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



July 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:

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Cherokee, IA 51012


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(712) 225-3955*

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(712) 227-3291*

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cherokeespumc@gmail.com*
*checked during office hours

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

Our Iowa Annual Conference was held in West Des Moines on June 11-14. Annual Conference is a time when clergy and laity from our Iowa United Methodist churches get together to worship and to do the business of the church. I attended in person, and Linda Burkhart, our lay representative, attended online.

For me, the conference started with the clergy session Thursday morning. This is a meeting of the clergy where votes are taken on such things as ordaining new clergy, celebrating the ministry of those retiring, etc. As the chair of the Conference Relations Committee, I was one of the presenters for a portion of the business. Thursday afternoon, clergy and laity gathered for opening worship with a sermon given by Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai. For the rest of the afternoon, we worked through some legislation and worked on electing delegates for our Jurisdictional Conference and General Conference, both of which will be held in 2028. We also celebrated Women at the Well's 20th anniversary. Women at the Well is a prison ministry in Marshalltown. In addition, we celebrated the 70th anniversary of women being ordained in The United Methodist Church.

On Friday, we spent more time working on legislation and the election of delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Legislative motions passed included looking into the possibility of selling the conference center in Des Moines. This is due to the fact that there are some expensive maintenance items coming up for the building, and not many people work in the building on a regular basis anymore.

On Saturday, we had a learning opportunity, which consisted of a panel of speakers who shared about ways we can remain faithful as individuals and as a church with the rise of authoritarianism and Christian nationalism in our world. On the same day, we also had a memorial service to honor clergy who have passed away in the last year, and in the evening, we had a celebration of ministries, in which different ministries of the conference were highlighted.

On Sunday morning, we had a worship service in which those retiring were recognized, those approved to be ordained were officially ordained, and an altar call was given for any who were feeling called to ministry to come forward. In addition, we did other business of the church, including nominations of people to various conference committees, approving the budget and hearing reports from the Iowa United Methodist Foundation, the Board of Pensions, Cokesbury, and others.

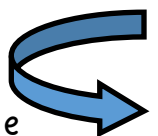


More information, including details on legislation, can be found at www.iaumc.org. All in all, Annual Conference went well, but I am also glad to be back in Cherokee with all of you.

God Bless, Pastor Mike Agnew

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What's Inside



May & June Happenings

Rodeo Parade

A group from our congregation braved the rain to participate in the rodeo parade on May 30th. They passed out candy, popsicles, and invitations to Vacation Bible School. Thank you to everyone who bagged the treats and walked or rode in the parade!



Sunday School Kids as Greeters

On May 31st, a group of Sunday School kids and teachers met for snacks and to greet the congregation as they came for worship. Photo credit to Heidi Gerstandt and Pastor Mike.



Summer Special Music



With the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir on break during the summer, we love to have kids, youth, or adults play an instrument or sing for special music. A big “thank you” goes to Grayson Rohwer for sharing trumpet music with the congregation on May 31st! If you would like to volunteer for special music, please call Jennifer in the office to schedule a date that works best for you.

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Lemonade Stand for VBS

The Vacation Bible School directors organized a lemonade stand and bake sale on June 16th, with the proceeds going to Vacation Bible School. Thank you to them for organizing this event, to the kids for helping, and to everyone who supported VBS financially. Photo credit to Miranda Cook and Pastor Mike.



Men's Breakfast at Family Table

On June 20th, Men's Breakfast went on an outing to Family Table, as the church had a gift card to use.



Announcements & Updates

Free Devotionals Available

Regular and large print copies of the July/August *The Upper Room* daily devotional guide are available on the table in the narthex and on the table outside the office.

Summer Bible Study Update

Due to low numbers, summer Bible studies are canceled. Stay tuned for opportunities in the fall.

July Office Hours Update

Pastor Mike and Jennifer's daughter plans to participate in the Kids and Pigs program at the Cherokee County Fair again this year, so the office will be closed the morning of July 16th, so they can attend the swine show.



Funeral Dinner Volunteers Needed



Volunteers are needed to assist with funeral dinners. If you are able to help, there is a sign up sheet in the office, or you can also sign up online at <https://www.cherokeemethodist.com/funeral-signup>. There are many areas where help is needed, so please select which jobs work best for you. If you have any questions about job duties, please call Linda Christensen at (712) 261-2301.

