

Thank You Notes

Thank you to Chuck & Julie Tolzin and Rodney Bainbridge for assembling the January newsletter.

Thank you to Marla Conley for the box of post-it notes for our office.

Thank you to everyone who helped take down the Christmas decorations on January 7th and to Jen Gaydo for taking down our tree at the Sanford Museum.

Thank you to Ervina Scott and Sue Paulsen who change out and steam the paraments (decorative cloths on the altar and pulpits).

Thank you to Glenda Parrish for the ream of copy paper for bulletins.

Thank you to Bonni Conley for providing treats for fellowship time in honor of the Board of Trustees on January 15th.

Thank you to all of St. Paul's staff who work so hard during the year. You are appreciated!

Thank you to Micki Conley for donating a vacuum cleaner for the balcony level.

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our Valentine's Day college and military care packages.

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



Thank you to the Sunday School students and teachers who made Valentines for our home-bound friends.

Thank you for your generous donation to the Food Bank through your food drive. We were able to help many households here in our community with food baskets. Thank you for this wonderful food donation.
~Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.

Thank you for the cards in celebration of our 60th wedding anniversary. We enjoyed receiving them and appreciate your kindness.

~Al & Barb Henn

Church Family News

Congratulations, Mikey!



Michael Dallas Burkhardt, son of Michael A. Burkhardt and grandson of Linda, had very exciting days on January 19th and 20th. On January 19th, Mikey received his blue cord, which represents his membership in the United States Army Infantry, after completing 22 weeks of training. After the "Turning Blue Ceremony," he asked McKenzie Harding to be his bride, and she accepted! (They are hoping to be married in about a year.) Then, on January 20th, Mikey graduated from Basic Training. After spending the day with his family, he flew to Fort Bliss, Texas, where he will continue to train with the Tank Division at Fort Bliss. Congratulations to Mikey, McKenzie, and their families!

With Sympathy and Prayers

Charles D. "Chuck" Mann, 74, of Cherokee passed away on December 31st at Mercy One Medical Center in Sioux City. Visitation was held on January 6th at the Boothby Funeral Home in Cherokee. A private family service was held on January 7th, officiated by Pastor Mike Agnew. Burial was in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery at Aurelia.

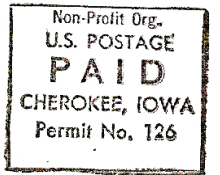
Mary Lou Kratz, 94, of rural Moorhead, Iowa, passed away on January 11th, surrounded by family. The visitation and prayer service were held on January 15th at the Goslar Funeral Home Chapel, Onawa, Iowa. The celebration of life service was held on January 16th at Moorhead Christian Church. A private family burial will be held at a later date in the Spring Valley Cemetery, Moorhead, Iowa. Mary Lou is the mother of Dan (Barb) Kratz.

Gerald L. Bruns, 73, of Cherokee passed away on January 13th at his home. A funeral service was held on January 22nd at the Boothby Funeral Home, officiated by Pastor Mike Agnew. Public visitation was held prior to the service. Burial will be at a later date in the Oakland Cemetery at Peterson, Iowa.



531 W. Main Street
Cherokee, IA 51012

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Pancake Brunch

Sunday, February 26th
11:15 a.m.
Freewill Offering

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
531 W. Main Street
Cherokee



Proceeds go to the youth ski trip.





THE DOME

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

9 a.m. Sunday School

February 2023

10:10 a.m. Worship

St. Paul's UMC


Sept.-May Worship Time:
10:10 a.m.

Address:
531 W. Main Street
Cherokee, IA 51012

Office Telephone:
(712) 225-3955

Pastor Mike's Cell:
(563) 506-7412

Website:
www.cherokeemethodist.com

 Find us on Facebook
or your podcast app.

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

Jennifer's Email:
cherokeespumc@gmail.com

Jennifer's Office Hours:
Tuesday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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

Chancel Choir Director:
Becky Lickiss

Bell Choir Director:
Dusty Wright

Nursery Attendants:
Nicole Hoskinson
Whitney Robinson
Heidi Gerstandt
Miranda Cook
Bailey Gaydo
Jen Gaydo

A Moment With Mike

Every now and then, someone asks me how I prepare my sermons. So, I thought I would write about my process for this month's article. The process for preparing and delivering a sermon is different for each pastor, and it is somewhat a matter of personal style. Some pastors preach with a manuscript, so they can be sure to get every word right. Some preach with general notes to make sure they stay on track, and others preach without notes. When I was a part-time local licensed pastor in the early years of my ministry, I preached with notes. While in seminary, my preaching professor (Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas, who was originally from Sioux City) had his students deliver sermons in class without notes, since this was how he had preached when he was a pastor. It was there that I found out I could do it and resolved to do so whenever possible. There are times when I feel I can do a better job with notes, such as during funerals and weddings or rare occasions for church on Sunday.

