



FINDING LIFE

THROUGH GENEROUS LOVE OF OUR NEIGHBORS

MONTHLY NEWS OF SAINT PAUL BENSON

SEPTEMBER 2021

Inspiration

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

Rev. Stephanie

This fall in worship we will turn to the gospel of Mark, visiting the theme of "Love God, Love Neighbor."

This theme is one that I think articulates a longtime vision and witness of the congregation, and is one that I believe will carry us well into our future together. Rev. Finch and I have been attending national trainings on church growth via Zoom, and as we have reflected together on the history of Saint Paul and how it connects with our present ministries and visions for the future, we have found the theme of loving God and neighbor has been consistent throughout the stories we hear you tell - both about the past and your hopes for the future.

I have found myself thinking that a related tagline or hashtag for our congregation might be #wedostuff - not random actions, but intentional acts of service, kindness and advocacy that tie the faith we know and feel to our actions. In this way we have a continuity on our faith journey between our experience and knowledge of God's love and how we live in the world.

Continued on Page 2

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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
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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.

in WORSHIP

You may have noticed that the Saint Paul worship spaces (as well as the thematic color of this publication!) have been altered.

This liturgical time, called "ordinary", is the longest season of the church year. In years' past, we have followed Pentecost with the growing colors of green and return to the flaming tongues of red at Labor Day weekend. However, mainline Protestants frequently bend liturgical traditions according to need which allows the dividing of this long time of ordinary into two halves. So, the summer reds of Pentecost have been replaced by the autumnal greens of Kingdomtide. A reversal of years past, yes, but still within the Protestant understanding of liturgical celebration!

Pastors Stephanie, Andrew and Marta lead us in a seasonal look at the gospel stories of Jesus as recorded in the book of Mark. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated as part of the Labor Day holiday weekend, both Saturday evening at 5:00 in Roth Chapel and again Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Dr. Raymond Carpenter will serve as guest musician at the **September 04** service and the Fusion Band will offer ministry *through* music on **September 05**. The Choir will join 10:00 worship on **September 12** as they return to their Sunday morning offering schedule. Joy Bells will offer weekend ministry at all services **September 25/26**.

If you, or any you may know, would like to join our Music Ministry be encouraged to visit us on a Thursday evening as part of our weekly rehearsal...no strings attached!

Rev. Jerry

LIFE GIVING ACTION

Thanks to all who selflessly donated 12 units of blood at the annual Red Cross blood drive on Sunday, Aug. 22!

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

Continued

In this fall season, we will be beginning some new things: a new configuration of Sunday School and two new worship options that are far from what we have experienced in the past are two examples. We will also continue some kind-of-new but now reliable and tested worship options, PianoSide and the 10am livestream, while also continuing our Chapel, 10am, and 12:30 Sunday services. It is our hope that with these options we will continue to expand our reach with the message of loving God and neighbor while being responsive to a new generation and new-to-us group of neighbors. I look forward to seeing you in worship, whether it is in person or online, as we move forward learning from the scriptures and one another on our faith journey.

Rev. Stephanie

Our September Calendar

SPECIAL COMMUNAL OFFERING: GUATEMALA STOVE

The Guatemala Stove Project is a ministry of the United Methodist Great Plains Conference through 1st Church, Wichita. Just \$100 provides a working stove to a home, replacing the necessity of cooking over dangerous open flames. Local workers, including UMC-sponsored missionary, Lulu, are employed at a living wage to manage construction, creating financial stability in an area where it is so desperately needed. US-based volunteers are currently unable to travel but our funds are still needed for supplies and labor costs. Thank you for giving generously!

