reflected back to us grace and love. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). In a mysterious way (the mystery of faith), Jesus took our sin onto himself and forgave it. So, yes, we see the immensity of our sin, fear, and hatred on the cross reflected back to us, but we also see the immensity of God's love and grace.



(continued on page 3)

Worship Notes

Greeters at the North Doors

- 4/7 Bonni Conley
- 4/14 Larry & Colleen Harmon
- 4/21 Al & Barb Henn
- 4/28 Dennis Bahr and Roni Timmerman



Acolytes

- 4/7 Ally Timmerman and Mya Benson
- 4/14 Kennedy Steward and Madison Daum
- 4/21 open
- 4/28 Parker Wych & Clayton Scherbring

Liturgists

- 4/7 Bonni Conley
- 4/14 Rod Raveling
- 4/21 Ava Agnew
- 4/28 Chuck Tolzin

Children's Time

- 4/7 Bonni Conley
- 4/14 Linda Christensen
- 4/21 Pastor Mike
- 4/28 Miranda Cook

Ushers

- 4/7 Scott Osborn & Marla Conley
- 4/14 Mark & Becky Scherbring
- 4/21 Dave & Donna Lucas
- 4/28 Tim & Jen Gaydo and Bailey Gaydo



Altar Flowers

- 4/7 Kent Simonsen
- 4/14 Gerald & Nancy Sears
- 4/21 open
- 4/28 Tim & Kim Wych



The 2024 altar flower sign-up is available on the table in the narthex on Sundays, or you can call Jennifer during the week. If the date you prefer has been taken, it is okay to have more than one arrangement per Sunday.

Nursery Attendants

- 4/7 Ashlyn Wilkie
- 4/14 Ashlyn Wilkie
- 4/21 Sophie Scherbring
- 4/28 open



Upcoming Sermon Series

James: Faith in Action

The book of James is considered by many to be one of the most practical books in the Bible, emphasizing that our faith is best when seen in action by what we do. Join us in the month of April as we look at highlights from the book of James.

- 4/7 "Training for Endurance" (James 1:1-18)
- 4/14 "Defined by What You Do and Say" (James 1:19-27; 2:14-26; 3:1-12)
- 4/21 "Favoritism Forbidden" (James 2:1-13; 5:1-6)
- 4/28 "The Source of Conflict" (James 4:1-12)

Podcast and Online Services Available

Sermons are available on 92.1 FM KCHE on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. and are also available via podcast. You can find a link to a podcast app on our website (green icon in the upper right on the homepage). Our full service is available live on our YouTube channel and as a recording after the fact both on our YouTube page and on our Facebook page. A link for our YouTube page can be found on our website (red and white icon in upper right on the homepage), and a link for our Facebook page can also be found on our website (blue and white icon in upper right on the homepage). If you need assistance, please stop by the office.



Attendance

| Date | Worship | Sunday School | Wed. | Confirmation | Teen Time |
|------|---------|---------------|------|--------------|-----------|
| | | | 2/28 | 11 | 18 |
| 3/3 | 100 | 32 | 3/6 | - | FCA |
| 3/10 | 100 | 28 | 3/13 | 11 | 13 |
| 3/17 | 103 | 25 | 3/20 | 12 | 14 |



Christian Education News

April Sunday School & Children's Choir

Sunday School for PK-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, and adults continues on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. The Children's Choir will perform on Sunday, April 28th, which is Confirmation Sunday. That Sunday, we will also be collecting a noisy offering (spare change) during the worship service to benefit children's ministries here at St. Paul's.



Above: Learning about the last supper on March 10th
Photo credit to Miranda Cook.



Above: On March 17th, the Sunday School students made prayer jars with a reminder inside of when to pray. Liza Parker also made yummy cupcakes for St. Patrick's Day. Photo credit to Heidi Gerstandt.

Vacation Bible School



Lumen "Lu" the lightning bug and Pastor Mike encourage you to write on your calendar that Vacation Bible School here at St. Paul's will take place on Sunday, July 7th, through Thursday, July 11th, from 5-8 p.m. United Women in Faith are again providing FREE, delicious suppers for the students and their families.

