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

February 2025

St. Paul's UMC

Worship:
10:10 a.m.

Sunday School:
9 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

 Find us on Facebook
and your podcast app.

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

Tiffany's Email:
cherokeespumc@gmail.com

Tiffany's Hours:
Monday - Wednesday
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Pastor Mike's Day Off:
Friday

St. Paul's Staff

Pastor:
Mike Agnew

Financial Secretary:
Sarah Cook

Administrative Assistant:
Tiffany Crum

Custodian:
Betty Harman

Organists/Pianists:
Betty Point
Meribeth Adams
Chris Andersen

Chancel Choir Director:
Becky Lickiss

Bell Choir Director:
Dusty Basten

A Moment with Mike

Well, the new year has just begun, or so it seems, but a month has already gone by. Life comes at you fast, so they say, and before long, it seems we'll be looking towards 2026! Do you ever wish someone would push the brakes on time to slow things down? Time is an interesting concept, isn't it?

I've heard it said that the only time we really get to experience is now. Now, or the present moment, is all we have. In our lifetimes, we are constantly moving along from one present moment to the next, but this present moment is all there actually is. As the thought goes, much of the meaning of our lives can be found by living in the moment. In other words, be aware of the present moment as a gift and acknowledge it as such.

Granted, living in the moment can be hard to do. Most of the time, we are either thinking about the past or planning for the future, but rarely do we just enjoy the moment we are in. Of course, there can be many reasons for that. Sometimes we don't have the luxury of enjoying the moment because responsibilities make it necessary to plan for the future. Ruminating about the past can inform our present and our future as well, so there is good that comes from that. And, quite frankly, there are some present moments that we'd just assume pass on by than enjoy. There is truth in that.

Nonetheless, spending some time being present in the moment is an important spiritual practice that can help ground us in God. In Psalm 90, the psalmist implores us to number our days, so that we might gain wisdom. Numbering our days is the same thing as being present in the moment and taking stock of where we've been, where we are, and where we are headed. A time audit, so to speak. Of course, doing this requires us to carve out those times when we can slow down and spend time with God in contemplation. For some, this may be easier than others, depending on what we have on our plates, but it is necessary.

What are you doing to carve out a margin of time in your life to slow down, to contemplate, and to be present in the moment? For some, it may require becoming less busy, which is never an easy task, because that requires saying no to some good things. It is tempting in our culture to become overly busy, but it is good to remind ourselves that there are more good things we can do than any one person has time to do. So if you are too busy, what can you say no to in order to create that margin in your life? Balance is crucial to your spiritual walk, so as you continue on through 2025, I would encourage you to be mindful of what it means to "number our days."

God Bless,
Pastor Mike Agnew

Announcements & Updates

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, February 22nd, at 8:30 a.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall. All men are welcome, so invite a friend or neighbor to join us for a light breakfast and short devotion.



Other Upcoming Meetings and Events

Mon. & Wed.	7:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous (NE door and downstairs)
Wednesdays	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir (sanctuary)
Sat., 2/1		Ski Trip
Tues., 2/4	9:30 a.m.	Visitation Team (library)
Sun., 2/9	11:00 a.m.	Cavaliers Soup Dinner
Mon., 2/17	—	Newsletter deadline
Sat., 2/22	8:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Tues., 2/25	11:00 a.m.	Communion at Accura
Wed., 2/26	10:30 a.m.	The Gardens study

Weather Cancellations



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

Scholarship Opportunities

Scholarships for college students and high school seniors are available through the United Methodist Church. Follow the links to learn more.



Iowa UM Foundation

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

United Methodist Higher Education Foundation

- <https://umhmf.org/scholarships/>

General Board of Higher Education & Ministry

- <https://www.gbhem.org/scholarships/apply-for-scholarships/>

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Executive Board

Monday, February 10th
9:30 a.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall

Grace Circle

Wednesday, February 12th
6:30 p.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall

Joyful Charity Circle

Wednesday, February 19th
1:30 p.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall

Change to Office Hours



Please note that Tiffany's office hours will be Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 3 p.m. Pastor Mike will continue to work on Thursdays; however, he is often in and out of the office with visits or meetings.