SUNDAYS

8:00 AM	PianoSide Chat Worship Available on YouTube	
8:30 AM	Soul Journeys for Women	Library
10:00 AM	Sunday Worship Service	
	In-Person in the Sanctuary and YouTube Livestream	
11:15 AM	Sunday School (beginning September 12)	
12:15 PM	Kirundi/Kiswahili Worship (Wesley Hall) & Facebook	

WEEKDAYS

7:00 – 5:30	Child Development Center Open	
9:00 – 4:00	Church Office Open (Fridays: 9:00 - 1:00)	

MONDAY

9:00 AM	Lectio Divina Prayer Group	Offsite
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TUESDAYS

1:30 PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Library
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THURSDAYS

10:00 AM	Art Group (Sept. 9 and 23)	Library
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SATURDAYS

5:00 PM	Worship	Roth Chapel
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

10:00 AM	ENOA Foster Grandparents	Fellowship Hall
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

5:00 PM	BFF (Benson First Friday)	Various
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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Office and Child Development Center Closed
Labor Day

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

7:00 PM	UNorthodox	Offsite
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

11:30 AM	Wedding	Sanctuary
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

5:00 PM	Dinner Church	Fellowship Hall
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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

7:00 PM	UNorthodox	Offsite
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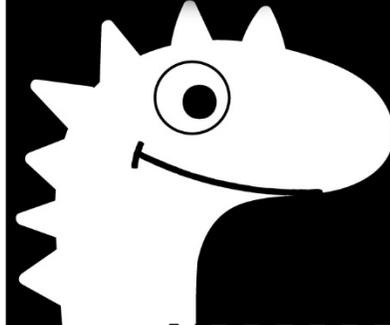
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

9:00 AM	ENOA Senior Companions	Fellowship Hall
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This month's cover photo was taken by Nancy McMahon at the conclusion of Paul-a-Palooza on August 6. We thank Nancy for capturing this wonderful view!

SAINT PAUL *Benson*

SUNDAY SCHOOL



JOIN THE FUN EVERY WEEK!

Beginning Sunday, September 12, Saint Paul welcomes back a Sunday School program!

Classes for children ages 4 through high school will focus on forming relationships with God, family and friends in small group settings.

We'll have separate breakout classes for kids in grades 5 & 6, and for junior/senior high.

Pastor Marta and Pastor Andrew with assistance from Meagan Finch will lead the classes. Contact Marta or Andrew to volunteer and help!

Classes will begin at 11:15 each Sunday. Check the Gathering Area for your room assignment.



Sacred Waters

SAINT PAUL *Benson* ANNUAL

WOMEN'S RETREAT

SUNDAY & MONDAY, OCTOBER 17/18
River Inn Resort | Brownville, Nebraska
LIMITED ROOM AVAILABLE . . . REGISTER NOW!

\$150

INCLUDES LODGING,
BREAKFAST AND ALL
MATERIALS
(Sharing a Room with a Friend is
Permitted)

We will visit the historic
BROWNVILLE UMC for
opening communion
and prayer service.
NEMAHA UMC will
host us for closing
worship and lunch.

POT LUCK

Bring a dish or treat to
share for our Sunday
evening dinner

**REGISTRATION &
PAYMENT DUE BY
SEPTEMBER 15**

Email Kristin
kcamp@stpaulomaha.org.
Add "Women's Retreat" to your
check's memo line.

Faith Formation in New Forms: DINNER AND DRINKS!

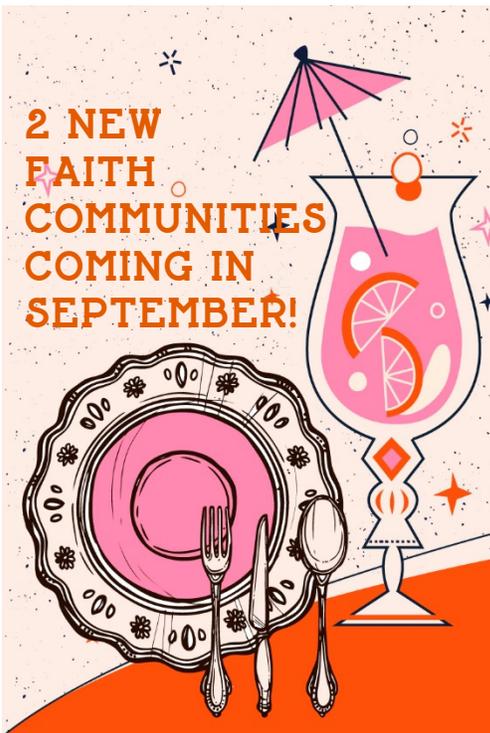
We'll take church TO the people with **BAR CHURCH**, connecting with young adults (21-35) who are already enjoying the vibrant entertainment scene of the Benson neighborhood. This model of worship offers a safe place for people to honestly explore spirituality and work together toward a common good. Our core leadership team of Spencer and Kylie Robinson, John Finch, and Christopher McCroy are excitedly planning our first gathering, scheduled for 7PM Tuesday, September 14, at Flavas Lounge (6052 Maple St.) Cheers!

