

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS!

A ten-minute challenge! I am calling on all of St. Paul's membership to set a time apart 10 minutes each day to pray for our church, our schools, our students, our teachers, and our community. Pray that people are kept safe and from harm's way. Pray that we have success with the plans that have been implemented for our schools, students, and teachers. Pray that we would be humble in our efforts to wear masks, social distance, and use hand sanitizer. Pray for the Lord to lead us in the new ways we can reach out as a church and be God's presence to our brothers and sisters in Christ, to our neighbors, and to our community. Pray for those who have lost their jobs or had their hours cut. Pray for our shut-ins and those going through various procedures and treatments. Thank you for accepting this challenge! Let me know that you are in on this challenge.

-Pastor Cris

INGATHERING 2020

To our St. Paul's United Methodist Church family: It is time to start thinking about Ingathering 2020. It will be held here in our church parking lot in November. We will be making some hygiene kits and also 100 school kits. We want to give special thanks to Jeanne Blackstone and Barb Kratz who made 100 school bags for us to use! **We are asking you to please give monetary donations this year.** We plan to order the supplies for the kits online at prices that cannot be found in any store. We'd appreciate it if you'd make your donations as soon as possible, so we can estimate what to buy for our kits. If you write a check, please make it out to St. Paul's UMC and write "Ingathering" on the memo line. Thanks, so much, for your support!

-St. Paul's Missions and Ingathering Committee

HY-VEE RECEIPTS

Please continue to save your Hy-Vee receipts. While the church is closed, you may slip the receipts through the mail slot that is located to the right of the doors that lead into our Education Wing. Thanks! -Jeff Blum

IOWA UNITED METHODIST CAMPS 2021

Iowa United Methodist Camps want to connect with YOU as we gear up for a return to camping, making new friends, and faith development. Registration is OPEN for overnight camps in the summer of 2021, and we want to invite you and your friends to sign up today. This year we missed seeing you, and we can't wait to be together again! There's nothing like swimming in the lake at Okoboji, roasting a marshmallow over a campfire, climbing to the top of the Aerial Park, or getting a bullseye at the archery range. At a United Methodist Camp, all events focus on development of the Christian faith while being surrounded by caring staff and new friends. Events for ages 4-16 are available at www.okobojicamp.com, or you may call the site at 712-336-2936. Camperships are available upon request. Hope to see you at our 2021 camps!

Eric Scheve
Lake Okoboji UM Camp Director

CDs OF SUNDAY'S SERVICES

I would like to continue to make CDs of our service available to anyone who is unable to watch our services that are livestreamed through the internet. I will be glad to drop off a CD at your home, unobtrusively, every Sunday upon request. We also make one copy of the DVD of the service that we currently carry to two homes. You are welcome to request this copy, and we will get you on the DVD chain of delivery. Please leave your request on the church's answering machine at 225-3955.

-Pastor Cris

COFFEE, TEA, AND TIME FOR ME

"Coffee, Tea, and Time for Me" will be our short ZOOM fellowship and devotional time that is set to begin online on Wednesdays in September starting at 7:00 p.m. Please consider joining this group. Grab a cup of coffee or tea and join us for a refreshing time of fellowship and a short devotional. Please email me to let me know if you are interested in joining us. My email address is cris.decious@iaumc.net. Each participant will receive a special goodie bag.

-Pastor Cris

TODAY'S THOUGHTS

Hopefully, you are receiving my daily devotional called "Today's Thoughts by Cris Decious." The devotionals are being posted on St. Paul's Facebook page and Pastor Cris Decious's Facebook page. If you are on Facebook, make sure that you are a friend of St. Paul's or of Pastor Cris Decious. They can be found in your Facebook feed.

-Pastor Cris

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS

This past week I have been delivering the Upper Room devotionals to many members of our St. Paul's family. If you would like the September/October issue of the Upper Room, you may call me directly at 221-1530. I will be glad to deliver the Upper Room magazine to your home. I can also send it in the mail, if you would prefer to receive it that way.

