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



St. Paul's UMC

Adult Class: 9 a.m.
(last day May 10th)

Sunday School: 9 a.m.
(last day May 3rd)

Worship: 10:10 a.m.
(through May 17th)

Summer Worship: 9:30 a.m.
(begins May 24th)

Jennifer's Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1-3 p.m.

Address:


531 W. Main Street
Cherokee, IA 51012

Office Telephone:
(712) 225-3955

Office Texting Number:
(712) 227-3291
(checked during office hours)

Office Email:
cherokeespumc@gmail.com

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

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

As we begin the month of May, I would like to let you know about an opportunity we have as United Methodists to make a difference in our world. As you may be aware, we have a number of special offerings we collect for our denomination's ministries each year. This year, on May 17th, we have the opportunity to give to a one-time special offering, called Miracle Sunday.



"Miracle Sunday is a denomination-wide special offering to support The Endowment for Theological Education outside the United States. This offering addresses a critical and growing disparity within the global church." Whereas about 70% of clergy in the United States have a theological degree, less than 5% of clergy outside the U.S. have access to the same level of education. "Gifts received through Miracle Sunday will help fund the gap in theological education for emerging pastors in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines, strengthening local leadership and expanding the church's capacity for faithful, contextual ministry." (Information from: <https://www.iaumc.org/miracle-sunday-initiative>)



The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples for the transformation of the world, and we are a connectional church, meaning we, as United Methodists, support other United Methodist ministries around the world. In recent years, United Methodist churches in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines have been growing rapidly. The Holy Spirit is at work in these places, and we want to make sure we do all we can to encourage those leading congregations to have the training they need.

Throughout the weeks leading up to May 17th, we will show videos in worship of people in these areas who have been making a difference in the name of Jesus Christ. Then, on May 17th, we will collect the offering. **Our bishop is challenging each congregation to give at least \$1,000 to help make this endowment a reality.** Whatever amount we give, though, is sure to make a big difference when combined with the offerings of other United Methodists in the U.S. and around the world. May God bless us as we continue the good work of making disciples, both locally and globally.



God Bless,
Pastor Mike Agnew

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April Happenings

Easter Sunday



Teen Time hosted a delicious Easter brunch.

The Outreach and Connections Team stuffed and hid 220 eggs for the egg hunt.

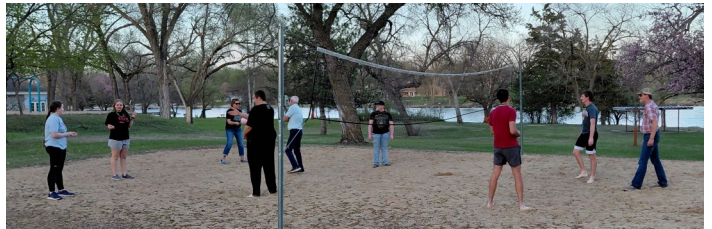


Photo credit to Miranda Cook.



Teen Time End of the Year Celebration

April 22nd was the last Teen Time for this school year, and the group ate supper at Godfather's Pizza, went to Dairy Queen for ice cream, and played sand volleyball at Spring Lake Park. Thank you to Monica and Craig Schmidt for their dedication to the youth and to Brenda DeRoo for faithfully making desserts for their gatherings.



UM Pulpit Swap

The Hope is Alive Clergy Circuit of UM pastors had a pulpit swap on April 26th. Pastor Mike went to Odebolt UMC, and Pastor John Wesley Shungu of Larabee and Sutherland UM Churches came here.



Linda Burkhart (worship leader), Pastor Shungu, and Bonni Conley (liturgist) - Photo credit to Peg Corrington.



During Children's Time, the kids opened Resurrection Eggs, which tell the story of Easter.

Thank you to the Chancel Choir, Charlie Leisler, Linda Christensen, Betty Point, Meribeth Adams, and Ava Agnew for the special music on Easter.



April Happenings

Children's Choir

April 26th was the last Children's Choir performance for this school year. The congregation has enjoyed their joyful songs throughout the year!



Photo credit to Sue Parker.

Sunday School



Left: The kids learned the parable of the lost sheep.

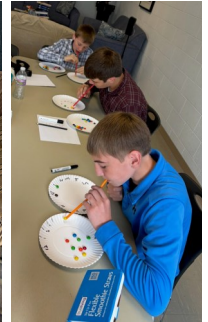
Below left: The kids watched *Light of the World*.