All kids in PK-5th grade are welcome. Online registration will be available soon, likely in later April.

Adult Class Update

The Adult Class that meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in Feller Lounge is going through Andy Stanley's book *Ask It: The Question That Will Revolutionize How You Make Decisions*. Soon, they will begin *The Christian Atheist: Believing in God but Living as if He Doesn't Exist*. All adults are welcome to attend either study.

April Confirmation Schedule

The confirmation class will meet on April 3rd and April 17th from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in Feller Lounge. A catered confirmation rehearsal dinner for students and their immediate families will be held on Wednesday, April 24th, at 6:30 p.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall and the sanctuary. Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for April 28th during the 10:10 a.m. worship service.

Teen Time Schedule

Teen Time, a gathering for high schoolers at Craig and Monica Schmidt's home (409 Centennial Dr.), meets on Wednesdays (April 10th, 17th, and 24th) from 6:30-8:00 p.m. All high schoolers are welcome! You don't have to be a member of St. Paul's to attend.

Teen Time Outing

16 youth, along with Teen Time leaders Craig and Monica Schmidt, went to see *Ordinary Angels* at the movie theater on February 28th. Thanks to the congregation for your financial support of the youth!



A Moment With Mike

(continued from page 2)

Ultimately, through the cross of Christ, we see God most clearly—more clearly than anyone who came before Jesus. Through the cross of Christ, God is revealed to us as a loving father who forgives sin and reconciles us to him. In the cross, we do not see that Jesus did something to the Father, as though he somehow changed God into a more agreeable being who will forgive us, since his wrath is spent. In the cross, we see God revealed as being like Jesus from the very beginning. We see that the Father has not changed, but our view of the Father has. Instead of seeing the Father as full of wrath and needing someone to take a beating for making him angry, Jesus reveals to us a loving father who loves his imperfect children—a father who is ready to embrace his prodigal children. Again, as Brian Zahnd says, "God is like Jesus. God has always been like Jesus. There was never a time when God was not like Jesus. We didn't use to know this. Now, we do." In other words, on the cross, Jesus reveals to us most clearly the Father who has always been full of love and ready to forgive us. In the cross, we see that God would rather die at our hands than judge and destroy us.

The good news of Easter is that God is not a monster. Far from it! God is a loving father who is always ready to forgive sin. He always has been and always will be. When the religious leaders chose to have Jesus crucified, God chose to use that to communicate his love and forgiveness to us by taking our sins upon himself and offering us forgiveness freely. Turns out, the Gospel is better news than we thought. God doesn't just have to forgive you because Jesus died. He wants to forgive you because that's who God is. He loves you, and when we sin, he is always ready to forgive it. Thanks be to God and his son, Jesus Christ!

Happy Easter!
Pastor Mike Agnew

March Happenings

Easter Egg Hunt Preparations

On March 24th, the Outreach & Connections Team filled Easter eggs for our upcoming Easter egg hunt. Thank you to everyone who assisted by filling the eggs or by donating candy for the kids!



March Happenings

Worship in Ida Grove

On March 2nd, Pastor Mike Agnew and Chuck and Julie Tolzin attended the inaugural worship service of Sojourn United Methodists of Ida Grove. This is a new congregation formed after the former UM church in Ida Grove disaffiliated. They were joined in worship by area pastors Kiboko (Storm Lake UMC) & Betty (Holstein UMC) Kiboko and our District Superintendent, Michel Lundula.



Palm Sunday (March 24, 2024)



Thanks to the kids and youth for participating in the palm parade!

For more pictures and videos, please see our Facebook page.



**COMMUNITY
YOUTH NIGHT**
Sponsored by **WHS FCA**

Who?
Teens 7th-12th Grade

What?
Fun, Friends, Free Meal, Bible Lesson,

When?
Wed., April 3 @ 6:30-8PM

Where?
Meriden E. Free Church
412 E. 3rd St. Meriden

Announcements & Updates

Fresh Expressions Training

Fresh Expressions is a flexible approach to ministry that can be creatively applied to foster ministry beyond the traditional "four walls" of our congregations. A training will be held on Saturday, April 6th, from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Algona First UMC. Both clergy and laity are encouraged to attend, and Pastor Mike has registered. The registration fee covers the cost of the training book and lunch. **You must register by March 28th to guarantee receiving a book and lunch.** If you bring your own thumb drive, you can have a copy of the day's presentation that you can adapt for your own purposes. To register, please visit <https://iaumc-reg.brtaapp.com/FreshExpressionsTraining71>.

