

Inspiration

NEWS FROM SAINT PAUL BENSON

JULY 2022

Summer WHEN EVERYTHING* TURNS GREEN IN NEBRASKA!

*except for plants destroyed by hail
or beetles
or burning sun . . .

STOP & SMELL THE ROSES . . . AND
THE DAY LILIES . . . AND THE PETUNIAS . . .
SAINT PAUL GROUNDS ARE LOOKIN' GOOD!



. . . but plants! Yes, so many plants all around us. In worship this summer, we have been exploring scriptures that relate to God's creation including powerful stories told by Jesus about plants.

The idea of Jesus as vine and we disciples as branches, the story of the seed that falls on good soil and yields an amazing harvest – these and many others are faith stories that we see in action not just in our gardens and along the highways but also in our lives as we attempt to live out God's call on our lives together.

We see the good soil at Saint Paul when we worship together; with our support for Refugee Women Rising; and as we welcome new Associate Pastor Faith Kubai and her family. We see the vine and branches as we send our members out to not one but three parades this month (Field Club, Pride, and Benson Days) and host our first-ever "Jumble Rama" right here in our parking lot. We have already seen the good work of hosting the MasterSingers, actively preparing for and participating at Annual Conference, and by helping keep our church grounds beautiful and safe.

As we continue through these summer months, I give thanks for the branches of the vine that are Saint Paul, and pray that we may be the good soil as we continue to welcome neighbors wherever we are.

Rev. Stephanie



Welcome, Faith!

Rev. Faith Kubai's ministry journey began in Kenya, detoured to Dallas, and arrives home at Saint Paul Benson on July 1st. Prior to enrolling at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology, Faith worked with the Methodist church in Kenya for 10 years. She will join our clergy team as an associate pastor and will work with our New Life Ministry as they continue to grow and thrive.

(continued page 2)

SAINT PAUL Benson
5410 Corby Street
Qmaha, Nebraska 68104

402.556.2433
SaintPaul@StPaulOmaha.org

SaintPaulBenson.org

Staff

Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede
Lead Pastor

Rev. Faith Kubai
Associate Pastor

Rev. Marta Wheeler
Associate Pastor
Spiritual Director & Faith Formation

Rev. Jerry Brabec
Minister of Worship

Kristin Camp
Communications & Operations

Noni Cambridge
Bookkeeper

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

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



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.

inWorship

REV. JERRY BRABEC

Our weekend observation of the national holiday, Independence Day, is made even more special with the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the ritual of welcome for our new associate pastor, the Rev. Faith Kubai. Morning worship **July 03** will be graced by the Joy Bells, joined by The Choir and violinists, Anna Antropova and Yaroslav Tereshchenko. Natives of Ukraine, these fabulous and giving musical artists are on their way to new opportunities in Florida and we wish them well.

Budding young pianist, Bennett Kupzyk, will offer his music ministry at the opening of 10:00 a.m. worship on **July 10**.

The Choir will offer ministry through music each Sunday of July, earning a much-deserved break during August. Before they retire their folders for a month, The Choir will provide the service music for the 5:30 mass at St. Cecilia's Cathedral on Sunday, **July 31**. This is one of several Cathedral opportunities the musicians from Saint Paul Church have had over the years, but each and every invitation is cherished!

While others enjoy the activities that summer brings, there are some who continue to block out time to rehearse, prepare, and hone their craft. We give thanks for the dedication of those volunteers who offer their musical leadership at all services of worship through the summer months.

A Special Invitation FROM REV. STEPH

I'd like to invite you to join your church in July for parade season!

We celebrate God's love for all by literally showing up in Benson, Field Club and at Pride. We are living in a time when it is critical for church folk to show up together in our neighborhoods with a clear intent to bear witness to our concern and love for all God's children. I have recently received messages from three community leaders thanking Saint Paul for doing just this - showing up. You can join us by walking alongside, cheering along the route, or keeping us in prayer.

I pray that the steps we take in our rainbow "all means all" t-shirts become steps toward building relationships while sharing God's love in our community.

Welcome, Faith!

(Continued from page 1)

Through her years with the Church, Faith has grown to especially enjoy Bible study and fellowship with youth and women's groups.

Faith has two children, a daughter Mildred (19) and son Caleb (11.) The family will be at home in our newly refreshed parsonage at 5420 Corby.

Faith shares,

"With great appreciation to God and the Conference, I gladly join an amazing group of clergy as we together serve the family called 'Saint Paul Benson.' My children and I are looking forward to joyous and fruitful ministry in the years to come."

CAN YOU HELP? WISH LIST

Siena Francis House has shared this list of most needed items. Shop on Amazon: amzn.to/3wKEAx or deliver in-person to their dock.

