



# THE DOME

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

## February 2026

### St. Paul's U.M.C.

**Worship:**  
10:10 a.m.

**Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m.

**Adult Class:** 9:00 a.m.

**Address:**  
531 W. Main Street  
Cherokee, IA 51012

**Office Telephone:**  
(712) 225-3955

**Office Texting Number:**  
(712) 227-3291

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

**Website:**  
[www.cherokeemethodist.com](http://www.cherokeemethodist.com)

 Find us on Facebook  
and your podcast app.

**Pastor Mike's Email:**  
[michael.agnew@iaumc.net](mailto:michael.agnew@iaumc.net)

**Office Email:**  
[cherokeespumc@gmail.com](mailto:cherokeespumc@gmail.com)

**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

**Pastor:**  
Mike Agnew

**Financial Secretary:**  
Sarah Cook

**Administrative Assistant:**  
Nicci Lundquist

**Custodian:**  
Betty Harman

**Organists/Pianists:**  
Betty Point  
Meribeth Adams  
Chris Andersen

**Chancel Choir Director:**  
**NOW HIRING!**

**Bell Choir Director:**  
Dusty Basten

### A Moment with Mike

As we finish the first month of this year, I think it is safe to say that for the U.S. and the world, it has been a rough start. There are plenty of good things happening as well, but there has also been a lot of unrest and fear. What is happening in Minnesota probably weighs on a lot of us the most, since it is close to home. The problem that we have talking about anything that is going on in the world is that our population is divided, not just by politics, but by our perception of reality. In a world where news sources choose what they do or do not cover based on their viewer's worldview, if we limit ourselves to one particular news slant, we will have very different depictions of reality.

On one side, we have the viewpoint that I.C.E. is looking out for our safety by going after dangerous, violent, illegal criminals, and that by deporting these people, they are making our communities and nation safer. On the other side, I.C.E. is operating almost exclusively with unlawful force, causing untold harm to many and mostly detaining peaceful people.

The truth is somewhere in the middle. There is no doubt that some who are being detained and/or deported are guilty of violent crimes. The stats of how many detained are guilty of violent crimes verses those without a criminal history vary widely, depending on the news source, so it is hard for most of us to know for sure which statistics reflect reality.

Nonetheless, when we look at a variety of news sources, we can find documented cases where I.C.E. is operating without regard to a person's right to due process, the right to not be detained without sufficient cause, and the right to be treated with the dignity that is due to all human beings, regardless of their legal status or past. There are well-documented cases of people being dragged from their home or car and detained for lengthy periods of time before it is determined whether or not they have legal status as U.S. citizens. Many are being questioned and/or detained purely because of their skin color or accent. There have been documented cases of protesters causing violence, and that is regrettable, but there have also been documented cases of peaceful protesters and observers who have been treated with force and physical harm. Many people in Minnesota, including one that I know, are feeling the need to stay indoors, not just because of legal status, but because they aren't white, and they know people who have been detained or attacked unlawfully, regardless of whether or not they have papers with them.

Regardless of how often this is happening, the fact that these stories exist should alarm us. Whether or not the intent was to make communities safer, what I am seeing is that in Minnesota, many do not feel safe. Now, I know there may be some who doubt that these stories of abuse of power are real, but I would invite you to look broadly at news sources to see fully what is taking place. Shouldn't this be something that we as Christians should be concerned about? Shouldn't we be advocating for people, regardless of their legal status, to be treated with the dignity that our constitution and our faith requires? If we want a nation that operates on the principals of Christ, shouldn't our methods reflect the methods and teachings of Christ? And if they aren't, shouldn't that cause us alarm, regardless of our political leanings?

As we continue in this new year, let us pray for those who are living in fear, because they know that, regardless of their legal status, they could be detained at any point, whether their papers are with them or not, because of their skin color or accent. Let us pray for those who have been trying to work through the process of our broken immigration system but are being detained when they show up for their routine courthouse appearances. May we pray for those who have fled to the United States to avoid certain death in their home countries, were declared to be legal as asylum seeking migrants, but whose legal status has suddenly been revoked. May we pray for families who are being separated, whether it be because parents are being deported without warning, or whether it be children who have been here for as long as they can remember being deported to a place they never knew. Finally, let us pray for those who are choosing to protest in the right way, peacefully, and yet are being met with force, harm, or worse.