Photo credit to Heidi Gerstandt.

Adult Class



Above right: Minute to Win It - Photo credit to Jess Knippel.



**WITH HEARTFELT APPRECIATION,
HEIFER INTERNATIONAL RECOGNIZES**

Saint Paul's United Methodist Church

for your unwavering dedication and support that inspires us all.
Your faith-filled generosity changes lives and brings hope to families around the world.

*"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion,
and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11*

Christy Moore

Heifer International



January 2026

Date

Announcements & Updates

Apparel Orders Due!



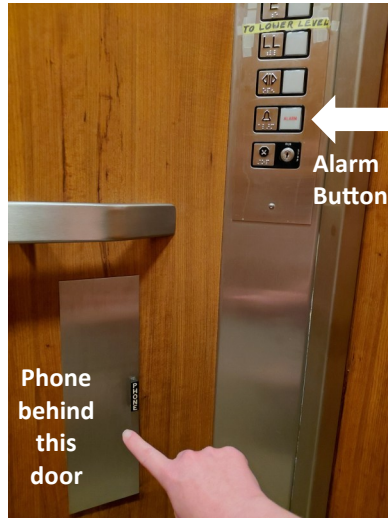
St. Paul's apparel is available to purchase by credit card via an online store. In addition to t-shirts, long-sleeved t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies, this year, polos, quarter zip sweatshirts and pullovers, and caps are available. \$2 from every item purchased goes to help fund Vacation Bible School. There are flyers on the table in the narthex and on the table outside the office with a QR code to scan, or you may also place your order online at:

<https://stpaulmethodistchurchapparel.spring2026.itemorder.com/>

Orders are due by midnight on Thursday, April 30th. Completed orders can be picked up at the church after May 15th. Note: If you don't have the internet or a credit card and want to make a purchase, stop by the church office with a check made out to St. Paul's UMC, and Jennifer can place your order with the church's credit card.

Elevator Update

There have been a couple incidents recently where people have become temporarily stuck in the elevator. The repairman has been out and adjusted a few settings, so we hope the issue has been resolved. Just in case, please be aware that there is an alarm button as well as a telephone in the elevator. See the photo for instructions.



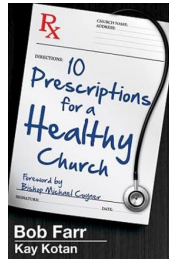
Northwest District Conference



Northwest District Conference is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd, at Laurens UMC (201 W. Main Street) from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., with lunch to follow. Anyone

from our congregation is welcome to attend. Pastor Mike will be attending and will also have a pre-Annual Conference training prior from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Administrative Council Book Study



The Administrative Council is reading the book *10 Prescriptions for a Healthy Church* by Bob Farr and Kay Kotan and is discussing a few chapters at each meeting.

Summer Fellowship Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to provide summer fellowship workers and snacks. Soon, there will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex, or you can call Betty Point to volunteer.



College/Military Care Receives Grant



The College/Military Care Team is excited to announce that we have been awarded \$1,000 from the Elsie Stouffer Trust Grant for the fourth year in a row! This grant is used for cards, gift cards, candy, and other small items for care packages, packing tape, padded envelopes, postage, and any other items we may need for the ministry. We are so grateful for this grant and the \$900 in 2023, \$1,100 in 2024, and \$1,000 in 2025. A check for the 2026 grant will be mailed to St. Paul's in August. Members of the College/Military Care Team include Meribeth Adams, Jan Cook, and Jennifer Agnew. If you would like to be a part of the team this fall, please contact Jennifer.

May Mobile Meals

Thank you to the following volunteers who will be delivering Mobile Meals in the month of May.

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------------------------------|
| 5/4 | North | Dave and Linda Appleby |
| | South | Denise Green and Jeff Blum |
| 5/11 | North | Larry and Shelley Lenz |
| | South | Denise Green and Jeff Blum |
| 5/18 | North | Louie and Sheree Hausmann |
| | South | Marla Conley and Micki Conley |
| 5/25 | North | Louie and Sheree Hausmann |
| | South | Chuck and Julie Tolzin |

Please pull up at the Specialty Clinic entrance at 10:40 a.m., tell the greeter you are there for Mobile Meals, and load and deliver the meals. It takes approximately 40 minutes to complete each route. Volunteers will receive a gas voucher and a free meal (or a voucher for a free meal) at the hospital.