Sermon preparation starts with sermon planning. Each summer, I take a number of days to plan out my sermons for the upcoming year. I do not actually write out the sermons at that time, but I come up with sermon series subjects, sermon titles, scriptures to go with them, and a short summary of what each sermon will be exploring. I then send this out to our worship leaders, so they may incorporate music that goes along with the theme, if desired. In order to write the sermon for a particular week, I start by reminding myself of that week's sermon and subject summary. I then look up the scriptures and write down notes as I read through them and any commentary included in my study Bible and/or commentary sets. By this time, I usually have an idea of the general flow of the sermon, and I will create a Word document and start typing. The details of the sermon come as I type. My typing is in outline form, though most of the words I will use are there. After the sermon is typed, it needs to be practiced in order to deliver it without notes. I usually need to practice the sermon with my notes two or three times, depending on the level of difficulty. Since I record a sermon podcast and also have a recording for our local radio station, these become a part of my practice with the notes. What this means is that if you listen to the podcast or the radio, the version of the sermon will be slightly different (and sometimes shorter) than the Sunday morning sermon. After practicing a couple of times with the notes, I then try to practice the sermon without notes. Depending on the difficulty, it may take a second try to get it, but it usually comes naturally. Some have wondered how I can memorize the sermon each week. The trick is that I do not actually memorize it word for word, which is why the recordings will be slightly different than Sunday morning. My sermon on Sunday morning will follow the general flow of the notes pretty well, but there may be some things in the notes that slip my mind. There may also be some elements that were not in the notes that end up in the sermon, based on how my mind works as I preach. The order of things may be slightly different as well. I do not let these small changes bother me, because I feel that the way it ends up being delivered must be a way that flows more naturally in my mind at the time I deliver it. As I mentioned earlier, there are many ways one could prepare and deliver a sermon. This is just the way that works for me.



God bless you as we begin this month.
Pastor Mike Agnew

Worship Notes

Acolytes

2/5 Gavin Wych and Trae Hoskinson
2/12 Matthew Mosbach and Carli Lubeck
2/19 Gavin Wych and Trae Hoskinson
2/26 Matthew Mosbach and Carli Lubeck



Greeters

2/5 Tim & Kim Wych (N); Judy Grienke-Miller (W)
2/12 Dan & Barb Kratz (N); Lee Ann Christensen (W)
2/19 John & Kay O'Connor (N)
Bob & Peggy Parker (W)
2/26 Stan & Brenda DeRoo (N)
Dana & Pandora Phipps (W)



Liturgists

2/5 Don Blackstone 2/19 Linda Burkhart
2/12 Barb Kratz 2/26 Korrie Coombs

Children's Time

2/5 Miranda Cook 2/19 Linda Burkhart
2/12 Roni Timmerman 2/26 Korrie Coombs

Ushers

February The Knobens Team

Altar Flowers

2/5 Micki Conley
2/12 Lowell & Sharon Bennink
2/19 Priscilla Bainbridge
2/26 Micki Conley



The 2023 altar flower sign-up is in the narthex on Sundays, or you can call Jennifer during the week. If the date you prefer has been taken, it is fine to have more than one arrangement per Sunday.

Nursery Attendants

2/5 Whitney Robinson
2/12 Needed
2/19 Whitney Robinson
2/26 Heidi Gerstandt



Nursery Information

Children of all ages are welcome in our worship service! If you prefer, we also have a staffed nursery for infants through 2nd graders that is located on the second floor of the education wing in the first classroom closest to the sanctuary. If you would like to join the nursery attendant rotation, we can send you a link to the online sign-up. A background check is required, for the safety of the children. A \$25 stipend is available for each Sunday worked.

Attendance

Date	Worship	Sunday School	Wed.	Confirmation	Teen Time
			12/28	N/A	N/A
1/1	74	7	1/4	8	FCA
1/8	103	31	1/11	N/A	fog
1/15	133	45	1/18	weather	weather
1/22	121	44	1/25	8	12

Current Sermon Series: That's Not in the Bible

There are quite a few statements we often hear that sound religious and are accepted by many. So, we assume they are in the Bible. However, a closer look will show that the Bible does not actually teach these things.



