



THE DOME

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

August 2025

St. Paul's UMC

Summer Worship:
9:30 a.m.

Sunday School:
Resumes September 7th

Address:
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Cherokee, IA 51012

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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

Nicci's Email:
cherokeespumc@gmail.com

Nicci's 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

This past month has been one of productive ministry at our church, thanks to many in our congregation! Vacation Bible School was held July 20th – 24th, and everything went really well. We had 76 kids registered this year, and as you can see from the pictures in the newsletter and on our Facebook page, a lot of planning and preparation went into this year's program.

I am thankful to our many volunteers, including Heidi Gerstandt, Miranda Cook, Brenda DeRoo, and Steph Rochleau for taking on much of the leadership coordinator duties to oversee the big picture. Our station leaders, including Linda Appleby and Linda Burkhart with science, Roni Timmerman, Dixie Carper, Mikayla Kinnetz, and Madi Stief with Bible stories, Jason and Miranda Cook with games, and Steph Rochleau with crafts, are greatly appreciated. Beyond that, we had people keeping watch at the doors, registering kids as they came, cooking and serving food to over 100 people each day, running the sound booth, acting in the opening and closing skits, cutting out stickers, assisting the station leaders, leading the groups of kids from one station to another, and using their creativity to decorate the church for the theme of V.B.S., which was "Road Trip: On the Go With God."

I am sure there is more that I am forgetting to mention, but the main idea is that a lot of dedicated people of all ages have come together to make this a very organized, well done Vacation Bible School. Due to the heart and soul all these people put into Vacation Bible School, I believe we have a reputation in our community of having a well done program that welcomes all with great hospitality and the love of Jesus.

As we finish out the summer season in August, we will be wrapping up our Bible study, called "*Genesis for Normal People*," and final preparations will be made to begin our fall ministries, including Sunday School, our fall Bible study, called "*Exodus for Normal People*," our music ministries resuming, including our bell choir and chancel choir, and Teen Time. With a great congregation working together, the future is bright at St. Paul's!

God Bless,
Pastor Mike Agnew



Event Happenings

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Matthew 18:20

I have always been a big fan of church coffee hours, even though I do not drink coffee. Just that chance to talk to your fellow parishioners, meet people, and welcome newcomers. You never know what you will find. Years ago, when I had just graduated from college, I did not have a clue what I would do with my life. I had studied Italian and wanted to live in Italy for a while. I painted my sister's house that summer and with the money I earned I flew to Europe, took the train to Florence, and figured the travelers' checks might last for a couple of weeks. If I was lucky.

That first Sunday I dropped by the American Church - one of my professors had recommended it - and I lingered afterward at coffee hour. I stood there chatting with an American woman, a stranger, who politely asked what I was doing in Florence. I told her I was a recent graduate and hoped to stay for as long as I could. "What was your major?" she asked.

"English." I said.

"I run a school here where we teach English. Would you be interested in that?" she asked.

Would I ever! I went for an interview, got hired, and the rest is history. I found other work, teaching, tutoring, even got a gig housesitting at a palazzo. I studied voice, sang in the Duomo choir and at the American Church, and made lifelong friends. After two years I returned to the States, ready to move forward in my life.

Church coffee hour? Fellowship like that can change your life. It did mine.

Lord, I give thanks for all those opportunities of fellowship. Help me give them to others.

Rick Hamlin

(Submitted by Micki Conley from her Sunday, June 22 devotional reading in her book, *"Walking in Grace"*.)

Join us for Fellowship



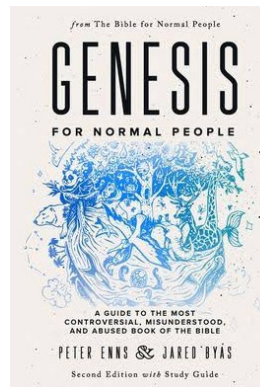
Together we gather as a community of believers and church family on Sundays after worship in Schuldts Dining Hall. There is always a fresh pot of hot coffee and delicious snacks

to enjoy. It is a great way to get to know one another, meet new people, and support one another as a new week begins. All are welcome!



Sunday, July 6th, Micki Conley and Bonni Conley, along with Jeff Blum, prepared and served these beautifully decorated 4th of July treats and refreshments for fellowship time after worship in Schuldts Dining Hall. They were delicious and enjoyed by everyone.

Summer Bible Study



Our summer Bible study group has been meeting throughout the summer, discussing the book, *Genesis for Normal People*. The final two study sessions will meet on Sunday, August 3rd, and Sunday, August 10th, in Feller Lounge, at 6:30 p.m.