Announcements & Updates

Pastor Impersonation Scam



In December and April, several members of our congregation received fraudulent text messages that claimed to be from Pastor Mike. The messages stated that he was in a meeting and needed help purchasing gift cards for someone in need. **These messages are scams and are not from Pastor Mike.** Unfortunately, even the Iowa Conference has had a similar situation happen to them, but as an email scam. This is an unfortunate, frustrating byproduct of living in the digital age. Please be careful not to become a victim of these scams. If you ever question a communication purportedly from St. Paul's or Pastor Mike, please call the church office (712-225-3955) or Pastor Mike's cell (563-506-7412) to verify its authenticity.

Summer Worship Time Change

Sunday morning worship remains at 10:10 a.m. through May 17th. Beginning May 24th, worship moves to the summer time of 9:30 a.m. Mark your calendars, so you don't miss out!



Ecumenical Institute Presentation



Educating people to meet spiritual needs in their community.

During worship on May 24th, Denise Green will be sharing about Ecumenical Institute for Clinical Pastoral Education. This is a unique ministry located right here in Cherokee. If you would like to learn more, please visit ecumenicalinstitute.org. (Fun fact: Pastor Mike has earned three units of clinical pastoral education through EI since moving to Cherokee in 2021.)

Pentecost

Pentecost Sunday, the day we remember when the disciples received the Holy Spirit, is May 24th. Traditionally, the color red is associated with Pentecost as a reminder of the "tongues of fire." If you like to dress for a theme, wear your red! Learn more at <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-pentecost>.



Rodeo Parade



The rodeo parade will be held on Saturday, May 30th, at 2 p.m. Dave Appleby will be driving the church van to represent St. Paul's. Donations of candy (not chocolate that will melt) are needed. Walkers are also needed to pass out the candy and Vacation Bible School invitations to children along the route. Contact Pastor Mike to volunteer.

Landscape Donations

It is getting to that time of year when we think about landscape maintenance. If you would like to donate for flowers or mulch for around the building, please mark your check memo for "landscape."

A flyer for a Baccalaureate Service. The background is white with scattered black graduation caps and yellow streamers. The text is centered and reads: "You're Invited! Baccalaureate Service for 2026 Cherokee Washington High School Graduates Sunday, May 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. Cherokee Washington High School Auditorium 600 W. Bluff Street, Cherokee, IA Join us as we celebrate the class of 2026, thank God for his support and the support of so many others, and bless our graduating seniors as they transition to their next phase of life! Sponsored by the Cherokee County Ministerial Association in coordination with Cherokee Washington High School."/>

You're Invited!

Baccalaureate Service

for 2026 Cherokee Washington High School Graduates

Sunday, May 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Cherokee Washington High School Auditorium
600 W. Bluff Street, Cherokee, IA

Join us as we celebrate the class of 2026, thank God for his support and the support of so many others, and bless our graduating seniors as they transition to their next phase of life!

Sponsored by the Cherokee County Ministerial Association
in coordination with Cherokee Washington High School.

Men's Breakfast



All men are invited to a light breakfast and short devotion on Saturday, May 16th, at 8:30 a.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall. Monica Cowan-Schmidt will be providing breakfast.

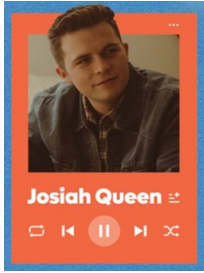
Office Hours Changes for May

The office will be closed on May 21st, as Jennifer and Pastor Mike will be at an appointment. The office will also be closed May 24th-30th, as the Agnew family will be on vacation. Telephone messages will be checked occasionally throughout the week. If you have an emergency during that time, Pastor Philip Beisswinger will be the emergency contact, and his phone number will be on our answering machine.



Announcements & Updates

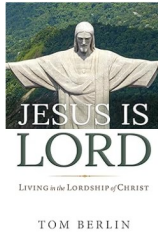
RiseFest 2026



RiseFest, a two day Christian music festival, will be held in Sheldon on June 12th and 13th. The event offers music, seminars, and camping. The lineup includes Josiah Queen, Ben Fuller, Terrian, Phil Wickham, Hulvey, Katy Nichole, Allison Eide, and Warren Peay. For more information and tickets, visit risefestiowa.com.