UW Faith Special Recognition Pin Recipients



On Sunday, January 26th, Sue Parker, Karla Wilkie, and Lois Eggerth 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.

2025 Pledge Update

Thank you to everyone who turned in pledge cards in support of our 2025 budget.

	2025	2024
General Fund	\$128,600	\$124,356
Capital Fund	\$ 21,400	\$ 21,025
Next Generation	\$ 13,600	\$ 20,121
Total	\$163,600	\$165,502

Training for Local Church Boards, SPRC, and Trustee Leaders

Who: All local church officers and volunteers

When: Sunday, February 9 from 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Where: Laurens UMC, 201 W Main St, Laurens, IA 50554

Why: Grow your knowledge and serve your church with the latest guidance. Meet other laity church leaders. Be blessed to be a blessing to others in your leadership role.



Christian Education

Children's Sunday School



Sunday School for PK - 5th grade meets from 9 - 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The children will be singing during the 10:10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, February 23rd. That will also be noisy offering (spare change) Sunday, when we collect a special offering to benefit children's ministries here at St. Paul's.

February Confirmation Schedule

Sun., 2/2 5 p.m. Confirmation Class (Feller)
Sun., 2/16 5 p.m. Confirmation Class (Feller)
Sun., 2/23 5 p.m. Confirmation Class (Feller)

Attendance

January 5th: 8 January 12th: 11 January 26th: 10

February Teen Time Schedule (H.S. Youth Group)

Wed., 2/2 6:30 - 8 p.m. F.C.A. Presbyterian
Wed., 2/9 6:30 - 8 p.m. Teen Time (409 Centennial Dr.)
Wed., 2/16 6:30 - 8 p.m. Teen Time (409 Centennial Dr.)
Wed., 2/23 6:30 - 8 p.m. Teen Time (409 Centennial Dr.)

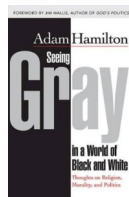
All high school students are welcome at Teen Time! You don't have to be a member of St. Paul's to attend. Invite a friend, and join us!

Attendance

January 15th: 15 January 23th: 18

Adult Class

The Adult Class meets on Sundays from 9 - 10 a.m. in Feller Lounge. They are currently reading *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White*, a five week study by Adam Hamilton. This study discusses religion, morality, and politics as well as a wide range of New Testament passages. All adults are welcome!

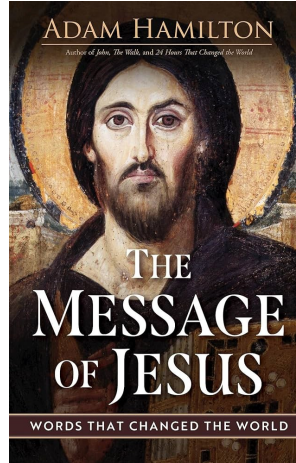


Free Lenten Devotionals

Lenten devotionals will be available in the narthex and on the table outside the church office in March. These are provided free of charge by the Society of St. Andrew, a ministry that gleans America's fields to feed America's hungry.

2025 Lent Studies

More than 3 billion people claim to follow Jesus. But aside from a few verses, how many actually know what he taught? In fact, much of what people think Jesus taught, he never said. In this six-week study, pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton explores six of the most important themes in Jesus's teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today.



Two groups are available, with each group covering the same material. 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 \$18/person and can be paid in the office or by placing your payment in the offering plate marked for "Lent study."

Sundays at 6:30 p.m. OR Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

March 9, 16, 23, 30
April 6, & 13

March 6, 13, 20,
April 3, 10, & 17th

COMMUNITY
YOUTH NIGHT
SPONSORED BY WHS FCA
Who? Teens 7th-12th Grade
What? Fun, Friends, Free Meal, Bible Lesson
When: Wed. Feb.5 @ 6:30-8
Where: Memorial Presbyterian Church 127 E. Willow St. Cherokee
Questions: See Mrs. Anderson

Missions News

Christmas Eve Offering Update



The 2024 Christmas Eve offering went to Cherokee County Public Health to purchase car seats and other items for new moms in Cherokee County. \$1257 was given by our congregation. Thank you for your generosity!

