

Thank You Notes

Thank you to Dave Appleby for mowing a church member's yard.

Thank you to Dan and Barb Kratz for the copy paper.

Thank you to Jeff and Patti Blum for the file folders.



Thank you to Meribeth Adams, Glenda Parish, and Roni Timmerman for the stickers for the *HomeTouch* mailing for our home-bound members and friends and to Roni for the sticky notes and sticky note holder for the office.

Thank you to Dave and Linda Appleby for filling in for us as ushers today (July 7th). Also, we would like to thank you for all our birthday cards and wishes from our church family. God bless all of you!

Ben & Sharon Bennink

St. Paul's United Methodist,

Thank you for your generous donation to the flood mitigation efforts. The coloring books and donations and clean-up buckets were gratefully received.

Bless you,
Craig Schmidt, Mayor

Thank you to my church family for all the many kindnesses and prayers sent my way. I continue to improve each day. I feel blessed!

Jean Anderson

Thank you to the Vacation Bible School kids for the donation of non-perishable food items and toilet paper for our food pantry.

CAP Food Pantry

Thank you to relatives, friends, and church family for your prayers, phone calls, texts, and cards sent for our anniversary.

Loren & Darlene Woltman

Thank you for the money you gave me for the flood relief. I appreciate the donation.

Evelyn Sand

To friends at Methodist Church,

A heartfelt *thank you* for your part in preparing and delivery of delicious food during our flooding crisis! It really helped ease the burden and was deeply appreciated! Bless you!

Sincerely,
Don & Shirley Bright

Church Family News

With Sympathy & Prayers

LeRoy Joseph Rupp, age 94, of Cherokee passed away on April 27th at Careage Hills in Cherokee. Visitation, a prayer service, and a Knights of Columbus Rosary were held on May 2nd, and a Mass of Christian Burial was held on May 3rd at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Burial was at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Cherokee. LeRoy is the grandfather of Rachel (Cody) Lucas.

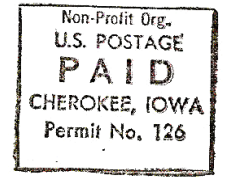
Bonita Joan "Bonnie" Rupp, age 89, of Cherokee passed away on July 4th at Accura Healthcare in Cherokee. Visitation was held on July 15th at the Greenwood-Schubert Funeral Home, with a rosary prior to visitation and a prayer service following the visitation. A Mass of Christian Burial took place on July 16th at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Burial was at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Cherokee. Bonnie is the grandmother of Rachel (Cody) Lucas.

Donna D. Stief, age 90, of Cherokee passed away on July 13th at Accura Healthcare of Cherokee. Visitation was held on July 16th at Trinity Lutheran Church, with a funeral service held on July 17th, also at Trinity Lutheran Church. Burial was in Cherokee Memory Gardens. Donna is the mother of Marlin (Amy) Stief.



Trustees Update

With a building this size, the work of the Board of Trustees is never done. They have been working on a variety of projects lately, including overseeing the repair and researching future options for the visual system in the sanctuary, having work done on the north and north-east doors, having the fascia inspected and repaired (pictured below), and more. Thank you to current and past Trustees members for their dedication to St. Paul's upkeep.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Fall Six-Week Small Groups

Sundays

6:30 p.m.

Feller Lounge

Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29, & Oct. 6, 13

or

Thursdays

10 a.m.

Feller Lounge

Sept. 12, 19, 26, & Oct. 3, 10, 17

The United Methodist story is a story of God's love. Join us as we learn about the beginnings of the Methodist movement and the United Methodist legacy of compassion, care, and active response to injustice in the world. We will look at a book and video series called *Knowing Who We Are: The Wesleyan Way of Grace (What We Believe, What We Do, and Why)* by Lacey C. Warner.

