

## Thank You Notes

Dear All,

I want to thank you for the donation to the CAP Pantry for food to feed the needy. I wish you could see the smiles and thanks we get when we give them the food when they thank us.

Love,  
Teresa and all the volunteers

Thank you to Glenda Parrish for the copy paper and stickers for the *HomeTouch* mailings.

Dear Mike and S.P.R.C. Committee,

Thank you so much for the lovely card and gift. That was such a nice idea and very thoughtful of you. I have already used it, and I appreciate that so much.

Sincerely,  
Betty Point

Pastor Mike, Jennifer, and everyone at St. Paul's UMC,

Thank you for recognizing me and for the gift of Chamber Bucks and for the anonymous gift card for coffee. It really means so much! Thank you all for everything you do!

Nicole Hoskinson



The Cherokee Elementary and Middle Schools would like to thank Monica, Craig, and the Teen Time group for the donations of the hats, gloves, and socks at Christmas time. We truly appreciate you

thinking of our kids, especially with the recent freezing temperatures!

Thank you to Jeff and Patti Blum for the pink and purple copy paper for the office.

Thank you to Roni Timmerman for the stickers for the *HomeTouch* mailings.

John and Jan Cook would like to thank the congregation for your prayers, notes, and text messages of support. John remains on a rehab floor at the hospital in Omaha. (Cards may be sent to their Cherokee PO Box.)

Thank you to the St. Paul's UMC family for their cards and prayers at the time of my brother Dick's death. Your support helped make a hard time easier.

Mary Jo & Jack Poggenklass

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

For the prayers in which you sought God's help for me, the messages you sent, as well as for Pastor Agnew's personal checking during my recent illness, I am so very grateful. That so many at St. Paul's United Methodist Church remembered me and cared gave me great joy. Thanks to every one of you, and may God's blessings be on each. I have recovered and am feeling well.

Jean Rowe

## Missions News

### Salvation Army Bell Ringing Update

The Salvation Army bell ringing total is now at \$6,086.85. Many thanks to all the volunteers who either rang bells or donated money and to the three guys (Chuck Tolzin, Dave Appleby, and Jeff Blum) who set up equipment, took down equipment, and got the money donations ready to deposit. "Many hands make light work." 90% of the money donated in Cherokee County stays in our county to help those persons or families who are in need of emergency welfare assistance with essentials, whether it is food, clothing, utilities, or children's school supplies. Thank you, one and all.

Mary Jo Carnine  
The Salvation Army Volunteer Chairperson  
for Cherokee County

### Christmas Eve Offering Update

\$2,010 was donated to the Rotary Backpack Program by our congregation. Wow!!!

## 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.

### UMC: Journey of a Dollar (video)

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EThnkkQc\\_j0&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EThnkkQc_j0&t=2s)

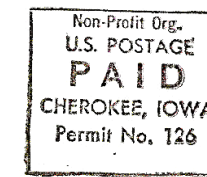


### 10 Day Wesley Pilgrimage in England

- <https://mailchi.mp/umcdiscipleship/pilgrim-times-april-2875755?>

### "Conference Nominations Committee Encourages Completing Leadership Interest Forms"

- <https://www.iaumc.org/newsdetail/conference-nominations-committee-encouraging-leadership-interest-forms-18203717?>



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**Camp Sunday**  
**February 18, 2024**

A representative from Lake Okoboji United Methodist Camp & Retreat Center will be here during Sunday School (9:00 a.m.) and worship (10:10 a.m.) to share about summer church camp opportunities for kids, youth, and adults. Remember, our Missions Committee pays 75% of the registration fee for those attending from our congregation. Join us on February 18th to learn more about this fun opportunity!





# THE DOME

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

## February 2024

### A Moment With Mike

As we head into February, we are quickly approaching the season of Lent. Lent is a forty day (not counting Sundays) time period beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday, which is the Saturday before Easter. During this time, we focus on the life, suffering, and death of Jesus, and we also acknowledge our own sinfulness and mortality. Our lives are daily sustained by God's mercy and grace. Far from being a depressing time, Lent gives us an opportunity to examine our lives and to seek to do better. It is a time for repentance and rededication. I hope you can join us for our services during the Lenten season. It all begins on February 14th with an Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. In addition to our Sunday services, we will have two Lent Bible study groups meeting to read through Tom Berlin's book *The Third Day*. Details on times and cost of the study are included in this newsletter. I hope you can join one of these groups, although if you cannot, you may still purchase a copy of the book to read on your own. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week. During this time, we will have a Holy Thursday service at 7 p.m. on March 28th, and a Good Friday service at 7 p.m. on March 29th. Then, we will celebrate Easter on March 31st with an early service at 8 a.m., brunch from 8:45-9:45 a.m., Sunday School at 9 a.m., and a second worship service at 10:10 a.m. Whatever level of involvement you are able to give to the season, we hope you will be blessed as we await the celebration of Christ's resurrection.



