

MONTHLY NEWS OF SAINT PAUL BENSON

Inspiration

JUNE 2021

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

In this season following Pentecost I want to share what I think is most important: **we are a diverse and gifted congregation, with the opportunity to choose to support one another from a place of nurture and care as we enter a season of welcome and hospitality.**

It is my hope that as members, friends and neighbors enter our building for the first time, or first time in a long time, that they will feel comfortable in our space and experience God's love through word, song, music, and the way we care for one another. I give thanks for your persistence, and the opportunities before us to move forward in faith.

Rev. Stephanie

We know that our congregation is a diverse group, united in faith. Our membership includes a continuum of people regarding health vulnerabilities, vaccination availability, cultural backgrounds, and comfort level in spaces with others. We also have visitors in our building throughout the week, including families who are part of our Child Development Center. Our goal as a congregation is to be as welcoming as possible while making space for as many as possible; this includes clear communication about our expectations of one another. Therefore, after consulting with our church reopening advisory group, I offer the following updates to our building policies related to COVID-19:

We ask that anyone who is not fully vaccinated continue to wear a mask inside our building; we encourage those who have been vaccinated to do so as well in our public spaces and in worship although this is not required by the CDC or our local government. In worship, we ask that those who attend continue to maintain physical distance between households/bubbles, and we require that anyone, regardless of vaccination status, wear a mask while using the elevator. To be clear, we are not prepared to check vaccination cards at the door; we trust that members and friends will respect one another and adhere to these guidelines. Moving forward, we encourage members and friends to sign up for vaccines as soon as possible and to engage in best practices to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in our community. I will be personally overseeing any requests for groups to resume meeting in the building; please let the church office know if your group is interested in resuming gathering in the building and we will work with you to accommodate the request.

Our hope is that in worship, people for whom a mask is not required will choose to wear their mask as a way of supporting those who have compromised immune systems and those who are too young to be vaccinated. On a personal note, I plan to continue to wear a mask in worship when I am not speaking until our community's positive rate is significantly lower. I ask that we as a congregation refrain from making assumptions regarding why someone is or is not wearing a mask, and rather focus on working together to create spaces where all can feel comfortable worshipping together. I anticipate that we will be sharing any updates to our policies at the first of the month, allowing us to reach people via our print newsletter as well as digital platforms.

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SaintPaulBenson.org

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The Inspiration is published monthly.
Submit info by the 19th of the month to
be included in the next month's issue.

Email Kristin at
kcamp@stpaulomaha.org
or contact the church office



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

SAINT PAUL *Benson*
PROUD TO BE A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

With God's love as our foundation,
we celebrate friendship with all of God's people,
affirming all sexual orientations and gender
identities.

Together, we will seek justice for all and do good
in our community, nation and around the world
in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our June Calendar

SPECIAL COMMUNAL OFFERING: PEACE WITH JUSTICE

SUNDAYS

- 8:00 AM PianoSide Chat Worship Available on YouTube
- 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service
In-Person in the Sanctuary and YouTube Livestream
- 12:15 PM Kirundi/Kiswahili Worship In-Person in Wesley Hall and
Facebook Live

WEEKDAYS

- 7 AM – 5:30 PM Child Development Center Open
- 9 AM – 3:00 PM Church Office Open
Summer Hours June 1 – September 3

TUESDAYS

- 9:00 AM Lectio Divina Prayer Group Off Site
- 10:00 AM Clergy Meeting Library (Rm. 203)
- 10:00 AM Art Group Parlor
June 10 and June 24
- 1:30 PM Prayer Shaw Ministry Library (Rm. 203)
- 6:30 PM Flag Corps Parking Lot
June 1 through July 6

WEDNESDAYS

- 11:00 AM Staff Check-in Library (Rm. 203)

THURSDAYS

- 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

SATURDAYS

- 5:00 PM Worship in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

- 9:30 AM Warren Johnson Memorial Service Sanctuary

JUNE 20 - 24 Youth Mission Trip



ROOM FOR YOU IN THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP!
If you like to knit or crochet – or want to learn – you're invited
to join the group every Tuesday at 1:30 PM in the Library.
A fun & relaxing ministry!

in
WORSHIP

June will come in all of its splendor, bringing summer with it! We continue to look forward to increasing vaccination rates and decreasing COVID 19 safety requirements. The Choir and Joy Bell Ensemble will rehearse all month and provide leadership as part of our Livestream service and, occasionally, as part of PianoSide worship.