Both small groups cover the same material. Feel free to switch between groups as your schedule allows, and a Zoom (online) option is also available by contacting Pastor Mike. The cost of the study is \$15 per person, but financial assistance is available, if needed. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex on Sundays, or you can call the church office.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

531 W. Main Street, Cherokee, IA 51012

cherokeemethodist.com

cherokeespumc@gmail.com

KNOWING
WHO WE ARE

The Wesleyan Way of Grace
WHAT WE BELIEVE, WHAT WE DO, AND WHY



Lacey C. Warner



THE DOME

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

August 2024

A Moment with Mike

What a month July has been! I'm not sure that summer is any busier than other times of the year for people, but it has certainly been a full month with the Cherokee County Fair and other festivals, cookouts, and sporting events that go along with this time of the year. The same has been true for our church. We had Vacation Bible School July 7th-11th, with over sixty kids attending. Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers, including, but not limited to, the United Women in Faith and our V.B.S. directors, Brenda DeRoo, Whitney Robinson, Heidi Gerstandt, and Miranda Cook! Many more were involved in different capacities, making this a great week of ministry. Pictures from V.B.S. are included later in this newsletter.

We have another reason to celebrate. We recently had a Finance Committee meeting to review our budget and accounts. During this meeting, we found out that giving at St. Paul's has increased from the previous year! You have been very generous, so thank you for the ways you give, whether it is financially or by the giving of your time and resources. Unfortunately, we are also behind on our budget. How can that be if giving has increased? We believe the reason for this is that, while giving has increased, a good amount of that has gone to our capital account and to special offerings, such as those we have been having for tornado and flood relief. This makes sense. For some of you, it may not be possible to give what you would normally give to the general fund and also to give on top of that to a special offering. My personal belief is that if our budget has to take a hit in order for us to financially help those in need during a crisis, then so be it. We are here to be a blessing to others. That being said, if you are in a position to give to the general fund at this time, we would be grateful, as this fund is what allows us to carry on our daily ministries.

As we continue to reach out to those in need and look ahead towards the fall, may we remember why we are here. We are here to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We have been doing this, and we will continue to do so for many years to come.

God Bless,
Pastor Mike Agnew

St. Paul's UMC

Summer Worship:
9:30 a.m.

Sunday School:
Resumes in September

Address:
531 W. Main Street
Cherokee, IA 51012

Office Telephone:
(712) 225-3955

Pastor Mike's Cell:
(563) 506-7412

Website:
www.cherokeemethodist.com

Find us on Facebook
and your podcast app.

Pastor Mike's Email:
michael.agnew@iaumc.net

Jennifer's Email:
cherokeespumc@gmail.com

Jennifer's Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Pastor Mike's Day Off:
Friday

St. Paul's Staff

Pastor:
Mike Agnew

Financial Secretary:
Sarah Cook

Administrative Assistant:
Jennifer Agnew

Custodian:
Betty Harman

Organists/Pianists:
Betty Point
Meribeth Adams
Chris Andersen

Chancel Choir Director:
Becky Lickiss

Bell Choir Director:
Dusty Basten

Back to School Health Clinic
August 14th
3pm-7pm
Cherokee Fitness Center

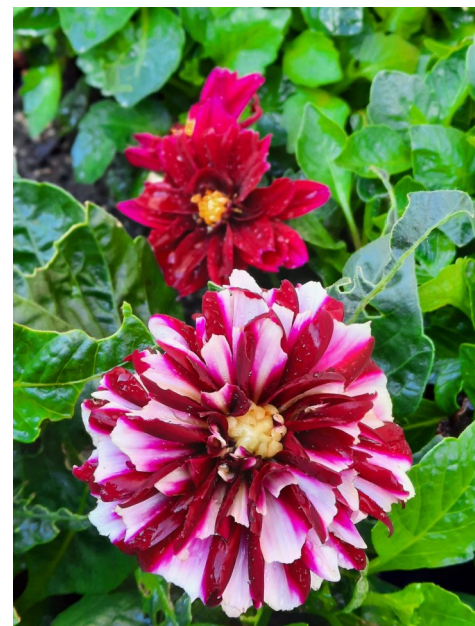
FOOD DOOR PRIZES HAIRCUTS
*Free or reduced cost

HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE:

- Immunizations
- Dental Screening/Fluoride
*Required screening for K & 9th Grade
- Lead Screening
- Staff ready to help with insurance or finding a doctor
- Car Seat Checks
- Mental health advisors/resources

Brought to you by:
Cherokee County Public Health, Hawki, I-Smile™ Dental Home Initiative

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Worship Notes

North Door Greeters

- 8/4 Stan & Brenda DeRoo
- 8/11 Flo Jensen
- 8/18 Roni Timmerman
- 8/25 Tim & Kim Wych



Liturgists

- 8/4 Ervina Scott
- 8/11 Joyce Goodrich
- 8/18 Rod Raveling
- 8/25 Mark Scherbring

Ushers

- 8/4 Jim & Peg Corrington, Dave & Donna Lucas, and Amy Stief
- 8/11 Wes & Sue Parker and Doug & Sandi Stowater
- 8/18 Wes & Sue Parker and Mike & Deb Samuelson
- 8/25 Curt & Kristal Phillips, Mark & Becky Scherbring, and Bonni Conley

Altar Flowers

- 8/4 Linda Burkhart
- 8/11 Fran Conley & Chase Stoline
- 8/18 Dave & Linda Appleby
- 8/25 Gigi & David Boothby



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.

Fellowship Volunteers

- 8/4 Jeff & Patti Blum and Dick & Betty Point
- 8/11 Dan & Barb Kratz and Don & Jeanne Blackstone
- 8/18 TBA
- 8/25 Gigi Boothby, Lois Eggerth, and Roni Timmerman



Attendance

6/30	80	7/21	80
7/7	74	7/28	55
7/14	75		

Nursery Unstaffed in Summer

The nursery isn't staffed during the summer. However, you are welcome to take your kids there during worship and watch the service on the smart TV if they (or you!) need a break. The nursery is the first classroom closest to the sanctuary in the education wing.



Current Sermon Series

Forward Through the Ages:
Who We Are in Light of Who We've Been

Since July, we have been looking at the history of the church from the end of the Bible to the present day. Church history is both inspiring and horrifying, but in it, we are seeing that the spirit has always been at work, pulling us forward.



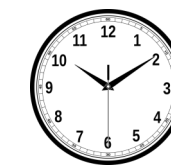
- 8/4 "The Church in Chaos: The Dark Ages" (1 Samuel 15:1-3; Matthew 5:38-48)
- 8/11 "An Unknown Future: Pre-Reformation" (Luke 19:45-46)
- 8/18 "Rethinking the Faith: The Reformation" (Romans 12:1-2)
- 8/25 "An Age of Dogma & Doubt: The Enlightenment" (1 Peter 3:15-17)
- 9/1 "Good News for Some: Christianity in Early America" (Galatians 3:26-29; Philippians 2:3-4)
- 9/8 "An Age of Drastic Change" (John 16:12-15)

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.



Fall Worship Time Change



Worship remains at 9:30 a.m. through September 1st. Sunday School resumes on September 8th at 9 a.m., so worship will move back to 10:10 a.m. that day as well.

Nursery Attendants Needed

If you would like to join the nursery attendant rotation, please contact Pastor Mike. Adults and college students are welcome to apply, and older high school students may be accepted on a case-by-case basis. A background check is required, for the safety of the children. Once approved, this can be a volunteer or paid position, as a \$25 stipend is available for each Sunday worked, with submission of a pay request form.

Music News

Community Choir Coming Soon!



CHEROKEE SINGS COMMUNITY CHOIR

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - CHEROKEE, IOWA

Let's celebrate our community with song. Rehearsals held Wednesday evenings or Saturday mornings.

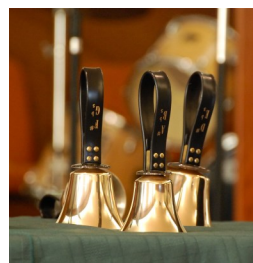
COME JOIN US!

