



# THE DOME

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

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## July 2025

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### St. Paul's UMC

**Summer Worship:**

9:30 a.m.

**Sunday School:**

Resumes in September

**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)

**Nicci's Email:**

[cherokeespumc@gmail.com](mailto: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:**

Becky Lickiss

**Bell Choir Director:**

Dusty Basten

### A Moment with Mike

Our Iowa Annual Conference was held in West Des Moines on June 13th - 15th. Annual Conference is a time when clergy and laity from our Iowa 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 Friday 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. Friday afternoon, clergy and laity gathered for opening worship with a sermon given by our Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai.

Other special events during the conference included a special presentation on Friday evening, all about how congregations in Iowa are and can respond to support immigrants in our midst who are facing the threat of deportation and/or imprisonment by our federal government. On Saturday, we had an educational presentation by Dr. Ashely Boggan D., the General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History. She recently authored a book about United Methodist history and how it can inform our witness today. 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. There were so many who came forward that they had to repeat the song they were playing to have time to speak to them all! Bishop Trimble, one of our previous bishops, preached the sermon.

In between these special events, we did the business of the church. This included things like approving nominations of people to various conference committees, approving the budget, passing legislation for our conference journal, and hearing reports from the Iowa United Methodist Foundation and the Board of Pensions, Cokesbury, and others. We approved amendments to the Book of Discipline that were passed at the last General Conference that would allow different regions of the world to adapt the Book of Discipline to their context of ministry. We also approved the conference purchasing a building for the French Ministry of Le Mars and Sioux City. This is a ministry that has been going strong and had been meeting in some United Methodist Churches that had disaffiliated. They needed a new home, so the purchase of a new building was approved, using funds that had been set aside for such a purpose, as this is still considered a mission church.

There is much more that took place at Annual Conference, more than I have space here to share, but to learn more, you may go to [www.iaumc.org](http://www.iaumc.org). All in all, Annual Conference is a great time to see clergy and laity that I have known from the past, but I am also glad to be back in Cherokee with all of you.

God bless,  
Pastor Mike

# Event Happenings



## Cherokee Storm Damage

Early evening, Monday, June 16th, the weather changed quickly and dramatically in Cherokee and the surrounding towns. Within about 15 minutes the storm had passed through, leaving behind many trees, limbs, and branches in yards and on the streets, downed power lines, and destruction of roofs and crops.

## Community

It is during times such as these that we are reminded God is with us always, even in the midst of our storms. As a community, many neighbors and friends, without prompting, began helping remove debris from the roads, yards, and driveways. As a community of United Methodist Church members, we are reminded in times such as these that we are called to put our faith and God's love into action. As one of our hymn's states, "The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people."



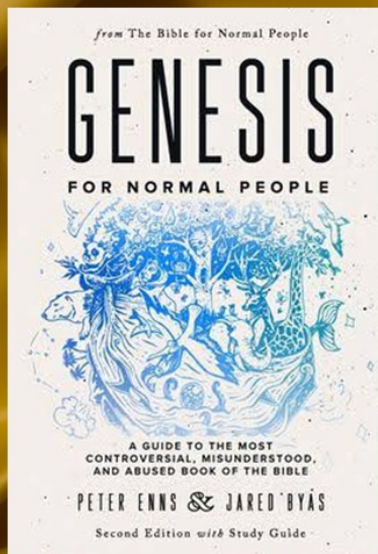
## Event Happenings

# Summer Bible Study

### Sundays

6:30 p.m.      June 22 & 29  
Feller Lounge      July 13 & 27  
August 3 & 10

The book of Genesis and the narratives within it fuel some of the most hotly debated topics of our time. In this study, we will look beyond the controversy and invite you to discover ancient stories that anyone can understand - stories that have gripped people for millennia. *Genesis for Normal People* illuminates the characters that fill the book of Genesis so that we might resonate with their choices and struggles even as we marvel at their distant, ancient world.



## Men's Breakfast

On Saturday, June 21st, we had our men's breakfast in the Schuldts Dining Hall. A light breakfast and a short devotion was provided. This is a great way for men to gather together, sharing God's love and putting their faith into action. Please join us at our next men's breakfast on Saturday, July 26th, at 8:30 a.m. You are welcome to invite a friend or neighbor to join you. All men are welcome!



