



St. Paul's-The Springs United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation having
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Our Church News

This past week I read this inspiring story of Wangari Maathai who in 1980 began to plant trees to highlight and heal her country of Kenya after decades of devastating wars. At first she started alone but slowly she involved the young people of local villages to help. In time, Maathai's efforts resulted in over 8,000 women and children participating in this movement of hundreds of communities encouraging one another and others to plant a tree for peace. By the time Maathai was elected to the Kenyan parliament in 2003 and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, almost 20 million trees had been planted and 8,000 tree nurseries had been started.



Hearing this story brought to mind some scripture from Hebrews, "Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

So often the challenges of our daily lives and our world seem almost insurmountable until we surround ourselves with people and a community who provoke us "to love and good deeds". The power of community is how it can pull us together and focus us on our common purpose and vision. As we worship together, work together, study together, and join in fellowship together we deepen our relationship with each other and, most importantly, with Jesus Christ. Through this relationship we find our connection to something larger than ourselves as well as the encouragement to love and live out our faith as the body of Christ.

Reading the story of Maathai reminded me again how very simple acts have a profound effect on the lives of people around us. Our faith life does have an impact because everyone, regardless of their age or ability, has been given a gift/skill/talent/blessing from God to share with the world. So, let us all provoke one another to love and good deeds as we reach out to pray for those in need and be an answer to prayer by sending a note to someone who is sick, giving a ride to someone who cannot drive, visiting someone who is lonely, listening to someone who is hurting, going on a mission trip to help rebuild a community, or even planting a tree for peace.

In God's love,
Pastor Tim



WORSHIP TIME

We are holding two in-person worship services on Sundays at 8:30 am and 10:30 am.

We will continue to live-stream our worship services on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/StPaulsUMC.Point or through our website stevenspointumc.org on Sundays at 10:30 am. Scroll down until you see the current live stream. We will once again be holding our Outdoor Worship during the summer. On those Sundays, the live-stream will be at 8:30 am. See the article below for dates of our Outdoor Worship services.

If you are not able to watch the service live on Sunday morning, there are several ways you can watch it later:

- All of our worship services are saved and posted on our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/StPaulsUMC.Point.
- Our worship services are also on Youtube. Just go to our church website – www.stevenspointumc.org and click on "Worship" from the drop-down menu of the "About" tab on the top of the home page. It will take you to our YouTube channel that has a collection of our worship services



OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND INTERGEN MINISTRY

People of all ages love Outdoor Worship and for good reason!

- Music and liturgy that early-readers and non-readers can easily participate in;
- Intergen Readers Theatre of all ages for Scripture readings;
- Bubble Prayers;
- Engaging activities for all ages to enhance the message of the morning.

Outdoor Worship welcomes people of all ages to a relaxed worship time outdoors surrounded by the varied and beautiful gardens on the St. Paul's--The Springs grounds. And, with the move of the church bell from the Plover campus, bell ringing is added to the beginning of our outdoor worship time.

If you are interested in sharing music, readings, activity-planning, please let the Outdoor Worship planning team know--talk with Pastor Tim, Vern Walters, Yvonne Chojnacki, and Laura Courtright. We look forward to hearing from you!

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SCHEDULE at 10:30AM

June 26 – *Please stay for a special Fellowship Time & Worship Activities*

July 10 & 24

August 14 & 28

September 11 & 25

Please bring your own lawn chairs and blankets.

We will be live-streaming our 8:30am service on Facebook on these Sundays.



WORSHIP & SUMMER FAITH FORMATION

For Children and their Grown Ups

Indoors & Outdoors - Sundays at 10:30am

Children's Messages & Welcome-In-Worship Bags

Children's Tables in Sanctuary & Speaker in Chapel

All-Ages Readers' Theatre & Bubble Prayers

Growing Kindness & Prairie Garden Activities

JOIN US!



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

God has a wonderful way of blessing wonderful people! Congratulations to our 2022 Senior High School graduates: **Olivia Schultz** and **Nathan Bellin**. Best wishes and good luck to you in your future endeavors.



AWOROWA, GHANA ORPHANAGE

Making good progress. Roof trusses are complete!

Please help with funds to purchase metal roofing, doors and windows. Any amount is helpful. Make checks payable to: UMC and indicate Orphanage Building Project. Send donations to 600 Wilshire Blvd., Stevens Point, WI 54481



SENIOR TIME BY SENIORS

Please consider joining this group. They meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Discussions are wide ranged, and games are fun with lots of laughter. If you have a particular request, we'll do our best to work it into a session.

Senior Time BY Seniors is planning several intergenerational activities this summer.

Each Wednesday 7:00 pm Stevens Point City Band Concert

All are invited to join us at **Pfiffner Park Band Shell** for fellowship and music. We are meeting left front center by the benches. Rain location is St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1919 Wyatt Ave.

Each Monday in June 7:30 pm UWSP Planetarium Program

Suggestion is to be at the University at 7:15 pm. It is first come first serve but from my understanding it does not fill up. Doors open just before the show. There will be a carpool from the church parking lot at 7:00 pm. Please call Janet Carter to reserve a spot.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Janet Carter 715-252-6875 wisconsinjanet@yahoo.com

Barb Munson 715-340-2368 barbm72446@gmail.com



ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP BOARD UPDATE

At our last Charge Conference, the congregation voted to move forward with implementing an Accountable Leadership model for our church's organizational structure. We thought now would be a good time to get an update on how that is going!

The first step in switching to this model was to form an Accountable Leadership Board (ALB). People from the congregation were nominated to serve on this Board, informational sessions were held, and the Board was selected. Those serving on the ALB are: Aaron Karnatz, Tonya Kowalski, Shannon Lewis, Bonnie Lund, Jim Martin, John Munson, Mary Schultz, Karl Weyers, John Wiltse, and Pastor Tim O'Brien.

The ALB has held 3 meetings so far. In those three meetings, they established their goals for the year (see below) and have already begun working on them:

1. Define the Director of Church Finance position and hire a new person to fill that role
2. Review the Revitalization Team report recommendations and discern how to implement them
3. Review and Reorganize current ministry areas

The ALB has made progress already with goals #1 and #2. A hiring committee has been formed and is working on the Director of Church Finance job description and will be tasked with interviewing and hiring the new person for this role. The Board has also been reviewing the various recommendations from the Revitalization Team report, with our goal being to assign certain tasks to various teams to complete. One of those recommendations we are considering is to hire a part-time Coordinator of Engagement/Communication. This person will be tasked with getting congregation members engaged and serving in new ways. They will also market all

church programming and events to the community. Additionally, the Coordinator will keep our church website and social media presence current, relevant, and engaging. The same hiring committee that is working on the Director of Church Finance position would also create the job description and hire for the Coordinator of Engagement/Communication position after its approval.

A lot of great work is getting done, more updates to come soon!



PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES

You can give by one of the following:

1. You can mail your check to the church office at 600 Wilshire Blvd., Stevens Point, WI 54481
2. You can use ACH. If you don't have that set up & would like to, please contact the church office (715/344-3557) and we will help you with that or email us at **finance@stevenspointumc.org**.
3. You can use Bill Pay through your bank. This is a free service through your bank. They draw the money from your bank account and send the church a check as you direct them to, whether that be weekly or monthly. This way would save you on postage.
4. You can go to our website **www.stevenspointumc.org** and there is a button that says "Donate". That will take you through the steps to use your credit or debit card. If you continue down on that page, you can also text on your phone to give.

If you have any questions or problems, please let us know at **finance@stevenspointumc.org** or 715/344-3557.

LOOSE COINS



The Loose Coin Offering for June is in support of *Project Fresh Clothes*. The money collected will help provide vouchers for families in need to use at local consignment shops to purchase "new" outfits for school. Be sure to label your envelope so your coins/currency will be deposited into the correct account. If you are submitting a check, please write "Project Fresh Clothes" in the memo portion of the check. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.



CAMP IS COMING!!!

July 24-29, 2022

Go to the link below to register. You don't want to miss it!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/19WHfAEMqluRH2KCP8n-RnjLZJmDwfVzjov3-IAMOkbg/edit?usp=sharing>

Camp is for those who have finished 3rd grade and above. This year's cost is \$335.

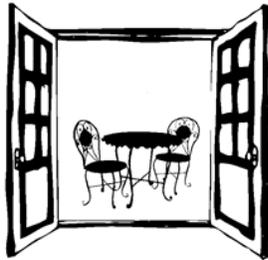
If you have 3 campers in a family, you pay for the first 2 campers and the third camper goes free. Scholarships are available so that no one is hindered from attending camp. Checks may be made payable to: St. Paul's UMC and sent to: 600 Wilshire Blvd., Stevens Point, WI 54481

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our directors below.

Matt Taylor
715/544-4948

Eric Taylor
715/544-8051

Yvonne Chojnacki
715/340-9333



OPEN DOOR BISTRO

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Open Door Bistro ministry this season whether as an attendee or a member of the service team. Your support is key to the ongoing success of the Bistro ministry and is greatly appreciated.

Volunteers interested in serving in the Bistro ministry as well as suggestions for future Bistro programming are always welcome. Please share your ideas with one of our team leaders.

Sandy Shave	(715) 592-4346; sandra.shave@gmail.com
Barb Munson	(715) 341-1208; barbm72446@gmail.com
Judy Hill	(715) 341-2323; len.hill@uwsp.edu
Stephanie White	(715) 347-0367; stephsdesknp@gmail.com
Wendy Miller	(715) 239-5088; millers3110@gmail.com
Anette Bernsteen	(715) 343-1462; lbernsteen@charter.net



REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT TEAM UPDATE

Our Refugee Resettlement Team, which is a combined team of our congregation with Good Shepherd and Trinity Lutheran churches, has been very busy over the past few weeks. On May 16 we received 24 hours' notice that the Haidari family, a family of five, two parents: Said and Amina, two young children, and an infant, from Afghanistan would be arriving in our area. The team selected to help them was a team from Holy Spirit Parish. Unfortunately, this team did not have enough people so our team stepped in to help, merging our two teams together into one.

With the help of another team, we got them settled into a home by Metro Market. The 3-month old baby came to us very sick and needed quite a bit of emergency medical care. Our health teams did a great job getting her the help she needed and the baby improved rapidly. After the first week, the family made a decision that they wanted to move to Indianapolis, IN to be closer to other members of their family and for work. With other refugee families arriving soon, the decision was made to move the Haidari family to a hotel until the paperwork and details of their move was settled.

Moving the family to a hotel meant that our team needed to provide two meals everyday for lunch and dinner, since they couldn't cook and had limited funds. We also needed to be sensitive to their diet since for their religion they eat only Hallal foods. We also needed to provide activities for them to do daily so that they could get out of their little hotel room. Unfortunately, the bureaucracy in transferring them went so slowly that they ended up being in a hotel for 10 days. Our team did an amazing job researching and preparing culturally appropriate meals and finding activities that would be fun for the parents and kids.

After 10 days, we received great news that a family member was driving to come get the family. However, things fell apart quickly when we found out that this family member couldn't make the trip. After many phone calls, a vehicle and driver were found. A huge thank you to Steve Faber who volunteered to drive the family to Indiana. Steve did an amazing job sharing the story of his trip during the Young Disciples' Time at our June 12 worship service at 10:30 a.m. (If you didn't see it, you can watch this service on our public Facebook page). The best news we received was that Amina's sister had also arrived. The Haidari family was so happy to be reunited with their larger family and all our prayers go with them as they start their new life. I would like to thank my co-lead, Mary Schultz, for her countless hours of working with this family as well as keeping us all organized. Also, thank you to Jackie Meyers, and our other cooks, who researched and prepared many delicious meals for the family.

Currently, our team is awaiting the arrival of another family that will most likely come soon. As of now, five other resettlement teams in our community are working with families or individuals from other countries. Our resource room at our church in rooms D/E in the Discovery Zone is active and being used weekly as more families arrive.

This has been an amazing ministry of extending the hospitality, grace, and light of God's love and hope to those most in need. If you would like to support this ministry please talk with me or Mary Schultz.

Pastor Tim



Our New Audio/Visual Booth is Ready! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Now that our Audio/Visual booth is done, we could use more volunteers to help run it. You don't need to have a detailed understanding of technology and we will provide all the training you need. The equipment is actually very easy to operate. Also, there will be another person to work with you so you will not be in the booth alone. If you are interested in helping out with our worship services in this way, please talk with Yvonne or Pastor Tim.



FUEL ONLY GAS CARDS

We give \$10 gas cards to people who need help getting to a doctor's appointment, job interview, etc. If you would like to donate toward gas cards that are given to those in need, please write "Gas Cards" in the memo section of your check payable to "UMC."



ONE BIG TENT

“Connecting the church to the community through the love of God”

One Big Tent, our joint ministry of area congregations reaching out to our neighbors in need, continues to meet an ever growing demand for help in our community. We continue to help more and more people in crisis of becoming homeless as well as working with those who are homeless or in shelters providing stability and a path forward for them. We are grateful to be working with Erin Gregoria, our new case manager helping us through our partnership with Catholic Charities. Erin is working with our more difficult cases dealing with housing and employment issues. This ministry has currently helped over 80+ individuals. Here are just a few numbers to describe our ministry.

- Since opening 10 months ago:
 - We have distributed 110 gas cards. *Demand for gas cards has significantly increased lately. With gas prices increasing this has been a great source of financial pain for many people who were barely making it financially before.*
 - We have created a list of food resources which includes the Interfaith Food Pantry, St. Paul's Lutheran Food Pantry, Community Thrift Food Pantry, Mobile Food Pantry. We also refer people to the meal programs being offered at the Hope Center Salvation Army Shelter, Franciscan's Downtown, and St Joseph's Parish.
 - We have helped 35 families with rent assistance totaling over \$7,000 who were at risk of being evicted.
 - We have referred 11 people to the Rent-Ready program helping them fill out the application to be included in this program that helps move people from homelessness to finding a stable home.
 - We have referred 7 people to the Portage County Financial Wellness Program as we continue to work with them on budgeting.
 - We have referred almost everyone we work with to one of our local non-profit agencies such as Salvation Army, CAP services, ADRC, Emergency Services, or Operation Bootstrap helping them fill out applications and following up when they run into roadblocks.

Behind each of these numbers is a relationship we have built as we have taken the time to listen to their stories and done what we can to walk with them in their need. Our main goal is always to connect them with our local non-profit agencies and community resources that exist to support people when they are struggling. However, when no one can help then we are the safety net to keep people from crisis situations like homelessness.

I would like to ask for your continued support of this important ministry in our community in the following ways.

- 1) Please pray for those in need as we work with them and for the companions and clergy who give their time to help find solutions.
- 2) Prayerfully consider if you would like to be a companion talking with and working with our neighbors who need help. We offer training and only ask people to volunteer for a 3-4 hour shift once a week. Also, we pair you with a clergy person who is there to support you. For example, I (Pastor Tim) volunteer every Wednesday with a member from Beloved Community from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. If you are interested, please talk with Pastor Tim

3) When it is appropriate, we do provide financial support to help with rent assistance, car repair, buying medicines, etc. We work with people to identify what they can contribute and we make up the difference with what they owe. We could use your financial support to help us meet these ongoing needs. If you would like to make a financial contribution, please make the check out to our church and put, "One Big Tent" in the memo line.

Thank you for your prayerful and generous support of this important ministry to make God's love real to all our neighbors.

Pastor Tim



HELP WANTED

We are looking for a few people who might be interested in helping on occasion to do a couple of tasks when Dave, our custodian, is away. Some of these tasks can be done during the day, while others can be done during the evening. We would like to put a list together of those interested and then when the need arises contact you to see if you are available to help.

If you are interested in helping with this opportunity, please contact the church office (715/344-3557) and your name will be put on the list.



MEET & GREET

Meet and Greet at both services is open to all. We are asking that if you attend that you provide a treat once in a while. You would also be responsible for clean up as needed. The leftover snacks need to be consolidated, refrigerated or frozen and labeled M&G. Dave makes the coffee, but you would need to clean up the snacks and drinks area and wipe down areas & tables as needed. Thank You.



FAIR TRADE COFFEE SALE

The following Fair Trade product is on sale:

French Vanilla - 12 oz. ground - \$3.00 ea. (only 2 left)

All other Fair Trade products will be at regular price.

You can find all Fair Trade products in the church office. Call the church office (715/344-3557) if you would like an item pulled for you and placed in the church exchange box outside of the church building for you to pick up.

WAYS TO HELP

We are all looking for ways to share God's love. Here are some samples of things you can do:

Interfaith Food Pantry – We have the grocery cart in between the entrance doors on the south side (school side), Tuesday through Thursday, 9am-3pm. Here is a list of their urgent needs: Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Cereal, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Peanut Butter and Jelly. You can also send a check to the office with “Interfaith Food Pantry” in the memo portion and we will make sure the funds go for this cause.

Call church people or neighbors – Just a friendly phone call can make someone’s day.



TAKE NOTE

If you or a loved one are in the hospital and would like a visit from Pastor Tim or a lay person, please contact the church office at 715/344-3557. If this happens on a weekend, please contact Pastor Tim (262/388-4635).

OUR TWO CAMPUSES

St. Paul’s-The Springs UMC
600 Wilshire Blvd
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715/344-3557

Campus Ministry - UWSP
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715/340-4523