1ST REHEARSAL: AUG. 21 7:00 PM

CALL FOR INFO: 712-229-9893

If interested, please register online at <https://forms.gle/wAy8pye6ApideoT68>. Paper forms are also available on the table in the narthex. Send your completed paper form to Becky Lickiss, 502 Ash Street, Cherokee, IA 51012, or email Becky at lickissrebecca@gmail.com. **Forms are due by August 16th.** The first performance will be September 15th in worship!

Bell Choir News



Bell Choir practice will resume either the last week of August or the first week of September. Stay tuned to upcoming bulletins for an exact date. Typically, the Bell Choir plays during worship on the second Sunday of the month. New members are always welcome!

Chancel Choir News

Chancel Choir practice will resume on Wednesday, September 4th, at 6:30 p.m., with the first performance on September 15th during worship (along with the community choir!). Typically, Chancel Choir sings during worship on the first and third Sundays of the month. New members are always welcome!



Christian Education News

Vacation Bible School Leaders' Debriefing

2024 Vacation Bible School leaders are invited to share their feedback at a debriefing on Wednesday, August 14th, at 5:30 p.m. in the church library.

feedback

Fall Sunday School Update



Planning is underway for fall Sunday School! Classes will begin on Sunday, September 8th, at 9 a.m. and conclude on Sunday, May 4, 2025. No classes will meet on December 29th (Christmas weekend) or April 20th (Easter). The children's classes will begin with music from 9-9:15 a.m., with class to follow from 9:15-10 a.m. If you'd like to volunteer to teach or substitute, please contact Heidi Gerstandt, Miranda Cook, or Pastor Mike. We hope to have enough teachers that no one will be expected to teach every week.

PK-2nd Teachers

Heidi Gerstandt
Miranda Cook

*Additional Assistance Needed

SIGN UP



3rd-5th Teachers

Becky Scherbring
Liza Parker

Whitney Robinson

*Additional Assistance Welcome

6th-8th Teachers

Jessica Knippel

*Additional Assistance Needed

To Be Assigned

Steph Rochleau
Sophie Scherbring (assistant)
Ava Agnew (assistant)

Confirmation Update



Just a reminder that we won't be offering a confirmation class this year, as we had a combined 7th/8th grade class last year. Another class will be offered in the fall of 2025.

Teen Time Update

Teen Time, our youth group for 9th-12th graders, will resume on Wednesday, September 11th, from 6:30-8 p.m. at Craig and Monica Schmidt's home. All high school students are invited, and a free supper is provided. You don't have to attend or be a member of St. Paul's to join us!

COMING

SOON!

Flood Recovery Updates

Home and Business Clean-Up

NEED HELP?

If you need assistance cleaning your home or business or if you want to volunteer to help with clean-up, the contact is Larry Ostercamp at 712-229-8826.

Supply Hubs Closed, But Food Available

Memorial Presbyterian Church and Trinity Lutheran Church have both closed their supply centers; however, food is still available through the CAP Food Pantry (Immaculate Conception), Mid-Sioux Opportunity, and Trinity Lutheran Church's food pantry. Trinity also has toiletries.



Clean-Up Kits Available

Clean-up kits are available for FREE at Trinity Lutheran Church and Memorial Presbyterian Church and were provided by Midwest Mission, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), and the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church. In total, Cherokee received 710 clean-up kits, some of which have been shared with neighboring towns in need.



Need Information?

Resources are available for temporary housing and other services. Reach out to Cherokee County Emergency Management at 712-225-6721 or via their Facebook page for more information.



Financial Assistance Provided by St. Paul's

As of July 14th, our congregation has been the steward of \$10,122.26 to assist with flood recovery.