Please Join Us for in-person worship, Saturday evening at 5:00 in Roth Chapel or Sunday morning at 10:00 in the Sanctuary. We've missed you!

It is a pleasure to welcome the MasterSingers to Saint Paul Benson! Under the musical direction of Dr. Laureen Pickle, this ensemble is known for their a cappella (unaccompanied) jazz stylings. The group is currently in rehearsal for a summer concert featuring music of the Beatles with such hits as *Penny Lane*, *Eight Days a Week*, *Let It Be* and many others being offered. The Sunday, August 15 concert will be in the Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. Ten free tickets will be available to the Church, but all Saint Paul concert goers will be given the "family and friends" discount price of \$10 per ticket. We hope to be a good fit with our friends in the MasterSingers and look forward to many years of partnership.

Jerry

Clergy
CORNER

After being isolated this year, I believe we can all agree upon one thing: the importance of relationships. Most of our groups met online, if they met at all. The DynoKids children's ministry met online for over a year. We laughed, sang, and told the important stories of the Bible. As the school year is soon ending, so is Sunday School on Zoom. I'm so excited that next year we plan to meet in person! You'll hear more as plans unfold.

The groups that I meet with have begun gathering in person after meeting virtually for such a long time. Happy reunions have lately occurred amongst those who attend the Lectio Divina prayer group, the Wednesday book study group, and Mercy and Justice and Health Ministries. It's hard to explain how wonderful it is to be together again, looking into one another's eyes. We have been newly energized and engaged in working toward a common purpose as the people of Saint Paul Benson.

Even so, the Health Ministries team sends a reminder to be gentle with yourself and your loved ones. Until we begin to leave isolation, we don't realize how difficult this pandemic year has been and tend to be hard on ourselves. We may not realize how much we have missed seeing others until we feel safe enough to return. The sharing of concerns (and holding one another in prayer), hearing live music that energizes the soul, coming forward to receive Holy Communion, laughing at silly jokes, and being with those we have not seen in a very long time, are so important to who we are as a people of God.

The first Pentecost happened in community and Christianity spread from there. Our faith grows through relationships and whether we are together in the Sanctuary with our masks intact, or meeting in spirit on YouTube or Facebook, we gather in the sacred place where healing occurs.

Marta



Peace with Justice: SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JUNE

Although most lack the resources alone to effect change in a broken world, together we can make a difference by giving to the Peace with Justice offering. When you give on Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift makes possible our critical kingdom work in the world.

Because you give, these initiatives and hundreds of others are possible from local causes to across the globe:

- United Methodists spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities.
- United Methodists in Liberia are being equipped to implement the denomination’s Social Principles to address social-justice issues.
- Pennsylvania students are educating their community about sex-trafficking at home and abroad.

Your Giving Makes Possible the Proclamation of Christ’s Peace. Thank you for giving!



Youth on A Mission: JUNE 21-24

The Saint Paul Benson youth group is excited to journey across Nebraska, where we will serve others, spend time in nature, and grow closer to God & one another. We will follow health precautions to be safe though most participants are vaccinated.

It’s not too late to support our mission! Choose to make a monetary donation (in person, by mail or online).

Thanks!



Compassion Camp: BE LOVED. BE KIND. BE YOU.

This year’s edition of Vacation Bible School will have kids and their families explore what it means to have compassion for others, ourselves, and the world. It is geared toward preschool-age children and K-5th graders, and it is incredibly flexible, adaptable, and fun for the entire family, older siblings included.

Access virtually at your convenience on July 14 and 15. We will have a closing celebration in the Courtyard after the 10AM Worship Service on Sunday, July 18!

Register by contacting Rev. Wheeler before July 5. It’s easy to email her: mwheeler@stpaulomaha.org or call the Church Office.



The Five Wishes: SAVE THE DATE!

The Health Ministries team invites you to mark your calendar for a special event on Sunday, August 8 from 2:00 - 3:30 PM.

