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



St. Paul's UMC

Sunday School/Adult Class:

9 a.m. beginning 9/13

Summer Worship:

9:30 a.m. through 9/6

Fall Worship:

10:10 a.m. beginning 9/13

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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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

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

I quite often hear the phrase "time flies by" from a number of people, and I think that is true, especially as we get older. We may be feeling it more strongly this time of year, as another school year begins. Students are a grade older, and once again, it is time to begin fall ministries in our church.



Regardless of how time seems to go by in our perspective, this is an exciting time. During this month, our Chancel and Bell Choirs are starting up a new season of music ministry, and we are thankful for our Chancel Choir director, Kathy Brandt, and our Bell Choir director, Dusty Basten! Sunday School for children and adults begins after Labor Day, and we are thankful for all of our teachers and helpers. Thanks to Craig and Monica Schmidt and Brenda DeRoo, Teen Time will begin another year, meeting once a month. In addition, our committees will be hard at work planning for the year, and United Women in Faith will be gearing up for our annual Election Day Dinner.

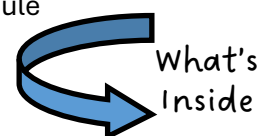
You may be aware that in our current sermon series, we are exploring the themes and main ideas of the Book of Revelation. This is one of the most misunderstood books of the Bible. Some love the book, while others hate it. Yet, this book continues to remain popular, not only in the church, but in our wider culture. Many assume Revelation is concerned primarily with the future, giving us a roadmap for what will lead up to the end of this age and the beginning of the next. It may surprise some to learn that, while there is some mention of the future, most of Revelation addresses the very real concerns Christians were facing in the first century. Since the same dynamics are present in every generation, Revelation continues to be relevant.

While our sermons are focusing on the last book of the Bible, our fall small group studies will be focusing on the first. We will have groups meeting Sunday evenings and Monday mornings to study the book *Genesis: A Beginner's Guide to the Beginning* by Amy-Jill Levine. In this six-week study, we will look at some of the iconic stories of Genesis from the perspective and wisdom of a Jewish, New Testament scholar of the Bible. More information is included in this newsletter on page 5.

Time does fly, and time is precious. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, once said to, "[d]o all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." As you seek to do good in our world, we hope that our church can be of benefit to you in your spiritual growth.

God Bless,
Pastor Mike Agnew

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Summer Happenings

Pastor Mike at BOM Meeting

As chairman of the Conference Relations Committee, Pastor Mike was part of a group from the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church who attended The Board of Ordained Ministry's mid-quadrennial training in Atlanta, GA, in August. They focused on strengthening clergy formation and well-being within The United Methodist Church.



Pictured above are Pastor Tim Bonney of Asbury UMC (Bettendorf), Pastor Mike, Pastor Jodi Stover Rushing of First UMC (Creston) and Jerusalem UMC (Creston), Pastor Melissa Drake, Director of Leadership Development and Spiritual Formation for the IA UMC, and Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai.

July & August Special Music

We have been blessed with a variety of special music in July and August. To listen, please visit our YouTube channel or Facebook page.



Meribeth Adams & Ava Agnew



Meredith Rochleau

July & August Special Music (continued)



Kathy Brandt



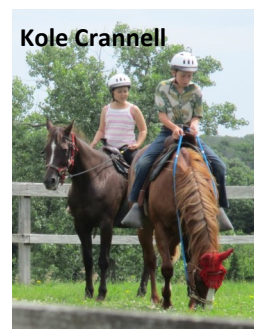
Riggs Gerstandt sang with the praise band.

UM Summer Camp

Six kids or youth from our congregation attended summer camp this year at either Wesley Woods UM Camp or Lake Okoboji UM Camp, with an additional youth volunteering for a week at Lake Okoboji.



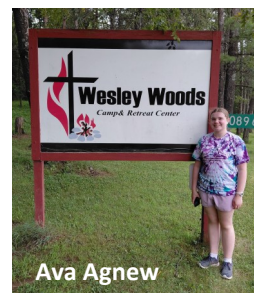
Riggs & Ruby Gerstandt



Kole Crannell



Kathleen Mosbach



Ava Agnew



Sophie Scherbring



Zach Wilson



Lake Okoboji UM Camp



Announcements & Updates

Happy 100th Birthday!