-Meribeth

COOKBOOKS FOR SALE

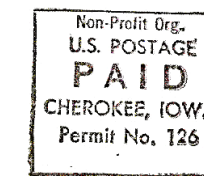
Memorial Presbyterian Church has cookbooks for sale to anyone who is interested. The cost is \$10.00. If you want a cookbook mailed to someone, the cost is then \$15.00. Please feel free to stop by the Memorial Presbyterian Church or call 225-2637 for more information.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED





THE DOME

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
September 2020

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Ramona Sue Weins. Ramona, 77, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and originally from Cherokee, passed away on Friday, May 15th, at the Paula J. Baber Hospice Home in Fort Dodge. Ramona was the daughter of Meredith and Marian Morrow and graduated from Cherokee High School in 1961. A visitation and time of sharing memories with Ramona's family was held on Saturday, August 22nd, at the Boothby Funeral Home. Burial followed at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Cherokee, with Pastor Cris Decious officiating at the graveside service.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Joyce Groff and all of her family. Joyce's only remaining sibling, her brother John Henry Lane, passed away on Monday, June 29th, at his home in Las Vegas, Nevada. John was 83 years of age. A service for John Lane was held on Tuesday, July 7th, at Bunker's Mortuary in Las Vegas, Nevada. Messages of sympathy may be sent to Joyce Groff at this address: 840 252nd Avenue, Spirit Lake, IA 51360-7169.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Harold W. Roberson. Harold, 81, of Cherokee, passed away suddenly at his residence on Sunday, July 26th. A graveside service for Harold Roberson was held on Thursday, July 30th, at the Sunset View Cemetery in Washta, Iowa, with Pastor Barb Dinelli officiating. The Boothby Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mary A. Wascher. Mary, 69, of Warsaw, Missouri, and originally from Cherokee, Iowa, passed away on Friday, July 31st. Mary was the daughter of Robert and Laurine Lundell and the sister of Mark (Ann) Lundell of Cherokee and Tom (Corrine) Lundell of Spirit Lake. Penny Lundell was Mary's step-mother and close friend. A private family graveside memorial service for Mary Wascher will be held at a later date at the Liberty Township Cemetery, rural Meriden, Iowa. The Boothby Funeral Home in Cherokee is assisting the family with the arrangements.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Sandra Marie Pingel. Sandra, 62, passed away on Sunday, August 9th, surrounded by the love of her family at Accura HealthCare in Cherokee, following a four-year battle with cancer. Sandra was the daughter of Gloria Ford and the mother of Rebecca (Kirby) Mosbach. A memorial graveside service was held for Sandra Pingel on Saturday, August 22nd, at Liberty Township Cemetery in rural Meriden, Iowa, with Pastor Don Meyer officiating.

THANK YOU FROM TREVOR LUNDQUIST

Thank you for my "Pocket Prayers for Graduates" book and for all your support through the years. Both are very much appreciated. I wish you all the best!

-Trevor Lundquist

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

As a child, if I earned five dollars, I had 20 ways of spending that five dollars before I had even been paid! From the minute I got paid for raking a yard, shoveling a driveway, or delivering the penny-savers, I had a plan on what I was going to buy next. I was a spender! I was good at spending my money. My brother, Mike, never spent money. We would work together and then he would save every penny he earned. Crazy, right? I was impulsive, and he was conservative. In the end, Mike had an extensive coin collection and I had empty candy wrappers! Two different patterns of living. Two different lives. We serve one God who loves us both. We have always lived on opposite ends of the scale, yet God has worked in both of our lives.

Have you noticed how God is always working in patterns of life? I believe that when God created everything there was always a pattern repeated that catches our attention. There was a pattern to day and night that was repeated. There was a pattern from darkness to light that repeated. God created a rotation of the solar system that repeated. This affects the seasons which are patterned throughout the months and the years. Summer turns into fall. Fall into winter. Winter into spring. Spring returns us to summer again. Reading from Ecclesiastes 3, there is a "time and season, and delightful event, and purpose under heaven."

The writer, King Solomon, reminds us of the seasons and patterns included in our lives. He includes themes that are common to all of our lives. This is why we can relate so well to his writing! He reminds us in verse 11, "He has made everything beautiful and appropriate in its time."

Over our time, in our lives, we see life and the life cycles repeated through history. As one family creates a new family, a son becomes a father and a daughter becomes a mother. New, different patterns and yet somehow the same emerge over time. Children grow, young adults mature, and mature adults get even older!