I am hoping we can all acknowledge that our immigration system has been broken for many years, and people from both parties have been largely unwilling to work together to come up with a sustainable, compassionate solution, which has led us to this point. Hopefully we can also acknowledge that whatever solution there is, what is currently being done is not working well, regardless of who is to blame for that. It is not bringing more peace to our nation, and it is not the most Christlike way. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers! May we, as Christians from many different places on the political spectrum, find a way to work together for a more Christlike way.

God Bless,  
Pastor Mike Agnew

# January Happenings



## Bingo Night!

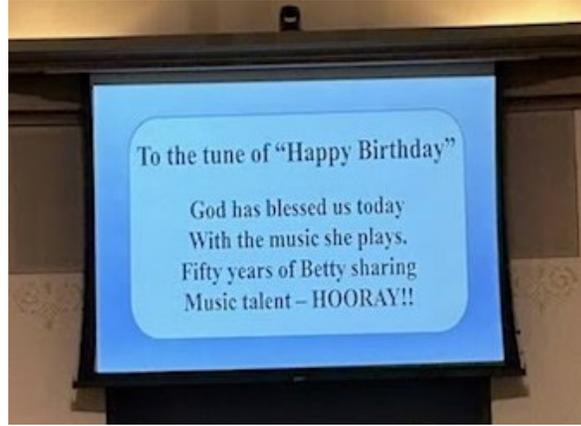
Thank you to the Outreach and Connections Team for hosting a wonderful evening of a soup supper and bingo on Tuesday, January 6th, in Schuldt Dining Hall. Over 100 people were in attendance, and a great time was had by all. Thank you to the many volunteers who made the soups and desserts for this event. Miranda Cook and Heidi Gerstandt were the bingo callers, and they did an excellent job!



# January Happenings

## Celebrating 50 years!

During worship on Sunday, January 18th, we celebrated Betty Point, who has been serving as our organist/pianist for 50 years! The congregation sang the lyrics on the screen to the tune of "Happy Birthday" while waving signs that had "50" on them. Special thanks to Linda Christensen for the presentation of the award. Here are some great photos of this special occasion. If you missed it, you can watch the worship service on our YouTube page or Facebook page. Congratulations, Betty Point, and thank you for your 50 years of service!



# January Happenings

## McDonald's Food Pantry Battle Update



Thanks to the generosity of many, our church won the battle of the churches food pantry drive! We collected 848 items, Immaculate Conception collected 710, and Trinity Lutheran collected 662. Items were given to Immaculate Conception and Trinity Lutheran's food pantries, and the \$500 St. Paul's received from McDonald's will go into our camp fund to help pay for kids in our congregation to go to church camp in the summer. Special thanks to our local McDonald's for putting on what will now be an annual event!

*"...for I was hungry, and you gave me food;  
I was thirsty, and you gave me drink;  
I was a stranger, and you took me in..."*  
Matthew 25:35

### Christmas Eve Special Offering



During the 2025 Christmas Eve candlelight service, a special offering was collected. Through your generous giving, we were able to help feed children in our local community by sharing your gifts with Cherokee Community School District, funding the outstanding lunch accounts for many local children. \$3,199.00 was given by our congregation. Thank you for your generosity!

### Stained Glass Project Update

Thanks to your generosity, the Trustees have enough funds to begin work on the narthex ceiling stained glass. Work in this area began the week of January 19th. As we take this first step in preserving the stained glass in our sanctuary, keep in mind that more gifts are always welcome, since we hope to work on the dome glass in the near future.



### Why (and why not!) Valentine's Day

To read an article about the history of Valentine's Day and how it relates to the church, please visit: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-why-and-why-not-valentines-day>.

# January Happenings

## Sunday School is Fun!

Sunday School is always a special time for the children at St. Paul's. This month, the kids have been learning about all of the different people from the Christmas story after the birth of Jesus. The pictures below, thanks to Heidi Gerstandt, show them learning about the shepherds. They had a relay race including shepherds clothes, a rod, baby Jesus, and a sheep. The group picture is the team who won!



<sup>14</sup> Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14 (New International Version)

## Exciting News!

### Welcome, Little One!

Mitchell and Skylar Stief are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Kimber Jo Stief, who was born on January 6th, at 6:24 p.m. Kimber Jo was 7 lbs. 8 oz. and 20 inches long. Her proud grandparents are Marlin and Amy Stief and great-grandma Roni Timmerman.