- \$3,874 will be deposited in the community flood recovery fund at Central Bank on July 31st.
- \$5,248.26 (\$3,248.26 from our local disaster relief fund combined with the \$2,000 disaster relief grant from the Iowa Annual Conference) has been given to individuals and businesses linked to St. Paul's who were directly impacted by the flood.
- \$500 was given to a specific member of our congregation, per the donor's request.
- \$500 was placed in our St. Paul's disaster relief fund for future flood needs.
- Stay tuned to the Sept. newsletter for the total given to Grace UMC in Spencer and their pastoral family.

Messages of Support Received

Denison UMC has been praying for Cherokee, and their pastor, Curt R. Copple delivered seven prayer shawls for the families in our congregation who were directly impacted by the flood. Their "Prayer Shawl Ministry was made for you to bring comfort to know you are loved and you are in our prayers."

Fear not, for God is with us even amidst the waters. Let our faith be stronger than any floodwaters, knowing His promises endure forever.

Your friends at Springdale UMC
West Branch, Iowa

Dear Fellow Christians,

Per conversation with your pastor last week, the United Methodist Men of Verdigre, NE, decided to send the small donation to your church family for flood relief. From our experiences of the 2019 flood here, that small donation multiplies greatly!!!

In Christ's Love,
Ron Walton, Treasurer

P.S.—My wife attended this church 50 some years ago in her nursing rotation!!

We received a donation and the following message of support. "I'm sorry I am not closer to help in other ways. (We had a very impactful flood in 2015.)"

Kelli Kenison
Columbia, SC

P.S.—I am a friend of Linda Christensen's and visited Cherokee many times. I will keep your community in my prayers.

You and your congregation are in my prayers for peace, comfort, and joy. God is crazy about each one of you.

Lynn Calvert of Iowa City

Announcements & Updates

Office Closed on August 15th

The church office will be closed on Thursday, August 15th, as the Agnews will be in Des Moines to watch Ava perform her clarinet solo at the state fair and to drop off Makoto, their Japanese exchange student, for her flight back home to Japan. As always, this closure will be communicated again in the bulletin, on Facebook, and via posters on the north and west entrances and office door as the dates approach.

Pastor Mike on Business Trip

Pastor Mike will be in Atlanta, Georgia, August 19th-22nd for a Board of Ordained Ministry Training. While he is out of state, Pastor Jon Riggert of Trinity Lutheran Church will be covering emergencies. In case of emergency, you may call the office, and Jennifer can contact him during office hours. His number will also be available on the office answering machine.



July/August The Upper Room Update



After being unable to successfully contact or receive a call back from The Upper Room in June, we received an email from them on July 12th apologizing for not sending our July/August issue of *The Upper Room*. Due to an error in their system, our (and others') subscriptions weren't mailed. In the interim time, Pastor Mike ordered a comparable devotional, *Our Daily Bread*, that has arrived and is available on the table in the narthex and on the table outside the office. This is a quarterly subscription and is also available in regular and large print. For now, we plan to continue receiving *Our Daily Bread* instead of reverting back to *The Upper Room*, but Pastor Mike is open to feedback. At this time, we also have July/August *The Upper Rooms*, as they sent us complimentary copies later in July.

GriefShare Class Canceled

The 13 week GriefShare class that was to begin on Tuesday, July 16th, was canceled due to lack of interest. If you would like to be a part of this class in the future, please contact Pastor Mike.



Finance Update



Please remember St. Paul's with your summer giving, as we are currently behind on our 2024 budget. Thank you for your generosity!

Men's Breakfast



Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, August 24th, 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. Al Henn will be bringing his pedal tractors, and Jeff Blum will be providing breakfast.

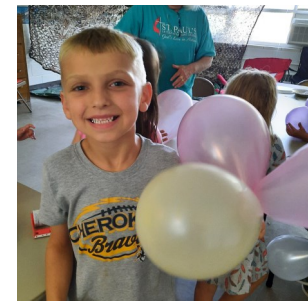
St. Paul's Note Cards Available

Note cards of various St. Paul's scenes are available for purchase in the narthex for \$2.50 per card. Proceeds go to the General Fund. Jennifer also plans to order several Christmas scenes that will be available later this fall. If you would like large quantities, please let Jennifer know, so she can order enough.