The book of Genesis and the narratives within it fuel some of the most hotly debated topics of our time. In this study, we have been

looking beyond the controversy and discovering ancient stories that anyone can understand - stories that have gripped people for millennia.

**Fall Bible study will be starting soon.
You won't want to miss it!**

Special Offering for Texas Flooding Relief

Please continue to pray for everyone affected by this natural disaster, and know that our hearts break for the families and communities that have lost a child or loved one. On Sunday, July 13th, we came together as United Methodist to hold a special offering during worship. \$951.00 was generously donated by our congregation. If you are able, please consider giving to UMCOR - United Methodist Committee On Relief. If you were unable to make it in person to our worship service, please feel free to mail your donation to St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 531 W. Main Street, Cherokee, IA 51012.



Event Happenings

Grace Circle



United
Women
in Faith

On Wednesday, July 9th, Grace Circle met in Schuldt Dining Hall. Jerri Hunt served as hostess and Judy Grienke-Miller gave the program. United Women in Faith is a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons

through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. If you or someone you know would like to join this organization or would like to learn more about it, please contact the church office. Grace Circle will meet again on Wednesday, September 10th, at 6:30 p.m., in Schuldt Dining Hall. Jean Anderson will serve as hostess and Mary Jo Poggenklass will give the program.

Men's Breakfast

On Saturday, July 26th, we held our Men's Breakfast in Schuldt Dining Hall. A light breakfast and a short devotional was provided. This is a great way for men to gather together, sharing God's love and putting their faith into action. Our next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, August 23rd, at 8:30 a.m. You are welcome to invite a friend or neighbor to join you. All men are welcome!



"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose trust is the Lord."

Jeremiah 17:7

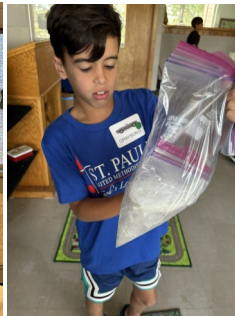
Decorating for Vacation Bible School



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped decorate for V.B.S on Thursday, July 17th. We appreciate all of you!



Vacation Bible School Kids



Vacation Bible School Volunteers



We are so thankful for the volunteers that helped to make this week such a positive experience for the children. May God continue to bless you as you bless others.



Announcements and Updates

Trustees Update

With a building this size, the work of the Board of Trustees is never done. They have been working on a variety of projects lately, including overseeing the repairs to the brick, having the fascia painted and repaired (pictured below), and more. Thank you to all current and past trustees for their dedication to St. Paul's upkeep.



Signs of Summer



Thank you to Glenda Parrish for keeping our flowers looking so beautiful and full of color, and to Al Henn for maintaining the front yard during the hot summer heat. We appreciate you!



Thank you

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

Thank you

Thank you to Glenda Parrish for the stickers used with the *HomeTouch* mailings, sent weekly to our homebound members and friends.

Thank you

Thank you to Don and Jeanne Blackstone for the case of copy paper. We appreciate your generosity.

Thank you

Thank you to Roni Timmerman for providing a roll of stamps for the daily business of the church.

United Women in Faith Buzz

United Women in Faith

Executive Board

Monday, August 11th, at 9:30 a.m.
(Schuldt Dining Hall)



Grace Circle

No meeting in August

Joyful Charity Circle

No meeting in August



Other Upcoming Meetings and Events

Mon. & Wed.	7:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous (NE door)
Tues., 8/5	9:30 a.m.	Visitation Team mtg. (Library)
Wed., 8/6	10:00 a.m.	Communion at Heartland
Tues., 8/12	6:30 p.m.	Nominations Committee mtg. (Feller Lounge)
Tues., 8/19	6:30 p.m.	Administrative Council (Feller Lounge)
Thurs., 8/21		Newsletter info due
Tues., 8/26	11:00 a.m.	Communion at Accura
Wed., 8/27	10:30 a.m.	Bible study at The Gardens



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. These items then go to those in need in the United States and around the world. St. Paul's is a drop-off site for the Camp Clear Lake District and churches from our area. Donations are needed to help purchase items for the kits. To donate, please mark your check or envelope for "Ingathering." If you have questions, please call the office.