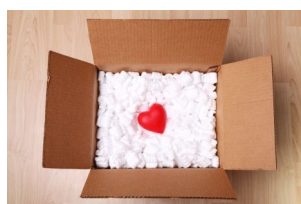
Dorothy Clow turns 100 years old on September 1st. Birthday wishes can be sent to Heartland Care Center, 604 E. Fenton, Room 202, Marcus, IA 51035. Happy birthday!

Building Use Update

You may have noticed a few extra children at church throughout the summer. Ava Agnew has been teaching piano lessons to six piano students and one clarinet student in the choir room throughout this summer and will continue with two of her students this fall. 10% of her proceeds is paid back to St. Paul's for building use.



College/Military Addresses Needed



Are you a member of our congregation who is heading off to college or being deployed? Our College/Military Care Team would love to send you letters and care packages. To participate, please send the office your name, college/military address, name of school, year in school, and area of study. We are sending out our first mailing the first week of September, so please turn in addresses as soon as possible.

IA vs. ISU VBS Snack Mix Fundraiser

Sunday, September 6, 2026

prior to and following the 9:30 a.m. worship service

Sunday, September 13, 2026

prior to and following the 10:10 a.m. worship service

There will be two tables in the narthex, one decorated for the University of Iowa and one decorated for Iowa State University. 99 bags of touchdown snack mix will be available to purchase before and after worship as a fundraiser for our 2027 VBS. When purchasing the snack mix, place your money at the table of your choice to see which team's table raises the most money for the kids.



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, Sept. 26, at 8:30 a.m. in Schuldts Dining Hall

September Office Hours Updates

The church office will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, September 7th, and will also be closed on Tuesday, September 29th for an out-of-state college visit. Please note that Pastor Mike has a lot of online meetings scheduled in September, between DCOM, BOM, and the Leadership Institute. If you want to stop by the office specifically to talk to him, please call ahead to make sure he will be available.



Election Day Luncheon Update



If you've helped with the Election Day Luncheon in the past or would like to help this year, you are invited to a planning meeting on Monday, September 14th, at 9:45 a.m. in Schuldts Dining Hall. If you want to help but aren't able to attend, please talk to Linda Christensen.

Nursery Workers Needed

Nursery service during worship will resume on September 13th. If you are interested in joining the nursery attendant rotation, Pastor Mike can send you the link to an online sign-up. A \$25/week stipend is available, or you can volunteer for silver cord hours. Please note that a background check is required, for the safety of the children. This position is open to older high school students or adults.



Sam's Club Gift Cards Needed



Children's Sunday School is requesting Sam's Club gift cards to purchase snacks and drinks for this year. If you can help, please place the gift cards in the offering plate, in the mailbox (north triple doors at the education entrance), or in the office.

Volunteer Sign-Ups

Volunteers are needed to assist with worship (liturgist, children's message, ushers). If you'd like to volunteer, please sign up in the narthex on Sunday, or contact the office during the week (M-Th.; 9-12 & 1-3).

Save the Date for Bingo!



October 25th from 5:30-7 p.m.

Announcements & Updates

Funeral Luncheon Volunteer Sign-up

We are gathering a list of people who are willing to help with funeral luncheons. A variety of jobs are available, from providing dessert, to scheduling, to working at the luncheon, and more. As of newsletter printing, 41 people have already signed up! Since many hands make light work, we encourage you to add your name and volunteer preferences to the list. A paper copy is available on the table in the narthex on Sundays or in the office during the week (M-Th.; 9-12 & 1-3). Alternately, you can sign up online at <https://www.cherokeemethodist.com/funeral-signup>. You can also find the link on the slider of our website, which is [cherokeemethodist.com](http://www.cherokeemethodist.com). If you have any questions about job duties, please call Linda Christensen at (712) 261-2301.