## Summer Bible Study

Our summer Bible study met on Sunday, June 22nd, in the Feller Lounge to begin discussing the book, *Genesis for Normal People*. We have a group of seven people attending one, a few, or all of the classes. If you are interested in joining, learning together, and sharing in fellowship, please contact the office to pick up a book. All are welcome!

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

## Joyful Charity Circle

On Wednesday, June 18th, Joyful Charity Circle met in the Schuldts Dining Hall. Roni Timmerman was the hostess, and Jeanne Blackstone provided 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. Joyful Charity Circle will meet again on Wednesday, September 17th, at 1:30 p.m., in the Schuldts Dining Hall.



## Welcome, Little One!

Brooklynn and Treven Tewes welcomed a son, Beckett Lane Tewes, on Saturday, June 21st. Beckett was 6 lbs. 3 oz. Proud grandparents are Kenny & Melissa Schlenger. Welcome to the world, little one!



## Stonebridge Suites of Cherokee

Do you have a friend or family member looking to make the move into an assisted living community? Check out the resident referral program at Stonebridge Suites, and get the perfect neighbor.

*Good friends make  
great neighbors!*

For more information about Stonebridge Suites of Cherokee, please contact the business office at (712) 225-5724.



## The Gardens Assisted Living Picnic

The Gardens Assisted Living will be celebrating their 17th anniversary with a free picnic on Tuesday, July 1st, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. The pork producers will be grilling, and the sides and desserts will be provided. All are welcome!

# Announcements and Updates



## Rodeo Parade

Thank you to all of the volunteers who participated in the rodeo parade, Saturday, May 31st. As a church family, we handed out over 950 personalized invitations for Vacation Bible School to be held on July 20-24 this year. Much laughter and exercise was had by all who attended. This photo is from a previous year.

## Pastor Mike Attended Annual Conference



Iowa Annual Conference was held on June 13th-15th in West Des Moines. Pastor Mike attended in person. Thank you to Linda Burkhart for representing our congregation by attending virtually. Below is pictured Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai giving the opening worship sermon and performing a baptism. These photos were taken by Iowa Conference Communications.



## Peace with Justice Sunday

On June 15th, we joined other United Methodist Churches in taking a special offering to support programs and ministries to educate, equip, and mobilize networks to engage in social advocacy and action. 50% of the offering remains in the Iowa Annual Conference, and 50% funds the peacemaking ministries and grants. \$263.00 was collected. Thank you for your generosity.

## Thank You

Thank you to Madi Stief for giving the message, "Not Today, Satan," on Sunday, June 15th, during worship, and to Linda Burkhart for leading worship while Pastor Mike attended the Iowa Annual Conference.

## Thank You

Thank you to Chuck Tolzin for leading worship and giving the message, "Try A Little Kindness," on June 1st, during worship, and to Dave Appleby for serving as Liturgist while Pastor Mike was on vacation.

## Thank You

Thank you to Louie & Sheree Hausmann and Dixie Carper for delivering all of the collected items to the Ida Grove drop off site for The Orphan Grain Train on Tuesday, June 3rd.

## Thank You

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

## Thank You

Thank you to the UW Faith Circles and all of the other people who help with funeral meals. It is a big job, and we are all so appreciative!

## Thank You

The family of Loren Woltman would like to thank Pastor Mike and Jennifer Agnew, Boothby Funeral Home, and our church family and friends. Thank you for the calls, prayers, memorials, and also thank you to the church gals for organizing the meal. Whatever you have done, it is all very much appreciated.

Darlene Woltman and families

## Thank you

Thank you for the cards, phone calls, and text messages that have been received during the time of experiencing shingles, and due to being a klutz and falling. My face still looks like I am wearing a Halloween mask 24/7 but is now changing colors. My left wrist is in a splint, and the shingles are getting better.

Lois Eggerth

## Thank you

Thank you to Stan DeRoo for arriving very early after the storm on June 16th to pick up branches and limbs off the front lawn of the church. We appreciate you!

# Announcements and Updates

## Summer Fellowship Time

Volunteers are needed to provide snacks for summer fellowship after worship each Sunday. We would like two couples, or four people, to furnish about three dozen bars or cookies. If you would like to volunteer, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex on Sundays, or you may call the church office.



## Sunday School Teachers Needed for Fall

Planning will begin soon for fall Sunday School! We will begin classes on Sunday, September 7th. Caring, loving adults of all ages are welcome and encouraged to volunteer. If you would like to volunteer to teach or substitute, please contact Pastor Mike. We hope to have enough teachers that no one will be expected to teach every week.

## Be Aware This Summer



Justin Bigley has begun painting the church's exterior fascia and soffits, and Hatch Masonry will begin repairs to the brick work, soon.

## UM Camp Registration Open

Registration is still open for summer camp at Lake Okobojo and Wesley Woods UM Camps! Find out more at <https://www.iaumc.org/camps/#iac>.

Remember, our Missions Committee will pay 75% of the registration fee for children, youth, and adults from our congregation!



## Junior Leader Camp Okobojo

Sophie Scherbring attended Junior Leaders camp in Okobojo on June 9th-10th. The intent of this program is to provide leadership opportunities for the participants, ages 16-17, by volunteering directly or indirectly with campers, summer staff, full time staff, and volunteers on grounds. By giving them responsibility, it allows them the chance to succeed, build confidence, and discover who God created them to be. They are given a glimpse of all the roles at work and where they might find their passion at camp. By serving alongside summer staff, they build Christian relationships that they can take with them. They can ask questions of the summer staff and learn how to live a Christian lifestyle on college campuses and gain insight into facing the challenges and opportunities of high school life in general. This was a wonderful opportunity for Sophie to grow and share her faith! She also attended camp June 23-28, volunteering as a counselor. We are so proud of you!

## Seeking Summer Special Music

We want to encourage volunteers to provide special music in worship during the summer months. 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 this summer, please call the church office.



## United Women in Faith Buzz

### United Women in Faith Executive Board

No meeting in July



### Grace Circle

Wednesday, July 9th, at 6:30 p.m.  
Schuldt Dining Hall

### Joyful Charity Circle

No meeting in July



All women are welcome to join a circle!

## Other Upcoming Meetings and Events

|             |            |                                         |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Mon. & Wed. | 7:00 p.m.  | Alcoholics Anonymous (NE door)          |
| Tues., 7/1  | 9:30 a.m.  | Visitation Team (Library)               |
| Wed., 7/2   | 10:00 a.m. | Communion at Heartland                  |
| Tues., 7/15 | 7:00 p.m.  | Finance Committee (Schuldt Dining Hall) |
| Tues., 7/22 |            | Newsletter info due                     |
| Wed., 7/23  | 10:30 a.m. | Bible study at The Gardens              |
| Tues., 7/29 | 11:00 a.m. | Communion at Accura                     |

IOWA CONFERENCE of the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



# Ingathering



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

## Online Giving Now Available

Online giving by debit/credit card or bank transfer is now available at <https://stpaulsunitedmethodistchurch4833.breezechms.com/give/online>, or text the amount you wish to give to 712-882-7149. You may also scan the QR code.



## Registration Open for Vacation Bible School!



Vacation Bible School for children who have completed PK-5th grade is scheduled for July 20-24, 2025, from 5:00-8:00 p.m., with a FREE supper for the students and their families. Register your kids at:

<https://www.cherokeemethodist.com/vbs>

or by using the QR code.

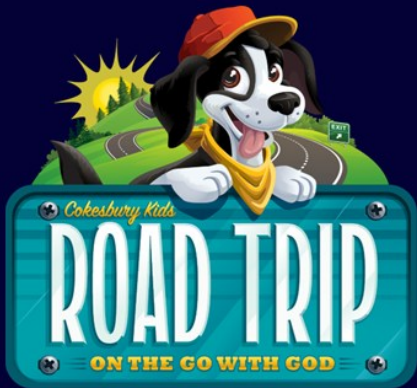


As of June 25th, forty children have registered, and forty-one children have been sponsored through our congregation. Thank you for your financial support!

## Mark Your Calendars

You won't want to miss this year's Vacation Bible School closing program scheduled for Thursday, July 24th at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. See how the kids have learned and grown in their faith during V.B.S. week. All are welcome!

## V.B.S. Closing Program



**Thursday, July 24, at  
7:30 p.m.  
in the sanctuary**

## HomeTouch Ministry

Each week we mail the Sunday worship bulletin with a *HomeTouch* devotional to our church family and friends that are homebound, or in the nursing home and not able to attend worship due to their health. 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 office to be placed on the mailing list. May God continue to bless our homebound church family through this wonderful ministry.

## 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, so you are able to watch worship.

## With Sympathy & Prayers

**Betty Jean Bilney**, 96, of Cherokee, Iowa passed away on Saturday morning, January 4, 2025, in the Heartland Care Center at Marcus, Iowa. Memorial services were held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Cherokee on June 7, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. Burial was in Oak Hill Cemetery at Cherokee, Iowa.

**Loren R. Woltman**, 83, of Cherokee, Iowa, passed away Friday evening, May 23, 2025, at Accura Healthcare in Cherokee, Iowa. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery at Cherokee, Iowa.

**John H. Cook, Jr.**, 75, of Cherokee, Iowa, passed away Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at Mayo Clinic Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, surrounded by his family. A Celebration of Life service was held on Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Cherokee, Iowa.

## Have News?



If you have news you would like to share with the congregation (engagement, wedding, new baby, graduation, death, etc.), please contact the office. It can be announced in the weekly bulletin, and/or the monthly newsletter.

# Worship Notes

## North Door Greeters

7/6 Linda Christensen  
7/13 Shelley Lenz  
7/20 Neil & Jodi Phipps  
7/27 Craig & Monica Schmidt

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## Liturgists

7/6 Linda Rutter  
7/13 Kent Lundquist  
7/20 Ava Agnew  
7/27 Rod Raveling

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## Ushers

7/6 Kevin & Karla Wilkie, Curt & Kristal Phillips  
7/13 Kevin & Karla Wilkie, Amy Stief, Betty Harman, and Roni Timmerman  
7/20 Gene & Jean Anderson, Betty Harman, and Scott & Penny Christensen  
7/27 Kenny & Melissa Schlenger, Roni Timmerman, Madison Stief, and Jen Gaydo

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## Altar Flowers

7/6 Bonni Conley  
7/13 Bonni Conley  
7/20 Neil & Jodi Phipps  
7/27 Sign up in the narthex, or call the office.

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 all have a key to our building and can deliver the arrangements.

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## Fellowship Volunteers

7/6 Bonni Conley and Micki Conley  
7/13 Jim & Peggy Corrington and Roni Timmerman  
7/20 Glenda Parrish and Lois Eggerth  
7/27 Mike & Deb Samuelson

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## July 6th Fellowship

Please join us for a July 4th celebration with themed treats and decorations after worship on Sunday, July 6th during fellowship in the Schuldt Dining Hall. It is a great way to get to know one another. All are welcome.

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## 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.

7/6 A Dynasty Rises and Falls  
(Samuel and Kings)  
7/13 Rebuilding  
(Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah)  
7/20 A Pause for Reflection  
(Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon)  
7/27 Those Despicable Prophets

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## 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.

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## Worship Attendance

| Worship |    |
|---------|----|
| 6/1     | 74 |
| 6/8     | 58 |
| 6/15    | 63 |
| 6/22    | 73 |

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## Inspirational Focus

"We want to make a difference in somebody's life in a little way and be that bright spot in their day."

Unknown Author

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## St. Paul's United Methodist Church's Vacation Bible School

**July 20-24, 2025**

**FREE** supper for kids and their families  
is served from 5 - 5:30 p.m.

**Sunday:** tacos & cupcakes

**Monday:** spaghetti & cookies

**Tuesday:** pancakes & sausage

**Wednesday:** hot dogs, chips, & brownies

**Thursday:** mac & cheese, nuggets, & DQ ice cream



All kids who have completed PK-5th grade are invited to stay for crafts, games, Bible story lessons, and science fun from 5:30 - 8 p.m. Parents, please arrive in the narthex (the room behind the sanctuary) around 7:45 p.m. for pick-up.

Please register your child online at:  
<https://www.cherokeemethodist.com/vbs>  
or by using the QR code.



## Vacation Bible School Decorating

Thursday, July 17, 2025  
5 p.m.

**Volunteers  
welcome!**

## VBS Mission Project



Kids attending Vacation Bible School are encouraged to bring money for our local food pantries. Each age group will compete to see who can raise the most!