2/5 "God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle" (Psalm 88:2; 2 Kings 25:1-21; 1 Cor. 10:13)
2/12 "Revelation Gives Us a Clear Picture of the End Times" (Rev. 5:1-6; 13:11-18)

Upcoming Sermon Series: The "I Am" Statements of Jesus

The Gospel of John contains what we call the "I am" statements of Jesus. Each statement helps us to understand a different aspect of who Jesus is and what he has done. Join us this Lenten season as we explore who Jesus is and what it means to follow him.

2/26 "I Am the Light of the World" (John 1:1-9; 8:12)
3/5 "I Am the Gate" (John 10:1-10)
3/12 "I Am the Good Shepherd" (John 10:11-18)
3/19 "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:1-12)
3/26 "I Am the True Vine" (John 15:1-17)
4/2 Palm Sunday - "Jesus, the Anti-King" (John 12:12-19; Matthew 20:20-28)
4/6 Maundy Thursday - "I Am the Bread of Life" (John 6:25-40)
4/7 Good Friday - "A Service of Tenebrae"
4/9 Easter - "I Am the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:17-27; 20:1-18)

Have to Miss a Sunday?

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). 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), and a link for our Facebook page can also be found on our website (blue and white icon in upper right).





What is Pastor Mike Doing and Why?

You may have noticed some meetings and abbreviations in the weekly bulletin schedule and wondered what they mean. The United Methodist Church is a connectional denomination, which means that Pastor Mike has responsibilities in the greater UMC. Additionally, he is involved in a few community groups on behalf of St. Paul's. If you are interested in learning more, please see the explanations to follow.

dCOM

The District Committee on Ordained Ministry

Pastor Mike is co-registrar for the dCOM in the Camp Clear Lake District. This committee is responsible for maintaining a list and conducting interviews for all people who have declared their candidacy for ordained ministry and are pursuing candidacy studies, conducting interviews of candidates, recommending (or not) candidates for licensed or ordained ministry and an annual renewal of certification, recommending associate or provisional membership, recommending readmission to conference membership, and recommending certification as a Certified Lay Minister. As registrar, Pastor Mike keeps track of the paperwork for each candidate and lets candidates know what is required prior to and following the group interviews.

CRC of the BOM

Conference Relations Committee
(A subcommittee of the Board of Ordained Ministry)

Rev. Gary Armstrong and Pastor Mike are co-chairs of the Conference Relations Committee. This group hears requests for discontinuance of provisional members, involuntary leave of absence, administrative location, involuntary retirement, involuntary medical leave, and other matters. When clergy seek a change in conference relationship, the CRC should meet with the clergy to discuss the request, consider the needs surrounding the request, and inform the clergy member of the process related to changing their active status. The CRC should also inform the clergyperson of the steps required to return to active status in the future.

Clergy Circuit Meeting

Full-time clergy in the Iowa Conference are required to be in a circuit that meets once a month for 6-8 hours, and laity are encouraged to join as well. Pastor Mike is in Circuit A, led by Pastor Travis Stevick of Marcus, which had been meeting online but has recently started meeting in person here at St. Paul's. Per the conference's website, "the purpose of Circuit Ministry is to develop a circuit of missionally effective clergy and laity leading together in partnership through 1. Leadership Multiplication [and] 2. Missional Accountability & Oversight." For more information, please read the rest of this article at <https://www.iaumc.org/circuits>.



CPE

Clinical Pastoral Education

Pastors are required to take continuing education units (CEUs) each year. These can be obtained through a variety of classes and conferences. Pastor Mike elected to earn his CEUs through CPE in 2022 and 2023. CPE is a class that pastors can take to gain experience in pastoral care, typically in a hospital setting. In his early years of ministry, Pastor Mike earned one unit of CPE through a hospital in St. Joseph, Missouri, which included a year-long weekly class and working an overnight chaplaincy shift once a month. In 2022, Pastor Mike earned a second unit of CPE through the Ecumenical Institute, housed at the Mental Health Institute, with clinical hours being within our local church. His instructor lives in Colorado and facilitated a weekly online discussion (March through August) with students from around the Midwest. The class included required reading, writing, and discussions, as well as pastoral care duties. Pastor Mike will be taking a third unit of CPE from March 30th through August 24th, 2023.

Rotary Club

Although we don't include it in the bulletin, Pastor Mike represents St. Paul's at Cherokee's Rotary Club. This is a service organization that has weekly lunch meetings on Mondays at The Family Table. Since Pastor Mike's day off is currently Mondays, he tries to attend roughly half of the meetings to balance his Sabbath rest and church responsibilities. Rotary is involved with the backpack program at the elementary school, where around 100 bags of food are packed and sent home with students who need them over the weekend. Pastor Mike helps pack the bags of food on most Fridays at 7:00 a.m.