*Congratulations!*



### Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School

July 19-23, 2026

Stay tuned for more information!

# Teen Time Announcements & Updates



## Teen Time Movie Night

Teens gathered together on Wednesday, January 7th, at Craig and Monica Schmidt's home for Teen Time. They watched and discussed the movie *Overcomer*.

*High school basketball coach John Harrison and his team face an uncertain future when their town's largest manufacturing plant shuts down unexpectedly. As hundreds of people move away, John reluctantly agrees to coach cross-country, a sport he doesn't even like. His outlook soon changes when he meets Hannah Scott, an unlikely runner who pushes herself to the limit. Inspired by the words and prayers of a new friend, John starts to train Hannah for the biggest race of her young life.*

Everyone agreed that it was a great movie! If you have not seen it yourself, be sure to do so!

## Teen Time Update

Teen Time, a high school youth group, meets on select Wednesdays at Craig & Monica Schmidt's home (409 Centennial Dr., Cherokee), with a free supper beginning at 6:30 p.m. Bible study follows from 7-8 p.m. All high school students are welcome! You do not need to be a member of St. Paul's to attend. If you have any questions, please call Monica Cowan-Schmidt at (712) 229-9936.

*Invite a friend, and join us!*

Wed., 2/4	Young Life
Wed., 2/11	Teen Time
Wed., 2/18	Teen Time
Wed., 2/25	TBD



## Teen Time's Tavern Lunch & Pie Auction

Sunday, March 22  
11:15 a.m.

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

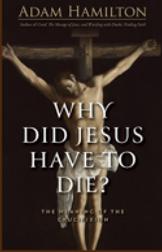
Join us for lunch for a  
freewill donation, with a  
pie auction to follow.

Proceeds go to Teen Time  
(high school youth group)  
for their Christmas  
mission giving.

All members and friends of our congregation are welcome!

# Announcement & Updates

## Lent Studies



**Sundays at 6:30 p.m.** OR **Tuesdays at 10 a.m.**  
Feller Lounge Feller Lounge

February 22nd	February 24th
March 1st	March 3rd
March 8th	March 10th
March 15th	March 17th
March 22nd	March 24th
March 29th	March 31st

The two study groups cover the same material. You are welcome to switch between the groups as your schedule allows, and an online (Zoom) option can also be provided.

*Despite the crucifixion's central place in Christian faith, the New Testament offers few clear answers about how Jesus' death saves, or why, exactly, he had to die. The New Testament writers use a host of metaphors—ransom, sacrifice, reconciliation, victory—but never explain exactly how it works or why it had to happen this way. What if that's because we've been asking the wrong question? What if the cross isn't a transaction to be explained, but a living Word from God meant to transform who we are and how we live?*

**Please sign up in the narthex or by calling the church office.** The cost of the book is \$25, and financial assistance is available.

**St. Paul's United Methodist Church**  
531 W. Main Street, Cherokee, IA 51012  
cherokeemethodist.com  
cherokeespumc@gmail.com  
(712) 225-3955

## Sermons Ala Carte

### Community Lenten Services & Lunches

Wednesdays in Lent at Memorial Presbyterian Church  
127 E. Willow Street, Cherokee, Iowa

Service begins at 12:05 p.m.  
Meal begins at 12:30 p.m. and costs \$5/person.

This year's theme is "Places of the Passion."

**February 18**  
"The Temple"  
Philip Beisswenger  
from Memorial Presbyterian

**March 11**  
"The Courtyard of Calaphas"  
Pastor Brenton Lopez  
from Aurelia First United Methodist

**February 25**  
"The Upper Room"  
Pastor Mike Agnew  
from St. Paul's United Methodist

**March 18**  
"The Praetorium"  
Dan Rupp  
from Immaculate Conception

**March 4**  
"The Garden of Gethsemane"  
David Hall  
from First Church of Christ

**March 25**  
"Golgotha"  
Nelson Jenkins  
from Meriden Evangelical Free

**Join us! Everyone is welcome!**



## Free Lenten Devotionals

Lenten devotionals will be available in the narthex and on the table outside the church office by mid February. 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 to get yourself a copy, and take one for a friend!

