

# Inspiration

NEWS FROM SAINT PAUL BENSON

MARCH 2022

## *Pastoral Perspective*

REV. STEPHANIE AHLSCHEDE

### **"Not all who wander are lost"**

from "The Fellowship of the Ring," by JRR Tolkien

The word wander conjures many images for me: open spaces, paths with endpoints yet to be discovered, beaches, and downtown neighborhoods all come to mind when I think about what it means to wander. I associate other words with wandering: exploration, discovery, and insight are just a few. In this season of Lent, you will find us using the word wander as a thematic link, inviting us to a season of exploration and discovery. Tolkien wrote, "not all who wander are lost," and I think these are appropriate words for the season of Lent, when we hear stories of Jesus in the desert and traveling with his disciples.

This phrase from Tolkien about wandering is nestled within the verse of a poem,

**All that is gold does not glitter:**

**not all who wander are lost.**

**The old that is strong does not wither.**

**Deep roots are not reached by the frost.**

I find these words to be so appropriate for us in the Midwest as we awaken from winter and look towards Spring. Just as our favorite perennial plants return after winter because of their deep roots, our faith journey helps us to be strong on our discipleship path. I hope in this season of Lent you will join us for worship as we explore what it means to deepen our faith through wandering; through book studies that give opportunities for small group learning; and giving of ourselves through mission giving and this month's Undie Sunday. The season of Lent gives us an opportunity for contemplation, for spiritual wander-seeking, and time to sit with our faith as we continue to lay down deep roots.

## PIANOSIDE

*Chat*

**LIVE!**

100<sup>th</sup>  
Episode

THIS SPECIAL EDITION OF  
SATURDAY'S CHAPEL SERVICE  
WILL INCLUDE TAPING IN FRONT  
OF A STUDIO AUDIENCE!

THE VIDEO WILL BE RELEASED ON  
YOUTUBE AT 8AM SUNDAY, MARCH 6

*Saturday*  
*March 5<sup>th</sup>*

5 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

*You're  
Invited!*

JOIN US TO  
CELEBRATE THIS  
AMAZING MILESTONE!

SAINT PAUL *Benson*  
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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  
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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

### WOW...WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES! OR SHOULD WE MAKE THAT TWO?

There is no getting around the fact that things are different and will be forever changed because of what we have experienced during the pandemic. We've been reminded again and again that we can't do it all, that we must think of others and that we have got to practice forgiving ourselves. The first worship opportunity of the month, **Ash Wednesday**, is exactly this same statement of faith! From the first blasts of the shofar reminding us to heed the warning of God's call to return, the imposition of the ashes on our head or hand, and the receiving of the bread and cup, our observance **March 02 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary** is a welcome tradition for Saint Paul. We gather to hear the words of scripture, sing the songs of faith, and hear the message that, although we have failed, there is forgiveness and another chance for living the life to which God has called each of us. The Choir and Joy Bells will be joined by the Solid Brass Quartet and David Schack, organist.

The March weeks that follow will guide us on the Lenten journey as we "wander and wonder" through worship with the gospel stories of Luke. Our sincere appreciation to all those faithful worship leaders who participate in the ministry through music at Saint Paul!

*Rev. Jerry*

GREAT PLAINS UNITED METHODISTS



## LAITY SUMMIT

Join United Methodists from Kansas and Nebraska Saturday, **March 19** for a day of leadership development training from the comfort and convenience of Saint Paul! As a host site for this event, you can skip the fee and participate simply by RSVPing to the church office. Workshop topics include "Inclusive Programming" and "Congregational Growth." Add your name to the list of attendees today!



## WOMEN'S Book Club WELCOMES YOU!

For many years, the Saint Paul's Women's Book Club has met the second Saturday morning of each month. The book is selected upon the recommendation of a member who has read it. Up next for discussion is "**A Good Neighborhood**" by Therese Anne Fowler on March 12. Contact Annette Conser (402) 689-9133 or Connie Crawford (402) 660-8211 for details. A spirited, book-loving group!