Announcements and Updates

College / Military Care Update



Autumn is coming soon, which means the College/Military Care Team will be resuming their ministry! If you are a college student (or the parent of a student) from our congregation who will be attending college this fall or if you are a member

of the military and would like to receive notes and care packages from our congregation, please contact Jennifer Agnew, or submit the following information to Nicci in the church office: name, college/military address, school attending, major, year in school, and birthday. **Please submit this information by September 2nd.** For the third year, we have applied for and received a grant from the Elsie Stouffer Trust to pay for many of the expenses of this ministry. If you are interested in becoming a member of the College/Military Care Team, please contact Jennifer, or leave a message with Nicci in the church office, as we will be scheduling a meeting soon. Responsibilities of the team members include writing and mailing cards to a group of around 5-7 students approximately once a month (cards and stamps provided by the church) and helping to assemble two care packages per semester. We typically only have one planning meeting or a meeting via group text per school year.

NW District Professional Interviews

Monday, August 4th, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Pastors of NW District will have their annual interviews held with the District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Michel Lundula, in Feller Lounge with the waiting/resting area in Schuldt Dining Hall.

Online Giving Available

Online giving by debit/credit card or bank transfer is available at <https://stpaulsunitedmeth-odistchurch4833.breezechms.com/give/online>, or text the amount you wish to give to 712-882-7149. You may also scan this QR code.



Mat Weaving Update

The mat weaving ministry of volunteers will not be continuing at this time, but they do plan to store the loom through the fall to display during the Ingathering. Thank you to Ervina Scott and Rod Raveling for taking all of the plastic bags out of the storage closet, sorting them, and delivering them to our local Cherokee Hy-Vee for recycling, and to Spencer United Methodist Church to be used by their mat weaving volunteers. Cherokee Hy-Vee and Spencer United Methodist Church were very appreciative of the deliveries.



HomeTouch Ministry



19 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 or nature. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, or you know of someone that would like to receive this ministry each week, please contact the church office.

July/August *The Upper Room* Devotionals

The July/August *The Upper Room* devotionals have arrived, and copies are available in the narthex and on the table outside the office. Help yourself to this FREE devotional.

Nursery Unstaffed for the Summer

Children of all ages are welcome in our worship service! The nursery is unstaffed for the summer, but you are welcome to use



it if you or your child need a break. It is located on the second floor of the education wing in the first classroom closest to the sanctuary. There is a smart TV in the room, so you are able to watch worship.

Prayer Requests



Our congregation consists of a variety of people, some who are very private and some who share their health information freely. For this reason, Pastor Mike only shares prayer concerns with the prayer chain or with the entire congregation during worship at your specific request. If you have a prayer concern, please let him know and specify if you'd like it to be kept private or public. A prayer request slip can also be found in the pew pocket during worship, and can be placed in the offering plate for his attention throughout the week.

Have News?



If you have news you would like to share with your church family (engagement, birth of a baby, wedding, anniversary, retirement, words of gratitude/thank you, graduation, death, etc.), please contact the office. It will be announced in the weekly bulletin, and/or the monthly newsletter. The deadline for our September issue of *The Dome* will be Thursday, August 21st.

Announcements and Updates

Bell Choir News



Bell Choir practice will resume Wednesday, September 10th, at 6:00 p.m. Typically, the Bell Choir plays during worship on the second Sunday of the month. Thank you to Dusty Basten for serving as bell choir director this year.

New members are always welcome!

Chancel Choir Director Needed

Thank you to Becky Lickiss for her years of dedication leading our Chancel Choir. She has decided to pursue other interests at this time, and will not be returning as Chancel Choir director this fall. If you are interested or know someone who would be interested in leading this music ministry for our church, please contact the office.



Chancel Choir Meeting

There will be a meeting for all people interested in participating in Chancel Choir this fall on Sunday, August 17th, immediately following the worship service in the Chancel Choir room, located on the first floor next to the library. The anticipated first rehearsal will be Wednesday, August 20th, at 7:00 p.m. The first performance is scheduled for Sunday, September 21st, during worship.

New members are always welcome!

Teen Time

COMING SOON!

Teen Time, our youth group for 9th-12th graders, will begin soon. Stay tuned for dates, times, and locations. All high school students are invited, and a free supper is provided. You don't have to be a member of St. Paul's to join us!

Confirmation



Just a reminder that we will not be offering a confirmation class this year, as we had a combined 6th/7th grade class last year. Another class may be offered in the fall of 2026.

Vacation Bible School Leaders' Debriefing



2025 Vacation Bible School leaders are invited to share their feedback at a debriefing on Tuesday, August 5th, at 5:00 p.m. in Feller Lounge.

Fall Sunday School

Planning is underway for fall Sunday School! Classes will begin on Sunday, September 7th, at 9 a.m. and conclude on Sunday, May 3, 2026. No classes will meet on December 28th (Christmas weekend) or April 5th (Easter). The children's classes will begin with music from 9-9:15 a.m., with class to follow from 9:15-10:00 a.m. Thank you to all of the volunteers planning to help with the children's education ministry this fall.