## Sermons Ala Carte



Our congregation will help with the meal following Sermons Ala Carte on Wednesday, February 25th. Waitresses, salads, bars, and dish washers are needed. If you are able to help, please sign up in the narthex. Salad bowls will be available in Schuldt Dining Hall on Sunday, February 22nd, so you don't have to worry about getting your dish back. Any type of salad or bars is fine. The main dish will be ham and noodles.

## Upcoming Lenten Sermon Series

During Lent, Pastor Mike will be taking a look at some of the people whose lives were transformed when they encountered Jesus and examine how our own lives can be transformed as well.

- 3/1: Matthew, the Tax Collector (Matthew 9:9-13)
- 3/8: The Woman at the Well (John 4:1-26)
- 3/15: Guest Speaker
- 3/22: Nicodemus (John 3:1-21)
- 3/29: A Traveler, a Thief, & a Guard (Luke 23:26-43)



## Ash Wednesday Service and Imposition of Ashes

February 18, 2026  
7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
531 W. Main Street, Cherokee  
cherokeemethodist.com  
(712) 225-3955



# Announcements & Updates

## Scholarship Opportunities

Scholarships for college students and high school seniors are available through the United Methodist Church. It really is worth applying. Several St. Paul's students have received significant funds for college through these scholarships in the past. Follow the links to learn more.

### Iowa UM Foundation

<https://iumf.org/scholarships/>



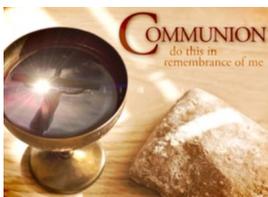
### United Methodist Higher Education Foundation

<https://umhef.org/scholarships/>

### GRASP Scholarship

<https://www.gbhem.org/international/global-education-programs/>

## Communion Sunday



Holy Communion is served to all the first Sunday of each month. You do not need to be a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, or any church, to receive communion.

We invite you to join us for Holy Communion during worship Sunday, February 1st, at 10:10 a.m.



## Summer Camp Registration is Now Open!

Enroll today for a fun and faith-filled summer at Lake Okoboji or Wesley Woods! To view the summer events at Lake Okoboji, visit [www.okobojicamp.com](http://www.okobojicamp.com). To view the summer events at Wesley Woods, visit [www.wesleywoodsiaowa.org](http://www.wesleywoodsiaowa.org).

Then, don't forget to click the "register" button! Need help? Contact Shannon at [camps@iaumc.org](mailto:camps@iaumc.org) or 515-974-8946.

## Have News?



If you have news you would like to share with your church family (engagement, birth of a baby, wedding, death, anniversary, retirement, words of gratitude/thank you, graduation, etc.), please contact the office. It will be included in the monthly newsletter. The deadline for the March issue of *The Dome* will be Thursday, February 19th.

## The Power of Prayer



If you have a prayer request that you would like included on the prayer chain, please call Ervina Scott or the church office.

## Liturgist and Children's Time Volunteers for 2026

If you would like to volunteer to be a liturgist or give the children's time message during worship any Sunday through 2026, there is a 2026 liturgist and children's time message sign-up in the back of the narthex on Sundays, or you may contact the church office. Consider volunteering alone, with a friend, or as a family. We welcome volunteers of all ages!



*God's Love in Action!*

## The Upper Room Devotionals



January/February issues of *The Upper Room* devotionals are available in the narthex and on the table outside the office. Help yourself to this FREE devotional.

## Children's Choir and Noisy Offering



The children's choir (all Sunday School kids PK-5th) will sing Sunday, February 22nd, during worship at 10:10 a.m.

Sunday, February 22nd, we will also have a special noisy offering (spare change) to benefit our children's ministries.



Parents, guardians, grandparents, teachers, neighbors, and friends, join us in worship to witness the kids singing for the glory of God!

## Nursery Help Needed



Nursery helpers are always welcome. If you are interested in joining the rotation, please contact Pastor Mike. Adults and older high school students are welcome to apply. A background check is required for the safety of the children, but that can be easily completed online by Pastor Mike. A \$25/week stipend is available, or you are also welcome to volunteer, if you prefer. The nursery is available for children from birth through 2nd grade.

## Boxed Offering Envelopes Available



There are still a few boxed offering envelope sets for 2026 available in the church office for those who prefer to have a specific envelope for each week's giving.