God Bless,  
Pastor Mike Agnew

### "When did Ash Wednesday begin, and why do we celebrate it?"

"Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, and spiritual discipline. Although Ash Wednesday has ancient roots, it does not appear in the rituals of The United Methodist Church or our predecessor denominations until the 20th century. Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Ashes are an ancient symbol. In Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). After expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the first human beings are told by God, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19 NRSV). The Hebrew word translated *dust* is occasionally translated *ashes* elsewhere. Throughout scripture, ashes are part of rituals when people seek forgiveness and mourn their sin (See Numbers 19:9, 17, Hebrews 9:13, Jonah 3:6, Matthew 11:21, and Luke 10:13, among others.). As the ashes are placed on the forehead, words such as these are spoken: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," recalling God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19, or "Repent, and believe the gospel," recalling the message of both John the Baptist and Jesus (Mark 1:15)."



From: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-when-did-ash-wed-begin-and-why-do-we-celebrate-it>

## Worship Notes

### Greeters at the North Doors

- 2/4 Stan & Brenda DeRoo
- 2/11 Judy Grienke-Miller
- 2/18 Rod & Liza Parker
- 2/25 John & Kay O'Connor



### Acolytes

- 2/4 Brittany Kannegieter & Ally Timmerman
- 2/11 Open - Sign up by emailing Pastor Mike.
- 2/18 Clayton Scherbring & Parker Wych
- 2/25 Kennedy Steward & Madi Daum

### Liturgists

- 2/4 Don Blackstone
- 2/11 Open - Sign up in narthex or church office.
- 2/18 Barb Kratz
- 2/25 Open - Sign up in narthex or church office.

### Children's Time

- 2/4 Connie Hankens
- 2/11 Peggy Corrington
- 2/18 Lake Okoboji UM Camp staff
- 2/25 Open - Sign up in narthex or church office.

### Ushers

The Knob Family

### Altar Flowers

- 2/4 Dick & Betty Point
- 2/11 Micki Conley
- 2/18 Madi Stief
- 2/25 Micki Conley



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

- 2/4 Jen Gaydo
- 2/11 Heidi Gerstandt
- 2/18 Sophie Scherbring
- 2/25 Open



Children of all ages are welcome in our worship service! If you prefer, we also have a staffed nursery during the school year for infants through 2nd graders that is located on the second floor of the education wing in the first classroom closest to the sanctuary.



### Upcoming Sermons

- 2/4 "The Church" Hebrews 10:19-25
- 2/11 "Sanctification" Hebrews 5:12-6:3
- 2/14 "This Terrible, Beautiful Life" (Ash Wednesday)

### Lenten Sermon Series

#### The Greatest Stories: Exploring the Parables of Jesus

Jesus loved to tell stories, most of which were made up to make a point about what it means to live in the kingdom of God. In this Lenten series, we will explore some of these stories and what they have to teach us about how to live as followers of Christ.

- 2/18 "The Dangers of Weeding" (Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43)
- 2/25 "That's Not Fair" (Matthew 20:1-16)
- 3/3 "When Religion Blinds" (Matthew 21:28-46)
- 3/10 "Investing in the Kingdom" (Matt. 25:14-29)
- 3/17 "An Inclusive Invitation" (Luke 14:15-24)

### 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.



### Weather Cancellations



Please stay tuned to our Facebook page, KCHE radio, KTIV TV, and KCAU TV for any worship and/or Sunday School cancellations.

