

# MONTHLY NEWS OF SAINT PAUL BENSON

# Inspiration

April 2021

## PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

*I am going to try and pay attention to the spring. I am going to look around at all the flowers, and look up at the hectic trees. I am going to close my eyes, and listen.” – Anne Lamott*

It's April, and it's Easter and I hope you will join me in a hearty ALLELUIA! I believe 2021 is an Easter I will not forget; I plan to look around at the flowers and hectic trees. I plan to listen to the sounds of our church musicians and the clanking of our church doors, and I plan to watch our worship services on our YouTube channel even though I have already attended them. I hope to fully embrace the living resurrected Christ who reminds us that God is always working for good in our lives - even in the face of a global pandemic and days and weeks of uncertainty.

This last year I have felt the Holy Spirit working in our midst, even as we have been apart. I have seen miracle upon miracle as our church has shone with light in the darkness, inviting people to worship with us online and continuing to be in ministry in our neighborhood and beyond.

Some of you will choose to join us in person on Easter; others will worship from home - and I want to assure you that in whatever form you join us, Christ is risen, God continues to create in us new things, and the Holy Spirit continues to move. Speaking of new things, we announced on Palm Sunday the July arrival of our new and additional Associate Pastor, Rev Andrew Finch. I want to thank the Great Plains UMC New Church Development committee for their faith in us as we continue to grow in our reach to the Benson neighborhood - and their generous grant to fund this fourth clergy position for at least two years. More information about our plans will be forthcoming

Thank you for your support and faithfulness, together we will continue to celebrate the risen Christ and share God's light with the world.

Rev Stephanie

## Holy Week WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

APRIL 1-4

### MAUNDY THURSDAY 7 PM

Livestream on Facebook & YouTube  
& In-Person in the Sanctuary  
Arrive at 6:30 or Later

### GOOD FRIDAY 7 PM

Livestream on Facebook & YouTube

### HOLY SATURDAY 5 PM

Chapel  
Arrive at 4:45 or Later

### EASTER SUNDAY 8 AM & 10 AM

Livestream on Facebook & YouTube  
& In-Person in the Sanctuary.  
Audio & Video Feed in the Chapel  
Arrive No Sooner Than 30 Minutes  
Prior to Service Time

Some may find Roth Chapel easier to access; enter from Corby Street. Once Sanctuary capacity is reached, overflow will be directed to the Chapel.

Find us on Facebook and YouTube  
@SaintPaulBenson

### SAFETY REMINDERS

We are so grateful to offer in-person worship! If you choose to participate, please keep the following in mind:

Worship space capacity is limited to 25%

Masks must be worn and should cover the nose and mouth.

Social distancing is required. Please clear the worship space as quickly as possible.

Saint Paul Benson

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# April Church Calendar

## Special Communal Offering for Habitat for Humanity

### Easter Sunday, April 4

8:00 a.m. & 10 a.m. Livestream on Facebook & YouTube & In-Person in the Sanctuary. Audio & Video Feed in the Chapel. Arrive no sooner than 30 minutes prior to service times. Some may find Roth Chapel easier to access; enter from Corby Street. Once Sanctuary capacity is reached, over flow will be directed to the Chapel.  
12:15 p.m. Kirundi/Kiswahili Worship Livestream and in person

### Sundays, April 11, 18, 25

8:00 a.m. PianoSide Worship Available on YouTube  
10:00 a.m. LiveStream Worship on Facebook & in Sanctuary  
11:00 a.m. Dyno Kids on Zoom  
12:15 p.m. Kirundi/Kiswahili Worship Livestream and in person  
3:00 p.m. Youth

### Mondays through Fridays

7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Child Development Center open  
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Church Office Open (sometimes closes at 3:00 pm, please call ahead)

### Mondays

10:00 a.m. Clergy Meeting

### Monday, April 19

7:00 p.m. Church Council

### Tuesdays

9:00 a.m. Lectio Divina Prayer Group  
4:00 p.m. PianoSide Taping

### Tuesday, April 6

4:15 p.m. Serving Dinner at Siena/Francis House;  
call the church office if you are interested in serving

