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

June 2026

St. Paul's UMC

Sunday School/Adult Class:
resumes in September

Summer Worship: 9:30 a.m.

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

Address:

531 W. Main Street
Cherokee, IA 51012

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(712) 225-3955*

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cherokeespumc@gmail.com*

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Website:

www.cherokeemethodist.com



Find us on Facebook
and your podcast app.

Pastor Mike's Cell:

(563) 506-7412

Pastor Mike's Email:

michael.agnew@iaumc.net

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

Bell Choir Director:

Dusty Basten

Chancel Choir Director:

Kathy Brandt

A Moment with Mike

As a church, we have had quite a month, including celebrations as well as many difficulties and tragedies. We recently finished out the Sunday School, Adult Class, and Teen Time year and are grateful to our teachers for their great work planning and teaching. Our Chancel Choir and Bell Choir recently finished out their seasons, and we are grateful for the music they have shared with us. In worship, we celebrated several students in our congregation graduating from high school and college, gave thanks for mothers, and celebrated a baptism.

In many ways, it has been a good month, but in other ways, it has been hard. We had to say goodbye to three faithful members of our church – Jeanine Schroder, Don Johnson, and Roni Timmerman. We give God thanks for their lives. We have also had many struggles, most recently with storm damage, whether it be tree damage, destruction of property, or both. We are grateful no lives were lost in the storm, but dealing with damage can take a toll. In addition, others in our community have dealt with great loss.

Life is filled with both tragedy and celebration. The author of Psalm 23 describes life well when he writes that God leads him to green pastures and still waters but is also with him as he goes through the valley of the shadow of death. The main idea here is that God is with us in all seasons of life. There are good times, there are terrible times, and the good news of the Gospel is that God is with us in both and promises that terrible times will not last. In the end, all will be well. So, we take this Gospel message with us as we live our lives in such a way that we can bring good to this world while we live in it, just as those who have gone before us have done. It's our turn to make this world a better place. Praise God for this gift and responsibility.

God Bless,

Pastor Mike Agnew



Thank You Notes

It is with a great amount of gratitude that I want to thank everyone for their cards, texts, well-wishes, and prayers following my gallbladder surgery. I truly did not realize how sick I was. Thank you. ~Glenda Parrish

Thank you to the following volunteers who delivered Mobile Meals in May: Dave and Linda Appleby, Denise Green, Jeff Blum, Larry and Shelley Lenz, Louie and Sheree Hausmann, Marla Conley, Micki Conley, and Chuck and Julie Tolzin.

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

Thank you to everyone who donated candy for the rodeo parade.

Thank you to Meribeth Adams for checking the answering machine during the Agnews' vacation and to Chuck Tolzin and Denise Green for covering the worship service while Pastor Mike was on vacation.

April & May Happenings

Young Life Snacks

On April 29th, the Outreach and Connections Team provided snacks for Young Life, a community youth group. Thanks to the team for their efforts! Photo credit to Miranda Cook.



Sunday School Celebration

May 3rd was the last day of children's Sunday School for this school year. The kids had an awesome time outside in the morning and then enjoyed a fun afternoon at Cherokee Tumbling. Thank you to all the Sunday School teachers and helpers and to the parents and kids for prioritizing Christian education. See our Facebook page for many more photos.



Baccalaureate

The Cherokee County Ministerial Association sponsored a baccalaureate service for the 2026 Cherokee Washington High School seniors on May 10th in the high school auditorium. Congratulations to the seniors and their families! Thank you to Meribeth Adams for providing music. Additional photos are available on our Facebook page.



Graduation Sunday

On May 17th, we celebrated 2026 high school and college graduates from our congregation. Six high school seniors joined Craig & Monica Schmidt and Pastor Mike at Family Table for breakfast. During worship, the high school graduates assisted with the service. Craig and Monica introduced the eight high school graduates in attendance who then told the congregation about their future plans. A slide show presentation honoring high school and college graduates was also part of the service, and high school graduates were given the book *Pocket Prayers for Graduates*.



Congratulations to all graduates and their families!

2026 CHEROKEE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Lola Christensen



Parents: Chris & Mandy Christensen
Future Plans: Lola will be attending the University of Iowa to study pre-podiatry.



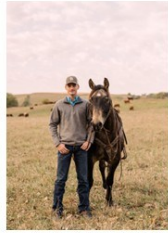
Sophie Lynn Scherbring



Parents: Mark & Becky Scherbring
Future Plans: Sophie will be attending Northwestern College in the fall.