District Town Hall Meeting with our Bishop

You're invited to the Camp Clear Lake District Town Hall on Sunday, April 7th, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Emetsburg First UMC. Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai will be present for a time of teaching. Together, we will share stories about what it means to be engaged and connected with one another. A virtual option for joining will also be offered. Please register for the virtual option at <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZEsf-CuqTovGtyFEz2LjQUqdnQWSpCToSnr#/registration>.



Pastor Mike Resumes C.P.E.

Just a reminder that Pastor Mike begins his fourth unit of C.P.E. (Clinical Pastoral Education) in April. He will be attending an online meeting from approximately 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on most Wednesdays from April 10th through August 21st.

Kinship Radio's 2024 Day for Women

Kinship Radio presents their 15th annual "A Day for Women" on Saturday, April 13th, at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Mankato, MN. This year's special guest is Ginny Owens. She has spent the past two decades sharing her heart with listeners and readers as a singer/songwriter, author, teacher, and advocate. There will be music, ministry, lunch, and mini-sessions. Space is limited. To register, please call 800-810-5559, or go online to KinshipRadio.org.

Scholarship Deadline Extended

Due to the continued delays in financial aid and admissions processes caused by 2024 FAFSA challenges, the deadline for scholarships through UMHEF's General Named Endowed Scholarships and the UM Dollars for Scholars program has been extended to April 15th. To find out more, please visit <https://umhef.org/2024-scholarship-application-deadline-extended/>.



Mental Health First Aid Training

Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults. This in-person course is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17th, from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Cherokee Regional Hospital Conference Room. To register, email tdelao@pamhc.org.

Cookie Dough & Pie Deliveries

If you ordered cookie dough and/or pies from the Teen Time students, orders are expected to arrive on Saturday, April 20th, and will be available for pick-up in the church kitchen on Sunday, April 21st. Thank you all for supporting this fundraiser. 152 items were ordered, plus an additional monetary donation of \$80!



Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 20th, at 8:30 a.m. All men are welcome, so invite a friend or neighbor to join us for a light breakfast and short devotion. Thanks to Lowell and Sharon Bennink for providing the food for March's breakfast.



Dessert Sign-up for Bingo de Mayo

The Outreach & Connections Team is hosting Bingo de Mayo on Sunday, May 5th. (See page one of the newsletter for details.) Around mid-April, we will have a sign-up in the narthex for anyone who is able to help provide desserts.



College Care Update

The College/Military Care Team recently sent out Easter packages to young adults from our congregation. Thank you for supporting this ministry!



Recent Youth Happenings

FCA Youth Community Night at St. Paul's

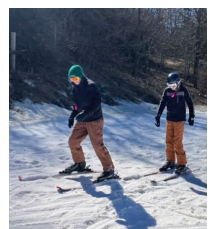
On March 6th, around 48 youth met here at St. Paul's for FCA's (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) Community Youth Night. The evening included a delicious pancake supper, worship, and games. A big "thank you" goes to everyone who helped with the meal!



7th-12th Grade Ski Trip

On March 9th, a group of youth from our congregation, their friends, and chaperones went to Mount Kato, MN, for a day of skiing. A big "thank you" goes to Alec Wynn, Brenda DeRoo, and Dana Phipps for chaperoning. The proceeds from the pancake brunch in February 2023 helped cover some of the costs of this trip, with the youth account, a generous private donation, and the parents/students covering the rest.

Photo credit to Brenda DeRoo and Ava Agnew.



Missions News

Missions Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 9th, at 9:00 a.m.

UMCOR Sunday Special Offering Update

On Sunday, March 10th, we took a special offering to support UMCOR's (United Methodist Committee on Relief) operating costs. \$314 was given by our congregation. Thank you for your generosity!