### Wednesdays

11:00 a.m. Staff Check-in

### Thursdays

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, April 1

7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship/LiveStream on Facebook & YouTube

### Friday, April 2

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship/LiveStream on Facebook & YouTube

### Saturdays

5:00 p.m. Worship Service in Chapel

### Saturday, April 10

8:30 a.m. Book Club Meeting on Zoom

## Save the Date:

Women's Annual Spiritual Retreat: October 10-11 (Sunday and Monday) at Saint Benedict Retreat Center in Schuyler, NE.

Out the windows, everywhere you look, are the March showers that are beginning to dramatically change the landscape. During these first weeks of April sights, sounds and smells will remind us that spring has, indeed, arrived. Possibilities are in the air: in the weather; in the careful easing of the restrictions of the past year; in our lives! Throughout all of these pandemic-filled months it's been difficult to be faithful, but, as the psalmist reminds us, "God's steadfast love endures forever!" As you read this issue, Holy Week will well be upon us and it may be too soon for you to fathom returning in-person to worship. If that be the case, remember that all services are available in a live stream and YouTube format, as well as archived so that you may view again or at a more convenient time. The drama of Christ's passion will be retold through children palm waving to the strains organ and brass, the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the ringing of bells, youth readers, guest soloists with choir, all leading to a joyous Easter celebration. As the month of April proceeds, worship leaders and musicians will continue to grace the in-person Saturday 5:00 p.m. service in Roth Chapel, the 8:00 a.m. PianoSide service on YouTube and the in-person LiveStream service at 10:00 a.m. If you have already been experiencing the joyfulness of gathering together for safe in-person worship or when you are ready so to do, know that God has been with you through it all. And that God's steadfast love endures forever!

We thank Susan Arnold and her sisters Judy Hanson, Mary Lynn Bachman, and Shirley Culp for their kindness in providing the palms for our use in worship on Palm Sunday in loving memory of their parents. Roger and Clyde Arnold were dynamic members of the Music Ministry at Saint Paul Church for more than 25 years, with Roger at the organ and Clyde frequently on the bench next to him. The Choir and Solid Brass also offered Roger's musical setting of "The Palms" with inspired waving by all in attendance. Their memory is a blessing!

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## Communal Offering

The Communal Offering for April is Habitat for Humanity. Through your generous giving we will help impact the lives of people in Omaha as affordable housing is built and homes are renovated to make them livable. Thank you for donating!

## Clergy Corner—Rev. Marta Wheeler

The people who compose Saint Paul Benson are diverse in thought and welcoming in faith.

Since being appointed here I've enjoyed relationships that are soul nourishing. We so appreciate the choirs that have sustained us throughout this time! I didn't realize how much my heart would sing when seeing people return to worship each week. Even though our spirits have been united as we worship together virtually, seeing people return to the beautiful sanctuary has been extraordinary. It's like a weekly family reunion! (Only with friendly eye contact instead of hugs and visible smiles).

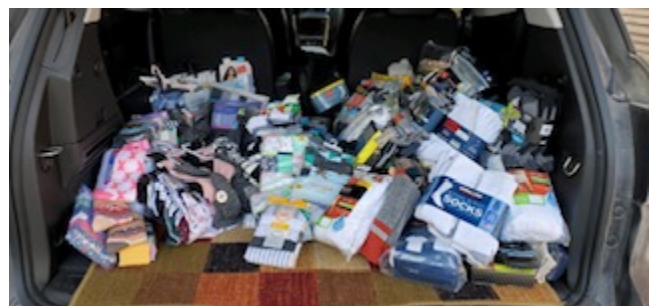
One day this pandemic will be over, until then we will welcome each person in the transforming Spirit of Easter and celebrate the holiness within that results from our relationships with God whether worshipping virtually or at home. Participants in small faith formation groups of all ages amaze me as they share and grow while bonding with God and one another.