St. Paul's Kids to Attend Camp

Four St. Paul's children or youth are attending Iowa UM church camps this summer! Zach Wilson and Kathleen Mosbach will be going to Lake Okoboji UM Camp, and Kole Crannell and Ava Agnew will be going to Wesley Woods UM Camp, which is near Indianola. The Missions Committee was able to pay 75% of the registration fee for each student, due to your generous giving!



Crossword Puzzles

Check out this link for some crossword puzzles provided by the United Methodist Church.

<https://www.umc.org/en/umc-games/crossword-puzzles/>

Gospel Concert

The Laurens UMC (201 W. Main Street, Laurens) invites you to a gospel concert featuring The Browns on Sunday, July 12th. A ham ball meal (freewill donation) will be served from 11:30 a.m.-1p.m., with the concert at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

Trustees Update Available

Check out the Trustees' update from Dean Parrish, Trustees chairman, during the July 21st worship service at around the 7:53 minute mark. To watch, go to cherokeemethodist.com, and click on the red and white YouTube icon, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXVDtZNVypM> on YouTube, or see the posting on our Facebook page. Stop by the church office if you need assistance.

Other Upcoming Meetings & Events

Mon. & Wed.	7 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous (NE door by parking lot)
Wed., 7/1	8 a.m.-2 p.m.	Schuldt Dining Hall and kitchen in use
	10 a.m.	Communion (Heartland)
Tues., 7/7	9:30 a.m.	Visitation Team (library)
Tues., 7/14	6:30 p.m.	Finance Committee (Feller Lounge)
Wed., 7/22	10:30 a.m.	Bible study (The Gardens)
Thurs., 7/23	—	Newsletter info due
Sat., 7/25	8:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast (Schuldt Dining Hall)
Tues., 7/28	10:30 a.m.	Communion (Accura)

United Women in Faith Buzz



UW Faith Executive Board

Sunday, July 12th, at 10:30 a.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall

July Unit Meeting



Wednesday, June 15th, in Schuldt Dining Hall



Executive Board sets up at 5 p.m.

Salad potluck and unit meeting with the shepherdess at 6 p.m.

Thank You Notes

Thank you to Lois Eggerth for the stamps and to Glenda Parrish for the stickers for *HomeTouch* mailings.

Thank you to Linda Burkhart for leading worship and Linda Christensen for leading singing on June 14th.

Thank you to all of our church members who have helped work or provide desserts for funerals we have hosted at our church.

Thank you! Oh! What a great party. It was a total surprise. Thank you to everyone who sent a card or came to my 85th birthday celebration. Dianne Anderson

Missions News

Special Offering Updates

\$584 Miracle Sunday \$107 Peace with Justice

Orphan Grain Train Update

Thank you for donating items for the Orphan Grain Train and to Louie and Sheree Hausmann and Peggy Corrington for delivering two van loads and two car loads to Ida Grove.



Sleeping Mat Weaving



Tuesdays
1:30 p.m.
Feller Lounge

Congratulations to the mat weaving group for recently completing a mat! If you have questions about volunteering, please see the March newsletter, or call Glenda Parrish at (712) 221-9801. At this time, only gray Hy-Vee bags are being accepted.

Church Family News

With Sympathy & Prayers



Thomas F. "Butch" Rainer, Jr., 62, of Cherokee passed away on June 1st at Unity Point Health-Downtown, Sioux City. A graveside service was held on June 13th. Butch is the brother-in-law of Craig & Monica Schmidt.



William E. Eickholt, 91, passed away on June 10th at Accura Healthcare in Cherokee. Funeral services were held on June 16th, here at St. Paul's, with visitation prior to the service. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery. Military rites were performed by L.A. Wescott Post #2253 and the Cherokee American Legion. Bill is the husband of Phyllis and the uncle of Kim (Karen) Aduddell.

Church Family News

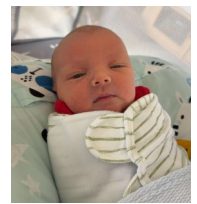
Welcome, Little Ones!