Native American Ministries Sunday

Native American Ministries Sunday is one of the annual special Sundays observed by United Methodists. We will be taking a special offering on Sunday, April 14th. To learn more, please see the graphic below, and visit <https://www.umc.org/en/content/native-american-ministries-sunday-ministry-article>.

Sleeping Mat Weaving in Spencer



On March 2nd, Glenda Parrish traveled to the Grace United Methodist Church in Spencer, Iowa, to participate in a sleeping mat weaving day. If you'd like to learn more about the sleeping mat weaving project, please

visit <https://www.midwestmission.org/loom>.

Weekly Sleeping Mat Weaving

Since March 5th, a group has been meeting weekly on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. in Feller Lounge to make sleeping mats out of plastic grocery bags for those in need. Volunteers are welcome to join any week (unless we have a funeral or other scheduling conflict) for whatever amount of time you have available. There are both sitting and standing jobs, and training will be provided. At this time, we have enough plastic bags, but you could bring a pair of scissors with you. Invite your friends, and enjoy a time of fellowship and helping others.



Announcements & Updates

Graduate Information Needed

We will be honoring graduating high school and college students from our congregation during our worship service on May 19th. As part of the service, we will play a PowerPoint presentation that highlights each graduate. Parents, if you would like your student to be included, please email the office a baby picture, a senior picture, and one or two pictures from in-between. In addition, please share with us your student's name, where he/she is graduating from, his/her future plans, and any other information about your student that you want included in the bulletin insert. Please have this information submitted to the office by May 8th. (Earlier is even better, as the PowerPoint and insert take a while to assemble.)



Schuldt Dining Hall in Use on Saturdays



Please note that Schuldt Dining Hall is in use for private events parts of all Saturdays in April.

District Conference

Camp Clear Lake District Conference will be held at Algona First UMC on Sunday, May 5th, from 2:30-4:00 p.m. Our congregation is asked to bring one dozen cookies. If you'd like to donate, please contact the office.



Women's Retreat at Wesley Woods Camp

Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Center near Indianola, Iowa, (Des Moines area) is hosting a spring retreat for women ages 16 and up on May 10th-11th. Cost is \$175 per person, with early registration for \$150 (ends April 1). For more information, check out <https://wesleywoodsiowa.org/womens-retreat/>.

Camp Registration & Job Opportunities

Registration is open for summer camp at Lake Okoboji and Wesley Woods UM Camps! Find out more at <https://www.iaumc.org/camps/#iac>. Remember, our Missions Committee will pay 75% of the registration fee for children, youth, and adults from our congregation. Both camps are also currently hiring summer staff. If you are interested in working at Wesley Woods (Indianola, IA), visit <https://wesleywoodsiowa.org/summer-jobs/>. If you are interested in working at Lake Okoboji (Spirit Lake), visit <https://okobojicamp.com/summer-openings/>.

No Spring Clean-Up Day in 2024



We won't be having a spring clean-up day this year, as the weather has thwarted our efforts the past two years, making it difficult to coordinate volunteer efforts.

Volunteer Needed

We are looking for someone to schedule the children's time and liturgist volunteers for January, May, and September and the north door greeters for April, August, and December. This job could be done by one person or split between several volunteers. A list of people to call or text will be provided to you. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the office.



Other Upcoming Meetings and Events

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Mon. & Wed. | 8:00 p.m. | Alcoholics Anonymous (NE door and downstairs) |
| Tuesdays | 1:30 p.m. | Sleeping mat weaving (Feller Lounge) |
| Wednesdays | 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. | Bell Choir (sanctuary) Chancel Choir (choir room) |
| Tues., 4/2 | 9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m. | Visitation Team (library) Administrative Board (Schuldt Dining Hall) |
| Sun., 4/7 | 11:15 a.m. | Trustees (library) |
| Wed., 4/24 | 10:30 a.m. | The Gardens study |
| Thurs., 4/25 | — | Newsletter info due |
| Tues., 4/30 | 10:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 1:10 p.m. | Communion at Viola's Communion at Accura Newsletter assembly (library) |

Announcements & Updates

Clean Five Gallon Buckets Needed



Becky Lickiss of Studio Lickiss is planning a music camp for kids this summer and is seeking donations of clean five gallon buckets. If you are able to donate any, they can be placed outside her studio on the second floor of the education wing.

