

# *draw the* **CIRCLE** *wide*



MONTHLY NEWS OF SAINT PAUL BENSON

OCTOBER 2021

## *Inspiration*

### PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

*Rev. Stephanie*

One of my favorite modern hymns is "Draw the Circle Wide," by Gordon Light and arranged by Mark Miller for our Worship & Song hymnal. I think our sanctuary choir sings it wonderfully well under the direction of Rev Jerry Brabec, and every time I hear it, I find myself giving thanks for the depth of God's love for all people.

In this newsletter, you will see many signs of our good work at Saint Paul Benson to draw the circle wide: neighborhood events including preventive health and relationship building; spiritual development; and new worship services in creative venues and formats alongside ones that are more familiar.

We have a number of volunteer opportunities for you as we continue to grow and draw the circle wide; these range from helping to host events to helping in the office to teaching classes. We invite you to keep Saint Paul's members, friends and the Benson community in your prayers as we continue to move forward in faith and with bold courage to share God's love beyond our walls while inviting people in; pledging in the words of this song, "let this be our song, no one stands alone."

As we continue in October with the theme of loving God and loving neighbor, I give thanks for the ever-widening circle of God's love that we find at Saint Paul, and for your commitment to sharing that love.

SAINT PAUL *Benson*  
5410 Corby Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68104

402.556.2433  
SaintPaul@StPaulOmaha.org

SaintPaulBenson.org

### *Staff*

Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede  
Lead Pastor

Rev. Andrew Finch  
Associate Pastor  
Community Engagement & Outreach

Rev. Marta Wheeler  
Associate Pastor  
Spiritual Director & Faith Formation

Rev. Jerry Brabec  
Minister of Worship

Kristin Camp  
Communications & Operations

Noni Cambridge  
Bookkeeper

Chris Jones  
Building Engineer

Jayne Meisinger  
Membership Secretary

### *Community Counseling*

Julie Lord, LIMHP & PLADC  
Tabitha Jameson, MA, LIMHP  
402.354.6891 ext. 23

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

Email Kristin  
kcamp@stpaulomaha.org



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

During **October**, we continue  
celebrating what it means to live as  
good neighbors in the kin-dom of God.

As its title would suggest, World Communion is a celebration of the holy  
Sacrament far and wide! Saint Paul Benson will join with Christians around the  
world in the annual observance, this year celebrated October **02/03**. Special  
ministry through music as part of 10:00 worship will include David Schack, organ  
and the Solid Brass Quartet.

On October **09/10**, we will celebrate being a member of the Reconciling  
Ministries Network and how we might "come out" as allies for the LGBTQIA  
community. Guest musicians in Sanctuary worship will be Anna Antropova and  
Yaroslav Tereshchenko, violinists. David Schack will serve as guest organist again  
at 10:00 a.m. on October **17**. The Joy Bells will offer a 'peal'ing music for worship  
on October **23/24**.

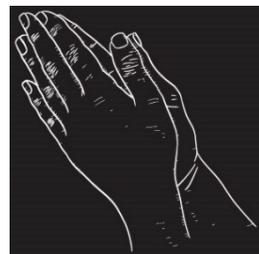
The last weekend of the month, October **30/31**, will honor our reformed  
Protestant roots with a celebration of the music of the Reformation and the  
500th anniversary of the "Diet of Worms." Guest musicians will be the Solid  
Brass Quartet. Most of these special musical offerings are archived on YouTube  
for your convenient viewing any time. We can help you find them, just give the  
church office a call!

### **The Holidays Were Upon Us**

On Friday, **September 06**, as the setting sun brought a close to another day,  
the festivities ushering in the year 5782 began for Jews around the world. The  
Day of Atonement --Yom Kippur on **September 15**-- was the symbolic closing  
of the gates of heaven for another year, the inscription on the Book of Life having  
been written.

*Rev. Jerry*

### **Hearing You: UPDATE TO PRAYER REQUEST POLICY**



Any given week, at least three of our worship services are  
recorded and/or livestreamed. Therefore, we are unable to  
read specific details of prayer requests out loud during  
worship. Those attending worship in-person are invited to  
place prayer requests in the offering plates; all members  
and friends are invited to call or email the church office with  
requests. These will be shared with the clergy, and if  
indicated, with our Lectio Divina prayer group.