Brody Cowan



Parents: Wade Cowan and Mary Cowan
Future Plans: Brody will be attending Iowa Central Community College to major in agriculture studies and compete on the rodeo team.

Brooklyn Kay Stubbe



Parent: Kayla Stubbe
Future Plans: Brooklyn will be attending Iowa Central Community College to earn a degree in dental hygiene.



Devin Daum



Parents: Jeff & Lacey Daum
Future Plans: Devin will be attending the University of South Dakota in the fall and majoring in criminal justice with a minor in disaster response.

Roman Thill



Parents: Seth & Stephanie Thill
Future Plans: Roman is in the Army National Guard and will be attending Northwest Iowa Community College for powerline technology.

Brock Robert Kannegieter



Parents: Kelly & Kristi Kannegieter
Future Plans: Brock will be attending DMACC in Ankeny and majoring in business.

Kyle James Waldner



Parents: Trent & Korrie Coombs and Jeff Waldner
Future Plans: Kyle will be attending Iowa State University in the fall and majoring in business.

Logan Robinson



Parents: Kim Robinson and Kyle Robinson
Future Plans: Logan graduated in December 2025 and is working as Accessories Manager at Freedom Customs in Brookings, SD.

Macy Belle Gravenish



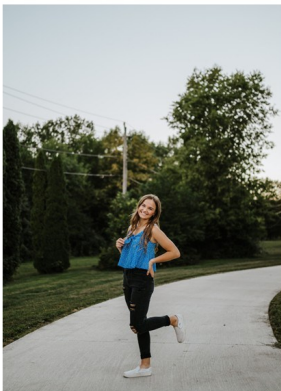
Parents: Scot and Christa Gravenish
Future Plans: Macy plans to continue her education at a community college.



🌟 Additional congratulations to Cam Kohn and Landan Stowater, Trinity Lutheran friends who attended Teen Time! 🌟

2026 COLLEGE GRADUATES

Natalie Harman



University of Iowa

Parents: Andy Harman and Tina Harman
Life Update: Natalie is moving to Florida and will look into furthering her education there after working a year.

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.” Proverbs 16:3

Kylie Jo Christensen



Kirkwood Community College

Parents: Chris & Mandy Christensen and Tiffany Christensen
Life Update: Kylie plans to work at Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, while pursuing her BSN through Morningside University.

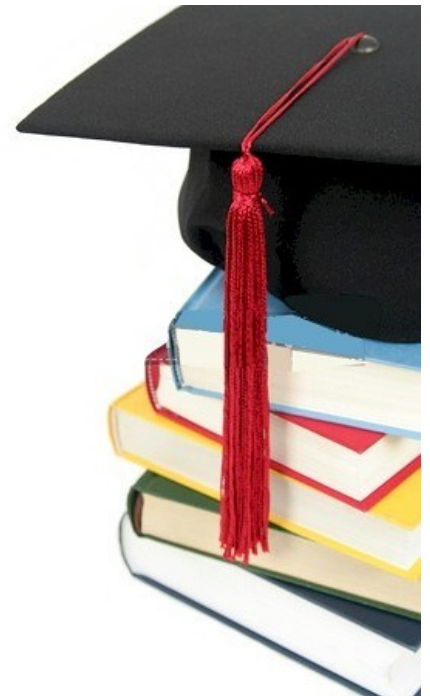


Riley Lubeck



Wayne State College

Elementary Education
Endorsement areas: Reading and Writing as well as Coaching
Fiancé: Austin Wilkie
Parents: Michael & Cara Lubeck
Life Update: Riley will be getting married in June and teaching first grade at Cherokee Elementary School this fall.



Announcements & Updates

St. Paul's Apparel Orders

St. Paul's apparel orders have arrived and are available for pick-up in the narthex. This fundraiser generated \$100 for Vacation Bible School. Thank you!

Devotionals Available

Regular and large print copies of the June *The Upper Room* daily devotional guides are available on the table in the narthex and on the table outside the office.



Summer Fellowship Volunteers

Two volunteers per Sunday are needed to prepare (or purchase) three dozen cookies or dessert bars and serve them for fellowship time following the worship service. To volunteer, please sign up in the narthex on Sunday. Call Betty Point with any questions.



Salvation Army Rep Needed



The Salvation Army is looking for a representative for Cherokee County. This person would be responsible for organizing the bell ringing program as well as providing financial assistance to those in need throughout the year. If you have any questions or are interested in this volunteer position, please call Glenda Parrish at 221-9801.