# Announcements & Updates

## United Women in Faith Buzz

### United Women in Faith Executive Board

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



### Grace Circle

No February meeting for Grace Circle

### Joyful Charity Circle

Wednesday, February 18th  
1:30 p.m.  
Schuldt Dining Hall



Hostess: Ervina Scott Program: Barb Kratz

All women from our congregation and the community are invited to be part of United Women in Faith. Contact the church office or attend a circle meeting if you are interested in joining or learning more about this organization.

*All women are welcome to join a circle!*

## New Administrative Assistant



Our administrative assistant, Nicci Lundquist, resigned to be the new executive director of the Holstein and Lawton Senior Living facilities. Her last day was January 22nd. Jennifer Agnew will be returning as our new administrative assistant on Monday, January 26th.

## HomeTouch Ministry



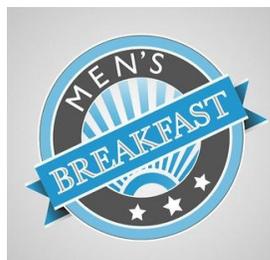
Twenty-one members and friends of St. Paul's currently receive our weekly *HomeTouch* mailing, which includes a devotional, a few activities (word puzzles, etc.), a bulletin, and occasionally photos of recent church events. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, or if you know of someone in our congregation who would like to receive this ministry each week, please contact the church office.

## Early Head Start: A Free Family Resource Program



Mid-Sioux Opportunity's Early Head Start is currently taking applications for their FREE family support and resource program. Early Head Start serves expectant families and children up to the age of three. For more information on this free, home-based program, please call 800-859-2025.

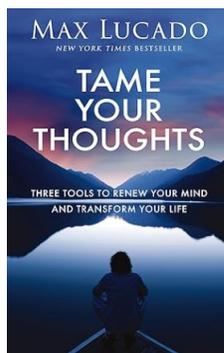
## Men's Breakfast



Men from our congregation and community met in Schuldt Dining Hall for a light breakfast and a short devotional on Saturday, January 17th, at 8:30 a.m. This is always a great way for men to join together in fellowship. The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, February 21st, at 8:30 a.m. You are welcome to invite a friend or neighbor to join you.

*"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose trust is the Lord." Jeremiah 17:7*

## Adult Class Welcomes New Attendees

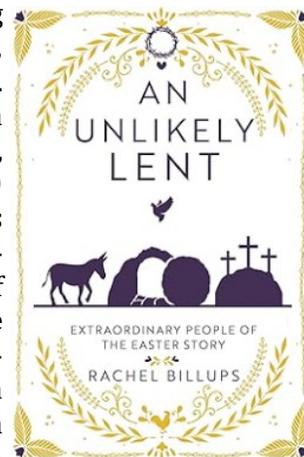


The Adult Class, led by Jan Cook, meets on Sundays from 9-10 a.m. in Feller Lounge. The current study is *Tame Your Thoughts*, written by Max Lucado. All adults are welcome to join this study!

*Faith is a journey where all are welcome!*

## Adult Class Upcoming Lent Study

Plan to attend the upcoming Lent study, *An Unlikely Lent*, written by Rachel Billups. The Adult Class will begin this Lent study on Sunday, February 22nd, from 9-10 a.m. in Feller Lounge. In this study, we recognize the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are at the heart of the story of Easter. But the resurrection was not witnessed in isolation; it unfolded before a crowd. What might the stories of those women and men teach us today? How will they help us step into the story of Easter? Here, we can see what has been overlooked, not just in the grand moments but in the in-between: the silence, the side characters, and the questions.



*Invite a friend to join you for this study.  
All are welcome!*

## Head Start: A Free Preschool Program

If you have a child between the ages of three and four years old, you may qualify for the FREE Head Start or Child Development Program through Mid-Sioux Opportunity. For more information on this free preschool program, please contact 800-859-2025.

## Announcements & Updates



### Special Guest Attends Bible Study

The current Bible study, *Embracing the Uncertain*, written by Magrey deVega, has had 17 attending the Sunday and Thursday sessions. This Bible study has challenged its readers to engage and wrestle with life's uncertainties. Thank you to Magrey deVega for joining our discussions via Zoom on Sunday, January 11th, and Thursday, January 15th. He shared a personal update of himself and the girls, explained how this Bible study came to be, and shared his Biblical perspectives, while discussing the topic of forgiveness. This six week study has had a focus on six post-transfiguration, pre-Passion stories in the Gospels. Each of these stories is a signpost in the Gospel narrative, pointing down at a world filled with uncertainty but pointing us forward to a cross that can show us how to follow Jesus with courage, hope, and obedience.