Steven and Michele Hadley of Johnston are the proud parents of a daughter, Eleanor Elizabeth Hadley, who was born April 10th at 1:15 p.m. at Mercy One Hospital in Des Moines. Eleanor weighed 9 lbs. 9 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. She was welcomed home by her big brother, Henry. The proud grandparents are Mike and Debbie Witcombe of Cherokee and Phil and Michelle Hadley of Sioux Center.



Allie and Seth Curtis are the proud parents of a son, Oliver Glenn Curtis, who was born on June 7th. Oliver



weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. and was 20.2" long. He was welcomed home by brother, Elijah. Proud grandparents are David and Stacie Driggs, Glenn and Tammy Curtis, and Renee and Kelly Schulz.

Bree and Marshall Stief are the proud parents of a daughter, Josephine Lynn, who was born on June 9th. Josephine was 7 lbs. 10 oz. and 19.5" long. Her proud grandparents are Marlin and Amy Stief, Barb Henningsen and the late Shannon Henningsen, and great-grandmother, the late Roni Timmerman.



Karissa and Derek Friedrichsen are the proud parents of a daughter, Tinsley Kay Friedrichsen, who was born on June 9th. Tinsley was 7 lbs. 7 oz. She was welcomed home by big brother, Tate. Her proud grandparents are Tim and Kim Wych and great-grandparents Chuck and Sally Knoblen.

Joey Wallace Wayne Barritt was born on June 16th to Brett and Ebony Barritt at the Mike O'Callaghan Military Medical Center at Nellis AFB, NV. He was 10 lbs. 1 oz. and 20 inches long. He joins his sister, Haisley, at home. His proud grandparents are Jay and Aimee Barritt of Cherokee and Sharon White of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Great-grandparents are Mary and Dale Benson of Cherokee, Ardyce Skaggs of Cherokee, and Steve Bumann of Castana. Joey's great-great-grandmother is LaDonna Bumann of Castana.



Worship Notes

North Door Greeters

- 7/5 Shelley Lenz
- 7/12 Amy Stief
- 7/19 Ervina Scott
- 7/26 Don Witcombe & Betty Berigan



Greeters Needed

Additional volunteers who are willing to greet at the north education entrance on Sundays prior to worship are needed. If you would like to be added to the list of volunteers, please call the church office. When a greeter is needed, Jeanne Blackstone, Pandora Phipps, or Meribeth Adams will contact you.



Liturgists

- | | | | |
|------|--------------|------|---------------|
| 7/5 | Ervina Scott | 7/19 | Linda Appleby |
| 7/12 | Bonni Conley | 7/26 | Needed |

Children's Time is on Summer Break.

Ushers

- 7/5 Megan Courtright, Dawn Jensen, Steph Rochleau, and Kent & Nicci Lundquist
- 7/12 Kent & Nicci Lundquist; three more needed
- 7/19 Five needed
- 7/26 Bonni Conley; four more needed

Altar Flowers

- 7/5 Jim & Peggy Corrington
- 7/12 Darlene Woltman & family
- 7/19 Neil & Jodi Phipps
- 7/26 Bonni Conley



Nursery Service on Summer 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.

Communion Stewards

- 7/5 Linda Rutter, Gigi Boothby, Curt & Kristal Phillips, and Jim & Peggy Corrington

Summer Fellowship

- 7/5 Bonni Conley, Micki Conley, and Sandy Peters
- 7/12 Linda & Dave Appleby and Peggy & Jim Corrington
- 7/19 Jodi & Neil Phipps and Stacy Kruse
- 7/26 Sue Parker and Lowell & Sharon Bennink



Note: As of newsletter printing, just a few more slots still need to be filled in August.

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 are learning 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 are learning the importance of using what God has given us for the good of all.



- 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

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 5/24: 53 | 6/7: 82 | 6/21: 59 |
| 5/31: 80 | 6/14: 69 | |





ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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>.

VBS Volunteers Needed
 To volunteer, please sign up in the narthex on Sundays or in the office during the week. Contact Heidi Gerstandt with any volunteer questions.

VBS Decorating Day
 Friday, July 17, at 5 p.m.

VBS Mission Project: Local Food Pantries



VBS Closing Program
 Thursday, July 23, at 7 p.m.
 Everyone is welcome to attend!