Volunteers are needed, too! You must register online: bit.ly/3IGf1HK

- Men's & Women's Underwear
- Plus-size Women's Jeans, Sweatpants & Tops
- Bath Towels, Wash Cloths
- Men's and Women's Deodorant
- Men's Jeans ▪ Shower Shoes
- Shaving Cream ▪ Pain Relievers
- Laundry Soap Pods ▪ Work boots

The Mercy & Justice team
thanks you!

NEW LIFE FOR *Old Glory*

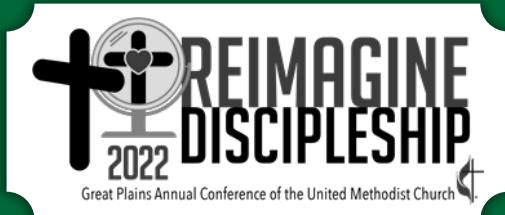
Saint Paul's Memorial Day tradition returned May 29th with the raising of a new American flag in the courtyard. Special thanks to scouts Hayden Johnson, Rigley Johnson and Paul McMahon who lent their expertise to the process. The Stars & Stripes have never looked better!



SAINT PAUL'S PICTURE-PERFECT *Summer*

The blooming plants featured in photos here and on the cover are tended by our generous volunteer gardening crew! Special thanks to the tireless Peggy & Mike Haskins and Lorraine Hahn (among many others!)

SAINT PAUL BENSON STANDS OUT AMONG PEERS **CONFERENCE ALL-STARS**



UMC lay leaders and clergy from Nebraska and Kansas gathered in La Vista in June for the Great Plains Annual Conference. The words "Saint Paul Benson" were in the air with great participation from our team.

Pastor Marta developed two worship services, writing and delivering prayers (shown here at the Memorial service.)



Rev. Brabec offered musical leadership at the Retirement Dinner, and provided a portion of the Board of Ordained Ministries report. Umoja Choir rocked the ballroom as they shared rousing music at the

Summer interns, the Micah Corps (including John Finch) were commissioned, and Rev. Ahlschwede chaired the Conference Board of Trustees. It was indeed a busy and rewarding week with over 1200 in attendance.



Clearly GENEROUS

Years of neglect and broken glass were remedied recently through the generosity of River City Glass. By mentioning this need for our east yard monument sign to a good friend,

Mike & Peggy Haskins secured the donation of glass and installation. What special skills do your friends and family possess? With a 90-year-old building to care for, our list of projects (big and small) is long. Consider asking. Imagine the difference you could make!

Banner DAY

We thank Annette Farquhar and her quilting friends for creating a special welcome banner. The beautiful bright colors represent our allyship with the LGBTQ community, and offer a warm greeting to visitors. It is proudly displayed in the entry at the Corby Street door. *Thank you!*





United Women in Faith

Please join the fun and fellowship of the next meeting of the group formerly known as UMW.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6 | 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!



— WOMEN'S — *Book Club*

WELCOMES YOU!

The Saint Paul's Women's Book Club meets monthly the second Saturday; join us in-person at Immanuel Village or Zoom with us . . . your choice! Either way, you will enjoy the discussion of the novel "The Other Einstein" by Marie Benedict, **July 9 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.

jumble Rama
BENSON'S ULTIMATE PARKING LOT SALE!
july 30
8 AM- 3 PM

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO
SELL, DONATE OR VOLUNTEER!

Christmas in July

MINI MART

Cool off with some hot summer shopping courtesy of our United Women in Faith! A wide variety of crafts and baked goodies will be for sale. Remember to bring extra cash or your checkbook – you won't want to miss out!

Check out the selection after worship!

SATURDAY, JULY 23

SUNDAY, JULY 24

Funds raised will benefit the missions of the UWF.

Our July Calendar

JULY COMMUNAL OFFERING: REFUGEE WOMEN RISING

Founded as the Benson Area Refugee Task Force (BART), Refugee Women Rising has continued to grow and embrace a city-wide role, partnering with area non-profits and volunteers to identify and respond to the needs and talents of refugee women. Your donations support these programs and help to create matching funds for grant submissions.

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
9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal	Room 250
10:00 AM	Sunday Worship Service	
11:15 AM	In-Person in the Sanctuary and YouTube Livestream	
12:15 PM	Social Principles Study (July 10, 17, 24)	Library
	Kirundi/Kiswahili Worship (Wesley Hall) & Livestream	

MONDAYS

9:00 AM	Lectio Divina	Offsite
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TUESDAYS

1:30 PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Library
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WEDNESDAYS

6:30 PM	Flag Corps Practice	Parking Lot
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THURSDAYS

10:00 AM	Art Group (July 14, 28)	Library
5:45 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Balcony
7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Room 250

SATURDAYS

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

FRIDAY, JULY 1

9:00 AM	ENOA Foster Grandparents	Fellowship Hall
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MONDAY, JULY 4

Office Closed		<i>Independence Day</i>
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10:30 AM	Field Club Neighborhood Parade	35 th & Woolworth
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WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