Free Fraud Prevention Seminar

You're invited to a free lunch and learn seminar on fraud prevention on Tuesday, April 2nd, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the conference room of Cherokee State Bank. Mike Burke, a senior robbery and crisis management consultant, will be presenting. Learn various ways to protect your identity from being stolen, hear examples of tactics and scams that fraudsters use to trick you into giving them your private information, learn effective ways to prevent check and card fraud, and more. A light lunch will be served. For more information, please see the posters on the north and west bulletin boards, call 712-225-5739, or email office@cherokeea.com.

Learn At Lunch



United Women in Faith Buzz

UW Faith Executive Board

Monday, April 8th, at 9:30 a.m.
Schuldt Dining Hall

Charity Circle

Wednesday, April 17th, at 1:30 p.m.
Schuldt Dining Hall
Hostess: Deb Siepka

Grace Circle

Wednesday, April 10th, at 6:00 p.m.
Blooming House

Hostess: Jen Gaydo; Program: Tour of Blooming House

Joy Circle

Wednesday, April 17th, at 9:30 a.m.
Schuldt Dining Hall

Hostess: Glenda Parrish; Program: Gloria Ford



Learn Something New

The office is subscribed to various newsletters through the Iowa Conference and the greater United Methodist Church. To follow is a selection of recent articles that may be of interest. If you are interested in an article but don't have internet access, please contact the church office, as Jennifer can print you a copy.

"Moving From Consumerism to Commitment in Faith"

- <https://www.umc.org/en/content/moving-from-consumerism-to-commitment-in-faith>

Melvin UMC Helps Families Affected by Incarceration

- <https://www.iaumc.org/newsdetail/melvin-united-methodist-church-extends-support-to-families-affected-by-incarceration-18273454>

Update on Two Iowa UMC Congregations Following Failed Disaffiliation Votes

- <https://www.iaumc.org/newsdetail/iowa-united-methodist-church-thrives-and-remains-hopeful-for-the-future-18281570>

Wesley Pilgrimage (travel opportunity)

- <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/wesley-pilgrimage-2024>

Journeys of Paul in Greece & Turkiye with Bishop Bigham-Tsai (travel opportunity)

- <https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/gt24100824i61729#eotours>

General Conference Info

The General Conference is the only body that can speak for the entire United Methodist Church, and they typically meet every four years. Because of the pandemic, the last regular session was in 2016. The next General Conference is scheduled for April 23rd-May 3rd in Charlotte, North Carolina. If you'd like to learn more about this conference, here are some links to explore.

- <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/a-beginners-guide-to-general-conference>
- <https://www.iaumc.org/regionalization-plan>
- <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/updated-social-principles-reflect-increased-attention-to-creation-care>
- <https://www.gcfa.org/resource/gcfa-unveils-understanding-the-umc-budget-process-video-to-educate-and-empower-general-conference>
- <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/what-to-know-about-general-conference-plans>
- <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/what-to-know-about-general-conference-proposals>

Church Family News

With Sympathy & Prayers

Lois Eggerth's brother-in-law passed away on January 24th, and a funeral service was recently held in Prescott, Arizona.

Gerald E. Clark, 79, formerly of Battle Creek, Iowa, and originally of Quimby, passed away on February 17th at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont, Texas. Visitation and a memorial service were held on March 9th at the Boothby Funeral Home. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery at Cherokee.

William Gauthier, 81, of rural Cherokee passed away on February 25th in Marinette, WI. Visitation was held on March 15th at the Greenwood-Schubert Funeral Home, and a funeral service was held on March 16th at the Greenwood-Schubert Funeral Home. Burial was at Cedar Township Cemetery, rural Cherokee.

Phyllis Joan Parrott, 86, of Denver, IA, and formerly of Cherokee, passed away March 5th in Denver, IA, surrounded by her family. Visitation was held on March 10th at Greenwood Schubert Funeral Home. The funeral was held on March 11th here at St. Paul's.

Linda Andersen, 76, passed away on March 7th at the Crawford County Memorial Hospital in Denison. Visitation was held at Fouts Funeral Home in Woodbine on March 13th, with a funeral service at the Woodbine United Methodist Church on March 14th. Linda is the grandmother of Chris Andersen.