*The Lent study sign-up is available now. Join us!*

### Upcoming Birthday & Card Shower



Darlene Woltman will be celebrating her 80th birthday on Thursday, January 29th. We thought it would be fun to shower her with cards. Her mailing address is:

Darlene Woltman  
804 W. Bluff Street  
Cherokee, IA 51012

Thank you for your thoughtfulness,  
The family of Darlene Woltman

### Weather Cancellations

As winter weather approaches, please stay tuned to our Facebook page, KCHE radio, KTIV TV, and KCAU TV for worship cancellations.



# Cavaliers Soup Dinner



**When:** Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026  
Serving from 11:00-1:00

**Where:** St. Paul's United  
Methodist Church-Cherokee

Adults: \$7 (\$8 at the door)  
Children (Ages 2-10): \$5 (\$6 at the door)

### Hosted by Cherokee Cavaliers 4-H Club

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

### Popcorn and M&M's



Sunday, February 22nd, the Missions Committee will provide popcorn and M&M snack bags before and after worship. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit children from our congregation who will be attending church camp in 2026. The Missions Committee pays 75% of the registration fee for children, youth, and adults from our congregation attending camp each year. In 2025, five children and youth from our congregation attended camp! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

### Other Upcoming Meetings and Events

Mon. & Wed.	7:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous (NE door)
Tues., 2/3	9:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Visitation Team (library) Administrative Council (Feller Lounge)
Wed., 2/4	10:00 a.m.	Communion at Heartland
Tues., 2/10	9:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Cherokee County Ministerial Assoc. (Feller) Finance Committee (Schuldt Dining Hall)
Thurs., 2/19	12 p.m.	Newsletter info due
Tues., 2/24	11:00 a.m.	Communion at Accura
Wed., 2/25	10:30 a.m.	Bible study at The Gardens

# Announcements & Updates

## Thank you

On January 5th, volunteers helped with undecorating the sanctuary from Advent and Christmas. Thanks to everyone who assisted with this project!

Thank you to the helpers who put the chairs away after Marjorie Goodburn's funeral. This was very kind of you.

Betty Harman

Thank you, Steph Rochleau, for your special act of kindness shown to our Teen Time youth for movie night. She packaged and delivered popcorn and M&M's for all to enjoy. We appreciate your giving heart.

Craig and Monica Schmidt and all our Teen Time youth

Thank you to Lois Eggerth for donating the stamps used for the *HomeTouch* mailings each week.

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

## With Sympathy & Prayers



MARJORIE L. GOODBURN, 99, of Cherokee, Iowa, passed away on Monday, January 5, 2026, at Accura Nursing Home in Cherokee. Memorial services were held on Saturday, January 10, at 10 a.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Cherokee. Private family burial was held at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cherokee. Visitation

with the family present took place on Friday, January 9, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Boothby Funeral Home in Cherokee. In lieu of flowers, the family requested memorials in Marjorie's honor be given to St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Online condolences may be left at [www.boothbyfuneral.com](http://www.boothbyfuneral.com).

## Thank you

To Pastor Mike and SPRC,  
Thank you so much for the lovely card and also the Cherokee Chamber bucks. I really appreciated that. Thanks to you for all you do for our church.

Sincerely,  
Betty Point

Pastor Mike and SPRC,  
Thank you for the gift of Cherokee bucks! I enjoy my work at the church and appreciate your kindness.

Happy New Year,  
Sarah Cook

Thank you to Jeff Blum for delivering the donated gloves, hats, scarves, earmuffs, and socks from the mitten trees to the Cherokee Community School. Thank you to everyone who donated these items.

To St. Paul's,  
Thank you so much to the kitchen workers and those who provided desserts for Mom's service. You certainly helped make it a very special day.

The family of Marge Goodburn

Pastor Mike and the SPRC,  
Thank you so much for honoring me on Sunday. The glass trophy is just beautiful, and I love the words inscribed on it. This was a complete surprise to me, so you all did a good job of keeping a secret. Playing at St. Paul's has been quite a journey, but I have a lot of wonderful memories.

Love, Betty Point

Thank you so much to the anonymous donor for the Cherokee Locker gift certificates for the Sunday School teachers. That is so generous, and we are so blessed with the support from our SPUMC family!