### Attendance

Date	Worship	Sunday School	Wed.	Confirmation	Teen Time
			1/3	12	-
1/7	94	30	1/10	-	snow
1/14	online	-	1/17	11	14
1/21	84	28	1/24	-	13



## Church Family News

### With Sympathy & Prayers

**WILLIAM JOHN "BILL" LENZ**, 96, of Cherokee, formerly of Sutherland, passed away on January 3rd at Accura Nursing Home in Cherokee. Visitation and a funeral service were held on January 6th at Boothby Funeral Home, with Pastor Mike Agnew officiating. Burial was in Waterman Cemetery at Sutherland.

**RUBY ROSE JOHNSON**, 83, of Cherokee passed away on January 7th at Accura Healthcare in Cherokee. Visitation was held on January 10th, with a funeral service on January 11th, both at Boothby Funeral Home. Burial was in the Afton Township Cemetery at rural Cherokee. Ruby is the wife of Larry Johnson.

Please keep Mary Jo and Jack Poggenklass in your prayers, as **Mary Jo's brother, Dick**, passed away unexpectedly on January 11th.

**DONALD D. PARROTT**, 77, of Washta passed away January 9th at MercyOne Siouxland Medical Center in Sioux City. Visitation and a funeral service were held on January 13th at the River Valley High School North Gymnasium at Correctionville. Burial was in the Sunset View Cemetery at Washta. Donald is the brother-in-law of Phyllis Parrott.

**GEORGE H. BREWER**, 89, of Cherokee passed away on January 12th at his home. Visitation was held on January 15th, with a funeral service on January 16th, both at the Boothby Funeral Home. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery at Cherokee. George is the grandfather of Kirk Stowater (fiancé of Bailey Gaydo).

**PHILLIP MICHAEL "MIKE" BRODERICK**, 51, passed away on January 14th from liver cancer. A visitation is scheduled for Thursday, February 8th, from 10-11 a.m., followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m., and concluding with a luncheon immediately following services at Lutheran Church of Hope, 925 Jordan Creek Parkway, West Des Moines. Mike is the husband of Emily (Vredenburg), and they have four daughters, Grace, Ireland, Piper, and Campbell.

**CHARLES (CHUCK) LUNDQUIST**, 82, of Aurelia, passed away on January 10th at the Accura Healthcare of Aurelia. Private family services will be held at a later date. Chuck is the father of Deborah (Allen) Stange, the grandfather of Stephanie Stange (Nick Radke) and Brett (Kelsi) Stange, the brother-in-law of Joanne Lundquist, and the uncle of Kent (Nicci) Lundquist.



### 80th Birthday Celebration



You're invited to help Richard Dorr celebrate his 80th birthday on Saturday, February 10th, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Yacht Club.

### Welcome, Little One!

Nicole and Kyle Pederson welcomed a baby girl, Olivia Rose, on January 4, 2024. Olivia weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz. and was 20" long and was welcomed home by big sister, Ava. Proud grandparents are Denny and Laurie Gerstandt.



## Christian Education News

### February Sunday School & Children's Choir Update

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, February 25th. 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.

### Confirmation Schedule

The confirmation class will meet on January 31st, February 21st, and February 28th from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in Feller Lounge. A field trip to Congregation Beth Shalom, a Jewish synagogue in Sioux City, is also scheduled for Friday, February 16th, from 4-9 p.m.

### Teen Time Schedule

Teen Time, a gathering for high schoolers at Craig & Monica Schmidt's home (409 Centennial Dr.), meets on Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m., except on the first Wednesday of the month when it is cancelled to allow the kids to attend Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

### FCA's Community Youth Night

Teens in 7th-12th grade are invited to Fellowship of Christian Athlete's Community Youth Night on Wednesday, February 7th, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church (709 W. Cedar, Cherokee). Come for a Bible lesson, fun, to see your friends, and to enjoy a free meal. See Mrs. Anderson with any questions.

### Youth Ski Trip

Teens in 7th-12th grade are invited on a ski trip to Mount Kato on Saturday, March 9th, weather permitting. Adult chaperones will also be needed. Stay tuned to upcoming bulletins and our Facebook page for details.



## The Season of Lent

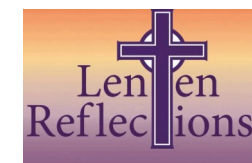
### "What is Lent, and why does it last forty days?"

"Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on (our) relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days, because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection." From: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-lent-and-why-does-it-last-forty-days>

### Free Lenten Devotionals

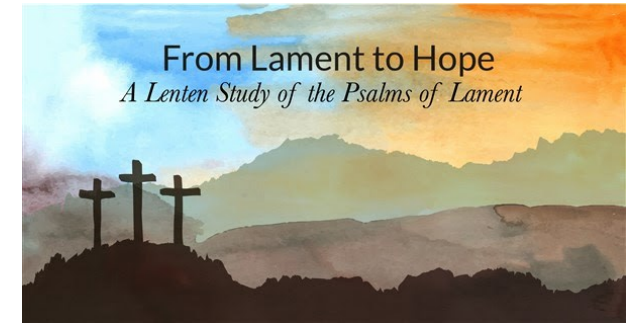
Lenten devotionals are available in the narthex and on the table outside the church office. These are provided free of charge by the Society of St. Andrew, a ministry that gleans America's fields to feed America's hungry. Stop by the church to get yourself a copy, and take one for a friend!

### Sermons Ala Carte



Sermons Ala Carte, community Lenten services held at Memorial Presbyterian Church, will take place on Wednesdays at 12:05 p.m., with lunch to follow at 12:30 p.m. for \$5/person. This year's theme will be the fruit of the spirit.

- 2/14: "Love"  
Philip Beisswenger of Memorial Presbyterian
- 2/21: "Patience"  
Jon Riggert of Trinity Lutheran
- 2/28: "Peace"  
David Hall of First Church of Christ
- 3/6: "Faithfulness"  
Dan Rupp of Immaculate Conception
- 3/13: "Joy"  
Nelson Jenkins of Meriden Evangelical Free
- 3/20: "Gentleness and Self-Control"  
Andy Brown of Oakdale Evangelical Free



The psalms were Israel's hymnbook, and psalms of lament were Israel's expression of grief in the midst of trial. Bishop Kennetha invites you to join her for a conference-wide online Lent study that will explore both personal and communal psalms as we focus on events impacting our world and our lives. In particular, we will pray for peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine, and our own nation. As we move from Lent to Easter, we will see how the psalms can lead us to hope. This Lenten study will give us the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with each other and with our worldwide United Methodist connection as we invite special guests to share on the topics we address. We will conclude with an annual conference-wide opportunity to worship together and take action for peace. Sessions will be held on Zoom over four Tuesday nights (Feb. 27th, March 5th, 12th, and 19th), beginning at 7:00 pm. Participants will have an opportunity for conversation and prayer in breakout rooms. Register at <https://www.iaumc.org/newsdetail/from-lament-to-hope-a-lenten-study-with-bishop-kennetha-of-the-psalms-of-lament-18228409>, or stop by the office for assistance.

## 2024 Lent Studies



Join Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas as they feel the despair of losing Jesus and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the resurrection. This study, based on Tom Berlin's book, *The Third Day: Living the Resurrection*, traces events around these characters, along with Paul and the disciples at Emmaus, and how the resurrection transforms their lives.

Two groups are available, with each group covering the same material. A Zoom option can also be provided. Please sign up in the narthex on Sundays, or call the church office during the week (712-225-3955). The cost of the study is \$17/person and can be paid in the office or by placing your payment in the offering plate marked for "Lent study." Financial assistance is available, if needed.

**Sundays at 6:30 p.m.** OR **Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.**  
February 18 & 25      February 15, 22, & 29  
March 3, 10, 17, & 24      March 7, 14, & 21

St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
531 W. Main Street, Cherokee, IA 51012

## Announcements & Updates

### Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 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. Thanks to Rod Raveling for providing breakfast pizza at the January meeting.



An online training to learn strategic and practical ways to engage kids and their families in church will take place on Thursday, February 29th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for \$49 per person. Five major areas of focus will be covered: kid's programs with the whole family in mind, celebrating faith milestones that become foundational for life, creating a safe and welcoming environment, development of curriculum content and context specific to your community, and hosting outreach events that broaden your connection to new, young families! Pastor Mike is registered to attend this training. Let him know if you are interested as well. More information is available at <https://sharechurch.com/event/kids-family-ministries-making-your-church-the-best-place-to-raise-a-family/>.

### District Town Hall Meetings with our Bishop

This winter and spring, you are invited to one of five district town halls as we continue to claim our identity as United Methodists. The focus of our gatherings will be on our mission, vision, and core values at the Iowa Annual Conference. Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai will be present at each of these five gatherings for a time of teaching, and, together, we will share stories about what it means to be engaged and connected with one another. Each district will also have a virtual option for joining, which will take place on Sunday afternoons from 2-4 pm. More details will be coming soon, but save the date for the gathering in YOUR district.