Other Upcoming Meetings & Events

Mon. & Wed.	7 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous (NE door by parking lot)
Tues., 9/1	9:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Visitation Team (library) Nominations Committee (Feller Lounge)
Wed., 9/2	10 a.m.	Communion (Heartland)
Tues., 9/8	10 a.m. 5:30 p.m.	Cherokee County Ministerial Assoc. Outreach & Connections (Feller)
Sat., 9/12	9 a.m.-12p.m.	Schuldt Dining Hall reserved
Tues., 9/15	5 p.m.	SPRC (Feller Lounge)
Thurs., 9/17	—	Newsletter info due
Tues., 9/22	10:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Communion (Accura) Finance Committee (Feller Lounge)
Wed., 9/23	10:30 a.m.	Bible study (The Gardens)
Thurs., 9/24	6:30 p.m.	Administrative Council (Feller Lounge)

NW District Newsletter Available

Check out the Northwest District newsletter that is pinned to the bulletin board at the west entrance and at the education entrance for information about lay servant training, UM Volunteers in Mission training, a beloved community event in Sioux City, a Wesley Heritage tour opportunity with the bishop, and more! You can also find it on the district's website, which is <https://www.iaumc.org/CCLnews>.



Online Giving Options

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
@SPUMC-Cherokee

- 1) Venmo (See right.)
- 2) Scan the QR code below.



- 3) Text the amount to (712) 882-7149.
- 4) Visit:
<http://stpaulsunitedmethodistchurch4833.breezechms.com/give/online>

United Women in Faith Buzz

UWFaith Executive Board

Mon., Sept. 14, at 9:30 a.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall

Election Day Luncheon Planning Meeting

Monday, Sept. 14, at 9:45 a.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall

September Program and Offering

Program: pg. 117
Call to Prayer & Self-Denial 2026
The Future is Now—Invest in Our Children
Offering for Call to Prayer & Self-Denial is sent to the Northwest Iowa UWFaith District.



Grace Circle

Wed., Sept. 9, at 6:30 p.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall

Hostess: Darlene Woltman

Program: Judy Grienke-Miller



Joyful Charity Circle

Wed., Sept. 16, at 1:30 p.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall

Hostess & Program: Ervina Scott

Northwest District Annual Meeting

September 26 at Faith UMC in Humboldt

All women from our congregation and the community are invited to be a part of United Women in Faith. Contact Linda Christensen—or attend a circle meeting—if you are interested in learning more.



Did you know UWFaith spent \$904.23 on food for VBS? That is approximately \$1.69/meal.

Christian Education News

Children's Sunday School



Resumes Sunday, September 13th
9 - 10 a.m.

Classes for PK-8th grade students
Informational parent/guardian letters
will go home the first day.

Children's Choir & Noisy Offering

Children's Choir will sing on the last Sunday of the month throughout the school year. On those Sundays, we will also take a "noisy offering" (spare change) to benefit children's ministries here at St. Paul's.



Sunday School Teachers Needed



Children's Sunday School teachers and assistants are needed. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Miranda Cook, Steph Rochleau, Heidi Gerstandt, Pastor Mike, or the church office. A background check is required, for the safety of the children, but that can easily be completed online by Pastor Mike.

3rd Grade Bible Presentation

Third graders from our congregation will receive their own Bibles on Sunday, September 27th! If you would like your third grader to receive a Bible, please contact the church office. If you have a child older than 3rd grade who hasn't received a Bible, let us know that as well. If you aren't available on September 27th, just let us know. We'd be happy to save a Bible for your child.



Adult Class

The Adult Class will resume on Sunday, September 13th, at 9 a.m. in Feller Lounge (south of dining hall) and will be studying *Follow* by Andy Stanley. This is the type of study where the class watches some teaching by Andy Stanley on DVD and then has class discussion. New members are always welcome! If you aren't able to attend in person, a Zoom (online) option is available by talking to Pastor Mike.



Save the Date for VBS!