Summer Bible Study

Pastor Mike will be offering a summer Bible study over the book *Jesus is Lord: Living in the Lordship of Christ* by Tom Berlin. A group will meet on Monday mornings at 10 a.m., starting June 22nd, and a second group will meet on Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m., starting June 28th. Cost of the study is \$23 per person.



United Women in Faith Buzz



UWF Executive Board

Monday, May 11th, at 9:30 a.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall

May Circle Meetings



Grace Circle

Wednesday, May 13th
6 p.m.

Swezey's on Main St.

Hostess: Jean Anderson

Joyful Charity Circle

Wednesday, May 20th
1:30 p.m.

Schuldt Dining Hall

Hostess: Sue Paulsen

Program: pg. 41 *Dreams of More*

Love Offering will be collected at Circle Meetings. This Gift to Missions sent to UWF is in honor of future generations of women, children, and youth.

Linda Christensen updated the UWF bulletin board in the dining hall. Check it out!



United Women in Faith

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.

Iowa UMC Camps Registration is Now Open



Scan to Register!



We are Hiring Summer Staff!



Scan to Apply!

Remember, our Missions Committee will pay 75% of the registration fee for those attending UM camp from our congregation. As of April 22nd, we already have three youth registered!

Other Upcoming Meetings & Events

Mon. & Wed.	7 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous (NE door by parking lot)
Sat., 5/2	all day	Sch. Dining Hall in use
Mon., 5/4	9:30 a.m.	Box train assembly
Tues., 5/5	9:30 a.m.	Visitation Team (library)
Wed., 5/6	10 a.m.	Communion (Heartland)
Sat., 5/9	11 a.m.-3 p.m.	Sch. Dining Hall in use
Thurs., 5/14	—	Newsletter info due
Tues., 5/19	10:30 a.m. 5-9 p.m.	Communion (Accura) Sch. Dining Hall in use
Wed., 5/20	10:30 a.m.	Bible study (The Gardens)

Missions News

Sleeping Mat Weaving

Tuesdays 1:30 p.m. Feller Lounge



If you have questions about volunteering or how to collect and donate the plastic grocery bags, please see the March newsletter, or call Glenda Parrish at (712) 221-9801.

Special Offering Updates

\$679 UMCOR Sunday
\$186 Native American Ministries



Orphan Grain Train +

Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. May 10th through June 2nd, we will be collecting the following items for Orphan Grain Train: clothing, bedding, bath towels, new underwear and socks, medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, shower chairs, commodes), pots, pans, cooking utensils, plastic dishes, and silverware. **Everything must be clean and in good condition, and glass items cannot be accepted.** To learn more about Orphan Grain Train, visit <https://www.ogt.org/>. If you have further questions, please contact Sheree Hausmann at (712) 225-5576.

Church Family News

With Sympathy & Prayers



Richard Weathers, 98, passed away on April 4th at WEL-Life at Alta. A funeral service was held on April 9th at First United Methodist Church in Aurelia.

Patricia Ann "Trish" Curtis, 74, of Cherokee, passed away on April 26th at Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, SD. Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, May 1st, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 2nd, also at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Burial will follow in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cherokee. Trish is the grandmother of Seth (Allie) Curtis.

Celebrating a Baptism

Betty Quinn Bottorff, daughter of Spencer and Natalie Bottorff, was baptized on Sunday, April 19th. Betty was born on January 28, 2026, and her proud grandparents are Dan & Audrey Bollin and Scott & Maureen Bottorff. Congratulations to the Bottorff family!



Christian Education News

Children's Sunday School

The last day of PK-8th grade Sunday School for this school year will be May 3rd at 9 a.m. Join us for a celebration in the afternoon! Drinks and snacks will be provided.



Adult Class

The Adult Class meets at 9 a.m. on Sundays in Feller Lounge and is currently studying *Me & My Big Mouth* by Andy Stanley. The last day of class for this school year will be May 10th.



Baby Shower

You're invited to a baby shower honoring Bree Stief on Saturday, May 9th, from 12-2 p.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall. Bree is the wife of Marshall, and they are registered at Cherokee General Store and Amazon.



Graduation Reception



Please join us in honoring Sophie Scherbring! We invite you to an open-house graduation celebration on Sunday, May 17th, from 6:00 p.m. to late, at Sophie's home at 5664 T Avenue, Cherokee.