### **Seasons of Change: CHILD CARE UPDATE**

We have made the difficult decision to close our Child Development  
Center, effective October 1.

This decision is primarily guided by staffing shortages which in turn have  
impacted our ability to operate at full capacity.

We give thanks for this ministry and all the staff and families who have  
been part of this good work through the years, and now enter a time of  
reflection as we discern how the Spirit is moving us at Saint Paul.

- Rev. Ahlschwede

# Our October Calendar

## SPECIAL COMMUNAL OFFERING: WORLD COMMUNION

On the first weekend in October, United Methodist congregations join many Christian churches across the globe to celebrate World Communion Sunday. Despite the differences in our denominations and traditions, we celebrate our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. In The United Methodist Church, World Communion continues to be a time for special giving. The monies raised provide scholarships for racial and ethnic minority students in the US, and worldwide. Your gifts will assist those whom God has gifted to learn and to serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday 9:00 – 4:00; Friday 9:00 – 1:00

### 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 (Children Age 4+) Room 313  
 12:15 PM Kirundi/Kiswahili Worship (Wesley Hall) & Facebook  
 5:00 PM Bread & Cup (Oct. 3 and 17) Fellowship Hall

### MONDAYS

9:00 AM Lectio Divina Prayer Group Offsite

### TUESDAYS

1:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry Library  
 7:00 PM UNorthodox (Oct. 12 and 26) Flavas

### THURSDAYS

10:00 AM Art Group (Oct. 14 and 28) Library

### SATURDAYS

5:00 PM Worship Roth Chapel

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

5:00 PM Paul-A-Palooza! Parking Lot

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

9:00 AM-Noon Health Fair Room 254

### THURSDAY & FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7 AND 8

Building Closed for Plumbing Repair

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

5:00 PM Nat'l Coming Out Day Celebration + Worship Stinson Park

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

9:00 AM MRD Lay Servant Training Various

### SUNDAY & MONDAY, OCTOBER 17 AND 18

Women's Retreat Offsite

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

9:00 AM ENOA Senior Companions Fellowship Hall

This month's cover photo features our Burundian choir, "Umoja." They traveled to Aurora, Nebr. in late August to perform at the request of Rev. Charles Murithi as he was installed as District Superintendent of the Prairie Rivers District.

## Calendar Highlights

### **NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY CELEBRATION Sunday, Oct. 10 5PM**

Join the progressive and inclusive United Methodist Churches of Omaha ([www.omahainclusivechurches.org](http://www.omahainclusivechurches.org)) for a community event at Aksarben Village's Stinson Park. Celebrate our LGBTQIA+ folks, raise awareness, explore God's call to love, and give thanks for those working to make our communities safer for all people. Come and sing, connect, and listen to sacred stories about the belovedness of all people.

### **LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES TRAINING Saturday, Oct. 16 9AM - 5PM**

All UMC laity are invited to participate in this training. Complete the registration (\$30) due by October 1 at this link: <https://bit.ly/3tXiDlu>. Scholarships available through the District office.

Rev. Andrew and Meagan Finch will teach in English, Rev. Charles Murithi will teach in Swahili, and Rev. Juan Carlos Velosa will teach in Spanish. Advanced classes are also available for those who have completed and renewed the basic class. We will conclude with worship at 5PM (combined service with our "usual" Chapel service.)

We are fortunate to be the host site and hope to have a great turnout from our own congregation!

### **3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION Sunday, Oct. 24 10AM**

Do you have a third-grade student in your life? Our tradition of presenting a Holy Bible to this age group continues during worship on October 24. Please contact Pastor Marta or the Church Office to participate!

### **SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL CONFERENCE Sunday, Nov. 7 2PM**

We will participate in our Annual Church Conference at Hanscom Park UMC (4444 Frances Street,) combined with six congregations in our network. All members of Saint Paul are encouraged to attend!



*draw the*  
**CIRCLE**  
*wide*

**Love in Action: SPIFFED-UP SUNDAY SCHOOL**

A simple “thank you” can’t quite convey our appreciation of Kim Alger. She single-handedly took on the task of painting Room 313 in time for Sunday School kick-off. Next time you’re in the building, stop by and see the beautiful result! The kids and teachers (including Sara Kupzyk, Meagan Finch (shown) and Nancy McMahon) now have a refreshed room to use and enjoy.