July 11-15, 2027

Teen Time (High School Youth Group)

Due to no one being able to step up to the leadership of Teen Time, at this time we have decided to continue serving in an abbreviated form. We would like to carry on our St. Paul's UM Youth Group as a monthly offering rather than as we have scheduled it in previous years. We will begin our first monthly youth gathering on Wednesday, September 16th, at 6:30 p.m. here at our home (409 Centennial Drive). We will meet for food and fellowship as in the past. All senior high students are invited to attend. If you have friends that are interested and do not belong to our church, please feel welcome to bring them with you. Brenda DeRoo will be continuing to furnish sweet treats, as in the past. If any adults are interested to see about future leadership, please let us know. This is an important mission in our church. We look forward to serving in this capacity.

Respectfully,

Craig and Monica Schmidt

Tentative Teen Time Schedule

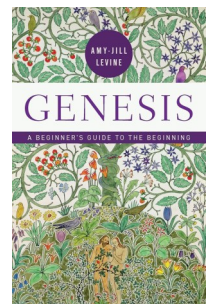
9/16	11/4 (Fareway/CAP)	12/16	2/17	4/21
10/21	11/18 (Hy-Vee/Trinity)	1/20	3/17	

Free Devotionals Available

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

Fall Small Group Bible Studies

This fall, Pastor Mike will be offering two small group studies over the book *Genesis: A Beginner's Guide to the Beginning* by Amy-Jill Levine. The Sunday study will meet at 5 p.m. on September 20 and 27, October 4 and 11, and November 1 and 15. The Monday study will meet at 10:30 a.m. on September 21 and 28 and October 5, 12, 19, and 26. 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 \$22/person, but financial assistance is available, if needed. Please sign up in the narthex on Sunday, or call the office during the week (M-Th.; 9-12 & 1-3). Books are also available in the narthex and in the office.



Thank You Notes

Thank you to the anonymous donor of gift cards for the Vacation Bible School volunteers. We appreciate your kindness!

Thank you to the Scherbring family for the postcards for the College/Military Care ministry.

What a nice surprise and such a kind gesture to send the gift card for 59 Grind. I enjoyed helping with the kids at VBS. Steph, Miranda, and Heidi had everything so well organized, and I know that Brenda's meals were so appreciated.

Linda Christensen



Thank you to the following people for helping with summer fellowship time: Betty Point, Jeff Blum, Gigi Boothby, Linda Rutter, Barb and Dan Kratz, Don and Jeanne

Blackstone, Denise Green, Shelley Lenz, Jean and Gene Anderson, Sandy Peters, Linda and Dave Appleby, Peggy and Jim Corrington, Neil and Jodi Phipps, Stacy Kruse, Sue and Dr. Wes Parker, Lowell and Sharon Bennink, Bonni Conley, Micki Conley, Barb and Al Henn, Stan and Brenda DeRoo, Mike and Deb Samuelson, John & Kay O'Connor, Dean & Glenda Parrish, Bob and Peg Parker, and Darrel and Sue Paulsen.

The Board of Trustees thanks you for the donations to the capital account that are helping to pay for the four new rugs. The rugs are located by the west doors, in the hallway west of Feller Lounge and Schuldt Dining Hall, and in the basement of the education building.

Thank you for all the cards and gifts for my birthday. That was really appreciated and so thoughtful of you.

Bonita LaFave

Thank you so much for the wonderful donation you made to our food pantry. What a blessing these funds will be to the many less fortunate people and families that come monthly for help with food.



God's blessings,
Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry Committee

Thanks for the card from Visitation Team (Jeannette Grant). I also appreciate the weekly message mailed to me. I miss being in church. However, the Sunday church service on video is a great way to appreciate worship. Hello to all.

Love, Norma Fox

Missions News

Ingathering Funds Needed

IOWA CONFERENCE of the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Monetary donations are needed to help pay for sup-

plies for the 100 school kits our congregation will donate for Ingathering in November, as the supplies are purchased in bulk to save money. If you'd like to donate, please make your check out to St. Paul's United Methodist Church and note "Ingathering" on the memo. For more information about the Ingathering, please visit <https://www.iaumc.org/ingathering/#iac>.

