



St. Paul's-The Springs United Methodist Church

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

Our Church News

Audra and I just received another invitation to a wedding this summer. It seems that the summer is filled with invitations. Invitations to graduations, to weddings, to family reunions, or just to neighborhood barbecues.

It is a really great feeling to be invited somewhere. To hear those three words, "you are invited" affirms our connection and importance to others. It says to us that another person finds our company and presence important in their lives. No one likes to feel excluded. We human beings are social creatures. We thrive in community and wither in isolation.

Yet, community is something that is harder and harder to keep. In our busy and fragmented world we quickly move from one thing to another such as family, work, school activities, friends, errands, extended family and on and on. In many ways we can feel stretched thin, disconnected in our relationships, or isolated, even in a crowd.

Into this situation comes an invitation. An invitation to find rest, "Come unto me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." An invitation to ease our anxiety, "Do not worry about tomorrow; it will have enough worries of its own." An invitation from our God who loves us so much he took on our flesh to be in a relationship with us and invite, not force or coerce, us to be in a relationship with each other through the church, the body of Christ.

Through this relationship we find a connection to something larger than ourselves. We find a common thread to pull together all the many parts of our lives as we find purpose, belonging, and most importantly, as a community, we find that we can be a transforming force on the world around us.

In other words, "you're invited." You are invited to gather as the church to live out your passions and find your connection with God who cares deeply about your life. You are invited to be the church for the world. To use your God-given gifts, talent, and blessings to reach out to the disconnected and lonely, maybe a shut-in, someone in the hospital, the neighbor who you know is stressed out, and make God's love real for them through a visit, a phone call, or even a prayerful note in a card.

So, let us all realize that we are invited to be a community that excludes no one. A community that continues, in our own way, to reach out in faith, connect people to Christ, and transform this world by simply saying in the name of love, "you're invited".

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.

July 2022

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

Please stay for special Fellowship Time & Worship Activities

July 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!



MEET OUR NEW FACILITIES TEAM

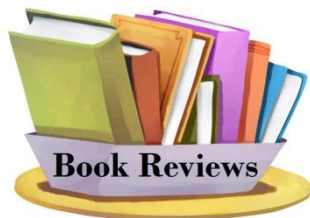
When we moved to our new leadership structure with our Accountable Leadership Board, we needed to have a group who would focus on keeping our buildings and grounds updated and ready for all our ministries. So, we have formed a Facilities Team. Our current members include: Carl Rasmussen, Roger Wurtzel, Len Hill, Jane Zierke, Janet Carter, and our

custodian, Dave Patterson. The responsibilities of this team are listed below. Please pray for the members of this team as they engage in this important ministry.

General Responsibilities:

1. To maintain the church properties in a clean, usable, safe condition.
2. To create a prioritized list of all facility improvement projects needed for all church properties.
3. To ensure that major appliances are operable.

4. To contract with outside contractors when repairs are beyond the scope of the Facility Team's ability, time commitment, or workload.
5. To inspect property and grounds periodically to see what needs attention.
6. To make recommendations to the Accountable Leadership Board concerning capital maintenance needs, as appropriate.
7. To make repairs to the parsonage as needed.
8. To lead out in ways to involve church members in low-profile maintenance projects, such as cleaning storage rooms, spring cleaning, maintaining church grounds (weeding, trimming, spreading mulch), etc.
9. Ensure that all buildings are ready for church-related activities and that they are properly secured when services are not occurring.



BOOK REVIEW GATHERING

Book Review led by Bonnie Lund discontinued during Covid. There is some interest in restarting the group. We will have a gathering on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the church library. If you can't come, let Janet Carter know that you are interested at 715/252-6875 or at wisconsinjanet@yahoo.com.



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.

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



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 Coins of Compassion for July will be in support of *Helping Hands*. The money collected will help provide food that is needed to provide a meal on the first Thursday of the month at Hope Center. 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 "Helping Hands" in the memo portion of the check. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.



CAMP IS COMING!!!

July 24-29, 2022

You are invited to come to Lake Lucerne on Friday, July 29, at 7:15 pm to watch our musical "*The Bigger They Are*"

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



REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT TEAM UPDATE

Our Refugee Resettlement Team, which is a combined team of our congregation with Good Shepherd Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, and Holy Spirit Catholic churches, has been very busy over the past few weeks.

Currently, we are organizing for our next family to arrive, the Almsalmeh family from Syria. This is a family of ten, with eight children ranging in age from a year old to 21 years old. They should arrive in our area around August 10. We have a home close by the church for them to move into and we will be working to get it ready for them. Along with their home, our team will be helping them in several other areas like getting the kids enrolled in the school system, getting them connected to our health care system, helping them set up bank accounts, and assisting them with transportation to their various appointments. Also, we will be arranging for

them to go through the cultural orientation seminars, dealing with language and customs, organized by the Portage County Literacy Council who is using our building to hold these classes.

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 grow as we are helping more people out of our offices (1039b B Ellis St.) in downtown Stevens Point.

One of the neighbors we helped recently came in because she had lost her job, was behind on her rent, and she needed food for her and her three kids. Like the majority of our neighbors who we help, they are often just one paycheck away from homelessness. We were able to get her an emergency food box from the Interfaith Food Pantry as well as give her a list of other food pantries and food resources for her and her children. Connecting her with Operation Bootstrap we helped her with part of her rent and we also connected her to some job development resources. However, the main thing we did was listen and provide a compassionate safe place as we walked with her through her crisis of worry and fear about her future for her and her family.

This neighbor's story is unfortunately not unique in our community. There are so many people struggling around us and the power of this ministry is that all it takes to help them is to

have an open heart and a willingness to listen. This is why this ministry exists so that we can build relationships with those who come for help as we listen to their stories and walk with them in their need. We also work hard to connect them with local non-profit agencies and community resources/information that already 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.



BROWN PAPER BAGS

Operation Bootstrap is in need of brown paper bags. If you have any you would like to donate, please bring them to the church and place in the south coatroom. If you have any questions, please call the church office (715/344-3557).



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