“The Five Wishes. A Better Way to Living and Dying” will include presentations by health experts who are members of the Health Ministries team who have gained wisdom through years of working in health ministry fields. A follow-up session on Monday, August 16 will answer any questions about filling out The Five Wishes document and provide

the necessary witnesses for completion.

Reminder: the next Health Ministries team meeting is Tuesday, July 20 at 11:00 AM in the parlor.



Cycling to End Hunger: FINAL NUMB RIDE

The 25th annual (and final) Nebraska United Methodist Bike Ride for Hunger, or NUMB, will take place June 26-30. This unique event has raised over \$1.3 million since the first ride in 1996, motivating donors to help alleviate hunger all around the world. NUMB’s founding clergy, Rev. Bill Ritter, is familiar to many of us here at Saint Paul Benson, and many of our friends have participated over the years.

We ask you to pray for the cyclists’ safety during the ride.



Flag Corps Formation: MEMBERS WELCOME!

Join us Tuesday nights in June to practice for our first appearance in Omaha's Pride Parade on Saturday, July 10. We'll meet in the church parking lot at 6:30 each week and learn from a professional. Great exercise and great fun! Sign up to participate by calling the church office (402.556.2433) or sending an email to: kcamp@stpaulomaha.org

Suggested registration fee for the 5-week training session is only \$10.

You don't need to be a member of Saint Paul to participate - we encourage anyone to attend! General physical requirements are the ability to walk a mile in July and wave a lightweight flag with a 5-foot pole.

To support this work without carrying a flag, make a donation to the church and mark it "flag corps" and/or pray for good hydration and balance. (Hot tip: donating online is easy on our website saintpaulbenson.org)

Busy in June? We anticipate that this group will continue throughout the summer as a fitness group with plenty of space in our parking lot for additional group members.



Neighborhood Art Fair: BENSON FIRST FRIDAY RETURNS!

Keep your eyes open for news of our next opportunity to participate in the Vendor Fair at Benson First Friday. This is a great monthly event that supports the Benson community, and gives us a chance to mix and mingle with our neighbors. We will need you to help by wearing your Saint Paul t-shirt and helping out at our booth. Watch for an email with details! What? You don't get our emails? Send Kristin your address and she'll add you to the list.



Summer Wardrobe Essentials: NEW SPB TEES COMING SOON

Watch for the announcement of new Saint Paul Benson t-shirts! We'll let you know when they're in stock. We anticipate offering shirts in a rainbow of colors so you'll be ready for the Pride Parade and other community events this summer. Several red "#DoGood" shirts are currently in stock for \$10 each. Call the Office or email Kristin to purchase.



Don't Miss a Thing: FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

If you use social media to communicate with your family and friends, be sure to Follow, Like, Subscribe and Friend Saint Paul Benson! Whether on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube, you'll find us by searching for "SaintPaulBenson." By liking and sharing our posts, you help us engage with people all around the world.



Summertime Adjustment: CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Following the Memorial Day holiday, the Church Office will change to summer hours effective Tuesday, June 1. You'll find us here in person from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM each weekday. If you have a special request, let us know and we'll make arrangements. (Reminder: the church building and Child Development Center are closed on Monday, May 31.)



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in
TOUCH

Special Thanks

HAYDEN JOHNSON

As his Eagle Scout project, Hayden is installing raised beds on the south side of our building. Our CDC preschoolers will garden and snack on the produce. Watch for photos of the finished project!

LORRAINE HAHN

Despite the rainy weather, Lorraine worked to clean out the circular garden on the building's south side. This beautiful spot is ready for summer blooms!

Memorials

For Bob Mattly: Nancy Mattly, Vance Taylor, Dan & Ginny Ware

For Mary Buono: Judy Buono

For Emily Ann Ford: Rozanne Christensen

For Mother's Day: Rozanne Christensen

For Warren Johnson: Margaret Crane

For Shirley Higbee: Bonnie Barbe

Honorariums

For Kent And Sue Bacon: Gladys Lantz

For Steve And Marilou Dohe: Nick and Mary Stolzer

For the Robinson Family: Nick and Mary Stolzer

Hospitalization

Mary Stolzer

Congratulations

Steve and Marilou Dohe on their 50th Wedding Anniversary