Heidi Gerstandt
Miranda Cook
Steph Rochleau
Sophie Scherbring
Madi Stief
Ava Agnew
Ally Timmerman
Lola Christensen
Jessica Knippel
Brittany Kannegieter
Whitney Robinson

If you'd like to volunteer to teach or substitute, please contact Heidi Gerstandt, Miranda Cook, or Pastor Mike. We hope to have enough teachers that no one will be expected to teach every week.

Summer Special Music



We want to encourage volunteers to provide special music during worship. This can include vocalists or instrumentalists. Adults, youth, and children are all welcome and encouraged to participate. If you would like to share your musical talents during worship, please contact the church office.

Special Music Performance

On Sunday, July 20th, Ava Agnew gave a piano performance during worship, "Sonatina Op. 36 No. 2," by Muzio Clementi. She also served as liturgist. Thank you to Ava for sharing her musical talents, and leadership skills with the congregation this summer. You did a great job!



Worship Notes

North Door Greeters

8/3 Don & Jeanne Blackstone
8/10 Peggy Rasch
8/17 Dan & Barb Kratz
8/24 Lowell & Sharon Bennink
8/31 John & Kay O'Connor



Liturgists

8/3 Rod Raveling
8/10 Dave Appleby
8/17 Jason Cook
8/24 Linda Christensen
8/31 Linda Appleby

Ushers

8/3 Jim & Peggy Corrington, Jen Gaydo, Bailey Gaydo, and Amy Stief
8/10 Bob & Luann Wittrock, Curt & Kristal Phillips, and Mark & Becky Scherbring
8/17 Dr. Wes & Sue Parker, Bonni Conley, Marla Conley, and Scott Osborn
8/24 Gene & Jean Anderson, Dave & Donna Lucas, and Kay O'Connor
8/31 Mike & Deb Samuelson, Kirk & Lisa Sampson, and Amy Stief

Altar Flowers

8/3 Sign-up available in the narthex, or call the church office.
8/10 Sign-up available in the narthex, or call the church office.
8/17 Kent & Nicci Lundquist
8/24 David & Gigi Boothby
8/31 Lowell & Sharon Bennink



The 2025 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.

Fellowship Volunteers

8/3 Dave & Linda Appleby and Chuck & Julie Tolzin
8/10 Bob & Peg Parker and Lowell & Sharon Bennink
8/17 Al & Barb Henn and Dick & Betty Point
8/24 Rod Raveling and Ervina Scott
8/31 Craig & Monica Schmidt

Worship Attendance

6/29	70
7/6	70
7/13	77
7/20	65
7/27	65



Charge Conference

The NW District Charge Conference is scheduled for Sunday, October 12th, at 2:30 p.m., at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Schuldt Dining Hall.

Current Sermon Series: God's Children Tell the Story: A Survey of the Bible



Have you ever wondered how all of the stories in the Bible fit together as a whole? What can we learn about God from the Bible, and what should we unlearn? Join us as we go through the Bible together, looking at the major ideas of the text.

Through it, we will see that God let his children tell the story, and that story continues today through you and me.

8/3 The In Between (Apocrypha)
8/10 Christ Has Come! (Gospels)
8/17 Figuring It Out as They Go (Acts)
8/24 Reading Other People's Mail (letters)
8/31 How the Story Ends (Revelation)

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.

Nursery Attendants Needed



If you would like to join the nursery attendant rotation, please contact Pastor Mike. Adults and college students are welcome to apply, and older high school students may be accepted on a case-by-case basis. A background check is required, for the safety of the children. Once approved, this can be a volunteer or paid position, as a \$25.00 stipend is available for each Sunday worked, with submission of a pay request form.

Fall Worship Time Change

Worship remains at 9:30 a.m. through August 31st. Sunday School resumes on Sunday, September 7th, at 9 a.m., so worship will move back to 10:10 a.m. that day as well.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Fall Seven-Week Small Group Study

Exodus for Normal People

Sundays at 6:30 p.m.

Feller Lounge

Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28, & Oct. 5, 12, 19

In this short guide to the book of Exodus, Biblical scholar Peter Enns doesn't just break down the story for the average person to understand but takes us behind the story—to the history and traditions that led us to the story as we have it today. By asking the important questions like, "What kind of book are we reading?" and taking us along Moses's and the Israelite journey, Enns brings the best in biblical scholarship to us everyday people.

The cost of the study is \$17 per person.
Financial assistance is available, if needed.

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