9:30 AM	United Women in Faith	Room 111
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SATURDAY, JULY 9

9:00 AM	Book Club	Offsite
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TUESDAY, JULY 12

6:00 PM	Mercy & Justice Team	Library
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WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

10:30 AM	Holy Listening	Brighton Gardens
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THURSDAY, JULY 14

10:30 AM	Holy Listening	Elk Ridge Village
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SATURDAY, JULY 16

10:00 AM	Heartland Pride Parade	Downtown
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MONDAY, JULY 18

7:00 PM	Church Council	Parlor
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THURSDAY, JULY 28

6:30 PM	Holy Listening	Lauritzen Gardens
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FRIDAY, JULY 29

9:00 AM	ENOA Senior Companions	Fellowship Hall
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SATURDAY, JULY 30

8:00 AM	Jumble Rama Sale!	Parking Lot
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10:00 AM	Benson Days Unity Parade	Maple Street
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PRAYERS and Celebrations

Memorials

For her parents, Emily and Ray Ford: Rozanne Christensen

For Vietnam veteran Alan W. Hamilton: Rozanne Christensen

For her brothers and Air Corps veterans, Jack Ford and Richard Ford: Rozanne Christensen

For Steve Dohe: Tom and Louann Neneman

For Patti Griffiths: William Startzer, Barbara Griffith, Michelle and John Fulmer, Jim Bruhn, Jim Boston, Cheryl Adamson, Claudia and Jack Griger, Kris and Kevin York, Patsy Woodside

For Carl Buono: Judy Buono

For Jeri Tinsley: Cheryl Adamson

Christian Sympathy

To Bob Griffiths and family in the death of his wife, Patti. Her life was celebrated at Saint Paul on Tuesday, June 21.

To the family of Lew Klanderud in his death. His life was celebrated at Saint Paul on Wednesday, June 29.

To the family of Jeri Tinsley in her death.

Recent Hospitalizations

Joan Hindman Sue Bobek Kathy Rice Susan Arnold

Congratulations!

Bob and Joanna Lonnecker celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on June 28.

Tom and Louann Neneman welcomed a new granddaughter born on June 7. Their daughter Hannah welcomed Aletheia Opal to the family.



From the Desk of . . .

Rev. Marta Wheeler

Thank you to each one who came to the retirement party and those who hosted!

Marilou Dohe's and Connie Crawford's cookies are always appreciated, and it was fun to greet people. I feel blessed to continue following my call by serving at Saint Paul Benson with reduced hours. Year-by-year my love for this congregation and those I work with grows.

Holy Listening continues to develop with monthly prayer services held at Brighton Gardens, Immanuel Village, and Elkridge Senior Living with room on the schedule for more! Please contact me if you'd like to attend one of these or host a casual service in your home, backyard or a nearby park with friends.

The weekly **Lectio Divina** (divine reading) group prays for specific intercessions for the congregation. We meet on Monday mornings and welcome new members to settle into quiet, contemplative prayer.

STOCK THE PANTRY



The Mercy & Justice Team is sponsoring our annual

FOOD DRIVE

to stock the shelves of the Pearl Pantry, a ministry of Living Hope UMC.

Bring your donations of non-perishable food and paper products to Mission Central in the Sanctuary

JULY 9 & 10

Fresh garden produce is also accepted (if fresh July 9.)

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

Peanut Butter	Mac & cheese
Canned fruit and veggies	Pork and beans
Canned tuna and chicken	Pasta and sauce
Cereal	Pancake mix
Hamburger/Tuna/Chicken Helper	Paper goods

In the Garden . . .

A walk around Omaha's botanical wonder – Lauritzen Gardens – combined with contemplative prayer - add up to a one-of-a-kind **Holy Listening** experience! Join Rev. Marta Wheeler on **Thursday, July 28** from 6:30 – 8PM and experience prayer and enjoy the company of one another. Garden entrance fee is \$15 for non-members. An RSVP to Marta or the church office is appreciated!



5410 CORBY STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68104

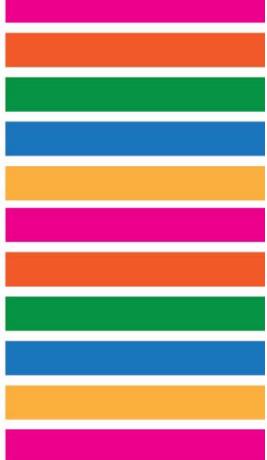
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

COMING SOON TO SAINT PAUL BENSON



july 30
8AM - 3PM



**RENT A SPOT
SELL YOUR STUFF!**
ONLY \$10 PER PARKING SPACE
OR \$50 ONE SPACE + 2 TABLES/CHAIRS

RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY!
SAINTPAUL@STPAULOMAHA.ORG OR 402.556.2433

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
PLANNING, SET-UP AND DAY-OF DUTIES
CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

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.