- 2/11 Riverview Park
- 3/3 Aldersgate
- 3/17 Pictured Rocks
- 4/7 **Camp Clear Lake** (This is our district.)
- 5/19 Golden Valley



### Pictorial Directories Available

Copies of the new pictorial directory are still available. Please take only one per household.

## Announcements & Updates

### Women's Conference

Oakdale Evangelical Free Church (1207 450th Street, Meriden) invites all women to a conference on Friday, February 23rd, from 6:15-9:30 p.m. and Saturday, February 24th, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost is only \$20/person. Please register at [oakdalechurch.com](http://oakdalechurch.com).



The meal includes a hot dog, a small bag of chips, and a can of soda or bottled water. Additional concessions are available throughout the game. Offer only available online! This event is at Wells Fargo Arena, 233 Center Street, Des Moines, Iowa.

### 2024 Pledge Update

Thank you to everyone who turned in pledge cards in support of our 2024 budget. As of January 15th, pledge totals are as follows:

	2024	2023
General Fund	\$124,356	\$138,412
Capital Fund	\$ 21,025	\$ 19,555
Next Generation	\$ 20,121	\$ 16,641
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$165,502</b>	<b>\$174,608</b>

### 2023 Financial Update

The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 30th, at 7:00 p.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall to review our 2023 finances. Stay tuned for an update.

### Scholarship Opportunities

The United Methodist Church has a variety of scholarships available for high school seniors and college students. Check out these sites for more information.

- <https://iumf.org/scholarships/>
- <https://umhcf.org/scholarships/apply/>
- <https://www.iaumc.org/ccl-stouffer-trust>

### Other Upcoming Meetings and Events

Mon. & Wed.	8:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous (NE door and downstairs)
Wednesdays	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir (sanctuary) Chancel Choir (choir room)
Thurs., 2/1	5:30 p.m.	Outreach & Connections Team (Feller Lounge)
Sat., 2/3	8:30-11:30 a.m.	S. Dining Hall reserved
Tues., 2/6	9:30 a.m.	Visitation Team (library)
Sat., 2/10	—	S. Dining Hall reserved
Sun., 2/11	2:00 p.m.	Worship at The Gardens
Tues., 2/20	—	Newsletter info due
	10:30 a.m.	Communion at Viola's
	11:15 a.m.	Communion at Accura
Tues., 2/27	1:10 p.m.	Newsletter assembly (lib.)
Wed., 2/28	10:30 a.m.	The Gardens study

## United Women in Faith Buzz

### UW Faith Executive Board

Monday, February 12th, at 9:30 a.m.  
Schuldt Dining Hall

### Charity Circle

Wednesday, February 21st, at 1:30 p.m.  
Schuldt Dining Hall

Hostess: Roni Timmerman; Program: Ervina Scott

### Grace Circle

No February meeting.

### Joy Circle

Wednesday, February 21st, at 9:30 a.m.  
Schuldt Dining Hall

Hostess: Jeanne Blackstone; Program: Sally Knoblen

### UW Faith Special Recognition Pin Recipients



On Sunday, January 28th, Whitney Robinson, Miranda Cook, Matt Hoskinson, and Nicole Hoskinson (not pictured) were honored during worship and received special recognition pins from United Women in Faith with gratitude for their acts of service at St. Paul's.

## Suicide Grief Support Group

Date: Every other Tuesday at 6:30pm

Beginning February 6th, 2024

Location: Cherokee Regional Medical Center

If you have been affected by suicide (recently or long ago), and you are in high school or older, please join us for this grief support group.



RSVP requested to provide free materials:

Kayla Mayer  
kmayer@cherokeeemc.org  
712.225.2129



# Cavaliers Soup Dinner



When: Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024  
Serving from 11:00-1:00

Where: St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Adults: \$7  
Children (Ages 2-10): \$5

Hosted by Cherokee Cavaliers 4-H Club

Tickets available from any Cavaliers member or at the door.  
To-Go orders available!

### The Upper Room Devotionals Available

We have extra copies of the January/February *The Upper Room* devotionals available, and the March/April copies have also arrived. Both will be available in the narthex and on the table outside the office.