Miranda Cook and Heidi Gerstandt

## Children's Time is a Special Time for Kids at St. Paul's!

Thank you to Bonni Conley, Linda Christensen, and Heidi Gerstandt for sharing wonderful Children's Time messages Sunday, January 4th, 11th, and 18th. This is such a special time during worship for the kids of St. Paul's! Kids are always welcome in worship!



# Announcements & Updates

## Chancel Choir News

Chancel Choir, our choir for high school through adult singers, will practice Wednesday, February 4th and 11th, at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room. Chancel Choir will provide special music during worship on Sunday, February 15th. Pictured below is the Chancel Choir performance on Sunday, January 18th. New members are always welcome! If you would like to join Chancel Choir or if you have any questions, please contact Linda Christensen or the church office.



## Bell Choir Update

Bell Choir practices most Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. in the sanctuary and is open to high school students through adults. They usually play during worship on the second Sunday of the month. New members are always welcome to join this music ministry. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and bulletins for the most current practice schedule. Pictured above is the Bell Choir's January 11th performance. Their next performance will be Sunday, February 8th. If you would like to join the Bell Choir, or if you have any questions, please contact Dusty Basten, Bell Choir director, or call the church office.

# Youth Ski Trip

**Rescheduled to January 31st**

**(weather permitting)**

**Mount Kato, Minnesota**

For St. Paul's youth in 6th-12th grade  
\$33/student age 17 and under, plus lunch

\$39/student 18+, plus lunch  
(Cost includes lift ticket.)

St. Paul's UMC will pay for  
equipment rental and supper.

Youth may invite one friend.

St. Paul's United  
Methodist Church  
michael.agnew@iaumc.net  
(712) 225-3955

Registration forms are available in the narthex and church office as well as on our website. Email or return your forms to the office A.S.A.P. if you plan to attend.

# Worship Notes

## North Door Greeters

- 2/1 Linda Rutter
- 2/8 Al & Barb Henn
- 2/15 Dr. Wes & Sue Parker
- 2/22 Kenny & Melissa Schlenger



## Liturgists

- 2/1 Linda Burkhart
- 2/8 Connie Hankens
- 2/15 Bonni Conley
- 2/22 Chuck Tolzin



## Children's Time

- 2/1 Linda Burkhart
- 2/8 Connie Hankens
- 2/15 Bonni Conley
- 2/22 Sign-up available in the narthex on Sundays.



## Ushers

The Knobens Family

## Altar Flowers

- 2/1 Sign-up available in the narthex on Sundays.
- 2/8 Bonni Conley
- 2/15 Sign-up available in the narthex on Sundays.
- 2/22 Sign-up available in the narthex on Sundays.

The 2026 altar flower sign-up sheet is available in the narthex on Sundays, or you can call the office during the week. To provide altar flowers, you sign up and then call the florist of your choice. The florists in Cherokee have a key to our building and can deliver the arrangements.

## Nursery Attendants

- 2/1 Ally Timmerman
- 2/8 Sign-up available online.
- 2/15 Sign-up available online.
- 2/22 Sign-up available online.



## Worship and Sunday School Attendance

	Worship	Sunday School
12/28	29	No Sunday School
1/4	111	32*
1/11	105	36*
1/18	95	28*

\*includes adult leaders

## Teen Time Attendance

1/7	12*
1/14	No Teen Time (Young Life event)
1/21	Cancelled due to weather.

\*includes adult leaders



## Current Sermon Series: Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

- February 1: Ready for the Party? (Matthew 25:1-13)
- February 8: A Story of Two Prayers (Luke 18:9-14)
- February 15: Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:14-30)

## Lenten Study— Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny



Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai invites you to join her 6-week Lenten Study based on her book *Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny*. Together, we will explore

how to build beloved community in the face of division and hate. Pastor Mike will be hosting this study in Feller Lounge. Please contact Pastor Mike if you are interested in attending.