Dorothy Rockhill, 98, of Cherokee, formerly of Rock Rapids, died on March 14th at The Gardens in Cherokee. Visitation and a funeral service were held on March 18th at Jurrens Funeral Home in Rock Rapids, with Pastor Mike Agnew officiating. Burial was in the Riverview Cemetery in Rock Rapids. Dorothy is Brenda (Stan) DeRoo's mother.

Colton Samuel Hough, 28, passed away on March 17th. Visitation was held on March 20th at Reichmuth Funeral Home (Elkhorn, NE), with the funeral service on March 21st at St. John's Lutheran Church (Bennington, NE). Our congregation had been praying for Colton as he battled acute lymphoblastic leukemia, had a bone marrow transplant, and was recently hospitalized with graft-versus-host-disease. Colton is the grandson-in-law of Jack and Mary Jo Poggenklass.

Connie Grienke passed away on March 20th. Visitation and a prayer service were held on March 24th at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. A funeral service was held on March 25th, also at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Connie is the mother of Judy Grienke-Miller.

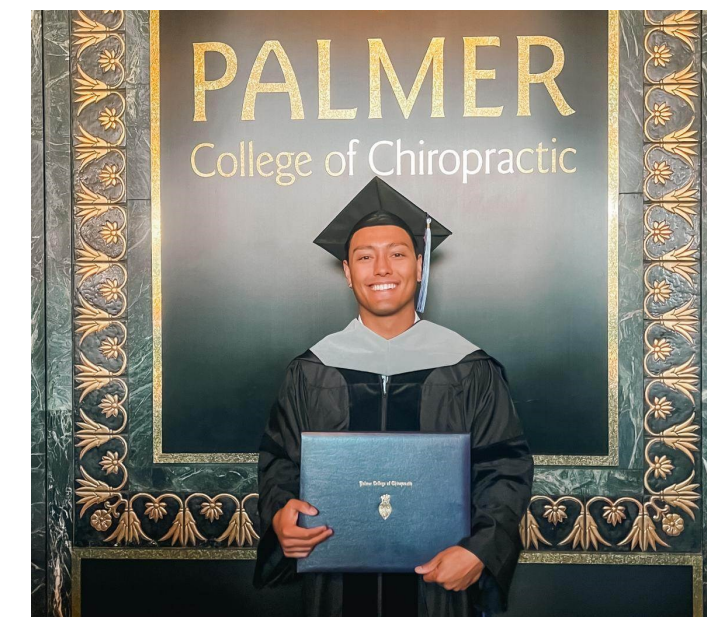
Welcome, Little One!



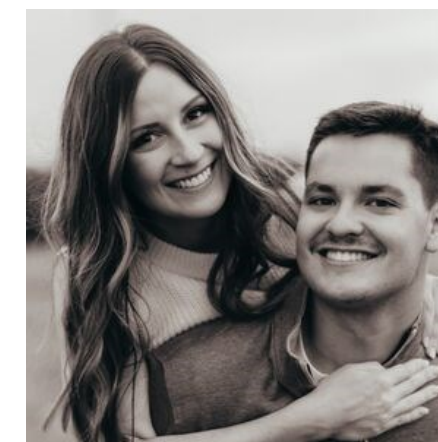
McKenzie and Mikey Burkhart are the proud parents of a daughter, Nora Jean, who was born on Tuesday, March 5th. She was 7 lbs. 1 oz. and 19" long. Proud grandparents are Michael Burkhart, Dawn Burkhart, Matthew Harding, and Abigail Harding and great-grandma Linda Burkhart. Congratulations!

Congratulations, Graduate!

Drake Bechtel, D.C. graduated magna cum laude from Palmer College of Chiropractic on February 23, 2024. Drake is the son of Dan Bechtel. Congratulations!



Bridal Shower for Fran Conley



Join us for a bridal shower honoring Fran Conley on Sunday, May 5th, here at St. Paul's United Methodist Church (Schuldt Dining Hall) from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Fran and Chase Stoline are registered at Target, CB2, and the Knot.