Missions Dates to Remember

Missions Fall Dinner (Pulled Pork)

Sunday, October 25th, following worship

Proceeds: 1/2 to missions fund and 1/2 to camp fund

Food & Funds Drive for Area Food Pantries

October 25-November 15

Sleeping Mat Weaving

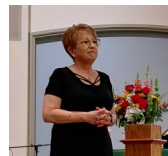


Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. in Feller Lounge

If you have questions about volunteering, please see the March newsletter, or call Glenda Parrish at (712) 221-9801.

Church Family News

New Member



Kathy Brandt, our new Chancel Choir director, transferred her membership to St. Paul's UMC on August 2nd.

Baptism Blessings



Kimber Jo Stief, daughter of Skylar and Mitchell Stief, was baptized here at St. Paul's UMC on August 30th. Her proud grandparents are Amy and Marlin Stief, Larry Gerdes, and Ann Pritchett, and her sponsors were Maverick Stief and Alexia Gerdes.

With Sympathy & Prayers

Russell Irwin "Rusty" Grashoff, 81, of Cherokee passed away on July 30th at Accura Rehab in Cherokee. Visitation was held on August 2nd, with a funeral service on August 3rd, both at Boothby Funeral Home. The luncheon was held here at St. Paul's UMC, and burial was in the Afton Township Cemetery, rural Cherokee.

Worship Notes

North Door Greeters

9/6	Denise Green
9/13	Jim & Peggy Corrington
9/20	Jerri Hunt & Darlene Woltman
9/27	Linda Struck



Liturgists

9/6	Deb Samuelson	9/20	Needed
9/13	Bonni Conley	9/27	Needed

Children's Time

9/6	Deb Samuelson
9/13	Bonni Conley and Sandy Peters
9/20	Needed - Sign up in narthex, or call the office.
9/27	Heidi Gerstandt

Ushers

9/6	Shelley Lenz, Gigi Boothby, and Kent & Nicci Lundquist
Five per Sunday needed for the rest of September.	

Altar Flowers

9/6	Scott Osborn & Marla Conley
9/13	Mike & Deb Samuelson
9/20	Open - Sign up in narthex, or call the office.
9/27	Open - Sign up in narthex, or call the office.

Nursery Attendant

9/13	Needed - Sign up online.
9/20	Needed - Sign up online.
9/27	Needed - Sign up online.



The nursery is unstaffed until September 13th, 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

9/6	Curt & Kristal Phillips, Linda Rutter, Gigi Boothby, and Neil & Jodi Phipps
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Summer Fellowship

9/6	Bob & Peg Parker and Darrel & Sue Paulsen
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Attendance

8/2: 66	8/16: 76	8/30: 82
8/9: 64	8/23: 71	



Current Sermon Series

Making Sense of Revelation (Hope in the Midst of Chaos)

Revelation is one of the most mysterious, difficult to understand books of the Bible. Perhaps that is one of the reasons why it almost didn't make it into the Bible! Are we living in the end times? What is the mark of the beast? Who is the antichrist? Join us as we decode the book of Revelation to see the ever-relevant message it has for Christians of all generations living within empire.

8/30	"How to Read Revelation"	Rev. 1:1-20
9/6	"Messages to the Church"	Rev. 2-3
9/13	"The Lion is the Lamb"	Rev. 4-5
9/20	"Judgment or Consequence?"	Rev. 6-11; 16
9/27	"Exiles in Babylon"	Rev. 12-18
10/4	"The Battle is Already Won"	Rev. 19-22

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.



Music Notes



Bell Choir & Chancel Choir

Bell Choir practice resumes on Wednesday, September 16th (date change!), at 5:45 p.m. in the sanctuary and will play during worship on Sunday, October 11th. Chancel Choir practices resumes on Wednesday, September 9th, at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room and will sing during worship on Sunday, September 20th. New members are always welcome in both groups!

September Special Music

9/6	Linda Christensen and Betty Point
9/13	Meribeth Adams and Ava Agnew
9/20	Chancel Choir
9/27	Children's Choir

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



You're Invited!
Join us as we begin our fall schedule!
Sunday, September 13, 2026
9 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Class
10:10 a.m. Worship Service
Everyone is welcome!

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
531 W. Main Street, Cherokee, Iowa
Website: www.cherokeemethodist.com
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