**When:** Tuesdays at 7:00 PM CT

**Dates:** Feb 24 | March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

**Where:** Online via Zoom

Register online at:

<https://www.iaumc.org/newsdetail/19573540>

## Sermon Podcast and Online Services Available

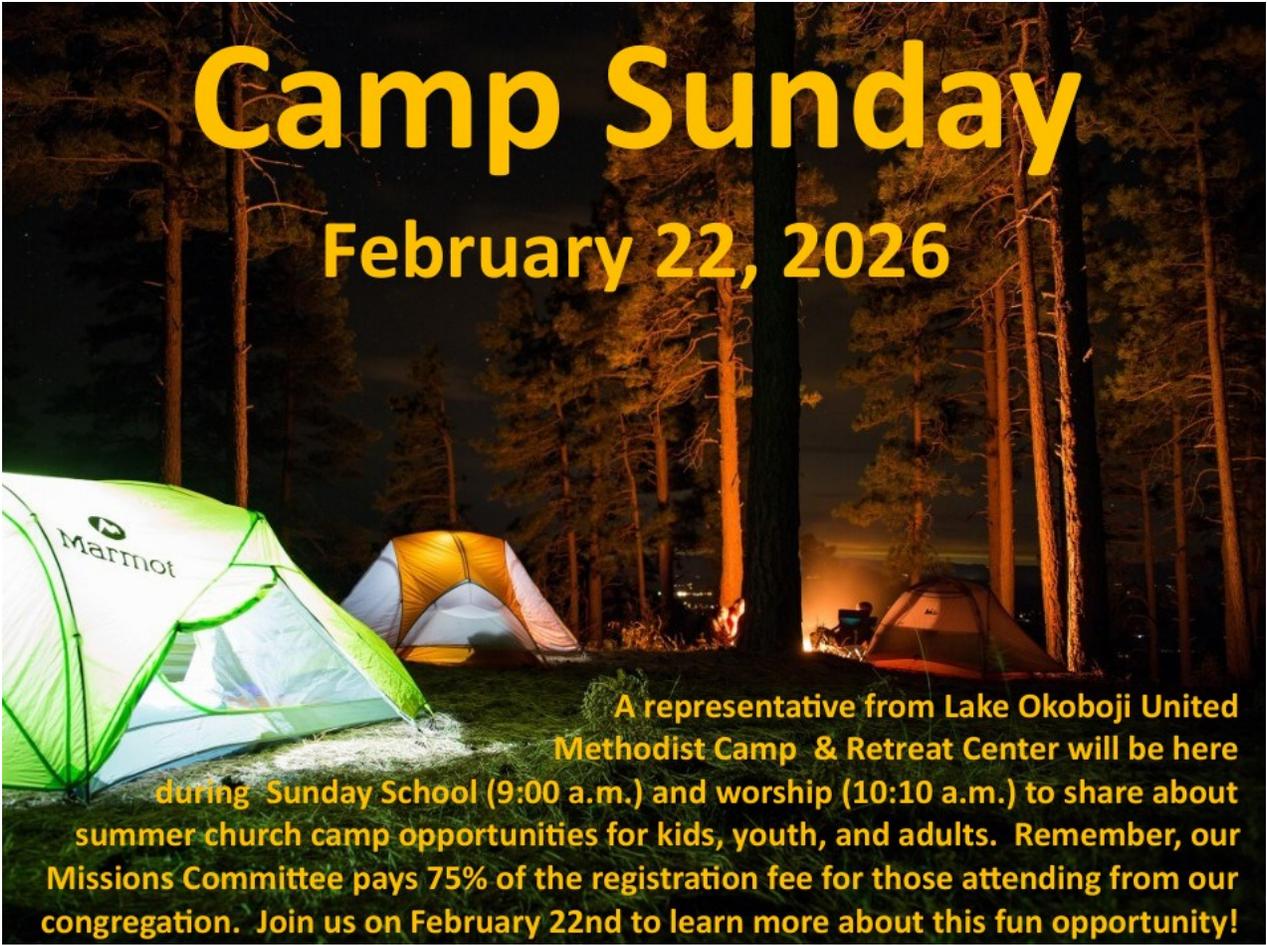
Sermons are available on 92.1 FM KCHE on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. and are also available via podcast. You can find a link to a podcast app on our website (green icon in the upper right on the homepage). Our full service is available live on our YouTube channel and



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. There are also printed directions on the table outside the office and on the table in the narthex.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**Camp Sunday**  
**February 22, 2026**

The background image shows a night camp scene with several tents illuminated by a central fire. A large green Marmot tent is in the foreground on the left, and other tents are visible in the background. The scene is set in a forest of tall, thin trees.

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 22nd to learn more about this fun opportunity!