Thank you for continuing this winding path of faith together, where we can count on God's presence with us always and forever.

## Undie Sunday Update

Orene Taylor led the Mercy and Justice Team in a drive up donation collection. Homeless people receiving support at the Stephen Center were recipients of Saint Paul's generous donation.

Thank you for giving.





**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
of The United Methodist Church

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March 26, 2021

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Robert Blair, SPRC Chair  
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Dear Friends,

The cabinet and I are pleased to announce that Rev. Andrew Finch will be appointed as your associate pastor beginning July 1, 2021. This appointment concludes a long process during which the staff-parish committee of your church has been consulted along with Rev. Finch. We have prayed asking for God's wisdom about the best available leadership for your church and this is our decision.

As with all appointments, this one will be fixed during the annual conference closing session on May 29, 2021.

I extend my best wishes and prayers to you all during this transition of pastoral leadership for your congregation.

Grace and peace,

Ruben Saenz, Jr.

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## Eagle Scout Project for Saint Paul Child Development Center

Hello! My name is Hayden Johnson and I am a youth member of Saint Paul Benson. I am currently a Life Scout in Troop 407 and am working on my Eagle Scout Service Project. Our Child Development Center (CDC) has a desire to implement a STEM curriculum focused on healthy living, plant biology and sustainability by implementing a community garden for its students. For my Eagle Scout Service Project, I am partnering with our Saint Paul CDC to create two raised garden beds. We are currently asking for donations to help support the project. Funds will be used to purchase the materials to build the garden beds, mulch, soil and plants,

## A Thank You to Belinda Johnson and Her Family

Belinda Johnson provided memorial funds received for her husband, Warren Johnson, to pay for AED supplies to update Saint Paul's AED device. AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) are portable, life-saving devices designed to treat people experiencing sudden cardiac arrest, a medical condition in which the heart stops beating suddenly and unexpectedly. AEDs periodically need new pads and batteries to keep them operating properly. The machine itself walks you through the potentially life saving steps.

We thank Belinda and Myleen, Johnathan, Samuel and Elijah for providing this generous donation in memory of Warren.

In case of cardiac emergency the AED machine is located near the church office. First aid kits and automatic blood pressure cuffs will be in the same location.

## Online Giving

Thank you to everyone who has moved to online giving this past year using the link on our website. One way you can help us reduce the fees associated with these gifts is to use the checking/savings account option rather than the credit/debit card option whenever possible. Thanks for your help!

## *Learning, Serving, Praying, Playing*

By now you have seen the youth taking part in the Good Friday service. Rehearsals included time to discuss Holy Week, beliefs about resurrection, and how our lives are still affected today. Thank you for your support and prayers for our young people.

Rev. Marta Wheeler



## Dyno Kids

Children's Sunday School continues to meet each Sunday morning at 11 am on zoom. We did meet in person for an Easter Fun Day event. It was great for the Dyno Kids to meet up and see one another face to face after meeting virtually for nearly a year!

July 14, 15 and 18 are the dates set for VBS. More to come later!!

## BART Update—Name Change

The Benson Area Refugee Task Force (BART) has recently undertaken a strategic planning process and review. The results include a focus on entrepreneurship for refugee women and a new name, **Refugee Women Rising**. Seasonal activities such as the clothing closet will move to being sponsored by other groups, while we expect new projects and partnerships to begin soon.

# SAINT PAUL *Benson*

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## *inTouch*

### Hospitalizations

Kathy Rice

### Christian Sympathy

To the family of Margaret Barrow

### Memorials

For Warren Johnson—Jean Schmid, Stefan &  
Janice Biga, William Ersland, Nick & Mary  
Stolzer, Mark & Maribeth Schillerstron

For Douglas Taylor—Sharron Altmaier

For Ruby Meck—Lori Edwards & Norman  
Edwards, Jr.

### Congratulations

To Matthew & Brianna Gibb in the baptism of  
their son, Baylor Matthew James, on March 20.  
Baylor's big brother is Jaxen.