Human Relations Day Special Offering Update

On Sunday, January 19th, we collected a special offering for Human Relations Day. \$181 was donated. Thank you!

Bell Choir

Bell Choir practices most Wednesdays at 6 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! If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Dusty Basten, the Bell Choir director. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and bulletins for the most current practice schedule.



Cavaliers Soup Dinner



When: Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025
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!

Church Family News

Welcome, Little One!

Karissa and Derek Friedrichsen welcomed a baby boy, Tate Alan, on January 4, 2025. Tate weighed 6lbs. 9 oz, and was 19 3/4" long. Proud grandparents are Tim and Kim Wych and great-grandparents Chuck and Sally Knoben.



With Sympathy & Prayers

Buertess L. "Bertie" Beals, 103, of Cherokee passed away on December 28th at her home. A memorial service was held on Friday, January 3rd, at Boothby Funeral Home with burial in the Pilot Township Cemetery at rural Cherokee.

R. Wayne Witcombe, 96, of Cherokee, passed away on December 31st, at Accura Healthcare in Cherokee. Visitation will be held from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 29th, here at St. Paul's. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, March 29th, at 11 a.m. here at St. Paul's.

Betty Bilney, 96, of Marcus passed away on January 4th at Heartland Care Center in Marcus. Betty is the sibling of Bonita LaFave and Lynn Meikle.

Della Wolf, 99, of Cherokee, passed away on Friday, January 17th, at Accura Healthcare in Cherokee. Visitation was held at 1p.m. on Friday, January 24th, at Boothby's Funeral Home. A funeral service was held on Friday, January 24th at 2 p.m. at Boothby's Funeral Home.

Sally Puhmann, 89, of Storm Lake & formerly of Cherokee, passed away on Friday, January 17th, at Buena Vista Regional Medical Center in Storm Lake. Visitation was held at 10 a.m. on Friday, January 24th, at Greenwood Schubert Funeral Home. A funeral service was held on Friday, January 24th at 11 a.m. at Greenwood Schubert Funeral Home.

Thank You Notes

Thank you to everyone who sent us Christmas cards and/or gifts during the holiday season. We appreciate your kindness!

Pastor Mike, Jennifer, and Ava Agnew



One January 6th, volunteers helped undecorate the sanctuary from Advent and Christmas. Thanks to everyone who assisted with this project!

Worship Notes

North Door Greeters

- 2/2 John & Kay O'Connor
- 2/9 Wes & Sue Parker
- 2/16 Linda Rutter
- 2/23 Dick & Betty Point



Acolytes



- 2/2 Paxton Robinson
- 2/9 Cord Lucas & Khloe Gravenish
- 2/16 LunaRai Crannell & Carter Knippel
- 2/23 Paxton Robinson & Cord Lucas

Liturgists

- 2/2 Bonni Conley
- 2/9 Linda Burkhart
- 2/16 Barb Kratz
- 2/23 Linda Burkhart

Children's Time

- 2/2 Bonni Conley
- 2/9 Heidi Gerstandt
- 2/16 Lake Okoboji UM Camp staff
- 2/23 Linda Burkhart

Ushers

- 2/2 The Knobens Family
- 2/9 The Knobens Family
- 2/16 The Knobens Family
- 2/23 The Knobens Family

Altar Flowers

- 2/2 Dick and Betty Point
- 2/9 Micki Conley
- 2/16 Needed
- 2/23 Micki Conley

Nursery Attendants

- 2/2 Miranda Cook
- 2/9 Sophie Scherbring
- 2/16 Needed
- 2/23 Heidi Gerstandt



Current Sermon Series: Mistakes Jesus Made

Looking at Jesus' ministry, it seems he often did the opposite of what we are taught to do to be successful in life. Yet, Jesus is the most influential person in history. In this sermon series, we will explore some of these "mistakes" Jesus made and what we can learn from them.



- 2/2 "He Let People Walk Away" (Mark 10:17-23; John 6:60-69)
- 2/9 "He Did Not Defend Himself" (Matt. 26:47-56)
- 2/23 "He Kept It a Secret" (Mark 8:27-30)

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.