AEDs and Choking Rescue Device Now Available

We have some new, potentially life-saving devices that have been installed in our building thanks to memorials in memory of Tom Rutter and additional undesignated memorials. Two AEDs (defibrillators) have been installed—one in the narthex and one just outside the kitchen. Additionally, a choking rescue device has been installed outside the kitchen as well. Thank you to those who gave memorials and to the Memorial Committee, Brenda DeRoo, and the Board of Trustees who have worked together to select, order, and install these devices. While we hope we never have to use them, it is nice to know they are available. We encourage you to check out their locations, in case they are ever needed in the future.



Vacation Bible School 2024 - Camp Firelight



Each day, 53-62 kids attended, and 110-130 meals were served!

Thank you to the 2024 Vacation Bible School Directors, Brenda DeRoo, Miranda Cook, Heidi Gerstandt, and Whitney Robinson, to United Women in Faith for purchasing all the food for supper and to them and their helpers for preparing, serving, and cleaning up each night, to Jeff Fiedler for providing 10 pounds of hamburger for the meals, to Peggy Rasch of the Storm Lake Dairy Queen for providing DQ sundaes, to Jeff Blum for running the sound system, to Linda Burkhart and Linda Appleby for leading the science station, to Miranda and Jason Cook for leading the games station, to Roni Timmerman, Gigi Boothby, and Madi Stief for leading the Bible story station, to Heidi Gerstandt and Missy Jenness for leading the crafts station, to Becky Lickiss for leading the music, to Mikayla Kinetz for being Lu the Lightning Bug, to Madi Stief for being Counselor Sam, and to all the helpers who assisted at the stations, guided the kids throughout the evening, supervised the doors, worked at the registration table, helped with decorations, provided funds, or helped in any other way for Vacation Bible School. We appreciate all of you! The kids' missions project was to bring non-perishable food items and money for our local food pantries. 350 items and \$933.61 were raised and distributed to Mid-Sioux Opportunity, CAP Food Pantry, and Trinity Lutheran Church's food pantry! Thanks to Jeff Blum for delivering the donations. (Additional photos & videos on Facebook.)



Announcements & Updates

College and Military Addresses Wanted

Our College/Military Care ministry will resume soon. We will again be mailing letters and care packages to those in our congregation who are college students or in the military. If you or your child would like to be included, please submit his/her address to the church office. The College/Military Care Team welcomes new volunteers. If you'd like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Jennifer in the office. We mail letters approximately once a month and send two packages per semester. Stay tuned for items you can donate to help with our fall care packages.



Leadership Institute Registration Open

Resurrection, a United Methodist Church in Leawood, Kansas, will hold its annual Leadership Institute for clergy and lay ministry leaders on September 26th and 27th, with a pre-conference on September 25th. Speakers include Rev. Adam Hamilton, the church's senior pastor; Kara Powell of the Fuller Youth Institute; the Rev. Candace Lewis, president of Gammon Theological Seminary; and Brian McLaren, public theologian. To learn more or to register, please visit <https://leadership.sharechurch.com/>.



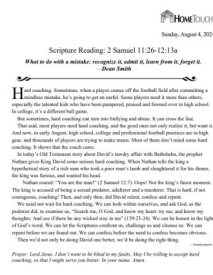
Other Upcoming Meetings and Events

Mon. & Wed.	7:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous (NE door and downstairs)
Tuesdays	1:30 p.m.	Sleeping mat weaving (Feller Lounge)
Tues., 8/6	9:30 a.m.	Visitation Team (library)
Wed., 8/7	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Feller Lounge in use
Tues., 8/20	9 a.m.	Missions Committee (Feller Lounge)
Wed., 8/21	—	Newsletter info due
Mon, 8/26	10:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Communion at Viola's Communion at Accura
Wed., 8/28	10:30 a.m. 1:10 p.m.	Bible study at The Gardens Newsletter assembly (library)



Ingathering is a time when United Methodist Churches across the state gather items for kits and bring them to drop-off points around the state. These items then go to those in need in the United States and around the world. St. Paul's is a drop-off site for the Camp Clear Lake District, and churches from our area will be dropping off donations in our parking lot on Saturday, November 2nd, from 8-11 a.m. Donations are needed to help purchase items for the kits. To donate, please mark your check or envelope for "Ingathering." If you have questions about the Ingathering, please speak with Roni Timmerman.