JOIN US!

FELLOWSHIP HALL  
THURS., MAR. 31 - 5:30 PM

## craft night!

All-ages time of prayer & crafting,  
led by Revs. Steph & Marta.  
RSVP to the church office  
to ensure bountiful  
supplies!

## BEAT WINTER BLAHS WITH CREATIVITY!

HAVE FUN & MAKE FRIENDS

Add some color to your life by joining our **Art Group!** Meets two Thursdays per month at 10 AM in the library. All media (watercolor, acrylic, etc.) and all skill levels welcome! Join in March 10 and 24. If needle arts are more your passion, join our **Prayer Shawl** group each Tuesday at 1:30 to crochet and knit to your heart's delight. Everyone is welcome!

## UNorthodox

Join Pastor Andrew & Crew!

TUES., MAR 8 & 22  
7 PM - FLAVAS  
6052 MAPLE

## Bread & Cup

"From the Big Screen"  
Series Continues!

SUN., MAR 6 & 20  
5 PM - FELLOWSHIP HALL  
ENTER THRU GREEN AWNING

# UNDIE SUNDAY



**march 20**

DONATE NEW (IN THE PKG.)

**underwear, socks, t-shirts, bras, onesies, pajamas, etc.**

**all sizes needed!**

MEN, WOMEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN, INFANTS

DROP OFF AT MISSION CENTRAL IN THE SANCTUARY. BENEFITS THE STEPHEN CENTER. THE MERCY & JUSTICE TEAM THANKS YOU!

## Holy Listening

**WED. MAR. 2<sup>nd</sup> • 10AM • CHAPEL**

Join Rev. Marta Wheeler for a contemplative **Ash Wednesday** featuring liturgy from the Desert Mothers of early Christianity. The focus will be on listening to our souls and growing in awareness of our unity with God as we begin the Lenten Season.

## *lenten book study*

**STILL TIME TO JOIN - BEGINNING ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2**

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WEDNESDAYS | 10:30 AM  
LED BY REV. ANDREW

**"Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times"**

by Bishop Michael Curry  
Please purchase book in advance.

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WEDNESDAYS | 6:00 PM  
LED BY REV. ANDREW

**"Jesus and the Disinherited"**

by Howard Thurman  
Please purchase book in advance.

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MONDAYS | 10:00 AM  
BEGINS MARCH 7 | LED BY REV. JERRY

**"Meet John. Follow the Way!"**

by Dr. Adam Hamilton  
Materials provided.

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO REGISTER.

## Our March Calendar

MARCH COMMUNAL OFFERING: UMCOR

UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters (famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire and other events) to alleviate suffering and be a source of help and hope. As we respond, we recognize Jesus in those who are reeling in the wake of disaster.

### OFFICE HOURS

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

### SUNDAYS

8:00 AM	PianoSide Chat Worship Available on YouTube	
8:45 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	
4:00 PM	Youth Group (Mar. 7 and 27)	Room 401
5:00 PM	Bread & Cup (Mar. 6 and 20)	Fellowship Hall

### MONDAYS

9:00 AM	Lectio Divina (Mar. 7 and 28)	Parlor
9:00 AM	Quilters	Offsite
10:00 AM	Lenten Book Study (Mar. 7-Apr. 11)	Library

### TUESDAYS

1:30 PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Library
5:45 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal (Mar. 15, 22, 29)	Balcony
7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (Mar. 15, 22, 29)	Room 250
7:00 PM	UNorthodox (Mar. 8 and 22)	Flavas, 6052 Maple

### WEDNESDAYS

10:30 AM	Lenten Book Study (Mar. 2 - Apr. 13)	Library
6:00 PM	Lenten Book Study (Mar. 2 - Apr. 13)	Library

### THURSDAYS

10:00 AM	Art Group (Mar. 10 and 24)	Library
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### SATURDAYS

5:00 PM	Worship	Roth Chapel
5:30 PM	Umoja Choir Rehearsal	Wesley Hall

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### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