**Love in Action: YEARS OF UNCONDITIONAL CARE**

Judy Mayer retired from the Child Development Center in mid-September, celebrating over 25 years of service. Thank you, Judy, for your loving and tireless care!



**Love in Action: UNorthodox SAYS ‘YES’ TO OUTREACH**

Kylie Robinson (at left) made new friends while helping make 100 lunches for Youth Emergency Services at the inaugural meet-up of UNorthodox. That’s a lot of PB&J!



**Love in Action: SMILES ABOUT AT WEDDING**

Rev. Ahlschwede blessed the marriage of Niyosaba Germene and Elias Baranyikwa at a music and dance-filled ceremony in the Sanctuary on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

## FAITH FORMATION: ALL AGE GROUPS

**Sunday School** meets in Room 313 at 11:15 each week. Meagan Finch and friends are helping children experience the exciting Old Testament through science, art, music, and the telling of the stories. We would love to include *your* kids, too!

Youth (grades 7-12) are studying the New Testament, comparing and contrasting the culture of the times, discussing the scripture, and looking for ways it changes how we see and treat others.

**SNACK ATTACK!** We welcome your donations of packaged, non-perishable snacks for kids, used to help fuel our Sunday School and other activities. Bring to Mission Central's "church kid snacks" bin!

**Youth Group** will be at Paul-A-Palooza Friday, October 1 to help kids of all ages with pumpkin painting. Sunday, October 24, we'll head to Schramm Park to hike and grill, returning to the church by 4:30PM.

### **New! Contemplative Prayer Service**

Join me in Roth Chapel for a quiet half hour. We will connect our hearts with the heart of God through poetry, readings from the Saints, spiritual practices, and soft music. Together in the quietude, we will seek and encounter the Spirit of Christ. Our first service will be Wednesday, November 3; choose 9-9:30AM or 6:30-7PM (or both!)

God's Peace to You,

*Rev. Marta*

## NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT: TWO PROGRAMS LAUNCHED!

**UNorthodox** met for the first time on September 14. Discussion centered on the topic of identity, and as an outreach activity, we made 100 lunch kits for Youth Emergency Services. Our next meet-ups are Tuesday, October 12 & 26 at 7:00 PM at Flavas (6052 Maple St.) For more info, follow "UNorthodoxBenson" on Facebook and Instagram!

**Bread & Cup** met on September 19 when attendees enjoyed building community over pizza and fellowship. We meet every other Sunday at 5:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Join us October 3 and 17!

I am super stoked to see how God moves these new communities of faith! Please remember to share the word and – even better - invite someone to attend.

### **Party in the Parking Lot Returns October 1**

We had such fun on August 6 that we decided that Paul-A-Palooza needed happen AGAIN! Join us on Friday, Oct. 1 from 5-8PM. For this autumn edition, we'll have pumpkins for sale (only \$3 and \$5!) plus a plant sale, live music, food trucks, a bounce house AND pet blessings (complete with everyone's favorite Saint Francis!) with FREE professional photography of your furry friend. Grab a friend and celebrate the awesome season!

*Rev. Andrew*

## *in* TOUCH

### *Christian Sympathy*

To Vickie Peyton on the death of her mother Jeanette.

### *Memorials*

Vance Taylor, in memory of his wife, Mildred.

Judy Buono, in memory of her mother, Mary.

### *Celebration*

Happy Birthday wishes to Doris Ryan, celebrating her 95<sup>th</sup>!



## 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.



## Take Care! FREE HEALTH FAIR

Nebraska Methodist College and the Health Ministries team are sponsoring our annual health fair on Sunday, Oct. 3 from 9 AM-Noon in Room 256. Free screenings will include blood pressure, blood sugar, BMI, fall prevention AND flu shots!



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**FRIDAY  
OCTOBER 1  
5 - 8 PM**

**BACK FOR  
EVEN MORE  
FUN!**

**BFF** ♥

**EASTENDERS  
PAUL-a-  
PALOOZA  
NW RADIAL & 55TH**

**PARTY  
IN THE  
PARKING LOT**

**LIVE MUSIC  
FOOD TRUCKS  
PUMPKIN  
PATCH  
PET BLESSING  
MUCH MORE!**



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