I suppose that is why I find something comforting when I see a pattern created in paintings or works of art. I notice patterns even when I look at floor tiles, ceiling tiles, carpet and rug designs, tablecloths and various material for making clothing. It seems that I find myself searching for the patterns in life and design. I also find myself as a pastor listening to the stories and patterns from our lives. Each one with a unique story, yet an underlying pattern that is the same or similar to what we have heard before and what we will hear again.

In this time where our patterns of living have been thrown through a loop, we need to recognize that God is still God and has a wonderful plan for our lives. We need to take a deeper look into our daily living as we recognize that God is still at work and still in love with us. When I awoke this morning, I recognized that lives are in great turmoil. Our regular patterns for Sunday morning have not returned to what they used to be. We see so many reactions by so many different people.

One church has returned to a small worship in their parking lot. Another has returned to worship with limited seating, masks, and gloves. Yet another handful of churches have ignored all safety guidelines altogether, stating that, "They have faith that God will watch over them." Still, a majority of the churches in our state of Iowa have not returned to in-person worship and their services remain online.

This disruption of our patterned lives continues as school plans across the country have been scrambling and responding with different outcomes. Our sports teams across Iowa and the rest of the country have been in a state of chaos. Nobody knows exactly what is going to happen until a vaccine comes. We are not even sure whether it is truly safe or not to go to our "regular" restaurants and eating establishments. Some have opened, many have only "to-go" items or limited seating. Traveling anywhere has its risks. We cannot travel abroad, as we currently are not being welcomed in many European countries.

My friends, the bottom line is that business **is not** as usual. Added to our current coronavirus situation are out-of-control fires across the West coast, derecho storms in our own state, and two hurricanes scheduled to make landfall this week. On top of that, I just got a notice from NASA that a 6 1/2 foot asteroid has a 1 in 240 chance of hitting our planet the day before our elections. So, make sure that if you are voting by mail-in ballot, you send it in early!

As we find ourselves in this crazy world and in these uncalculated times, I would like us to make an effort as God's children to create and return to God's loving patterns He created for our lives. God has a love for us and our lives. God has a plan for our lives in the midst of a pained and discombobulated world. God wants to fill us with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. God wants us to choose life and God's perfect will for living and loving others.

We are still the church, and I want us all to live lives with a pattern and purpose for spreading love and encouragement to our brothers and sisters in Christ. I want us to be encouraged to live as a body of Christ in the midst of social distancing. I am encouraged and look forward to what God is doing in our church as we make adjustments and as we move forward as a family. God bless you!

-Pastor Cris

LETTERS OF ENCOURAGEMENT!

This month I would like to see a concerted effort to send out notes to our shut-ins showing our care for them! This includes our members in local nursing homes, anyone who is battling sickness or going through treatments, and our older congregants who need to stay home during this pandemic. Let's make an all-church effort to send cards to our beloved members who are limited in what they can do and where they can go. Thank you!

-Pastor Cris

DERECHO DISASTER UPDATE

The Missions Committee would like to ask the members of St. Paul's United Methodist Church to consider doing something to help those Iowans affected by the recent derecho. The Iowa Conference has suggested five ways to help: (1) **Pray** for one another; (2) **Call** a friend or loved one who may have been in the path of destruction to check on them; (3) **Volunteer** by checking with a community in need to see what they are in need of; (4) Give **Financial Donations** by sending your gift to our church office, noting "Advance Special Offering #223" on the memo line to support the efforts of United Methodist Churches in those communities; and (5) **Donate** when we hear that physical donations are needed. Please wait on this until we know exactly what is needed. The devastation of this dangerous storm has made a huge impact on many of our fellow Iowans. We all know how beneficial it was during the Cherokee flooding episodes to have help and prayer from others. Putting **God's Love into Action** meant a lot to us at those times. There may be other ways to help as time goes by and the needs are assessed. Until then, our conference has suggested the simple gestures listed above. Stay well, and we hope to see you all soon!

-Sue Parker, Chairman of the Missions Committee

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

We are pleased to inform you that all church expenses continue to be covered. This is in part due to some expenses being less than budgeted, but more notably, it is due to your generosity. Thank you for that support, and we pray for your continued commitment and an end to this pandemic.

The St. Paul's UMC Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 15th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Feller Lounge. We will be starting the 2021 budget process. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact one of the members of the St. Paul's Finance Committee.

-Stan DeRoo, Chairman of the Finance Committee