Chamber Coffee

Cherokee Chamber of Commerce

St. Paul's is a member of the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce. A big benefit of this membership is that we are able to include information (a St. Paul's magnet) in the welcome bags that are distributed to new residents of Cherokee. Although we don't include it in the bulletin, Pastor Mike attends Friday Chamber Coffees whenever he doesn't have another commitment. You may have seen his picture on social media at some of the events (Or maybe not, as he is notorious for standing behind light poles or behind other people. He spent too much time reading *Where's Waldo* as a child!).



January Happenings

FCA's Community Youth Night

FCA's (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) Youth Night for 7th-12th graders was held here at St. Paul's on Wednesday, January 4th. A great group of volunteers provided a pancake supper, and the kids worshipped, met in small groups, and played a game. Somewhere between 57-65 people attended. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event possible!



Additional photos can be found on our Facebook page.

Managing Caregiver Stress Class

On Thursday, January 12th, six people attended the free Managing Caregiver Stress class, which was held here at St. Paul's in cooperation with the ISU Extension Office. Thank you to Jen Gaydo for helping organize this class.

Children's Time



Altar Arrangement in Honor of the Board of Trustees and Outgoing Chairman, Don Blackstone



Altar Arrangement in Honor of the Finance Committee, Missions Committee, and Library Committee and their Outgoing Chairpersons (Stan DeRoo, Sue Parker, and Patti Blum)

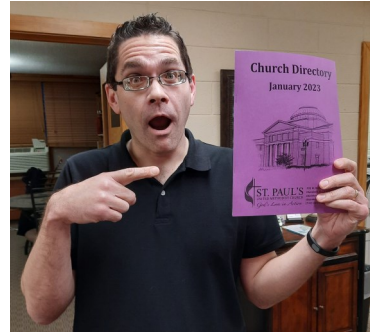
Announcements & Updates

Children's Ministry Sign-Up



You may recall from our October newsletter that one of our priorities for 2023 is to explore the possibility of having an after-school elementary children's ministry. We have a sign-up in the narthex for anyone who is interested in helping, or you can contact the church office. Signing up doesn't commit you to anything. It just gives us an idea if we have enough volunteers to pursue this ministry. If we do, a meeting will be set up to brainstorm ideas.

Church Directories Available



The 2023 church directory has been printed, and copies are available in the narthex and in the church office. If you notice your information is incorrect, please let us know, so we can update our records for the next printing. If you would like a copy but aren't able to come to the church to pick it up, please contact us to have it mailed to you.

The 2023 church directory has been printed, and copies are available in the narthex and in the church office. If you notice your information is incorrect, please let us know, so we can update our records for the next printing. If you would like a copy but aren't able to come to the church to pick it up, please contact us to have it mailed to you.

Office Closed on February 10th



The office will be closed on Friday, February 10th. Weather permitting, the Agnews plan to visit Jennifer's family in southwest Iowa, as it is a no-school day.

What is the Bible? Studies Continue

The Sunday *What is the Bible?* study continues at 6:30 p.m. in Feller Lounge through February 12th. The Thursday group continues at 10 a.m. in Feller Lounge through February 16th. Let Pastor Mike know if you need an online (Zoom) option at any time.

Other Upcoming Meetings and Events

Mondays	8:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous (NE door and downstairs)
Wednesdays	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Bell Choir (sanctuary) Chancel Choir (choir room) Alcoholics Anonymous (NE door and downstairs)
Tues., 2/7	8 a.m.-2 p.m.	Foster Care Review (Feller and S. Dining Hall)
	9:30 a.m.	Visitation Team (library)
Thurs., 2/9	11 a.m.-3 p.m.	Clergy Circuit mtg. (Feller)
Sat., 2/11	—	Kitchen/dining hall in use
Fri., 2/17	—	Newsletter deadline
Wed., 2/22	10:00 a.m.	The Gardens Bible Study
Fri., 2/24	1:30 p.m.	Newsletter assembly
Tues., 2/28	—	Statistical reports due!
	10:00 a.m.	Communion at Shirley's
	10:30 a.m.	Communion at Viola's
	11:15 a.m.	Communion at Accura
	7:00 p.m.	S. Dining Hall in use



Learn Something New

The Dome Fun Facts



St. Paul's monthly newsletter (the document you are currently reading) is called *The Dome*. We mail 200 hard copies of *The Dome* and email an electronic version to 216 different email addresses each month. Since we use bulk mail, we must physically mail at least 200 copies to receive the discount. Cost per local newsletter mailed (zip codes beginning with 510-513) is only \$0.197, and cost for out of area newsletters is \$0.213 per newsletter. With first class stamps costing \$0.60, bulk mail provides quite a savings. If you'd like to be added to our mailing or emailing list (or both!), please contact Jennifer in the office.

Website Fun Facts

As you know, Pastor Mike built a new website for St. Paul's back in 2021. It can be found at <https://www.cherokeemethodist.com/>. The web host is a company called Wix, and they occasionally send us interesting data about how many people are accessing our website. Back in December, 50 unique site visitors accessed our site in 117 site sessions. 66% of visitors were new, and 34% were returning. 77 went to the site directly, 37 located it through our Facebook page, and 2 located it from Google.



"Get Bookish in 2023"

"For many United Methodists, a new year is a good time to plan to read more, research a new area of interest or dig deeper in the Bible." The United Methodist Communion has recommendations to help with those studious endeavors, which include *The Bible Year* by Rev. Magrey deVega, *Living the Wesleyan Way* by Rev. Dr. Paul W. Chilcote, and *American Methodism Revised and Updated* by Ashley Boggan D., Russel E. Richey, Kenneth E. Rowe, and Jean Miller Schmidt. To continue this article and learn more about these resources, please visit <https://www.umc.org/en/content/get-bookish-in-2023>.



Christian Education

Sunday School Schedule

Children's Sunday School continues at 9 a.m. Classes are available for PK-2nd, 3rd-5th, and 6th-8th and meet in the education wing. The Adult Class meets in Feller Lounge. The Children's Choir (PK-5th grade) will sing in worship on Sunday, February 26th. That is also the Sunday we will collect our monthly noisy offering (spare change) to benefit children's ministries here at St. Paul's. Everyone is welcome to stay for a pancake and sausage brunch following the service. See pg. 1 for details.



Confirmation Schedule



The Confirmation class will meet on February 1st and 15th from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in Feller Lounge. The group will be meeting here at church at 4 p.m. on Friday, February 17th, to head to Sioux City to eat supper together before attending the 6:30 p.m. service at Beth Shalom. Please dress in nice clothing for this service (no t-shirts, joggers, etc.).

Teen Time Schedule

Teen Time will meet at Craig & Monica's (409 Centennial Drive) from 6:30-8 p.m. on February 8th, 15th, and 22nd. The group is invited to attend the FCA community night at Trinity Lutheran Church (230 N. Roosevelt) on February 1st from 6:15-8:00 p.m.

Adult Class

The Adult Sunday School class, led by John and Jan Cook, meets on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in Feller Lounge. The class is currently going through an Andy Stanley study and will soon be starting *Creed: What Christians Believe and Why* by Adam Hamilton. All adults are welcome to attend! Don't worry if you are not able to attend every week. You are welcome any time you are available.



Youth Ski Trip

Saturday, March 11
(weather permitting)
Mount Kato, Minnesota



For St. Paul's youth in 7th-12th grade
\$28/student, plus lunch money
(Cost includes lift ticket)
The church will pay for equipment rental and supper.
Youth may invite one friend.

Registration forms will be available soon.
RSVP to the office by February 24th if you plan to attend.
Chaperones are also needed.

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church
cherokeesumpmc@gmail.com
(712) 225-3955

Cavaliers Soup Dinner



When: Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023
Serving from 11:00-1:00

Where: St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Adults: \$7
Children (Ages 2-10): \$5

Hosted by Cherokee Cavaliers 4-H Club

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 25th, at 8:30 a.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall. All men are welcome to join us for breakfast and a short devotion.



Winter Worship Cancellation Information



We are well into the season of winter cancellations. Worship service cancellations will be communicated on KCHE, KCAU, and our Facebook page. We haven't been able to successfully reach anyone at KTIV either this winter or last winter via telephone or email to submit cancellations there.

Iowa Conference Updates

The School for Lay Ministry

“The School for Lay Ministry (SLM) is more than a 12-course program to inspire, equip and encourage lay people; it is an education in worship planning, congregational care, doctrine and history, that will benefit not only you and your local church but will impact your life.” Upon completing the 12 classes, the designation of Lay Servant is achieved and is the basis for going on to become Lay Speaker and/or Certified Lay Minister. This can be done in two years. The remaining course schedule for 2023 is as follows: February 11th (Shaping the Prayers of the People), March 11th (Stewardship, Christian Ethics, and Conflict), April 22nd (Methods of Biblical Interpretation), September 16th or 30th (Proclamation and Sharing the Faith), October 28th (Missions and Social Concerns). For more information, please visit <https://www.iaumc.org/slm>, and/or talk to Pastor Mike.

Basic Lay Servant Training

The CalHamSter Circuit is sponsoring a Basic Lay Servant Training on Saturday, February 11th, at Fort Dodge First United Methodist Church. To register, please visit the following website: <https://iaumc-reg.brtaapp.com/CCLDistrictLayServantTrainingFeb2023>. A poster with details can be found on the bulletin boards at both the west and north entrances.

Discerning a Call to Ministry (Candidacy Retreat)

Are you exploring a call to ministry? The candidacy retreat, which is a requirement of the candidacy process, is an opportunity to further discern your call to ministry, learn more about the process, meet others on the journey, hear from those serving in different types of ministry, and have a chance to ask questions. The next candidacy retreat will held on Saturday, February 11th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. Registration is required in order to receive the Zoom link. For more information, please visit <https://www.iaumc.org/eventdetail/17227397>.



The Iowa Annual Conference invites you to welcome
Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai
INSTALLATION SERVICE
Ames Collegiate UMC
Sunday, February 19 at 3 p.m.
Light refreshments and fellowship to follow the service

Bishop Bigham-Tsai Goes Through Onboarding

“Rev. Karen Horan led Bishop Bigham-Tsai, members of her extended cabinet, and 33 Iowa pastors through an onboarding process on January 9 and 10, 2023. Because Bishop Bigham-Tsai began leading Iowa in January instead of September, using onboarding with an outside consultant can help fast-track her understanding of the Iowa Conference and its leaders.” To finish this article, please visit <https://www.iaumc.org/newsdetail/bishop-bigham-tsai-jump-starts-getting-to-know-the-iowa-conference-through-onboarding-17269527>. You may also ask Jennifer in the office to print you a copy of the article if you don’t have internet access.

Short Video of Bishop Lanette Plambeck

Bishop Lanette Plambeck of the Dakotas-Minnesota Area was formerly an Iowa pastor and Iowa Conference employee. The Dakotas Conference recently released a video that highlights some of her background. “Bishop Lanette Plambeck has 25 years of experience working with people who have experienced violence and trauma. She served in the U.S. Army as a Russian linguist in military intelligence. Once she returned from Desert Storm, she was trained in human services and did clinical work. These experiences shape Bishop Lanette’s ministry to lead with a heart and love for all people.” To view the video, please visit <https://www.dakotasumc.org/news/unique-experiences-shape-bishop-lanettes-ministry>.

Bishop Bigham-Tsai Announces Cabinet Transitions

Rev. Doug Cue will be completing his position on the Cabinet as Golden Valley District Superintendent in June and will transition to become the pastor at Newton First UMC. Bishop Bigham-Tsai is appointing Rev. Brian Oliver, current pastor of Wesley UMC in Muscatine, to the Cabinet to serve as the District Superintendent for the Golden Valley District beginning July 1st. Rev. Katie Dawson, current pastor at Immanuel UMC in Des Moines, will also be joining the Cabinet to serve as the Assistant to the Bishop beginning July 1st. For more details, please visit <https://www.iaumc.org/newsdetail/17276160>, or ask Jennifer to print you a copy of the article if you don’t have internet access.

Disaffiliations in the Iowa Conference

The greater United Methodist Church will be having General Conference in 2024 to discuss LGBTQ+ inclusion in the life of the United Methodist Church. Some churches are choosing to disaffiliate from the UM denomination prior to this decision. As of January, there are currently 89 Iowa churches in some phase of the process of voting to disaffiliate. This is approximately 12% of total Iowa congregations. If you have questions about General Conference, please talk to Pastor Mike.

Lent Information

“What is Lent and why does it last forty days?”

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.



“Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on [their] relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a ‘mini-Easter.’ This is why you will see the designation ‘Sunday in Lent’ rather than ‘Sunday of Lent’ in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord’s Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.”

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-lent-and-why-does-it-last-forty-days>

Lenten Devotionals Available Soon

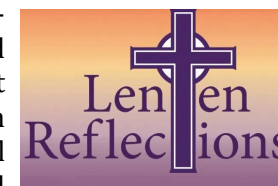


We have ordered Lenten devotionals from the Society of St. Andrew, a ministry that gleans America’s fields to feed America’s hungry, again this year.

Watch the bulletins and Facebook page for an update about their arrival.

Sermons Ala Carte

Sermons Ala Carte, the community Lenten services and lunches held on Wednesdays at the Memorial Presbyterian Church from 12-1 p.m., will begin on February 22nd and continue each Wednesday in March. This year’s theme will be “In the Name of Jesus,” with different names of Jesus to be the sermon focus each week.



“When did Ash Wednesday begin, and why do we celebrate it?”

“Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. Although Ash Wednesday has ancient roots, it does not appear in the rituals of The United Methodist Church or our predecessor denominations until the 20th century. Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.” To finish this article, please visit <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-when-did-ash-wed-begin-and-why-do-we-celebrate-it>, or ask Jennifer to print you a copy if you don’t have internet access.



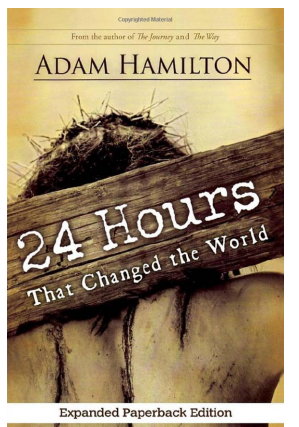
Ash Wednesday Service



Our Ash Wednesday service will be held on February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary and will include the imposition of ashes on foreheads or hands.

Lent Study Options

No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In our upcoming Lent study groups, we will go through Adam Hamilton’s book, *24 Hours That Changed the World*. Rev. Hamilton will help you experience and understand the significance of Jesus’ suffering and death like never before. He retraces the day that changed human history



using videos shot at different locations in the Holy Land. We will have two study groups that cover the same material. A Sunday group will meet at 6:30 p.m. in Feller Lounge on February 26th and March 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th, as well as April 2nd and 16th. A second group will meet at 10 a.m. in Feller Lounge on select Thursdays or Wednesdays (March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th as well as April 5th and 12th). You are welcome to switch between the groups as your schedule allows, and an online (Zoom) option can also be provided. **Please sign up in the narthex or by calling the church office by February 12th.** The cost of the book is \$10, but financial assistance is available.

Financial Information

Update from the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on Thursday, January 5th, at 7 p.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall, at which time we were given the 2022 closing numbers. We had nearly made our 2022 budget, falling short by only \$1,500; however, we continued to receive 2022 funding in 2023. We made it! We will start 2023 in the black. (Remember, as of September 30th, the deficit between giving and expenses in the general fund had grown to \$34,660.) We were able to pay 100% of our commitment to the general church apportionments and 75% of the missions and ministries apportionments. Way to go, St. Paul's UMC family! Your generosity in 2022 was OUTSTANDING! We look forward to an even stronger financial condition in 2023.

thank you!

God Bless You,
Finance Committee
Donna Lucas, Chair

Year-End Statements

Sarah Cook, our financial secretary, has emailed and mailed out the year-end giving statements. Please check your spam folder if you normally receive it via email but haven't yet. The email will be from noreply@spumc.simplechurchcrm.com and will be marked "St. Paul's United Methodist Church Giving Statement." Please contact Sarah, or leave a message for her in the office if you haven't received your statement.

2023 Pledge Update as of January 25th

	2023	2022
General Fund	\$138,412	\$135,654
Capital Fund	19,555	21,203
Next Generation	16,641	15,599
Total	\$174,608	\$172,456



CHURCH APPORTIONMENT HISTORY

572886 Cherokee, St. Paul's		Report Date: 12/31/2022					
YEAR	FUND	DESCRIPTION	APMT	PAID	FORGIVEN/ADJUST	% PAID	TO BE PAID
2022	0001-22	2022 GENERAL CHURCH	6,292.00	6,291.98	0.00	100.00%	0.02
	0002-22	2022 CONFERENCE MINISTRIES	14,286.00	10,714.53	0.00	75.00%	3,571.47
	0003-22	2022 CONFERENCE MISSIONS	3,614.00	2,710.48	0.00	75.00%	903.52
	Total		24,192.00	19,716.99	0.00	81.50%	4,475.01
2021	0001-21	2021 GENERAL CHURCH	6,452.00	6,452.00	0.00	100.00%	0.00
	0002-21	2021 CONFERENCE MINISTRIES	19,201.00	1,500.00	0.00	7.81%	17,701.00
	0003-21	2021 CONFERENCE MISSIONS	3,707.00	300.00	0.00	8.09%	3,407.00
	Total		29,360.00	8,252.00	0.00	28.11%	21,108.00

Scholarship Information

The Iowa United Methodist Foundation has over 100 scholarships available for the 2023-2024 school year. There are scholarships for high school seniors, general scholarships for students going to non-Methodist colleges, scholarships for students going to United Methodist colleges, and seminary scholarships. Applications are accepted December 1st through March 1st. For more information, please visit <https://iumf.org/scholarships/>.



"Every year, the **United Methodist Higher Education Foundation** awards more than \$2 million in scholarships to students attending the more than 100 United Methodist-related colleges, universities and seminaries. These awards are separate from those offered by the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Applications are open through March 1st." For more information, please visit <https://www.umhcf.org/scholarships/>.

"The **United Women in Faith National Scholarship** is for lay women in the USA who are pursuing careers in church or social service vocations. Preference will be given to laity working on behalf of women, children, and youth." Applications are due by Tuesday, April 18th, 2023. For more information, please visit <https://uwfaith.org/latest-news/2023/united-women-in-faith-national-scholarship>.

United Women in Faith Buzz

UW Faith Executive Board

Monday, February 13th, at 9:30 a.m.
Schuldt Dining Hall

Charity Circle

Wednesday, February 15th, at 1:30 p.m.
(weather permitting)
Schuldt Dining Hall



Grace Circle

No February meetings

Joy Circle

Wednesday, February 15th, at 9:30 a.m.
Schuldt Dining Hall

Program: Sally Knoben; Hostess: Jeanne Blackstone



Missions Updates

Human Relations Day Special Offering

Human Relations Day is one of the Sundays United Methodists set aside to support and celebrate specific ministries. On January 15th, we joined other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. **\$204 was donated by our congregation.** Thank you! For more information, please visit <https://www.umc.org/en/content/human-relations-day-sunday-ministry-article>.

Grants Awarded for Peace with Justice, Human Relations Day, and Ethnic Local Church

United Methodist Churches, including St. Paul's, collect special offerings throughout the year to support a variety of programs in the greater UMC. \$98,000 has been awarded for Peace with Justice, Human Relations Day, and Ethnic Local Church grants. To see the list of awarded projects and programs, please visit <https://www.umcjustice.org/news-and-stories/church-and-society-awards-over-98-000-in-grants-for-2022-funding-cycle-1688>, or ask Jennifer to print you a copy of the article if you don't have internet access.

Alternative Gift Guide Update

During December, the Missions Committee offered the Alternative Christmas Gift Guide. Thanks again for making a difference in our world!

FCA	\$185
Heifer International	\$305
CWS	\$120
UM Camps	\$160
Ornament sales	\$ 30
Grand Total	\$800



Meal Packing Event

Aurelia First United Methodist Church is hosting a meal packing event through Then Feed Just One on Saturday, February 18th. This organization sends food to those areas where starvation and malnutrition are an everyday occurrence, and the meals packed in Aurelia will be going to Honduras and South America. The organization brings the food supplies and ships the final packages. Tables are set up with stations for volunteers to package the food. The meal consists of rice, soy, freeze-dried vegetables, and a powder of minerals and vitamins. Volunteers are asked to pack meals for one hour and to provide a \$30 donation per person to pay for the food supplies and shipping. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up in the narthex, or call the church office. More information about Then Feed Just One can be found at <http://www.thenfeedjustone.org>.

Summer Camp News

Summer Jobs Available at Iowa UM Church Camps



Both Lake Okoboji UM Camp (Spirit Lake) and Wesley Woods (Indianola) are looking for summer staff. This includes a variety of positions. If you are interested, please visit <https://okobojicamp.com/summer-openings/> for Lake Okoboji UM Camp or <https://wesleywoodsowa.org/employment-opportunities/> for Wesley Woods.

Camp Registration Open at UM Church Camps

Registration is open if your child or teen would like to attend summer camp. Camps are also available for families, grandparent/grandchild, youth with an incarcerated family member, and those with mental or physical needs. Camp books are available on the table outside the office and on the table in the narthex, or you can also visit <https://okobojicamp.com/summer-camps/> for Lake Okoboji or <https://wesleywoodsowa.org/summer-camp/> for Wesley Woods. We are in the process of scheduling a Camp Sunday, where a representative from Lake Okoboji UM Camp will come to speak to our Sunday School classes and during our worship service. Our Missions Committee has committed to pay 75% of the camp fee for St. Paul's students to attend United Methodist camps again this year.



Fellowship of Christian Athletes Camp

IOWA FCA
SPORTS
CAMP

Registration
is now open

July 10-14, 2023
Central College—812
University—Pella, Iowa

REGISTER
NOW

iowafca.org/pellacamp