Prayer Retreat

You are invited to a prayer retreat at Lakes UMC (501 2nd St., Lake View) on June 6th from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The retreat includes worship, four prayer classes, and lunch. Cost is \$20 at the door. Please register to rootconnect365@gmail.com.

Men's Breakfast at Family Table



Men's Breakfast will meet at Family Table on Saturday, June 20th, at 8:30 a.m. We have a gift card to use. Invite a friend, and join us!

Father's Day Photos



If you have a photo of you with your dad or a photo of you as a dad with your children that you would like included on the Father's Day bulletin cover, email it to the office by June 15th.

Summer Special Music Wanted



If you play an instrument or sing, we would love to have you share your gifts during worship! Adults, youth, and children are all invited to participate. Contact the office to schedule a Sunday that works best for you.

Annual Conference

Annual Conference, the yearly business meeting of all United Methodist Churches in Iowa, will be held June 11th-14th at the MidAmerican Energy Company RecPlex in West Des Moines. Pastor Mike will be attending in-person, and Linda Burkhart will be representing St. Paul's by attending online. To learn more, an Annual Conference legislation FAQ can be found at online at <https://www.iaumc.org/newsdetail/faq-about-annual-conference-legislation-19807623>.

Funeral Sign-Up Coming Soon



In early June, we will be creating a sign-up for those who are willing to help with funeral meals. Stay tuned!

RiseFest 2026

RiseFest, a two day Christian music festival, will be held in Sheldon on June 12th and 13th. For more information and tickets, visit risefestiowa.com.



SAVE THE DATE!
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:
SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE
July 19-23, 2026
5:00-7:30 PM
Meal provided each night!
All kids who have completed PK-5th grade are welcome!
Scan the QR code to register, or visit <https://www.cherokeemethodist.com/vbs>.

Announcements & Updates

Sponsor a Child for V.B.S.



To help cover costs associated with Vacation Bible School—roughly \$65.00 per child—we would like you to consider sponsoring a child for V.B.S this year. You don't have to cover the entire \$65. Any amount helps! Mark your check for "V.B.S. sponsor," and place it in the offering plate, drop it in the mail slot (north education entrance), or stop by the office when we reopen in June.

Iowa UMC Camps Registration is Now Open

Scan to Register!



We are Hiring Summer Staff!



Scan to Apply!

Remember, our Missions Committee will pay 75% of the registration fee for those attending UM camp from our congregation. As of May 22nd, we have four St. Paul's youth registered for camp!

Other Upcoming Meetings & Events

Mon. & Wed.	7 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous (NE door by parking lot)
Tues., 6/2	9:30 a.m.	Visitation Team (library)
Wed., 6/3	10 a.m.	Communion (Heartland)
Thurs., 6/4	—	Sch. Dining Hall in use
Tues., 6/9	6:30 p.m.	Administrative Council (Feller Lounge)
Wed., 6/17	10:30 a.m.	Bible study (The Gardens)
Thurs., 6/18	—	Newsletter info due
Tues., 6/30	10:30 a.m.	Communion (Accura)



United Women in Faith Buzz



UWF Executive Board

Monday, June 8, at 9:30 a.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall

June Circle Meetings



Grace Circle
 Wednesday, June 10
 6:30 p.m.
 Schuldt Dining Hall
 Hostess: Karen Aduddell
 Program:

Joyful Charity Circle
 Wednesday, June 17
 1:30 p.m.
 Schuldt Dining Hall
 Hostess: Deb Samuelson
 Program: Deb Samuelson

Program: pg. 49 *Never Stop Learning*

Reading program reports need to be turned in to Jeanne Blackstone by June 15th. Books are available in five categories for four different reading plans and may be checked out in the church library or at Circle meetings. *Response* and *New World Outlook* magazines are in the library.

Missions News

Sleeping Mat Weaving

Tuesdays 1:30 p.m. Feller Lounge



If you have questions about volunteering or how to collect and donate the plastic grocery bags, please see the March newsletter, or call Glenda Parrish at (712) 221-9801.

Orphan Grain Train †

Through June 1st, we are collecting the following items for Orphan Grain Train: clothing, bedding, bath towels, new underwear and socks, medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, shower chairs, commodes), pots, pans, cooking utensils, plastic dishes, and silverware. **Everything must be clean and in good condition, and glass items cannot be accepted.** Donations can be placed in the box trains in the narthex or at the north education entrance. To learn more about Orphan Grain Train, visit <https://www.ogt.org/>. If you have further questions, please contact Sheree Hausmann at (712) 225-5576.