2025 Altar Flower Sign-up Available

The 2025 altar flower sign-up 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 all have a key to our building and deliver the arrangements. Following worship, you are welcome to take your arrangement home with you, share with a friend, or leave it for the visitors in the church office to enjoy.

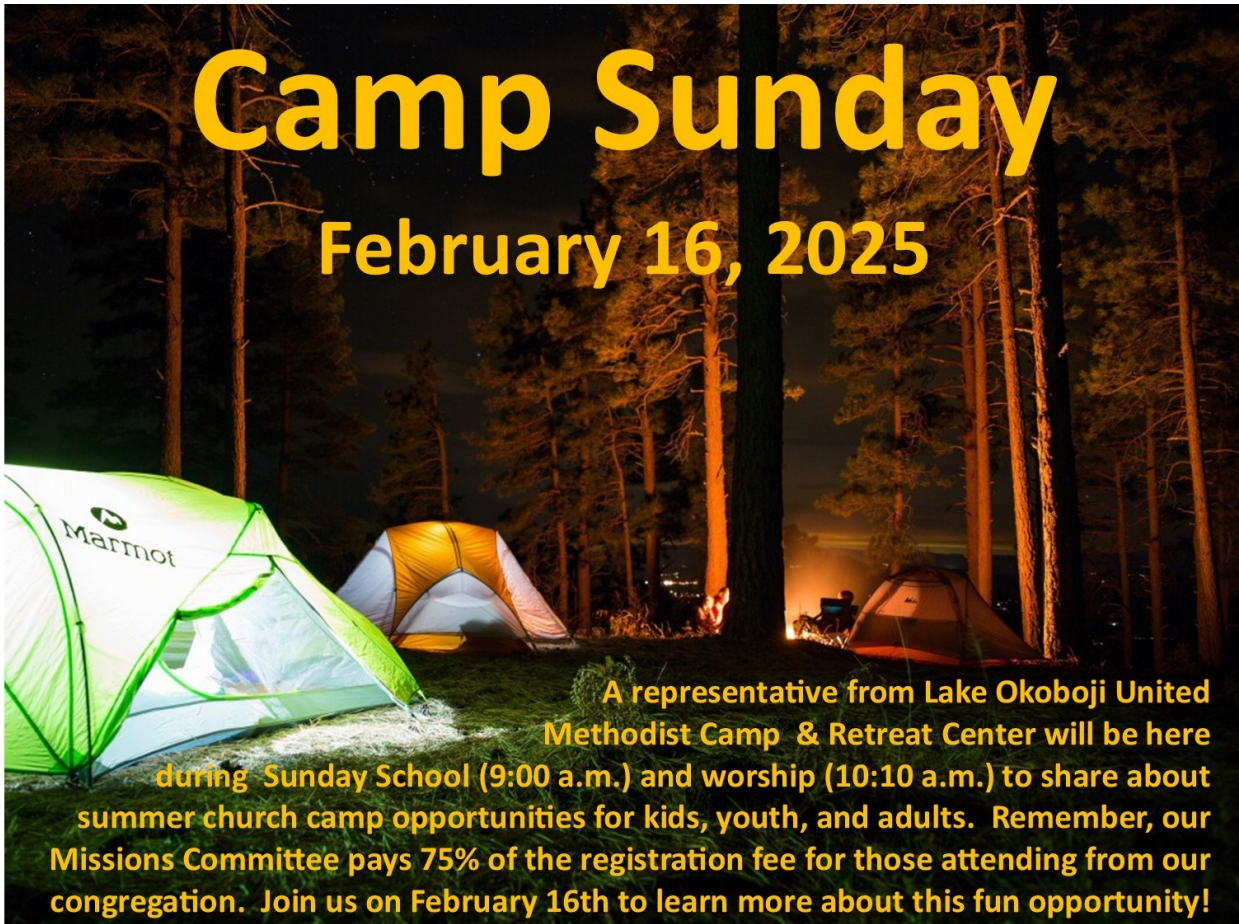


Worship Attendance

12/29: 80	1/12: 122
1/5: 104	1/19: 65

**February
2025**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Camp Sunday

February 16, 2025

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 16th to learn more about this fun opportunity!