The familiar setting of our own Fellowship Hall is the new home of **DINNER CHURCH**, worship built around the Eucharist ritual. This will be a radically participatory act of thanksgiving where we recognize our unity in Christ and the gift of creation through communal acts of worship, conversation, and eating delicious, locally-grown food. Book-ending the service with communion (bread at the beginning and cup at the end) is an idea inspired by records of the early church that suggest believers met for worship primarily over meals. The core leadership team of Orene Taylor, Lorraine Hahn, Belinda Johnson, Nancy Mattly, John Hough, and Marilou Dohe are cooking up our first gathering Sunday, September 19 at 5 PM.

Rev. Andrew

Party in the Parking Lot: PAUL-A-PALOOZA RETURNS!

On the heels of our first-ever Paul-a-Palooza – held in conjunction with BFF on Friday, August 6 – we are gearing up for another fun event! Plan now on attending our fall party in the parking lot, Friday, October 1st. More details coming soon!





COVID-19 Response: CARING BY MASKING

Our current COVID safety policy is to require masks in the common areas of the church building, including the sanctuary, when Douglas County is in the red or orange level of community transmission. Masks will become optional when we are in the green or yellow level. We strongly encourage all people, including members, to get the COVID vaccine, and ask that those who are vaccinated stay alert for information about when you qualify for a booster shot.



International Flair: LAY SERVANT TRAINING COMES TO SPB

All Saint Paul members are invited to attend the Missouri River District training for lay servant ministries on Saturday, October 16th. This is an all-day training that is part of a nationwide UMC training for laity. Rev Andrew and Meagan Finch will be teaching the class in English, Rev Charles Murithi will be teaching in Swahili, and Rev Juan Carlos Veloso will be teaching in Spanish. Registration is \$30 and scholarships are available through the District. More information is available through the church office.

Special ACHIEVEMENTS



JORDAN RELFORD

August was full of success for Jordan! At the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) competition in Houston, he earned a gold medal and a spot on the national Olympic sparring team. He also earned gold at the USAT Grand Phoenix open.



HAYDEN JOHNSON

Hayden successfully defended his Eagle Scout project during his Board of Review August 23rd. His project (raised garden beds here at Saint Paul for the CDC) and book were chosen for a special community board of review through Gallup.



HANK ROBINSON

At UNO's Commencement on August 14, Hank was awarded the Chancellor's Medal for extraordinary service to the University. Following an illustrious 8 years at UNO, Hank will begin a new chapter this month at MCC.

in TOUCH

Christian Sympathy

To Charlotte and Dan Rasmussen on the deaths of her mother and father.

Hospitalizations

Annette Conser
Patsy Woodside

Congratulations

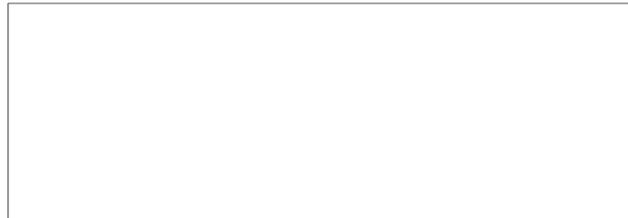
To Nick and Mary Stolzer on the birth of their great grandson, Stanley Arthur Robinson. Stanley is the first grandchild of Hank and Susie, and the first child of Jacob and Kayla.



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SAINT PAUL *Benson*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

AGES 4 THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

SUNDAYS 11:15
BEGINS SEPTEMBER 12

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS!



Let's Get Social!

Follow, Like, Subscribe and Friend us! Whether on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube, you'll find us by searching for "SaintPaulBenson."