9:00 AM	ENOA Foster Grandparents	Fellowship Hall
10:00 AM	Holy Listening Morning Prayers	Roth Chapel
7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Worship	Sanctuary

### THURSDAY, MARCH 3

5:45 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Balcony
7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Room 250

### SATURDAY, MARCH 12

8:30 AM	Women's Book Club	Zoom
12:00 PM	Memorial Service (Nancy Bauer)	Sanctuary

### SATURDAY, MARCH 19

8:00 AM	OMTA Piano Fest	2 <sup>nd</sup> Level
9:00 AM	Great Plains Conf. Laity Summit	Lower Level

### MONDAY, MARCH 21

7:00 PM	Church Council	Parlor
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### THURSDAY, MARCH 31

9:00 AM	ENOA Senior Companions	Fellowship Hall
5:30 PM	Lent Crafts & Prayers	Fellowship Hall

### SUNDAY, APRIL 3

4:00 PM	OTOC Fundraiser	Omaha Design Ctr.
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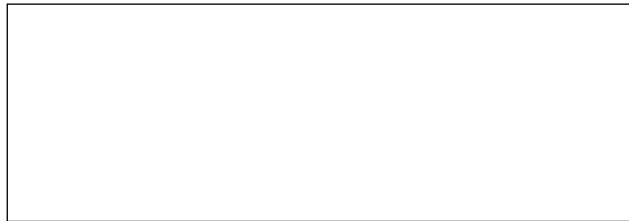




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## *in* TOUCH

### *Memorials*

For Margrethe Ahlschwede: Rozanne Christensen, Patsy Woodside, Susan Arnold, Marta and Dennis Wheeler, and Stephanie Ahlschwede and Todd Wyatt.

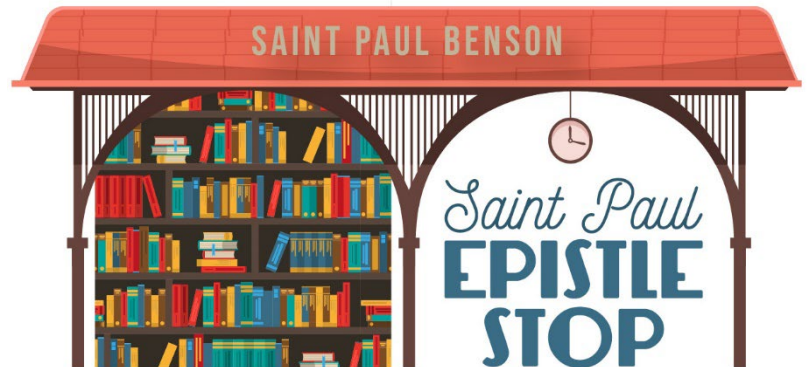
For Warren Johnson: Belinda Johnson and Johnathan, Myleen, Samuel & Eli Horowitz.

### *Honorarium*

In honor of Gladys Lantz: Judy Buono

### *Christian Sympathy*

To Charlene Wilcox and family in the death of her mother, Irene Cowell.



## ALL ABOARD FOR BOOKS!

We are excited to announce that the Used Book Sale has a new permanent home! Connie Crawford and team are stocking the shelves with books of all types for all ages, plus there are board games for the family to enjoy. The UMW may also use the space between "Mini Mart" sales – so you never know what treats & gifts will be available! The "Epistle Stop" is in Room 224 in the north entry hallway behind the Sanctuary.

A Grand Opening is scheduled for **Sunday, March 6** before and after 10 AM worship. Stop in, catch a bargain, & support UMW.

Donations of books are welcome! Drop them off in the Office or Mission Central.



United  
Methodist  
Women

JOIN US FOR THE RETURN OF  
IN-PERSON MEETINGS!

WED., APRIL 6  
9 AM  
ROOM 111



*Let's Get Social!*

Follow, Like, Subscribe and Friend us! We're easy to find by searching for "SaintPaulBenson" on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube.