

Inspiration

NEWS FROM SAINT PAUL BENSON

MAY 2022

Pastoral Perspective

REV. STEPHANIE AHLSCHEWEDE

THE SEASON OF RESURRECTION IS UPON US!

In worship, we celebrate the risen Christ, and in our lives, we celebrate the resurrection with the greening of the Great Plains and widening opportunities to interact while following public health best practices.

Here at Saint Paul, we continue to show our love while springing to life with increased use of our building by the community including ENOA (Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging) small groups, and two vaccine clinics with Arabic translation sponsored by Restoring Dignity and the Douglas County Health Department.

Other resurrection events: in April, we were delighted to welcome back our United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) unit for their first in-person meeting, and their Mini Mart for missions (and treats for our tastebuds!) And Holy Week! I feel like in my third year here, I was finally able to comprehend the meaning of a Saint Paul Palm Sunday. I want to thank all our musicians and volunteers for sharing their gifts with everyone who joined us in person and online for worship. It felt good to be together, and to contemplate the true meaning of this season.

As we find new life at Saint Paul, we are finding new volunteer needs. When you see requests for volunteers in this newsletter or weekly email updates, please know that these are genuine requests for assistance - and there will be continued and varied options as we find our way in this season of resurrection.

I look forward to seeing you, and I thank you for your support as we continue to celebrate Easter!

Love

HAS COME AGAIN,
LIKE WHEAT THAT
SPRINGETH GREEN

UM HYMNAL #311

SPROUTING "NEW LIFE"

New Life Ministry – the part of our congregation comprised of east African refugees - is marking 10 years at Saint Paul with renewed energy for both worship and membership growth. 15 members were added in the last year, bringing a number of children and teens. Their livestreamed worship, conducted in a mix of Swahili, Kirundi and English, is seen across the U. S. and in other countries with as many as 400 views of a single service. We are especially excited to share that the UMOJA (*meaning "unity"*) Choir will serve as the choir for the ordination service at the upcoming Annual Conference of the Great Plains Conference!

GROWING IN SPIRIT

We are excited to announce a new relationship with the **Great Plains Micah Corps**, partnering in two ways:

- ♥ Our building will serve as their summer home base, offering meeting and office space for the group and their staff organizer, Mariah Fusco.
- ♥ Saint Paul will also be the host site for three of the interns; watch for them to help during worship and practice their emerging neighborhood development skills.

We look forward to welcoming these young adults to Saint Paul Benson!

SAINT PAUL *Benson*
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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
kcamp@stpaulomaha.org



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

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.



REV. JERRY BRABEC

The entire month of May occurs during the liturgical season of Eastertide. On the Jewish calendar there are 50 days between Passover (Pesach) and Shavuot (pronounced Sha-voo-oat), which is a harvest festival. The day is supposed to coincide with the day of the giving of the tablets of the law at Mt. Sinai after the Exodus and the celebration of the Old Covenant.

The early Christian Church borrowed the idea, celebrating 50 days after the resurrection event as Pentecost and the New Covenant in Christ. During the **Fifty Great Days of Easter**, we welcome a variety of guest music as well as our own Joy Bells and The Choir, both at in-person and livestreamed worship.



The annual "one-of-a-kind" celebration of the joining together singers from Temple Israel, Omaha's Reform Jewish congregation, and Saint Paul Church returns Friday, **May 13** and Sunday, **May 15**. This tradition has taken a variety of formats over the eighteen years of its happening. The combined ensemble will be conducted by the Rev. Jerry Brabec and joined by Cantor Joanna Alexander with Temple accompanist, Julie Sandene at the piano. The combined choir will offer a variety of liturgical songs sung in both English and Hebrew. Friday evening's 6:00 p.m. Shabbat will be observed at Temple at 132nd & Sterling Ridge. On Sunday morning, Cantor Alexander will bring a message to our congregation at 10:00.

We give thanks for these experiences that bring us closer to God and each other!

SAVE THE DATE:

ALL CHURCH / ALL AGES AFTERNOON EVENT
SUNDAY, JULY 24 DETAILS COMING NEXT MONTH

Have you been looking for an opportunity to "get back into the swing of things" after a long COVID winter? You have the perfect opportunity for a bit of friendly fellowship over a cup of moderately good coffee and some light-hearted study.

MONDAY MORNING MUSINGS

This is a time to gather and nosh with others while cracking open the word of God in a totally non-threatening environment!



Come when you are able on a weekly basis to the Saint Paul library and study the book of the gospel writer Matthew. All materials will be provided for the class **beginning May 02** and the **10:00 a.m.** start time gives you more than enough prep time to pull yourself together and join in the fun.

So, shuffle on over, grab a cup and get ready to learn with a laugh (What the teacher doesn't know, they make up...sounds exciting, huh?)



**Why Not?
JOIN THE SAINT PAUL FLAG CORPS!**

Our Flag Corps is back for the summer season! We have enlisted Kylie Robinson to be our coach, and will begin practicing on Wednesday early evenings later in May. We anticipate marching in the Heartland Pride, Field Club Fourth of July, and Benson Days parades. Everyone is welcome (this is not a "members only" event!) We suggest participants be at least middle school age, and the only physical requirement involves being able to walk while holding a five-foot stick. Sign up in the office.



SAINT PAUL G O T H I C G A R D E N E R S

Despite the crazy windy weather, Saint Paul's recent spring yard clean-up day went off without a hitch. Thanks to our great crew of volunteers, flower beds were cleared of debris, branches picked up, and bushes trimmed. Their efforts have created a great baseline for the growing season ahead!

Special thanks to: Jim Bruhn & Vickie Peyton, Connie Crawford, Janelle & Bob Goding, Lorraine Hahn, and Peggy & Mike Haskins.

If you would like to volunteer for any yard or garden care this summer, contact the church office or one of the fine folks listed above. There is always something here that could use your love and attention!



NEW LIFE THROUGH WATER & THE SPIRIT
Rev. Ahlschwede presided over two baptisms on Easter Sunday. Riziki Mavani and Yvan Nsengiyumva were blessed in the baptismal pool at Benson Baptist before returning to Saint Paul for a celebratory reception with friends and family.



Congratulations **GRADUATES!**

Fernand Kasusa is graduating from Omaha Northwest H.S. This Buffett Scholar will attend UNL where he plans to join the wrestling team.

Katherine Jabens will graduate from Fort Calhoun H.S. Her goal of owning a bakery will be met with her culinary studies at Metro CC (where she earned an eight-quarter scholarship!)



The spiritually powerful tradition of our youth participating in **Good Friday** worship continued April 8. We thank Elena Kelly, Amelia Wheeler, Jack Avila, Ella Randall, and Grace Warta for their efforts.

UNorthodox

TUESDAY EVENINGS

MAY 10 & 24

Grab a beer, have a conversation,
and do service projects that will
benefit the Benson neighborhood.

7 PM
FLAVAS
6052 MAPLE

YOUTH GROUP

As the school year winds down, so do the
activities of our Youth Group. Join the fun

SUNDAYS, MAY 1ST AND 15TH AT 2PM

for fellowship and (most likely) snacks.



WOMEN'S Book Club WELCOMES YOU!

The Saint Paul's Women's Book Club meets the
second Saturday morning of each month; join us
in-person at Immanuel Village or Zoom with us
from your home . . . your choice! Either way, you
will enjoy the discussion of the novel "The Song
of the Jade Lily" by Kirsty Manning Sat., **May 14**
at **9 AM**. Meet the Club on the second floor at
"The Hub" accessed through the south entrance.

Contact Connie Crawford for details
402-660-8211

Master Singers

TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR JUNE CONCERT!

"ROAD TRIP"

SUNDAY, JUNE 12 | 6PM

10 FREE AND 10 DISCOUNTED TICKETS (\$10) IN THE
CHURCH OFFICE OR PAY UP TO \$20 AT THE DOOR



United Women in Faith

Make plans to attend the next meeting of the
group formerly known as UMW. "United Women
in Faith" is not only the new national brand but
also the topic of this month's program. Rev.
Ahlschwede will help explain the changes ahead.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4 | 9:30 AM

We will meet in room 111 (former pre-school room
on the southeast corner of the building. Easy
access on Corby St. at the red awning.)

All Women are Welcome to Attend!

Our May Calendar

MAY COMMUNAL OFFERING: NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

This offering is one of six annual United Methodist special offerings and
funds urban ministries with Native Americans, scholarships for Native
Americans attending United Methodist seminaries and annual conference
Native American ministries.

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 | |

MONDAYS

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|----------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 9:00 AM | Lectio Divina | Parlor |
| 10:00 AM | Monday Morning Musings | Library |
| 7:00 PM | MasterSingers Rehearsal | Roth Chapel |

TUESDAYS

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|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| 1:30 PM | Prayer Shawl Ministry | Library |
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THURSDAYS

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| 10:00 AM | Art Group (May 12, 26) | Library |
| 5:45 PM | Bell Choir Rehearsal (May 5, 19) | Balcony |
| 7:00 PM | Choir Rehearsal (May 5, 12, 19) | Room 250 |
| 7:00 PM | MasterSingers Rehearsal (May 12, 26) | Roth Chapel |

SATURDAYS

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|----------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 10:00 AM | New Life Prayer Service | Wesley Hall |
| 5:00 PM | Worship | Roth Chapel |
| 5:30 PM | Umoja Choir Rehearsal | Wesley Hall |

SUNDAY, MAY 1

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|---------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 5:00 PM | Bread & Cup Worship | Fellowship Hall |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------|

MONDAY, MAY 2

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|---------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 9:00 AM | ENOA Foster Grandparents | Fellowship Hall |
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

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|---------|-------------------------------|----------|
| 9:30 AM | United Women in Faith Meeting | Room 111 |
|---------|-------------------------------|----------|

SUNDAY, MAY 8

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| 4:00 PM | Piano Recital and Reception | Sanctuary |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------|

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

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| 6:30 PM | Marta & Steph Take a Walk | Gallagher Park |
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FRIDAY, MAY 13

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|---------|----------------|---------------|
| 6:30 PM | Choir Exchange | Temple Israel |
|---------|----------------|---------------|

SATURDAY, MAY 14

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|---------|-------------------|------------------|
| 9:00 AM | Women's Book Club | Immanuel Village |
| 3:00 PM | Piano Recital | Sanctuary |

MONDAY, MAY 16

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|---------|----------------|--------|
| 7:00 PM | Church Council | Parlor |
|---------|----------------|--------|

TUESDAY, MAY 17

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|---------|----------------------|---------|
| 6:00 PM | Mercy & Justice Team | Library |
|---------|----------------------|---------|

SUNDAY, MAY 22

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| 4:00 PM | Memorial Service (Dianne Jones) | Sanctuary |
|---------|---------------------------------|-----------|

FRIDAY, MAY 27

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|---------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 9:00 AM | ENOA Senior Companions | Fellowship Hall |
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SATURDAY, MAY 28

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|----------|----------------------|-----------|
| 12:30 PM | Wedding (Eaton/Boyd) | Sanctuary |
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MONDAY, MAY 30

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|-----------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Building Closed | | Sanctuary <i>Memorial Day</i> |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------------|



HOLY LISTENING

A NEW STYLE OF SUMMER WORSHIP

POP-UP!

Rev. Marta Wheeler is bringing the serenity and peace of Holy Listening to you this summer. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, and acquaintances for small group spiritual formation. Contact Marta or the Church Office to host a contemplative prayer service at your home or a nearby quiet park setting.

Peace be with you!

VAN MINISTRY {NEARLY} READY TO HIT THE ROAD

DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS NEEDED!



If you know of someone that would love to come to worship but needs assistance to get here, let us know! We are organizing a team to deliver folks to Sunday worship. Contact the church office!

IMPROVE YOUR ONLINE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

BORROW A HYMNAL!

We are so glad many of you have discovered the convenience of watching the Sunday worship livestream on our YouTube channel. In addition to providing a weblink for the bulletin, we are now offering the loan of a United Methodist hymnal so you can read and follow many of the hymns, psalter lessons and rituals. Contact the Church Office and let us know that you're interested.

LET'S GO CAMPING! CAMP FONTANELLE

Summer is upon us, and registrations are open for Camp Fontanelle, our UMC camp located just outside Fremont. Info is posted in the Gathering Area outside the Sanctuary. Please coordinate with the church office regarding any available Saint Paul scholarships.

Check out all of the options on the Camp's website, and start planning a fun summer!

www.campfontanelle.com

PRAYERS *and Celebrations*

Memorials

For Annette Conser: Lois Braymen, Larry & Patrice Arndt, Candlewood HOA, Jim Boston, Steven Frideres, Jack & Claudia Griger, David Hoover, Gay McTate

For Irene Cowell: Nick & Mary Stolzer

For Bob and Jean Ann O'Dell: Jim & Deborah O'Dell

For Dorothy Peka: Jack & Claudia Griger

For Roy Horn: Rozanne Christensen

For Margrethe Ahlschwede: Nick & Mary Stolzer

Christian Sympathy

To the family of Doris Ryan who passed away March 25

A Note of Thanks



The Mercy & Justice team thanks you for your kind donations to this season's "Mitten Tree." Items delivered to local elementary schools included: 23 hats, 31 pairs of gloves or mittens, 5 scarves and 3 pairs of snow boots. Wonderful generosity!

No One Can Do Everything...
BUT EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Bored at home? Worried about entertaining your kids over the summer? Have we got a deal for you! Saint Paul has an ever-evolving list of "honey do" tasks that may be just what you need to learn something new or share your hidden talents.

- ♥ Sort and organize toys in the former daycare rooms
(Great task for your kids or grandkids to serve as your assistants!)
- ♥ Yard work and garden bed tending
- ♥ Operate video camera to livestream Sunday services
- ♥ Usher at Sunday worship
- ♥ Assist with mailings (collate, label, stamp, etc.)
- ♥ Volunteer's choice: have something in mind you'd like to do?
Let's talk!

Thank you!

Contact Kristin in the Church Office for details!

HELP CLEAR OUR INVENTORY OF UNUSED APPLIANCES!

1 Sm. Chest Freezer \$75 • 1 Lg. Chest Freezer \$150 • 1 Mini Fridge \$25

Prices shown are suggestions. In working condition but not "new."

Delivery unavailable; buyer must arrange pickup.

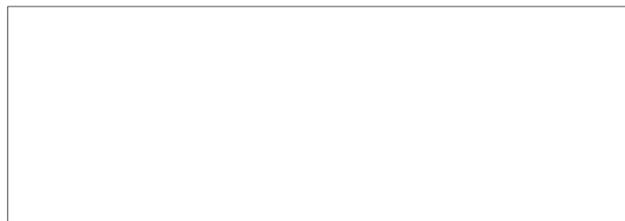
NEED DETAILS OR HAVE QUESTIONS? CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



MARTA & STEPH TAKE A WALK

WALK FOR FUN, FOR HEALTH,
AND/OR AS PART OF OUR ONLINE
CROPWALK TEAM!

JOIN CHURCH WORLD SERVICE FOR UKRAINE

You're invited to join Saint Paul online for a do-it-yourself May fundraiser in support of Ukraine relief. For fun and fellowship, we'll walk together on May 11 at Gallagher Park (near 52nd and Bedford). Get details and sign-up at this link:

events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/Saint-Paul-Benson

MEET US IN THE PARK'S PARKING
LOT; TREATS WILL BE SERVED!



WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

GALLAGHER PARK

6:30PM



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.