Please stop by to share in this important milestone, and thank you for being such an important part of Sophie's life!



Thank You Notes

Thank you to everyone who helped with Holy Week and Easter services and activities!



Thank you to everyone who donated Easter lilies to decorate the sanctuary on Easter! For a complete list of donors and those who were honored, please see the April 5th bulletin on our Facebook page, or contact the office for a printed copy of the insert.

Thank you to Al Henn and Denny Taylor who are mowing the church lawn this season.

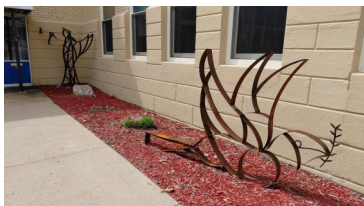
Thank you to the anonymous donors of the inflatable "Little Jesus." That was a fun surprise and was enjoyed by the congregation.



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



Thank you to Denny Taylor for making and installing the angel statue to go with the dove at the education entrance. They are both beautiful!



A huge THANK YOU to St Paul's UMC members and friends for the support shown for our 2nd Annual Tavern Lunch and Pie Auction. Special thanks goes out to our "Pie Angels:" Jean Anderson, Sharon Bennink, Andrea Cook, Peggy Corrington, Brenda DeRoo, Lois Eggerth, Shelley Lenz, Julie Lukin, Sue Paulsen, Jodi Phipps, Betty Point, and Stephaine Rochleau. We are also in gratitude to Brenda DeRoo, Jeff Blum, and Gene and Jean Anderson for helping in many ways to "man" the event. Thank you to the "Pie Ladies" organization for your donation toward the luncheon and to Pastor Mike for setting up screen technology. Ricky Swain, auctioneer, made this event fun for all and donated his services to support our youth. We appreciate him! Last, but not least, thank you to the teenagers that helped serve and helped with the auction, and thank you to Jennifer for her expert ability to advertise this event and for making all the pie markers for the pie table. Our Teen Time ministry has been blessed beyond words. The Tavern Lunch raised approximately \$900.00, and the Pie Auction raised approximately \$2,800.00. These donations will be used to benefit the youth in this congregation and also to help the less fortunate in this community.

God bless you.

Teen Time youth

Craig and Monica Schmidt

Special thanks to all parents and grandparents for donations of wonderful egg bakes and cinnamon rolls that were served at the Easter breakfast. We served 112 that morning. Thank you to all our youth who helped serve and clean up. We remain grateful for Brenda DeRoo and Jeff Blum for "kitchen management." They make things run smoothly. Thank you, St. Paul's members and friends, for the freewill donations given. We will use the monies to support all youth activities in the church and also strive to help less fortunate in our community.

Respectfully,

Craig and Monica Schmidt

Teen Time Youth Ministry

Our Teen Time group closed out the season on April 22nd at Godfather's and Dairy Queen for food and fellowship. We then went to Spring Lake Park and enjoyed sand volleyball together. Thank you, members and friends of St Paul's UMC, for your support and encouragement of all youth programs in our church.

God bless you.

Craig and Monica Schmidt

Teen Time youth



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Graduation Sunday

May 17, 2026, at 10:10 a.m.

High School Graduates

High school graduates from our congregation are invited to meet Craig, Monica, and Pastor Mike at Family Table at 8:45 a.m. on May 17th. Your meal will be paid for by St. Paul's UMC. Please RSVP to the church office by May 7th, so we know how many seats to reserve.

During worship on May 17th, high school graduates from our congregation are invited to wear your cap and gown and sit with the other seniors to be celebrated by the congregation. During the service, you will be invited to share your future plans with the congregation and be given a small gift. We will also have a bulletin insert and PowerPoint presentation honoring the graduates.

Action Items for High School Graduates

By May 7th, please RSVP for the breakfast and also email the church office the following:

- 2-4 photos, including a baby picture, a senior photo, and one or two other photos of your choosing
- your name as you'd like it included in the bulletin
- your parents'/guardians' names
- the name of your high school
- your plans following graduation.

College Graduates

We will have a bulletin insert and PowerPoint presentation honoring the college graduates from our congregation.

Action Items for College Graduates

By May 7th, please email the church office the following:

- 1-4 photos of your choosing
- your name as you'd like it included in the bulletin
- your parents'/guardians' names
- the name of your college or trade school
- your plans following graduation.



Email info & RSVP to: cherokeespumc@gmail.com