HomeTouch Mailing for Homebound Members



20 members and friends of St. Paul's currently receive our weekly HomeTouch mailing, which includes a devotion, a few activities (word puzzles, etc.), a bulletin, and occasionally photos of recent church events or nature. Please contact the office if you are homebound and would like to be added to the list.

Bishop Bigham-Tsai to Return to Iowa

The North Central Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy has selected Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai to return to Iowa. Additionally, she will co-serve in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference with Bishop David Bard. Bishop Bard will also oversee the Michigan Annual Conference. Please join us in celebrating Bishop Kennetha's return to Iowa, and pray for all our bishops.



United Women in Faith Buzz

United Women in Faith Executive Board

No meeting until September

Charity Circle

No meeting until September

Grace Circle

See below.



Ladies Salad Potluck



Grace Circle of St. Paul's United Women in Faith invites all women of the church to a salad potluck on Wednesday, August 14th, at 6 p.m. All United Women in Faith members as well as all other women in the congregation are invited to attend! Please bring a salad to share.

Announcements & Updates

Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social
At the Larrabee Community Center
Sunday, August 11, 2024
4:30 P.M To 6:30 P.M.

FREE WILL OFFERING INCLUDES:
 Tavern, Hot Dog, OR Coney
 Homemade Dessert & Drink

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS MISSION PROJECTS



Hosted by the Larrabee United Methodist Church

Building Use Update

Becky Lickiss has been renting a room on the second floor of the education building for Studio Lickiss, a piano and voice lessons studio. In August, Studio Lickiss will be expanding and moving to 204 W. Maple Street, across from the library. Becky has been a great renter, and we wish her well on her new endeavor. Here in the office, we'll miss seeing all the kids coming and going for lessons.



Vacation Bible School Decorating

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate for Vacation Bible School on July 2nd!



FROM THE OFFICE OF
BISHOP
KENNETHA J. BIGHAM-TSAI

The Peace of Christ in the Midst of Trouble

"I've said these things to you so that you will have peace in me. In the world, you have distress. But be encouraged! I have conquered the world." John 16: 33

As we drove back from the North Central Jurisdictional Conference on Saturday, presidential candidate Donald Trump was shot, the bullet grazing his ear. We are grateful that he was not seriously injured. However, a spectator at the rally was killed as he tried to protect his family. Others were gravely wounded.

No one knows for sure the motivations of the shooter. Still, someone has tried to kill another human being in the context of a political campaign. What many have feared in the heightened polarization of our current political environment has happened.

Friends, we must pray that our nation does not succumb to the intoxication of violence. We must find ways to lower tensions and make clear that we cannot justify violence for any reason. We also must not give energy to conspiracy theories. Law enforcement is investigating this incident as an assassination attempt and characterizing it as anything other than that is wrong. It is, as well, abhorrent to suggest that certain groups of people, because of gender, immigration status, or race, are somehow at fault. If you hear conspiracy theories like these or see them online, let them stop with you.

My prayer is that amid the tribulation around us, we will remember the source of our peace—Jesus Christ, who has already conquered the world. With Christ at our center, we can lead in this troubled world in ways that bring peace. With Jesus at our center, we can be witnesses to his love.

Blessings in Christ,
 Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai

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.

"Tips & Tools for Family Caregivers"

- <https://iumf.giftlegacy.com/?pageID=31&docID=1065>

"Church Camp Changed My Life"

- <https://www.umc.org/en/content/church-camp-changed-my-life-united-methodists-look-back>

"Vehicle Fire Spreads to Rock Branch Church"

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