Ingathering 2026

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 on November 7th. These items then go to those in need in the United States and around the world. If you would like to donate to the Ingathering, please mark your check or envelope for "Ingathering." This fall, Ingathering has been moved from St. Paul's U.M.C. to Merville U.M.C.

Church Family News

With Sympathy & Prayers



Donald Ray Johnson, 86, passed away on Sunday, May 3rd, at Accura Healthcare in Cherokee. Visitation was held here at St. Paul's on Saturday, May 16th, with the memorial service to follow. Burial was in the Grandview Cemetery at Quimby, Iowa. Military rites were performed by L.A. Wescott Post #2253 and the Cherokee American Legion. Don is the husband of Martha.



Jeanine R. Schroder, 89, passed away on Tuesday, May 5th, at Heartland Care Center in Marcus. Visitation was held on May 7th at Boothby Funeral Home, and the memorial service was held on May 8th here at St. Paul's. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery at Cherokee.



Veronica J. "Roni" Timmerman, 77, passed away on May 10th at her home. Visitation was held here at St. Paul's on May 17th, and the memorial service was held here on May 18th. Burial was in the Good Hope Cemetery in rural Cherokee. Roni is the mother of Amy (Marlin) Stief, Kent (Natasha) Timmerman, and Adam (Jana) Timmerman.



Kim Ann Daum, 69, passed away on May 10th. Visitation and a prayer service were held on May 13th at Fisch Funeral Home & Monument in Marcus. Additional visitation and a funeral service were held on May 14th at Faith Lutheran Church, Orange City. Burial was in Holy Name Catholic Cemetery in Marcus. Kim is the stepmom of Jeff (Lacey) and Joe (Misty) Daum.



Kiersten Ann Ryherd, 22, passed away on May 18th from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. Kiersten is the daughter of Tom and Keri Ryherd. Tom is the superintendent of Cherokee Community School District. Kiersten's boyfriend is Colton Samsel of our congregation.

It's a Girl!

Laramie Lyn LeLoux, daughter of Madi and Jarod LeLoux, was born on Tuesday, May 5th, at 1:21 a.m. She was 9 lbs. 2 oz. and 22" long. Proud grandparents are Amy and Marlin Stief and Evan and Rhonda LeLoux. Congratulations!



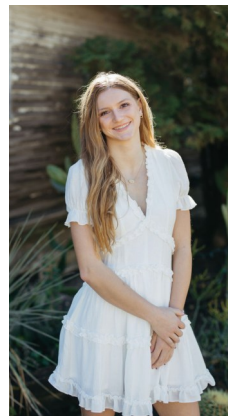
Baptism Blessings



Beckett Lane Tewes, son of Brooklynn and Treven Tewes, was baptized at St. Paul's on Sunday, May 10th. Beckett was born on June 20, 2025. His proud grandparents are Kenny and Melissa Schlenger and Ryan and Chellene Tewes. His sponsors were Brielle Tewes and Drew Ducommun. Congratulations!

Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to Taya Phillips and Sophie Scherbring! They both received Iowa United Methodist Foundation scholarships in addition to the Elsie Stouffer Trust scholarship. Taya attends Morningside University and is the daughter of Curt & Kristal Phillips. Sophie will be attending Northwestern College this fall and is the daughter of Mark & Becky Scherbring.



Left: Taya Phillips

Above: Sophie Scherbring

"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he saves those whose spirits are crushed." Psalm 34:18

Worship Notes

North Door Greeters

- 6/7 John & Kay O'Connor
6/14 Ben & Sharon Bennink
6/21 Curt & Kristal Phillips
6/28 Al & Barb Henn



Liturgists

- 6/7 Bonni Conley 6/21 Sign up in narthex
6/14 Kristal Phillips 6/28 Craig Schmidt



Children's Time on Break

Children's Time will resume in the fall. Thank you to all this year's volunteers!

Ushers

- 6/7 Ervina Scott & Rod Raveling, Chuck & Julie Tolzin, and Shelley Lenz
6/14 Dan & Barb Kratz, Sue & Darrel Paulsen, and Gigi Boothby
6/21 Dean & Glenda Parrish, Kent & Nicci Lundquist, and Jerri Hunt
6/28 Jean & Gene Anderson, Janet & Gary Jordan, and Linda Rutter

Altar Flowers

- 6/7 Brady, Emily, and Laney Pingel
6/14 Kevin & Karla Wilkie
6/21 The Conley family
6/28 Dave, Linda, & Jenn Appleby



Nursery Service on Break

The nursery is unstaffed until fall, but you are welcome to accompany your child there during worship, as needed. There is a smart TV, so you can still watch the service. Thank you to all the nursery attendants!

Communion Stewards

- 6/7 Neil & Jodi Phipps, Linda Rutter, Gigi Boothby, and Curt & Kristal Phillips

Summer Fellowship

- 6/7 Gigi Boothby and Linda Rutter
6/14 Barb & Dan Kratz and Don & Jeanne Blackstone
6/21 Denise Green
6/28 Sign up in narthex.

Current Sermon Series

The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly: The Kings of Israel & Judah

In this series, we are looking at some of the major kings of Israel and Judah. We will hear inspiring stories of faith as well as disturbing stories of what can happen when those in leadership abuse their power to take what they want and hurt others. Through it, we will learn the importance of using what God has given us for the good of all.

- 5/31 "We Want a King!" (1 Samuel 8:1-22)
6/7 "The Rise and Fall of Saul"
(1 Samuel 10:17-24; 15:10-11)
6/14 Pastor Mike at Annual Conference
6/21 "David: A Man After God's Own Heart?"
(2 Samuel 7:8-16; 11:1-5)
6/28 "Absalom: Staging a Coup"
(2 Samuel 15:1-14)
7/5 "Solomon: The Cost of Wealth"
(1 Kings 3:4-15; 10:23-25)
7/12 "Jeroboam and Rehoboam: A Kingdom Split"
(1 Kings 12:1-17)
7/19 "Ahab and Jezebel: When Power Corrupts"
(1 Kings 16:29-33; 21:1-16)
7/26 "Jehu: King of Bloodshed"
(2 Kings 9:6-10; 10:18-27)
8/2 "Hezekiah's Bold Faith" (2 Kings 18:5-8)
8/9 "Manasseh: The Worst of the Worst"
(2 Kings 21:1-6; 10-16)
8/16 "Josiah: Rediscovering Faith"
(2 Kings 22:1-2, 11-20)
8/23 "The End of the World as They Knew It"
(2 Kings 23:36-24:4; 24:8-12; 25:1-6)



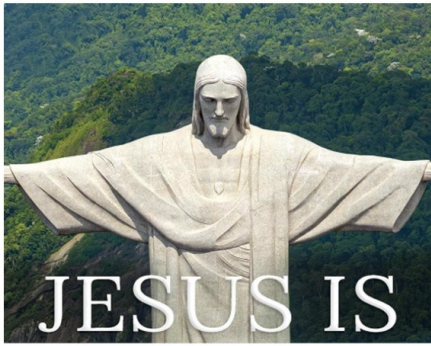
Online Worship & Sermons Available

The full worship service is available live on our YouTube channel and as a recording after the fact on our YouTube and Facebook pages. To access it, go to cherokeemethodist.com, and click on the red and white icon on the upper right of the homepage. This will take you to our YouTube page. A link for our Facebook page can also be found on our website and is the blue and white icon on the upper right of the homepage. If you need assistance, please stop by the office, or pick up printed directions on the tables in the narthex and outside the office. Pastor Mike also has a sermon podcast. The link for it is the green icon on our website's homepage. You can also listen to his sermons on KCHE at 8:45 a.m. on Sundays.

Attendance

- 5/3: 91 5/10: 119 5/17: 119
7 Sunday School: 34 Adult Class: 9

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



LIVING in the LORDSHIP of CHRIST

TOM BERLIN

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Summer 2026

Small Group Study

Mondays at 10 a.m.

June 22, 29

July 6, 13, 27

Aug. 3

Sundays at 6:30 p.m.

June 28

July 5, 12, 26

Aug. 2, 9

or

This summer, Pastor Mike will be offering two small group studies over the book *Jesus is Lord: Living in the Lordship of Christ* by Tom Berlin. Both studies cover the same material, and you are welcome to switch between groups as your schedule allows. A Zoom (online) option is also available by contacting Pastor Mike. The cost of the study is \$23/person, but financial assistance is available, if needed. Please sign up in the narthex on Sunday, or call the office during the week.

In this study, pastor and author Tom Berlin explores how embracing Jesus as Lord has reshaped the lives of so many people—both in biblical times and today. With clarity and insight, Berlin shows how the Lordship of Christ impacts every part of our lives: our relationships, our habits, our priorities, and our values. Drawing on a variety of biblical texts, including Exodus, the Psalms, the Gospels, and the Epistles, he invites readers to discover how saying yes to Jesus as Lord leads to lasting joy, renewed purpose, and a deeper faith.